



OCHA Situation Report 39- LEBANON RESPONSE – 20 TO 27 SEPTEMBER 2006

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- There may be as many as one million unexploded cluster sub-munitions, according to the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre – South Lebanon
- The number of water recovery projects picks up, but the need for emergency water tankering continues
- UNHCR to cease direct involvement in implementation of any temporary, transitional or permanent shelter programmes
- Ninety-nine severely damaged villages, out of a total of 251, have been “adopted” by 11 countries for complete repairs and reconstruction

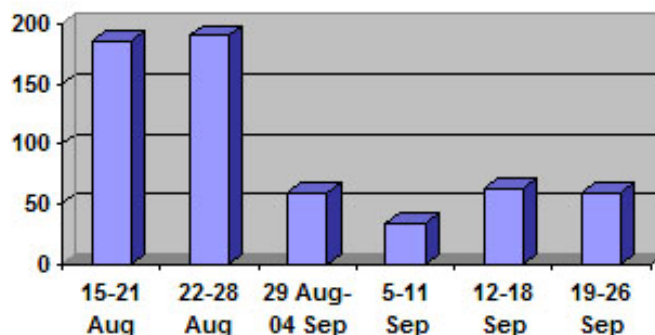
SITUATION OVERVIEW

UXO Update

1. “It is possible that we are looking for as many as one million unexploded cluster bomb sub-munitions” according to Christopher Clark, Programme Manager of the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre – South Lebanon (MACC-SL). He made his statement at a UN press conference held 26 September by the UN, with representatives from the National Demining Office (NDO), MACC-SL, UNICEF, and UNHCR. The press conference highlighted the dangers of UXOs and cluster sub-munitions and the importance of awareness campaigns

targeting the displaced people returning to their hometowns in the south. MACC-SL expects clearance of most of the UXOs and cluster sub-munitions will take between 12 to 15 months. It also reported that UNIFIL is still waiting for the Israel Defense Forces to hand over the coordinates and maps needed to identify cluster bomb strike locations.

2. Fourteen people have been killed and 90 injured from all types of unexploded ordnance in Lebanon from 14 August until 19 September. Of these totals, children (6 years to 18 years of age) accounted for two of the fatalities and 32 of the injuries, according to Lebanon’s National Demining Office. All the fatalities and most of the injuries resulted from cluster munitions.



The number of cluster bomb strike locations by week. A total of 592 have now been identified in the south from 15 August until 26 September.

3. For each cluster-bomb strike, clearance personnel must verify an area totaling 196,000 square meters to locate (and eventually destroy) all unexploded bomb sub-munitions.

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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

4. In addition to cluster bomb sub-munitions, an estimated 15,300 other items of unexploded ordnance are on the ground in southern Lebanon. Other unexploded ordnance includes air-dropped bombs of 500 lbs. to 2,000 lbs (found in residential areas), ground- and naval-launched artillery rounds, and air-delivered rockets.
5. As of 26 September, the number of cleared UXOs and cluster sub-munitions is 40,000.
6. Over 350 Lebanese Army personnel, and some 200 NGO and commercial company personnel under the coordination of MACC-SL, plus UNIFIL troops, are clearing the Lebanese south from UXOs and cluster sub-munitions.
7. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has pledged to continue its financial support to clearing mines and to cluster bomb sub-munitions disposal as well.
8. According to UNHCR, some 200,000 people remain displaced because of the level of destruction in their villages, and because of the UXOs and cluster sub-munitions which contaminate their houses and hometowns.
9. UNICEF is supporting the National Demining Office's Mine Risk Education Steering Committee to implement a print and broadcast media campaign to raise awareness among civilians—especially children—about the dangers of UXO.
10. Adults working in the fields or clearing their homes are, of course, also at high risk. Effective UXO and mine awareness targeted at adults, especially farmers in remote villages, is being developed with the NGO Danish Church Aid (DCA) taking the lead on this issue.
11. UNHCR has provided support to UN mine action efforts in Lebanon, by providing logistical support, including provision of fuel for clearance organizations, and the loan of ten trucks for use by clearance teams.

High-level commission

12. A High Level Commission of Inquiry into the Situation in Lebanon arrived in Beirut on 23 September. The three-member delegation of the UN Human Rights Council includes Joao Clemente Baena Soares of Brazil, Mohamed Chande Othman of Tanzania and Stelios Perrakis of Greece. The independent and impartial body will remain in Lebanon until 07 October to investigate the systematic targeting and killing of civilians by Israel in Lebanon; examine the types of weapons used by Israel and

their conformity with international law; and assess the extent and deadly impact of Israeli attacks on human life, property, critical infrastructure and the environment. The delegation will meet with government officials, the diplomatic community and representatives of civil society and will travel to areas affected by the recent conflict to collect evidence and witness accounts of the military operations.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Water and Sanitation

13. Participants in the group continue to be involved in the distribution of bottled water, with UNICEF distributing some 2 million litres (some 200 truck loads) in the coming weeks. Bottled water distribution will wind down in the next two to three weeks with the tankering of water to more than 100 villages in the south alone a priority for the next six to eight weeks.
14. The recovery focus is now on providing support to government and municipal water authorities as they rebuild storage tanks, water lines and pumping stations. The water authority has established a list of projects that need support. UNICEF has agreed to be a clearing house for requests and information regarding water recovery projects in order to relieve some of the pressure on water authorities. A key factor in the water recovery process is that generators are in plentiful supply and electric power, to run water pumps, is coming back on line more quickly in many places than originally anticipated.
15. The problems of water quality have been a concern, with WHO planning to distribute portable test kits for use by NGOs and the German agency THW has set up a laboratory in Tyre to test water samples. A meeting is planned between the Water Authority and agencies involved in water reconstruction projects to discuss water quality including contamination issues related to dead animals which have still not been removed in some communities.
16. An assessment by WHO of the reagents needed for water quality control is completed and procurement of reagents is in progress.

Shelter

17. UNHCR reports that it is not planning to be directly involved in the implementation of any temporary, transitional or permanent shelter program. However, as lead of the shelter cluster, UNHCR will continue to coordinate shelter related activities.

18. UNHCR is currently emptying its warehouses in Lebanon and supplying internally displaced persons and host families in southern Beirut, Aley, Baabda, Chouf, the Bekaa, Saida, Jezzine and all southern Lebanon with non-food items (NFIs). The NFI stock will not be replenished for the time being.

Protection

19. Criteria and mechanisms for equitable secondary distribution of non-food items need to be developed and take into consideration the needs of IDP host communities over coming months. Child friendly spaces have been planned for 320,000 children and supported by 20 organisations across Lebanon. Save the Children has opened 26 of a planned 80 child friendly spaces and InterSOS have opened two.

Food

20. The World Food Programme reports preparations to close operations and the office in Lebanon by the end of October are ongoing. It is completing its last round of food distribution which should end by 15 October. The hand over of InterAgency services has also started in both Beirut and Tyre. WFP is assisting the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) in establishing a national food security and capacity building strategy.

Transport and logistics

21. Cargo movement within Lebanon is expected to continue until 20 October, although WFP will wind down operations by 15 October. UNICEF is the principal organisation needing cargo transport throughout October for water distribution and its back-to-school programme.

22. Transport of relief material will continue until October 15, and by October 24 the logistics team will be out of the country.

23. The German Air Force C160s, which were delivering cargo from Cyprus to Beirut, carried out their last rotations on 20 September. Since commercial traffic into Lebanon has fully returned, WFP on behalf of Other agencies and NGOs will continue providing the relevant support through commercial means.

24. Bridge and culvert repair, wreckage removal and the creation of new diversions are underway with 14 temporary steel bridges being erected by French, Russian, and British military engineers.

25. Of a total of 118 key bridges, overpasses and culvert repairs, 63 have donors to underwrite the work. 33 of these are local donors and businesses; another 13 have

been divided among UNOPS, USAID, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

26. The five armoured vehicles based in Tyre which are being used by the Logistic Cluster to serve Southern Lebanon are now reduced to two.

Health

27. The National Plan on Mental Health and training modules are being finalized. The plan includes trainings on emergency psychosocial assistance with a long term component for mental health program development in Lebanon. Partners working in the field of mental health and psychosocial support met on 23 September to develop a matrix of the activities done so far, the challenges faced and the needs identified.

28. A detailed WHO assessment of health facilities is currently being undertaken. The final report is expected by 30 September.

29. The Ministry of Public Health, supported by WHO and in collaboration with governors and heads of towns and municipalities, is implementing in the Bekaa Valley a spraying campaign against rodents, insects and fungi that cause environmental concerns in the debris and rubble of destroyed buildings.

30. More than 100 boxes of medications for chronic diseases have been sent from the WHO warehouse to the Ministry of Public Health in order to be dispensed upon request. Virtually all need for emergency medicines have been met with WHO requesting that donors not send additional medicines. There is, however still some need for medications for the treatment of chronic diseases.

Environment

31. UNEP reports that it will soon be undertaking an assessment of key environmental hazards in Lebanon including: waste rubble, medical waste, industrial waste, coastal marine pollution, asbestos, ground water contamination and ammunition, including depleted uranium weapons.

32. On oil pollution, the Ministry of Environment reports it is currently cleaning only priority beaches that contain free flowing oil. The Ministry is also working on a second advanced training for people who want to work as team leaders and managers once a full clean up plan is finalized.

33. Fifty divers working with Bahr Lobnan, a Lebanese NGO cleaning 100 kilometres of contaminated

coastline, have pulled approximately 70 tonnes of fuel that was resting on the seabed in the Jiyeh area and approximately 60 tonnes of fuel in underwater spots off the northern town of Jbeil, according to the NGO.



Hand-over of coordination activities

34. The UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) will hand over its active coordination role in South Lebanon to UNDP on 29th September, as most humanitarian activities become recovery in their focus. However, OCHA will continue to monitor residual humanitarian needs until 24th October, to ensure no gaps in coverage. The Humanitarian Hub at the Tyre Rest House will remain open with internet services until 24th October 2006. National and international NGOs are welcome to use the facility to hold meetings, as a workspace and to access the internet during that period. In Beirut, OCHA will continue to work with the Government and other partners to facilitate a smooth transition to early recovery before closing the office on 24th October, as envisaged in the UN Revised Flash Appeal.

35. The Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC) Lebanon, deployed as a “Common Service” to the Emergency Response, will also be winding down its mapping activities and information management (IM) support to clusters. In preparation for the HIC close out, data collected during the emergency phase will be compiled and organized for handover to UNDP and the most appropriate Government entity by 18 October. The data sets will include geo-referenced information on damage to homes and schools, reports on level of functionality of health centres, casualties from UXO incidents and other information related to the humanitarian response collected to date. In addition, the data collected will be available as an “open source”, available to the

wider community via the Virtual HIC Website (www.virtualhic.org).

EARLY RECOVERY PROGRAMME

36. The Office of the Prime Minister has clarified the institutional arrangement regarding the recovery and reconstruction process. The Government’s Recovery and Reconstruction Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister coordinates the prioritization of, and allocations to, the early recovery programme. In the overall national coordination structure, the Ministry of Finance leads coordination with the donors on their financial contributions and for resource mobilisation, while the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) is the national coordinating entity for the implementation of infrastructural activities.

37. On 29 September, the Recovery and Reconstruction Unit will hold a meeting with UN agencies, NGOs and others at the the Prime Minister’s Office to brief them on post-Stockholm Conference developments and provide guidance on how the International Community could provide effective and coordinated support to the Government during the early recovery phase and the transition to medium and longer term socio-economic reforms, as well as to overall recovery and reconstruction. The meeting will also discuss coordination at the programme prioritization level in support to the Government strategy.

38. The UN Country Team is supporting this national coordination framework through a number of initiatives: experts in various fields will be seconded to the Relief and Reconstruction cell at the request of the Government, and both UNDP and the World Bank have already agreed to second two international experts each. Other UN agencies are also supporting line ministries on sector assessments.

39. UNDP continues to support interventions at the local level, including repair of infrastructure and the clearance of rubble, as well as taking steps in addressing the oil spill problem in an integrated manner and helping immediate economic recovery. On the planning side, UNDP is providing technical support to central government coordination and to ongoing assessments regarding socioeconomic recovery.

40. The World Bank has approved a grant of US\$70 million for a Trust Fund for Lebanon to support the Government’s reconstruction efforts following the recent hostilities. The money will come from the Bank’s surplus, and will not

involve any additional debt burden for Lebanon. According to the World Bank, Lebanon is one of the most indebted countries in the world, with public debt in excess of 180 percent of GDP.”

41. The World Bank Trust Fund will be used in support of existing projects and to advance projects already under preparation, especially in the municipal and water sectors. Part of the grant will go to the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank Group. The IFC, in close cooperation with the Government, is preparing a program to rehabilitate Lebanon’s private sector, focusing, among other elements, on small and medium enterprises and the removal of administrative barriers.

Adopt-a-village strategy underway

42. As of 27 September, out of 251 damaged villages in Lebanon, 99 of the most severely damaged ones have now been adopted by various countries. According to the Prime Minister’s office, this constitutes a total of US\$640 million or 77 percent of the US\$ 840 million needed to cover all the villages.

Country	Number of villages adopted
UAE	18
Qatar	8
Egypt	7
Spain	5
Syria	3
Bahrain	1
Yemen	1
Saudi Arabia	29
Turkey	-
Kuwait	19
Kuwait’s private sector	1
Jordan	7