



Situation Report 24 - LEBANON RESPONSE - 16 August 2006

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

UN Convoys and Returnees Congest Roads to South

The Lebanese HRC estimates that 200,000 displaced have returned, or are in the process of returning, to the south of Lebanon. UNHCR estimates that at least 48,000 people had left Syria and returned to Lebanon. However, UNIFIL have reported that the movement of IDPs to villages close to the Blue Line is only a "trickle".

Preliminary UN Assessment Completed

WFP and UNICEF carried out the first preliminary UN assessment in the southern suburbs of Beirut. It was reported that some 200,000 people have returned to the southern suburbs and that there are an estimated 15,000 housing units destroyed with the worst affected area being Haret Hreik. The UN team has indicated that some 50,000 people are urgently in need of relief aid. The UN Humanitarian Coordinator will lead a high level inter-agency mission to assess damage, needs and the scope of assistance required by returning populations tomorrow.

Casualty Figures Rise as More Bodies Recovered

With bodies still being pulled from wrecked buildings (50 over the last 24 hours), the HRC has indicated that the numbers of dead will continue to rise as recovery teams reach previously inaccessible areas.

Aid Ship Anamcara Arrives in Tyre

Emergency supplies of fuel for hospital generators, food, water and medicine are being offloaded at the port of Tyre after a delay of several days. The UN will distribute these relief goods to hospitals and villages.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

1. The Government of Lebanon's (GoL) Higher Relief Council (HRC) report the number of Lebanese killed in the conflict at over 1,152, though they have warned that the number will likely rise as access to previously inaccessible areas increases. The number of Israeli civilians killed as a result of the conflict stands at 52 (seven of them children).

2. As a steady stream of Lebanese return to the devastated suburbs of Beirut, villages in the Beka'a Valley and southern Lebanon, immediate humanitarian needs are being assessed in parallel with the need for urgent repairs to infrastructure and UXO clearance. As part of a major operation to clear the Lebanese countryside of UXOs, teams from the UN's Mine Action Coordination Center are undertaking assessments in the South, 36 UXOs have already been identified.

Security Update

3. UNIFIL continues intensive patrolling throughout its area of operation to assess the situation on the ground and monitor the cessation of hostilities. The peace continues to hold with only three limited skirmishes reported in the past 24 hours. The IDF is maintaining its presence inside Lebanon but have not attempted to occupy any additional territory.

4. The UNIFIL Force Commander met senior representatives of the Lebanese Army and the IDF this morning, to discuss and coordinate the Israeli withdrawal and subsequent deployment of the Lebanese Army in specific areas in the South.

Contact Details:

Desk Officers:

New York

Mr. Carlos Monteiro-Pereira

Tel: +1-212-963-4639

Mr. Ben Negus

Tel: +1-917-367-4374

Press contact: (New York)

Ms. Stephanie Bunker

Tel: +1-917-367-5126

- 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.humanitarianinfo.org/lebanon Organizations 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

Mines/UXOs

5. A Chinese UNIFIL de-mining team has commenced UXO clearance operations in various locations in the south.

6. UNICEF launched an information campaign for returnees today in partnership with the National De-Mining Office, the Lebanese Army, the University of Balamand, the National Steering Committee for Mine Risk Education and World Rehabilitation, UNMAS and UNDP. UNICEF Syria has printed 50,000 pamphlets and UNHCR and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) are distributing them in returnee packages.

Returns update

7. UNHCR notes that public spaces - such as parks, buildings, and shopping centers in Beirut – previously used by those displaced are now almost empty. Additionally, village schools south of the capital that had also provided shelter are now reported to be almost empty.

8. **Syria:** UNHCR report that 45,280 Lebanese have returned to Lebanon from Syria in the last two days.

9. A team led by WFP and UNICEF visited suburbs in South Beirut yesterday to assess damaged housing and infrastructure as well as the needs of the estimated 200,000 people who have returned. The team reported that there is an urgent need for drinking water, food, medicine and items such as mattresses, blankets and other NFIs. Shelter and basic infrastructure repairs will be the priority for up to 50,000 people.

10. Of the 130,000 people registered as displaced in southern port town of Saida, it is now believed that only 13,000 remain. Those remaining continue to receive assistance from the local Saida municipality, NGOs, the Hariri Foundation, as well as through the contributions of international donors. The municipality is expanding its operation to include displaced in the surrounding villages. Today, local authorities organized approximately 20 buses to facilitate the transport of those wishing to return to Nabatiye and Tyre.

Infrastructure

11. Power is expected to be restored to the Tyre municipal system by tonight, while the city of Saida is providing a reduced service. Only one of three power stations is fully operational, while the other two are being repaired. Petrol and diesel (for generators) is available at all gas stations in Saida, and prices appear to have fallen to pre-conflict levels as fuel-supply has increased.

12. Extensive damage to infrastructure was observed by a WFP/UNICEF assessment team in the Haret Hreik and Ruhbeiri districts of South Beirut. However, municipal officials suggest that water and sanitation networks may be repairable in the short-term. Damage to housing is being assessed: some 2,500 units have reportedly been destroyed in Haret Hreik alone, with a further 5,000 damaged.

13. A UN team has undertaken an assessment of the overall damage to Saida's infrastructure, with the results expected tomorrow. Local authorities and the Hariri Foundation are conducting a clean-up campaign along the main highway from Saida to Beirut. The cleanup has considerably improved travel time to the north and south of the city.

14. UNIFIL continues to assess damage to civilian infrastructure. In the village of Ghanduriyah 80% of civilian houses have been destroyed, 60% in the village of Zibqin, 50% in Jabal al Butm and Bayyadah, 30% in Bayt Leif and 25% in Kafra.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Logistics

15. Two convoys departed this morning for Baalbek/Hazbaya and Tyre. Twelve trucks carried mattresses, blankets and other relief goods for UNHCR and Premier Urgence; while three UNRWA trucks carried food for some 5,000 inhabitants of Wavel camp.

16. The Anamcara, currently docked in Tyre, will return to Limassol once all cargo has been offloaded. It is anticipated that the ship will return in the coming days loaded with additional humanitarian assistance.

17. A ferry shuttle service for cargo between Beirut and Tyre is being negotiated between the UN Joint Logistics Center (JLC) and local authorities.

18. UNJLC reports that insufficient civilian trucking capacity at Beirut port has meant that some UN trucks have had to be assigned to the port for offloading cargo, thus reducing the number available for convoys.

19. A twice-weekly passenger catamaran service - capable of carrying 300 passengers - from Cyprus to Beirut will begin tomorrow, 17 August. The service will be free for UN agencies, accredited NGOs and embassies. Bookings can be currently made by forwarding passport and contact details to saba.jamil@wfp.org.

20. The French vessel *Cap Camarat* is due to dock in Beirut on 17 August.

21. WHO is offloading 67mt of fuel in Beirut port. Eighteen hospitals in Tyre, Saida and Nabatiye will receive fuel supplies to last at least 10 days.

Health/Nutrition

22. WHO is supporting the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in finalizing a rapid health facilities assessment for South Lebanon. One hospital in Baalbek has been totally destroyed, while several others are only able to partially function as a result of Israeli strikes.

23. MSF continues to deliver medical supplies to 11 hospitals in Lebanon (four facilities in Tyre with the rest in Jezzine, Nabatiye, Jobb Jannine, Qaraaoun and Niha). MSF mobile health teams are treating around 400 patients a week in Tyre and approximately 650 in Beirut.

24. UNIFIL has been providing medical assistance (including the evacuation of war wounded), food (provided by the French Government) and water to the villages of Hinniyah, Zibqin, Bint Jubayl, Kafra and Beit Leif.

Food

25. Approximately 1,330mt of food for over 262,300 people has been dispatched by WFP on UN convoys since 23 July.

26. WFP has provided 111mt of food to the village of Rmeish on the border with Israel for an estimated 7,500 people. WFP delivered 150mt of food for 10,000 people (one week's supply) in the village of Hazbaya. WFP is also providing returnees from Syria with a food package.

27. **Syria:** The UN Country Team has reached an agreement with the Syrian Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MoSAL) to carry out daily food distributions to displaced remaining in the country. Deliveries of bread, oil, pulses and canned meat will start today, reaching some 17,000 people.

Shelter, NFIs

28. With data from assessments in Beirut and the South still being collected and consolidated, it is not yet known how many people are currently without shelter. To address the increasing needs, UNHCR and partner agencies continue to transport and receive shelter and bedding supplies.

29. Two Royal Jordanian Air Force C-130s arrived in Beirut today carrying blankets, plastic sheeting and tents. Armored vehicles were also flown in to assist with humanitarian distribution in areas subject to high-risk of UXO contamination.



Road to Tyre is strewn with craters and packed with traffic.
(Photo: BBC)

Early Recovery

30. Some five to 10mt of heavy fuel-oil has been removed from Jbeil (Byblos) harbor with the remaining oil to be cleaned up within the next two days. Increased aerial and sea-based surveys are required to assess the amount of fuel-oil still at sea and determine the feasibility of sea-based clean up so as to prevent the oil from reaching the coastline.

FUNDING

Flash Appeal

31. The Flash Appeal for Lebanon is now 52% funded. Contributions stand at just over US \$86.3 million, with an additional **US \$7.5 million** in pledges. Top donors include: the European Commission, US, Norway, France and the CERF. New pledges include Qatar (US \$2 million) and Indonesia (US \$1 million)

32. Agencies and donors are encouraged to report new pledges to <http://www.reliefweb.int/fts>.