To: Commissioner General, HQ (Gaza)

From: Director of UNRWA Affairs, Lebanon

Subject: Situation Report: 24 hours up to 14:00 – 13 August, 2006

Sitrep 13 August 2006

Executive Summary:

- The official toll as of 12 August: 1,071 killed, 3,628 injured and 973,334 displaced, according to the Lebanese Higher Relief Committee.
- The number of displaced Palestinians and Lebanese in the refugee camps and UNRWA schools remained at a total of 19,112 (13,690 Palestinians, 5,417 Lebanese).
- Heavy Israeli air and ground shelling reported on the outskirts of Tyre (Sunday at noon) after Hizbullah launched a salvo of rockets (77 since the morning) on northern Israel.
- A Hizbullah rocket attack on the town of Yaara in the north of the country killed one Israeli civilian.
- Israeli warplanes carry out air raids on the Bekaa-Homs road and on northern Baalbeck, killing 3 people and injuring 15 in Ali Nahri.
- The Israeli cabinet began a meeting expected to approve UNSC 1701.
- Heavy shelling reported on the Litani riverbed and the villages of Iqlim al-Tuffah amid Israeli airdrop attempts on the outskirts of Qaaqaiat al-Jisr.
- Israeli army strikes a Lebanese army vehicle in Aita al-Fakhar village, injuring 2 soldiers.
- Israeli air raids on Halia and Kouaikhat villages in Akkar, destroy two bridges and a large number of homes and injure six.
- Air raids early morning on the outskirts of Ein El Hilweh and Bourj Shemali camps injure three.
- Shortly after the end of the reporting period (14:53 on 13/8) around 15 heavy bombs were dropped on the Beirut district of Roweis, approx 3km from the UNRWA FO.
Security Situation

Ground offensive continues in the South despite UNSC resolution: A reported 30,000 Israeli troops surged into southern Lebanon, engaging in some of the heaviest combat of the month-old war.

The Israeli military announced in the evening of the 12/8 that some troops had reached Lebanon’s Litani River.

The Israeli military suffered its biggest single-day death toll of the war, losing 19 soldiers, many in tanks, and with five missing from a downed helicopter.

The area around Khiam, along the eastern part of the border, came under intense artillery bombardment by Israeli forces to cover the advance of tanks.

Israeli warplanes bombed five petrol stations in Tyre on Sunday (13/8), sparking a huge fire that threatened to engulf a nearby hospital. Vehicles belonging to the civil defense service, the army and the fire brigade tried without success to reach the hospital to bring help but new air raids forced them to flee for cover.

Two Palestinians were wounded nearby when Israeli planes destroyed a petrol station near the Palestinian refugee camp at Burj el-Shemali in Tyre.

A mother, her three young children and their maid were killed overnight when Israeli bombs flattened their home in the southern village of Burj el-Shemali.

Raid on Akkar (north), Baalbek and outskirts of Ein El Hilweh: Two civilians were killed and 10 others wounded when Israeli warplanes destroyed a house and a prayer building in the village of Ali an-Nahri east of the ancient city of Baalbek.

Israeli planes destroyed two bridges in the northern Akkar plains that link the main city in north Lebanon, Tripoli, with the Syrian border, wounding six people. The air strike on the bridge at Halba destroyed a large number of homes, causing the civilian casualties. A number of Lebanese soldiers stationed nearby were also wounded in the attacks.

The bridge in a nearby village was also destroyed. Eight other bridges in the area have already been knocked out.

Israeli planes fired a missile, the second this week, at the outskirts of Ein El Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp, wounding three people, one of whom was Palestinian.

Political Situation

Lebanese government unanimously agrees on UNSC resolution 1701: The Lebanese government voted unanimously in favor of UN Resolution 1701 calling for an end to the conflict. The government will meet again today (13/08) to “study the requested operational steps”.

But, a Lebanese official source said that there were "unanimous reservations ... (in the cabinet meeting) because the resolution did not condemn large-scale Israeli destruction in Lebanon." It added that "It was also vague about the issues" of the Lebanese prisoners in Israeli jails and the Israeli-occupied Shabaa farms.

The Israeli cabinet to meet today: Israel also signaled its intention to approve the plan.

Hassan Nasrallah vows not to block UN resolution: In a conciliatory address, Nasrallah said that his group would abide by any ceasefire brokered by the United Nations and would not block the approval of the resolution by the government. However, Nasrallah said that "the resolution is unjust and unfair because it held
Hizbullah responsible for starting the aggression”.

**Bush steps up diplomatic efforts:** Meanwhile, US President George W. Bush stepped up diplomatic efforts over the Lebanon crisis Saturday as an end to the fighting appeared near. Bush held telephone talks with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert late Friday and Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Saniora on Saturday -- his first contact with Saniora since July 14.

**Humanitarian Situation**

The UN humanitarian county team has begun discussing an action plan for after the cessation of hostilities takes effect.

A first convoy of food and non-food aid is scheduled to leave Saida for Tyre at two minutes after the cessation of hostilities begins. The intention is to show the Lebanese population that the UN’s humanitarian arm is responsive to their needs.

The humanitarian hub in Tyre will be established, for UN and NGO actors, on the arrival of the convoy.

Challenges identified by the UN humanitarian country team include the attempted return to their homes of approx one million displaced people; difficulties of humanitarian action among the deployment of 30,000 UNIFIL and Lebanese troops; widespread unexploded ordnance; moving rubble and making infrastructure assessments.

The UN team agreed that the Government of Lebanon should be at the forefront of the humanitarian response, with the UN agencies providing support. The relief and welfare activities of Hezbollah and Amal in the south will also be part of the picture.

UNDP is to establish a “recovery cell” in the Lebanese PM’s office.

UNHCR, will have a major role to play in providing shelter, both transitional and temporary, to those attempting to return home.

A re-assessment of the joint flash appeal is to be made in light of conditions as they unfold after the cessation of hostilities. UNRWA will also be looking again at its own plans for the weeks to come.

OCHA plans to implement a new access system following the successful cessation of activities – free movement without “concurrence” north of the Litani river and simple notification of the two sides when planning journeys south of the river.

**UNRWA**

**Central Lebanon Area**

For the first time since the outbreak of the conflict there was no bombing of Beirut or its southern suburbs by the Israelis overnight 12/13 August. However 20 heavy missiles were dropped on the suburb of Roweis shortly after the end of the reporting period.

An estimated 1,000 refugees have moved back to their shelters in Burj Barajneh camp.

In all other respects the situation is unchanged, with fuel and power shortages continuing to be the major issue of concern.

**North Lebanon Area**

Israeli planes targeted Tal Abbas and Halba town, in the center of the Akkar Area. The private hospital in Akkar, Rahhal Hospital, with which UNRWA has contracts, was slightly damaged but patients were not affected.

The main roads to the Lebanese/Syrian border at Arrida are damaged and cut-off. Some vehicles are using narrow side roads to reach the border. However leaflets were dropped on Tal-Abbas village instructing the villagers to evacuate because the Israelis will target the bridges on the side roads leading to the borders.
One truck loaded with medical supplies was sent today 13/8 to the UNRWA health centre in Tripoli.

**Beqa’a Area**

Air strikes on numerous locations across the Beqa’a area continued. There was an almost continuous Israeli warplane presence in the sky on the morning of 13/8.

The general distribution of basic commodities was completed at the Barelias gathering of IDPs (12/8).

Electricity supply is still being rationed

**Saida Area**

Israeli planes struck an area adjacent to the offices of the previously hit Fateh Militia just outside the official boundaries of Ein-Hilweh camp. There injuries were reported and several shelters were lightly damaged by the strike. These will be surveyed by UNRWA’s technical department.

Israeli aircraft continued to circle Saida and the camps throughout the morning of 13/8. Electricity is still cut-off in the area following a strike on the power station on 12/8. EDL is trying to repair the damage, which has been reported as light.

Distribution of food stuff and non-food items to the IDPs at Ein/Hilweh started today with no interruption.

**Tyre Area**

The situation remains the same as 12 August; Tyre remains isolated from the rest of the country and the subject of repeated heavy bombardments that were especially fierce mid-morning 13/8.

A narrow culvert on the Litani, which had been constructed at speed on 12/8, was immediately destroyed.

Burj Shemali town was hit several times, with several strikes very close to Burj Shemali camp. No causalities in the camp were reported.

Vehicle movement is still prohibited and staff must move on foot. The refugee community as a consequence remains confined to their camps and gatherings.

The whole area remains without electricity since 11/8. UNRWA has enough fuel for water pumps to provide a rationed water supply of three-four hours each day. If this rationing is maintained, and no fuel supplies reach the south, Rashidieh can keep pumping water for 20 days while B/Shemali and EL-Buss can continue for one week).