



# UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

## Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #17, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 12, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated August 11, 2006.

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On August 11, the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) passed Resolution 1701, calling for Hezbollah to cease attacks and the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) to cease offensive military operations. UNSC Resolution 1701 affirmed that all parties are responsible for ensuring humanitarian access to civilian populations, including safe passage for humanitarian convoys.
- The new resolution outlined a formula for the phased withdrawal of IDF from southern Lebanon while the current U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) increases its troop strength from 2,000 to up to 15,000 to assist Lebanese armed forces in asserting Government of Lebanon (GOL) control over the area. The UNSC also called for a buffer zone free of armed personnel between the U.N. Blue Line and the Litani River. The GOL and Government of Israel (GOI) are currently reviewing the resolution to determine the date and time the ceasefire will take effect.
- On August 10, the USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) accompanied U.S. Congressman Darrell Issa on a visit to a Lebanese school hosting approximately 350 internally displaced persons (IDPs). According to the DART, despite overcrowded conditions, a USG non-governmental organization (NGO) partner is ensuring the site remains clean and well organized.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
<b>Dead</b>	1,056	GOL - August 12, 2006
<b>Injured</b>	3,600	GOL - August 12, 2006
<b>IDPs</b>	695,762	GOL - August 12, 2006
<b>Displaced to Neighboring Countries</b>	231,000	GOL - August 12, 2006
<b>Total Displaced Population</b>	971,361	GOL - August 12, 2006

**Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$24,069,301**  
**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. The GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC) reports that 1,056 people have been killed and 3,600 people have been injured. As of August 12, HRC reported that 971,361 people have fled their homes, or more than one-fourth of Lebanon's population. Most IDPs are located in South Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Chouf, and Aaley, and others are located in and around Bekaa (Al Biqa), Byblos, Kesrouane, and El Metn. Although an estimated 130,000 people remain in southern Lebanon, primarily in the coastal cities of Tyre (Sur) and Sidon (Saida), local authorities report that only 25,000 people are in villages along the Israel-Lebanon border, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). HRC reports that an estimated 605,000 displaced persons are staying with relatives and friends, and 135,361 are located in 859 schools and public institutions throughout the country. Approximately 231,000 have fled to neighboring countries, including Syria. Since the conflict began on July 12, an estimated 7,000 private homes or apartments, 630 kilometers of roads, 73 bridges, and 29 key installations—including airports, seaports, water and sewage treatment plants, and power plants—have been significantly damaged or destroyed, according to HRC.
- As of August 10, OCHA estimated that, of the approximately 220,000 persons who have fled to Syria since July 12, an estimated 60,000 people have left for other countries or returned to Lebanon.

#### Humanitarian Access

- Ongoing conflict continues to restrict access in southern Lebanon. According to OCHA, all major north-south supply lines remain interrupted north of Tyre. On August 11, U.N. trucks delivered relief supplies to Nabatiye, Sidon, Tripoli, and Baalbek, according to OCHA. No U.N. convoys have traveled south of the Litani River since August 7.

#### Logistics

- According to the DART, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has contracted a ship to transport both U.N. and NGO personnel from Larnaka, Cyprus, to Beirut. According to WFP, the ship is expected to arrive on or around August 16.

#### Health and Nutrition

- Many hospitals in conflict-affected areas, particularly in Bekaa Governorate, are no longer connected to the national power grid and must rely on generators, according to the DART. The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported that there is a critical need for generator fuel for hospitals, particularly those in Nabatiye, Sidon, and Tyre. In addition, the lack of fuel is preventing an increasing number of hospital staff from traveling to work.

- The Ministry of Health (MOH), in collaboration with the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF), WHO, and NGO partners, is scheduled to expand the measles and polio vaccination campaign to cover a total of 100,000 children in Beirut, according to OCHA. The campaign is also dispensing capsules of vitamin A, a micronutrient that helps to increase children’s immunity. According to the MOH, 95 percent of children have received vaccinations at more than 140 schools and other public buildings in the greater Beirut area. Due to low vaccine supplies, a U.N. convoy is scheduled to transport an additional 200,000 doses of each vaccine by August 14, pending IDF concurrence.
- OCHA reports that the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) is conducting a rapid assessment of the needs and issues affecting pregnant and lactating women in IDP sites in and around Beirut. The assessment aims to determine the number of pregnant women in IDP sites and identify problems relating to nutritional deficiencies and female health.
- According to reports received by the DART, a black market has developed for pharmaceuticals, and health agencies are working to ensure that all donated drugs meet identified needs and do not fall into the black market.
- WHO continues to meet all pharmaceutical requests through the purchase of local medicines, according to the DART.

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

- According to USG partner Mercy Corps, 400 full-time residents and 600 IDPs reportedly remain in Marjayoun. Pending humanitarian access, Mercy Corps will provide food and relief commodities to remaining residents and IDPs.
- On August 11, Mercy Corps distributed 50 hygiene kits and 300 blankets, as well as food for 1,000 beneficiaries, to IDP centers in Baabda; 1,440 beneficiaries received food at IDP centers in Jezzine. Mercy Corps has established a warehouse and office in Jezzine to pre-position relief supplies for delivery throughout southern Lebanon.
- As of August 11, WFP has provided food to 5,700 beneficiaries in schools and public centers in Beirut. An estimated 188,000 people throughout Lebanon have received food assistance to date, according to WFP.
- According to OCHA, an estimated 21,000 beneficiaries have received hygiene kits in Sidon, Zahle, and Baalbek. On August 11, a U.N. convoy reportedly traveled to Nabatiye to deliver hygiene kits for distribution to approximately 7,000 people in areas throughout southern Lebanon. Mercy Malaysia, International Medical Corps (IMC), and International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) have distributed additional hygiene kits through local partners in northern Lebanon and Beirut suburbs.

#### ***Protection***

- On August 11, an IDF missile struck a UNIFIL-escorted Lebanese convoy traveling from Marjayoun through Western Bekaa, leaving at least 4 dead and more than 20 wounded, according to international media reports. At least 150 cars had left Marjayoun under the protection of a UNIFIL force, including members of the Lebanese army and police who had been providing assistance to the local population.
- The Ministry of Social Affairs is working with UNFPA and 30 local and international partners to address protection issues related to women. According to OCHA, the team will develop an action plan to include preventive measures, awareness, and the training of service providers.
- On August 11, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) reported that the total number of displaced Lebanese and Palestinians sheltering in UNRWA camps and facilities is 19,107. Two-thirds of the 5,417 Lebanese are staying in UNRWA schools. As of August 10, approximately 3,000 people had evacuated the Burj Barajneh Palestinian refugee camp in south Beirut, according to OCHA.

#### ***Water and Sanitation***

- Continued bombing has degraded the water supply in Beirut, according to the DART. The Beirut municipal water authority reports that in addition to destroying pipelines, the bombing is preventing crews from performing needed repairs. In addition, unreliable electrical supply for water pumps, lack of fuel for generators, and generators in poor condition impair water provision. At the same time, demand for water has increased due to the influx of IDPs. The Beirut water supply authority has requested technical support and assistance protecting repair crews.
- In southern Lebanon, water supply is also limited due to the lack of fuel and electricity, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In addition to ICRC, Mercy Corps, Première Urgence, and UNRWA are transporting water, providing fuel for generators, and supplying materials for assistance with pipeline repairs in southern Lebanon.

#### ***Recovery***

- On August 11, the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) and the Director of the HRC met to outline GOL priorities in humanitarian operations, according to OCHA. In particular, the GOL requested that pre-fabricated housing not be used to shelter IDPs. In order to prioritize recovery needs, UNDP is scheduled to integrate initial sectoral damage assessments by August 19.

#### **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 and \$2 million to UNRWA 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 2006<sup>1</sup>**

<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	Affected areas	\$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	\$394,162
	DART administrative costs	Affected areas	\$143,850
ICRC	Protection, food, health, and water and sanitation	Beirut, Southern Lebanon	\$3,412,000
IOM	Evacuation of third-country nationals	Affected areas	\$1,000,000
UNHCR	Protection, shelter, and emergency relief supplies	Affected areas	\$2,000,000
UNRWA	Food, health, and emergency relief supplies	Affected areas	\$2,000,000
<b>TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON</b>			<b>\$24,069,301</b>

<sup>1</sup>USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 12, 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)