

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS
UNICEF Situation Report – Lebanon
Thursday 28 September 2006

Key Statistics

IMPACT OF CONFLICT	
Deaths	1,191 (source: Higher Relief Committee)
Injured	4,405 (source: Higher Relief Committee)
Estimated number of Internally Displaced (%children)	Approx 200,000 (source: Higher Relief Committee)
Homes damaged or destroyed	30,000 (source: Higher Relief Committee)
Estimated # of unexploded cluster bomblets in south Lebanon	1 million (source: UNMACC)
Estimated total number of UXOs cleared in last four weeks	40,000 (source: UNMACC)
Number killed by UXOs since cessation of hostilities (14 August)	15 (including 3 children) *as of Sept. 28
Number injured by UXOs since cessation of hostilities (14 August)	93 (including 35 children) *as of Sept 28

SITUATION IN LEBANON

Major Developments

- The cessation of hostilities called for by UN Security Council resolution 1701 for 14 August continues to hold.
- According to the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) for south Lebanon, 590 cluster bomb strike locations were located up to 21 September, and at least 104 people were killed or injured by cluster bomb explosions after the resolution was implemented. UNMACC estimates that there are a minimum of one million unexploded cluster bomblets contaminating the south.
- The UNDP reported that 70 percent of land in war-affected areas is contaminated with cluster bombs. In the first six weeks after the cessation of hostilities, 35 children have been injured by cluster bomb explosions and three killed (including one child killed and three children injured on 27 September). In total, more than 104 people were victims of UXO explosions during that period – almost equalling the yearly rate of casualties from UXOs during 2000 and 2001, and exceeding the combined rate for 2003 to 2005 inclusive.
- According to UNIFIL, it is expected that Israeli troops will have completely evacuated from Lebanese territory by the end of September. So far, 90 percent of the territory occupied during the 34-day war has been handed over to international forces (reported by Reuters).
- There are approximately 5,000 international troops in Lebanon, the majority French, Italian and Spanish. Deployment is taking place in coordination with the Lebanese Army. Resolution 1701 stipulates that 15,000 international troops be stationed in south Lebanon, alongside 15,000 Lebanese Army troops.
- Red Crescent Society of UAE signed an agreement with UNICEF supporting Lebanon’s recovery. Under the agreement, the UAE Red Crescent will provide \$1 million towards UNICEF projects in south Lebanon covering water supply, education and health.

- The Saudi Public Campaign for Lebanon People Recovery announced in a press conference in Beirut on 20 September the allocation of \$2.2 million for UNICEF to support early recovery efforts in the water, health, and education sectors of certain areas of southern Lebanon.
- The League of Arab States (LAS) Technical Consultative Committee on Childhood held a special session on Lebanese Children in Beirut on Friday and Saturday 22 and 23 September. UNICEF was represented by Anis Salem, MENA regional communications advisor and UNICEF MENA Goodwill Ambassador Mahmoud Kabil. During his visit, Mr. Kabil visited UNICEF-supported psychosocial projects near Tyre. Eleven of the 22 member states participated in the LAS session: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, and UAE together with a few NGOs (e.g., SCF Sweden, the Arab Institute for Human Rights, Red Cross). The final declaration from the session referred to the committee's visits to south Lebanon and condemned war crimes, calling for compliance with international humanitarian law and requesting that the international community, especially UN organizations, work towards criminalizing war crimes and actively pursuing violators. It also called for increased humanitarian support to Lebanon.

Health

- Final joint statement issued by UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, WFP, the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Affairs on optimal infant and child health feeding, asking stakeholders not to promote baby formulas from birth, but to promote breastfeeding and complementary child formulas instead, for both development and health reasons. Messages promoting breastfeeding to be distributed to all stakeholders including donors, aid agencies, NGOs and health care providers – especially hospitals.
- Essential immunization work chains have been dispatched to all areas, including the most-affected areas. UNICEF is prepared to provide immunization services in collaboration with NGOs to the population of areas most affected by war. Routine immunization systems have been restored in many locations in the south, and are slowly going back to normal. A health cluster meeting is scheduled for the coming week to strengthen existing immunization strategies.
- A national polio vaccination campaign to be launched 30 October, with a second phase planned for 4 December. Dates subject to change. Polio vaccination campaigns will incorporate the provision of vitamin A supplements.
- A measles campaign will be incorporated into the polio vaccination campaign for the most vulnerable areas. National measles rubella (MR) vaccination campaign is being planned for the spring.
- Despite fears of overcrowding and potential sanitation problems, no diarrhoea outbreaks have been reported.

Education

- Public school registration began 18 September. School year set to start 16 October, as planned by Ministry of Education (MoE). UNICEF has a lead role in organizing the back-to-school campaign.
- UNICEF visited Baalbek and Hermel regions in the Beqaa Valley and south Lebanon to assess damage to education facilities and other needs to get schools ready for the national back-to-school campaign.
- In areas where schools suffered heavy damage, such as Bint Jbeil, a double shift system might be introduced, while there are still plans for setting up pre-fabricated buildings to compensate for heavily-damaged school infrastructure.

- UNICEF will be providing 400,000 school bags for pre-school, primary and intermediate school children nationwide. Schoolbags with stationery to be given out at the beginning of school year.
- UNICEF 'school in a carton' materials and supplies including pens, pencils and notebooks will be provided to schools. 4,000 cartons containing basic stationery material (each carton provides enough for 40 students and teachers) arrived this week from Copenhagen. Distribution started in Nabatiyeh, Beqaa, Baalbek, South Lebanon, Mount Lebanon this week.
- UNICEF is coordinating with the MoE on training of trainers and teachers on psychosocial issues and management of distress. UXO awareness material is also being developed.

Protection

- UNICEF is the leading agency in mine risk education (MRE) and a key partner in launching and developing TV spots, radio, leaflets, and training sessions.
- The main focus of strategies to protect children from UXOs is shifting from the contamination of schools and homes to the massive proliferation of clusters in fields and valleys, where children often play. As assessment gets underway, more and more areas are being marked by UNMACC. It is to be expected, however, that children are more likely than adults to take risks and approach UXOs – hence the need to intensify MRE among children.
- UNICEF continues to raise awareness about UXOs, placing awareness labels on all bottled water distributed in areas where water systems were damaged by war, working on incorporating UXO and mine-awareness programmes into the national school curriculum, and distributing child-friendly brochures in contaminated areas. One million 2-litre bottles of water distributed to affected areas carried the awareness stickers; another one million 2-litre bottles have been ordered.
- With UNICEF assistance, psychosocial training sessions are being held for 2,200 teachers from 19 Al-Mabarrat schools, based in southern suburbs of Beirut and south Lebanon. These sessions focus on managing the new school year and dealing with cases of children suffering from distress.
- With UNICEF funding and supervision in Tyre and Nabatiye, two projects in collaboration with Hoops recreational centre and Intersos international NGO are underway. These projects provide child-friendly spaces where children from villages across the south can play for a half or full day, away from the destruction of their villages and the risks posed by UXOs. The project duration – initially intended to last until end November – has been extended for another six months.
- Youth camps for the south planned to start this week, bringing together people from all regions and religious affiliations. UNICEF will fund and supervise the camps along with the Lebanese NGO collective Civil Campaign for Relief, aiming at promoting the values of secular, non-sectarian citizenship.
- Scouts will rehabilitate 10 schools in south Lebanon in preparation for the new school year, bringing in youth volunteers both from the affected areas and from the rest of the country. UNICEF will fund the project, which will increase youth participation in the recovery process, thus constituting an important exercise in citizenship.

WASH

- Since the start of the war, UNICEF has provided more than two million litres of bottled water to more than 100 villages in South Lebanon. Now, as the recovery process gets underway and permanent and temporary solutions are being found for drinkable and non-drinkable water supply. UNICEF has placed what is likely its final order for bottled water (one million 2-litre bottles).

- In South Lebanon progress is being made on increasing the amount of water provided by tanker, which is a necessary step to allow the phase-out of provision of bottled water. UNICEF contracted the provision of tankers in eight municipalities. Tankering will continue until the water facilities are repaired and brought back into operation.
- WASH staff visited the severely damaged southern suburbs of Beirut to discuss potential support for reconstruction with municipality representatives. It is expected that repairs to the water system in the southern suburbs alone will cost about \$400,000.
- WASH staff assessed the water situation as rapidly improving in Lebanon. Ever since hostilities ended, repair and rehabilitation work has been carried out with increasing speed and efficiency. The gradual repair of electricity systems has rendered pumping to affected areas possible on an increasingly wider scale. Nevertheless, much remains to be done, as many areas in the south and in Beqaa continue to suffer from total blackouts, rendering many villages dependent on generators.

UNICEF Situation Report - Syria Week 22 – 28 September, 2006

Key Statistics – Syria

Number of Lebanese refugees remaining in Syria	141 (according to UNHCR)
Pre-positioning by UN agencies (estimate #)	20,000

UNICEF Programmatic Response

Health

- SYCO office received this week the health pre-positioning items: 20 boxes of ORS, 17-1st aid kits, 5 Oxfam kits and 9 emergency Health kits, 30 vaccine cold boxes + 500 EA thermometers of cold chain for 20,000 for a period of one month.

Supply and Logistics

- The shipments of 30,000 baby hygiene kits have been completed and sent to LCO.
- Shipments of adult hygiene kits (procured from Bulgaria) for a total of 9349 transited through Syria to LCO this week as well as 20,000 collapsible water containers.
- The 1st delivery of 10,000 school bags (for secondary) was sent to Lebanon. This is part of a total of 84,400 procured by SYCO for LCO.

The Syria Office response to the Lebanese Crisis in Numbers (23 July – 28 September 2006)

Health and Nutrition

- Vaccination provided to all refugee children at sites (PV coverage 131.0% (U5), MMR - 125.7% (10 – 59 months), Measles - 116.8% (6-15), Meningitis - 117.2% (24 -59)).
- 16 Health staff trained on BF messages
- 40.000 ORS delivered at the borders

Water and Sanitation

- Hygiene supplies provided to **63.272** people
- 2 latrines built and maintained at the boarder points and Zabadani Pioneer Camp.

Education

- 31 schools assessed and rehabilitated

Child Protection

- 8 Child friendly spaces established (pre-positioned for 30 CFS)
- 290 volunteers trained on psycho-social support
- Around 105.000 persons received information on Landmines/UXO
- Recreational kit to 4.517 children

Miscellaneous Supplies to Centres

- Mattresses, blankets and sheets to around 1.200 people

Supplies to Lebanon from Syria

- 24.840 Baby Hygiene kits
- 30 Recreational kits

Supplies Transited through Syria

- Medical and water supplies (two air cargos)
- 1 shipment of drugs and first aid kits
- One Vaccine shipment
- A convoy with family water kits
- 25.000 Adult Hygiene Kits
- 3.000 Recreational kits
- 1 Rub hall
- 1 Ambulance
- 2 Armoured Vehicles
- Collapsible Jerry Cans (one truck)
- 15.000 School in a box kits

Prepositioning of Supplies now available in the airport and waiting the Exemptions:

- 5 OXFAM Kits,
- 17 First Aid Kits
- 9 Emergency Health Kit
- 20 ORS boxes
- 30 Vaccine Cold Boxes
- 500 EA Thermometers