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U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

Lebanon – Complex Emergency

Information Bulletin #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

July 23, 2006

NOTE: The last information bulletin was dated July 22, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- A U.S. Government (USG) Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) arrived in the region on July 23. USG logistics specialists continue to procure and pre-position humanitarian relief supplies.
- According to the United Nations (U.N.) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), heavy exchanges of fire have occurred across the Blue Line since July 22. In the past 24 hours, the conflict has expanded to affect the Lebanese town of Sidon. Tyre, Lebanon and Haifa, Israel have sustained additional damage.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
Total Affected Population	600,000	U.N. World Health Organization - July 22, 2006
Total Number Displaced to Syria	150,000	U.N. World Health Organization - July 22, 2006
Total Number Dead	350	U.N. World Health Organization - July 22, 2006
Total Number Injured	1,000	U.N. World Health Organization - July 22, 2006

CURRENT SITUATION

- The conflict that began between the Israeli Defense Forces and Hezbollah on July 12 has spread to additional areas. Continuing insecurity within Lebanon is preventing humanitarian agencies from accurately assessing the growing number of people affected. As of July 22, the U.N. World Health Organization estimated the number of displaced people at 600,000, of whom 150,000 have reportedly crossed the Syrian border. Approximately 95,000 people have found temporary shelter in schools. OCHA reported that more than 60,000 people have evacuated from Lebanon to Cyprus.

Humanitarian Corridors

- The international community is intent on establishing humanitarian corridors to affected areas of Lebanon. International media sources indicate that Israel has authorized a 50-mile long, 5-mile wide safe passage to Beirut for ships and aircraft. The International Committee of the Red Cross negotiated the safe passage of humanitarian relief commodities from Beirut to Tyre on July 21. The humanitarian community has not yet secured a permanent corridor for ground transport.

Increased Food and Fuel Costs

- The cost of food has increased by 400 percent in Beirut and 50 percent in other urban centers, according to OCHA. Food stocks are available, but delivery is almost impossible. Hospitals and medical centers will soon require restocking of food and medical supplies. As the fuel supply is decreasing in affected areas of Lebanon, ground transportation costs have increased approximately 500 percent.

Protection

- As reported by OCHA, Save the Children has estimated that 45 percent of those killed in Lebanon are children. Unexploded ordnance will pose a direct threat to displaced and vulnerable individuals.

Communication Systems

- International media sources have reported that television transmission towers and mobile telephone masts in Fatqa town northeast of Beirut and Terbol town in northern Lebanon have been destroyed. Damaged and destroyed communication infrastructure will complicate the delivery of humanitarian relief supplies.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- A USG DART has arrived in the region. The DART includes a team leader as well as administrative, information, operations liaison, communications, and safety and security officers. The DART is performing humanitarian assessments to determine the best way in which the USG may assist affected populations. A Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team is supporting the DART.
- The USG is procuring and pre-positioning humanitarian relief supplies, including plastic sheeting, blankets, and emergency health kits. USG logistics specialists are expediting the distribution of commodities in affected areas.

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. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for the complex emergency in Lebanon can be found at www.interaction.org. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Lebanon may be available at www.reliefweb.org.
- 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