

UNRWA FLASH APPEAL

Lebanon

Final Report 2006

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INTRODUCTION

The July 2006 war led to the mass displacement of around 900,000 civilians – nearly one quarter of Lebanon's population – who were forced to flee their towns and villages as a result of the Israeli bombing campaign of residential areas, particularly in the south and in Beirut's southern suburbs. Israeli aerial bombardments of infrastructure and public facilities caused extensive damage or destruction to bridges, road networks, hospitals, schools, power plants, seaports and fuel depots. Entire communities, particularly in the south and the Beqa'a Valley, became inaccessible.

At the start of the crisis the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) met to plan a response and an Inter-agency Flash Appeal for Lebanon was launched soon after the beginning of hostilities to respond to the emergency. The Flash Appeal aimed at covering the immediate humanitarian needs of the Lebanese population affected by the war and initially requested some US\$155 million. As a result of a more detailed needs assessment it was revised to US\$7.2 million after the cessation of hostilities on 14 August 2006.

IMPACT ON PALESTINE REFUGEES

Palestine refugees in Lebanon were also affected by the war. Some 16,000 refugees, including children, infants and elderly, fled from the camps in southern Lebanon and the camps in Beirut to escape the fighting, taking with them very few personal belongings. The majority were hosted by families and around 4,000 took refuge in UNRWA schools (inside and outside the camps) and in other Agency installations in safer parts of the country.





Palestine refugee camps in safer areas hosted many Lebanese civilians who were displaced by the fighting. Emergency food assistance, water, and medical supplies were urgently required for those families who fled as well as for the refugees who were trapped in the camps for the duration of the hostilities.

There was a concern that with such a large displacement the refugees would be prone to outbreaks of communicable diseases. UNRWA organized the distribution of medicines and medical supplies, particularly to the conflict areas and collective centres to mitigate a deterioration of the health situation. While there were minimal direct casualties amongst the refugee population those with long-term illnesses, such as cancer or diabetes, were indirectly affected in terms of lack of access to hospitals for their regular treatment.

In total 181 Palestine refugee shelters were destroyed or damaged in the attacks in the Tyre area (in Rashidieh, El-Buss and Bourj el-Shemali camps), in Ein el-Hilweh camp, and in the Beqa'a Valley (Wavell camp). Refugees living in Beirut's southern suburbs also had homes damaged or destroyed. Only one UNRWA facility, the Nabatieh Health Centre in the south, was damaged.

Israel's military blockade of the country for several weeks after the cessation of hostilities contributed to the damage to the Lebanese economy. Thousands of Lebanese civilians and Palestine refugees lost their sources of income and livelihoods as a result of the war.

The displacement of refugees put an enormous strain on UNRWA's capacity and resources. At the onset of the crisis the Agency's logistical capacity was not sufficient to cope with the emergency needs. Extra staff, equipment, support services and resources for coordination were all needed, and additional vehicles, generators and fuel were required for the relief operations and to continue the functioning of the Agency's installations. Protection and communications equipment (e.g. flak jackets, helmets, radios, cell phones) were provided for staff working in the conflict areas and UNRWA installations were protected with markings and sand bagging.

UNRWA FLASH APPEAL

UNRWA's component of the Inter-Agency Appeal was reproduced in an UNRWA Flash Appeal that was issued on 3 August 2006. As with the Inter-Agency Appeal the initial budget of US\$ 7,233,800 was subsequently revised downwards to US\$ 4,567,686 on 24 August 2006, after a revised needs assessment was conducted.

Total funding received by UNRWA under the Flash Appeal was US\$ 5,581,441. In line with the Inter-Agency Appeal and current IASC guidelines on best practices, UNRWA's appeal was structured into "clusters" or areas of intervention and was guided by the Agency's mandate to provide emergency relief services to the Palestine refugee population.

By mid-November 2006, all the emergency activities funded under the Flash Appeal were completed.

Food and Nutrition

General Aim

To ensure food security amongst the Palestine refugees affected by the hostilities.

Objectives

- To maintain minimal nutritional standards for 30,000 affected refugee families.
- To ensure adequate nutrition for children and prevent and/or control micronutrient deficiency amongst the affected refugee population.
- To provide food support to displaced families and refugees trapped by the conflict in the camps in the south.

Report on activities

- Basic food commodities for 30,000 Palestine refugee families (around 150,000 persons) were purchased for general emergency food aid distribution targeting all those affected by the war and in need. Food distribution was organized for refugees in camps in the Tyre area on 31 July, and on 9 August in the Beqa'a Valley and later in Saida, Beirut and north Lebanon area.
- A total of 12,463 pre-packed food parcels, containing a high percentage of no cook or low-cook foods, were distributed to displaced refugees in camps in Beirut, Saida and north Lebanon area as well as to refugees in Tyre and the Beqa'a Valley.

- Due to the scarcity of commodities in the local market during the war it was possible to purchase only 1,930 cans of cereal and 120 cans of powdered milk. Following the ceasefire, plans for baby parcel distribution were revised to reflect the changing needs of beneficiaries and provisions for one additional month for 1,833 infants and children were issued in November 2006 (1,533 in Tyre and 300 in the Beqa'a Valley).

Results achieved

- Acute food insecurity amongst the affected refugees was averted.
- Minimal nutritional standards during were maintained.

Shelter, Site Management and Non-Food Items

Aim

To ensure that refugees displaced by the hostilities have adequate emergency shelter, basic supplies and services.

Objectives

- Provide safe, adequate and habitable accommodation for displaced refugees.
- Ensure that displaced families have access to adequate clean water supplies and sanitation facilities.
- Ensure that displaced refugees and those who became unemployed due to the hostilities have adequate basic supplies and the means to survive the crisis.
- Ensure that damaged/destroyed shelters are repaired or rebuilt.

Report on activities

- Non-food items, totaling \$378,828, were purchased and distributed to 2,909 displaced refugees whose shelters were damaged or destroyed. These items included mattresses, pillows, cotton covers, 10 or 20 litre jerry cans, towels, kitchen kits, toilet paper, tooth brushes/toothpaste, sanitary pads and baby diapers.





- A total of \$200,000 of emergency cash was distributed to approximately 400 refugee families who were directly or indirectly affected by the war. Beneficiaries included those whose shelters and business premises were destroyed and refugees who became jobless as result of the hostilities.
- A total of \$155,000 in cash (\$60 per family) was distributed to 2,566 refugee families in the Beqa'a Valley to help them purchase heating oil for the winter. This assistance was welcomed by the refugees whose incomes had been badly affected by the war.
- A total of 144 shelters were repaired or reconstructed:
 - Wavel camp*: Minor repairs on 81 shelters costing US\$90,000 was completed by November 2006.
 - Tyre area*: 11 shelters were reconstructed and 46 repaired in areas outside the official camps.
 - Saida area (near Ein el-Hilweh camp)*: 11 shelters were reconstructed and 21 shelters repaired in Sikkeh refugee area benefiting 240 persons; 2 shelters were reconstructed and 9 shelters repaired benefiting 60 persons in Sohon refugee area.
- A total of \$19,810 was dispersed to help 15 micro-credit clients re-start their business as compensation for damages during the hostilities.

Results achieved

- The displaced refugee population was provided with safe shelter and basic services and all planned activities were successfully implemented.

Water and Sanitation

Aim

- Ensure Palestine refugees affected by the hostilities have access to safe, clean water supplies and are able to maintain acceptable hygiene standards.
- Ensure the continuation of services in camps, refugee areas and UNRWA installations.

Objectives

- To ensure the provision of clean water supplies (70-100 litres per person per day) and sanitation services for approximately 30,000 displaced refugee families and those remaining in camps and refugee areas affected by the hostilities.
- To maintain water supplies and sanitation services in the camps and refugee areas.
- To ensure water quality control.
- To maintain and repair water and supporting power networks to ensure continuity of services for affected families in camps and refugee areas.
- To maintain water supplies and sanitation services in UNRWA installations.

Report on activities

- UNRWA distributed clean water supplies to camps affected by municipal electricity supply cuts, e.g., in Dbayeh and El-Buss camps, and to displaced families temporarily accommodated in UNRWA schools.
- Fuel tanks (1,000 to 2,000 litres) were supplied to UNRWA installations. In total 109,000 litres of fuel was provided to water plants.
- The supply of gas oil for six refugee areas in Saida and Tyre (benefiting 10,500 refugees) was crucial in encouraging people to stay in their locations to avoid insecure displacement.
- Emergency funds were used to repair damages to the electrical generators for the water plant in the Qasmieh area allowing the resumption of water supplies from local wells. The local submersible water pump was also repaired.
- Two electrical generators supplying 100kva were purchased for water plants in Ein el-Hilweh and Rashidieh camps, and one 45kva generator was procured to run the emergency water supply in El-Buss camp to ensure the continuation of supplies after the national power grid was damaged. Damaged water distribution networks in Ein el-Hilweh camp and the Qasmieh area were repaired. Water supplies were quickly restored for around 10,000 refugees (7,000 in Ein el-Hilweh and 3,000 in Qasmieh area).
- Water chlorinators were procured and installed in Ein el-Hilweh and Mia Mia camps with adequate quantities of disinfectants. Monitoring of water quality was carried out with chlorine testing kits and the corresponding reagents.
- Additional sanitation workers and support staff were hired for three months and extra equipment and supplies purchased to ensure the efficient distribution of water supplies and to carry out the solid waste collection and fumigation campaigns in all camps and refugee areas. Fumigation campaigns were repeated during and after the crisis.

- 13 radio sets for environmental health staff were procured to enhance communications and security when moving between the camps, especially in the Tyre area.

Results achieved

- All affected refugee communities had access to safe clean drinking water and were able to maintain basic hygiene standards during the war through access to sanitation facilities and electricity supplies.

Health

Aim

- Ensure emergency medical support is available for refugees injured during the hostilities and that displaced refugees and all those affected by the hostilities have access to UNRWA health services.
- Ensure that UNRWA's health services continue to function during the hostilities.

Objectives

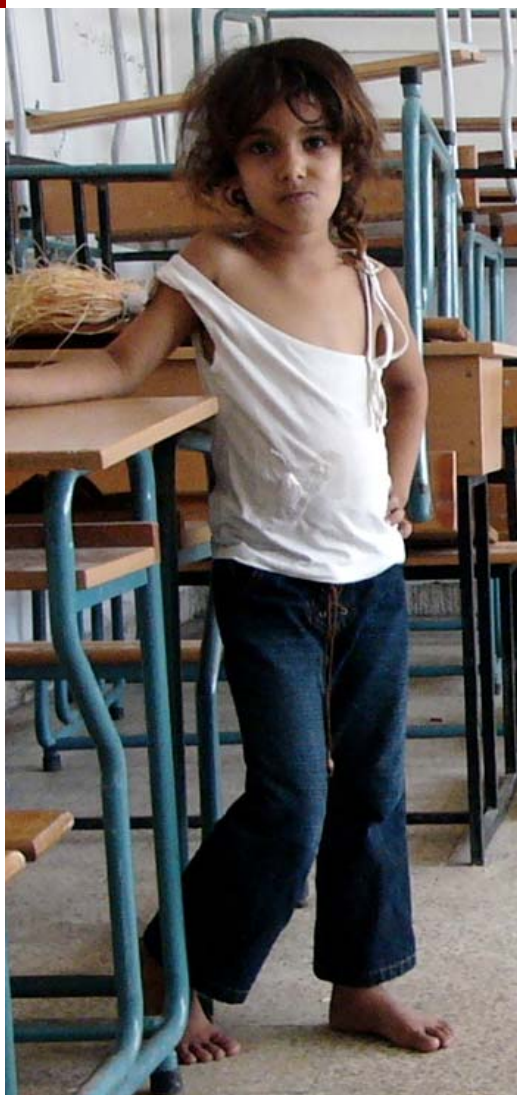
- To provide emergency services for casualties from Unexploded Ordnance (UXO).
- To maintain the primary and secondary health care services, including hospitalisation.
- To provide temporary financial support to patients in need of special tertiary care such as kidney dialysis and cancer treatment.
- To maintain the distribution of medical supplies to all UNRWA health centres.

Report on activities

- All refugees injured by UXOs (less than expected) were treated and four emergency cases were hospitalized.
- Medical supply distributions were carried out.
- Financial support was provided to chronically ill patients to enable them to continue their treatment: 15 patients undergoing kidney dialysis were provided with a total of US\$14,522.55; 40 patients undergoing cancer treatment were provided with a total of US\$43,362; 10 patients requiring haemodialysis were referred to hospitals in Beirut and Tripoli due to the inaccessibility of Hamshari Hospital in Ein el-Hilweh camp.
- An additional 25 counselors were hired for one month to provide counseling to refugees who were suffering from trauma due to their isolation during the hostilities.
- Nabatieh Health Centre, which was damaged during the war, was renovated and provided with new medical equipment and furniture.

Results achieved

- Medical support was provided to all affected refugees and the Agency's health services continued to function during the hostilities.
- No shortages of medications or vaccines were reported in the UNRWA health centres.



Education

Aim

- Ensure that the majority of children in UNRWA schools are able to return to school at the end of the hostilities.

Objectives

- To provide support to students affected by the war to enable them to return to school.
- To ensure that the schools used by displaced refugees are of acceptable standards before the start of the academic year.
- To provide psycho-social support to traumatized students.
- To ensure that there is an increased awareness of the dangers of UXOs amongst the 27,022 pupils at 40 schools in areas most affected by the hostilities.

Report on activities

- 15,000 refugee students from Tyre, Saida and Beirut's southern suburbs, whose families had been badly affected by the hostilities, were provided with basic school supplies and were able to return to school.

- 12 schools in the Tyre area for 6,260 pupils, and 2 schools in Beirut for 1,039 pupils (in Shatila and Mar Elias camps), which had accommodated displaced refugees, were repaired and cleaned ready to be used by the start of the school year.
- Psychosocial support was provided to 1,500 students most affected by the conflict. The programme was run in cooperation with local NGOs and other UN agencies.
- Mine awareness campaigns on the dangers of UXOs were organised for 27,022 pupils, including 3,645 traumatized pupils, in 40 schools in central Lebanon, the Beqa'a Valley, Saida and Tyre area and brochures were distributed.

Results achieved

- All affected students were provided with psychosocial support and recreational facilities and were able to return to school on time.
- Schoolchildren in the Tyre area and the Beqa'a Valley received school supplies.
- All schools used for housing displaced refugees were cleaned and repaired before the start of the school year.

Security and Coordination

Aim

- All emergency relief operations are properly supported and organized and minimum operating safety and security standards are in place.

Objectives

- To ensure effective coordination for the humanitarian operational response with other UN agencies and NGOs.
- To ensure the safety and security of staff carrying out emergency activities and relief operations in areas affected by the hostilities and the security of all UNRWA facilities and installations.

Report on Activities

- Emergency food convoys to the conflict areas, utilizing WFP provided trucks, were coordinated between UNRWA's Procurement and Logistics Department, the World Food Programme (WFP), and other UN Agencies and NGOs .
- Extra personal protective equipment (PPE) was procured and provided to staff carrying out the relief emergency operations, including 70 fragmentation jackets, 70 ballistic helmets and 40 UN blue vests.
- An UNRWA warehouse was temporarily allocated to the World Health Organization (WHO) for the storage of medical supplies and the Agency facilitated the distribution of these supplies on behalf of WHO.
- UNRWA also provided warehouse and storage facilities for other UN agencies involved in the emergency operations: UNICEF stored large quantities of fuel in UNRWA's storage tanks; and one of UNRWA's hangars at the Lebanon Field Office's central warehouse was used by UNHCR as a transit store for non-food items. WFP continued providing trucks for transporting basic commodities from Lattakia port in Syria to UNRWA's warehouse facility in Beirut.

Results achieved

- Transportation, warehousing and planned distribution schedules set by various departments were fully achieved and successfully implemented. All supplies were stored inside warehouses upon delivery. Timely procurement of emergency supplies was carried out despite the high volumes of good involved.



Financial Report

The Flash Appeal was funded by contributions from the USA, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, ECHO, Norway, Near East Cultural and Educational Foundation of Canada (NECEF) and one small private donation was received.

Total contribution was US\$5,581,441

The funding details are as follows:

Donor	Amount in US \$	Status
USA	1,952,141	Earmarked for shelter repairs, water and sanitation activities, food distribution
Germany	1,404,241	Un-earmarked
ECHO	1,051,247	Un-earmarked
Switzerland	559,986	Earmarked for educational activities
Canada	450,616	Un-earmarked
Norway	161,812	Un-earmarked
NECEF	1,373	Un-earmarked
Private Donation	25	Un-earmarked

Financial details

The attached financial annexes (I and II) show the amounts of disbursed funds against allocated budgets to each cluster and in accordance with each donor's contributed amount. An amount of \$33,624, out of ECHO's total donation of \$1,051,247, was not spent due to "non-intentional" delay in the implementation of the project (the agreement end date was 12 January 2007).

Annex I: Budget & Expenditure by Donor

Donor Country	Budget US\$	Net Budget US\$	Total Expenditure including Soft & Hard Commitment	Remaining Balance US\$
USA	1,952,141	1,841,642	1,839,160	2,478
Canada	450,616	425,109	424,233	1
Germany	1,404,241	1,324,754	1,324,754	0
Switzerland	559,986	528,289	527,384	905
ECHO	1,051,247	982,474	948,850	33,624
Norway	161,812	161,812	161,810	2
NECEF	1,373	1,373	1,373	0
Private Contribution	25	25	25	0
Total	5,581,441	5,265,478	5,228,464	37,014

Budget includes Programme Support Cost

Net Budget excludes Programme Support Cost

Annex II: Disbursed funds against allocated budgets to each cluster

Cluster	Net Budget US\$	Expenditure Including Soft & Hard Commitments US\$	Remaining Balance US\$
Food & Nutrition	1,170,309	1,169,516	793
Shelter, Site Management and Non-Food Items	1,288,583	1,287,745	838
Water & Sanitation	328,858	303,774	25,084
Health	753,150	746,566	6,584
Education	852,086	851,073	1,013
Security & Coordination	872,492	869,790	2,702
Total	5,265,478	5,228,464	37,014

