



Situation Report 38 -- LEBANON RESPONSE -- 13 to 19 SEPTEMBER 2006

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- UN Secretary-General issues 30 Day Report on Security Council Resolution 1701
- UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Lebanon holds final press conference with focus on the cruel legacy of cluster bomb contamination
- UN Humanitarian Coordinator issues Interim Report on the Humanitarian Response in Lebanon
- World Food Programme releases Rapid Food Security Assessment on Lebanon

SITUATION OVERVIEW

UN Secretary-General's Report on 1701

1. On 13 September, Secretary-General Kofi Annan issued his one-month report on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701. He said that although violations to the cease-fire had occurred they were not "of an offensive and hostile character", and that Israel and Hizbullah have "largely complied" with the cessation of hostilities agreement. As to Israel's continued military presence in Lebanon, Mr. Annan said he had been assured that Israel would withdraw all its troops "by the end of the month" or once 5,000 UNIFIL troops are present in Lebanon. The UN Secretary-General addressed the issue of disarming Hizbullah and Palestinian factions in Lebanon, saying, "I remain convinced that the disarming of Hizbullah and other militia should take place through a political process that will lead to the full restoration of the authority of the Lebanese government so that there will be

no weapons or authority other than its own... I expect the government of Lebanon will define such a political process".

UN Humanitarian Coordinator Addresses Press

2. The Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) in Lebanon, David Shearer, held a final press conference on 19 September that focused on the legacy of unexploded cluster bomb sub-munitions throughout south Lebanon and their social and economic impact. He praised the Lebanese people, saying that from his personal experience in 11 humanitarian emergencies, he had never seen such "a remarkable operation" as in Lebanon in which a quarter of the population fled during the conflict and then returned a few weeks later with no hunger and no outbreak of disease. He also praised as "most amazing" the national effort to clean up the rubble and get ready for the reconstruction process that is becoming increasingly visible throughout the south.

3. The HC said he felt "the humanitarian component of our work is winding-up" and added that during and post-conflict, the UN managed to deliver relief aid, including government and NGO assistance, to affected areas on UN convoys even under bombardment.

4. The HC called Israel's dropping of 90% of its cluster sub-munitions during the last three days before the cessation of hostilities "outrageous and unnecessary". He added, that while the UN is helping Lebanon in clearing the threat of Unexploded Ordinance (UXOs) and cluster sub-munitions, out of an estimated 350,000 cluster bombs, "we have only managed to clear 17,000". "This gives an idea of how long the clearance operation might take."

Contact Details:

Desk Officers:

New York

Mr. Carlos Monteiro-Pereira
Mr. Ben Negus
Ms. Heidi Kuttab

Tel: +1-212-963-4639
Tel: +1-917-367-4374
Tel: +1-917-367-3365

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

The Legacy of Cluster Bombs

5. At the Humanitarian Coordinator's press conference on 19 September, OCHA released a report entitled *A Lasting Legacy: The Deadly Impact of Cluster bombs in Southern Lebanon*.

The report contains four maps showing the impact on agriculture and access to water of cluster bombs and describes the sheer amount of UXOs in south Lebanon, one of the poorest regions in the country and also the hardest hit by the conflict. The quick destruction of remaining UXOs, particularly cluster bombs, is critical to restoring normalcy to the region and, ultimately, to a secure and lasting peace. The report contains new information, including:



The Scale of the Problem

- The United Nation's Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) has identified 516 cluster bomb strike locations.
- The failure rate of these cluster bomb sub-munitions is estimated by UNMACC to be between 30 to 40%.
- It could take up to 30 months to destroy most unexploded cluster bomb sub-munitions.
- Israel's handing over the coordinates of the cluster bomb strikes, as requested by the UN, would greatly accelerate the clearance effort.

The Victims

- Due to South Lebanon's small geographical area, the density of cluster sub-munitions in south Lebanon is higher than in Kosovo and Iraq, with a greater concentration in built-up areas, according to UNMACC.
- Unexploded cluster sub-munitions have killed 15 and wounded 83 others since 14 August, mostly in their homes or fields. Five civilians have been killed while herding or working their land and a further 16 have been injured. One child has been killed and 23 others injured.

The Impact of Cluster Munitions on Agricultural Livelihoods

- Agriculture is the main source of income in south Lebanon – providing 70% of household incomes. Yet, farmers have not been able to irrigate or harvest their

current crops and are unable to plant the winter crop. Next year's agriculture cycle will also be affected.

- Farmers are marking and burning the fields to destroy the bombs.
- At least 6% (94km²) of land used to cultivate citrus fruits and bananas - the highest-value crops - and 10% (74km²) of land for field crops are contaminated. This estimate is conservative as farmers' fear of cluster bombs means they limit their movement to a much larger percentage of agricultural land. In addition, new cluster bomb strike locations are continually being identified.
- More than 7% (35km²) of grassland, used for animal grazing, is contaminated as are the banks and streambeds of 173 streams and rivers putting shepherds and farmers at risk.

The response to cluster bombs

- UNMACC teams have begun clearing munitions from fields.
- UNIFIL has six Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams of which four are presently being used for UXOs clearing in conjunction with the activities of the UNMACC teams. The other two teams are kept for UNIFIL troop operations only.
- Donors have supported the establishment of clearance capacity, and early indications are that sufficient funding should be available to sustain operations until December 2007.
- As a part of UNICEF's on-going awareness campaign, it has developed a brochure regarding cluster bomb sub-munitions and includes UXO information on the label of bottled water delivered to communities where UXOs are commonly found.

A Lasting Legacy: The Deadly Impact of Cluster bombs in Southern Lebanon is available at www.virtualhic.org,

CLUSTER BOMB SUB-MUNITIONS ACCIDENTS	TOTAL (INJURY/DEATH)
INJURED	90
KILLED	14
TOTAL	104

Interim report on the humanitarian response

6. The Humanitarian Coordinator has presented an Interim Report to the Minister of Finance on the Humanitarian Response in Lebanon. The report details the humanitarian activities, results and expenditures from 12 July to 30 August 2006. (The report is available at www.virtualhic.org).

7. The *Revised Flash Appeal* requirement for Lebanon is US \$96.5 million. Of the US \$93 million received to date against this requirement, a total of US \$68.8 million, or 74%, was spent or committed by 30 August.

8. The key achievements outlined in the report include the mobilization of more than 294 trucks carrying a total of 5,975mt of food and 1,847mt of non-food items to hardest hit areas in South Lebanon, the Bekaa Valley, and suburbs in and around Beirut. A total of 1 million litres of portable water and 500,000ltrs of bottled water were distributed. Essential drugs that alleviated critical threats to the health of some 70,000 IDPs were provided. An urgent vaccination campaign was conducted with almost 20,900 children under 15-years-of-age immunized against measles, and 8,345 children under 5 years – against polio (with Vitamin A supplementation).

9. Serious challenges to ongoing humanitarian efforts and to subsequent early recovery plans remain:

- The widespread presence of UXOs which is preventing people from resuming their livelihoods;
- The effects of the 57-day sea and air blockade on the economy and on investment, trade and tourism; and
- The need for rapid restoration of basic social services, particularly health and education, so that some sense of normalcy can be reestablished in people's lives.

World Food Programme Assessment

10. The results of WFP's three-person food security assessment - carried out between 27 August to 10 September 2006 - reveal that food availability has been more of a problem than food access. Shortages were most evident in the south of the country but no evidence was collected to suggest that price hikes had pushed consumers out of the markets even in these directly targeted areas. It only reduced their choice of products.

11. The most affected sectors of the population are the daily wage labourers and those working in the coastal fishing and agriculture sector (fruit, vegetables and cash crops such as tobacco). The level of social support and remittances will be a determinant factor in people's ability to recover, and the poorest sectors of the community will include those with limited social networks.

The food assessment recommends that WFP continue its food assistance programme until 24 October, to a diminished caseload since food aid needs have been significantly reduced by the cessation of hostilities and the lifting of the blockade. It should also continue providing

food through the municipality authorities until the end of the programme.

12. WFP should continue to keep up to date with the results of ongoing assessments to enhance its understanding of the food security prospects in Lebanon as the situation evolves.

UNIFIL

13. As standard operating procedure on peacekeeping mission, newly-arrived UNIFIL troops are given one-week training that informs on local gender, cultural and political awareness issues.

14. The total number of UNIFIL troops in south Lebanon, as of 18 September, is approx 4,680 personnel.

15. As of 17 September, the Maritime Interim Force is composed of six vessels which are operating along the Lebanese coast. Three are from Italy, one from France, one from England and one from Greece

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Education

16. UNICEF has been working with the Ministry of Education to produce a "Back to School Plan" that includes double shifting, identifying alternate locations or utilizing the capacity in neighboring schools that were not damaged, and in some instances with need to transport children on a daily basis. Such transport capability has not yet been identified.

17. On 16 September, the Ministry of Education endorsed Mercy Corps' request to rehabilitate 41 public schools including eight in Baalbek, three in Jezzine, 26 in Nabatiyeh and four Marjayoun. The repairs on 16 schools in Nabatiyeh and Marjayoun Districts will begin on Monday, 18 September. All schools are expected to be rehabilitated prior to the beginning of the school year on 18 October.

18. Planning is underway for a US \$500,000 UNIFIL Quick Impact Project (QIP) to repair schools in UNIFIL's area of operation. In combination with the repairs, UNICEF will provide schooling materials.

Protection

19. The two issues that have been identified as requiring specific and immediate attention are UXO/mine awareness and the establishment of child-friendly spaces and psychosocial care. The training and capacity building

of local NGOs and key officials in relevant Ministries is being pursued with Government Representatives.

20. A field monitoring form has been developed for use by field teams. It includes sections on general demographics and profile of a village population; internal capacity and assistance delivered with gaps identified; protection issues such as non-discrimination, physical safety, access to justice; shelter; and NFI distribution.

Shelter

21. Discussions are ongoing with the Government of Lebanon on shelter strategy and eventual assistance. However, UNHCR will not engage in supplying prefabricated housing units.

Health

22. The WHO reports that the first level of Early Warning and Response Network training on disease surveillance and outbreak investigation has been completed, covering 300 health centers and 450 participants in the affected areas.

23. WHO is in the process of purchasing 4,400 rapid water-testing kits to be distributed to NGOs and other institutions in the districts of Tyr, Marjayoun, Bent Jbeil, Nabatiyeh and Hasbayiah, in addition to the southern Suburbs of Beirut and Bekaa.

24. Based on a joint Ministry of Public Health and WHO assessment of the health infrastructure in the conflict-affected areas, a health plan is being developed that addresses: the high number of injured and disabled people; unmet health needs of internally displaced people and returnees; disruption of public health functions; damage to health facilities; impediments to health care access; and disruption to the fuel and drug supplies. In the short-term, the strategic plan notes that the challenge is to meet the immediate health needs of IDPs and returnees, particularly for vulnerable groups. In the medium-and long-term, the plan calls for re-establishing and further improving the functionality of the health system and rehabilitating damaged health.

25. UNHCR field teams are continuing NFI distribution while assessing the needs of the vulnerable in affected villages. So far, UNHCR has visited 120 villages in southern Lebanon.

EARLY RECOVERY PROGRAMME

26. The rapid pace of early recovery and reconstruction continues. In towns and villages across South Lebanon and in the southern suburbs of Beirut, many sites that were a mass of broken concrete and steel reinforcing wire a week ago, have now been cleared and leveled in preparation for rebuilding.

27. UNDP has been supporting the early recovery process through a grants project that provides funding directly to municipalities. Since the programme began on 21 August, UNDP has given US \$800,000 in grants to remove debris and fix damaged road - with amounts ranging from US \$2,000 to US \$25,000 depending on damage estimates - directly to the municipalities of Nabatiyeh, Marjayoun, Bent Jbeil, Tyre and Baalbek and US \$200,000 to four municipalities in the southern suburbs of Beirut. In the second round of allocations, the programme will expand its assistance to municipalities in South Lebanon.

28. Mr. Ghassan H. Taher-Fadlallah has been appointed as Head of the Recovery and Reconstruction Cell in the office of the Prime Minister Fouad Siniora. The functions of the Recovery and Reconstruction Cell will include: consolidating needs assessments carried out by the Council of Development and Reconstruction (CDR) and other line ministries; implementing the Development Assistance Database (DAD), an aid coordination tool aimed at tracking resources and results; preparing the strategic framework for the donor conference planned for late November/ early December. The exact structure of the Recovery and Reconstruction Cell is still being finalized.

29. Arab States, notably Saudi Arabia and Qatar, have increasing numbers of representatives on the ground in South Lebanon assessing damage and preparing plans for large scale reconstruction. Saudi Arabia will be providing US \$500 million which will be used for housing compensation and payment of school fees. Qatar has pledged the complete reconstruction of the heavily hit towns of Aita al-Shaab, Ainata, Khiam and Bent Jbeil. The UAE has pledged US \$50 million to rebuild all schools in the South (except the four villages above) as well as the provision of school books.