



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #19, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 14, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated August 13, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On August 14 at 0100 EST, the Government of Israel and Hezbollah officially implemented a ceasefire, according to international media reports. The ceasefire is in response to U.N. Resolution 1701, which called for the cessation of hostilities and military operations, as well as improved access for humanitarian workers.
- Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) continue to restrict vehicle movement in areas south of the Litani River, according to international media reports. IDF has pledged to enforce the air and sea blockade until additional U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) peacekeepers and Government of Lebanon (GOL) forces arrive to monitor the Israel–Lebanon border.
- Although IDF concurrence is no longer officially required, most relief organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and U.N. agencies, continue to coordinate humanitarian movement with the IDF to ensure the physical safety of staff, according to the USG Disaster Assistant Response Team (DART).
- Although exact numbers are still unclear, many residents have begun to travel toward their homes. On August 14, approximately 1,200 cars per hour, with an average of 5 passengers each, were reportedly heading in the direction of Marjayoun. Heavy congestion on roads hindered the timely delivery of emergency relief supplies, according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	1,110	GOL - August 14, 2006
Injured	3,698	GOL - August 14, 2006
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	747,397	GOL - August 14, 2006
Displaced to Neighboring Countries	231,000	GOL - August 14, 2006
Total Displaced Population	980,393 ¹	GOL - August 14, 2006

Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$24,069,301
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Pledged to Lebanon\$50,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- Ongoing insecurity in Lebanon continues to prevent relief agencies from accurately assessing the number of people affected. The GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC) reports that 1,110 people have been killed and 3,698 people have been injured. As of August 14, HRC reported that 980,393 people have fled their homes, or more than one-fourth of Lebanon’s population. According to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF), 45 percent of displaced are children. Most IDPs are located in Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Chouf, and Aaley, and others are located in and around Bekaa (Al Biqa), Byblos, Kesrouane, and El Metn. Although an estimated 130,000 people remain in southern Lebanon, primarily in the coastal cities of Tyre (Sur) and Sidon (Saida), local authorities report that only 25,000 people are in villages along the Israel–Lebanon border, according to OCHA. HRC reports that an estimated 605,000 displaced persons are staying with relatives and friends, and 142,397 are located in 879 schools and public institutions throughout the country. Approximately 231,000 have fled to neighboring countries, including 180,000 in Syria.
- Since the conflict began on July 12, an estimated 7,100 private homes or apartments, 630 kilometers of roads, 77 bridges, and 31 key installations—including airports, seaports, water and sewage treatment plants, and power plants—have been significantly damaged or destroyed, according to HRC.

Logistics

- Pending road accessibility, U.N. humanitarian hubs in Tyre and Sidon are expected to be operational by August 15, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The U.N. is also working to establish humanitarian hubs in Tripoli and Zahle.
- The U.N. is considering the establishment of an additional humanitarian hub in Cyprus, which has been the staging ground for many deliveries of humanitarian personnel and goods into Lebanon. The Government of Cyprus reportedly has offered to provide further assistance, including waiving taxes on humanitarian goods, according to OCHA. Daily airplane and helicopter flights are now departing from Larnaca to Beirut.
- UNIFIL and local authorities have begun repairing bridges over the Litani River, according to OCHA. As of August 14, three crossings are reportedly functioning.

¹ As of August 14, the GOL has updated the total number of displaced persons, but had not yet provided revised figures on IDPs and refugees.

- According to the DART, Middle East Airlines is scheduled to resume limited operations between Amman and Beirut by August 17.

Humanitarian Access

- On August 14, the U.N. dispatched nine relief convoys to provide relief supplies throughout Lebanon, according to OCHA. For the first time in more than a week, U.N. relief convoys traveled to Tyre, delivering drinking water, food, hygiene items, and medical supplies. Additional convoys traveled to Sidon, Tripoli, and Hasbaya to deliver relief supplies and conduct road assessments.

Landmine and Unexploded Ordnance

- Unexploded ordnance (UXO) continue to pose a threat to humanitarian workers and residents. UNHCR reports that approximately ten percent of weapons did not explode. As of August 14, the DART has already received reports of UXO injuries to returning residents.
- On August 14, television messages warning civilians about the risk of landmines in southern Lebanon were scheduled to be aired on local television stations as well as Al Jazeera and Al Arabiya networks, OCHA reported. The television advertisements complement a radio campaign with similar messages, and posters are expected to be published and distributed in the coming days. The U.N. Development Program (UNDP), UNICEF, UNHCR, and the National Steering Committee on Mine Risk have jointly issued the warnings.

Health and Nutrition

- Staffing limitations are impeding the ongoing measles and polio immunization campaign, conducted by the Ministry of Health (MOH) in collaboration with UNICEF, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners. UNICEF reports that additional time will be necessary to reach coverage targets.
- To date, the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC), supported by ICRC, has transported approximately 780 wounded people to hospitals, evacuated nearly 5,400 civilians, and removed more than 250 bodies from the rubble of destroyed buildings according to OCHA. LRC continues to deliver medical supplies to hospitals and ambulance stations.

Food and Emergency Relief Supplies

- On August 13, two U.N. World Food Program (WFP) ships delivered fuel, relief supplies and 2,750 metric tons (MT) of food to Beirut. Emergency relief supplies in the shipment included wheat flour, pasta, and lentils as well as mattresses, tents, and blankets.

Water and Sanitation

- ICRC reported that Israeli planes bombed the Tyre power plant on August 12, cutting power to the city and jeopardizing the municipal water supply system, according to the DART. As an interim measure, ICRC provided the water plant with sufficient fuel to continue operations. ICRC is attempting to repair the power station and expects to have the plant operational by the evening of August 14, according to the DART. An estimated 25,000 residents remain in Tyre and the surrounding areas.
- On August 14, UNICEF is scheduled to assess water and sanitation conditions at the Jdedat–Yabouz crossing on the Syria–Lebanon border in order to prepare for returns, according to OCHA.

Environment

- According to OCHA, the GOL has issued warnings concerning toxic fumes and contaminated seafood as a result of the July 13 oil spill. OCHA reports the clean-up cost for the oil spill will total approximately \$150 million, and repairs to the plant could take up to a year.

Recovery

- An international donor conference for Lebanon reconstruction is scheduled for August 31 in Stockholm, according to international media reports.

Returns

- On August 14, UNHCR deployed five emergency mobile teams to the main transit routes in Lebanon to best assist returnees traveling back to their communities. According to UNHCR, the teams are assessing the needs and movements of the population and providing water, blankets, mattresses, and other relief supplies.
- On August 14, UNHCR reportedly opened a warehouse and office in Sidon to prepare for distributions to returnees.

Refugees

- In preparation for the upcoming school year, Syrian authorities are working to identify campsites where refugees currently sheltering in schools can relocate, according to OCHA. In addition, an increasing number of Lebanese are reportedly leaving host families for organized refugee settlements to alleviate the strain on host families, OCHA reports.

USG ACTION

- On July 25, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Jeffrey Feltman declared a humanitarian emergency in Lebanon due to ongoing insecurity and humanitarian needs. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has authorized \$50 million in USG humanitarian assistance to persons affected by conflict in Lebanon.
- On July 23, a USG DART, led by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), arrived in the region to determine priorities for USG humanitarian assistance. A Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team is supporting the DART.
- USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), via U.S. military transport, has provided 1,000 tarps, 20,000 blankets, and 18 emergency health kits in support of relief operations in Lebanon. The DART has consigned these relief supplies to ICRC, WHO, the International Medical Corps (IMC), and Mercy Corps for delivery to approximately 235,000 beneficiaries in Beirut and southern Lebanon.
- On July 26, USAID/OFDA provided \$7 million to support the U.N. Flash Appeal for Lebanon, including \$3.3 million to WFP and the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) for logistics, \$2.5 million to UNICEF for water and sanitation activities, and \$1.2 million to OCHA and OCHA's Humanitarian Information Center (HIC) for coordination.
- On July 31, USAID/OFDA provided \$3.3 million to Mercy Corps for water and sanitation services, psychosocial activities, and the distribution of food and relief supplies.
- On August 3, USAID/OFDA provided \$2.8 million to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for water and sanitation services, psychosocial support, emergency shelter activities, and the distribution of food and relief supplies.
- On August 8, USAID/OFDA provided \$1.9 million to IMC for health services, psychosocial support, water and sanitation activities, and emergency relief supplies.
- State/PRM has contributed \$3.4 million to ICRC's emergency appeal for Lebanon, \$1 million to IOM, and \$2 million in support of the U.N. Flash Appeal, including \$2 million to UNHCR and \$2 million to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).
- In addition to evacuating nearly 15,000 American citizens, the U.S. Military has been integral in providing transport to Beirut for both the DART and USAID emergency relief supplies.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON IN FY 2006¹

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Mercy Corps	Water and sanitation, psychosocial support, emergency relief supplies, and food	Affected areas	\$3,369,250
CRS	Water and sanitation, psychosocial support, food, emergency shelter, and emergency relief supplies	Beirut	\$2,836,582
IMC	Water and sanitation, health, psychosocial support, and emergency relief supplies	Affected areas	\$1,913,457
WFP	Logistics	Affected areas	\$3,000,000
UNJLC	Logistics	Affected areas	\$300,000
UNICEF	Water and sanitation	Affected areas	\$2,500,000
OCHA	Coordination	Affected areas	\$1,000,000
OCHA/HIC	Coordination	Affected areas	\$200,000
Multiple	Emergency relief supplies, including transport	Affected areas	\$394,162
	DART administrative costs	Affected areas	\$143,850
ICRC	Protection, food, health, and water and sanitation	Beirut, Southern Lebanon	\$3,412,000
IOM	Evacuation of third-country nationals	Affected areas	\$1,000,000
UNHCR	Protection, shelter, and emergency relief supplies	Affected areas	\$2,000,000
UNRWA	Food, health, and emergency relief supplies	Affected areas	\$2,000,000
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$24,069,301

¹USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 14, 2006.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on identifying such organizations is available in the “How Can I Help” section of www.usaid.gov (keyword: Lebanon) or by calling the Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) at 703-276-1914.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov (keyword: donations)
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int