



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #28, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 25, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated August 24, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- While humanitarian conditions are improving, a number of urgent needs remain, including water provision, unexploded ordnance (UXO) removal, shelter reconstruction, and psychosocial counseling. In addition, residents need assistance to rebuild livelihoods, according to the USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART).
- Despite significant humanitarian needs, Baalbek and south Beirut have both received limited international assistance to date, according to the DART. Although some USG partners are already providing assistance in these areas, the USG is encouraging additional non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with experience in Lebanon to expand activities in these locations. USG partners are also working to ensure that assistance reaches internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have relocated closer to their areas of origin but have not yet returned home, as well as families who are hosting IDPs. USG partners are also working to identify people who may not have received assistance due to their political views and/or ethnicity.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	1,187	Government of Lebanon (GOL) - August 24, 2006
Injured	4,060	GOL - August 24, 2006
Total Displaced Population	256,184	GOL - August 24, 2006
Estimated Returns to Date	718,000	GOL - August 24, 2006

Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon..... \$47,837,298

Total USG Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance Pledged to Lebanon \$230,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of August 25, the GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC) reports that 1,187 Lebanese have been killed and approximately 4,060 injured. More than 980,000 Lebanese fled their homes at the height of emergency, but the HRC estimates that 718,000 displaced persons have returned to their home areas since August 14. According to the HRC, most of the remaining 256,040 IDPs and refugees are staying with host families.

Returns

- On August 24, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that an estimated 3,841 persons returned to Lebanon from Syria through the four main border points; UNHCR has reported more than 158,000 returns from Syria to date, not including an estimated 10,000 or more returns through unmonitored crossings. On August 25, UNHCR is scheduled to end a 24-hour border presence, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Water and Sanitation

- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reports that the destruction of water distribution pipes—currently inaccessible under piles of rubble—remains the most significant challenge to water supply restoration. Although all water pumping stations remain intact, ICRC reports damage to transformers, generators, reservoirs, and pumps. Fuel and electricity shortages are also hindering pumping capacity.
- Short-term solutions to water provision are location-specific, and include the trucking of water, bottled water, water bladders, and household water tanks, according to the DART. Although the use of trucks to deliver water is often regarded as unsustainable, many villages in southern Lebanon relied on water trucks to supply water before the present conflict.
- ICRC is currently working to increase water availability in villages in the area of Khiam, Hasbaya, Bent Jbail, and Wazzani. Due to the presence of functional wells, Marjayoun District is less threatened by shortages. ICRC teams are currently conducting assessments and performing repairs.
- On 22 and 23 August, the ICRC delivered more than 12,600 liters of fuel for generators in El Mansouri, Majdel Zoun, Zebqin, and Jbal el Botom, as well as for the Wadi Jilo water pumping station. On August 25, ICRC is scheduled to install a 900 kilovolt-ampere (kVA) generator in Sidiqine, South Lebanon, that will pump water to more than 100 villages. The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) is currently procuring a 1,250 kVA generator for the Lebanese South Water Authority.

Health and Nutrition

- The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) has received a report of one suspected case of measles in Bent Jbail, through the Early Warning and Response System (EWARS). As of August 25, case identification is ongoing. During

the week of August 28, district health staff from all public and private health units and hospitals are scheduled to receive training in surveillance, case definitions of diseases, and epidemic thresholds in Hermel, Nabatiye, and Tyre (Sur).

- On August 25, WHO provided initial results of the health facilities damage assessment in the most affected areas of southern Lebanon. Of the 202 health centers and hospitals covered by the damage assessment, Bent Jbail and Marjayoun experienced the most significant damage, with less than 20 percent of health facilities functioning in these districts. WHO reports that health facilities assessments are ongoing in the Bekaa Valley and south Beirut. Assessments in Baalbek, Bekka Valley, and other areas are scheduled to commence as security allows.
- WHO is encouraging health agencies to collect accurate data on the magnitude and nature of injuries sustained by nearly 5,000 Lebanese. According to WHO, health agencies should work to establish community-based services to assist families of residents who have been disabled, as many may require continued assistance after the recovery phase.
- The American University of Beirut is currently conducting studies on the difficulties elderly and disabled residents face in accessing primary health care centers and the feasibility of outreach services. According to WHO, an estimated 7.5 percent of Lebanon's population is either over 65 years of age or physically impaired.
- WHO reports that warehouses currently have sufficient stocks of medical supplies and that the medical distribution system is more effectively delivering assistance to those in need, according to the DART.

UXO and Landmines

- NGOs report that UXO clearance remains a high priority along roads and in houses, public buildings, and agricultural areas. Building rehabilitation and rubble removal are extremely dangerous due to the dangers posed by UXO.
- On August 25, the DART reported that 289 cluster bombs have been identified in the 60 percent of southern Lebanon that mine clearance teams have explored to date. According to the DART, 90 percent of cluster bombs were dropped in the final 72 hours of the conflict. UXO have resulted in one death and three injuries per day since the end of the conflict.

Infrastructure

- Although the national fuel crisis has eased, NGOs report that fuel availability and the restoration of electricity remain critical problems in southern Lebanon, according to the DART. Most areas north of the Litani River are reportedly progressing in the restoration of electricity, but many areas south of the Litani have no electricity and limited fuel to power generators. NGOs expect that electricity south of the Litani will be restored in the next week to 10 days, except for the most heavily damaged areas.
- The GOL reports that French military engineers have started building temporary bridges on highways south of Beirut, while GOL crews are filling in craters on damaged roads.

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. President George W. Bush has authorized \$230 million in USG humanitarian and reconstruction assistance for 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 prioritize USG 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 and 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, the International Medical Corps (IMC), and Mercy Corps for delivery to approximately 235,000 beneficiaries in Beirut and southern Lebanon.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$7 million to support the U.N. Flash Appeal for Lebanon to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) for logistics and coordination, UNICEF for water and sanitation activities, and OCHA and OCHA/HIC for coordination and information management. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided \$7.5 million to the U.N. Flash Appeal to UNHCR and UNRWA for protection, shelter, and emergency relief supplies, to the U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), and to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for transportation of third-country nationals. State/PRM has also contributed more than \$13.5 million to ICRC's emergency appeal for protection, food, health, and water and sanitation activities.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$9.4 million to Mercy Corps, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), IMC, and World Vision for water and sanitation services, health services, psychosocial support, emergency shelter activities, and the distribution of food and relief supplies. USAID/OFDA has also provided nearly \$26,000 to Church World Service (CWS) for security training for relief NGOs.
- USAID/OFDA has released an Annual Program Statement (APS) soliciting proposals to address emergency needs in Lebanon. The APS is available at <http://www.grants.gov>.
- USAID's Office of Food for Peace is providing 1,000 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at nearly \$625,000, in support of WFP operations in Lebanon.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has provided 25,000 MT of hard red winter wheat to the GOL. Valued at \$9.2 million including transport, the wheat contribution is part of USDA's Food for Progress program.

- The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political and Military Affairs, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement will provide \$420,000 in FY 2006 and up to \$2 million in FY 2007 to the Mines Advisory Group for demining activities in Lebanon, subject to Congressional approval.
- 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 training for relief workers	Jordan	\$25,916
ICRC	Protection, food, health, and water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$13,512,000
IMC	Water and sanitation, health, psychosocial support, and emergency relief supplies	Mt. Lebanon, Beirut, Nabatiye, South Lebanon	\$1,913,457
IOM	Evacuation of third-country nationals	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Mercy Corps	Water and sanitation, nutrition, emergency relief supplies, health, food security and agriculture, and cash for work activities	Mt. Lebanon, South Lebanon, Nabatiye, Bekaa, Beirut	\$3,369,250
OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
OCHA/HIC	Information management	Countrywide	\$200,000
UNDSS	Safety and security for humanitarian operations	Countrywide	\$300,000
UNJLC	Logistics	Countrywide	\$300,000
UNICEF	Coordination and water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
UNHCR	Protection, shelter, and emergency relief supplies	Countrywide	\$4,200,000
UNRWA	Food, health, and emergency relief supplies	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
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
	1,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$624,800
GOL	25,000 MT of USDA Food for Progress Assistance	Countrywide	\$9,200,000
Multiple	Emergency relief supplies, including transport	Affected areas	\$445,502
Multiple	DART administrative costs	Affected areas	\$144,168
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$47,837,298

¹USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 25, 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

USG bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/