

# UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

# LEBANON

## IN 2007



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

### CORE COUNTRY DATA

Population under 18 (thousands)	1225
U5 mortality rate	30
Infant mortality rate	27
Maternal mortality ratio (1990-2005, reported)	100
Primary school enrolment ratio, 2000-2005, net (male/female)	94/93
% U1 fully immunized (DPT3)	92
% population using improved drinking water sources	100
Estimated no. of people (all ages) living with HIV, 2005 (thousands)	2.9
% U5 suffering from moderate and severe underweight	4

Source: *The State of the World's Children 2007*

### Summary of UNICEF financial needs for 2007

Sector	US\$
Health and nutrition	1,700,000
Education	1,500,000
Child protection	2,500,000
<b>Total*</b>	<b>5,700,000</b>

\* The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7 per cent. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

## 1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

The war waged on Lebanon from 12 July to 14 August 2006 has had a devastating effect on the population and most especially on children. Some 1,191 people were killed during the conflict and 4,398 injured, most of them civilians and an estimated one third of them children. Within days of the start of hostilities, over 900,000 people were displaced from their homes, primarily in South Lebanon and the southern suburbs of Beirut.

Massive damage to roads and other major infrastructure coupled with insecurity of movement – even for UN convoys – made the transport of humanitarian supplies into Lebanon and their distribution inside the country an especially complex task. The aerial, sea and land blockade created additional impediments to logistical operations.

The first week of the conflict saw the relocation of hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to safer areas in the north of the country including public gardens, schools, cinema theatres, and old uninhabited houses. Many people sought refuge with families and friends in parts of the country not directly impacted by the fighting. Immediately after the ceasefire was announced, families started to return to severely destroyed areas which posed a major threat to their physical safety.

Damage to health infrastructure, lack of essential drugs and low fuel reserves prevented minimal health standards from being maintained in conflict-affected areas. These public health challenges have been heightened by the damage and destruction to water systems in both urban and rural areas in South Lebanon, the Beqa'a Valley and the southern suburbs of Beirut. At least 1.7 million people are affected by either temporary interruption or full stoppage of water supply to their households.

Rapid assessments in the education sector indicate that 40 to 50 schools, of which 16 are public schools, were totally destroyed, while around 300 schools (or 10 per cent of all schools in the country) need repair. In addition to physical damages to the education infrastructure, school teachers will need to be prepared for the psychosocial effects of the war on children, young people and their parents. Feelings of frustration, hopelessness and distress will need to be acknowledged and addressed.

Cluster bombs and unexploded munitions pose an immediate and acute threat, particularly in the South which suffered the heaviest bombardment. By end-September 2006, the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) for South Lebanon had identified 592 cluster bomb strike locations where, according to UNMACC, as many as 1 million unexploded cluster sub-munitions could be scattered. The National Demining Office reports that, as of 6 November 2006, unexploded ordnance (UXO) have killed 5 children and injured 47. Without a massive education and awareness campaign, particularly targeted at children, these injuries are likely to increase over the estimated 18 months that it will take to destroy the majority of UXOs.

## 2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2006

To respond to short- and medium-term effects of the war on children and women in Lebanon, UNICEF-supported interventions focused on the priority areas of health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education, child protection and mine-risk/UXO awareness.

## Health

UNICEF supported an urgent immunization campaign, vaccinating 21,000 children aged 0-15 years against measles and 8,000 children aged 0-5 years against polio. The campaign also included vitamin A supplementation and was carried out in IDP locations and host families in Greater Beirut and South Lebanon (Saida).

UNICEF's assistance to the Ministry of Public Health also helped in alleviating critical threats to the health of displaced populations through the provision of essential drugs sufficient for an estimated 70,000 people.

After the ceasefire and massive return of the displaced populations to their home towns and villages, UNICEF's emphasis has shifted to the establishment of reliable cold-chain hubs and the extension of mobile outreach to underserved communities and the activation of a national polio vaccination campaign that was launched in its first phase on 30 October 2006.

## Water

To respond to the challenge of immediate relief assistance to IDPs temporarily sheltered in schools and other public spaces (totalling up to 140,000 people) in Beirut and other nearby towns in Mount Lebanon, UNICEF provided fifty-one 5,000-litre tanks of potable water for 25,000 IDPs and supplied bottled water to conflict-affected areas in South Lebanon. In addition, UNICEF provided family water kits and hygiene kits for young children and their parents.

As soon as the ceasefire allowed, these emergency interventions were complemented by a more systematic cooperation with Water Authorities of Beirut/Mount Lebanon, Beqa'a and South Lebanon, aimed at resuming sustainable water supply by reconstructing and extending major pipelines serving approximately 140,000 people. UNICEF also supported water tankering in 33 villages, repaired and reconstructed 16 water reservoirs, installed more than 300 water tanks and supplied 10 generators for water pumps.

An additional final distribution of 2 million litres of bottled water was sent to the most affected communities in South Lebanon where safe water supply has not yet been restored. These deliveries have been replaced by water tankering.

## Protection

Partnering with national and international NGOs, UNICEF supported the provision of psychosocial assistance and basic counselling to more than 300,000 children who suffered through the various distressing experiences during the weeks of conflict. Six hundred animators have been trained in creative, recreational and sports activities. These animators facilitate about 30 child-friendly spaces that have been established in Beirut, South Lebanon and Beqa'a. Mobile teams have also been established to provide services to surrounding villages. Similarly, youth groups have been sensitized to the values of citizenship and solidarity and also mobilized and trained to build their capacities in leadership, community work, counselling and establishing economic opportunities. The most vulnerable children's needs are addressed through a specifically designed project aimed at providing special services in the most affected areas of the South. Child protection is being formalized by establishing a child protection monitoring system with the Ministry of Social Affairs, which will continue to identify and respond to the needs of children.

## UXO-awareness campaign

At least 1 million people in South Lebanon, Beqa'a Valley and the southern suburbs of Beirut (i.e., in areas especially affected by landmines, cluster munitions, and unexploded ordnance) are being reached with mine-risk education/UXO-awareness messages, as part of a UNICEF-promoted campaign implemented in coordination with the National Demining Office, the Lebanese Army and other UN agencies. To reach a maximum audience, various information, education, and communication materials have been used, such as posters, flyers, banners, TV spots and radio messages. Labels printed on UNICEF-supplied bottled water have also carried these messages and have been distributed in most affected areas. UNICEF and the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

funded the training on mine-risk education of over 200 trainers, who will lead sessions in 148 villages targeting parents, agriculture workers, farmers, children and teachers. UNICEF's partners have already begun mine-risk education sessions for children in child-friendly spaces in affected areas of South Lebanon.

### **Education**

The Ministry of Education, in partnership with UNICEF, initiated a national back-to-school campaign to ensure that public schools began on 16 October 2006. UNICEF has provided essential learning materials to 1,400 public and subsidized private schools throughout Lebanon. These materials include items for teachers to set up their classrooms as well as school supplies and backpacks for each individual student. This programme will benefit 400,000 students throughout the country.

To help ensure children's emotional recovery, UNICEF is supporting 'train-the-trainer' sessions in which counsellors receiving training will in turn provide teachers with the skills to work with children affected by conflict or crisis, including identifying and working with distressed children, managing classrooms effectively and contributing to children's psychosocial well-being.

## **3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2007**

### **Coordination and partnership**

UN Country Team is involved in the national recovery/reconstruction process through the mechanism of the Recovery Cell established at the Prime Minister's Office. Lebanon Recovery Fund is currently being established jointly by the Government and the UN as a channel for donor contributions pledged at the post-conflict Stockholm Conference in August 2006 (as an additional option complementing any bilateral arrangements that may still be preferable for some donors). Finalization of Lebanon's Common Country Assessment and preparation of the UN Development Assistance Framework for the period 2009-2013 will reflect the cluster approach and lessons learned in cluster coordination. Joint UN Country Team emergency preparedness plan will be operational for 2007.

### **Regular programme**

Lebanon recovery and reconstruction activities in 2007 will be accommodated by the approved structure of the Country Programme of Cooperation, with post-emergency health, education, water and sanitation, child protection and mine-risk education components absorbed by regular programmes addressing the issues of childcare and development, learning, child and youth development and protection and policy development (including national emergency preparedness policies).

### **Health and nutrition (US\$ 1,700,000)**

Some 400,000 children and their families in the conflict-affected areas in South Lebanon and Beqa'a Valley will benefit from the following key activities:

- Restore and strengthen primary health care services with the provision of supplies and equipment by integrating community outreach services, especially for women and children, into the primary health care system in conflict-affected and underserved areas;
- Revitalize routine immunization activities by effective outreach micro-planning and activities to reach every village in underserved/not served areas ('reach every district' approach);
- Restore destroyed cold-chain infrastructure with special emphasis on underserved areas and purchase necessary equipment;
- Support the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in the development and implementation of a long-term master plan for the reconstruction of the health sector in Lebanon. UNICEF will support MoPH in building capacity for emergency response and management at the central and governorate levels.

### **Education (US\$ 1,500,000)**

Some 400,000 schoolchildren and their families in the conflict-affected and impoverished areas will benefit from the following key activities:

- Provide recreational material and equipment for all 1,400 public schools in the country;
- Involve all 1,400 public schools in specialized teacher trainings on psychosocial counselling techniques (through a series of cascade trainings to be done in coordination with the Ministry of Education to the 105 trainers already trained on classroom management and who in turn train and orient teachers nationwide);
- Involve all 1,400 public schools in identifying and training one or two counsellors in each school to be a peer counsellor and give proper psychosocial support both to the administration and the students;
- Support the Ministry of Education in the development and implementation of a long-term master plan for the reconstruction of the education sector in Lebanon.

### **Child protection (US\$ 2,500,000)**

Up to 250,000 children in the conflict-affected areas in South Lebanon and Beqa'a Valley will benefit from the following key activities:

- Establish about 30 child-friendly spaces in areas where no cultural/recreational facilities for children and youth currently exist;
- Provide psychosocial assistance to children to promote resilience and distress-coping mechanisms through structured play and other recreational activities facilitated by specially trained social workers and animators (with special emphasis on severely affected children and children from 'at-risk' groups, such as disabled children, orphans, out-of-school children and/or those exposed to violence and abuse);
- Stimulate the participation of Lebanese youth in the recovery process of their communities, by contributing to the rehabilitation of schools and community centres in their neighbourhood and by promoting civic participation and national dialogue;
- Ensure that all people in conflict-affected areas are covered by mine/UXO-awareness and education activities to reduce their exposure to mines and unexploded ordnance.