



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #22, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 17, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated August 16, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On August 16, representatives of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), and the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) agreed to a timeline for the IDF withdrawal and the LAF deployment to specific areas in southern Lebanon, as called for by U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701. As of August 17, LAF has begun to arrive in areas south of the Litani River, according to international media reports. UNIFIL will continue to control a buffer zone between LAF and the IDF, and additional UNIFIL forces are scheduled to arrive in Lebanon by the end of August. Humanitarian access is projected to increase as IDF withdrawal and LAF deployment continues.
- The Government of Lebanon (GOL) is working to re-open the Rafic Hariri Beirut International Airport to commercial air carriers. On August 17, Middle East Airlines reportedly began service, and on August 18, Royal Jordanian Airlines flights are scheduled to resume. During the week of August 21, British Mediterranean Airlines reportedly plans to resume four weekly flights between London Heathrow and Beirut. Commercial airline flights should increase commodities available in local markets and enable relief agencies to focus on delivering assistance to the most vulnerable populations.
- On August 16, the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) released an Annual Program Statement (APS) soliciting proposals to address emergency needs in Lebanon. The APS is available at <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppId=10638&mode=VIEW>.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON	SOURCE	
Dead	1,181	GOL - August 16, 2006
Injured	4,036	GOL - August 16, 2006
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	233,170	GOL - August 16, 2006
Displaced to Neighboring Countries	100,000	GOL - August 16, 2006
Total Displaced Population	333,170	GOL - August 16, 2006
Estimated Returns to Date	647,000	GOL - August 16, 2006

Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$25,360,840
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Pledged to Lebanon\$50,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of August 16, the GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC), reports that 1,181 Lebanese have been killed and approximately 4,036 injured. More than 980,000 Lebanese fled their homes at the height of emergency, but the HRC estimates that more than 600,000 displaced persons have returned to their home areas since August 14. According to the HRC, 333,170 residents remain displaced, including 233,170 IDPs and approximately 100,000 refugees in neighboring countries. According to the USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), current figures represent rough estimates, as no relief organization or government agency is systematically monitoring population movements.

Returns

- According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), only 13,000 IDPs remain in Sidon (Saida), down from an estimated 130,000 IDPs registered at the height of the emergency. The Sidon municipal government, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the Hariri Foundation, continues to provide assistance to the remaining IDPs in Sidon and is currently expanding operations to include IDPs in surrounding villages. On August 16, Sidon authorities organized approximately 20 buses to provide transport for IDPs returning to Nabatiye and Tyre (Sur).
- On August 17, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that the number of cars entering Lebanon at the Aarida border crossing had decreased compared to the day before. However, UNHCR notes that the number of commercial buses is increasing, as refugees without personal transport are pooling funds to hire buses. On August 17, UNHCR canceled buses from Damascus to southern Lebanon due to traffic jams, but continued to provide transportation from Damascus to Beirut and Tripoli.
- According to UNHCR, Yabous remains the busiest border crossing, with UNHCR teams reporting 1,800 cars per hour entering Lebanon on the afternoon of August 16.
- According to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), approximately 20 percent of the traffic out of Tyre is headed north. The DART reports this is primarily due to commercial traffic traveling in the direction of Sidon and Beirut.

- As of August 16, USG partner International Organization for Migration (IOM) has assisted more than 2,000 Lebanese returnees on approximately 100 buses bound for Tyre. IOM is currently facilitating the transit of IDPs beyond Tyre.
- The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) reports that the majority of IDPs who had sheltered in UNRWA facilities have now returned home. However, UNRWA reports that Palestinian refugees who fled to Syria during the conflict are only slowly returning to Lebanon. According to UNRWA, approximately 400 of the 1,800 Palestinians sheltering in UNRWA schools in Syria have returned. However, UNRWA estimates that 70 percent of the Palestinian refugees who fled to Syria have returned to Wavell camp in the Bekaa Valley.

Protection

- According to the DART, the protection coordination cluster is revising protection planning and programs to respond to recent population movements from collective centers to home areas. The protection cluster has identified unexploded ordnance (UXO) in conflict-affected areas as the most immediate protection concern. In addition, the protection cluster identified the following at-risk groups: women and children, particularly those who lost a husband during the fighting; youth who could be militarized; and residents who could be discriminated against based on ethnicity or religion.
- On August 16, USAID partner International Medical Corps (IMC) published a report describing the toll of the conflict on children. An estimated 45 percent—or approximately 500,000—of those displaced are children, and more than 300 children have died as a result of the conflict, according to U.N. sources cited in the report.

Landmine and Unexploded Ordnance

- On August 16, OCHA reported that the U.N. Mine Action Service (UNMAS) identified 36 UXOs during assessments in southern Lebanon. On August 17, Mines Action Group teams reportedly surveyed Nabatiye and Tyre to identify and remove UXO, and a UNIFIL de-mining team provided assistance to two civilians injured by UXO in the village of Hinniyah. UNIFIL continues to clear UXO from its area of operations.
- According to OCHA, the recent arrival of additional armored vehicles will facilitate relief distributions in areas at high risk of UXO contamination. UXO awareness campaigns continue via television, radio, posters, and pamphlets.

Infrastructure

- The city of Sidon is providing reduced electricity services, as only one power station is fully operational while two others are under repair. OCHA reports that petrol and diesel for generators are available at all gas stations in Sidon, and prices have reportedly returned to pre-conflict levels as fuel supply has increased.
- UNRWA reports that the lack of fuel and electricity, particularly in the Tyre district, remains a problem for the Palestine refugee camps and related UNRWA facilities. The Rashidieh and Burj Shemali camps, which normally house 45,000 persons, remain without power. According to OCHA, power is expected to be restored to the Tyre municipal system on August 17.

Logistics

- The U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) is coordinating ferry service for cargo between Beirut and Tyre. The *M/V Anamcara* continues to unload emergency relief supplies in Tyre, and is scheduled to return with additional supplies in the coming days.
- UNJLC reports that insufficient civilian trucking capacity at the Beirut port has resulted in U.N. trucks being assigned to offload cargo, reducing the number of trucks available for convoys.

Damage Assessments

- USAID partner Mercy Corps is currently conducting assessments in Nabatiye and Marjayoun in order to re-open operations and channel USAID funds to quick-impact projects such as light infrastructure repair and rehabilitation using local vocational skills, cash-for-work activities, and the provision of subsidies for farmers who suffered crop losses.

Shelter

- According to the DART, UNHCR is focusing on providing temporary shelter for initial returns in southern Lebanon and other non-urban areas of the country. UNHCR will supply tents to enable returnees to live on their land while housing is repaired. For houses with minor damages, UNHCR plans to provide up to 4,000 families with packages of plastic sheeting, wood, and nails to make quick repairs. For houses that sustained significant damage, UNHCR is working with the GOL to provide a warm, dry room—with a roof, water, and electricity—to enable up to 5,000 of the neediest families to live on their property during the winter until permanent repairs can be completed.

Environment

- According to OCHA, international organizations have removed approximately 5 to 10 metric tons (MT) of heavy fuel oil from the Byblos harbor and expect to complete operations by August 18. Increased aerial and sea-based surveys will be necessary to assess the amount of oil remaining in the sea and determine if sea-based clean-up can prevent additional oil from reaching the coastline.

Food and Emergency Relief Supplies

- USG partner World Vision is scheduled to join a WFP convoy to deliver food and diesel fuel to more than 10,000 displaced people in southern Lebanon.
- On August 17, the U.N. dispatched relief convoys with food and other relief supplies to Marjayoun, Sidon, Tyre, and Bint Jbail. A tanker truck with fuel accompanied the convoy from Tyre to Bint Jbail.
- On August 17, UNIFIL distributed food and water in the villages of Ayta Ash Shab and Al Boustan and provided fuel to Ramesh to power the water supply system. UNIFIL continues to provide medical assistance and water to a number of other villages.

Water and Sanitation

- Municipal authorities report that water and sanitation networks in the Haret Hreik and Ruhbeiri may be repairable in the short-term, according to OCHA.

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. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has authorized \$50 million in 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/OFDA, via U.S. military and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) 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 UNJLC for logistics, \$2.5 million to U.N. Children's Fund (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 nearly \$3.4 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.
- On August 16, USAID/OFDA provided \$1.2 million to World Vision for water and sanitation services and the distribution of emergency relief supplies.
- On August 17, USAID/OFDA provided \$25,916 to Church World Service (CWS) to provide security sector training to NGO relief agencies.
- State/PRM has contributed \$3.4 million to ICRC's emergency appeal for Lebanon, \$1 million to IOM, and \$4 million in support of the U.N. Flash Appeal, including \$2 million to UNHCR and \$2 million to UNRWA.
- 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 2006¹

<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	\$2,836,582
CWS	Security sector training	Jordan	\$25,916
Mercy Corps	Water and sanitation, nutrition, emergency relief supplies, health, and food security and agriculture	Mt. Lebanon, South Lebanon, Nabatiye	\$3,369,250
IMC	Water and sanitation, health, psychosocial support, and emergency relief supplies	Mt. Lebanon, Beirut, Nabatiye, South Lebanon	\$1,913,457
World Vision	Water and sanitation and emergency relief supplies	North Lebanon, Mt. Lebanon, Bekaa, Beirut	\$1,265,623
WFP	Logistics and coordination	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UNJLC	Logistics	Countrywide	\$300,000
UNICEF	Coordination and water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
OCHA/HIC	Information management	Countrywide	\$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	Countrywide	\$3,412,000
IOM	Evacuation of third-country nationals	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNHCR	Protection, shelter, and emergency relief supplies	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UNRWA	Food, health, and emergency relief supplies	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$25,360,840

¹USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 17, 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