



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

July 27, 2006

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The conflict that began between the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and Hezbollah on July 12 has spread to additional areas. Heavy exchanges of fire continue along the Blue Line, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). On July 26, the Government of Israel (GOI) announced a tentative 2 km (1.2 mile) wide no-go zone in southern Lebanon, although IDF has pledged not to reoccupy the territory. Lack of humanitarian access coupled with ongoing insecurity continues to limit the transport of emergency relief supplies. Humanitarian actors continue to lack continuous, open, and safe access to affected populations.
- The U.S. Government (USG) Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) reported that on July 27, parts of the emergency health kits donated by USAID were dispatched to Tyre. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been unsuccessful in obtaining IDF approval for safe passage of the remaining parts of the kits from Beirut to Marjayoun for use in the eastern area of southern Lebanon. ICRC has been in daily contact with both U.S. Embassies in Beirut and Tel Aviv for assistance.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	371	WHO ¹ - July 27, 2006
Injured	1,299	WHO - July 27, 2006
Displaced to Neighboring Countries	210,000	WHO - July 27, 2006
Total Displaced Population	710,000	OCHA - July 26, 2006
Total Affected Population	866,780	WHO - July 27, 2006

Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$11,803,052
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Pledged to Lebanon\$30,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- Ongoing insecurity in Lebanon continues to prevent relief agencies from accurately assessing the growing number of people affected. As of July 26, WHO reported that 371 people have died and more than 1,299 people are injured. The conflict has affected an estimated 866,780 people, including internally displaced, individuals under siege, refugees, and asylum seeker, according to OCHA. An estimated 710,000 people, or one-fifth of Lebanon’s population, have fled their homes, and the majority are now located in Beirut, Tyre, Sidon, the Chouf mountains, and the Alea region. The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that approximately 5,000 to 10,000 Lebanese and third country nationals leave Lebanon each day. Food and medical supplies for chronic illnesses are needed. According to OCHA, a fuel shortage is imminent.

Logistics

- The first U.N. humanitarian convoy arrived in Tyre on July 26, carrying food commodities, water and sanitation supplies, and medical supplies for 50,000 people for three months. According to the DART, U.N. agencies are transferring relief supplies to municipal authorities in the south upon arrival. On July 28 and 29, the U.N. aims to send additional trucks to Saida, Jezzine, and Tyre, southern Lebanon, with food and water and sanitation supplies.
- ICRC has established two southern bases, in the port of Tyre and the town of Marjayoun, according to OCHA. ICRC is focusing on providing assistance to 200 villages in southern Lebanon, but many residents and displaced populations remain beyond reach.

Health

- Many villages in the southern Lebanon lack safe drinking water, food, and medical supplies. Serious public health risks exist with people drinking contaminated water, according to WHO.
- WHO is working with the Ministry of Health and health partners to establish an epidemic early warning and outbreak response system. According to WHO, the pilot surveillance system currently covers 4,000 displaced people. The U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) expects to expand the system next week and eventually cover 80 percent of the Beirut area.
- UNICEF is also scheduled to conduct a nutrition assessment for children and to assist the MOH in establishing a nutritional monitoring system

¹ U.N. World Health Organization

Coordination

- The Higher Relief Committee (HRC), the coordination unit for relief of the Government of Lebanon, has increased staff from 5 to approximately 30 people. The U.N. Development Program (UNDP) has seconded four people to the HRC to provide support.
- On July 26, the DART attended the first general coordination meeting convened by OCHA/Lebanon in Beirut. According to U.N. agencies and NGOs in attendance, the main internally displaced person (IDP) concentrations are centered in six areas: Chouf, Saida, Tyre, Jezzine, Aaley, and the Lebanon-Israel border area. Attendees provided estimates of IDP communities identified by their organizations.
- According to WHO, the Ministry of Social Affairs and UNICEF held the first psychosocial coordination meeting. With support from UNICEF, the local non-governmental organization (NGO) Samidoon has coordinated a workshop for social workers on recreational and psychosocial support for children.

Humanitarian Access

- Humanitarian organizations continue to lack consistent, open, and safe access to affected populations in Lebanon, although the GOI has agreed to expand corridors to deliver aid. According to the Israeli Embassy, the GOI defines corridors as routes that still require coordination with the IDF, and not routes that are open for all travel at all times. Although a humanitarian convoy may obtain be allowed to travel on a road one day, this does not guarantee the same route will be open the following day. The road between Aarida, on the Lebanon-Syrian border, and Beirut will be the only road open continuously. Any travel along corridors that is not coordinated through the IDF will be targeted. All travel requests must go through ICRC or the U.N. Special Coordinator via the U.N. World Food Program.
- According to the U.S. Embassy in Amman, ICRC reports that IDF's notification approval rate has dropped significantly in the south in the last 48 hours, which Embassy Tel Aviv attributes to large-scale military operations. The IDF granted clearance to ICRC to try to re-enter Rmeish today, after an ICRC team that had been approved to enter July 25 had to turn back due to ongoing military operations.

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. During a visit to the region, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice authorized \$30 million in immediate USG humanitarian assistance to persons affected by conflict in Lebanon.
- On July 23, a USG DART arrived in the region to perform assessments and determine priorities for USG humanitarian assistance. A Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team is supporting the DART.
- On July 23, the USG began to procure and pre-position humanitarian relief supplies, including 1,000 tarps, 20,000 blankets, and 10 emergency health kits in Cyprus, to support the needs of approximately 155,000 beneficiaries. On July 25, the U.S. Military airlifted two of these health kits to Beirut, and the U.S. Embassy has consigned both health kits to ICRC for delivery to affected populations in southern Lebanon. A third health kit arrived in Beirut on July 26, and U.S. Embassy has consigned this kit to WHO for distribution in southern Lebanon.
- On July 26, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) provided \$7 million to support the U.N. Flash Appeal for Lebanon, including \$3.3 million to the U.N. World Food Program (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 for OCHA and OCHA's Humanitarian Information Center (HIC) for coordination activities. The USG will program additional assistance to other relief agencies based on upcoming humanitarian assessments.
- The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) is contributing an initial \$3.4 million to ICRC in support of its emergency appeal for Lebanon and an additional \$1 million to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- In addition to evacuating more than 14,312 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. military personnel in the joint operating area are currently participating in the evacuation of U.S. citizens as well as humanitarian operations. USAID and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) will conduct another transport mission of relief supplies to Beirut in the near future.

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

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
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	\$247,202
	DART administrative costs	Affected areas	\$143,850
ICRC	Emergency relief activities	Affected areas	\$3,412,000
IOM	Emergency relief activities	Affected areas	\$1,000,000
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$11,803,052

¹USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of July 27, 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