



Situation Report 34 - Lebanon Response – 28 August 2006

SITUATION OVERVIEW

1. The Government of Lebanon (GoL) Higher Relief Council (HRC) reports the casualty figures at 1,187 killed and 4,061 injured. Most of the recent casualties have been caused by UXOs.

2. As of 28 August, 359 individual cluster bomb strike locations have been confirmed and recorded. Given that areas of lower priority and a number of villages with IDF presence nearby have yet to be visited, it is estimated the total number of strikes could be in excess of 400.

3. Un-exploded bombs (UXB) dropped by aircraft and ranging from 500lb to 2000lb, continue to be located. Many large, aircraft bombs lie un-exploded in people's houses and gardens. The National Demining Office reports that the Lebanese Arm Forces have identified 69 unexploded bombs.

Assessments

Humanitarian Hub Update: TYRE

4. Rapid assessments were conducted since 24 August in Qantara, Ghanduriyah and Srifa revealing:

- Extensive destruction in Ghanduriyah with approximately 90 per cent of homes damaged
- No water or electrical supply in any of the three villages
- Approximately 60 per cent of IDP residents have returned to Ghanduriyah, 50 per cent to Srifa, and 90 per cent to Qantara. Those whose homes were destroyed are residing with neighbors or relatives.
- The Tyre Health cluster distributed two supplementary emergency health kits and one

trauma kit to Marjayoun, Bent J'bail and An

- Nabatiyeh hospitals and basic kits to Beit Leif, Al Zahra and Kfar Kila health centres.
- Premiere Urgence distributed 7,380 litres of bottled water supplied by UNICEF to Beit Leif.
- The logistics cluster distributed 7,380 litres of bottled water from UNICEF to Khiam and 7,380 litres to Siddiqine and 200 MT of WFP canned meat, flour, canned vegetables and high-energy biscuits to Qana, Maarake and Rmaich.

Humanitarian Hub Update: Beqaa Valley

5. Additional field assessments of villages in the Beqaa' Valley affected by bombing were completed in the last three days and reveal:

- Extensive damage in Baalbek with it occurring mainly in the city and the villages of Britel and Nabi Chit.
- In the southern area of Western Beqaa', the village of Mashgara was most badly hit.
- In total, 14 population centres have extensive destruction with 340 dwellings totally destroyed and an additional 476 damaged and uninhabitable. Over 4,000 people have been left homeless and are currently living with relatives and friends in the area.
- Rubble clearance has started in the main towns but in the small villages many people remain stunned and bewildered and while people can be seen picking through the remains, organised efforts to clean up the destruction are not yet underway.
- In Baalbek and Machgara some residents have received financial assistance from Hezbollah to pay rent but little help has reached rural areas.

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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.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

- More than 1,850 families remain without water from the mains as the bombing destroyed the water supply network.
- Many large factories and small businesses in Zahle and Baalbek have been affected as well by the bombing leaving many residents unemployed.
- Intense feeling of insecurity exists amongst residents interviewed and few have confidence that the ceasefire will hold. The random nature of the IDF air strikes and the fact that many civilians in rural areas were affected leaves many residents feeling that no one is truly safe anywhere.
- Residents are making every effort to return the agricultural sector to normalcy although the conditions are trying. The peach and pear harvest were almost totally lost, and the wheat crop has been affected but not as badly. Farmers are making a last ditch effort to salvage the remains of the harvest. During the conflict, families harvested some wheat by hand, as harvest equipment would have been an IDF target. As for potato and grape production, Syrian workers are already returning and harvesting is just getting underway.

Additional assessments

6. A joint assessment team including representatives from OCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR, and WFP visited the villages of Bint Jbeil, Ayta Chaab and Aytaroun where they met with municipal authorities. Destruction in these areas is considered amongst the worst. In Bint Jbeil, 1,200 houses out of 1,500 were destroyed in Bint Jbeil. The rapid evaluation revealed the need for drinking and washing water.

7. A general coordination meeting was held in Tyre on 26 August, and cited on-going needs including water repairs and rubble removal, and the need for improved coordination amongst national partners.

8. A multi-cluster assessment mission, including WHO, OCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR, traveled on 26 August from Tyre to Aitarou where 300 houses were found to be uninhabitable, 1,200 lightly damaged (according to the municipality) with extensive damage to the water network and no electrical power supply. Israeli Defense Forces remain on outskirts of the town.

9. A follow-up assessment mission traveled from Tyre to Tebnine, Aita Ech Chaab and Bint J'bail on 26 August and reported that the need for water is a priority. The number of returnees is not large due to the extensive damage to homes and other infrastructure in the area.

Returnees whose homes have been destroyed are staying with neighbors or have returned to rented accommodation or other host families in Tyre, Beirut or neighboring villages.

10. UNHCR and the Department of Safety and Security in Saida are currently conducting a follow-up assessment mission in Marjayun in order to identify the needs for NFI and shelter items.

11. Because of the increasing number of aid providers some areas in the Nabatiyeh region are being double-targeted with food assistance. For instance, the village of Houla reports having received several food aid shipments, while other villages of the area have not benefited from any food assistance.

12. The Saida-based NGO platform is currently setting up an operations centre to consolidate damage assessments in Southern Lebanon and prepare and implement joint relief projects. OCHA/Saida is facilitating the work of this forum by providing information (3W).

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

UXO and Mine Clearance

13. The current focus of the Mine Action Coordination Centre Southern Lebanon teams are to identify cluster strikes in areas of high risk such as villages, schools and roads. Once all high priority sites have been identified, marked and recorded, the next phase will be to locate and record all other sites.

14. No accurate information is available at this time of the breakdown of cluster bomb or UXO/mine casualties. The official casualty figures from the National Demining Office are for all landmine/UXO/Cluster Bomb victims as at 25 August and are as follows:

	Injured	Killed	Total
Child (Male)	12	2	14
Child (Female)	4	0	4
Adult (Male)	25	10	35
Adult (Female)	3	0	3
GRAND TOTAL	44	12	56

15. At present the following capacity is available and conducting clearance of cluster bomb strike areas:

- Two Mines Advisory Group Explosive Ordnance Disposal Teams (total 8 people) in Nabatiyeh

- Two Mines Advisory Group Explosive Ordnance Disposal Teams (total 8 people) in Tyre
- One Swedish Rescue Services Agency Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team (total 4 people) in Tyre

16. By 31 August, ten additional explosive ordnance disposal teams totaling 95 people are expected to arrive as well as three technical survey teams with a total of some nine to 12 people

17. As of 28 August, 1,617 cluster bomb units and 11 other unexploded ordnance have been destroyed by MACC teams. The Lebanese Arm Forces clearance teams are also locating/destroying significant amounts of cluster bombs, although these figures are not yet available

Food and NFIs

18. WFP transported, on 27 August, 50 tons of wheat flour, pulses and canned meat from Beirut to Jezzine and Nabatiyeh.

19. As of 28 August, WFP has reached an estimated 547,000 people in Lebanon with more than 4,000 tons of food since the start of the emergency operation on 23 July.

Health

20. A disinfection campaign of debris and rubble in destroyed buildings in the southern suburbs of Beirut was launched, on 27 August, by the Ministry of Public Health with the support of WHO, and in collaboration with the municipalities of Gobeiri, Haret Hreik, borj Barajneh and El Shiah and a private sector organization, Sukleen. The WHO stressed that dead bodies were not the target for such disinfection as they do not cause disease. WHO and the MOH plan to undertake similar such initiatives in south Lebanon and other affected areas in Lebanon.

21. UNICEF representatives and the Islamic Health Commission in Tyre have held a meeting looking at the needs of the IHC's 14 dispensaries, 10 mobile clinics and one hospital. The IHC representatives were most interested in receiving UNICEF's hygiene kits and some other health materials, and UNICEF is in the process of responding.

22. Saida-based "Al-Mouassat" and DPNA NGOs are currently setting up a children's camp in Al-Kiyam village. Another three camps are being established by NGOs in northern Saida to provide children of war-affected villages with psychosocial counseling before the start of the 2006/07 academic year.

Water and Sanitation

23. UNICEF distributed 60,000 litres of bottled water to Srifa, Ghanduriyah, Et Taibe, Qantara and Yatar on 27 August. UNICEF is also distributing mine risk awareness leaflets with their water distributions.

Syria Update

24. WFP reached 151,000 Lebanese in Syria as they were in the process of returning to Lebanon following the cessation of hostilities.

25. UNICEF, UNHCR and WFP are planning to undertake a rapid assessment of the needs of residual refugees located in six areas identified by a UNHCR preliminary survey. As part of the assessment, they will seek to register the refugees and document their needs.

26. A review meeting was held on 26 August with WHO, UNICEF and the Syrian Ministry of Health (MoH) to evaluate the emergency preparedness and response during the Lebanese crisis, lessons learned and recommendations to strengthen future preparedness. Findings show:

- Agreement that room exists for improvement in preparedness and response, particularly in terms of speed of delivery of services
- A need for better coordination within the MoH, both at national and municipal levels
- General praise for the MoH contingency plan to pre-position 25 per cent of all medical supplies and 50 per cent of extra stocks of vaccines where most needed, including at local health facilities

27. The meeting also recommended, inter alia: the review of contingency plans; to undertake capacity building of the MoH national and local staff; setting up health and nutrition surveillance systems by the MoH with the support of UNICEF and WHO and, the establishment of mobile vaccination teams in all public health facilities near the border.

28. All 30 schools used to house Lebanese refugees in Syria will be rehabilitated in the coming days. UNICEF will be providing some \$60,000 principally in electrical, carpentry and plumbing work focused on upgrading water and sanitation in the schools.

29. UNICEF is in the process of local procurement in Syria of 30,000 baby hygiene kits which will be shipped for distribution where needed in Lebanon.

Early Recovery

30. UNDP has signed contracts with local authorities in southern Lebanon 100 villages to begin recovery work. Thirty-one villages have already begun removing rubble from the streets, filling potholes, and making other repairs to improve access in and around villages. In addition to the villages in the south, Baalbeck in the Beqaa’ Valley has contracted with UNDP to undertake similar early recovery clean-up activities.

Aid convoys and shipments

Truck Convoys		
Movement	#	Comments/cargo
Beirut-South Beirut	1	(WFP)Wheat flour
Beirut-Jezzine	9	(WFP) Wheat flour, canned meat/vegetables

Sea Movement		
Movement	Vessel	Comments/Cargo
Larnaca -Beirut	Victoria M	Passengers (members of the humanitarian community)
To Beirut	Gaz Pacific	Government of Lebanon chartered vessel carrying LPG

- The WFP-chartered vessels *Anamcara* and *Majestic*, sailed from Beirut port today after offloading relief supplies.