



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #32, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 31, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated August 30, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On August 31, Ambassador Randall L. Tobias, Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance and Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) provided details on the \$230 million Lebanon assistance package pledged by the U.S. Government (USG). Speaking at the Stockholm Conference for Lebanon’s Early Recovery, Ambassador Tobias noted that more than \$50 million has already been allocated to meet humanitarian needs. The remaining \$180 million will support vital needs, as identified by the Government of Lebanon (GOL), in six key areas:
- *Rebuilding the Fidar Bridge in Jbail:* The U.S. will help restore this vital link in Lebanon’s coastal highway. The bridge is essential for the movement of emergency cargo shipments between the ports of Tripoli and Beirut, and is an important connector for several roadways linking north Lebanon to the most heavily damaged areas in the South.
- *Road Repairs from Marjayoun to Nabatiye:* The U.S. will support the removal of debris from roads vital to recovery, a project which is already stimulating the local economy through cash for work programs that benefit thousands of people.
- *Residential Reconstruction Support:* The U.S. is providing assistance to tens of thousands of people whose homes were damaged, including providing materials for both minor and major repairs, providing temporary shelter for families whose homes were severely damaged, and hiring local workers to assist the elderly, infirm, or wounded.
- *Restoring and Repairing Schools:* In Khiam, Andaise, Baalbek, Hasbaya, Sidon (Saida), Tyre (Sur), and Beirut, the U.S. is helping the Lebanese people remove debris, repair structural damage, and refurbish schools for the coming year.
- *Restoring the Fishing Industry:* The U.S. is providing livelihood kits—including fishing nets and hooks—to thousands of fishermen along the coast from Tripoli to Nakoura, where recovery hinges on jumpstarting the fishing industry.
- *Environmental Cleanup:* Backed by U.S. assistance, local fishermen are also helping to clean up oil spills triggered by the conflict. Through cash for work programs, fishermen are not only receiving income to meet immediate needs, but are also supporting shore-based cleanup—vital to Lebanon’s tourism industry—in Beirut and Batroun.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE – LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	1,187	GOL - August 31, 2006
Injured	4,092	GOL - August 31, 2006
Total Displaced Population	255,986	GOL - August 31, 2006
Estimated Returns to Date	718,198	GOL - August 31, 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 August 31, the GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC) reports that 1,187 Lebanese have been killed and approximately 4,092 injured. This includes 13 deaths and 46 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) and refugees are staying with host families.

Remaining Displaced Populations

- According to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), the results of the joint U.N. needs assessment conducted in Syria indicates that only 130 Lebanese civilians remain in Syria. All remaining refugees are staying with host families and intend to return to Lebanon before September 24, the official start of the school year. According to the U.N. assessment, none of the remaining refugees require shelter, food, or medical care.
- According to OCHA, the Governor of El Metn estimates that 6,000 IDPs remain in El Metn, most of whom are from villages in the South. An estimated 5,000 IDPs remain in Kesrouane and 2,600 in Jbail.
- On August 30, OCHA reported that UNHCR has distributed emergency relief supplies to 290 IDPs residing in two community centers in Sidon. The IDPs, most of whom are women and children from Aitaroun and Maroun Al Raas, arrived in Sidon after the ceasefire. Other IDPS are from Bent Jbail and Ayta Ash Shaab and sought refuge in Sidon because their houses were destroyed.

Early Recovery

- In total, donors from approximately 50 countries and organizations pledged at least \$940 million to support early recovery efforts in Lebanon during the Stockholm Conference, according to international media reports.

- On August 31, Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora announced that the GOL plans to pay \$33,000 in compensation to families whose homes were destroyed during the recent conflict, according to international media reports. According to Prime Minister Siniora, 130,000 homes were damaged or destroyed during the recent conflict. However, the USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) notes that this figure represents both major and minor damages.
- On August 31, in response to the rapid transition from relief to early recovery activities in Lebanon, the U.N. released a revised Flash Appeal requesting \$96.5 million for relief activities in Lebanon, down from its initial appeal of more than \$150 million. Nearly \$88 million has been funded to date, of which the USG has provided more than \$15 million. OCHA reports that the relief community is now focused on short-term initiatives that support returnees and strengthen local capacity to respond to prevailing needs. The revision includes two new projects: one to clear unexploded ordnance (UXO) and a second to provide for residual emergency needs of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. U.N. early recovery activities have been included as part of the GOL-led recovery process.

Assessments

- According to OCHA, the Lebanese Syndicate of Engineers assessed buildings in Beirut's southern suburbs, including 120 buildings that housed approximately 2,000 families. Of these 120 buildings, 40 are in need of reconstruction. In addition, the engineers reported that approximately 6,000 housing units were destroyed and 17,000 damaged, with repairs averaging \$300 to \$500 per unit.
- Initial assessments of a number of newly accessible villages located south of Nabatiye and Marjayoun, including Qalaiaa, indicate the need for drinking water, food, and emergency relief supplies, according to OCHA. Residents have also requested fuel for generators. OCHA reports that there is a serious need to dispose of waste and dead animals.
- On August 29, Sidon-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs) visited Taibi, Adaisi, Deir Seryan, Kantara, Kfar Kila, Talousse, Rab Tlateen, and Markaba in Marjayoun District, according to OCHA. The teams report that residents have requested drinking water and sewage disposal assistance as the sewage pipeline system has been badly damaged.

Protection

- On August 29, USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) members attended the child protection sub-cluster meeting, led by the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF). The sub-cluster has begun mapping areas to identify where agencies are working and the type of activities implemented. According to relief agencies, few international organizations are on the ground in Bekaa Valley.
- UNICEF is working with the sub-cluster to develop a common child protection assessment tool. In addition, agencies are developing a series of pamphlets for community members with information on identifying and coping with the effects of conflict and preventing family violence.
- On August 30, representatives from the DART attended the Protection of Women and Girls sub-cluster meeting. The sub-cluster is led by the GOL Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) and the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA). The objective of the sub-cluster is to develop a protection strategy, focusing on prevention of gender-based violence, increasing access to mental health services, and economic empowerment. Activities will be targeted toward the most vulnerable populations, including returnees in conflict-affected areas of South Lebanon, Baalbek, and south Beirut.
- During the meeting, MOSA presented the GOL's draft framework of the protection strategy for women and girls. Components include a needs assessment, training of trainers, and protection activities implemented through local health clinics—all of which will be carried out during the next three to six months. UNFPA will fund the first phase of data collection, which will include distribution of a family hygiene kit to each respondent. The DART recommended that the protection strategy also address emerging legal issues such as lost pensions, property rights, and compensation payments to women, particularly widows.

Health and Water and Sanitation

- Following an assessment of Nabatiye hospital, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reports the hospital is functioning well and providing comprehensive services, according to OCHA.
- A WHO team visited the villages of Mais Al Jabal, Blida, and Houla in Marjayoun District to assess conditions in the local health facilities. The team reported no significant health problems, although water shortage in all areas visited was a priority concern.
- According to WHO, several cases of diarrhea have been reported in Yanouh Village, Tyre District. A WHO team will travel to the area to collect water samples and conduct further investigations. In addition, the water and sanitation cluster plans to send bottled water to Yanouh and provide chlorine to the local water pump station. WHO will also provide the local clinic with drugs and supplies for treatment of diarrhea.

UXO

- UXO is the most significant threat to conflict-affected populations in southern Lebanon, particularly children. At the Child Protection sub-cluster meeting, International Medical Corps (IMC) reported that children who are 10 years of age and older appear to be educated about the dangers of landmines, but may not be informed about UXO from cluster

bombs. Knowledge about mines and UXOs among children under five years of age is likely to be limited and IMC suggested prioritizing this group for child-friendly mine awareness activities.

- The Mine Action Coordination Center (MACC) is scheduled to expand demining and UXO removal under the U.N. Flash Appeal. WFP reports that MACC has identified nearly 420 cluster bomb sites to date and continues to actively support the clearance of UXOs.

Environment

- On August 28 and 29, two flights surveyed the oil spill in the Beirut area. According to OCHA, the flights observed an oily sheen rather than an oil slick, indicating that an off-shore cleanup is probably not warranted. However, OCHA reports that significant on-shore cleaning efforts will be necessary.

USG Partner Updates

- On August 30, World Vision reported that a World Vision assessment team, in coordination with local NGOs, conducted a preliminary assessment of eight villages in Marjayoun district. The teams identified a need for 1,161 water tanks in the villages, but noted difficulty in procuring the tanks.
- On August 30, IMC delivered 82 water tanks, 1 emergency health kit, and medical supplies to Jmajjime, as well as 600 hygiene kits to Kfar Kila.
- Mercy Corps visited Britel village in Baalbek District, where the mayor reported that all three of schools in the village suffered damage. Mercy Corps has committed to make repairs, which largely consist of repairing broken windows, in time for the start of classes on October 9.

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 USAID, 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 the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), WHO, 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 August 31, 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