



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #30, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 29, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated August 28, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On August 29, the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) provided nearly \$2 million to International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) for water and sanitation, health, psychosocial support, infrastructure rehabilitation, emergency relief supplies, and cash for work activities South Beirut, Nabatiye, South Lebanon, and Baalbek. USAID/OFDA also provided an additional \$600,000 to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to support recovery activities, including support for livelihoods throughout Lebanon.
- To lay the groundwork for reconstruction efforts, the Government of Lebanon (GOL) has released an early recovery appeal for the Stockholm Donors' Conference. The appeal requests more than \$537 million in assistance to address: transitional shelter; demining; infrastructure, including electricity, telecommunications, transport, and public buildings; basic social services, including health, water and sanitation, education, and protection of vulnerable groups; the environment; industrial and agricultural production, including livelihoods; public finance; and Palestinian refugee camps.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	1,187	GOL - August 29, 2006
Injured	4,080	GOL - August 29, 2006
Total Displaced Population	255,986	GOL - August 29, 2006
Estimated Returns to Date	718,198	GOL - August 29, 2006

Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon..... \$50,794,196

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 4,080 injured, including 12 dead and 44 injured due to unexploded ordnance (UXO), according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Nearly 975,000 Lebanese fled their homes at the height of emergency, but the HRC estimates that 718,198 displaced persons have returned to their home areas since August 14. According to the HRC, most of the remaining 255,986 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees are staying with host families.

Coordination

- On August 28, U.N. agencies, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) met in Tyre (Sur) for a humanitarian coordination meeting to discuss activities in multiple sectors, including food and water and sanitation, as well as to share information on recent damage assessments and unexploded ordnance clearance. The relief community is increasingly shifting to Tyre as the center of humanitarian activities.

Bekaa Valley Damage Assessment

- On August 28, the U.N. reported the results of the August 16 to 19 interagency assessment of the Bekaa Valley. The conflict resulted in significant damage to the city of Baalbek and 17 surrounding villages, including damage to water and sewage networks. The team reported severe psychological distress, particularly in children, in the Baalbek and Hermel areas.
- Due to the physical isolation of Bekaa Valley during the conflict, individuals and municipalities donated local resources to support IDPs, severely depleting host community resources and undermining local coping strategies; some municipalities reported taking out loans to pay for supplies for IDPs.
- The peach and pear harvest were almost totally lost, and the wheat crop has been affected; farmers are attempting to salvage the remains. During the conflict, families harvested some wheat by hand. Syrian workers are returning and harvesting of potato and grape crops is underway.
- The assessment team recommended continued assistance to remaining IDPs and host families; assistance to returnees; support for municipalities in debris clearance and reconstruction of dwellings; repairs to roads, bridges, and water and sewage facilities; rehabilitation and refurbishment of schools; assistance to students, particularly from IDP and returnee families; restocking and repair of health facilities; provision of health and sanitation kits; and assistance to economic recovery by rehabilitation and stimulation of the private sector.

Other Damage Assessments

- Sidon (Saida)-based NGOs, in cooperation with OCHA, are currently establishing an operations center to consolidate damage assessments and organize joint relief projects in southern Lebanon.

- Since August 24, a rapid assessment team conducted assessments in Qantara, Ghanduriyah and Srifa. According to OCHA, the teams report 90 percent of homes in Ghanduriyah were damaged, and there is currently no water or electrical supply in any of the three villages. Approximately 60 percent of IDP residents have returned to Ghanduriyah, 50 percent to Srifa, and 90 percent to Qantara. Those whose homes are destroyed are residing with neighbors or relatives.
- On August 26, a follow-up assessment mission traveled to Tebnin, Ayta Ash Shaab, and Bent Jbail and highlighted water as the priority need. According to OCHA, the teams reported a lack of returnees, due to the extensive damage to homes and other infrastructure in the area. Rubble is being progressively cleared from the streets, and there were signs of reemerging commercial activity. Food supplies have been reaching these communities and were not requested to the same extent as one week earlier. In particular, aid assistance is flowing into Ayta Ash Shaab, and increased coordination between service providers is necessary to avoid duplication of efforts.

Water and Sanitation

- According to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), 60 percent of towns and villages in southern Lebanon are without regular water supplies due to infrastructure damage to the pipe network, lack of electricity to power the pumps, and destroyed or damaged roof water tanks. During the past week, Première Urgence, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and UNICEF have distributed bottled water, and UNICEF and ICRC have delivered water tanks and bladders.
- On August 28, UNICEF reported providing two water tanks to Khiam, a village severely damaged during the recent conflict. UNICEF is scheduled to place four tanks in other villages with damaged water systems. On August 27, UNICEF distributed 60,000 liters of bottled water to Srifa, Ghanduriyah, Et Taibe, Qantara, and Yatar, according to OCHA. UNICEF is also distributing mine risk awareness leaflets with their water distributions.

Protection

- Sidon-based NGOs are currently setting up a children's camp in Khiam village. NGOs in northern Sidon are establishing three more camps to provide psychosocial counseling to conflict-affected children before the start of the school year on October 9.

UXO and Landmines

- OCHA reports that 359 cluster bombs have been identified to date. The National Demining Office reports that the Lebanese Armed Forces have identified 69 unexploded bombs. As of 28 August, the Mine Action Coordination Center in Southern Lebanon (MACC-SL) has destroyed 1,617 cluster bomb units and 11 other UXO.

Food

- WFP aims to provide food aid to 350,000 beneficiaries: 200,000 in southern Lebanon, 120,000 in southern Beirut, and 30,000 in other areas of Lebanon. WFP is currently conducting an assessment of food availability, market prices, purchasing power, the livelihoods of vulnerable populations, and the need for future food aid.
- The first round of WFP deliveries in Nabatiye and South Lebanon governorates has been completed, and food aid deliveries in southern Beirut are currently underway. From July 23 to August 28, WFP has distributed more than 4,000 metric tons (MT) to an estimated 547,000 people in Lebanon.
- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) is working to adjust the food distribution strategy to address identified needs. According to OCHA, some areas of Nabatiye are receiving disproportionate amounts of food assistance. The village of Houla has reportedly received several food aid shipments, while other area villages report receiving no distribution of food aid. During the food aid coordination meeting on August 26, ICRC suggested a coordination meeting to map the coverage of food distribution to avoid overlaps and duplication.

USG Partner Updates

- On August 24, World Vision delivered 51 tons of food and hygiene supplies to Marjayoun, as well as 31,000 liters of diesel. The food and hygiene supplies are scheduled to be distributed to 1,500 families in the Marjayoun area and 1,000 families in Bent Jbail, with the assistance of the Lebanese Red Cross.
- Mercy Corps reports that the conflict resulted in the complete destruction of the Et Taibe water system, which provides water to a number of area villages, including Kfar Kila, Rib Thalateen, Markabe, Beni Haiyane, and Thalousse. Mercy Corps is providing water tanks and cisterns to deliver water to the population reliant on the Et Taibe system, as well as fuel to power water pumps in other villages.

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 Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), led by USAID, arrived in the region to prioritize USG assistance. A Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team is supporting the DART.
- To date, USAID/OFDA has provided 3,000 tarps, 40,000 blankets, and 18 emergency health kits in support of relief operations in Lebanon. The DART has consigned these relief supplies to ICRC, the U.N. World Health Organization

(WHO), International Medical Corps (IMC), and Mercy Corps for delivery to nearly 300,000 beneficiaries in Beirut and southern Lebanon. Total USG-donated commodities are valued at more than \$560,000, including transport.

- USAID/OFDA has provided \$7 million to support the U.N. Flash Appeal for Lebanon to WFP and the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) for logistics and coordination, UNICEF for water and sanitation activities, and OCHA and OCHA's Humanitarian Information Center (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 the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (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 \$12.2 million to Mercy Corps, CRS, IMC, IOCC, and World Vision for water and sanitation services, health services, psychosocial support, emergency shelter activities, the distribution of food and relief supplies, infrastructure rehabilitation, and/or cash-for-work activities. 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>.
- The USG is providing nearly \$10 million in wheat flour, wheat, and lentil commodities. USAID's Office of Food for Peace is providing 1,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to support WFP operations. Through the Food for Progress program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing 25,000 MT of wheat to the GOL.
- 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	\$3,436,150
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	\$2,113,457
IOM	Evacuation of third-country nationals	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
IOCC	Water and sanitation, health, psychosocial support, infrastructure rehabilitation, emergency relief supplies, and cash for work activities	Nabatiye, South Lebanon, South Beirut, Baalbek	\$1,999,427
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	\$591,255
Multiple	DART administrative costs	Affected areas	\$156,318
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$50,794,196

¹USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 29, 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/