



# UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

## Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #37, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

September 8, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated September 7, 2006.

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On September 8, the Government of Israel (GOI) ended the sea blockade on Lebanon after an international naval force assumed control from the Israeli Defense Forces, according to the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Italian and French forces will support the Lebanese Navy in monitoring Lebanon's territorial waters until German naval forces arrive in approximately two weeks, according to international media reports. The end of the sea blockade follows the GOI's lifting of the air blockade on September 7, which allowed the resumption of commercial air traffic into Lebanon.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE – LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	1,187	Government of Lebanon (GOL) – September 8, 2006
Injured	4,399	GOL – September 8, 2006
Total Displaced Population	215,413	GOL – September 8, 2006
Estimated Returns to Date	758,771	GOL – September 8, 2006

Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon..... \$55,350,133

Total USG Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance Pledged to Lebanon ..... \$230,000,000

### CURRENT SITUATION

- As of September 8, the GOL's Higher Relief Council (HRC) reports that 1,187 Lebanese have been killed and approximately 4,399 injured. Nearly 975,000 Lebanese fled their homes at the height of emergency, but the HRC estimates that 758,771 displaced persons have returned to their home areas since August 14. Most of the remaining 215,413 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees are staying with host families.

#### Food and Emergency Supplies

- On September 5, approximately 700 metric tons (MT) of USG-donated wheat arrived in Lebanon from Jordan for distribution in conflict-affected areas. An additional 300 MT of USG-donated lentils is expected in Lebanon next week.
- On September 7, a fire at the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) warehouse in Beirut—its main facility in Lebanon—caused serious losses to UNHCR's stock of emergency supplies. While UNHCR staff managed to salvage a portion of the relief commodities in the warehouse, initial estimates indicate that losses of blankets, mattresses, and plastic sheeting range between \$500,000 and \$700,000. According to UNHCR, large amounts of emergency supplies had already been distributed and transferred to warehouses in Tyre (Sur) and Sidon (Saida). No one was injured in the fire and the warehouse building did not sustain damage.

#### Health

- At the September 8 health cluster coordination meeting, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) outlined the GOL's Ministry of Health (MOH) national strategy for early recovery of the health sector. Based on the joint MOH and WHO assessment of the health infrastructure in the conflict-affected areas in August, the strategy identifies the need to address the following issues: the high number of injured and disabled people; unmet health needs of IDPs and returnees; disruption of public health functions; damage to health facilities; impediments to health care access; and disruption to the fuel and drug supplies. In the short-term, the strategic plan notes that the challenge is to meet the immediate health needs of IDPs and returnees, particularly for vulnerable groups. In the medium- and long-term, the plan calls for re-establishing and further improving the functionality of the health system and rehabilitating damaged health infrastructure.
- On September 8, a WHO team visited Srifa and Maarake in Tyre District and Ghandouriyeh in Bent Jbail District to assess the status of health facilities and services. In Srifa and Maarake, the team reported that facilities are functional and providing primary health care services. In Ghandouriyeh, the health facility is completely destroyed and residents receive health services through mobile clinics or in Srifa. According to the assessment team, no disease outbreaks have been reported in any of the health facilities. Unexploded ordnance (UXO) and water and sanitation issues remain concerns in all three villages.

#### Assessments

- On September 8, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) conducted assessments in El Bayad, Nabatiye District, and Deir Ntar and Jmajjime, Bent Jbail District. In El Bayad, OCHA reports that no homes were destroyed and only one lightly damaged. According to OCHA, workers have restored electricity to the town for up

to 12 hours per day. The restoration of electricity has increased access to water for residents, although tankers are still necessary to fully address all needs. The team reports that there is no UXO in the village, although the presence of UXO in surrounding agricultural lands remains unclear.

- In Deir Ntar, the assessment team reported that out of 616 homes, 22 have been destroyed and up to 70 damaged. Electricity has been restored to the village; however, coverage is only 30 to 40 percent due to the destruction of three transformers. Water still remains a serious issue and the community remains dependent on tankers supplying water from a nearby spring. Municipal officials identified the need for 150 household water tanks, as many of these were damaged during the conflict.
- In Jmaijime, the team reported that out of 260 homes, 86 homes are destroyed and 100 are heavily damaged. Due to widespread infrastructure damage, the village lacks electricity and relies on water tanks and bottled water. Municipal officials have requested educational supplies for children returning to school, household water tanks, and emergency relief supplies, including tents, blankets, mattresses, and kitchen sets.

#### ***Access***

- Increased access to affected areas in recent weeks has allowed humanitarian agencies to continue expanding activities. On September 4, the U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) downgraded the U.N.'s security level to Phase III in areas north of the Litani River and Tyre. For areas south of the Litani, Phase IV remains in effect.
- The U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) has developed a "Hazards to Movements" map for each district in the conflict-affected areas that includes road conditions, damaged bridges, minefields, and cleared roads. Maps are updated regularly and available to all relief agencies. In addition, the U.N. Mine Action Service's (UNMAS) Mine Action Coordination Center in Southern Lebanon (MACC-SL) is coordinating with UNJLC to ensure that information about UXO is included in the maps.

#### ***USG Partner Updates***

- On September 5 and 6, Mercy Corps continued to deliver drinking water and food rations to villages in Nabatiye and Marjayoun districts, supplying 13,500 liters of bottled drinking water and food rations for 12,680 beneficiaries in 14 villages. Mercy Corps is delivering an average of 40 water tanks per day to Marjayoun District and plans to deliver more than 1,200 water tanks to district villages.
- On September 6, Mercy Corps completed the installation of a second water pump in Baalbek, Bekaa District, to provide water for approximately 2,000 households.
- International Medical Corps (IMC) delivered medical supplies, including oral medications, IV infusions, instruments, and a portable steam-powered sterilizer to a village clinic in Bent Jbail District. The clinic, heavily damaged by the recent conflict, is scheduled to open by approximately September 14.

#### ***Transition to Development***

- OCHA reports that an agreement was reached to transition clusters from emergency assistance to development, rather than attempting to adopt a parallel approach. According to OCHA, this reflects the capacity of humanitarian agencies' staff based in Tyre, the desire to avoid a duplication of effort, and the need to preserve institutional memory and coordinate handover. Most clusters now address both emergency and development issues. Once the critical mass of activity transitions away from emergency activities supported by OCHA, clusters will transfer completely to development activities supported by the U.N. Development Program (UNDP). OCHA's Humanitarian Information Center (HIC) will support this process by providing information to assist transition planning.

#### ***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 Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), led by the U.S. Agency for International Development, arrived in the region to prioritize USG assistance. A Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team is supporting the DART.
- To date, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) has provided 3,000 tarps, 40,000 blankets, and 18 emergency health kits in support of relief operations in Lebanon. The DART has consigned these relief supplies to International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), WHO, IMC, and Mercy Corps for delivery to nearly 300,000 beneficiaries in Beirut and southern Lebanon. Total USG-donated commodities are valued at more than \$590,000, including transport.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$7 million to support the U.N. Flash Appeal for Lebanon to WFP and UNJLC for logistics and coordination, U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) for water and sanitation activities, and OCHA and HIC for coordination and information management. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided \$7.5 million to the U.N. Flash Appeal to UNHCR and the U.N. Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) for protection, shelter, and emergency relief supplies, to UNDSS, and to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for transportation of third-country nationals. State/PRM has also

contributed more than \$13.5 million to ICRC's emergency appeal for protection, food, health, and water and sanitation activities.

- USAID/OFDA has provided \$16.6 million to Catholic Relief Services (CRS), CHF International, IMC, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Mercy Corps, and World Vision for water and sanitation services, health services, psychosocial support, emergency shelter activities, the distribution of food and relief supplies, infrastructure rehabilitation, and/or cash-for-work activities. USAID/OFDA has also provided nearly \$26,000 to Church World Service (CWS) for security training for relief NGOs.
- The USG is providing nearly \$10 million in wheat flour, wheat, and lentil commodities. USAID's Office of Food for Peace is providing 1,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to support WFP operations. Through the Food for Progress program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing 25,000 MT of wheat to the GOL.
- The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political and Military Affairs, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement will provide \$420,000 in FY 2006 and up to \$2 million in FY 2007 to the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) for demining activities in Lebanon, subject to Congressional approval.
- 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	\$3,436,150
CHF International	Water and sanitation, psychosocial support, and emergency relief supplies	North Lebanon, Bekaa, Mt. Lebanon, Beirut, South Lebanon, Nabatiye	\$2,665,969
CWS	Security training for relief workers	Jordan	\$25,916
ICRC	Protection, food, health, and water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$13,512,000
IMC	Water and sanitation, health, psychosocial support, and emergency relief supplies	Mt. Lebanon, Beirut, Nabatiye, South Lebanon	\$2,113,457
IOM	Evacuation of third-country nationals	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
IOCC	Water and sanitation, health, psychosocial support, infrastructure rehabilitation, emergency relief supplies, and cash for work activities	Nabatiye, South Lebanon, South Beirut, Baalbek	\$1,999,427
Mercy Corps	Water and sanitation, nutrition, emergency relief supplies, health, food security and agriculture, and cash for work activities	Mt. Lebanon, South Lebanon, Nabatiye, Bekaa, Beirut	\$4,868,111
OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
OCHA/HIC	Information management	Countrywide	\$200,000
UNDSS	Safety and security for humanitarian operations	Countrywide	\$300,000
UNJLC	Logistics	Countrywide	\$300,000
UNICEF	Coordination and water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
UNHCR	Protection, shelter, and emergency relief supplies	Countrywide	\$4,200,000
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	\$1,563,584
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	\$590,271
Multiple	DART administrative costs	Affected areas	\$250,448
<b>TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON</b>			<b>\$55,350,133</b>

<sup>1</sup> USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 8, 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)

USG bulletins appear on the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/)