

The Near East Foundation Responding To The Crisis In Lebanon -- updates August 1, 2006

In response to this crisis, the Near East Foundation assessment local team has been working in Lebanon since the beginning of the conflict to evaluate the situation. The team has held meetings and conducted visits all over the country (where access is possible.) The team visited internally displaced people (IDP) centers and various locations hosting IDPs, including houses hosting displaced. The team has been in close consultation with its long-time partner Lebanese NGOs well located in affected areas, including most affected areas (Nabatiyeh and Saidon in the South.) The team prepared a comprehensive humanitarian and health assessment in consultation with NEF regional staff and NEF local and international partners.

As a result, NEF is responding to the immediate and urgent needs of ten of thousands of children and families that fled their homes and are now living in schools and parks, or trapped in their homes without electricity and running water and are unable to meet basic food, medical and hygiene needs. These areas are Bekaa, Beirut, North Lebanon, Mount Lebanon and the South, where access is possible.

The majority of internally displaced people live in very bad humanitarian conditions as forced to flee unexpectedly on the one hand, and taking refuge in unprepared centers on the other. They fled, leaving everything behind, without basic necessities such as medication, clothing and other supplies, under the shelling and air raids. Most of them had to walk to reach other areas and centers, or gathering places. This reality reveals the vast and unlimited needs of the displaced in relation to food supplies, mattresses, clothing, cleaning supplies, medicines, water and sanitary facilities, and other basic daily needs. With the blockade and the shelling, shortages of water and electricity, gas, fuel and other basic requirements are growing. Prices have gone up as the demand is much higher than the offer. Supplies are diminishing. It is expected that the needs will grow even more to include lodging and heating, few weeks from the end of summer.

In partnership with Human Concern International (HCI) and through its local partners, NEF is currently engaged in the following activities as response to the current crisis in Lebanon:

Area	Local partner CSOs	Current Activities (31 July, 2006)
Zahleh, Bekaa Valley	Dar Assadaqa, Zahleh	- Entertainment activities for the displaced children who are located in the schools in Zahleh. - Supporting volunteers to harvest local crops that will be distributed among the displaced families.
Saida, South Lebanon	ISWA, Saida.	Delivering warm meals and food shares for displaced families from other villages of south Lebanon coming into Saida.
Saida, South Lebanon	Philanthropic Association for the Disabled Care - PADC/ Nabatiyeh.	Assessing the needs of a group of families located in public places and the military casern. Items include blankets and mattresses in addition to food shares and hygienic kits.

Sawfar, Maten, Mount Lebanon	Philanthropic Association for the Disabled Care - PADC/ Nabatiyeh.	Assessing the needs of group of displaced families who are reaching Maten area (Sawfar village); these groups are staying in public non sheltered places and parks for at least 7 days before they find a better place to stay in. We are working to secure them the essential needs until they find a shelter.
Koura, North Lebanon	AL IRSHAD Association.	- Running a mobile dispensary in Koura Area – North Lebanon to secure needed medicines and free medical check up for displaced families. - Deliver needed food shares and mattresses for displaced families.
Akkar, North Lebanon	Al AZM WAL SAADA Association.	- Secure needed food, medicines, hygienic kits and medical check up for displaced families in 2 schools. - Secure needed food and medicines and hygienic kits for displaced families in Tekrit village – AKKAR area.
North Lebanon	Group of doctors and social workers volunteers.	Secure needed food, clothes, medicines and hygienic kits for displaced families in 13 schools located in various areas of North Lebanon.
Donnieh, North Lebanon	Union of the Municipalities of Donnieh	Secure needed medicines, hygienic kits and food shares for displaced families hosted in houses in Donnieh area.

NEF is working with the following three categories of people in need of assistance:

- (1) Persons and families forced to leave to more secure places far from the areas subject to bombing. Most of those are staying in schools, church-related private and public schools and convents, and mosque-related institutions and other public premises. Some better off families have rented houses or stayed in hotels; others are staying in relatives' houses.
- (2) People forced to flee bombing within their area of residence, to safer pockets as unable to secure a way out or deciding to stay close to their homes and land. Most of those are staying in schools, church-related private and public schools and convents, and mosque-related institutions, public premises. Others are staying in relatives' houses.
- (3) Persons and families still in their homes, in villages subject to constant shelling and air raids. The majority live in despair and cannot leave due to permanently sick or handicapped or elderly members, or because of painful experiences of previous displacement, or totally unable to move out of their villages under constant shelling and totally cut from other villages.

LEBANON CRISIS IN NUMBERS

Dead/Injured/Displaced (official sources - Higher Relief Commission; July 31, 2006)

- 828 people have been killed
- 3,240 people have been injured. The conflict has affected approximately
- 913,760 people affected by the conflict, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), individuals under siege, refugees, and asylum seekers.
- 710,000 people, or one-fifth of Lebanon's population, have fled their homes, and

the majority are now located in Beirut, Tyre (Sur), Sidon, the Chouf mountains, and the Alea region. A

- 122,649 sheltered in 652 schools (40% in Mount Lebanon, 30% in Beirut, 22% in the South, 4% in Bekaa, 3% in the North)
- 210,000 have fled to Syria, Jordan, Cyprus, and other countries in the Gulf area (WHO)
- 115,000 third country nationals from approximately 20 countries remain unable to exit Lebanon (OCHA)

Material Losses (official sources - Higher Relief Commission; July 31, 2006)

- 27 Vital Points (airports, ports, water and sewage treatment, electrical plants etc.)
- 6,250 Private houses / apartments
- 600 Km Roads
- 23 Fuel Stations
- 64 Bridges
- 72 Over passes
- 160 Commercial sectors (factories, markets, farms, etc.)

To this should be added environmental and ecological disasters, which are identified as waste, debris and oil spills.

Economy damages and losses go beyond several Billion Dollars, without taking into account the displacement factor and its consequences. In agricultural fertile villages, especially those subject to attacks, farmers lost the harvest season, representing all their annual income because they cannot irrigate and harvest. All the agriculture sector is affected as transport of goods is impossible, export has stopped and most foreign labor escaped the shelling. The communication sector was also targeted but can still function in most regions, although partially destroyed.

HOW TO HELP

Online: <http://www.neareast.org/lebanonappeal>

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