



Situation Report 15 - LEBANON RESPONSE - 07 August 2006

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

HC Calls for IDF to End Attacks

The UN Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) called for an end to attacks in Lebanon on civilian infrastructure and to actions slowing distribution of humanitarian supplies to thousands of displaced. The HC also underlined that the targeting of civilians and essential social infrastructure violates International Law.

IDF Attacks Bridge, Cutting Road Access to Tyre

This morning's bombing of the temporary bridge over the Litani River has effectively cut off road communication between Tyre, Saida (Sidon) and Beirut. The original bridge had been destroyed by IDF strikes earlier in the conflict. UNIFIL is working to install another provisional bridge for humanitarian purposes.

With No Fuel, Some Hospitals May Close by Friday

The Lebanese Ministry of Public Health estimates that around 60% of the hospitals will cease to function by the end of the week if the fuel shortage continues. WFP is shipping urgently needed diesel via Limassol though it is unlikely to arrive before 14 August. Half will be available for key infrastructure, while the other 200mt will permit dispatch of relief convoys.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

1. The Government of Lebanon's (GoL) Higher Relief Committee (HRC) reports that as of 7 August, 958 people have been killed and some 3,370 people have been

injured, since the conflict began 27 days ago. Of the estimated 916,000 displaced Lebanese civilians, around 700,000 are located within Lebanon, while the rest are now in Syria and other countries. Convoys continue to arrive in Saida (Sidon), Beirut, and elsewhere in the North, from the Bekaa Valley and southern areas.

2. The HRC estimates that some 6,800 private homes/apartments, 630 roads, over 70 bridges and nearly 30 vital installations such as airport, ports, water treatment plants and power stations have been badly damaged or destroyed.

3. Shortages of medical supplies, such as for chronic diseases, have reportedly been resolved; however, the Health Cluster reports a lack of staff to distribute supplies to those areas in need. WHO is looking into engaging NGOs in the distribution of essential supplies to health centres.

4. Around 250 drums of gasoline are expected to arrive in Lebanon on 13 August and will be utilized by the UN system to maintain relief convoys. However, some organizations (ICRC, WFP) note difficulties in obtaining tax and duty exemptions for fuel importations. UNJLC/WFP and HRC will discuss how to resolve with the Ministry of Energy.

5. With significant damage to land routes into Lebanon, the United Nations Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) logisticians are increasingly bringing relief cargo in by sea, with more use expected of ports at Tripoli and Latakia in Syria. The Aarida road to Beirut is only usable for light trucks.

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- This situation report, together with additional information on the current crisis is also available on <http://www.reliefweb.int>. As your tool for timely information sharing, please encourage submissions of documents and maps by email to submit@reliefweb.int.
- Information can be shared by humanitarian practitioners directly involved in the response to the crisis by utilizing the **virtual Humanitarian Information Centre** Website www.virtualhic.org. Organisations can post Who What Where Information and contact details, as well as any other pertinent information at the site by submitting to vhic@un.org

6. The HRC and the UN Deputy HC continue to strengthen cooperation mechanisms, working closely to jointly identify priorities and joint assessments.

7. **Syria:** The Government of Syria, in cooperation with partners, today unveiled plans for a central coordination platform through which all humanitarian actors can ensure more effectively coordinated assistance to the over 180,000 displaced Lebanese.

Security

8. Major security threats to humanitarian personnel and movement of goods continue to hamper relief efforts by agencies. Attacks like the one which twice struck close to the same UN convoy on Sunday could prevent humanitarian operations from continuing. To provide additional support to UN convoys, an additional five armoured vehicles, which arrived in-country yesterday, will be used.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Logistics

9. A 19-truck convoy carrying relief supplies, including wheat flour, canned food, oil and hi-energy biscuits (HEB), left Beirut for Saida (Sidon) Monday morning. WFP reports that the convoy planned for Nabatyeh today was not given security clearance following yesterday's near miss incident north of Tyre. Other convoys proceeded as planned.

10. Another convoy of 11 trucks crossed the Aarida border today. UNICEF supplies on board include 100 First Aid kits, 1,000 baby hygiene kits and 36mt of essential drugs. Two UN aircraft landed at Beirut, with WHO supplies and HEB from Brindisi.

Upcoming Logistics Movement (Land)		
Date	Destination	Comments
8-Aug	Sidon (Saida)	Relief Goods
	Arida	Relief Goods
	Taalabaya (Zahle)	Relief Goods
9-Aug	Arida	Relief Goods
	Baalbek (Zahle Wavle camp)	Relief Goods
	Nabatyie	Relief Goods
	Saida	Relief Goods

Upcoming Logistics Movement (Sea)		
Date	Destination	Comments
11-Aug	Beirut	1 ICRC vessel
	Beirut	1 WFP vessel carrying wheat flour
13-Aug	Beirut	1 vessel carrying gasoline

Upcoming Logistics Movement (Air)		
Date	Destination	Comments
8-Aug	Beirut	2 Jordanian Air Force plane loads of UNHCR NFIs

Health/Nutrition

11. WHO is working with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to urgently follow up with the main public hospitals in the country regarding their operating status after this weekend's offensive.

12. UNRWA doctors continue to visit the 3,759 displaced sheltering in UNRWA schools. The main health problems remain acute upper respiratory infections, diarrhoea, scabies, lice, skin infections (impetigo) and chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension and heart diseases.

13. UNICEF reports that the children's vaccination campaigns against polio and measles will be ramped up this week; to counter the increasingly cramped conditions of IDPs are living in public shelters. Vaccine deliveries are awaited.

14. **Syria:** The Ministry of Health (MoH), with the support of the US Centres for Disease Control (CDC) and WHO, is currently conducting training for Public Health Officers from 14 governorates in Syria to ensure proper implementation of the *Early Warning and Response System (EWARS)*, targeted to cover 85% of the displaced Lebanese PoCs.

15. A total of 4,727 children have been vaccinated against measles during the latest immunization campaign organized by the MoPH in close collaboration with UNICEF, WHO and NGO partners. Approximately 4,300 children were also vaccinated against polio, 3,200 against measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), and 2,500 against meningitis. UNICEF explains that immunization coverage is as follows: polio (OPV) 89.6%; MMR 78.3%; 77.8% meningitis (24-59 months) and 39.4% for 5-15 year olds. Data from the remaining five governorates are expected shortly.

Food

16. The HRC continues to carry out daily distributions of food and NFI to schools and host families sheltering the displaced. Families are receiving a weekly food basket containing 3kg rice, 2kg sugar, tea, cheese, milk, canned meat and fish, pasta, children's foods, and other items.

17. Food distributions continue in Beirut and South Lebanon, and WFP has now finalized plans and partners for distribution in Tripoli and the Bekaa Valley.

Shelter/Non Food Items

18. UNHCR is working with the Government and others to develop a tented camp for 800-1,000 displaced people at an old railway depot in Beirut's Furn El Shabak. UNHCR will provide light-weight emergency tents; OXFAM will provide material for water and sanitation needs, while the GoL will provide labour. The French Army is setting up electricity. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is helping to develop another site.

19. The HRC is distributing NFIs for children under 24 months, including underwear, diapers and soap. UNDP NFI distribution has now reached some 4,500 IDPs in Beirut's southern suburbs and via the National Scout Association in Shiah.

20. UNHCR is expecting a further 3,600 mattresses and 9,000 blankets to be delivered by air (Royal Jordanian Air Force) from Jordan on 8 August. Urgent needs identified in Beirut IDP camps include sheets, blankets, and hygiene items.

Water and Sanitation

21. WHO is establishing a water quality monitoring system in IDP shelters in close collaboration with the MoPH, UNFPA, and UNICEF.

22. UNFPA hygiene kits have been distributed to 1,140 families, benefiting around 7,000 beneficiaries in Zahle. The Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) in Zahle will distribute the kits, which include antiseptic soap, sanitary napkins, toothpaste and toothbrushes, toilet paper and other essentials, to IDP centres in towns and villages in the Bekaa area. Additional kits will be delivered to Saida on Tuesday 9 August, for onward delivery to IDP centres and communities remaining in the conflict zone.

23. **Syria:** The following actions are envisaged for longer term relief: Water trucking in cases of shortages in some sites; Construction of toilets/units in some sites; Rehabilitation of sanitation facilities, including

replacement of damaged parts/fittings and unblock disposal system; Installation of water heaters; Procurement of hygiene supplies (soap, detergent, garbage bags, disinfectant, sanitary napkins, diapers and plastic washing bowls).



[Lebanon] A bombed out truck on the road between the Bekaa Valley and Beirut. [IRIN: 08/04/2006]

Protection

24. The IOM programme assisting Third Country Nationals (TCNs) continues in partnership with governments and other stakeholders. A total of 5,000 have been assisted ex-Lebanon so far; this is set to reach 8,000 by the end of this week.

25. IOM land convoys continue to Syria, with onward flights out of Syria to national destinations. As of 6 August, over 5,140 people had been moved by 115 buses. Another 2,482 planned to be moved in next five days on 59 buses. IOM coordinates movements with UNDSS and the IDF. Sea routes via Syria and nearby countries are being explored in the event of a further deterioration in the security situation.

26. TCN air departures over the next three days should include flights to Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Philippines, Nepal, Cameroon, Vietnam, and Bangladesh. Other requests are in process, including from Uganda, Madagascar and the Seychelles.

27. **Syria:** IOM medical teams are providing health screening and an ambulance service with IOM doctor on board to transport patients directly onto the tarmac for onward flights. Yesterday some 500 Ethiopian and Sri Lankan nationals departed Syria.

Education

28. A preliminary Education Cluster has been established to assess key issues such as the forthcoming start of the school year, starting from today. Members

include both public and private education bodies, reports UNICEF.

FUNDING

29. **The UN encourages donors who wish to contribute in-kind to the Lebanon response to do so against the requirements as laid out in the UN's *Flash Appeal*.**

Flash Appeal

30. According to the OCHA Financial Tracking System (FTS), as of 7 August, **US\$ 41 million** have been contributed or committed by donors towards the Lebanon Flash Appeal. In other words, 26% of the appeal requirements are met so far. In addition, donors have pledged another **US\$ 28 million** for WFP (US\$14 m), UNHCR (US\$9 m), UNICEF (US\$3m), UNFPA (US\$794,913), UNWRA (US\$158,000), WHO (US\$39,000), and OCHA (US\$25,000). This is based on data as reported to the Financial Tracking System.

Overall Contributions

31. The total amount of resources made available for humanitarian aid to Lebanon (inside and outside the Flash Appeal) is **US\$107 million**. Another US\$227 million has been pledged including US\$20 million in bilateral assistance from UAE, US\$ 50 million in bilateral assistance from Saudi Arabia, and US\$ 70 million from the Gulf Cooperation Council.

32. For the latest funding requirements, contributions, and list of projects, see the FTS on <http://www.reliefweb.int/fts>.