



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #33, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

September 1, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated August 31, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- To date, Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have withdrawn from more than half of southern Lebanese land occupied during the recent conflict, according to international media. On August 30, the Government of Israel indicated that the ongoing blockade of Lebanon would not be removed until other relevant components of the ceasefire are implemented, such as increased border control by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), according to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP). The U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and LAF continue to deploy additional forces to southern Lebanon. On September 2, approximately 880 Italian troops are scheduled to arrive in Lebanon; this represents the largest single deployment of UNIFIL troops since the adoption of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701 on August 11.
- Oxfam reports that the conflict resulted in up to 85 per cent of the country's 195,000 farmers losing all or some of their harvest at a cost of between \$135 and \$185 million, according to initial estimates from the Government of Lebanon (GOL) and the Lebanese Farmers Association. Oxfam reported that livestock loss totals approximately 1 million poultry, 25,000 goats and sheep, and 4,000 cattle. Oxfam noted that falling debris and fires caused by bombs ruined tobacco, olive, and banana farms. In addition, electricity failure and damage to water pipes and pumps caused major water shortages for irrigation.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE – LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	1,187	GOL - September 1, 2006
Injured	4,092	GOL - September 1, 2006
Total Displaced Population	255,986	GOL - September 1, 2006
Estimated Returns to Date	718,198	GOL - September 1, 2006

Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon..... \$55,101,808

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

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of September 1, the GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC) reports that 1,187 Lebanese have been killed and approximately 4,092 injured. This includes 13 deaths and 48 injuries 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. Most of the remaining 255,986 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are staying with host families.
- The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that 240 of the 290 IDPs in Sidon (Saida) are reportedly returning to South Lebanon and will likely reside with family members.

Infrastructure

- Since August 26, power rationing in the areas of Sidon and Zahrani has decreased to six hours a day, according to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF). Electricité du Liban (EDL) reports that power supplies have increased in every region of the country, although problems remain in South Lebanon. EDL currently has 14 teams across the country working to repair the damaged power system.
- According to OCHA, approximately 35 to 40 percent of households in South Lebanon have no access to electricity. In Bent Jbail and Khiam districts, 85 to 90 percent of households have no access to electricity. The conflict did not damage main power substations and repairs of main power lines and switches are expected to be completed the week of September 4. However, OCHA reports extensive damage to electrical transformers in towns. EDL estimates that approximately 150 transformers will be needed to restore power to the towns. OCHA reports that the lack of power is hampering economic restoration in the area, and may be discouraging returnees from staying.

Health

- The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reports that health interventions are shifting from relief to early recovery activities aimed at the rehabilitation of the health system in southern Lebanon.
- On September 1, WHO provided preliminary results from the comprehensive assessment of public health facilities in Hermel, Baalbek, Nabatiye, and Jezzine. Although no additional donations of medicine are necessary, WHO reports that consumables, reagents, and laboratories supplies continue to be needed.
- WHO and the Ministry of Health (MOH) reported that 25 percent of health facilities in the most affected areas of southern Lebanon are not functioning, of which 4 percent are totally destroyed and 9 percent are severely damaged.

- On August 28, the Marjayoun Emergency Room and Laboratory were re-opened, according to UNICEF. However, all vaccines and chemical reagents were destroyed due to disruptions in the cold chain. In Khiam, UNICEF reported that one of the four primary health care centers is heavily damaged but continues to function.
- WHO has distributed an emergency health kit to Marjayoun and Nabatiye hospitals, and one trauma kit to Bent Jbail hospital, as well as basic kits to Beit Leef, El Zahra, and Kafer Keela health centers. One emergency health kit provides essential drugs and medical supplies to meet the needs of 10,000 people for three months and one trauma kit provides equipment for 100 surgical operations. WHO dispatched additional medical supplies to Merlin and the Islamic Health Society, for health centers and mobile clinics supported by these agencies in Naqoura and Ait El Shaab, respectively.
- On August 31, UNIFIL contingents provided health care to 145 patients and veterinary care to more than 1,000 animals.
- As part of the Early Warning and Response System, WHO is scheduled to provide reagents and other laboratory supplies to public health laboratories in Hermel, Baalbek, Nabatiye, and Jezzine as well as to reference laboratories in various districts. The supplies will enable laboratories to perform tests to confirm suspected outbreaks.
- Following an investigation into diarrheal cases reported in Yanouh village, WHO reported that current cases do not represent a significant increase when compared to the normal seasonal trend. Water sample testing results by local water authorities are pending.

Water and Sanitation

- On August 30, UNICEF delivered a water treatment plant and 45,000 liter water tank to Houla; UNICEF is installing similar water tanks in the villages of Al Taybeh and Srifa.
- From August 30 to 31, UNIFIL supplied more than 40,000 liters of water to local villages.
- On August 31, Première Urgence delivered 6,000 liters of bottled water to Sorbine and 25,000 liters to Yaroun.

Food and Emergency Relief Supplies

- WFP, in coordination with the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), is conducting a food security assessment, including the assessment of fisheries in southern Beirut and Sidon. The results of the assessment are expected by September 10.
- Based on a needs assessment conducted on August 29, UNHCR distributed blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, food boxes, female hygiene items, diapers, and soap to IDPs in Qarnayel, El Metn. UNHCR has distributed similar relief items on a daily basis to 40 of the most affected villages in Nabatiye and Tyre districts; an additional 20 villages are scheduled to receive assistance next week, according to WHO.
- The mayors of Yohmor, Eastern Zawtar, and Western Zawtar in Nabatiye District, report shortages of water, electricity and food items. WFP is working to provide assistance for approximately 150 to 200 families in each town.

UXO

- According to OCHA, the UXO that has been cleared from roads now lies beside the roadway and under the route for power lines. The Lebanese Army is working in close collaboration with the electricity authority to identify and destroy UXO hindering power restoration. The OCHA humanitarian hub in Tyre is also working with the electricity authority to clear routes for electricity workers.

Education

- According to the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, students throughout Lebanon may return late this year. This delay applies to all schools, both public and private, across the country, regardless of the level of damage. According to the Ministry of Education, students at private schools will begin on October 9, while students at public schools will begin on October 16. Several private schools have already announced late openings.
- There are multiple challenges to education in Lebanon as a result of the conflict and the continuing blockade, including a short supply of school books, restricted access due to damaged infrastructure, and the continued absence of many teachers and students who left Lebanon during the conflict.
- Schools that have been totally or partially damaged face additional challenges. According to the Ministry of Education, 40 public and private schools were totally destroyed in southern Lebanon and 300 others incurred partial damage in other areas. The Ministry of Education is considering installing pre-fabricated schools to replace the destroyed schools. In some cases, there will be day and afternoon shifts in undamaged schools to enable the entire student population to enroll.

USG Partner Updates

- On August 31, the Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) met with International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for an update on their operations. ICRC expects to reduce staff levels in Lebanon if the situation continues to improve. ICRC is sending four-person teams to assess all 120 villages, standing or destroyed, in Tyre (Sur) and Marjayoun districts in the next three weeks. Teams have already traveled to 45 villages. During these visits, they distributed monthly food rations to families, and kitchen and hygiene kits, if needed. However, the main focus of ICRC's operations is currently on major repairs to regional water lines that were destroyed in southern Lebanon.
- The water pump installed by Mercy Corps in Baalbek on August 26 is now fully operational and serving 5,000 families. Mercy Corps is in the process of purchasing and installing a second water pump within the next week to serve up to

3,000 families. On August 30, Mercy Corps established a warehouse in Baalbek and began training warehouse staff on packing and distribution of food rations. Supplies are scheduled to arrive at the warehouse on September 1, and distributions of food and hygiene kits should begin on September 3. Mercy Corps will purchase most supplies locally, including potatoes, jam, Kishk, and containers used to box rations. Mercy Corps is scheduled to rehabilitate five schools in Baalbek and three schools in neighboring Britel in time for the start of the school year on October 16.

- On August 30 and 31, Mercy Corps continued to deliver drinking water and food rations to villages in Nabatiye and Marjayoun districts, supplying 13,500 liters of bottled drinking water and food rations for 9,159 beneficiaries in 14 villages in Nabatiye and Marjayoun. As of August 31, Mercy Corps has delivered relief supplies to more than 220,000 beneficiaries in villages in Hasbaya, Jezzine, Marjayoun, Nabatiye, and Sidon districts.

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, arrived in the region to prioritize USG assistance. A Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team is supporting the DART.
- To date, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (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, 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 \$590,000, 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 \$16.6 million to Mercy Corps, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), CHF International, IMC, International Orthodox Christian Charities (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
CHF International	Water and sanitation, psychosocial support, and emergency relief supplies	North Lebanon, Bekaa, Mt. Lebanon, Beirut, South Lebanon, Nabatiye	\$2,665,969
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	South Lebanon, Nabatiye	\$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	\$4,869,250
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	\$1,563,584
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			\$55,101,808

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