



# UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

## Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #25, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 22, 2006

*Note: The last situation report was dated August 21, 2006.*

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On August 21, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) pledged to provide 25,000 metric tons (MT) of hard red winter wheat to the Government of Lebanon (GOL) to meet urgent needs. The wheat—valued at \$9.2 million including transport—is provided through the Food for Progress Program and is scheduled to arrive in Beirut in mid-September.
- Humanitarian access is expected to improve as Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) expand troop strength in southern Lebanon. On August 21, an additional 200 French troops arrived in Lebanon to support the UNIFIL presence. As of August 22, approximately 10,000 out of a projected 15,000 LAF troops had arrived in southern Lebanon, according to the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC).

| NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON     |         | SOURCE                |
|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| <b>Dead</b>                       | 1,183   | GOL - August 22, 2006 |
| <b>Injured</b>                    | 4,055   | GOL - August 22, 2006 |
| <b>Total Displaced Population</b> | 256,184 | GOL - August 22, 2006 |
| <b>Estimated Returns to Date</b>  | 718,000 | GOL - August 22, 2006 |

**Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$36,785,640**  
**Total USG Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance Pledged to Lebanon .....\$230,000,000**

### CURRENT SITUATION

- As of August 21, the GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC) reports that 1,183 Lebanese have been killed and approximately 4,055 injured. More than 980,000 Lebanese fled their homes at the height of emergency, but the HRC estimates that 718,000 displaced persons have returned to their home areas since August 14. According to the HRC, 256,184 residents remain displaced. The HRC and U.N. agencies report that most collective centers are now empty, and the majority of remaining internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees are staying with host families.

#### Returns

- The GOL Ministry of Interior reports that approximately 97 percent of the displaced population has already returned to their home villages, according to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO).
- As of August 21, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that 18 displaced Lebanese and Palestinian families remain in the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) school at the Ein el-Hilweh camp in Lebanon.
- On August 21, the Syrian Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor reported that all public centers for displaced Lebanese in the country are now closed. Approximately 2,500 Lebanese refugees remain in Syria, according to OCHA. The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner (UNHCR), in coordination with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, continues to organize daily buses into Lebanon, particularly for returnees who are unable to afford transportation.
- According to OCHA, many residents have returned home to find their homes uninhabitable. UNHCR is pre-positioning supplies in Tyre (Sur) and Sidon (Saida) to prepare for assistance in the coming months.

#### Needs Assessments

- According to OCHA, preliminary assessments have identified a number of items as immediate needs in heavily damaged areas: mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, jerry cans, hygiene kits, baby milk, soap, and lanterns. In addition, southern municipalities have requested construction materials—including cement, non-electric construction tools, and basic materials—to build each family a room with a roof, water, and electricity so that residents can live on their property during the winter until permanent repairs can be completed.
- For the early recovery phase, OCHA has identified the following needs: generators, fuel, bottled water for 200,000 beneficiaries, supplementary food rations for 150,000, household items and tents for 20,000 beneficiaries, water storage tanks in Kham village, and a countrywide mine awareness campaign. For the later recovery phase, OCHA reports a number of additional needs: potable water tankering to villages, supplementary feeding of families with no access to farming land, distribution of reproductive health kits, and dietary supplements.
- A U.N. interagency assessment team reported that affected populations in the Bekaa Valley have expressed concern about agricultural recovery, damage to factories, employment, and depletion of resources in municipalities that have hosted IDPs, according to the USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART). In addition, the U.N. team reported that authorities from the Bekaa Governorate are currently conducting detailed assessments on IDP needs, service delivery, infrastructure, dwellings, health, and education; assessments are scheduled to be complete by August 25.

- On August 19, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported that, despite a rapid increase in assessments in the south, the IDP situation and current needs remain unclear. According to the DART, ICRC expects to obtain a better understanding within the coming week.
- According to the DART, the U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator reports that while humanitarian efforts are now shifting from relief to recovery, significant relief needs remain throughout Lebanon, particularly in the south.

#### **Infrastructure**

- On August 21, the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) met with the mayors of Bent Jbail and Tyre districts to sign contracts to clear rubble, open streets, fill potholes, and complete repair work on buildings in 21 villages, OCHA reports.

#### **Health and Nutrition**

- On August 22, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) is scheduled to transport one trauma kit and two emergency health kits to Tyre for distribution to hospitals in affected areas.
- As of August 21, the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) has collected 398 bodies, evacuated 984 wounded persons, and transported an additional 7,684 medical cases, according to ICRC. The LRC continues to evacuate dozens of wounded people from isolated villages in South Lebanon that became accessible after the ceasefire.

#### **Water and Sanitation**

- According to the DART, ICRC's initial assessments in southern Lebanon indicate that water needs are a greater priority than health needs. ICRC reports that Lebanese water authorities have agreed to repair the primary water lines with ICRC in-kind resources, and ICRC plans to work on the secondary lines. ICRC reports that the exact locations for these repairs have not yet been determined.
- The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) reports that 42 out of 70 villages in Tyre district are without water. In most district villages, the conflict destroyed water and pipe networks, and all villages lack electrical power to operate water pumps.
- As of August 21, UNICEF has distributed bottled water to Marjayoun, Marwahin, and Ayta Ash Shaab. Première Urgence has distributed 10,000 liters of bottled water to Bent Jbail and 3,000 liters to Aitaroun and is scheduled to provide a 45 cubic meter water tanker to Ayta Ash Shaab. On August 22, UNIFIL reported that it has distributed 45,000 liters of drinking water to villages of Khiam, Kafr Kila, and Ebel As Saqy. On August 22, USG partner Mercy Corps provided bottled drinking water to 350 beneficiaries in Markabe, as well as fifty 2,000 liter water tanks to El Qaim.

#### **Logistics**

- On August 22, Middle East Airlines announced the resumption of all flights. However, all flights into and out of Beirut must be routed through Amman for security checks, according to international media reports. On August 24, Lufthansa is scheduled to begin five flights a week between Frankfurt and Beirut.
- On August 22, the U.N. dispatched four humanitarian convoys from Beirut to Tyre, Nabatiye, Marjayoun, and Aarida. Convoys delivered wheat flour, lentils, vegetable oil, water, and medical and emergency relief supplies.
- Although the U.N.-chartered passenger *M/V Vittoria* is scheduled to end passenger service between Beirut and Cyprus, the U.N. will keep the ship in reserve in the event that staff evacuations become necessary.
- The U.N. Department of Safety and Security has approved regular U.N. vehicle movement from Beirut to Sidon and from Beirut to Masnaa at the Syrian border. However, all U.N. movement south of Sidon, as well as in the southern suburbs of Beirut, requires armored vehicles due to the threat of unexploded ordnance (UXO).
- On August 21, the *M/V Anamcara* arrived in Beirut from Limassol. On August 22, the ship is scheduled to transport a mechanical workshop, food, and equipment from Beirut to Tyre.

#### **Environment**

- The GOL and Government of Syria Ministers of Environment, in coordination with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the U.N. Environment Program (UNEP), and the European Union, are currently developing a long term strategy for international assistance to clean up the July 13 oil spill, according to the DART.

#### **Food and Emergency Relief Supplies**

- Assessments conducted by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and U.N. agencies indicate that food aid is still needed in South Lebanon and Bekaa, according to the DART. Following reports of excess food aid in some limited areas, relief agencies are working to improve targeting of food assistance to beneficiaries in need. According to WFP, municipalities are the best distribution mechanisms for food assistance.
- On August 22, Mercy Corps distributed food rations for 7,080 beneficiaries in Nabatiye and Marjayoun districts.

#### **UXO and Landmines**

- According to OCHA, three people have been killed and 52 injured by UXO since August 14. An estimated 3,700 landmines remain along the Blue Line. OCHA reports that the heavy contamination of UXO in the Marjayoun–Nabatiye–Jezzine triangle is likely to create economic problems due to the inability of farmers to access their tobacco fields, banana plantations, and olive groves in this agricultural region.

- According to the DART, the Mine Action Coordination Center in Southern Lebanon reported that clearance teams have collected 567 UXO south of the Litani River.

### **Recovery**

- On August 18, the USG hosted a coordination meeting in Beirut for key donors to discuss the transition from relief to reconstruction. Participants discussed assistance mechanisms, challenges to recovery, and the August 31 Stockholm conference on reconstruction.

### **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. President George W. Bush has authorized \$230 million in USG humanitarian and reconstruction assistance for 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 prioritize USG 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 and ICRC 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, International Medical Corps (IMC), and Mercy Corps for delivery to approximately 235,000 beneficiaries in Beirut and southern Lebanon.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$7 million to support the U.N. Flash Appeal for Lebanon to WFP and UNJLC for logistics, UNICEF for water and sanitation activities, and OCHA and OCHA's Humanitarian Information Center (HIC) for coordination and information management. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided \$5 million to the U.N. Flash Appeal to support UNHCR, UNRWA, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$9.4 million to Mercy Corps, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), IMC, and World Vision for water and sanitation services, health services, psychosocial support, emergency shelter activities, and the distribution of food and relief supplies. State/PRM has contributed \$5 million to ICRC's emergency appeal for Lebanon. USAID/OFDA has provided \$25,916 to Church World Service (CWS) for security sector training to relief NGOs.
- USAID/OFDA has released an Annual Program Statement (APS) soliciting proposals to address emergency needs in Lebanon. The APS is available at <http://www.grants.gov>.
- USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) is providing 1,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at nearly \$625,000, in support of WFP operations in Lebanon.
- USDA has provided 25,000 MT of hard red winter wheat to the Government of Lebanon for food security and agricultural development. Valued at \$9.2 million including transport, the wheat contribution is part of USDA's Food for Progress program.
- 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 2006<sup>1</sup>**

| <i>Implementing Partner</i>                                 | <i>Activity</i>   | <i>Location</i>  | <i>Amount</i>       |
|---|---|--|---------------------|
| CRS   | Water and sanitation, psychosocial support, food, emergency shelter, and emergency relief supplies                              | North Lebanon, Bekaa, Mt. Lebanon, Beirut, South Lebanon, Nabatiye | \$2,836,582         |
| CWS   | Security sector training  | Jordan   | \$25,916            |
| ICRC  | Protection, food, health, and water and sanitation  | Countrywide  | \$5,012,000         |
| IMC   | Water and sanitation, health, psychosocial support, and emergency relief supplies   | Mt. Lebanon, Beirut, Nabatiye, South Lebanon                       | \$1,913,457         |
| IOM   | Evacuation of third-country nationals   | Countrywide  | \$1,000,000         |
| Mercy Corps   | Water and sanitation, nutrition, emergency relief supplies, health, food security and agriculture, and cash for work activities | Mt. Lebanon, South Lebanon, Nabatiye                               | \$3,369,250         |
| OCHA  | Coordination  | Countrywide  | \$1,000,000         |
| OCHA/HIC  | Information management  | Countrywide  | \$200,000           |
| UNJLC   | Logistics   | Countrywide  | \$300,000           |
| UNICEF  | Coordination and water and sanitation   | Countrywide  | \$2,500,000         |
| UNHCR   | Protection, shelter, and emergency relief supplies  | Countrywide  | \$2,000,000         |
| UNRWA   | Food, health, and emergency relief supplies   | Countrywide  | \$2,000,000         |
| World Vision  | Water and sanitation and emergency relief supplies  | North Lebanon, Mt. Lebanon, Bekaa, Beirut                          | \$1,265,623         |
| WFP   | Logistics and coordination  | Countrywide  | \$3,000,000         |
|   | 1,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance   | Countrywide  | \$624,800           |
| GOL   | 25,000 MT of USDA Food for Progress Assistance  | Countrywide  | \$9,200,000         |
| Multiple  | Emergency relief supplies, including transport  | Affected areas   | \$394,162           |
| Multiple  | DART administrative costs   | Affected areas   | \$143,850           |
| <b>TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON</b> |   |  | <b>\$36,785,640</b> |

<sup>1</sup> USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 22, 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](http://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](http://www.usaid.gov) (keyword: donations)
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)