



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #13, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 8, 2006

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On August 7, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) announced limitations on vehicle travel south of the Litani River in southern Lebanon. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported that only one of five scheduled convoys was able to travel to southern Lebanon on August 8. Due to increasing insecurity, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) cancelled all U.N. relief convoys to southern Lebanon on August 8, according to international media.
- On August 7, IDF air attacks in southern Beirut, the eastern Bekaa (Al Biqa) Valley, and southern Lebanon killed at least 55 people, according to international media reports. The U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is scheduled to replace the temporary bridge, destroyed during an air strike on August 6, connecting Tyre (Sur) to Sidon (Saida) and Beirut, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- If fuel shortages are not resolved, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) warns that 60 percent of hospitals in Lebanon will be unable to function by August 11. According to WHO, Lebanon has 12,000 hospital beds, each requiring an estimated 80 liters of fuel per week. The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) is sending a shipment of gasoline and diesel to Lebanon, but neither shipment is expected to arrive before August 13. According to OCHA, of the 400 metric tons (MT) of diesel fuel en route, 200 MT is designated for U.N. humanitarian convoys, and 200 MT will be provided to the Government of Lebanon (GOL) to meet emergency needs, including fuel for hospital generators. A second shipment of 250 drums of gasoline will be used to support U.N. humanitarian convoys, according to OCHA.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	998	GOL - August 8, 2006
Injured	3,493	GOL - August 8, 2006
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	695,762	GOL - August 8, 2006
Displaced to Neighboring Countries	220,000	GOL - August 8, 2006
Total Displaced Population	915,762	GOL - August 8, 2006

Total U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$22,067,801
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 number of people affected. As of August 8, the GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC) reported that 998 people have been killed and 3,493 people have been injured. HRC reports that 915,762 people, or one-fourth of Lebanon's population, have fled their homes. Most IDPs are located in South Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Chouf, and Aaley, and others are located in and around Bekaa and northern Lebanon. Although some IDPs remain in the coastal cities of Tyre and Sidon in southern Lebanon, few people remain in southern Lebanese villages, and many who initially moved to southern cities have now fled further north. HRC reports that an estimated 565,000 displaced persons are staying with relatives and friends, and 130,762 are located in 761 schools and public institutions throughout the country. An estimated 220,000 have fled to neighboring countries, including 150,000 to Syria. Since the conflict began on July 12, an estimated 6,800 private homes or apartments, 630 roads, 73 bridges, and 30 key installations—including airports, ports, water and sewage treatment plants, and power plants—have been significantly damaged or destroyed, according to HRC.

Humanitarian Access

- The International Medical Corps (IMC) has warned that landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) will be a concern when IDPs begin returning to southern Lebanon and humanitarian organizations start to work in conflict-affected rural areas. According to the USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), IMC estimates that up to 300 UXO per day could be landing within these areas, posing a serious threat to returnees and humanitarian workers.

Health

- As of August 7, more than 4,700 children have received measles vaccinations as part of the ongoing vaccination campaign organized by the Ministry of Health (MOH), in collaboration with the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO, and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners. Many children have also received vaccinations against polio, meningitis, and measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR). According to UNICEF, immunization coverage is nearly 90 percent for polio; 78 percent for MMR; and 78 percent for meningitis for children ages 2 to 5. OCHA reports that an estimated 18,000 children are scheduled to receive vaccinations in Beirut this week. An additional 55,000 children are scheduled to receive vaccinations during the national campaign, currently scheduled for the week of August 15.

- The health cluster, a working group composed of U.N. agencies and NGOs involved in health activities, reports that while sufficient medical supplies are now available, relief agencies lack the personnel to distribute supplies. WHO is investigating whether NGOs have the capacity to assist with distribution.

Logistics

- The U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) reports that the U.N. continues to prioritize sea transport routes—via the ports of Tyre, Sidon, Tripoli, and Beirut—as the safest and most reliable option for shipping relief cargo into Lebanon. According to OCHA, the road connecting Beirut to northern Lebanon and Syria can only support light trucks as a result of the bombing of key bridges north of Beirut on August 4.
- Significant security threats to humanitarian personnel and relief convoys continue to hinder efforts to distribute relief supplies, according to OCHA. On August 6, two separate attacks narrowly missed the same U.N. convoy traveling in southern Lebanon. Five additional armored vehicles, which arrived in Lebanon on August 6, will escort future convoys to provide additional support, according to OCHA.
- In an August 5 meeting with the DART, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) reported having a one-month fuel supply for vehicles and camp operations. UNRWA fuel storage facilities in Beirut remained undamaged as of August 5.

Water and Sanitation

- WHO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA), and UNICEF, is working to establish a water quality monitoring system in IDP shelters.

Food and Emergency Relief Supplies

- OCHA reports that urgent needs in Beirut IDP camps include sheets, blankets, and hygiene items. On August 7, a convoy of 11 trucks crossed the Aarida border to deliver 100 first aid kits, 1,000 baby hygiene kits, and 36 MT of essential drugs. In addition, two U.N. aircraft delivered health supplies and high-energy biscuits to Beirut. According to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Jordanian air force is scheduled to deliver 3,600 mattresses and 9,000 blankets to Beirut on August 8.
- On August 7, a U.N. convoy delivered UNFPA hygiene kits to the Lebanese Red Cross in Zahle, for distribution to an estimated 7,000 affected residents, according to OCHA. The kits include antiseptic soap, sanitary napkins, toothpaste and toothbrushes, toilet paper, and other essentials. On August 9, additional kits are scheduled to arrive in Sidon, for eventual distribution to affected populations remaining in southern Lebanon.
- On August 5 and 6, the WFP distributed canned meat, vegetables, and high energy biscuits to more than 16,000 IDPs in schools and other IDP gathering places in Beirut. According to OCHA, WFP has finalized plans and partners to expand distribution of food commodities into the Bekaa Valley and Tripoli.
- HRC continues to distribute a weekly food basket that includes rice, tea, sugar, cheese, milk, canned meat and fish, pasta, and baby food to IDPs, according to OCHA. To date, HRC reports that more than 232,000 Lebanese have received family food baskets. The HRC is also distributing emergency relief supplies for children under 2 years, including underwear, diapers, and soap.
- As of August 8, the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) has distributed hygiene kits, kitchen supplies, and emergency relief supplies to more than 20,000 IDPs in 45 centers in Jbiel and Kisirwan, Mount Lebanon.

Education

- Lebanese parents are concerned that their children's education may be disrupted if IDPs are unable to vacate schools before the beginning of the school year. On August 7, a preliminary education cluster was established to assess key issues related to education, including the upcoming school year. Both public and private education bodies are participating in the cluster, according to UNICEF.

Protection

- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) continues to assist in the evacuation of Third Country Nationals (TCNs) from Lebanon. As of August 6, IOM had evacuated more than 5,140 TCNs; IOM aims to evacuate an additional 2,482 TCNs by August 11.

Refugees

- WFP is distributing 3 MT of food daily for approximately 11,000 Lebanese refugees in the Damascus area, and plans to provide rations for 50,000 people over the next three months, according to the U.N. Country Team in Syria.
- OCHA reported that the MoH, with the support of WHO, is conducting training for Public Health Officers from 14 governorates in Syria to ensure proper implementation of the Early Warning and Response System targeted to cover 85 percent of the displaced Lebanese population in Syria.
- To date, UNHCR has distributed 1,000 tents, 10,864 mattresses, 8,890 blankets, and 1,473 kitchen sets to displaced persons in Syria.
- UNRWA is providing health services, food, water and emergency relief commodities to address the needs of more than 2,000 Palestinians from Lebanon, including 1,612 living in 8 UNRWA schools in Yarmouk, Damascus.

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, 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, 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 the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and \$2 million to UNHCR in support of the U.N. Flash Appeal.
- In addition to evacuating more than 14,905 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	Beirut	\$3,369,250
Catholic Relief Services	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	\$392,662
	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
UNHCR	Emergency relief activities	Affected areas	\$2,000,000
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$22,067,801

¹USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 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 (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