

LEBANON:

Displaced, again

A profile of the internal displacement situation

23 July, 2008

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CONTENTS

CONTENTS **3**

OVERVIEW **10**

DISPLACED, AGAIN 10

CAUSES AND BACKGROUND **20**

BACKGROUND **20**

FROM THE INDEPENDENCE OF LEBANON TO THE AFTERMATH OF THE 1967 ISRAELI-ARAB WAR (1920-1973) 20

BEGINNING OF LEBANESE CIVIL WAR AND INTERVENTION OF SYRIA AND ISRAEL (1975-1982) 21

COUNTRY PLAGUED BY VIOLENCE AND INSTABILITY UNTIL THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT (1983-1991) 22

THE 1989 NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AGREEMENT (THE "TAIF ACCORD") ENDS CIVIL WAR IN LEBANON AND GUARANTEES THE RIGHT OF ALL IDPS TO RETURN 23

ISRAELI TROOPS PULL OUT OF SOUTH LEBANON (1992-2000) 24

RENEWED VIOLENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON AFTER WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI ARMY (2001-2002) 25

FORMER MPs DRAFT NEW DECLARATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT (2004) 28

SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON ALONG LEBANON-ISRAELI BORDER IS FRAGILE (2004) 29

SYRIA WITHDRAWS TROOPS FROM LEBANON AFTER ALMOST 30 YEARS PRESENCE (2005) 30

NEW GOVERNMENT FORMED IN JULY 2005 31

CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN HIZBOLLAH AND ISRAELI SOLDIERS HAVE BROKEN OUT REGULARLY SINCE 2000 (2006) 32

DELINEATION OF BORDERS STILL UNRESOLVED: THE CASES OF THE SHEBAA AND GHAJAR (2008) 37

ISRAEL LAUNCHES MILITARY OPERATIONS AND BLOCKADE ON LEBANON AFTER HIZBOLLAH ABDUCTION OF ISRAELI SOLDIERS (12 JULY 2006) 40

CEASEFIRE AND ADOPTION OF UNSC RESOLUTION 1701 (AUGUST 2006) 43

PROGRESS ON UN SPECIAL TRIBUNAL TO INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATION OF PRIME MINISTER RAFIK HARIRI (2008) 45

CLASHES ERUPT ON 20 MAY IN PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMP BETWEEN FATAH AL ISLAM AND LEBANESE ARMY (2007) 47

POLITICAL CRISIS: OPPOSITION QUESTIONS LEGITIMACY OF GOVERNMENT, POSITION OF PRESIDENT IS VACANT FOR SIX MONTHS (2008) 49

OPPOSITION FORCES TAKE CONTROL OF STRATEGIC AREAS, GUN BATTLES BREAK OUT (MAY 2008) 50

"DOHA AGREEMENT" ENDS POLITICAL DEADLOCK, NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED (MAY 2008) 51

LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER: CEASEFIRE GENERALLY UPHELD BY BOTH PARTIES, SOME VIOLATIONS REPORTED (2008)	52
CAUSES OF DISPLACEMENT	55
THOUSANDS SAID TO FLEE FOLLOWING CLASHES IN WEST BEIRUT, IN MOUNTAINS SOUTHEAST OF BEIRUT AND NORTH IN TRIPOLI (2008)	55
FIGHTING BETWEEN FATAH AL ISLAM AND THE LEBANESE ARMY FORCES TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PALESTINIANS TO FLEE NAHR EL BARED CAMP (2007)	56
SUSTAINED ISRAELI MILITARY OPERATIONS AND CAUSE PEOPLE TO FLEE (JULY-AUGUST 2006)	57
ISRAEL LEAFLETS AND WARNINGS TO THE LEBANESE POPULATION TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES (JULY-AUGUST 2006)	58
TWO MAIN CAUSES OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT RESULT FROM CIVIL WAR AND ISRAELI INTERVENTIONS IN THE 1970S AND 1980S	61
DISPLACEMENT DUE TO CIVIL WAR AND ISRAELI INTERVENTIONS (1975-1990)	62
ISRAELI INTERVENTION CAUSES MASSIVE TEMPORARY DISPLACEMENT (1996)	63
SOUTH LEBANESE ARMY AND ISRAEL EXPELLED A NUMBER OF CIVILIANS FROM THE SOUTH (1999-2000)	63
<u>POPULATION FIGURES AND PROFILE</u>	66
GLOBAL FIGURES: LEBANON	66
PRESS REPORT 7,000 PEOPLE FLEE BATTLES IN NORTHERN CITY OF TRIPOLI (2008)	66
IN TOTAL UP TO SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND DISPLACED IN LEBANON, MULTIPLE CAUSES OF DISPLACEMENT	66
GLOBAL FIGURES: NAHR EL BARED CAMP	67
NAHR EL BARED AND ADJACENT AREAS: AROUND 27,000 PALESTINIANS REMAIN DISPLACED FROM NAHR EL BARED REFUGEE CAMP AND ADJACENT AREA (APRIL 2008)	67
UNRWA STATISTICS ON PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON (DECEMBER 2007)	68
FAO SURVEY: ANALYSIS ON COUNTING PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON (2007)	68
GLOBAL FIGURES: JULY-AUGUST 2006 CONFLICT	69
TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE REMAIN DISPLACED ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT AND UN FIGURES (2008)	69
NEARLY ONE QUARTER OF LEBANON'S POPULATION DISPLACED AT THE HEIGHT OF THE CONFLICT, THE MAJORITY WITHIN THE COUNTRY (2006)	70
SECONDARY DISPLACEMENT OF 16,000 PALESTINIANS DURING THE 2006 WAR	71
GLOBAL FIGURES: CIVIL WAR	71
OTHER ESTIMATES OF PEOPLE STILL IN A SITUATION OF DISPLACEMENT IN LEBANON: 50,000-600,000 (PRIOR TO 2006 CRISIS)	71
OFFICIAL FIGURES: 16,750 PEOPLE STILL IN A SITUATION OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT DUE TO CIVIL WAR AND ISRAELI MILITARY OPERATIONS UP TO 2000	71
OFFICIAL FIGURES ON RETURN: AT LEAST 470,510 PEOPLE DISPLACED BY THE CIVIL WAR AND ISRAELI MILITARY OPERATIONS UNTIL 2000 HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RETURN TO THEIR AREAS OF ORIGIN (2006)	72
FIGURES ON IDP POPULATIONS AND GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY (1997)	72
DISPLACEMENT FIGURES BETWEEN 1975 AND 1995 (1997-2002)	73
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: NAHR EL BARED	73
JANUARY - MAY 2008: DISTRIBUTION OF DISPLACED NBC FAMILIES (JUNE 2008)	73
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF DISPLACED PEOPLE FROM NAHR EL BARED (MAY 2008)	74
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF IDPS IN BEDDAWI CAMP (APRIL 2008)	74

NUMBERS OF IDPS IN COLLECTIVE CENTRES IN AREA ADJACENT TO NAHR EL BARED (MAY 2008)	74
IDPS IN COLLECTIVE CENTRES IN BEDDAWI CAMP (MAY 2008)	74
IDPS IN SCHOOLS, BEDDAWI CAMP (MAY 2008)	74
DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN NAHR EL BARED AND BEDDAWI CAMPS BY GENDER AND AGE (2007)	75
NON PALESTINIANS IN NAHR EL BARED AND BEDDAWI CAMPS (2007)	75
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: JULY-AUGUST 2006 CONFLICT	75
MOST PEOPLE DISPLACED CAME FROM SOUTH LEBANON AND THE SOUTHERN DISTRICTS OF BEIRUT (2006)	75
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: CIVIL WAR	76
POPULATION FIGURES DISAGGREGATED BY CAZA	76
MAJORITY OF DISPLACED POPULATION IS FROM MOUNT LEBANON AND SOUTH LEBANON (2003)	76
INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT RESULTED IN OVERPOPULATION IN URBAN AREAS WHEREAS RURAL AREAS WERE LEFT NEARLY EMPTY (1997)	77

PATTERNS OF DISPLACEMENT **78**

JULY-AUGUST 2006 CONFLICT	78
ISRAELI MILITARY OPERATIONS FORCE PEOPLE TO FLEE THEIR HOMES IN SOUTH LEBANON AND SOUTH BEIRUT (2006)	78
SOME PEOPLE WHO HAD FLED THEIR HOMES WERE FORCED TO FLEE A SECOND TIME DUE TO IDF BOMBARDMENTS (2006)	79
CIVIL WAR	80
OTHER FACTORS THAN SECURITY MAY ACCOUNT FOR LONG-TERM DISPLACEMENT (1997-2002)	80
MAJORITY OF DISPLACED WERE MUSLIM EARLY IN THE WAR AND CHRISTIAN IN LATER PHASES (1975-1991)	80
INTERNAL DISPLACEMENTS WERE NOT CONTINUOUS BUT OCCURRED IN WAVES DURING THE CONFLICT (1997)	81

PHYSICAL SECURITY & FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT **82**

PHYSICAL SECURITY	82
OVERALL HUMAN RIGHTS CLIMATE: POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY AND SECURITY INCIDENTS (2008)	82
HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS CALL FOR INVESTIGATION OF VIOLATIONS OCCURRING IN MAY 2008 CLASHES (2008)	83
ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSES COMMITTED AGAINST PALESTINIANS AS THEY FLED NAHR EL BARED (2008)	84
UN AND HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS CONDEMN ISRAEL'S USE OF CLUSTER MUNITIONS (2008)	85
IMPUNITY FOR ABUSES COMMITTED DURING THE CIVIL WAR AND ITS AFTERMATH (2008)	88
NO ONE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE FOR VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMMITTED DURING THE 2006 WAR (2008)	88
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CLUSTER BOMBS REMAIN A SECURITY THREAT (2008)	88
RISK OF INJURY AND DEATH HIGH AMONG FARMERS AND SHEPPARDS WORKING IN AREAS CONTAMINATED WITH CLUSTER BOMBS (2008)	91
FOLLOW UP TO THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY (2007)	94

HIGH LEVEL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ESTABLISHED TO "INVESTIGATE SYSTEMATIC TARGETING AND KILLING OF CIVILIANS BY ISRAEL IN LEBANON" (2006)	94
POLITICAL INSTABILITY: STRING OF BOMB ATTACKS AND ASSASSINATIONS (2004-2008)	95
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS CONDEMNS KILLINGS IN QANA (2006)	97
HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVERS URGE INVESTIGATION INTO POSSIBLE WAR CRIMES COMMITTED IN LEBANON (2006)	97
DISPLACED PEOPLE TARGETED AS THEY FLED (2006)	101
CLASHES BETWEEN SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS OF SYRIA'S INFLUENCE IN LEBANON (2006)	102
CLASHES BETWEEN ARMY AND MILITANTS (2006)	103
SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)	104
UN COMMITTEE URGES LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT TARGETED MEASURES FOR IDP AND REFUGEE WOMEN AND GIRLS (2007)	104
SOME CASES OF WOMEN SUBJECTED TO ARBITRARY DETENTION, CRUEL AND INHUMAN TREATMENT (2006)	104
CHILDREN AND YOUTH	105
SAVE THE CHILDREN PARTICIPATORY RAPID ASSESSMENT WITH DISPLACED NAHR EL-BARED FAMILIES (2007)	105
THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN CAUGHT IN FIGHTING IN NAHR EL-BARED AND BEDDAWI CAMPS (2007)	105
CLUSTER BOMBS POSE SERIOUS THREAT TO CHILDREN IN SOUTHERN LEBANON (2008)	106
NO REPORTS OF RECRUITMENT OF CHILDREN BY REGULAR ARMED FORCES, SAYS UN SECRETARY GENERAL (2007)	107
PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF 2006 WAR ON CHILDREN (2007)	107
UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD REITERATES CONCERN OF IMPACT OF PAST CONFLICT ON CHILDREN (2006)	108

SUBSISTENCE NEEDS **109**

GENERAL	109
PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF 2006 WAR (2007)	109
181 PALESTINIAN REFUGEE SHELTERS DESTROYED OR DAMAGED IN 2006 WAR (2006)	109
SHORTAGES IN WATER AND SHELTER IDENTIFIED BY THE UN AS THE MOST PRESSING NEEDS (2006)	109
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD (2006)	109
DISPLACED PEOPLE WERE FORCED TO LIVE IN CROWDED AND INSECURE CONDITIONS DURING THE CONFLICT (2006)	111
POVERTY IN MANY AREAS OF BEIRUT AND ITS SUBURBS (2006)	112
SOUTHERN REGION STRUGGLES TO DEVELOP ECONOMY AFTER YEARS OF WAR AND OCCUPATION (2005)	113
NAHR EL BARED CAMP	114
TEMPORARY HOUSING COMPLETED FOR FOUR HUNDRED AND FORTY FAMILIES NEAR NAHR EL BARED CAMP (2008)	114
SHELTER A PRIORITY FOR SECONDARY DISPLACED PALESTINIANS, MANY LIVE IN OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS (2008)	114
FAFO SURVEY: HOUSING CONDITIONS AND SOCIAL RELATIONS AMONG NAHR EL BARED DISPLACED FAMILIES (2008)	115
FAFO SURVEY: TYPES OF DWELLING AND OTHER HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS AMONG NAHR EL BARED DISPLACED (2008)	115
FAFO SURVEY: HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG NAHR EL BARED DISPLACED (2008)	116

FAFO SURVEY: MOST DISPLACED FROM NAHR EL BARED HAVE ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER (2008)	117
FOOD AND SHELTER SUBSIDIES NEEDED FOR DISPLACED AND HOST FAMILIES IN NBC AND ADJACENT AREAS (2007)	117
QUALITATIVE NEEDS ASSESSMENT: SHELTER NEEDS AMONG NAHR EL BARED IDPs RESIDING IN BEDDAWI CAMP (DECEMBER 2007)	118
QUALITATIVE NEEDS ASSESSMENT AMONG IDPs IN BADDAWI CAMPS (DECEMBER 2007)	119
PROFILE: NAHR EL BARED CAMP	120

ACCESS TO EDUCATION **121**

GENERAL	121
SOME DECLINE IN POST-WAR SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATES IN URBAN AREAS (2007)	121
SCHOOLS TARGETED AND SCHOOL YEAR DISRUPTED DUE TO THE CONFLICT, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS WORSE HIT (2006)	121
NAHR EL BARED CAMP	122
FAFO SURVEY: ACCESS TO EDUCATION AMONG NAHR EL BARED DISPLACED (2008)	122
MOST CHILDREN FROM NAHR EL BARED ARE ABLE TO RETURN TO SCHOOL (2007)	124

ISSUES OF SELF-RELIANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION **125**

GENERAL	125
2006 CONFLICT EXACERBATES ALREADY POOR LIVING CONDITIONS IN AFFECTED AREAS (2007)	125
UNEMPLOYMENT DOUBLED FOLLOWING 2006 WAR (2007)	126
POLLING STATIONS SET UP FOR DISPLACED (JUNE 2005)	126
ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT SLOWER IN SOME REGIONS (2002)	126
POLITICAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF DISPLACEMENT (1997)	128
NAHR EL BARED CAMP	129
FAFO SURVEY: WIDESPREAD UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG DISPLACED COMMUNITIES FROM NAHR EL BARED CAMP (2008)	129
WIDESPREAD DESTRUCTION OF BUSINESS AND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE IN NAHR EL BARED (2008)	131
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE CONFLICT IN NAHR EL BARED (2007)	132

ISSUES OF FAMILY UNITY, IDENTITY AND CULTURE **134**

GENERAL	134
SEPARATION OF EXTENDED FAMILIES IDENTIFIED AS ISSUE IN SOME VILLAGES, POST 2006 WAR (2007)	134
FAMILIES STILL SEARCHING MISSING RELATIVES FROM CIVIL WAR PERIOD (2006)	134

PROPERTY ISSUES **135**

JULY-AUGUST 2006	135
OVERVIEW OF COMPENSATION PAYMENTS (2008)	135

COMPENSATION PAYMENTS: PROCEDURES AND DAMAGE CATEGORIES FOR SOUTH LEBANON (2006)	135
GOVERNMENT SETS UP MECHANISM FOR THE COMPENSATION OF PROPERTY LOSSES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SOUTHERN BEIRUT (2006)	136
GOVERNMENT CREATES SECOND MECHANISM TO COMPENSATE PROPERTY LOSSES IN BEIRUT'S SOUTHERN SUBURBS (2006)	138
DAMAGE TO INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY IS EXTENSIVE (2006)	138
COMPENSATION AND ASSISTANCE PRESENTS A BIG CHALLENGE IN THE AFTERMATH OF CONFLICT (2006)	140
CIVIL WAR PERIOD	141
MANY PEOPLE SAY THEY HAVE NOT RECEIVED COMPENSATION AND ARE UNABLE TO REBUILD THEIR HOMES (2006)	141
MANY DISPLACED PEOPLE HAVE NOT RECLAIMED OR REBUILT FORMER PROPERTY (2004)	143
CENTRAL FUND FOR THE DISPLACED ANNOUNCED IMMEDIATE EVICTION OF ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED PROPERTY (2002)	144
IDPS PERSONS RESIDING IN BEIRUT HAD TO VACATE FORMER HOMES IN RETURN FOR COMPENSATION (1999)	144
HIGHEST DESTRUCTION OF HOUSES AND VILLAGES OCCURRED IN THE MOUNT LEBANON REGION (1996)	145
NAHR EL BARED CAMP	146
REPORTS OF WIDESPREAD LOOTING, BURNING AND VANDALISM OF VACATED HOMES AND PROPERTY (2008)	146
COMMUNITY-BASED INITIATIVE: NAHR EL BARED RECONSTRUCTION COMMISSION ADVOCATES FOR PARTICIPATORY APPROACH TO RECONSTRUCTION (2007)	146
85 % OF HOUSES IN NAHR EL BARED CAMP DAMAGED OR COMPLETELY DESTROYED (2007)	147
<u>PATTERNS OF RETURN AND RESETTLEMENT</u>	148
GENERAL	148
DISPLACED FAMILIES GIVEN PERMISSION TO RETURN TO NAHR EL-BARED CAMP TEMPORARILY TO GATHER PERSONAL ITEMS (2007)	148
CEASEFIRE PROMPTS "IMMEDIATE AND MASSIVE" RETURN MOVEMENTS (2006)	148
RETURN MOVEMENTS TO CHOUF, BAABDA AND ALEY (2005)	148
SOME RETURN MOVEMENTS TO SOUTH LEBANON ARE TEMPORARY (2004)	148
SOUTH LEBANON: 25 YEARS OF INSTABILITY AND OCCUPATION DESTROYED SOCIO-ECONOMIC FABRIC NEEDED FOR RETURN (2002)	150
EVACUATION OF ISRAELI TROOPS FROM SOUTH LEBANON PROMPTED FORMER RESIDENTS TO RETURN TO THE AREA (2001)	151
THE 1989 TAIF AGREEMENT DECLARED THE RETURN OF THE DISPLACED NECESSARY FOR RECONCILIATION AND SUSTAINABLE PEACE (2000)	151
OBSTACLES TO RETURN AND RESETTLEMENT	152
POLITICAL CRISIS AND INFLATION IN BUILDING MATERIALS AMONG CAUSES FOR DELAYS IN COMPENSATION PAYMENTS AND REBUILDING (2008)	152
CLUSTER BOMBS CONTINUE TO POSE OBSTACLE TO LAND USE (2008)	154
CRI SURVEY: DESTRUCTION OF HOMES AND LACK OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES BARRIERS TO DURABLE RETURNS (2007)	155
MAJORITY OF CLUSTER MUNITIONS DROPPED IN LAST 72 HOURS BEFORE CEASEFIRE WITH INTENTION TO INHIBIT AND PREVENT RETURN (2008)	156
POST 2006 CONFLICT, EXTENSIVE RECONSTRUCTION NECESSARY (2007)	156

OVERVIEW OF CHALLENGES FOR RETURNING COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE WHO REMAIN IN A SITUATION OF DISPLACEMENT (2007)	156
CLUSTER BOMBS AND OTHER UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE POSE OBSTACLE TO RETURN TO THE SOUTH (2006)	157
LACK OF RECONCILIATION IN CERTAIN AREAS PREVENTS RETURN OF DISPLACED COMMUNITIES (2005)	160
MINISTER OF DISPLACED: LACK OF RESOURCES IS THE MAIN REASON FOR THE DELAY IN RETURNS (2004)	162
CARITAS SURVEY: MANY DISPLACED UNABLE TO RETURN DUE TO LACK OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT (2004)	163
SLOW RETURN AND RESETTLEMENT DUE TO CORRUPTION, POLITICAL RIVALRIES, LACK OF FINANCES AND SECURITY CONCERNS (2002-2004)	164
DISPLACED FOR OVER 25 YEARS, MANY DO NOT WANT TO RETURN TO THEIR FORMER HOMES (2002)	167
NAHR EL BARED CAMP	168
RETURN TO NAHR EL BARED CAMP EXPECTED TO TAKE SEVERAL YEARS (2007)	168
NAHR EL BARED SURROUNDING AREAS, INFRASTRUCTURE AFFECTED BY FIGHTING (2007)	168
<u>HUMANITARIAN ACCESS</u>	171
GENERAL	171
ATTACKS ON UNIFIL (2008)	171
HUMAN RIGHTS NGOs DENIED ACCESS TO NAHR EL BARED CAMP (2007)	171
ISRAELI MILITARY OPERATIONS BLOCK DELIVERY OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND FREE MOVEMENT OF DISPLACED CIVILIANS (2006)	172
ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES TARGETED UNIFIL (2006)	174
<u>NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES</u>	176
OVERVIEW	176
OVERVIEW: NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE (JUNE 2008)	176
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE: CIVIL WAR PERIOD	178
INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE (PRIOR TO JUNE 2006)	178
NATIONAL RESPONSE (PRIOR TO JUNE 2006)	179
NATIONAL LAW AND POLICY	183
LEBANON: RATIFICATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL TREATIES	183
REFERENCES TO THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT	184
KNOWN REFERENCES TO THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES (AS OF JUNE 2008)	184
<u>LIST OF SOURCES USED</u>	185

OVERVIEW

Displaced, again

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Over 24,000 people, mainly Palestine refugees and a small number of Lebanese remain displaced from Nahr el-Bared camp in northern Lebanon following three months of fighting there in 2007 between Fatah al-Islam and the Lebanese army. To date, small numbers of refugees have been able to return to their homes in areas adjacent to the camp also affected by the fighting. A full return is expected to take two years or longer because of the complete destruction of homes and infrastructure. Among the most pressing concerns is to ensure adequate temporary accommodation for refugee families, as well as addressing their loss of livelihoods. Many refugees and host families continue to rely on humanitarian agencies to provide them with shelter and food assistance. Displaced communities have raised concerns about their security and free movement, particularly as security measures have tightened as sporadic attacks and clashes continued to be reported in northern Lebanon in June 2008. On 23 June 2008, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the Government of Lebanon launched a comprehensive three-year plan to rebuild the camp and surrounding areas.

A majority of people displaced by hostilities between Hizbullah and Israel in 2006 were able to return directly after the conflict. Although there is no official figure on the number of people who remain displaced, a conservative estimate is that 40,000 to 70,000 people remain unable to return, mainly because of the destruction of their homes. The pace of reconstruction has slowed because of months of political crisis in Lebanon. Although it has been two years since the conflict, sustainable return in the south continues to be hindered by cluster bombs and lost livelihoods. There are also still unresolved cases relating mainly to property from the Lebanese civil war of 1975-1990 and Israeli invasions and occupation of part of southern Lebanon.

Displacement from the 2007 Nahr el-Bared conflict

In mid-2007 tens of thousands of Palestine refugees in northern Lebanon were displaced as the camp and surrounding area they had long inhabited became the scene of a long siege and intense fighting between the Lebanese army and a militant group. On 20 May 2007, clashes erupted between armed members of the radical Fatah al-Islam and the army in Tripoli. Fighting was triggered when security forces raided an apartment in Tripoli following a bank robbery, and clashes spread to the nearby Nahr el-Bared camp after Fatah al-Islam fighters attacked and killed Lebanese soldiers at an army outpost (The Guardian, 4 June 2007; GoL, 23 June 2008).

A short-lived ceasefire was followed by three months of fighting, during which more than 20,000 Palestine refugees living in Nahr el-Bared camp and about 10,000 other Palestine refugees and Lebanese living in adjacent areas were forcibly displaced (UNRWA, 4 June 2007; Reuters, 23 May 2007). In total, according to the government, the conflict resulted in the displacement of over 30,000 people and the death of 50 civilians, 179 soldiers and over 220 Fatah al-Islam members (GoL, 23 June 2008). The battle for control of the camp and use of heavy artillery caused massive destruction in Nahr el-Bared camp and adjacent municipalities, which are densely populated residential areas (Lebanese Republic, 10 September 2007). All buildings in Nahr el-Bared camp were either entirely destroyed or severely damaged (UNRWA, 26 June 2008).

Estimates suggest that 30 per cent of buildings were severely damaged or destroyed in the adjacent areas (UNRWA, September 2007).

The majority of people displaced by the fighting are 1948 Palestine refugees and their descendents who are registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). There were also a number of 1967 Palestine refugees who are registered with the Lebanese government, and others who are not registered with either UNRWA or the government. Palestine refugees are not internally displaced people (IDPs) or citizens of Lebanon; however, the IDMC monitors their situation as displaced refugees within Lebanon. The NGO Lebanon Support estimates that about three per cent of those displaced during the Nahr el-Bared fighting were Lebanese who live in areas surrounding the camp (Lebanon Support, 2 June 2008).

As of May 2008, 4,840 families (or about 24,000 people) remained displaced from Nahr el-Bared camp and adjacent areas. Many were living in the municipalities surrounding the camp and other parts of northern Lebanon, while others remained in Beddawi camp, another Palestine refugee camp (UNRWA, May 2008).

Between January and May 2008, 2,000 displaced families were able to return to areas adjacent to the camp according to the latest figures from UNRWA, although not all of them were able to return fully (UNRWA, 6 June 2008, 11 June 2008 and 30 May 2008; GoL, 23 June 2008). Of these, 713 families were able to return to their own homes, while 506 families moved to rented accommodation and 429 to temporary shelters constructed by UNRWA (UNRWA, 30 May 2008). The latter two groups of families cannot be classified as full returnees since they are living in semi-permanent residences while awaiting the rebuilding of their homes. A full return is expected to take two years or longer because of the extent of the destruction of homes and infrastructure (UNRWA, September 2007; Lebanon Support, 27 May 2008). On 23 June 2008, UNRWA presented a plan for the gradual reconstruction of Nahr el-Bared camp and surrounding areas at a donor conference in Vienna. It is planned that refugees will be able to return in stages as each sector of the camp is rebuilt. The first refugees are expected to return to the camp by the end of 2009 and the full reconstruction of the camp is planned for mid-2011. The plan is based on the assumption that \$277 million will be made available by donors for the reconstruction and recovery of Nahr el-Bared camp (UNRWA, 23 June 2008).

Living conditions and self-reliance of people displaced

The shelling of Nahr el-Bared had severe humanitarian consequences for those living in the camp and adjacent areas, where living conditions were already poor. Many Palestine refugees in Lebanon face discrimination, and they already had limited access to employment, health care, education, social security and property ownership and inheritance rights in Lebanon. The destruction of their homes and livelihoods and their ongoing displacement have rendered them even more vulnerable (LPDC, 23 May 2008; AI, 2008; IDRC, 2007).

One of the most urgent challenges facing the displaced people in the aftermath of the conflict has been to ensure adequate temporary housing and access to basic needs such as water, sanitation and electricity. When the fighting broke out, thousands of people took refuge in makeshift shelters including schools, mosques and other collective centres, or they were taken in by host families. Many refugees displaced from Nahr el-Bared sought refuge in nearby Beddawi camp which experienced severe overcrowding and pressure on basic services like access to water as the population doubled (Fafo, 2008; Lebanon Support, December 2007; UNRWA, 4 June 2007 and September 2007). Children and youth from both camps missed two months of the 2007 school year (Fafo, 2008).

The issue of temporary housing is of great concern. Some displaced families have now been accommodated in prefabricated temporary shelter units built by UNRWA on three main plots of land leased close to Nahr el-Bared. To date, 574 temporary shelters have been constructed, housing about 2,000 people, and there are plans for the construction of up to 600 additional shelters (UNRWA, 6 June 2008 and 11 April 2008). While the temporary housing sites are a clear improvement on the emergency makeshift accommodation where these families were previously housed, there are still concerns about the conditions of these temporary accommodation units, including problems with heat and overcrowding. Of particular concern is the fact that the standard of the temporary accommodation is currently inadequate and is likely to only further deteriorate until the displaced can return to the camp (IASC Early Recovery Minutes, 24 April 2008; GoL, 23 June 2008).

A further pressing concern is the loss of self-reliance among Nahr el-Bared's displaced communities. The livelihoods of most Palestine refugees were tied to the camp, with an estimated 443 businesses located in Nahr el-Bared, and were lost as a direct consequence of the fighting (Fafo, 2008). A survey of 999 displaced refugee families which UNRWA and the International Labour Organization carried out in the aftermath of the conflict found that a majority of businesses were located inside the camp, and many operated out of people's homes and on the ground floor of dwellings. The survey documented widespread unemployment following the conflict: unemployment increased from 45 per cent before the conflict to 79 per cent after displacement for women and from 25 per cent to 79 per cent for men (Fafo, 2008). As a result, displaced and host families have been forced to rely on emergency assistance, including food and rental subsidies distributed by UNRWA and NGOs (UNRWA, 6 June 2008 and 30 May 2008).

The conflict and significant influx of displaced people into Beddawi camp and surrounding areas has also exacerbated relationships between secondary displaced Palestine refugees and other communities in the area. Relationships between camp residents and Lebanese communities living near the camp have historically been good, and mixed marriages between Palestine refugees and Lebanese from the region have been common. However, the conflict and displacement have increased poverty levels and put pressure on host communities, resulting in mistrust between displaced Palestine refugees and inhabitants in areas surrounding the camp. UNRWA for example has experienced difficulties in leasing land from local Lebanese owners for the construction of temporary shelters. Growing tensions are reported between refugees from Nahr el-Bared and hosting Palestine refugee communities of Beddawi camp over limited resources (GoL, 23 June 2008; PHRO, 5 June 2008).

Further protection issues

Fighting in Nahr el-Bared ended on 2 September 2007 when the Lebanese army gained control of the camp; however, access to the camp has since been restricted for reasons including the presence of unexploded ordnance, rubble and unstable structures. In early 2008, the Lebanese Army began allowing some displaced families to enter areas of the camp under escort, in order to retrieve valuables and documents (OCHA, February 2008; UNRWA, 30 May 2008 and 12 February 2008; IRIN, 22 June 2007; BBC, 10 October 2007; MAG, May 2008).

Displaced people must request special permits to obtain access to Nahr el-Bared camp; however, there appears to be a lack of regularity and transparency over the granting of access, even to those with permits (ALEF, 18 June 2008). People can reportedly only visit once, and those who miss the first opportunity are not granted a second. Security measures instituted around the camp, including random searches at checkpoints, are also reportedly causing stress among displaced Palestine refugees (PHRO, 5 June 2008; ALEF, 18 June 2008; Protection Working Group, 4 June 2008). Concerns have been raised by Palestinian and Lebanese communities alike about their security as measures including detention have tightened as sporadic attacks on

army outposts and clashes continued to be reported in and around Palestinian camps in northern Lebanon (Daily Star, 16 June 2008).

Nahr el-Bared has remained off-limits to Lebanese and international human rights NGOs and the media since the reopening of the camp in October 2007 although some NGOs were recently informed that they would soon be granted permission (Amnesty International, 2008; ALEF, 18 June 2008). In a joint letter in October 2007, several human rights organisations publicly called on the government to grant all humanitarian and human rights NGOs access to the camp (ALEF, PHRO, Witness, 24 October 2007). UNRWA and NGOs also report delays at checkpoints for UNRWA contractors and NGO staff (UNRWA, 30 May 2008).

A lack of clarity regarding formal ownership, which stems largely from the lack of property rights among Palestinian communities in Lebanon, has rendered the rebuilding of the camp and adjacent areas and the issuing of compensation extremely complex. These challenges are especially manifest in the municipalities of Muhammara and Bhanine which have become informal extensions of the camp but which are technically outside its territorial confines (GoL, 23 June 2008). A law passed in 2001 prohibits Palestinians from owning and inheriting land in Lebanon. Many Palestinians who owned land did not register it before 2001 when it was legal under Lebanese law for Palestinians to own property (Amendment to Law No. 296). Issues relating to ownership and transfer of land and property may become particularly relevant should compensation be forthcoming.

Human rights organisations have also highlighted numerous allegations of human rights violations, which took place during and immediately after the conflict. Amnesty International reported that some 200 people were arbitrarily arrested and detained on account of their involvement with Fatah al-Islam. In addition, scores of Palestinians were reportedly threatened, humiliated and abused by soldiers. Others were whipped, given electric shocks and sexually abused. On 22 May 2007, two people were shot dead at an army checkpoint as they fled the camp. On 29 June 2007, three protesters were killed in an apparently peaceful demonstration calling for Palestine refugees displaced from Nahr el-Bared to be allowed to return to their homes. Widespread looting, burning and vandalism of vacated homes and property was reported after the army had taken control of the camp (Amnesty International, 2008; PHRO, 5 June 2008; Alef, 18 June 2008). The government has said it is investigating these allegations (Amnesty International, 2008), but human rights organisations stress the need for an impartial and independent investigation (ALEF, 26 June 2008).

Hostilities and displacement in southern Lebanon in 2006

In July 2006, Hizbullah abducted two Israeli soldiers during cross-border clashes with Israeli security forces. In response, Israel launched a major military operation including aerial bombardments which caused widespread destruction and resulted in massive displacement. Hizbullah retaliated with rocket attacks on northern Israel. The conflict affected the entire country, but especially southern Lebanon and the southern suburbs of Beirut as well as the Bekaa valley in eastern Lebanon. According to the Lebanese authorities, the conflict resulted in 1,191 deaths and 4,409 injuries (UN HRC, 15 December 2006). Human rights and humanitarian organisations called into question the proportionality of Israel's response and, noting the consistent failure of Israel to distinguish between combatants and civilians in contravention of international law, called for the investigation of particular incidents such as Israeli air strikes that killed 28 persons in their home in Qana (HRW, 30 July 2006; MSM, 12 October 2006).

The main causes of internal displacement were indiscriminate attacks by Israel on civilians and civilian property and infrastructure, as well as a general fear and panic among the civilian population caused by warnings, threats and attacks by the Israeli Defense Forces (COI, 10

November 2006). In addition, Israel imposed a blockade on the country and launched large-scale air strikes on infrastructure such as Beirut's airport and port, strategic roads and bridges. Israeli forces occupied some areas of southern Lebanon (UNSC, 21 July 2006). Throughout the conflict, Israel regularly dropped leaflets across Lebanon warning the population to flee ahead of air strikes, although in some cases people were unable to leave, notably in southern Lebanon, for reasons including the destruction of bridges and roads or because they lacked transport or were physically unable to flee (UNSC, 21 July 2006; COI, 10 November 2006; OHCHR, 31 July 2006).

Displaced people were also targeted by Israeli forces as they fled their villages. On 15 July, a group of displaced people leaving the village of Marwaheen were killed by Israeli fire as they fled. A convoy of displaced people evacuated by the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) from the same village was also targeted the following day (UNSC, 21 July 2006). On 17 July, a convoy of displaced people fleeing the village of Rmayleh was attacked by air raids, while a convoy of people fleeing the town of Marjayoun, led by UNIFIL, came under attack on 11 August (LHRA, 8 August 2006).

In total, nearly one million Lebanese were displaced between 12 July and 14 August, almost one quarter of the country's population. The government estimates that 974,184 people were displaced, of which 730,000 were displaced internally while some 230,000 fled the country (HRC, November 2006). This figure includes the secondary displacement of an estimated 16,000 Palestine refugees (UNRWA, 3 August 2006). Some people were displaced several times during the conflict as the areas they fled to were subsequently shelled. At the height of the conflict as many as 128,000 displaced people were sheltering in public schools around the country, while others sought shelter in other public buildings, garages and parks (OCHA, 4 August 2006). The majority, however, found shelter with family and extended relatives or were taken in by host communities.

An internationally-brokered ceasefire on 14 August prompted the return of most displaced people. The actual number of people who remain displaced in July 2008 is unknown, but estimates from the government and the UN suggest that between 40,000 and 70,000 people remained in a situation of displacement in early 2008. These estimates were based on the number of people whose homes were yet to be rebuilt, rather than on any registration or survey (GoL, 25 February 2008; UNHCR, 23 February 2008). At the end of 2007, the government estimated about 130,000 IDPs remained, a figure presented by the government at the Paris III International Donor Conference held in Stockholm in January 2007 (CRI, June 2007).

Durable solutions for those displaced

Despite immediate large-scale returns following the cessation of hostilities, there remain obstacles to reconstruction, durable return and recovery in communities affected by the 2006 conflict. These include a delay in compensation of people whose houses were totally destroyed and a delay in their rebuilding. The speed of the reconstruction and compensation has also been hindered by political crisis in Lebanon, the rise in building materials costs and delayed transfer of funds from some donors. Unexploded cluster munitions continue to pose a security risk and have engendered poverty by blocking access to fields in south Lebanon.

Although there are no precise figures on people still displaced by the 2006 war, tens of thousands of people have not yet had their houses fully rebuilt. It is estimated that about 9,800 housing units were totally destroyed in southern Lebanon and 4,600 housing units totally destroyed in south Beirut, which would suggest that up to 72,000 people are unable to return (NRC Lebanon, April 2008). Most families are renting accommodation or staying with relatives while awaiting the full rebuilding of their homes, while others are able to live in a part of their house. Many are being provided with financial support for rent and furniture by Jihad al Binaa, the reconstruction arm of Hizbullah.

Ongoing displacement is chiefly affecting people whose homes were totally or significantly destroyed. In total, over 218,000 affected housing units to date had been registered by April 2008. These are classified in three categories: housing units that were completely destroyed, partially destroyed, or damaged. More than 122,000 of these housing units are registered in Southern Lebanon and the remainder are registered in the southern suburbs of Beirut and a small number in eastern Lebanon (NRC Lebanon, April 2008; UN Habitat 16 January 2008).

In part, the political crisis in Lebanon has affected the effective functioning of the two compensation mechanisms which the government created in 2006 to compensate for damage to private property in south Beirut and southern Lebanon (Decision No.130/2006 Presidency of the Council of Ministers, 5 October 2006). The payment of compensation stopped in November 2007 and has only resumed following political reform in June 2008. Government representatives also say that the payment of compensation has been delayed as not all rebuilding funds pledged by donors have been received (IRIN, 2 September 2007). Compensation had generally been paid in full where the value of damage amounted to less than \$12,000, but only partial payment of compensation has been paid out to people with totally damaged houses or with houses with damages exceeding \$12,000 (NRC Lebanon, April 2008).

The government has also been criticised for delaying the transfer of funds to Wa'ad, a Hizbullah reconstruction programme responsible for rebuilding in south Beirut (IRIN, 2 September 2007). Owners have voluntarily transferred power of attorney and compensation to the Wa'ad programme to facilitate the process, but rebuilding has slowed in the absence of government payments. Nonetheless, rebuilding of the first of the totally destroyed buildings in south Beirut under the Wa'ad programme was recently completed (NRC, 2008; IRIN, 24 April 2008). Some reports suggest that rebuilding has also stalled because of land disputes in the southern Beirut suburbs and the problems of proving legal ownership for some families who had not registered their apartments (IRIN, 2 September 2007).

The rising cost of building materials poses an additional obstacle to implementation of the reconstruction. The costs of many building materials are estimated to have doubled since 2007, making the reconstruction of a totally destroyed house significantly more expensive, and reducing the actual value of compensation (IRIN, 2 September 2007; NRC Lebanon, April 2008). It is not yet clear how the government will tackle the differences in value to ensure that displaced people are given the compensation to which they are entitled.

Unexploded munitions preventing sustainable return

Despite concerted demining efforts in southern Lebanon, hundreds of thousands of cluster munitions, unexploded bombs and mines remain in the area and hinder sustainable return, reconstruction and development activities. They pose a security threat to local communities, limit free movement, and cut people off from their land and livelihoods.

Demining organisations estimate cluster bombs and other munitions were scattered over 965 locations, contaminating an area of 38 million square metres between the Litani River and the Lebanese-Israeli border. Three new contaminated areas were identified in early 2008 (UN MACC SL, 14 April 2008). A Human Rights Watch report suggests that Israel used as many as 4.6 million cluster munitions in Lebanon. The estimate is higher than that previously reported by other sources (the UN estimate is between 2.6 and four million cluster munitions) and is based on additional information obtained from Israeli soldiers (HRW, 17 February 2008). Several hundred thousand landmines and unexploded remnants also remain in the area, which were planted by Israeli forces prior to Israel's withdrawal in 2000.

According to figures in April 2008, cluster bombs and unexploded ordnance had killed or injured 245 people since the ceasefire of August 2006 (UN MACC SL, 14 April 2008). A majority of cluster bomb victims were adult males. In the immediate aftermath of the conflict, most injuries and deaths occurred when people were examining the extent of damage to their homes upon return (usually men returning ahead of the family); however, currently the highest injuries are occurring in the fields when men are forced to work to generate income regardless of the risk involved (HRW, February 2008).

The socio-economic impact of the war and the cluster bombs on sustainable return are also of concern. One of the findings of a survey carried out by the Consultation and Research Institute in several conflict-affected villages is that the war triggered an economic crisis that worsened the situation of communities already among the poorest in Lebanon (CRI, June 2007). The survey suggests that while a majority of people returned to their homes, the economic crisis following the war has led a number of people to leave their areas of origin in search of economic opportunities (CRI, June 2007).

UN Security Council Resolution 1701 of 2006 called on Israel to provide the UN with all maps of remaining landmines and locations of cluster bombs to facilitate their removal (UNSC, 12 September 2006); however as of April 2008, there were no indications that Israel had complied fully with this request. The latest information provided by the Israeli Defense Forces to the UN in February 2008 was deemed to be of limited value (UNSC, 28 February 2008).

Amnesty International notes that no participants from either side of the 2006 war were brought to justice for serious violations of international humanitarian law (AI, 2008). In 2006, the Commission of Inquiry set up by the UN made a number of recommendations including that the UN Human Rights Council explore possibilities aimed at the creation of a commission competent to examine individual claims emanating from the 2006 war and support the Lebanese Parliamentary Human Rights Committee to complete its investigation into reported killings and other alleged serious international humanitarian law and human rights violations (COI, 23 November 2006).

Displacement from the Lebanese civil war and Israeli invasions

It is estimated that at the height of the Lebanese civil war up to one million people were displaced. A first wave of population displacement occurred in 1975 when Beirut was divided into Muslim and Christian sectors, although the fragmentation was more complex and included divisions between sects within the two religions (Stamm, 2006). In 1985, an estimated 367,000 people were displaced in the Mount Lebanon region. Hundreds of thousands more were displaced as a result of Israeli military invasions of Lebanon in 1978 and 1982.

In 1989, violent fighting between Lebanese militias and Syrian troops and between militias themselves led to further displacement. A ceasefire was declared in October 1989 when Lebanese parliamentarians signed the Document of National Understanding (the "Taif Agreement") which was drafted following extensive negotiations between the different militias along with Syria in an attempt to reach consensus on internal political reform. In 1990, it was estimated that around 450,000 to 500,000 people were still internally displaced (UNDP 2002). In 1996, Israeli air raids and rocket attacks on Beirut and southern Lebanon caused displacement of hundreds of thousands more people again (Assaf and El-Fil, April 2000; LNF 2002; ILO, 1997).

The areas most affected by internal displacement were the Mount Lebanon region, specifically in the provinces of Aley, Chouf and Baabda from where an estimated 62 per cent of IDPs originated, and southern Lebanon from where an estimated 24 per cent of the IDP population originated (USCR 2003; UNDP 2002). Although the civil war ended in 1990, the far south and south-east remained occupied by Israel for another ten years. During this period, hundreds or

possibly thousands of people were evicted from their homes in the occupied zone, many expelled for suspected or admitted participation in attacks on Israeli military personnel (Harik, 7 December 2006; HRW, 1 July 1999). Displaced people from the south began to return home when Israeli troops withdrew from the area in May 2000 (UNSC Resolution 425 (1978)). Syria maintained a military presence in Lebanon until April 2005 when it withdrew its troops under national and international pressure following the assassination of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in February 2005 (UNSC Resolution 1559 (2004)).

Estimates of the number of people internally displaced, IDP population movements and geographical distribution vary widely, because the conflict caused both temporary and permanent displacements over an extended period (ILO, 1997). Many people who fled southern Lebanon during the Israeli occupation of parts of the area and moved to the southern suburbs of Beirut were displaced again in July 2006 (Harik, 7 December 2006).

Furthermore, questions remain of what it now means to be “displaced” in Lebanon from this period, as many people are no longer physically displaced nor wish to return but only have compensation claims remaining. According to the government, 470,510 people had been able to return to their area of origin with financial assistance (MoD, 10 July 2006). Most people have now successfully integrated, but in 2006 the government reported 16,750 people still displaced as a result of the civil war and Israeli invasions up to 2000 (MoD, 10 July 2006). The primary areas where IDPs had not returned were Kfar Selouan, Ain Drafil, Kfar Matta, Aabey, and Breeh (MoD, *Ibid*).

The key outstanding issues for the civil war displaced relate mainly to compensation and in some villages to reconciliation (MoD, 10 July 2006; IRIN, 5 January 2006; Daily Star, 29 September 2006; MoD, 10 July 2006). There is no new information about progress on resolution of these cases, which have been largely overshadowed by new conflict and displacement in Lebanon. The Ministry of Displaced was established to implement a comprehensive return programme, including compensation to IDPs from the civil war period to rebuild their homes, support for processes of reconciliation between residents and returnees, and socio-economic regeneration of affected areas (MoD, 10 July 2006). In the past, the Ministry has been criticised for mishandling of funds (US DoS, 25 February 2004; Caritas, August 2004; UNDP, 2002; ILO, 1997). The government has claimed however that it was budget limitations that mainly hindered the return of people displaced by the civil war and as a result of the Israeli occupation (GoL, 30 June 2004; MoD, 10 July 2006). In April 2008, the Daily Star newspaper reported that the Ministry received about \$6.7 million to continue the support of displaced people to return to the village of Kfarmata in the Chouf area (Daily Star, 1 April 2008).

There has been no judicial process to investigate or prosecute human rights abuses that were committed during and after the civil war, including killings of civilians, abductions, enforced disappearances and the arbitrary detention of Lebanese, Palestinians and foreign nationals (AI, 2008).

National and international response

Lebanon does not have a national IDP strategy, nor is there a national coordination mechanism focused specifically on the issue of forced displacement in Lebanon; and so the response to displacement situations has been largely specific to each region and conflict. Separate coordination structures have been established for northern Lebanon, southern Lebanon and southern districts of Beirut.

In northern Lebanon, UNRWA has taken the lead on the UN humanitarian response to displaced Palestine refugees from Nahr el-Bared. The Lebanese government is responsible for those

displaced in the “new camp”, areas adjacent to Nahr el-Bared camp. In September 2007, UNRWA launched a \$55 million appeal to meet the emergency humanitarian needs of those displaced from Nahr el-Bared camp and adjacent areas, which identifies provision of temporary shelter for displaced Palestine refugees as a priority (UNRWA, 10 September 2007). The appeal consolidates humanitarian activities in various technical sectors or “clusters” of intervention.

In February 2008, UNRWA and the government launched a plan for the reconstruction of Nahr el-Bared camp. It was prepared together with the Nahr el-Bared Reconstruction Commission for Civil Action and Studies (NBRC) a network of representatives of Nahr el-Bared including displaced Palestine refugees that formed to ensure that Palestine refugees are involved in planning and decision-making processes which affect them (UNRWA, 12 February 2008 and May 2008).

Despite the important involvement of community-based organisations in the reconstruction plan, under-participation of organisations representing Palestine refugees is reported in most UN clusters, and concerns have been raised about coordination between NGOs, the government and UNRWA, especially with regard to resource allocation and donor proposals, duplication and the setting of standards (IRIN, 24 June 2008; ALEF, 18 June 2008). Human rights organisations have raised concerns that UNRWA as the lead humanitarian agency does not have an institutional protection mandate, making it more difficult to ensure that fundamental rights of secondary displaced Palestine refugees and affected populations are respected and addressed at all levels of the humanitarian response (ALEF, 18 June 2008). Currently, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is leading the protection cluster in cooperation with UNRWA (UNRWA, 30 May 2008).

Since 2005, the government has cooperated more closely with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and UNRWA, adopting a policy aimed at improving conditions for Palestine refugees. A Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC), established in October 2005 within the Prime Ministers Office, was mandated to address outstanding socio-economic, legal and security issues related to Palestine refugees in Lebanon, in collaboration with UNRWA. Other policy initiatives adopted more recently, include the Palestine Declaration for Lebanon, adopted on 7 January 2008 which addresses among other issues living conditions for Palestine refugees (UNSC, 21 April 2008; GoL, 23 June 2008). On 23 June 2008, UNRWA and the government of Lebanon launched a common appeal for the reconstruction of Nahr el-Bared and the surrounding areas over the next three years.

The national and international response to the 2006 hostilities shifted quickly from humanitarian aid to development support. Most of the IDPs returned to their communities and the areas of Lebanon affected were deemed to have good community-based support networks after years of Israeli occupation and the civil war. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which took the lead in providing protection for IDPs during the emergency period, phased out its IDP operation at the end of December 2007. UNHCR noted that many of the issues identified for returning communities were long-standing problems, exacerbated by the 2006 war, but not necessarily caused by it (UNHCR Lessons Learned, 2007). Other UN agencies and many NGOs continue to implement programmes to support sustainable returns, mainly related to shelter and reconstruction, mine clearance, and income generation.

In January 2007, the Lebanese government adopted a national recovery, reconstruction and reform plan which was largely supported by the international community. The plan encompassed a broad range of recovery and reconstruction activities (Lebanese Republic, 2 January 2007). A number of national institutions are involved in the reconstruction. The High Relief Commission (HRC) remains responsible for those displaced from the 2006 war. It coordinates with the Central Fund for the Displaced (originally created to finance the return of the civil war displaced), the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Council of the South and the Council of Development and

Reconstruction. In addition to the role of the government on reconstruction (through its recovery and reconstruction unit at the Prime Minister's Office), political organisations, notably Hizbullah, remain key actors in the distribution of assistance, social services and reconstruction. A number of donors, particularly Arab donors, have pledged for reconstruction through an "adoption" scheme, for example adopting one or several villages, a school, hospital, or mosque (UN HRC, 4 June 2007).

UN Security Council resolution 1701 provides for an expanded UN peacekeeping force. United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) peacekeepers numbers over 13,000 troops and is tasked among other things with supporting the safe return of displaced persons in southern Lebanon (UNIFIL, 31 May 2008).

Political crisis impairs national and international efforts

Political crisis and insecurity has slowed the pace of rebuilding and created a climate of insecurity for displaced and local communities alike. Lebanon had no president from November 2007 to May 2008 and disputes between the various political groups and the resignation of several ministers paralysed the parliament for 18 months. In May 2008, clashes broke out between pro- and anti-government forces in Beirut, which spread to other parts of the country and left more than 69 people dead and over 180 injured, and temporarily displaced several thousand people, according to press reports (UNSC, 28 May 2008; BBC, 15 May 2008 and 9 June 2008; AFP, 11 May 2008). Following a ceasefire mediated by the League of Arab States, agreement was reached on the election of a new president, composition of the government, and a ban on use of arms or violence to resolve political conflicts (The Daily Star, 22 May 2008; Aljazeera, 20 May 2008).

However, the situation remains fragile. Sporadic clashes in eastern and northern Lebanon were reported several weeks after the agreement was adopted (Al Jazeera, 22 June 2008; BBC, 17 June 2008). Human rights organisations have called on the Lebanese government to properly investigate killings and allegations of other abuses of civilians committed during the clashes in May, including the shooting of a woman and her son as they fled their home in Beirut (AI, 13 May 2008; HRW, 18 May 2008; IRIN, 20 May 2008).

In the last year, a series of assassinations and other security incidents has included the assassinations of the head of operations of the Lebanese Armed Forces, a representative of the Internal Security Forces, and a senior commander of Hizbullah. Other security incidents were reported in the first half of 2008, including an explosion allegedly targeting a United States embassy vehicle, violence in Ain el-Hilweh Palestine refugee camp, and the killing of eight people in a protest over power cuts in the southern suburbs of Beirut (UNSC, 21 April 2008; IRIN, 16 January 2008 and 28 January 2008).

Lebanon's domestic disputes are linked to issues of international interest, including the establishment of a special tribunal in 2007 to try suspects of the assassination of prime minister Hariri, the disarmament of armed groups in Lebanon, violations of Lebanese sovereignty by Israel, an Israel-Lebanese prisoner exchange, and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict that is linked to the delineation of disputed borders and continued occupation of Lebanese territory by Israel.

While the situation in south Lebanon since the ceasefire has been mostly quiet, some incidents have been reported. These include an attack on UNIFIL troops and reports from the Israeli Defense Forces that two rockets had been fired into the town of Shelomi, both in January 2008 (UNSC, 21 April 2008, 23 April 2008 and 28 February 2008; UNR, 10 April 2008).

CAUSES AND BACKGROUND

Background

From the independence of Lebanon to the aftermath of the 1967 Israeli-Arab war (1920-1973)

- Independence of Lebanon was declared in 1941
- The U.S. sent marine troops to re-establish the government's authority in 1958, at the Lebanese government's request
- Following the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, Palestinians used Lebanon as a base for activities against Israel
- Instability of Lebanese government in the context of Palestinian and Israeli attacks against one another

BBC News 18 March 2002

1920 1 September - After the League of Nations grants the mandate for Lebanon and Syria to France, the State of Greater Lebanon is proclaimed. It includes the former autonomous province of Mount Lebanon, plus the provinces of north Lebanon, south Lebanon and the Biqa, historically part of Syria.

1926 23 May - [...] Lebanese Republic is declared.

1940 - Lebanon comes under the control of the Vichy French government.

1941 - After Lebanon is occupied by Free French and British troops in June 1941, independence is declared on 26 November. [...]

1943 December - France agrees to the transfer of power to the Lebanese government with effect from 1 January 1944.

1957 - President Kamil Sham'un accepts the Eisenhower Doctrine, announced in January, which offers US economic and military aid to Middle Eastern countries to counteract Soviet influence in the region.

1958 14 July - Faced with increasing opposition which develops into a civil war, President Sham'un asks the United States to send troops to preserve Lebanon's independence.

1958 15 July - The United States, mindful of Iraq's overthrow of its monarchy, sends marines to re-establish the government's authority.

1967 June - Lebanon plays no active role in the Arab-Israeli war but is to be affected by its aftermath when Palestinians use Lebanon as a base for activities against Israel.

1968 28 December - In retaliation for an attack by two members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) on an Israeli plane in Athens, Israel raids Beirut airport, destroying 13 civilian planes.

1969 November - The Commander-in-Chief of the Army, Emile Bustani, and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasir Arafat sign an agreement in Cairo which aims to control Palestinian guerrilla activities in Lebanon.

1973 10 April - Israeli commandos raid Beirut and kill three Palestinian leaders, close associates of Arafat. The Lebanese government resigns the next day."

For more details, see [Al Mashriq's website](#)

Beginning of Lebanese civil war and intervention of Syria and Israel (1975-1982)

- In 1975, clashes between Phalangists and Palestinians marked the beginning of Lebanese civil war and Syrian troops entered Lebanon in 1976 to restore order
- Israel launched a major invasion of Lebanon in 1978 to retaliate against Palestinian attacks and then again in 1982 following an assassination attempt of an Israeli ambassador (Operation Peace for Galilee)
- That same year, the Lebanese president was assassinated, the Phalangist militia killed Palestinians in Sabra and Chatila refugee camps in West Beirut, while Israeli troops occupied that part of the city
- International peacekeeping force then arrived in Lebanon at the government's request

Dammers 1998, p.185

"From 1975 to 1991, Lebanon witnessed persistent internal conflict, fomented by wider regional conflict, which resulted in the fragmentation of the country. In the civil war (1975/6), Maronite-dominated militias and army units fought an alliance of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Lebanese National Movement (LNM), whose constituency was largely among the Lebanese Muslims and Druze. The armed Palestinian presence in Lebanon was a major catalyst for the war. The intervention of Syria, initially on the side of the Christian militias, imposed something of a stalemate, consolidating the cantonization of the country into confessional districts. Syria has remained the dominant force in Lebanon ever since."

"Civil war begins

1975 13 April - Phalangist gunmen ambush a bus in the Ayn-al-Rummanah district of Beirut, killing 27 of its mainly Palestinian passengers. The Phalangists claim that guerrillas had previously attacked a church in the same district. (These clashes are regarded as the start of the civil war).

1976 June - Syrian troops enter Lebanon to restore peace but also to curb the Palestinians.

1976 October - Following Arab summit meetings in Riyadh and Cairo, a cease-fire is arranged and a predominantly Syrian Arab Deterrent Force (ADF) is established to maintain it.

Israel controls south

1978 14/15 March - In reprisal for a Palestinian attack into its territory, Israel launches a major invasion of Lebanon, occupying land as far north as the Litani River.

1978 19 March - The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) passes Resolution 425, which calls on Israel to withdraw from all Lebanese territory and establishes the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to confirm the Israeli withdrawal, restore peace and help the Lebanese government re-establish its authority in the area.

1978 - By 13 June Israel hands over territory in southern Lebanon not to UNIFIL but to its proxy mainly Christian Lebanese militia under Maj Sa'd Haddad.

Israel attacks

1982 6 June - Following the attempted assassination of Shlomo Argov, Israeli ambassador to the United Kingdom, Israel launches a full-scale invasion of Lebanon, "Operation Peace for Galilee".

1982 14 September - President-elect, Bashir al-Jumayyil, is assassinated. The following day, Israeli forces occupy West Beirut, and from 16 to 18 September, the Phalangist militia kill Palestinians in Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in West Beirut.

1982 21 September - Bashir's elder brother, Amin al-Jumayyil, is elected president.

1982 24 September - The first contingent of a mainly US, French and Italian peacekeeping force, requested by Lebanon, arrives in Beirut. " (BBC News 18 March 2002)

See UN Security Council's resolutions [425](#) [Internet] and [426](#) [Internet] of 19 March 1978, which called upon Israel to cease its military action and withdraw its forces from all Lebanese territory and decided on the establishment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

For more in-depth materials on the war in Lebanon, see [Al Mashriq's website](#)

Country plagued by violence and instability until the formation of a national unity government (1983-1991)

- In 1983 Israel and Lebanon signed an agreement on Israeli withdrawal and on the establishment of a security zone in the south but Lebanon abrogated it in 1987
- Christian South Lebanese Army continued to operate in the South, with Israel's support
- The Lebanese government was marked by instability: a Prime Minister and a President were assassinated and for a few years, Lebanon had two governments, a Muslim one in West Beirut, and a Christian one in East Beirut
- In 1989, the National Assembly endorsed a Charter of National Reconciliation, known as the Ta'if Agreement

BBC News 18 March 2002

"Buffer zone set up

1983 17 May - Israel and Lebanon sign an agreement on Israeli withdrawal, ending hostilities and establishing a security region in southern Lebanon.

1983 23 October - Twenty-four US marines and 58 French paratroopers are killed in two bomb explosions in Beirut, responsibility for which is claimed by two militant Shi'i groups.

1985 - By 6 June most Israeli troops withdraw but some remain to support the mainly Christian South Lebanon Army (SLA) led by Maj-Gen Antoine Lahd which operates in a 'security zone' in southern Lebanon. [...]

1987 21 May - Lebanon abrogates the 1969 Cairo agreement with the PLO as well as officially cancelling the 17 May 1983 agreement with Israel.

1987 1 June - After Prime Minister Rashid Karami is killed when a bomb explodes in his helicopter, Salim al-Huss becomes acting prime minister.

Two governments, one country

1988 22 September - When no candidate is elected to succeed him, outgoing President Amin al-Jumayyil appoints a six-member interim military government, composed of three Christians and three Muslims, though the latter refuse to serve. Lebanon now has two governments - one mainly Muslim in West Beirut, headed by Al-Huss, the other, Christian, in East Beirut, led by the Maronite Commander-in-Chief of the Army, Gen Michel Awn.

1989 14 March - Awn declares a "war of liberation" against the Syrian presence in Lebanon.

1989 28 July - Shaykh Abd-al-Karim Ubayd, Hezbollah leader in Jibshit, is abducted by Israeli forces.

1989 22 October - The National Assembly, meeting in Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, endorses a Charter of National Reconciliation, which reduces the authority of the president by transferring executive power to the cabinet. The National Assembly now has an equal number of Christian and Muslim members instead of the previous six to five ratio.

1989 November - President-elect Rene Mu'awwad is assassinated on 22 November and succeeded by Ilyas al-Hirawi on 24 November. The following day, Salim al-Huss becomes Prime Minister and Gen Emile Lahud replaces Awn as Commander-in-Chief of the Army on 28 November.

Civil war ends

1990 13 October - The Syrian airforce attacks the Presidential Palace at B'abda and Awn takes refuge in the French embassy. This date is regarded as the end of the civil war.

1990 24 December - Umar Karami heads a government of national reconciliation.

1991 - The National Assembly orders the dissolution of all militias by 30 April but Hezbollah is allowed to remain active and the South Lebanon Army (SLA) refuses to disband.

1991 22 May - A Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation and Coordination is signed in Damascus by Lebanon and Syria and a Higher Council, co-chaired by their two presidents, is established.

1991 1 July - The Lebanese army defeats the PLO in Sidon so that it now confronts the Israelis and the SLA in Jazzin, north of the so-called "security zone".

1991 26 August - The National Assembly grants an amnesty for all crimes committed during the civil war, 1975-1990. Awn receives a presidential pardon and is allowed to leave for France.

1991 30 October - Lebanon participates in the Middle East Peace Conference launched in Madrid. "

To view the Lebanese Charter of National Reconciliation, the "Taif Agreement" (1989) [[External Link](#)]

For more in-depth materials on the war in Lebanon, see [Al Mashriq's website](#)

The 1989 national reconciliation agreement (the “Taif Accord”) ends civil war in Lebanon and guarantees the right of all IDPs to return

- The Taif Agreement is officially known as the "Document of National Accord"
- The agreement was endorsed at a Lebanese National Assembly meeting in Taif, Saudi Arabia on 22 October 1989
- The accord restructured the political system in Lebanon by dividing political power equally between Muslims and Christians
- The accord also called for government sovereignty over all Lebanese territory
- The right of all internally displaced people to return to their place of origin was also specified in the agreement

Krayem, 2003

“The Taif Agreement (officially, the Document of National Accord) was the document that provided the basis for the ending of the civil war and the return to political normalcy in Lebanon.”

Al Mashriq, 2002

“On October 22 1989 the Lebanese National Assembly meeting in Taif Saudi Arabia endorsed an accord for national reconciliation. The Taif accord restructured the political system in Lebanon by transferring power away from the traditionally Maronite presidency to a Cabinet divided equally between Muslims and Christians.

The Taif accord also maps out a security plan for extending government sovereignty over all Lebanese territory. The accord calls for disbanding militias and strengthening of Lebanese government forces. It also calls for a withdrawal of Syrian forces inside Lebanon and the

establishment of a joint Syrian-Lebanese mechanism for making future decisions about the positioning and functions of the Syrian troops. The accord contains a Syria-Lebanese security agreement and calls for taking steps to bring about a withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory. The security-related parts of the accord are here translated.

The accord was rejected by General Michel Aoun but was accepted by other Maronite leaders. While Syria voiced support for the accord some Syrian-backed militia leaders such as Walid Jumblatt and Nabi Berri expressed disappointment over the accord which they considered superficial and overly favorable to the Sunni Muslim minority.”

[View the peace agreement \[Internet\]](#)

See also:

["The Lebanese Civil War and the Taif Agreement"](#), Hassan Krayem, American University of Beirut, "2003"

Israeli troops pull out of South Lebanon (1992-2000)

- On several occasions, Israel launched heavy attacks in Lebanon to end threats against its civilians from Hezbollah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Amal
- In 1996, one of the attacks resulted in the death of over 100 displaced civilians
- In May 2000, Israeli troops withdrew from Lebanon, without the assurance that Lebanon would guarantee the security of Israel's northern border

BBC News 18 March 2002

1992 16 February - Shaykh Abbas al-Musawi, Secretary-General of Hezbollah, is killed when Israeli helicopter gunships attack his motorcade on a road south-east of Sidon. By 17 June all Western hostages held by Shi'i groups have been released.

1992 20 October - After elections in August and September (the first since 1972), Nabih Birri, Secretary-General of the Shi'i Amal organization, becomes speaker of the National Assembly.

1991 31 October - Rafiq al-Hariri, a rich businessman, born in Sidon but with Saudi Arabian nationality, becomes prime minister, heading a cabinet of technocrats.

1993 25 July - Israel attempts to end the threat from Hezbollah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) in southern Lebanon by launching "Operation Accountability", the heaviest attack since 1982.

1994 21 May - Mustafa Dib al-Dirani, head of the Believers' Resistance, a breakaway group from the Shi'i Amal organization, is abducted by Israeli commandos from his house in eastern Lebanon.

Israel bombs Beirut

1996 11 April - The start of 'Operation Grapes of Wrath' in which the Israelis bomb Hezbollah bases in southern Lebanon, the southern district of Beirut and the Biqa.

1996 18 April - An Israeli attack on a UN base at Qana results in the death of over 100 Lebanese refugees [displaced civilians] sheltering there.

1996 26 April - The United States negotiates a truce and an "understanding" under which Hezbollah and Palestinian guerrillas agree not to attack civilians in northern Israel, and which recognizes Israel's right to self-defence but also Hezbollah's right to resist the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. Lebanon and Syria do not sign the 'understanding' but the Israel-Lebanon Monitoring Group (ILMG), with representatives from the United States, France, Israel, Lebanon and Syria, is established to monitor the truce.

1998 1 April - Israel's inner cabinet votes to accept United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 425 of 1978 if Lebanon guarantees the security of Israel's northern border. Both Lebanon and Syria reject this condition.

Lahhud is president

1998 24 November - Commander-in-Chief of the Army, Emile Lahhud, is sworn in as president, succeeding Ilyas al-Hirawi.

1998 4 December - Salim al-Huss becomes prime minister heading a cabinet which includes no militia leaders and only two ministers from the previous administration.

1999 3 June - The South Lebanon Army (SLA) completes its withdrawal from the Jazzin salient (north of the 'security zone') occupied since 1985.

2000 5 March - The Israeli cabinet votes for the unilateral withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon by July 2000.

2000 18 April - Israel decides to release thirteen Lebanese prisoners held without trial for over 10 years but the detention of Shaykh Abd-al-Karim Ubayd and Mustafa Dib al-Dirani is extended.

2000 24 May - After the collapse of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) and the rapid advance of Hezbollah forces, Israel withdraws its troops from southern Lebanon, more than six weeks before its stated deadline of 7 July.

2000 25 May - Lebanon declares 25 May an annual public holiday to be called "Resistance and Liberation Day."

For an analysis of Hizbollah in a local and regional setting, see International Crisis Group (ICG), 30 July 2003: "[Hizbollah: Rebel Without a Cause?](#)"

For more in-depth materials on Lebanon's civil war, see [Al Mashriq's website](#)

Renewed violence in South Lebanon after withdrawal of Israeli army (2001-2002)

- Lebanese soldiers and police force deployed to former security zone, while the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) increased its area of operations
- Hezbollah guerrillas were not disarmed and continued to patrol along the border with Israel
- The "Shebaa farms", a group of farms close to the poorly-defined border of Lebanon and Syria, have emerged as a potential new flashpoint for conflict between Israel and Hezbollah
- Fear of escalation of conflict between Israel and Hezbollah as of mid-2002
- Lebanese paper warned that instability in the south may discourage investment and slow down reconstruction

U.S. DOS February 2001

"Following the withdrawal [of Israeli troops], the [Lebanese] Government deployed over 1,000 police and soldiers to the former security zone. After the withdrawal, Hizballah guerrillas

maintained observation posts and conducted patrols along the border with Israel. The United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) also increased its area of operations following the Israeli withdrawal. Palestinian groups operate autonomously in refugee camps throughout the country. The Government did not attempt to reassert state control over the Palestinian camps or to disarm Hizballah."

UN SC 31 October 2000, para.16-18

According to the UN Secretary General, "[t]he sequence of steps in Security Council resolution 425 (1978) is clear and logical: the Israeli forces must withdraw, there must be no further hostilities, and the effective authority of the Lebanese Government must be restored. Thereafter, the Government of Israel and Lebanon are to be fully responsible, in accordance with their international obligations, for preventing any hostile acts from their respective territory against that of their neighbour. It is relevant to recall in this connection that both Governments have committed themselves, despite misgivings, to respect the Blue Line established by the United Nations for the purposes of confirming the Israeli withdrawal in accordance with resolution 425 (1978).

I believe that the time has come to establish the state of affairs envisaged in the resolution. This requires, first and foremost, that the Government of Lebanon take effective control of the whole area vacated by Israel last spring and assume its full international responsibilities, including putting an end to the dangerous provocations that have continued on the Blue Line."

BBC News 3 January 2001

"The Lebanese government has ignored UN requests to send its army to establish security in the area, saying it will not serve as Israel's body guard."

BBC News 25 May 2000

The Shebaa farms

"A group of farms close to the poorly-defined border of Lebanon and Syria has emerged as a potential new flashpoint for conflict between Israel and Lebanese Muslim guerrillas. The Syrian-backed guerrilla group, Hezbollah, says Israel must withdraw from the area of the Shebaa farms - which it says lies on Lebanese territory - or face continued attacks. Israel says most of the area lies on the Syrian side of the Lebanon/Syria border and that it will only withdraw from the part marked as Lebanese territory on the United Nations maps. [...]

Timur Goksel, a spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), told the BBC that the area amounted to little more than 10 square kilometers. He said no-one disputed that the village of Shebaa itself was in Lebanon, but most of the farms fell into an undefined area that may be either in Lebanon or Syria. [...] [UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan] proposed that all sides should adopt the line drawn after the 1974 Yom Kippur war, pending a permanent delineation of the border. This line forms the limit of the area currently monitored by the UNIFIL forces. [...]

Syria agrees with Lebanon that the Shebaa farms area is part of Lebanon. However, Israel points out that it seized the territory from Syria, during the 1967 Middle East War. Mr. Goksel said: 'The

UN is saying that on all maps the UN has been able to find, the farms are seen on the Syrian side.' [...] Despite Israel's withdrawal of troops from Lebanon, Syria still has 35,000 soldiers in the country, mostly near Beirut, in the north, and in the eastern Bekaa Valley. Analysts say that peace between Hezbollah and Israel would not be in Syria's interests, because it would increase pressure on Damascus to withdraw its forces and slacken its control over Lebanon."

Daily Star 17 February 2001

"Hizbullah is walking a very fine line dividing legitimate attempts to liberate the Shebaa Farms from plunging Lebanon into a renewed cycle of violence. [...] The Shebaa Farms is a powderkeg waiting for a match. Every time Hizbullah attacks Israeli troops in the disputed area, it is flicking lighted matches at that powder keg. [...]"

One can argue the merits for and against trying to liberate the Shebaa Farms. But there is one certainly: the country can ill afford at this juncture to juggle both a resistance campaign with a drive to revitalize the economy and inspire renewed investor confidence in Lebanon."

Blanford in Daily Star 20 February 2001

"Since his return to power in November [2000], Hariri has visited several countries to drum up foreign investment to revitalize the moribund economy. However, continued instability in the South threatens to undermine his efforts to encourage new investment. Hariri's dilemma is having to balance his drive to rebuild the economy with what, at times, must seem an incompatible public support for the resistance and its efforts to liberate Shebaa."

BBC News 3 April 2002

"Fears are growing of a new military front opening in the Middle East, across Israel's northern border with Lebanon. Such a development would turn the conflict into a more dangerous regional war, probably drawn in both Lebanon and Syria, and perhaps other nations."

Lackey 15 April 2002

"Alarmed by the growing influence of an armed militia in an already splintered country, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has repeatedly called on the Lebanese government to provide a viable military presence in the south to supplant UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The government has been unable, or unwilling, to do this."

Purdum, 15 June 2002

A senior Western diplomat "said there were indications of new weapons shipments from Iran to Hezbollah, the militia in southern Lebanon that has ties to both Iran and Syria. He said these included longer-range rockets that could be launched deep into Israeli territory, perhaps within the

next several days. The diplomat said such an attack could prompt a severe Israeli reprisal that could include an invasion of Lebanon."

For information on the UN endorsement of Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon and the reinforcement of the peacekeeping force, UNIFIL, please see "[Background information on UNIFIL](#)"

For more information on the conflict between Israel and Lebanese guerrilla movements, see an [October 2000 study](#) by the Center of Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

For more information on Lebanese guerilla groups – Hisballah and Amal, see A.R. Norton's 1999 report for the Council of Foreign Relations, "[Hisballah of Lebanon: Extremist Ideals vs. Mundane Politics](#)"

Former MPs draft new declaration for the implementation of the peace agreement (2004)

- The former MPs belong to a group formed in 2001 called the "Gathering for the Constitution and National Accord"
- The Declaration raises various issues about the implementation of the Taif Accord including the continued presence of Syrian troops in Lebanon
- A number of the former MPs present made statements alluding to the fact that the peace agreement has not been implemented though 14 years have passed since it was drafted

Daily Star, 15 July 2004

"Lebanese-Syrian relations should be redressed, the Constitution should not be amended for the sake of a presidential extension, and the next president should rule the country and not be ruled by others.

These were the main points in a declaration issued by the Gathering for the Constitution and National Accord, on Wednesday, during a press conference at the Press Federation.

The gathering, most of whose members are former MPs who participated in the 1989 Taif Accord, said its new declaration joins 'more than 82' statements issued over the past three years, since the gathering's creation in August 2001.

'But they have been met by deaf ears with no response from officials,' said gathering member Edmond Rizk, a former MP and minister, adding that '14 years, nine months and 20 days have passed since the drafting of the Taif Accord, and it has yet to be implemented.'

He added that 'national conciliation didn't take place ... and no official showed a real intention of adopting Taif's resolutions.'

Among the various points it raises, the Taif Accord called for a redeployment of Syrian forces to the Bekaa, within two years after it was passed as well as deploying the Lebanese Army to the South. The accord also pushed for a gradual phase-out of sectarian representation in politics and in public office.

Rizk, who read the declaration, mentioned that 'the current and previous political establishment lacks legality,' because 'tens of MPs were appointed in a manner that contradicts the Taif Accord.'

Rizk also said that amending the Constitution to extend or renew the presidential term 'over the past eight decades has led to severe splits among the Lebanese, causing damage to the country and the people.'

He added that the next president should not do what is imposed on him, but must 'express his own beliefs ... listen to his citizens, accept advice, and serve his people without using them.'

As for the Parliament's role in imposing checks and balances on the government, the gathering said it was 'blocked, just like the Cabinet's decision-making powers,' due to the fact that officials 'rush to get positions in power, which in turn leads to the breakdown of the principle of power separation and the idea of a unified state.'

The declaration also reiterated that the continued Syrian presence on Lebanese territory violates the Taif Accord. 'The Syrian Army entered Lebanon in a six-month mission 29 years ago,' said Rizk. The ongoing Syrian presence, 'contradicts the Taif Accord ... and the fundamental principles of relations between independent countries.' "

Situation in south Lebanon along Lebanon-Israeli border is fragile (2004)

- The Secretary General reported that in the last six months there has been considerable risk of hostilities escalating in the area of South Lebanon (July 2004)
- The Secretary General reiterated the Security Council's call for the government of Lebanon to extend measures to return its effective authority throughout the South
- The Secretary General also expressed concern that Israel persists in its provocative and unjustified air violations of sovereign Lebanese territory
- Likewise, the SG expressed concern that Hezbollah's retaliatory firing of anti-aircraft rounds across the Blue Line is a violation that poses a direct threat to human life
- The SG stressed that the use of live fire across the Blue Line occurs in violation of the ceasefire and poses serious danger to civilians
- On the positive side, the whole of southern Lebanon, including all villages in the formerly Israeli occupied zone down to the Blue Line, successfully took part in municipal elections
- The situation along the Blue Line is also susceptible to volatile regional developments

UNSC, 21 July 2004, p.5-7

"The situation in south Lebanon over the past six months can be described as being replete with contradictions. While both Israel and Lebanon proclaimed their aspirations to avoid destabilization of the area, only one month passed without confrontation. Furthermore, single incidents often sparked a chain reaction of violence to which both sides contributed. Importantly, none of those events spiraled out of control, and for this the parties and UNIFIL all deserve credit. Nevertheless, the considerable risk remains that hostile acts will escalate and lead the parties into conflict. I cannot stress enough the need for the parties to abide by their obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions, to respect the withdrawal line in its entirety and to exercise the utmost restraint. Neither side can afford to discount the risks attendant to ignoring their obligations.

The whole of southern Lebanon, including all villages in the formerly Israeli occupied zone down to the Blue Line, successfully took part in municipal elections. The free exercise of the democratic process is a universally acknowledged marker of stability. It is also a clear assertion of the exercise of authority by the Government of Lebanon. The Government of Lebanon also demonstrated its capacity to exercise its authority through the activities of the Joint Security

Force. Nevertheless, events demonstrated that further efforts were required to maintain calm in the south and to halt violations of the Blue Line, especially violations of the ceasefire. I reiterate the Security Council's call for the Government of Lebanon to extend measures to ensure the return of its effective authority throughout the south, including the deployment of Lebanese armed forces, and to do its utmost to ensure calm. I urge the Government to exert control over the use of force on its entire territory.

It remains a matter of deep concern that Israel persists in its provocative and unjustified air violations of sovereign Lebanese territory. Hezbollah's retaliatory firing of anti-aircraft rounds across the Blue Line is a violation that poses a direct threat to human life. While Hezbollah use of anti-aircraft weaponry continued the decline noted in my previous report, there were a number of recent occasions when overflights were countered with Hezbollah fire. The use of live fire across the Blue Line should not be permitted. This prohibition also pertains to retaliatory Israeli air strikes on Hezbollah or other positions inside Lebanon, which also pose a serious danger to civilians. One violation of the Blue Line cannot justify another.

[...]The situation along the Blue Line continues to be susceptible to volatile regional developments. This again underscores the need to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002) and 1515 (2003).

In a letter dated 9 July 2004 (S/2004/560), the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations conveyed to me his Government's request that the Security Council extend the mandate of UNIFIL for a further period of six months. In the light of conditions prevailing in the area, I recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of UNIFIL until 31 January 2005."

UNIFIL is mandated to maintain peace and security in South Lebanon. For news coverage of clashes along the border, see:

["Extension for UN Lebanon mission urged as tension mounts at withdrawal line"](#), UN, 21 July 2004

["Lebanon: UN officials work to restore calm after clashes across withdrawal line"](#), UN, 20 July 2004

["UN envoy calls for end to violations of withdrawal line between Israel, Lebanon"](#), UN, 8 June 2004

["UN envoy calls for halt to Israeli violations of withdrawal line, retaliatory fire from Lebanese side"](#), UN, 5 May 2004

["Southern Lebanon more fragile after six months of tension: Annan"](#), UN, 21 January 2004

Syria withdraws troops from Lebanon after almost 30 years presence (2005)

- Syria's military troops left Lebanon in April 2005 in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1559 (2004)
- The United States and some European countries pushed for Syria to leave Lebanon
- UNSC 1559 underlines Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence

UNSC, 26 October 2005, paras. 14

"In its resolution 1559 (2004), the Security Council placed central emphasis on the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon throughout Lebanon, reiterating this concern repeatedly.

In its presidential statement of 4 May 2005 (S/PRST/2005/17) related to my report of 26 April 2005, the Council underlined the fact that Lebanon's full political independence and full exercise of its sovereignty was the ultimate goal of resolution 1559 (2004)."

BBC, 26 April 2005

"Syria has announced that all of its military forces have left Lebanon in line with United Nations demands.

It informed the UN of the withdrawal after a parade of about 200 Syrian soldiers in the Bekaa Valley to mark the end of the 29-year deployment.

Soldiers received medals and shouted support for Syria's president before marching off to a Lebanese army band.

Pressure for Syria to leave grew after the assassination of former Lebanese PM Rafik Hariri in February.

Damascus has denied any role in the death of Hariri who was killed by a car bomb in Beirut but the event prompted giant protests calling for the Syrians to go.

BBC Beirut correspondent Kim Ghattas says the Syrians stayed on long after Lebanon's civil war ended and Damascus effectively became the political master of its tiny neighbour.

Lebanese caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati said "a new political era in the relations between the two brethren countries" had started with the completion of the troop withdrawal.

Pierre Gemayel, a Christian Maronite opposition MP, said: "We consider this a first step towards regaining Lebanon's full and real sovereignty."

Middle East Online, 7 June 2004

"The United States and several European countries have been pressing Damascus to withdraw from Lebanon and the US Congress has passed the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Act, which calls on Syria to end what it terms the occupation of Lebanon."

US Government, 11 May 2004

"Syrian troops entered Lebanon in 1976. Today, Syria maintains a military presence in Lebanon inconsistent with the spirit of the 1989 Taif Accords, which called for the extension of Lebanese government control over the entire territory of Lebanon."

See [UN Security Council Resolution 1559](#) in which the Council affirmed Lebanon's sovereignty.

New government formed in July 2005

- The new government is led by the Future Movement (Saad Hariri) and the Progressive Socialist Party of Jumblatt
- For the first time, a member of Hizbollah obtained a ministerial portfolio

UNSC, 26 October 2005, paras. 8-9

“On 7 May 2005, General Michel Aoun returned after 14 years in exile and formed the Free Patriotic Movement (FPM) to participate in the legislative elections that began on 29 May and concluded after four rounds on 19 June. The elections resulted in a clear victory of a coalition of the Future Movement, led by Saad Hariri, and the Progressive Socialist Party, led by Walid Jumblatt, which gained 72 seats. An alliance of the Amal party and Hizbollah gained 35 seats and FPM, led by Michel Aoun, won 21 of the 128 parliamentary seats.

On 19 July, a new Government was formed after intense discussions and negotiations between the political parties and President Lahoud, and not without difficulty, by Prime Minister Fouad Seniora, a former Minister of Finance who belongs to the Future Movement. Mr. Seniora’s Cabinet consists of 24 members, including 15 from the Future Movement and 5 representing the Shiite alliance that includes Hizbollah. For the first time, a member of Hizbollah, Mohammed Fneish, obtained a ministerial portfolio as Minister of Water and Energy. On 31 July, the new Government passed the parliamentary vote of confidence comfortably. Earlier, on 18 July, the newly elected Parliament had also approved a motion to pardon Samir Geagea, leader of the Lebanese Forces, who had spent the past 11 years incarcerated.”

Confrontations between Hizbollah and Israeli soldiers have broken out regularly since 2000 (2006)

- Incidents of clashes between Hizbollah fighters and Israel have been regularly reported prior to the 12 July outbreak of hostilities
- In November 2005, BBC reported the "heaviest fighting" in the Shebaa Farm area since 2000
- Israel is reported to continue flying over South Lebanon despite UN warnings
- Ground violations of the Blue line occurred mostly by crossings by Lebanese shepards
- Serious violations of the blue line with exchange of fire between Hezbollah and IDF occurred in February and May 2006
- In February IDF troops fired at a young Lebanese shepard
- In May Hezbollah was accused of firing 8 rockets into Israel although the organisation denied any involvement in the act
- IDF responded with air strikes against military installations of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine on 28 May
- UNIFIL mandate renewed in 2005 and 2006 through UNSC Resolutions 1583 and 1655

UNSC, 12 September 2006, p.4

"Since it was drawn by the United Nations in 2000, the Blue Line has remained tense, with violations from both sides"

UNSC, 21 July 2006, paras. 16-26

“Prior to the outbreak of hostilities across the Blue Line on 12 July, the situation in the UNIFIL area of operation during most of the reporting period was tense and volatile, although generally quiet. The ceasefire was breached and heavy exchanges across the Blue Line occurred at the beginning of February and at the end of May. One Lebanese civilian and one Hizbollah member were reportedly killed, and three Israeli soldiers, three Lebanese civilians and a number of Hizbollah members were wounded in the fighting. Tension along the Line was elevated, and IDF troops were on a high state of alert during the months of March, May, June and July. Israeli air violations decreased during the first half of the reporting period, but occurred again more frequently during the second half of May. Ground violations of the Line were attributable primarily to crossings by Lebanese shepherds and continued on an almost daily basis.

On 1 February, IDF opened fire and killed a young Lebanese shepherd inside Lebanese territory in the general area of the Shab'a farms. IDF claimed that the shepherd had been armed and that he had crossed the Blue Line on two earlier occasions that day. A UNIFIL investigation found no evidence to suggest that the shepherd had had any hostile intentions or that his weapon had been used. The shooting incident underlined the need for IDF to act with maximum restraint and to respect fully the Blue Line. It also illustrated the necessity for the Government of Lebanon to make additional efforts to prevent ground violations of the Blue Line, including in the Shab'a farms area.

On 3 February, Hizbollah launched rocket attacks on a number of IDF positions in the Shab'a farms area, wounding one soldier. The attack was reportedly in retaliation for the killing of the shepherd two days earlier. IDF responded with air strikes and artillery, mortar and tank fire against Hizbollah positions in the area from which Hizbollah fire had emanated. Hizbollah responded with rocket and mortar fire in the area. UNIFIL recorded one incident of IDF firing close to a UNIFIL position near Kafr Shuba. One Lebanese civilian was wounded in the air strike. After a one-and-a-half-hour exchange, UNIFIL succeeded in brokering a ceasefire through the liaison channels with the parties.

In a serious breach of the ceasefire in the early morning of 28 May, unidentified armed elements launched at least eight rockets from the general area of Aynata across the Blue Line into Israel. Three rockets impacted inside an IDF position on Mount Meron, in Upper Galilee, some 8 kilometres south of the Line, causing material damage and lightly wounding one soldier. Hizbollah denied any involvement in the attack. Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Lebanon initially claimed responsibility in retaliation for the killing of a leading member in Lebanon and his brother on 26 May in a car bomb explosion in Saida. The claim was retracted later that day. The Lebanese authorities have taken an official position against attacks emanating from their territory. In a letter dated 1 June 2006, they informed me that the Lebanese Army Command, in conjunction with UNIFIL, would conduct the investigations necessary to ascertain the circumstances of the firing of missiles from Lebanese territory with a view to putting an end to them. The Lebanese Government subsequently alleged that Israel was involved in the attack in Saida; Israel denied it.

Later in the morning of 28 May, IDF retaliated with air strikes against military installations of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command in Naameh, 15 kilometres south of Beirut, and in the Sultan Yacoub area in the Bekaa Valley. One member was reportedly killed and eight were wounded in the air strikes.

In the afternoon of the same day, unidentified armed elements fired small arms from the general area of Hula on the Lebanese side, directed at Manara village on the Israeli side. One IDF soldier was reportedly seriously wounded. There was no claim of responsibility, and Hizbollah denied any involvement in the shooting. The incident triggered a major exchange of fire in different areas along the Blue Line, from the coast to the Shab'a farms in the east. IDF retaliated with a significant number of air strikes and artillery, mortar and tank fire, causing extensive damage to a number of Hizbollah positions. One Hizbollah member was killed and several more were injured.

Two Lebanese civilians were also wounded, and several houses of civilians were damaged. Hizbollah responded with rocket, mortar and small-arms fire. UNIFIL was in close contact with the parties during the exchange of fire with a view to arranging a ceasefire and preventing further escalation. After approximately two hours of heavy exchanges, UNIFIL and my senior representatives in the area succeeded in brokering a cessation of hostilities.

In the course of the exchange of fire, UNIFIL recorded a number of cases of IDF firing close to UNIFIL positions 8-32, 8-32A and 8-33 in the general area of Hula, position 1-31, in the vicinity of Alma ash Shab, and patrol base Hin of Observer Group Lebanon. Position 8-32 suffered significant material damage as a result of a bush fire ignited by the IDF fire. UNIFIL also recorded a number of incidents of Hizbollah small-arms fire from the vicinity of the same United Nations positions. These incidents are of serious concern because they endanger the lives of United Nations personnel and property. UNIFIL strongly protested the incidents to both sides.

Persistent and provocative Israeli air incursions, occasionally reaching deep into Lebanese airspace and generating sonic booms over populated areas, remained a matter of serious concern. The pattern identified in my previous reports continued, whereby the aircraft would sometimes fly out to sea and enter Lebanese airspace north of the UNIFIL area of operation, thus avoiding direct observation and verification by UNIFIL. The air incursions violate Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, elevate tension and disrupt the fragile calm along the Blue Line. A reduction in the number of air incursions in April contributed to an atmosphere of relative calm along the Blue Line, but this trend was reversed in May.

There were no instances of Hizbollah anti-aircraft fire across the Blue Line during the reporting period. UNIFIL recorded a number of Lebanese ground violations of the Blue Line, primarily by shepherds. Such violations had become an almost daily routine, often involving the same local shepherds. On 1 February, IDF killed a Lebanese shepherd. UNIFIL had urged the Lebanese authorities to take concrete measures on the ground to prevent such violations, particularly by shepherds in the Shab'a farms area. Meanwhile, UNIFIL and Observer Group Lebanon patrols warned the local population about the danger of crossing the Blue Line.

Demonstrations on the Lebanese side of the Blue Line occurred periodically at points of friction identified in my previous reports, namely Sheikh Abbad Hill, east of Hula, and Fatima gate, west of Metulla. The demonstrators occasionally threw stones and other objects at IDF positions. These incidents caused apprehension among IDF personnel but did not escalate further."

Aljazeera, 28 May 2006

"United Nations peacekeepers in the region have managed in the past few hours to negotiate a cease-fire despite sporadic gunfire, officials said.

Local reports said the two dead were a fighter from Lebanon's Hezbollah group and a Palestinian fighter.

The clashes began at dawn on Sunday, after Palestinian fighters fired rockets at northern Israel and Israeli aeroplanes responded with air strikes on Palestinian bases near the Lebanese capital, Beirut.

Witnesses saw black smoke rising from a military base outside Beirut and another in the eastern Bekaa Valley, both run by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) which is based in Damascus.

Later, Hezbollah fighters opened fire on Israeli soldiers along the border and fired more rockets into Israel, with Israeli forces returning fire, the army said.

One Israeli soldier was wounded in the rocket attacks, the Israeli army added, while Israeli civilians living in towns along the border were also ordered into bomb shelters.

Ehud Olmert, the Israeli prime minister, warned of a "clear and harsh response" if the attacks did not stop.

Islamic Jihad has since claimed responsibility for the rocket attacks in a statement.

Revenge

The barrage is the first to have been fired into Israel since February 3, an Israeli military spokeswoman said.

It came two days after a senior Islamic Jihad official and his brother were killed in a car bombing in southern Lebanon that the Palestinian group blamed on Israel.

Lebanon's Hezbollah group, which controls the Lebanese side of the border, also blamed Israel for the assassination and Islamic Jihad officials swore revenge."

UNSC, 18 January 2006, p.1

"During the reporting period a tense and fragile quiet generally prevailed in the UNIFIL area of operation, interrupted by a few serious clashes across the Blue Line. In the most serious incident, a heavy exchange of fire between Hizbollah and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) across the Blue Line took place on 21 November, surpassing any activity level since Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon in May 2000. On 27 December, unidentified armed elements fired four Katyusha rockets from the general area of Addaïseh village towards Israel. There was an additional incident of exchange of fire between IDF and Hizbollah later in November. On two occasions, unidentified armed elements fired rockets from Lebanese territory across the Blue Line towards Israel. Recurrent Israeli air violations were a continuous source of tension. There were almost daily violations of the line of withdrawal by Lebanese shepherds and frequent incidents of stone throwing from the Lebanese side."

BBC, 28 December 2005

"Two Palestinian militants have been wounded in an Israeli air strike on their base in Lebanon, hours after rockets hit two Israeli border towns.

The Israeli warplanes targeted the base of the pro-Syrian Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command in the al-Naima area, south of Beirut.

"This is in response to the firing of projectile rockets last night toward Israeli communities," the army said.

A PFLP-GC spokesman denied his group had carried out the rocket attacks.

"Israel wants to blame us for the rocket attacks to provoke a hostile reaction against us in Lebanon," Anur Raja told the AFP news agency."

BBC, 21 November 2005

"Israeli troops have killed three Hezbollah fighters during a guerrilla attack near the Lebanese border, which also left several Israelis wounded.

It was the heaviest fighting in the Shebaa Farms area since 2000, when Israeli troops left south Lebanon.

Hezbollah fighters launched a major assault on Israeli army posts, triggering retaliatory air strikes.

Israel captured the area from Syria in the 1967 war but it is now claimed by Lebanon with Syria's backing.

Eyewitnesses reported at least 250 explosions in an intense two-and-a-half hours of rocket duels.

Scores of fighters were observed taking part in the Hezbollah operation, which Lebanese security sources said was aimed at taking Israeli hostages.

Overflights

Israeli aircraft overflew south Lebanon as far north as Tyre, in defiance of repeated calls by the United Nations for an end to violations of Lebanese air space.

Israeli TV said Hezbollah's artillery barrage was designed to divert attention from a raid on the Druze village of Ghajar to capture Israeli soldiers.

The majority of residents in Ghajar are reported to have taken Israeli nationality after Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria in 1967.

The water-rich Shebaa Farms area lies at the convergence of Lebanon and Syria and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

The UN has ruled that the area belongs to Syria - not Lebanon - and says its fate is linked to the Golan Heights.

In 2004, UN Resolution 1559 called for the disarmament of Hezbollah, but the Lebanese government has so far refused to act."

BBC, 7 May 2004

"Israeli aircraft have bombed suspected Hezbollah outposts in south Lebanon, Lebanese security sources say.

The raid in the Shebaa Farms area seems to have been a response to Hezbollah rocket attacks on Israeli army bunkers.

Hezbollah says it has killed several Israeli army infiltrators in the area, where Israel, Lebanon and Syria meet.

This is the third day of fighting in an area claimed as Lebanese by Hezbollah but described by the UN as Israeli-occupied Syrian land.

Cross-border skirmishes have been taking place since Wednesday, punctuated by Israeli air raids on Lebanese territory.

Israel says the Shebaa Farms are part of the Golan Heights, which it captured from Syria in the 1967 war and later annexed.

Hezbollah says it intends to recover the area for Lebanon.

The hostilities come amid reports that a breakthrough is likely in hostage-swap negotiations between Israel and Hezbollah, in which Germany is a mediator.

The latest fighting appears to have started when Hezbollah rockets struck Israeli military positions.

Israel responded with air-raids over suspected Hezbollah outposts near the Lebanese border village of Kfarshuba, Lebanese police said.

Hezbollah meanwhile says it killed several Israeli soldiers who had crossed the border into Lebanon.

Israel has confirmed at least one of its soldiers was killed. There was no word on casualties suffered by Hezbollah.

Save for the disputed Shebaa Farms area, the Israel-Lebanon border region has been largely peaceful since Israel withdrew its troops in 2000, after a long and bloody occupation."

Delineation of borders still unresolved: the cases of the Shebaa and Ghajar (2008)

- Security Council requests proposals for the delineation of the international borders of Lebanon, especially in those areas where the border is disputed or uncertain, including by dealing with the Shebaa Farms area
- Prime Minister Siniora proposed the Security Council place the Shab'a Farms area and the adjacent Kafr Shuba hills under United Nations jurisdiction until border delineation and Lebanese sovereignty over them are fully settled
- Israel continues to occupy north part of Ghajar, in violation of resolution 1701
- UNIFIL erects barbed wire fence separating the village of Ghajar to prevent violations on either side

UNSC, 21 April 2008

"The delineation of the border between the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon remains an element of crucial importance to a number of explicit operational requirements of resolutions 1559 (2004) and 1680 (2006), which place central emphasis on the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon throughout Lebanon. In addition, the explicit mandate contained in resolution 1559 (2004) for Lebanon to extend its governmental authority over all of its territory can only be realized if the Government of Lebanon and all other relevant parties know what the entirety of the territory of Lebanon is, with its exact boundaries determined and delineated. I have

continued my work in relation to the issue of the occupied Shab'a Farms area, as outlined in my most recent report on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) (S/2008/135). I have taken note of the letter from Prime Minister Siniora dated 2 April 2008 on the same matter. The timely implementation of tangible measures towards the delineation of the border between the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon would constitute an important step towards the extension of the Government's control over all of its territory and to stability in the region. Lebanon has reiterated to me its willingness to progress swiftly on this issue. I expect the full cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic to that end.

Israel continues to occupy the northern part of Ghajar, which constitutes a violation of Lebanon's sovereignty. I will report on this matter to the Council in my next report on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006)."

UNR, 10 April 2008

"UN peacekeepers have started putting up a barbed wire fence along the Lebanon-Israel border to prevent violations of the so-called Blue Line separating the village of Ghajar.

The decision to set up the barrier was made last week at a meeting between UNIFIL's Commander General and officials from the Lebanese and Israeli armies. The spokesperson for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, Yasmina Bouziane, says the measure is meant to prevent violations of the Blue Line from either side.[...]

Ms. Bouziane says the barrier will run around northern Ghajar, the zone controlled by the Israeli Defense Forces."

UNSC, 28 February 2008

"Despite intensive efforts, the impasse over the temporary security arrangements for the northern part of the village of Ghajar has not been overcome to date. Continuing control by the Israel Defense Forces of the part of the village north of the Blue Line and a small adjacent area inside Lebanese territory is a source of tension and carries the potential for incidents. The Israel Defense Forces does not maintain permanent positions inside this area, but it has increased its presence and activities over the reporting period."

UNSC, 19 October 2006

"In addition to its call contained in resolution 1680 (2006) on the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to respond positively to the request made by the Government of Lebanon to delineate their common border, the Council again emphasized the importance of the extension of the control of the Government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory in its resolution 1701 (2006).

In the context of the general need for a delineation of the Syrian-Lebanese border, the Government of Lebanon has informed me that Syrian border police maintained sand barriers and positions inside Lebanese territory in several locations during the last six months. The Government of Lebanon further informed me that there were mobile positions, some of which were also manned by Syrian border police on occasion. The apparent uncertainty over the border

in the areas concerned highlights, once again, the need for a comprehensive border delineation agreement between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, in the best interest of both countries.

As regards delineation of the border in the Shab'a Farms area, Prime Minister Siniora enquired in a meeting between us on 21 April 2006 as to possible steps to be undertaken, from the perspective of the United Nations, for the sovereignty of the Shab'a Farms to be transferred from the Syrian Arab Republic to Lebanon. I responded to the Prime Minister in a letter dated 5 June 2006. Prime Minister Siniora and I have discussed the matter further, including when I visited Beirut during my recent mission to the region and in connection with the Government of Lebanon's seven-point plan.

In the light of Syrian statements indicating that the Shab'a Farms area is Lebanese and considering the alternative path suggested by the Government of Lebanon in its seven-point plan, I continue to investigate carefully the complicated cartographic, legal and political implications of such an approach and will revert to the Council in due course.⁴ In the meantime, I wish to reiterate my urgent call on the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon to undertake the necessary steps to delineate their common border, in fulfilment of resolutions 1559 (2004), 1680 (2006) and 1701 (2006). Such steps would significantly contribute to the stability of the region."

UNSC, 12 September 2006

"In its resolution 1701 (2006), the Security Council emphasized the importance of the extension of the control of the Government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory. The Council also requested me to develop proposals for the delineation of the international borders of Lebanon, especially in those areas where the border is disputed or uncertain, including by dealing with the Shab'a Farms area.

I have previously noted the repeated statements by representatives of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic that the Shab'a farms area is Lebanese and not (Israeli-occupied) the Syrian Arab Republic territory, as determined by the United Nations on the basis of the Blue Line, and my caveat that the determination by the United Nations of the status of the Shab'a Farms is without prejudice to any border delineation agreement between the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon. I have previously called on both Governments to urgently take steps in keeping with international law to reach such an agreement. I have also noted Lebanon's readiness to deal with this issue and urgently called for the cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic.

It is important to emphasize that the issue of the Shab'a Farms area continues to be put forward — in contradiction to the repeated resolutions of the Security Council — to justify the existence and activities of Hizbollah insofar as militant activity across the Blue Line is concerned. In light of the Syrian Arab Republic statements indicating that the Shab'a Farms area is Lebanese, clarifying the status of the area is likely to facilitate the Government of Lebanon's efforts to fully implement the relevant provisions of the Taif Accords and of Security Council resolutions 1559 (2004), 1680 (2006) and 1701 (2006). A permanent solution of this issue, however, remains contingent upon the delineation of the border between the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon.

I am encouraged by my talks with the Governments of the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon on this issue and note that the Lebanese remain committed to the agreement they reached in their national dialogue earlier in 2006. I also note that President Assad informed me that the Syrian Arab Republic was prepared to go ahead with the delineation of its border with Lebanon and that he was ready to meet with Prime Minister Siniora at any time to discuss all issues of common interest. I reiterate my strong expectation of speedy steps towards an agreement on the delineation of the border as an important means to help fully restore the sovereignty, territorial

integrity and political independence of Lebanon in fulfilment of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).

In this context, I have taken careful note of an alternative path, suggested by the Government of Lebanon, to achieve progress on clarifying, in particular, the status of the Shab'a Farms. In his Seven Point Plan, Prime Minister Siniora proposed that, together with an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire, agreement would be declared on a number of elements, including a commitment from the Security Council to place the Shab'a Farms area and the adjacent Kafr Shuba hills under United Nations jurisdiction until border delineation and Lebanese sovereignty over them are fully settled. Implementation of such a measure would still require the determination of the precise geographic scope of the Shab'a Farms area, which I have previously identified as an essential element to be addressed in a letter I sent to Prime Minister Siniora on 5 June 2006 regarding his question about the possible steps to be undertaken, from the perspective of the United Nations, for the sovereignty of the Shab'a Farms area to be transferred from the Syrian Arab Republic to Lebanon. I am now studying carefully the complicated cartographic, legal and political implications of such an approach and will revert to the Council in due course."

Xinhua, 10 October 2006

"Lebanese President Emile Lahoud has condemned Israel's refusal to withdraw from the Ghajar village in southern Lebanon, saying it is a clear violation of UN resolution 1701, a presidential statement said on Monday.

"Lebanon still holds on to all its occupied territories including the town of Ghajar and the Shebaa Farms. Lebanon will also exert all efforts to set free its Lebanese detainees in Israeli jails. Lebanon also demands Israel to hand over all landmines maps to the UN," said the president in an interview with Kuwaiti daily "Anbaa" which will be published Tuesday.

Despite pulling out from the rest of southern Lebanon on October 1, Israeli troops continue to occupy the Lebanese part of the divided village of Ghajar, which borders the Syrian Golan Heights that Israel has held since 1967."

Israel launches military operations and blockade on Lebanon after Hizbollah abduction of Israeli soldiers (12 July 2006)

- According to news sources, Hezbollah launched the attack, Israel responded with large-scale airstrikes
- In border clashes between Israeli military forces and Hezbollah, Hezbollah fighters seize two Israeli soldiers in a cross-border raid, saying it will release them only if Israel frees Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails
- Ehud Olmert, Israel's prime minister, says the attack is an "act of war" by Lebanon and said he would make the country pay a "heavy price"
- Israel imposes a sea, air and ground blockade and begins systematic bombing
- Israeli Defense Forces also conduct small-scale incursions into Lebanese territory with bulldozers and tanks
- Some of the heaviest fighting occurred in the last 48 hours prior to the ceasefire

UNSC, 18 August 2006, para. 8

“Meanwhile, some of the heaviest fighting of the month-long conflict occurred during the 48-hour period prior to the cessation of hostilities coming into effect. Israel Defense Forces (IDF) intensified shelling and aerial bombardment across Lebanon. Hizbollah launched a barrage of rockets into northern Israel. The two sides exchanged heavy fire on the ground, in particular in the area of Bayyadah, Al Jibbayn and Tayr Harfa in the western sector, and Mays al Jabal and Markaba in the central sector.”

UNSC, 21 July 2006, p.2

“The situation in the UNIFIL area of operation remained tense and volatile, although it was generally quiet during most of the reporting period. This situation completely changed on 12 July, when the current hostilities broke out and the area was plunged into the most serious conflict in decades.

The crisis started when, around 9 a.m. local time, Hizbollah launched several rockets from Lebanese territory across the withdrawal line (the so-called Blue Line) towards Israel Defense Forces (IDF) positions near the coast and in the area of the Israeli town of Zarit. In parallel, Hizbollah fighters crossed the Blue Line into Israel and attacked an IDF patrol. Hizbollah captured two IDF soldiers, killed three others and wounded two more. The captured soldiers were taken into Lebanon. Subsequent to the attack on the patrol, a heavy exchange of fire ensued across the Blue Line between Hizbollah and IDF: While the exchange of fire stretched over the entire length of the Line, it was heaviest in the areas west of Bint Jubayl and in the Shab'a farms area. Hizbollah targeted IDF positions and Israeli towns south of the Blue Line. Israel retaliated by ground, air and sea attacks. In addition to airstrikes on Hizbollah positions, IDF targeted numerous roads and bridges in southern Lebanon within and outside the UNIFIL area of operations. IDF has stated that those attacks were to "prevent Hizbollah from transferring the abducted soldiers". At least one IDF tank and an IDF platoon crossed into Lebanon in the area of the Hizbollah attack in an attempt to rescue the captured soldiers. An explosive device detonated under the tank, killing four more IDF soldiers. An eighth IDF soldier was reportedly killed in fighting that ensued during an attempt to retrieve the four bodies. That night, the IDF issued a warning to UNIFIL that any person - including United Nations personnel - moving close to the Blue Line would be shot at.

In the afternoon of 12 July local time, the Government of Lebanon requested UNIFIL to broker a ceasefire. Israel responded that a ceasefire would be contingent upon the return of the captured soldiers.

Hostilities within and outside the UNIFIL area of operations have continued without interruption since 12 July. Israel continues to conduct large-scale airstrikes on infrastructure and strategic targets throughout Lebanon, including the Beirut international airport, which has since remained closed, the port, various Beirut suburbs and towns further north along the coast and in the Bekaa Valley. The Beirut- Damascus highway and other routes connecting Lebanon to the Syrian Arab Republic have also been bombed. Many fuel depots and petrol stations have been destroyed. Within the UNIFIL area of operations, IDF bombings have damaged or destroyed Hizbollah positions in addition to most roads and bridges, obstructing movement throughout the south of the country. [...]

IDF has conducted small-scale temporary incursions into Lebanese territory with bulldozers and tanks near Rosh HaNiqra and Ghajar to destroy Hizbollah positions. It has also erected concrete blocks around the northern part of Ghajar village, and its troops are reported to be operating in the northern part of the village.”

The Guardian, 12 July 2006

"Israeli tanks and troops today invaded southern Lebanon after Hizbullah captured two soldiers and killed several others.

The Israeli prime minister, Ehud Olmert, described the capture of the soldiers an "act of war" by Lebanon, with today's developments compounding the ongoing political crisis over an abducted Israeli soldier being held in Gaza.

Palestinian militants holding Corporal Gilad Shalit have demanded that all Palestinian women and young people held in Israeli jails be freed in exchange for his release.

The Bush administration blamed Syria and Iran for today's kidnappings and violence, calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the two soldiers.

Hizbullah said it would not release them until Israel agreed to set free all Arab prisoners.

Its capture of the soldiers is a huge political embarrassment to Mr Olmert, coming only weeks after the seizure of Cpl Shalit last month.

He will be concerned that Hamas and Hizbullah could start working together to demand the release of prisoners as a condition for freeing the missing soldiers.

Several Israeli soldiers were killed in fighting after Mr Olmert ordered his forces into Lebanon in an attempt to rescue the abducted soldiers.

"These are difficult days for the state of Israel and its citizens," he said. "There are people ... who are trying to test our resolve. They will fail, and they will pay a heavy price for their actions."

Aljazeera, 24 July 2006

"Hezbollah fighters seize two Israeli soldiers in a cross-border raid. Three Israeli soldiers are also killed in the attack.

It says it will release them if Israel frees Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails.

"Fulfilling its pledge to liberate the prisoners and detainees, the Islamic Resistance ... captured two Israeli soldiers at the border with occupied Palestine," a Hezbollah statement said.

Ehud Olmert, Israel's prime minister, said the attack was an "act of war" by Lebanon and said he would make the country pay a "heavy price".

Later that day, Israel launches a small cross-border raid in the area where the two soldiers were abducted. Hezbollah destroyed one Israeli tank, killing its four-man crew. Another Israeli was killed in an operation to recover the tank.

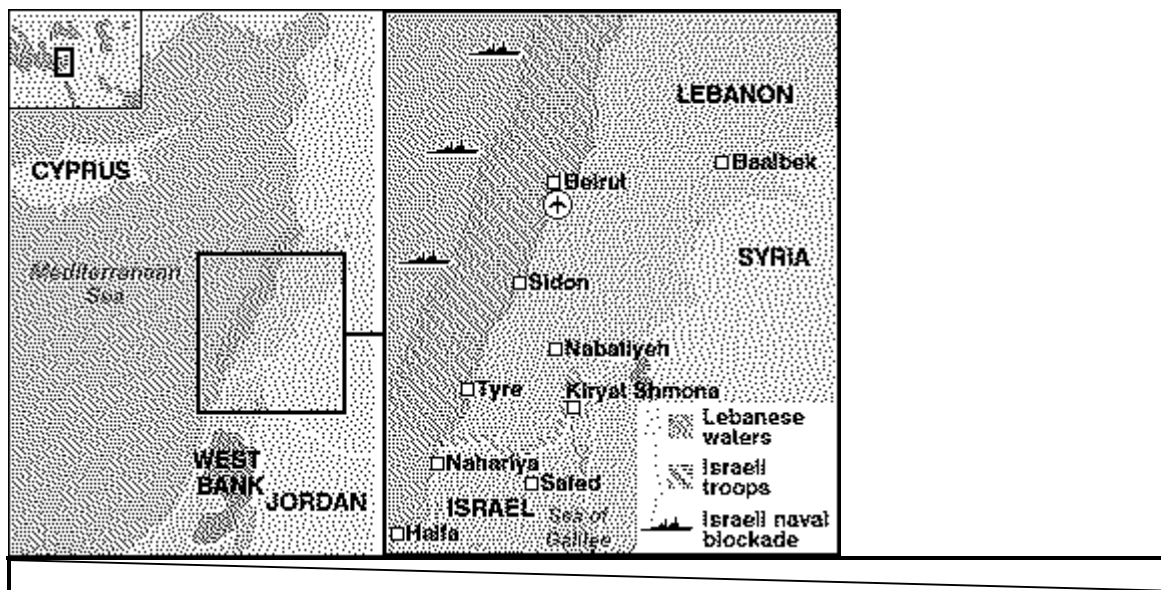
"This affair is between Israel and the state of Lebanon," Major-General Udi Adam, head of Israel's Northern Command says. "Where to attack? Once it is inside Lebanon, everything is legitimate - not just southern Lebanon, not just the line of Hezbollah posts."

Lieutenant-General Dan Halutz, Israel's chief of staff, says: "If the soldiers are not returned, we will turn Lebanon's clock back 20 years."

BBC, 13 July 2006

"Israel is imposing an air and sea blockade on Lebanon as part of a major offensive after two soldiers were seized by the militant group Hezbollah.

Israeli warships have blocked Lebanese ports, and its international airport was closed after Israeli bombing.



Israel targets Lebanon by land, air and sea: enforcing naval blockade, bombing Beirut airport and shelling Lebanese towns"

Ceasefire and adoption of UNSC Resolution 1701 (August 2006)

- The Resolution calls for an immediate cessation to the hostilities
- It calls for the deployment of Lebanese troops and an expanded UN peacekeeping presence across Southern Lebanon and the withdrawal of Israel
- The UN force, UNIFIL, will be tasked with monitoring the ceasefire, helping ensure humanitarian access to civilians and the safe return of IDPs
- The resolution also calls for an arms free zone between the Blue Line and the Litani and for the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon

- It calls for full implementation of the Taif Accords, as well as resolutions 1559 and 1680
- A ceasefire went into effect on 14 August

UNSC, 15 April 2008

UN Security Council reiterates commitment to fulfil implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701, April 2008

AFP, 14 August 2006

"A UN-brokered ceasefire to end the month-old conflict in Lebanon came into force on Monday but intense fighting continued right up to the deadline for the guns to fall silent.

Israel launched an 11th-hour wave of air strikes on Lebanon and Hezbollah fighters unleashed a barrage of rockets just hours before the agreed "cessation of hostilities" took effect at 0500 GMT.

Israeli forces shelled areas around Tyre and Kham in the war-battered south of the country, while combat jets flew over Beirut, dropping warning leaflets, and bombarded the ancient eastern city of Baalbek. "

UNSC, 11 August 2006

"The Security Council voted tonight to halt the deadly conflict that has engulfed Lebanon and northern Israel for the past month, passing a resolution that calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities followed by the deployment of Lebanese troops and a significantly expanded United Nations peacekeeping presence across southern Lebanon as well as the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from the same area.

In a unanimous vote, conducted after weeks of intensive diplomacy with Secretary-General Kofi Annan pushing for action, the 15-member Council called for Hizbollah to stop all attacks immediately and for Israel to cease "all offensive military operations."

Welcoming the Lebanese Government's plan to deploy 15,000 troops across the south of the country as Israel withdraws behind the Blue Line "at the earliest," the Council backed the simultaneous deployment of a UN force with an enhanced mandate, equipment and scope of operation.

The expanded UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) will be authorized to have a maximum of 15,000 peacekeepers and its mandate has been extended by 12 months until August next year. The mission will be tasked with monitoring the cessation of hostilities, helping to ensure humanitarian access to civilians and the safe return of displaced persons, and supporting the Lebanese armed forces as they deploy in the south and enforce their responsibilities under the resolution.

The Council said it reserved the right to make further enhancements to UNIFIL's mandate in a later resolution.

Underlining its desire “to help secure a permanent ceasefire and a long-term solution to the conflict,” the Council urged Israel and Lebanon to work towards those goals while respecting several principles, including:

Respect for the Blue Line;

Ensuring the area between the Blue Line and the Litani river in southern Lebanon is free of any armed personnel and weapons other than those of the Lebanese armed forces and UNIFIL; and Full implementation of the relevant provisions of the Taif Accords, as well as resolutions 1559 and 1680, that require the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon.

The text stressed the importance of not just ending the violence, but the causes that gave rise to the current crisis, including “the unconditional release of the abducted Israeli soldiers.”

It said the Council, “mindful of the sensitivity of the issue of prisoners,” encouraged efforts aimed at settling the issue of the hundreds of Lebanese prisoners detained in Israel.

Council members also emphasized how vital it is that the Lebanese Government is able to extend its authority across all of the country’s territory through the deployment of its armed forces.

The resolution also urged Member States to consider contributing to the expanded UNIFIL force while calling on the international community to offer financial and humanitarian aid to the Lebanese people, and to help displaced persons return safely to the country. The Secretary-General was asked to develop proposals within the next month on several issues, including the delineation of Lebanon’s border and the Shebaa farms area.”

See the full text of [UNSC 1701](#)

Progress on UN Special Tribunal to investigate assassination of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri (2008)

- On 30 May 2007, the UN Security Council mandated the Secretary General to establish a Special Tribunal
- The location of the Tribunal has been decided, as well as appointment of the judges
- In June 2006, the UN Security Council extended for one year the mandate of the international commission set up to investigate the death of the former prime minister
- The UN International Independent Investigation Commission (IIIC) was set up in 2005 based on an initial mission
- The UN IIIC will transition to the Office of the Prosecutor of the Special Tribunal
- An initial report led by Mehlis found that Syria was involved in the assassination but also suggests Lebanese involvement

UNSC, 12 March 2008

“[S]ubstantial progress has been made in a number of areas, including (a) the location of the seat of the Tribunal; (b) the appointment of the judges, the Prosecutor, the Deputy Prosecutor, the Registrar and the Head of the Defence Office; (c) the preparation of an estimate of the staffing and financial requirements; (d) the fulfilment of the Tribunal’s funding requirements; (e) the establishment of the Management Committee; (f) the transition from the International Independent Investigation Commission to the Tribunal; (g) security issues; and (h) the development of a communication and outreach programme.”

IDMC Note: Under Resolution 1757, the UN Secretary General was mandated to take, in coordination, when appropriate, with the Government of Lebanon, steps and measures necessary to establish a Special Tribunal in a timely manner. [See UNSC Resolution 1757 \(2007\)](#), adopted 30 May 2007.

The Guardian, 31 May 2007

“The UN security council voted last night to create a special tribunal into the 2005 assassination of the Lebanese prime minister, Rafiq Hariri.”

UN News, 12 June 2006

"Expressing its willingness to continue to assist Lebanon in the search for the truth surrounding the killing of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and 22 others, the United Nations Security Council today extended for one year the mandate of the international commission probing the deadly 2005 car bomb attack.

Coming just a day after the UN International Independent Investigation Commission (IIIC) reported “considerable progress” into the probe, the 15-member Council voted unanimously for the extension until 15 June 2007 that had been called for among others by the Prime Minister of Lebanon.

In the resolution, the Council reaffirmed its “strongest condemnation of the 14 February 2005 terrorist bombing, as well as of all other attacks in Lebanon since October 2004, and reaffirming also that those involved in these attacks must be held accountable for their crimes.”

The Council also supported the Commission’s intention to extend further technical assistance to the Lebanese authorities regarding their investigations into the other terrorist attacks in Lebanon since 1 October 2004, and also requested the Secretary-General to provide the IIIC with the resources needed for this.

In his detailed report yesterday to the Security Council on the investigation into the killings, the head of the Commission Serge Brammertz, said the “fundamental building blocks for the investigation into the crime” were now largely understood “and provide the basis for investigative progress with regard to those who perpetrated the crime.”

UNIIIC was established by the Security Council in April 2005 after an earlier UN mission found Lebanon's own investigation seriously flawed and Syria primarily responsible for the political tension preceding Mr. Hariri's murder."

UN News, 21 October 2005

"Converging evidence" points at both Lebanese and Syrian involvement in the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, according to a report by a United Nations investigating panel, which concluded that the "terror" attack on 14 February had been carried out by a group with an extensive organization and considerable resources.

"It is a well known fact that Syrian Military Intelligence had a pervasive presence in Lebanon at the least until the withdrawal of the Syrian forces (in April)," the head of the UN International Independent Investigation Commission (UNIIC), Detlev Mehlis, said in the report to the Security Council on the bomb attack. The bombing killed 22 others, leading to renewed calls for the withdrawal of all Syrian troops and intelligence agents who had been in Lebanon since the early stages of the country's 1975-1990 civil war.

"The former senior security officials of Lebanon were their appointees. Given the infiltration of Lebanese institutions and society by the Syrian and Lebanese intelligence services working in tandem, it would be difficult to envisage a scenario whereby such a complex assassination plot could have been carried out without their knowledge," the 63-page report said."

[See related documentation linked below]

Clashes erupt on 20 May in Palestinian refugee camp between Fatah al Islam and Lebanese army (2007)

- Lebanese army says the north Lebanon Nahr el Bared camp held by Fatah al Islam fighters
- Fighting lasts 3 months killing more than 42 civilians, 169 Lebanese soldiers and 287 combatants
- Fighting causes secondary displacement of tens of thousands of Palestinian refugees
- Clashes also broke out in Ein el Hilweh, a second refugee camp in south Lebanon
- A 1969 agreement prevents the army from entering Lebanon's 12 Palestinian camps, home to 400,000 refugees

UNRWA, September 2007

"Due to the fighting, over 30,000 Palestine refugees fled their homes in and around NBC, most taking refuge in the neighbouring Beddawi Camp and other Palestine refugee camps in Lebanon. The struggle for control of Nahr el-Bared, which involved heavy aerial and artillery bombardment, was the most serious case of internal fighting in Lebanon since the end of the Civil War in 1990. The Government of Lebanon declared an end to hostilities on 2 September after a three month campaign during which 169 soldiers, 287 combatants and 42 civilians were killed."

The Guardian, 3 September 2007

"Lebanon's army has taken control of a refugee camp in northern Lebanon that has been a refuge for Islamic militants since May, according to Lebanese officials.

The officials said the last area of Nahr el-Bared camp held by Fatah Islam fighters fell to the army after militants attempted a breakout from the camp over the weekend, which left 32 of them dead, bringing an end to three months of fighting. The army was also said to have caught 15 militants trying to escape.

Troops carried on searching for Fatah Islam fighters outside the camp in buildings, fields and roads, residents said. Before yesterday's battle, Lebanese officials had said up to 70 Fatah Islam fighters remained in the camp. When the fighting erupted in May, the number was estimated at 360.

The military said five soldiers were killed over the weekend, raising the total number of troops who have died since the conflict started to 158.

According to security officials and television reports, the breakout began when a group of militants went through an underground tunnel to an area of the camp under army control and fought with troops. At the same time, another group of militants struck elsewhere to try to escape, reportedly receiving help from militants outside the camp.

Residents said troop reinforcements were deployed close to the camp and roads blocked to prevent fighters from sneaking out, while helicopters provided aerial reconnaissance. Army officials said they did not know whether the Fatah Islam leader, Shaker al-Absi, was among those who attempted to break out. Al-Absi has not been seen since early in the fighting.

State television reported that Lebanese residents of nearby villages, armed with guns and sticks, fanned out to protect their houses and prevent militants from seeking refuge and melting into the local population. Smoke billowed from a field near the camp where residents said the army set fire to bushes to deny militants a hiding place.

Fighting erupted on May 20 between troops and Fatah Islam militants holed up in the camp near Tripoli, becoming Lebanon's worst internal violence since the civil war in 1990.

The battles have killed more than 20 civilians and scores of militants. Families of the militants were evacuated last month, the last civilians to leave the camp.”

The Guardian, 4 June 2007

“Two soldiers died today as clashes between the Lebanese army and Palestinian militants spread to a second refugee camp in southern Lebanon.

Apart from the two Lebanese soldiers, one civilian and two militants from a group called Jund al-Sham were also killed at Ain al-Hilweh, Lebanon's biggest camp, security and military sources said.

The fighting at Ain al-Hilweh, which started yesterday, fuelled fears that a two-week-long standoff between militants and Lebanese forces at the Nahr al-Bared camp in northern Lebanon will spread to other Palestinian refugee camps in the country.

Jund al-Sham, which is Arabic for Soldiers of historic Syria, has claimed responsibility or been blamed for a number of bombings and gun battles, mainly in Lebanon and Syria. Syrian officials have portrayed Jund al-Sham as the most active militant group in their country.

The group has sided with Fatah al-Islam, the faction fighting the army at Nahr al-Bared, though there are no apparent organisational links between the two.

A 1969 agreement prevents the army from entering Lebanon's 12 Palestinian camps, home to 400,000 refugees.”

[Further news coverage linked below]

Political crisis: opposition questions legitimacy of government, position of president is vacant for six months (2008)

- No agreement on the presidential election from November 2007-May 2008
- General Michel Suleiman is put forward as potential candidate for presidency
- International and regional actors make efforts to facilitate dialogue, including a three point plan proposed by the Arab league
- Confrontations between opposing parties, occasionally lead to violence
- No progress in full disarmament and disbanding of Lebanese and non Lebanese armed groups, as called for in UN Resolution 1559 (2004) and in the Lebanese National Dialogue agreement of 2006

UNSC, 21 April 2008

“Over the past six months, Lebanon has continued to experience a severe political crisis, currently centred on the failure to elect a President of the Republic. The position has remained vacant since 24 November 2007, when the extended term of President Emile Lahoud ended. Despite the energetic and sustained efforts of Lebanese, regional and international players, all attempts to elect a new President have been fruitless. The electoral void has fuelled political polarization and impeded the normal functioning of the legitimate constitutional institutions of the country, in particular the Government and the Parliament. It has also contributed, at times, to violent confrontations between the opposing parties, leading to casualties. The absence of an agreement on the presidential election threatens the very foundations of the Lebanese State, and the sovereignty, independence and stability of Lebanon. The country currently confronts challenges of a magnitude unseen since the end of the civil war, with possible regional repercussions.

At the end of November, the ruling majority put forward General Michel Sleiman as a potential consensus candidate for the presidency. His candidacy was accepted by the opposition early in December under certain extra-constitutional conditions, including the composition of the Cabinet.

[I]nternational and regional players have deployed intense efforts to facilitate dialogue between the opposing parties to bridge the gaps for an agreement on the presidential election.

On 6 January 2008, the Foreign Ministers of the League of Arab States convened in Cairo and unanimously agreed on a three-point plan to end the constitutional crisis in Lebanon.

On 29 and 30 March, the ordinary annual Arab League summit was held in Damascus. Several Arab delegations decided to reduce the level of their representation in protest at the non-implementation of the Arab League plan for Lebanon. The Government of Lebanon decided not to attend the summit.

In the final communiqué of the summit, the Arab leaders called for adherence to the Arab League initiative to settle the Lebanese crisis.

The Lebanese armed forces continued to contribute to improving peace and stability in southern Lebanon, despite being overstretched as a result of the competing security challenges they face. These include the maintenance of their deployment in southern Lebanon; the provision of internal security, in particular in the light of the continued blockade of the centre of the capital city; preparation for traditional territorial defence; and engagement in anti-smuggling activities.

Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias continue to operate in the country. The most significant Lebanese militia is the armed component of Hizbullah. In addition, several Palestinian militias operate in the country, inside and outside of refugee camps. The existence of armed groups challenges the control of the legitimate government, which by definition is vested with a monopoly on the use of force throughout its territory. It is also incompatible with the restoration and full respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of the country.

Over the past six months, there has been no progress towards the disarming of Palestinian militias in accordance with the agreement reached in the Lebanese National Dialogue of 2006 that Palestinian militias outside the camps would be disarmed.”

Opposition forces take control of strategic areas, gun battles break out (May 2008)

Al Jazeera, May 2008

May 6 - Tension between the government and Hezbollah escalates when the cabinet says the group's communication network was an attack on the country's sovereignty. Hezbollah says it is infuriated by government allegations it was spying on Beirut airport and by the cabinet's decision to fire the head of airport security who is close to the opposition.

May 7 - About 10 people are wounded as government supporters clash with fighters loyal to the Hezbollah-led opposition in Beirut after followers of Hezbollah paralysed the capital.

May 8 - Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's leader, says the government has declared war against the group after its decision to dismantle and take legal action over the group's communication network.

Gun battles break out in Beirut, leaving several dead and many wounded.

An offer by Saad al-Hariri, the governing coalition leader, to refer the issue to the army, which has stayed neutral, is rejected by Hezbollah.

May 9 - Opposition forces seize control of west Beirut.

May 10 - Fouad Siniora, Lebanon's prime minister, declares that the government will never declare war on Hezbollah but says the Shia group is trying to stage a coup.

The army rescinds the government's demands, saying it will reinstate Beirut airport's head of security, who the government alleged was close to Hezbollah, and will handle the issue of the Hezbollah's communication network.

Army also calls on the opposition to withdraw its fighters from the streets.

Hezbollah and other groups allied to the opposition begin to pull their forces from Beirut, with the army taking over in a neutral security role.

May 10-11 - Pro- and anti-government fighters clash overnight in the northern city of Tripoli. The Lebanese army is deployed to restore calm.

May 16 - Lebanese leaders from the government and the opposition meet in Doha, capital of Qatar, for crisis talks sponsored by the Arab League.

May 21 - Government and opposition representatives reach a power-sharing agreement after five days of talks in Qatar.

The Hezbollah-led opposition wins a greater share of seats in the cabinet, giving it an effective veto over any decisions reached by the executive.

Electoral districts in the capital Beirut are also re-organised in an effort to make them more representative, and both sides agree to meet urgently to formally elect Michel Suleiman, head of the Lebanese army, as the country's new president.”

[Further related reports linked below]

“Doha Agreement” ends political deadlock, new President elected (May 2008)

- After six days of intensive talks in Doha, Qatar, the feuding parties have reached an agreement that has ended more than a year of deadlock
- It opened the way for the election of General Michel Suleiman as a compromise president
- It bestows veto power on the opposition movement in a national unity government and provides for changes to the electoral law.
- It also includes a pledge by both sides not to use violence in political disputes
- The election of Suleiman ended the worst period of instability in Lebanon since its 15-year civil war ended in 1990

The Guardian, 21 May 2008

“Only a few weeks ago, Lebanon appeared to be sliding back into civil war. Hizbullah and its allies overran much of west Beirut, and the fighting left at least 65 people dead. But diplomacy has prevailed. After six days of intensive talks in Doha, Qatar, the feuding parties have reached an agreement that has ended more than a year of deadlock. The deal opens the way for the election of General Michel Suleiman as a compromise president. The presidency has been vacant since November - a stark illustration of the political impasse that makes this deeply divided state a natural prey for outside powers from Israel to Syria to Iran.”

BBC, 26 May 2008

<p>DOHA AGREEMENT Western-backed ruling majority to get 16 cabinet seats and choose prime minister Syrian-backed opposition to get 11 cabinet seats and veto power Three cabinet seats to be nominated by president The use of weapons in internal conflicts is to be banned Opposition protest camps in central Beirut are to be removed New law to divide country into smaller electoral districts</p>

The Guardian, 26 May 2008

“Lebanon swore in a new president yesterday who immediately called for a fresh national defence strategy to include Hizbollah and its weaponry, in an effort to heal two years of violent rifts that brought the country to the brink of civil war earlier this month. Michel Suleiman, a former army chief who stepped into a post that has been vacant since November, called for formal diplomatic ties with Syria, which has loomed large over Lebanese affairs for the past three decades.

The election of Suleiman caps the worst period of instability in Lebanon since its 15-year civil war ended in 1990. Since the assassination of former prime minister Rafik Hariri in February 2005, the country has been rocked by a string of assassinations of anti-Syrian politicians and journalists, a month-long bombardment by Israel in its July 2006 war with Hizbollah, and a bloody insurgency against the army by al-Qaida-inspired Islamist militants.”

[Further related news reports linked below]

Lebanese-Israeli border: ceasefire generally upheld by both parties, some violations reported (2008)

- A UNIFIL patrol was blocked for a few minutes by two vehicles of armed men near Jibal al-Butm, denying UNIFIL its freedom of movement in the area of operations
- Air violations by Israeli military aircraft continue to be reported
- UNIFIL recorded a steep increase in the number of Israeli air violations, from 282 in February to 692 in March and 476 during the first half of April.
- Israeli Defense Forces reported two rockets fired on the town of Shelomi, northern Israel
- UNIFIL reported that Israeli Defense Forces pointed weapons at UNIFIL on several occasions

UNSC, 23 April 2008

“In South Lebanon, the situation in the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was mostly quiet, but tense, she reported. In early April, the Israel Defense Forces had carried out a five-day large-scale home-front exercise. The Lebanese Armed Forces were on high alert during that period and no incidents had occurred. But during the night of 30 to 31 March, a UNIFIL patrol was blocked for a few minutes by two vehicles near Jibal al-Butm, denying UNIFIL its freedom of movement in the area of operations. The vehicle’s five occupants were armed with assault rifles -- the first such incident since the end of the 2006 war in the Mission’s area of operations. The patrol challenged the individuals, who left the area before a positive identification could be made.

UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces had since introduced additional coordinated measures, including patrols and checkpoints, to ensure that unauthorized armed personnel were not present and to prevent the transfer of weapons into the area between the Litani River and the Blue Line, she said. UNIFIL had recorded a steep increase in the number of Israeli air violations, from 282 in February to 692 in March and 476 during the first half of April. The over-flights violated Lebanese sovereignty and the Blue Line, and undermined the credibility of UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces.”

UNSC, 21 April 2008

“Over the reporting period, Lebanese territorial integrity has continued to be regularly violated by Israeli aircraft flying into Lebanese airspace. The Government of Israel has continued to claim that those flights are carried out for security reasons. My representatives in the region and I have regularly continued to reiterate our concern and call on Israel to cease the increasing number of overflights, which are in violation of Security Council resolutions.”

UNSC, 28 February 2008

“On 8 January 2008, the Israel Defense Forces informed UNIFIL that two rockets had hit the northern Israeli town of Shelomi, causing minor damage to the main road and a house, but no injuries.[...] Despite multiple joint searches by UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces, no trace of a launching site has been discovered. To date, no one has claimed responsibility for the attack. The Israel Defense Forces insisted that the rockets were launched from Lebanese territory across the Blue Line. The Lebanese Armed Forces maintained that no rockets were launched from Lebanese territory. UNIFIL, in close cooperation with the Israel Defense Forces and the Lebanese Armed Forces, has been investigating the incident and efforts to ascertain all the facts are ongoing.

The investigation of the Lebanese Armed Forces into the 17 June 2007 rocket attack against Israel (see S/2007/392) is still ongoing.

During the reporting period, there were three different instances of Israel Defense Forces soldiers pointing their weapons in the direction of UNIFIL patrols, with the Israeli soldiers also pointing infrared lasers in one of the instances. UNIFIL is continuing its investigation into an incident that occurred on 13 February 2008, when small arms fire from the Israeli side hit a minefield warning sign in the vicinity of a United Nations mine clearance team operating close to the Blue Line. The Israel Defense Forces informed UNIFIL that it was conducting its own investigation to ascertain the origins of the small arms fire and the circumstances of the incident.

On two occasions, on 7 January 2008, in the Shab'a Farms area, and on 18 January 2008, in the vicinity of Ghajar, respectively, the Israel Defense Forces apprehended a Lebanese shepherd for crossing the Blue Line.

UNIFIL also reported a number of additional minor ground violations by local Lebanese shepherds.

Throughout the reporting period, UNIFIL has observed and reported a significant number of Israeli air violations of Lebanese airspace by aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles on an almost daily basis. A particularly high number of air violations were reported on 7 and 11 February 2008, involving large numbers of fighter aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles, over Lebanese territory and its territorial waters. Some of the aircraft were flying at low altitude, including over UNIFIL headquarters in Naqoura. In addition, some of the fighter aircraft were flying in tactical formation, performing dogfights and other training manoeuvres, and, on two occasions, employing electronic countermeasures. On 17 February 2008, UNIFIL recorded 36 air violations, mainly by unmanned aerial vehicles. All Israeli overflights of Lebanese territory constitute violations of Lebanese sovereignty and of resolution 1701 (2006). Additionally, air violations inherently escalate tensions and significantly increase the possibility of security incidents, as demonstrated on 1 November 2007 and 21 January 2008, when the Lebanese Armed Forces opened fire on Israeli aircraft violating Lebanese airspace. Air violations can cause unnecessary apprehension among the local population, particularly when conducted at low altitude and in a provocative manner. Moreover, they impede the ability of UNIFIL to work effectively towards further stabilization of the situation by undermining the credibility of the United Nations and the Lebanese authorities.”

UNSC, 12 September 2006, p.4

“In paragraph 4 of its resolution 1701 (2006), the Council reiterated its strong support for full respect for the Blue Line. In paragraph 8 of the same resolution, the Council also affirmed full respect for the Blue Line as one of the principles and elements of a permanent ceasefire and

long-term solution. As I have outlined in a number of reports to the Council, both sides in the past have failed to respect the Blue Line. Since it was drawn by the United Nations in 2000, the Blue Line has remained tense, with violations from both sides.

Since my previous report of 18 August (S/2006/670), the parties have largely complied with the cessation of hostilities. UNIFIL has, however, observed numerous minor incidents and violations in its area of operation between the Litani River and the Blue Line. These have primarily been ground violations related to the fortifying of IDF positions and the technical fence. IDF has also continued to resupply and rotate troops inside Lebanon. UNIFIL has taken particular note of daily Israeli air incursions over Lebanese air space. From the Lebanese side, shepherds have resumed their practice of crossing the Blue Line in the Shab'a farms vicinity. There has been little visible activity by Hizbollah in the UNIFIL area of operations, other than some reported attempts to salvage equipment from its previous positions and transport it northwards.

On the whole, the ground violations have not been of an offensive and hostile character and the parties seem determined to uphold the agreement. There was, however, one severe violation of the cessation of hostilities, when Israeli forces carried out a raid in eastern Lebanon on 19 August. The assessment that the parties seem generally determined to uphold the cessation of hostilities converges with the fact that both the Government of Lebanon and the Government of Israel have assured me of their commitment to fully respect the Blue Line. In order to aid the parties in honouring their obligation to respect the Blue Line in its entirety, UNIFIL intends to place visible markers on the ground along its full length.”

UN, 19 August 2006

“United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan today spoke with top Israeli and Lebanese officials following an Israeli raid in eastern Lebanon which he warned endangers the fragile calm that has generally held in the region since Monday.

“The Secretary-General is deeply concerned about a violation by the Israeli side of the cessation of hostilities as laid out in Security Council resolution 1701”, a UN spokesman said in a statement. Adopted on 11 August, that text mandated a halt to the fighting which took effect three days later.

There have also been several air violations by Israeli military aircraft, according to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which is helping to support and coordinate the Israeli withdrawal.

Mr. Annan said violations of Security Council resolution 1701 such as the Israeli raid today “endanger the fragile calm that was reached after much negotiation and undermine the authority of the Government of Lebanon.”

He called on all parties “to respect strictly the arms embargo, exercise maximum restraint, avoid provocative actions and display responsibility in implementing resolution 1701.”

UNSC, 18 August 2006, para. 13

“UNIFIL has reported only a handful of isolated violations of the cessation of hostilities since it came into effect. In one incident on 15 August, UNIFIL learned that IDF and Hizbollah had exchanged fire in the area of Haddathah in the central sector. It immediately dispatched patrols to the scene, to find the dead bodies of four Hizbollah members, which were later taken away in an

ambulance. In another incident on 16 August, an IDF tank positioned on the Israeli side fired one round across the Blue Line into Lebanese territory towards the village of Markaba in the central sector. There was no response from the other side and the situation in the area remained calm. UNIFIL observed one to four Israeli violations of Lebanese airspace daily. On 17 August 2006, a group of 100 armed elements in vehicles crossed into one of the sectors vacated by IDF near Al Qalay in the Marjayoun area and moved to the south. Also on 17 August, UNIFIL reported shepherds having crossed the Blue Line in the Shab'a farms area. UNIFIL strongly protested these incidents to both sides."

Causes of displacement

Thousands said to flee following clashes in west Beirut, in mountains southeast of Beirut and north in Tripoli (2008)

- News reports, including IRIN, reported 7,000 people had fled their homes

IRIN, 11 May 2008

"Lebanon's worst sectarian violence since its 15-year civil war ended in 1990 has spread from Beirut to the Druze heartlands of Mount Lebanon and on to the second city of Tripoli in the north as Hezbollah and its opposition allies continued their military takeover of the country.

In Tripoli, supporters of Sunni parliamentary leader Saad Hariri, whose fighters in west Beirut were routed on 8 May, burned Hezbollah offices, triggering running gun battles between rival Sunni militants. At least 7,000 residents fled their homes and several civilians were wounded, though an uneasy calm held by the afternoon."

BBC, 11 May 2008

"Control of several villages loyal to Lebanon's pro-government Druze leader Walid Jumblatt has been handed to the army after an attack by Hezbollah.

The group's fighters used heavy weapons and small arms to attack the mountain settlements south-east of Beirut.

A truce was called after the Druze capitulated to avoid bloodshed, a BBC correspondent reports. It follows four days of fighting in which Hezbollah stormed west Beirut, raising fears of a return to civil war.

About 40 people have died in total in the clashes, which pitch the Syrian-backed Shia Islamist movement Hezbollah and its allies against the governing Western-backed Sunni, Christian and Druze alliance.

Beirut was quiet on Sunday, after control of areas seized by Hezbollah was handed to the Lebanese army, but clashes took place overnight in Lebanon's second city, Tripoli.

Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo have urged an immediate halt to the fighting in Lebanon and agreed to send a ministerial delegation to Beirut to try to mediate an end to the crisis. [...]

The BBC's Jim Muir in Beirut reports that Sunday's battle began in earnest after some skirmishing and provocations, with a string of Druze villages caught in a barrage of fire. [...]

Mr Jumblatt knew Hezbollah, by far the strongest power in the land, could easily storm his entire mountain enclave, so he asked a Druze rival allied to Hezbollah to broker a deal to hand the whole area over to the Lebanese army, he adds.

"I tell my supporters that civil peace, coexistence and stopping war and destruction are more important than any other consideration," Mr Jumblatt told the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation.

A ceasefire was arranged, and it seems to be generally holding, our correspondent says.

The army is also filling the vacuum in west Beirut since Hezbollah's withdrawal on Saturday.

Violence erupted in Beirut after the government moved to shut down Hezbollah's telecoms network and remove the chief of security at Beirut airport for alleged sympathies with Hezbollah.

The group's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, called the move a "declaration of war".

But the army, which correspondents say remains trusted by most of Lebanon's competing political factions, overturned both measures after Hezbollah gunmen seized control of swathes of the city.

On Sunday many roads in the capital remained blocked, including the airport road, as the Shia group continued a campaign of civil disobedience.

In Tripoli, Sunni supporters of the government have reportedly been fighting members of an Alawite sect loyal to Hezbollah with machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

At least one person was killed over the weekend and thousands are believed to have fled their homes."

Fighting between Fatah al Islam and the Lebanese army forces tens of thousands of Palestinians to flee Nahr el Bared Camp (2007)

- UNRWA estimates 27,000 Palestinian refugees were living in Nahr el Bared Camp
- By 25 May, the majority had fled

UNRWA, 4 June 2007

"On 20 May fierce clashes erupted between armed members of the radical group Fatah Al Islam (FAI) and the Lebanese Army in Tripoli in northern Lebanon. These quickly spread to the nearby Palestinian refugee camp of Nahr El Bared (NBC), which has been infiltrated by up to 200 armed FAI fighters. Fighting between FAI members and the Army raged for three days until a ceasefire was brokered on the afternoon of 22 May. Despite sporadic and sometimes intense exchanges of gunfire and shelling, this ceasefire held largely for over one week but on 1st June fighting again broke out with a renewed intensity. The Lebanese Army siege of Nahr El Bared continues, with troops in a tense stand-off with FAI members holed up inside the camp, and controlling all movement in and out.

UNRWA estimates that approximately 27,000 registered refugees were living inside NBC prior to the start of the current crisis. By 25 May, the majority of families had fled, either seeking shelter in

nearby Beddawi camp - with relatives or in UNRWA schools - or moving in with relatives in other Palestinian refugee camps across Lebanon. By 31 May there were indications that between 3 – 5,000 refugees remained inside the camp, where they have been besieged without adequate water, sanitation and electricity since 20 May. It is believed that those still inside the camp include children, the sick and the elderly.”

[See selected news coverage linked below]

Sustained Israeli military operations and cause people to flee (July-August 2006)

- Much of the displacement in Lebanon was the result in indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian property and infrastructure
- People also fled due to climate of fear and panic caused by the warnings, threats and attacks by the IDF
- Heavy shelling and air strikes by the Israeli Defense Forces, particularly in southern Lebanon, have forced people to flee the southern suburbs of Beirut and the Beqaa valley
- As of 31 August: one million Lebanese were displaced, the majority inside Lebanon, including 16,000 Palestinian refugees secondarily displaced
- 200,000 Lebanese sought refuge outside the country
- More than 1,000 people were killed and 4,000 injured

COI, 10 November 2006

“Much of the displacement in Lebanon was the result, either direct or indirect, of indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian property and infrastructure, as well as the climate of fear and panic among the civilian population caused by the warnings, threats and attacks by the IDF. Furthermore, in many cases, the attacks were disproportionate in nature and could not be justified on the basis of military necessity. Taking into account all of these facts, the Commission notes that the displacement itself constitutes a violation of international law.”

UNSC, 21 July 2006, para.13

"UNIFIL estimates that approximately 50 per cent of the local population has left the villages in the south."

UNSC, 12 September 2006, para.3

"As of 31 August 2006, official Lebanese figures showed that 1,187 people had died and 4,092 had been injured in Lebanon as a result of the conflict. Many of these victims were children. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates that one million Lebanese were displaced between 12 July and 14 August, with some 735,000 seeking shelter within Lebanon and 230,000 outside; this included the secondary displacement of approximately 16,000 Palestinian refugees."

UN OCHA, 24 July 2006, p.4

"Sustained, heavy shelling and air strikes by the IDF, which have particularly targeted southern Lebanon, southern suburbs of Beirut and the Beqaa Valley, have caused widespread destruction of the country's public infrastructure, including hospitals, schools and road networks preventing the humanitarian community from accessing vulnerable populations and civilians fleeing war-affected areas. The IDF's sea, air and land blockade of Lebanon is worsening the already-mounting hardships confronting the civilian population, and has had devastating consequences."

Israel leaflets and warnings to the Lebanese population to leave their homes (July-August 2006)

- Warnings were issued by speakers and flyers
- Many people were unable to leave southern Lebanon for reasons including that they did not have transport, destroyed roads, because they are ill or elderly
- People may also have been afraid to flee for fear of the physical danger they might face while they fled
- There were several cases of people who when warned by the IDF to evacuate did so only to be attacked on their way out
- Leaflets were also dropped in Beirut and other places but in the main they were of an anti-Hezbollah propaganda nature rather than warnings

COI, 10 November 2006

“From mid-July the IDF began warning villagers in the south to evacuate their towns and villages. The warnings were given by leaflets dropped by aircraft, through recorded messages to telephones and by loudspeaker.

[...]

On 25 July 2006 the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs published on its official website[...] the following example of a warning to Lebanese civilians to leave areas allegedly being used to launch rockets and not to travel by truck:

“To the people of Lebanon
Pay attention to these instructions!!
The IDF will intensify its activities and will heavily bomb the entire area from which rockets are being launched against the State of Israel.
Anyone present in these areas is endangering his life!
In addition, any pickup truck or truck travelling south of the Litani River will be suspected of transporting rockets and weapons and may be bombed.
You must know that anyone travelling in a pickup truck or truck is endangering his life.
The State of Israel.”

IHL requires that warring parties give “effective advance warning” of attacks which may affect the civilian population. It is also generally accepted that a warning is not required when circumstances do not permit, such as in cases where the element of surprise is essential.”[...] State practice establishes this rule as a norm of customary international law. Obligations with respect to the principle of distinction and the conduct of hostilities remain applicable even if civilians remain in the zone of operations after a warning has been given. Threats in the past, for example that all remaining civilians would be considered liable to attack, have been condemned and withdrawn.

IHL also prohibits “acts or threats of violence the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population”.[...] Statements calling for the evacuation of areas that are not genuine warnings, but are intended to frighten or cause panic among residents or compel them to leave their homes for reasons other than their safety, could fall under this prohibition.

Military planning staff should pay strict attention to the requirement for any warning to be “effective”. The timing of the warning is of importance. In some cases the IDF are reported to have dropped leaflets or given loudspeaker warnings[...] only two hours before a threatened attack. Having given a warning, the actual physical possibility to react to it must be considered.

As the High Commissioner for Human Rights has pointed out, “Many people are simply unable to leave southern Lebanon because they have not transport, because roads have been destroyed, because they are ill or elderly, because they must care for others who are physically unable to make the journey, or because they simply have nowhere to go”

Also of great concern was the physical danger they might face if they heeded the warning and took to the roads. There were number of civilians who when warned by the IDF to evacuate did so only to be attacked on their way out. On 15 July, for example, a number of families fled the southern Lebanese village of Marwaheen after the IDF warned them to evacuate. On the road leading to the coast through Chamaa the convoy was attacked leaving 23 dead (see detailed report earlier). On 7 August, Israeli warplanes dropped leaflets over southern Lebanon with the following wording: “Any vehicle of any kind travelling south of the Litani River will be bombarded, on suspicion of transporting rockets, military equipment and terrorists. Anyone who travels in any vehicle is placing his life in danger”.[...] This obviously made further evacuation from the area extremely difficult if not impossible.” [...]

In Beirut and other places, leaflets were also dropped but in the main they were of an anti-Hezbollah propaganda nature rather than warnings. The same applies to the computer-generated telephone calls many people received. An example of this type of leaflet is as follows and further examples given in at Annex VI. The IDF tells the people of Lebanon that they are in conflict with the Hezbollah terrorists, not the people of Lebanon, and that they should not allow themselves to be used as human shields (Aug 3, 2006)[...]:

*“To the people of Lebanon
IDF forces operated with daring and force in Baalbek, the centre of operations of the Hezbollah terror band, in the framework of its defense of the citizens of the State of Israel and the return of the abducted IDF soldiers.
Know that the IDF will continue to send its long arm to wherever Hezbollah terrorists are found, in order to strike at them forcefully and with determination, and to neutralize their options to execute their criminal ideology against the citizens of Israel.
Citizens of Lebanon,
The IDF forces are not acting against the Lebanese people, but against the Hezbollah terrorists, and will continue to act as long as it deems necessary.
Do not allow Hezbollah elements to hold you as prisoners and use you as a human shield for the sake of foreign interests.
The State of Israel.”*

It also appears that the IDF dropped propaganda leaflets after the conflict. An example given to the Commission by UNMACC[...] is as follows:

"To the citizens of South Lebanon

Now that you have returned to your villages, and you are facing a big crisis: destruction, devastation and death

how did you arrive at this situation?

Nasrallah claims that it is his right to kidnap Israeli soldiers - was this a worthwhile decision?

Nasrallah claims that he is not serving the interests of Iran and Syria - is that true?

Nasrallah claims that he is a deterrent for Israel - is that true?

Was all this worth the price you paid?

Be aware that the Israeli Defense Force will come back and act with the required force any time the terrorist elements carry out their operations against the citizens of the State of Israel from inside Lebanese territory.

You have the possibility to prevent this by bringing calm, security, and prosperity in your region.

State of Israel"

UN GA, 2 October 2006

"While some IDPs left on their own initiative, others were warned by IDF which dropped leaflets from planes or made individual telephone calls [...] International human rights law prohibits arbitrary displacement - a notion which includes displacement in situations of armed conflict - which is not warranted by the need to ensure the security of the civilians involved or imperative military reasons. [...] The principle of precaution requires each party to the conflict to give effective advance warning of attacks which may affect the civilian population, and give it enough time and the opportunity to evacuate safely, unless circumstances do not permit. [...] Reported cases of civilians attacked while fleeing cast doubt as to whether these obligations were always met."

ABC, 22 July 2006

"Israel has warned Lebanese civilians to leave border villages and called up 3,000 reserves in a possible prelude to a ground offensive that would expand its 10-day-old campaign against Hezbollah guerrillas.

[...]

Israeli planes dropped leaflets over south Lebanon warning civilians to flee for safety north of the Litani river, about 20 kilometres from the frontier.

An estimated 300,000 mostly Shiite Muslim Lebanese normally reside south of the Litani."

UNSC, 21 July 2006, p.2

“Early in the conflict, Israeli planes also dropped leaflets across Lebanon warning the population to avoid areas known for Hizbollah's presence.”

AFP, 16 July 2006

“Israel's military ordered residents to flee villages in southern Lebanon Sunday, warning of air and artillery operations following the deadliest cross-border rocket attack on Israel in decades.

Internal Security Minister Avi Dichter said the move was aimed at forcing an exodus of tens of thousands of civilians in order to put pressure on the Lebanese Shiite Hezbollah militia.”

Two main causes of internal displacement result from civil war and Israeli interventions in the 1970s and 1980s

- Internal displacement resulted from internal conflict and civil war as well as from the Israeli interventions in 1978 and 1982

LNF, 2002

“Two categories of IDPs have to be distinguished:

IDPs from the persistent internal conflict and the civil war, which entailed the fragmentation of the country into confessionally based districts.

IDPs resulted from the Israel invasions in 1978 and 1982. The Israeli invasion of 1978 displaced about 200,000 Lebanese (mostly Shi'a Muslims) and 65,000 Palestinians from the south of the country.”

USCR, 2003

“Lebanon's civil war caused the violent fragmentation of a pluralistic society into fairly distinct sectarian areas. At the height of the conflict, up to 1 million people were internally displaced for long periods of time, and many people were often displaced briefly during the course of the fighting. When the civil war ended in 1991, some 90,000 families, or about 450,000 persons, remained displaced. Some 86 percent originated from the Mount Lebanon governorate (62 percent) and southern Lebanon (24 percent). Many of the displaced, particularly from the south, settled in Beirut.

Internally displaced persons in Lebanon include those from the internal conflict and civil war, which broke Lebanon into sectarian districts, and those displaced by the Israeli invasions of 1978

and 1982. The 1978 invasion displaced about 200,000 mostly Shi'a Muslims and 65,000 Palestinians from the south of the country."

Displacement due to civil war and Israeli interventions (1975-1990)

- First large-scale displacement in 1975 was sparked by clashes between Christians and Muslims
- Israeli interventions of 1978 and 1982 caused massive temporary and long-term displacements
- After 1982, conflicts between Shi'a militias and Palestinians, as well as between Christian and Druze militias caused further displacement, particularly in Mount Lebanon
- Disagreements over the 1989 Ta'if accords caused the eruption of heavy fighting between Christian militias and Syrian troops, and between the militias themselves, and led to extensive displacement

Assaf & El-Fil 7 April 2000

"The first large-scale displacement began in 1975 and was characterized by confessional divisions. A quasi homogeneity of religious affiliation was violently imposed in different regions of the country and the capital was divided into Christian and Muslim sectors. In 1985 the largest and most destructive wave of forced internal migration (displacing an estimated 367,000 people) took place in Mount Lebanon. The displacement occurred in tragic conditions and struck a severe blow to the national unity of the country. Further massive displacement was caused by repeated Israeli invasions. The Israeli military operations in 1978 displaced more than 120,000 persons from the south to Beirut's suburbs where they often illegally occupied vacant houses, hotels and plots of land. The Israeli invasion of 1982 caused a temporary massive wave of displacement especially from the capital. While the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Beirut permitted a significant return movement, their withdrawal from Mount Lebanon was followed by severe internal clashes and further displacement."

Dammers 1998, p.185

"The Israeli invasion of 1978 displaced about 200,000 Lebanese (mostly Shi'a Muslims) and 65,000 Palestinians from the south of the country. Although most of this displacement was temporary, some became effectively permanent, with many people resettling indefinitely, particularly in the southern suburbs of Beirut. [...] The Israeli invasion of 1982 was on a very much larger scale than in 1978, leading to the occupation of the whole of the southern half of Lebanon, up to and including Beirut. Though primarily against the PLO, the invasion also aimed to restructure Lebanese politics. [...] The war saw further displacements from south Lebanon and from west Beirut, which was besieged for more than two months. [...]

The aftermath of the 1982 invasion saw further conflict, mainly between Shi'a militias and Palestinians (who were increasingly besieged in their camps), as well as between Christian and Druze militias in the mountains east and southeast of Beirut (Bhamdoun, Aley and the Shouf). Massacres and atrocities were committed on all sides. The outcome of the latter conflict in particular was further displacement and cantonization, with many Christians (some of whom had been displaced earlier and had returned after the Israeli invasion) expelled from Druze-dominated areas, and later too from other areas further south. [...]

The fragmentation of Lebanon into confessionally based districts was accompanied by growing Syrian hegemony (except over the border districts controlled by Israel). The Syrians, like the Israelis before them, aimed to reconstitute the country politically, efforts that eventually bore fruit in the Ta'if accords of 1989. A key aspects of these accords was the abolition of the constitutional Christian domination of parliament and state. Though divided among themselves, many Christian politicians (and the militias under their control) were hostile to Syria and opposed the Ta'if accords. In 1989 and 1990 there was heavy fighting between Christian militias and Syrian troops, and between the militias themselves, leading to further extensive displacement, estimated at about 150,000 people. These displacements were mainly from and within the Christian areas comprising east Beirut and the region to the east and north. The defeat of forces of General Aoun, later followed by the 1992 elections, seemed to many to herald the end of a decade and a half of civil war. Freedom of movement returned to the country, but most of the displaced found they could still not go home."

Israeli intervention causes massive temporary displacement (1996)

- Israeli air raids and rocket attacks on Beirut and in southern Lebanon displaced between 400,000 and 600,000 people in April 1996

Dammers 1998, p.187

"In April 1996, following Hizballah rocket attacks on northern Israel, Israel launched extensive air raids and rocket attacks on Beirut and on a reported 54 villages in southern Lebanon. Estimates of those displaced, many from Beirut itself, were put at 600,000 by the government, but 400,000 or fewer by most independent sources. An informal cease-fire was declared after 16 days and most of the displaced returned home. Undoubtedly, some stayed on in Beirut or in areas they considered safer, but the long-term impact of such large-scale temporary displacement is not so much the immediate creation of permanent IDPs, as that of accelerating rural-urban drift and depopulation of the south, which has seen neither peace nor stability for more than 20 years."

For more information on the activities of Israeli military forces and Lebanese guerillas during the escalation of military activities that raged in Lebanon and parts of northern Israel in April 1996, see Human Rights Watch's report of September 1997, "Operation Grapes of Wrath", the Civilian Victims [[External Link](#)]

South Lebanese Army and Israel expelled a number of civilians from the south (1999-2000)

- Human Rights Watch reported that families in South Lebanon have been collectively punished by being expelled for the acts or suspected activities of their relatives
- Alleged activities included participation in attacks on Israeli military, membership in military wings of Hizballah and Amal, desertion from or refusal to serve in South Lebanese Army

HRW 10 November 1999

"'Since 1985, hundreds if not thousands of Lebanese civilians have been ordered to leave their homes and villages without notice and with no means of appeal. They have been summarily dumped in a no man's land without any possessions save the clothes on their backs,' said Hanny Megally, executive director of the Middle East and North Africa division of Human Rights Watch. "

HRW May 2000

"Human Rights Watch has documented how Lebanese men and boys have been forced to serve in the SLA against their will. Their families have been punished, sometimes with expulsion from their homes in the occupied zone, if they evaded or deserted from service in the SLA militia. [...] Human Rights Watch has documented cases of SLA militiamen and their families living rent-free in the homes of residents who were expelled."

HRW July 1999

"The use of expulsion as a weapon to punish the civilian population in the occupied zone has received scant attention in Israel and internationally during the two decades that it has quietly made a shambles of the lives of the men, women, and children forced to leave their homes and communities. Human Rights Watch documented cases of individuals and entire families who have been collectively punished by being expelled for the acts or suspected activities of their relatives. These have included admitted or suspected participation in attacks on Israeli military personnel and installations in the zone, membership in the military wings of Lebanese political organizations such as Hizballah and the Amal Movement, refusal to cooperate with the occupation security apparatus, and desertion from or refusal to serve in the SLA.

The expulsions come in the context of Israel's long occupation of part of southern Lebanon, and the ongoing confrontation between Israeli and SLA military forces and Lebanese guerrillas fighting to oust the occupiers. Historically, it is Lebanese territory, which has been the primary stage for this military conflict, and it is in Lebanon where the bulk of the military activity and civilian casualties have occurred. Both sides have carried out indiscriminate attacks on civilians in violation of international humanitarian law. [...]

The expulsions and other forcible transfers of Lebanese civilians from the occupied zone are just one of the methods that the occupation authorities utilize to control the civilian population in that territory and thwart the anti-occupation guerrilla forces. The expulsion of civilians from their homes and villages in the zone, like the indiscriminate attacks launched by both sides, cannot be justified by reference to security threats. International humanitarian law categorically prohibits forcible transfers and deportations, which constitute grave breaches of the Geneva conventions and as such are war crimes. [...]

In villages throughout the occupied zone, members of some families have been hounded for months or years to serve as informers for the ubiquitous security apparatus that is maintained by the occupation authorities through the SLA and with the participation and oversight of Israeli intelligence. For those men and women who refused to succumb to the pressure, expulsion has been a last and punishing resort. [...]

The SLA practice of forced conscription of teenaged boys who live in the zone has also been a long-standing nightmare for families who are opposed to the occupation and despise Israel's surrogate militia. Some families moved out of the zone on their own initiative to ensure that their sons would not be forced into SLA service. Others stayed in their villages but sent their sons out when they reached fourteen or fifteen years of age. According to testimony, children have been forcibly pressed into service."

As little information is available on the treatment of displaced persons in other regions, please see the following reports for a general picture of the human rights situation in Lebanon: Amnesty International, Annual Report 2001, Lebanon [[External link](#)]

POPULATION FIGURES AND PROFILE

Global Figures: Lebanon

Press report 7,000 people flee battles in northern city of Tripoli (2008)

AFP, 11 May 2008

"Fierce fighting raged between supporters of Lebanon's Western-backed government and the Hezbollah-led opposition on Sunday in the northern city of Tripoli, a security official told AFP.

He said the fighting, which erupted overnight, was concentrated in the Bab al-Tebbaneh, Kobbeh and Jabal Mohsen neighborhoods located on the northern edge of the coastal city and that thousands of civilians were fleeing. "About 7,000 people have fled because of the battles," he said"

BBC, 11 May 2008

"Control of several villages loyal to Lebanon's pro-government Druze leader Walid Jumblatt has been handed to the army after an attack by Hezbollah. [...]

It follows four days of fighting in which Hezbollah stormed west Beirut, raising fears of a return to civil war.

About 40 people have died in total in the clashes, which pitch the Syrian-backed Shia Islamist movement Hezbollah and its allies against the governing Western-backed Sunni, Christian and Druze alliance.

Beirut was quiet on Sunday, after control of areas seized by Hezbollah was handed to the Lebanese army, but clashes took place overnight in Lebanon's second city, Tripoli. [...]

The army is also filling the vacuum in west Beirut since Hezbollah's withdrawal on Saturday.

Violence erupted in Beirut after the government moved to shut down Hezbollah's telecoms network and remove the chief of security at Beirut airport for alleged sympathies with Hezbollah.

The group's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, called the move a "declaration of war".

But the army, which correspondents say remains trusted by most of Lebanon's competing political factions, overturned both measures after Hezbollah gunmen seized control of swathes of the city.

On Sunday many roads in the capital remained blocked, including the airport road, as the Shia group continued a campaign of civil disobedience.

In Tripoli, Sunni supporters of the government have reportedly been fighting members of an Alawite sect loyal to Hezbollah with machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

At least one person was killed over the weekend and thousands are believed to have fled their homes."

In total up to several hundred thousand displaced in Lebanon, multiple causes of displacement

- 40,000 to 70,000 people remain still displaced from the July-August War according to estimates by the government and UN as of end 2007.
- A survey by the Consultation and Research Institute found that 10 per cent were still displaced in villages assessed (2007)

- In addition estimates vary widely concerning IDPs displaced during the civil war and Israeli invasions, ranging from approximately 20,000 to as high as 300,000 to 600,000 people remaining displaced.
- More than 31,000 Palestinian refugees were displaced in mid 2007, of which approximately 3,000 would return to Nahr al Bared by end 2007

IDMC Note on figures:

At the height of the July-August 2006 war, nearly 800,000 people were displaced inside Lebanon. A majority of these people have returned, and it is estimated by the Lebanese government that 40,000 people remain in a situation of displacement. Figures presented by UNHCR note of estimated 70,000 still displaced. Ministry of Social Affairs and World Bank funded Survey finds 10 per cent still displaced in villages assessed.

In addition, it is estimated that there continue to be a significant number of IDPs in Lebanon who were displaced during the civil war and Israeli invasions of 1978 and 1982. There has been no assessment of this caseload. Estimates range from close to 20,000 as provided by the government to as high as 300,000 to 600,000 as cited in secondary sources. [Click here for further information on this caseload.](#)

Furthermore, more than 31,000 Palestinians refugees were displaced in May 2007 as a result of fighting between the Lebanese army and the militant group, Fateh al Islam. Of these 3,000 to 5,000 would return to Nahr al Bared by late 2007. For further information, [click here.](#)

HRC website keeps updated statistics.

Global Figures: Nahr el Bared Camp

Nahr el Bared and adjacent areas: Around 27,000 Palestinians remain displaced from Nahr el Bared refugee camp and adjacent area (April 2008)

- 5467 families remained in a situation of displacement as of April 2008

UNRWA and Lebanon Support, April 2008

UNRWA, September 2007

“On 20 May 2007 fierce clashes between the radical group Fatah al Islam (FAI) and the Lebanese Army (LA) erupted in Tripoli (northern Lebanon) and quickly spread to the nearby Nahr el-Bared camp (NBC). Due to the fighting, over 30,000 Palestine refugees fled their homes in and around NBC, most taking refuge in the neighbouring Beddawi Camp and other Palestine refugee camps in Lebanon. The struggle for control of Nahr el-Bared, which involved heavy aerial and artillery bombardment, was the most serious case of internal fighting in Lebanon since the end of the Civil War in 1990. The Government of Lebanon declared an end to hostilities on 2 September after a three month campaign during which 169 soldiers, 287 combatants and 42 civilians were killed.

Updated statistics are available here.

UNRWA statistics on Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (December 2007)

- Some 219,201 refugees are registered with UNRWA (December 2007)

UNRWA, 31 December 2007

Total number of Palestinians refugees registered with UNRWA, 219,201

Total number of Palestinian refugees estimated in Lebanon, 413,962

UNRWA, 31 December 2006

For further information, see UNRWA Lebanon .

FAFO survey: analysis on counting Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (2007)

- FAFO survey finds that number of Palestinian refugees actually residing in Lebanon likely to be no more than 250,000
- Figures used by press tend to be inflated
- FAFO's sample frame derives from a Population Census carried out in 1998
- The 2006 survey found an average household size of 5.5
- The 2006 survey estimates a population size for Nahr El-Bared and Beddawi of approximately 18,900 and 9,300
- Higher estimates for Nahr el-Bared Camp may reflect the number of non-registered refugees

FAFO, 14 June 2007 (based on a survey conducted in Fall 2006)

"While the number of registered refugees at UNRWA and with the Lebanese Authority for Palestinian Affairs is over 400,000, there are indications that there might be no more than 250,000 Palestinian refugees actually residing in Lebanon. Reflecting this, estimates of the population size of each camp also differ widely. For example, according to UNRWA, there are over 31,000 registered refugees in Nahr El-Bared and more than 16,000 registered refugees in Beddawi. Articles in the printed press tend to use even more inflated figures, sometimes as high as 40,000 for Nahr El-Bared.

In connection with last year's labour force survey, FafO also carried out a number of in-depth, qualitative interviews at several locations. One of them was Nahr El-Bared, where inhabitants, including representatives of the camp leadership and senior UNRWA staff, informed us that the population size was in the order of 30,000-40,000. The high-end estimate was explained by the presence of a large number of non-registered refugees. As we shall see below, there is little statistical evidence for this claim.

FafO's sample frame derives from a Population Census (i.e. a complete listing of all households) that the PCBS carried out with the support of FafO in 1998. Without thorough knowledge of the situation in the two camps, we are not in a position to indicate a general population growth, or the

opposite, in Nahr El- Bared and Beddawi since the time of the Census. However, based on our knowledge of other Palestinian camps, it seems plausible that at least some vertical expansion of building structures have taken place, which would suggest that the two camps comprise some additional households today compared with 9 years ago. Furthermore, in the survey 6% and 7% of households in Beddawi and Nahr El-Bared respectively said they had added space to their dwellings since 2000, an indicator of building activity in the two areas. In addition, as compared with Fafos's 1999 survey of the Palestinians in Lebanon, which identified an average household size of 5.3.

The 2006 survey found an average household size of 5.5, suggesting a minor population increase for the Palestinian population taken as a whole. Nevertheless, we shall present statistics assuming that the Census figures are accurate. The 2006 survey found a mean and median household size of 5.18 and 5.0 for Nahr El-Bared and 4.73 and 5.0 for Beddawi, which is below average for Palestinians in Lebanon. Also, these are lower values than found in Fafos's 1999 household survey of all Palestinian camps and most gatherings of Lebanon⁷, suggesting that the average household size has declined over time, in these two locations. In 1999, the mean and median household size for the two camps taken together was 5.77 and 5.34.8 To summarize, the above implies that, while the household size for the surveyed population taken as a whole shows a slight increase between 1999 and 2006, it shows a decrease in Beddawi and Nahr El-Bared. This suggests that construction activities not necessarily go in tandem with population growth.

The 2006 survey estimates a population size for Nahr El-Bared and Beddawi of approximately 18,900 and 9,300."

Global Figures: July-August 2006 conflict

Tens of thousands of people remain displaced according to government and UN figures (2008)

- 40,000 - 70,000 people remain displaced according to estimates by the government and UN (February 2008)
- Ministry of Social Affairs and World Bank funded survey carried out by the Consultation and Research Institute found 10 per cent still displaced (June 2007)

IDMC Note on figures

At the height of the July-August 2006 war, more than 800,000 people were displaced inside Lebanon. A majority of these people have returned. It is estimated by the Lebanese government and UN that 40,000-70,000 people remain in a situation of displacement following the July-August 2006 war. A survey by the Consultation and Research Institute suggests 10 per cent still displaced.

In addition, it is estimated that there continue to be a significant number of IDPs in Lebanon who were displaced during the civil war and Israeli invasions of 1978 and 1982. There has been no assessment of this caseload and estimates range from 68,000 by the government to as high as 600,000 as cited in secondary sources. [Click here](#) for further information on this caseload.

In addition, since May 2007, more than 31,000 Palestinians were displaced as a result of fighting between the Lebanese army and the militant group, Fateh al Islam, for further information, [click here](#).

HRC website keeps updated statistics.

IRIN, 1 November 2006

"Up to 200,000 people could still be displaced in Lebanon nearly three months after the Israel-Hezbollah conflict ended, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said on Tuesday.

"We don't have the precise number of IDPs [internally displaced people] since there has been no formal registration, but we can estimate their number to 150,000 - 200,000," Stephane Jaquemet, UNHCR regional representative in Lebanon, told IRIN.

He added that the vast majority of the displaced live with friends or relatives and not in collective centres. This has made it harder for relief workers and authorities to work out an exact figure for the numbers displaced and to assess their needs."

HRC, October and November 2006

Nearly one quarter of Lebanon's population displaced at the height of the conflict, the majority within the country (2006)

- More than 700,000 people were displaced within Lebanon while over 230,000 Lebanese fled the country to seek refuge in neighboring countries
- This includes secondary displacement of approximately 16,000 Palestinian refugees
- Up to one half of the displaced were children
- Hundreds of thousands of people returned within a few days of the cessation of hostilities
- Around 200,000 remain displaced as of November 2006

COI, 10 November 2006

"Up to one half of the displaced were children. These figures must be considered against the demographic reality in Lebanon, where many people had already been displaced as a result of previous conflicts and communities still were in the process of recovery and rebuilding. The figures also include the secondary displacement of approximately 16,000 Palestinian refugees."

UN OCHA, 31 August 2006

Graph II: The Lebanon Crisis: Population Movements

As can be seen, high volumes of population movement were encountered during and immediately post-conflict. Well over 100,000 Lebanese returned to Lebanon from Syria in the first few days of the cessation of hostilities. Additionally, over the same time period it can be seen that over 400,000 people returned from areas of temporary shelter to their places of origin

Source: United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)

"Almost one million Lebanese were reportedly displaced between 12 July and 14 August, with an estimated 735,000 seeking shelter within Lebanon and 230,000 to neighbouring Syria, Cyprus, Jordan, and the Gulf and beyond. This includes secondary displacement of approximately 16,000 Palestinian refugees. Of those displaced within Lebanon, approximately 135,000 sought shelter in schools, and over 600,000 resided with host families. Within hours of the cessation of hostilities on 14 August, the displaced populations were returning in large numbers to conflict-affected communities."

Secondary displacement of 16,000 Palestinians during the 2006 war

UNRWA, 2006

"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."

Global Figures: Civil war

Other estimates of people still in a situation of displacement in Lebanon: 50,000-600,000 (prior to 2006 crisis)

IDMC Note: See "Global figures 12 July Conflict" for information about people displaced by the recent conflict

Official figures: 16,750 people still in a situation of internal displacement due to civil war and Israeli military operations up to 2000

- 16,750 people continue to be in a situation of displacement according to the government figures of 10 July 2006
- According to the Ministry of the Displaced, there were approximately 300,000 IDPs (end 2001) and 68,000 (2004)

Ministry of the Displaced, 10 July 2006

According to the Ministry of Displaced, there continue to be 16,750 people in a situation of internal displacement caused by the civil war and Israeli military operations in Lebanon up to 2000

Ministry of the Displaced, 4 August 2004

According to the Ministry of the Displaced, there continue to be 68,000 people in a situation of internal displacement

Assaf, Georges & El Fil, Rana, 7 April 200

According to the Ministry for the Displaced, there were approximately 300,000 IDPs as of end 2001.

Official figures on return: at least 470,510 people displaced by the civil war and Israeli military operations until 2000 have been able to return to their areas of origin (2006)

Ministry of Displaced, as of 10 July 2006

An estimated 470,510 people displaced by the civil war and Israeli military operations were able to return to their homes of origin, according to the Ministry of Displacement

Ministry of Displaced, 4 August 2004

"Effective number of people who were able to return to their area of origin: 79,500 persons[*].

Areas of origin:

- Kfar Selouan
- Obaye
- Al Benieh
- Ain Drafil
- Kfar Matta
- Dfoun
- Baawartah
- Breeh
- Parts of Beirut and its suburbs"

*Note: This figure does not include return movements to South Lebanon and in the West Bekaa regions

Figures on IDP populations and geographic distribution differ significantly (1997)

- Attempts to compare the figures on population movements and distribution reveals large disparities
- Despite the many discrepancies, all surveys give some indication of the scale of a phenomenon that has affected every region of Lebanon

ILO, 1997, Sect. 4.1.2

"Many surveys and studies have been undertaken to determine the magnitude of the problem of permanent displacement. However, any attempt to compare the figures on population movements and distribution reveals large disparities. The most striking difference is the 900,000 put forward by Faour and, at the other end of the spectrum, the 450,000 of the Ministry of the Displaced (hereafter MOD). For the purpose of this report the figures presented in the findings of the Beaudoin and Kasparian's study (1991) will be relied on. In 1987, they estimated the number of the displaced to be 670,000, representing 22 per cent of the Lebanese population. These figures do not include those displaced in the 1989 conflict.

The same variations apply when it comes to the geographic distribution of the displaced population by province, mouhafazat, or by district number, caza. For instance, Faour and Beaudoin and Kasparian estimated the displaced population in the south at 12.2 per cent, while the MOD put forward the figure of 23.1 per cent. Despite the many discrepancies, all surveys give some indication of the scale of a phenomenon that has affected every region of Lebanon."

Displacement figures between 1975 and 1995 (1997-2002)

- Several waves of short and long-term displacement took place during the civil war
- An estimated 810,000 people were displaced between 1975 and 1990
- About 450,000 persons remained displaced at the end of the war

IDMC Note: The number of internally displaced persons is difficult to estimate. A UNDP study stated in 1997 that about 450,000 persons were displaced as of 1995. Other organisations refer to that study for their estimates.

UNDP 1997

"When the civil war ended in 1991, some 90,000 families, or about 450,000 persons, remained displaced. Some 86 percent originated from the Mount Lebanon governorate (62 percent) and southern Lebanon (24 percent). Many of the displaced, particularly from the south, settled in Beirut.

Internally displaced persons in Lebanon include those from the internal conflict and civil war, which broke Lebanon into sectarian districts, and those displaced by the Israeli invasions of 1978 and 1982. The 1978 invasion displaced about 200,000 mostly Shi'a Muslims and 65,000 Palestinians from the south of the country.

The government offered compensation to internally displaced people to rebuild homes, but the vast majority of the displaced have not reclaimed their properties. The government set the end of 2002 as the target for the return of all displaced, but there were still 300,000 in Lebanon as of mid-2002." (USCR 2003)

"Since the outbreak of the war in 1975, and up to its end in 1990, 810,000 citizens were affected by waves of forced displacement as follows:

1975 - 1976	300,000 persons
1977 - 1981	150,000 persons
1982 - 1985	200,000 persons
1989 - 1990	160,000 persons

The number of villages and towns affected [by displacement] numbered 949, of which 174 villages were totally or partially destroyed [...]. The number of destroyed or damaged housing units was 45,020, which further exacerbated the housing problem in Lebanon.

USCR 2002

"Lebanon's civil war violently fragmented a pluralistic society into fairly distinct sectarian areas. At the height of the conflict, up to a million people were internally displaced, and many people were often displaced briefly during the war.

When the civil war ended in 1991, some 90,000 families, or about 450,000 persons, remained displaced."

Geographical distribution: Nahr el Bared

January - May 2008: distribution of Displaced NBC Families (June 2008)

- The majority of displaced families are living in areas adjacent to Nahr el-Bared Camp

UNRWA, 11 June 2008

Geographical distribution of displaced people from Nahr el Bared (May 2008)

- Most displaced people are living in Beddawi camp or in the adjacent area to Nahr el Bared Camp
- The remainder of the displaced are concentrated mainly in North Lebanon

Lebanon Support, 6 May 2008

Geographical distribution of IDPs in Beddawi Camp (April 2008)

- Most IDPs are living in Sectors A and C of Beddawi camp

UNRWA and Lebanon Support, April 2008

Numbers of IDPs in collective centres in area adjacent to Nahr el Bared (May 2008)

- 619 families in collective centres in the NBC adjacent area as of end April

Lebanon Support, April 2008

IDPs in collective centres in Beddawi Camp (May 2008)

- The majority of displaced in collective centres, Beddawi Camp moved out by end April 2008

IDPs in collective centres, Lebanon Support, 6 May 2008

IDPs in schools, Beddawi Camp (May 2008)

- All displaced families moved out of schools in Beddawi camps by end April 2008

Lebanon Support, 6 May 2008

Distribution of population in Nahr el Bared and Beddawi Camps by gender and age (2007)

- 52 per cent of the population is female and 48% is male
- A third of the population in both camps is 15 years and younger
- Almost half of the population in both camps is under 20 years old

FAFO, 2007, (based on a survey conducted in Fall 2006)

Non Palestinians in Nahr el Bared and Beddawi camps (2007)

FAFO, 2007(based on a survey conducted in Fall 2006)

“Not all inhabitants of the two camps are Palestinian refugees. However, the vast majority is. In Nahr El- Bared 99.3% was found to be Palestinian, while 0.6% is Lebanese, and there are a few others. Beddawi apparently has a few more non-Palestinians, of which the largest contingent by far is Lebanese (1.5%). Beddawi’s population is 98.3% Palestinian. The survey found very few Syrian nationals at the two locations, despite the fact that for Lebanon as a whole it identified 0.6% Syrians residing in Palestinian communities.”

Geographical distribution: July-August 2006 conflict

Most people displaced came from south lebanon and the southern districts of Beirut (2006)

- Up to 70 per cent of displaced people living south of the Litani river were forced to leave their homes
- Displaced people moved to Beirut, Saida and Aley, Kesrouane, Baabda and some families in other cazas further north

UNHCR, 9 August 2006

“The majority (70%) of persons in the South have left their homes. Over 80% of those living south of the Litani river [...], have moved to the north. Those who have remained are too vulnerable or too poor to leave, or their passage is too dangerous.

The major concentrations of IDPs are in Saida, Chouf, Aley Cazas and Beirut – with UNHCR assessments also showing significant displacement to Mont Liban Mohafaza (El Metn, Kesrouane, Jbail) and the North. [...] The majority of people are staying with host families, solidarity is high but the needs of host families are increasing as supplies run low and prices rise. Support to host families is needed as public buildings have limited capacity to absorb more persons.”

OCHA, 27 July 2006

Situation as of 27 July: IDPs by caza

[Click here for full map](#)

See also: IDPs residing in schools by caza, OCHA, 8 August 2006

Geographical distribution: civil war

Population figures disaggregated by caza

- No comprehensive population census has been undertaken since 1932
- Two government surveys undertaken in 1996 and 1997 remain the main source about population movements
- See charts below for details on population density by area

Ministry of Environment, 2001

"Since the last comprehensive population census dates back to 1932, there continues to be no agreement on the actual size of the Lebanese population today. The two latest government surveys have produced significant differences in their estimates, from 3.1 million (1996) to 4 million people (1996-97), as explained next, up from 793,000 in 1932 [...].

About one third of the total population resides in Beirut and its suburbs. [1] While Beirut accounted for 22.3 percent of the population in 1970, with the expansion of the Beirut suburbs, this share has decreased to just 10 percent in 1997 [...]

Within the Beirut suburbs, the highest proportion of the population resides in the immediate extension of Beirut, namely Chiah, Furn El Chabak, Sin el Fil and Bourj Hammoud (CAS Study, No.9/1998). Table 1.2 presents the population distribution and population density in 1997."

[Footnote 1 Geographic extension of Beirut suburbs is described in Appendix B. It includes portions of the Cazas of Metn, Baabda, Chouf and Aaley.

Majority of displaced population is from Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon (2003)

- 62 per cent of the displaced are from the Mount Lebanon and 24 per cent from Southern Lebanon

USCR, 2003

"At the height of the conflict, up to 1 million people were internally displaced for long periods of time, and many people were often displaced briefly during the course of the fighting. When the civil war ended in 1991, some 90,000 families, or about 450,000 persons, remained displaced. Some 86 percent originated from the Mount Lebanon governorate (62 percent) and southern Lebanon (24 percent). Many of the displaced, particularly from the south, settled in Beirut."

UNDP, 1997

Displacement by governorate of origin and destination (as of 1995)

The first two columns of the graph below show where the displaced families were displaced from, while the last two columns indicate where the displaced families were located in 1995

Internal displacement resulted in overpopulation in urban areas whereas rural areas were left nearly empty (1997)

- Internal displacement resulted in major demographic changes in the country
- The civil war displaced many rural communities into urban localities, mainly due to political strategies and militias
- A demographic balance is hoped to be restored with the resettlement of the displaced from over-populated areas to the nearly empty areas of displacement

Beaudoin and Kasparian, 1991

"More than a million people have been displaced during the war; some were permanently dislocated, the rest returned when hostilities ceased. The social fabric of rural and urban communities was severely affected; life-styles were disrupted. The massive migratory movements across the country have resulted in the disruption of the cultural and social organization of the displaced communities. They have also affected the receiving societies confronted with different cultural practices and values of those coming from rural backgrounds into an urban environment or vice versa.

Internal migration was a major determining factor in the demographic changes that resulted from the war. As a result of this planned human reorganization of the country, the population of Beirut, for instance, underwent major changes: the exodus of a large part of its original inhabitants was balanced by the inflow of refugees from other areas. In the southern suburbs of the capital, 30 per cent of the population is composed of refugees. As noted earlier, this phenomenon has affected every region of the country to varying degrees.

USAID, 1995

The civil war has displaced many rural communities into urban localities. The forced displacement due to political strategies and organized by the militias reinforced the pre-existing rural-urban migratory trend. The major phenomena which characterized the urbanization process in Lebanon could be summed up as follows:

- the cycles of rural migration prior to and during the war;
- the displacement of the urban population into safer areas, some of which were not yet urbanised at the time;
- the expansion of urban agglomerations to reach neighbouring rural areas.

ILO, 1997, Section 4.1.2

These phenomena have resulted in a continuously changing spatial reorganization. The increased urbanization of the population was paralleled with the emptying of the rural areas from a substantial part of the active population. According to ECWA (Abu Nasr et al., 1985), in 1975 a large proportion of the country's population (65 per cent) lived in urban areas. The UN (EIU 1995) estimated that after the war the capital alone had a population of 1.5 million, which represents almost half of the entire population of the country. The imbalance in the population distribution is one of the main compelling factors for the Government to organize the return of the displaced. A demographic balance is hoped to be restored with the resettlement of the displaced from over-populated areas to the nearly empty areas of displacement."

PATTERNS OF DISPLACEMENT

July-August 2006 conflict

Israeli military operations force people to flee their homes in south Lebanon and south Beirut (2006)

- Israeli military operations targeted South Lebanon and the southern districts of Beirut forcing people to flee north
- Most displaced sought refuge with family and friends, while others lived in schools, mosques, churches and other public buildings
- Some displaced Lebanese sought shelter in Palestinian refugee camps
- Many of the areas which were targeted were areas already affected by poverty

COI, 10 November 2006

"It is clear, however, that the greatest impact of the conflict was felt by those living in areas already affected by poverty, including the urban suburbs of south Beirut, villages in the South, and some rural districts. [...]According to UN estimates, up to 70% of the total number of IDPs were housed in temporary accommodation in Beirut."

HRC, 5 September 2006

"The Israeli aggression on the South and the southern suburbs of Beirut has caused a large number of people to flee their homes in the search of areas that have not as of yet been directly targeted by Israeli bombs. According to government sources, approximately one fourth of the Lebanese population are currently displaced with many seeking refuge in schools in Mount Lebanon and Beirut. The displaced have mainly found shelter in schools and relief agencies, while many have found shelter with families, friends, churches, and mosques. The remaining displaced population has left Lebanon to settle in neighboring countries."

Christian Science Monitor, 8 August 2006

"Nearly six decades ago, the Lebanese gave shelter to tens of thousands of Palestinian refugees who fled their homeland when the state of Israel was created. Now some of those refugees' descendants are returning the favor. Hundreds of Lebanese who have abandoned their homes have sought shelter in the Palestinian camps ringing the southern coastal town of Tyre. [...]"

Rashidiyeh's Palestinian population of about 17,000 has been joined by as many as 1,000 Lebanese, who have settled into the empty classrooms at Ain al-Qassem school. The Palestinian popular committee that runs the camp provides food three times a day, mattresses, and medicines."

IRIN, 21 July 2006

"Of the estimated half a million displaced people in Lebanon, some 70 per cent are from southern villages, officials say. [...]"

Police sources in Lebanon say about 350,000 people have left their homes in cities and villages such as Tyre (80 km south of Beirut), Nabatyeh (95 km southeast of Beirut), Zahrani (60 km south of Beirut) and Bint Jbeyl (200 km south of Beirut).[...]"

Others have taken shelter in schools in safer eastern parts of the Lebanese capital of Beirut - where the majority of the population is Christian - or in northern and southeastern districts of Lebanon such as Akkar (110 km north of Beirut) and the Chouf Mountains (20 km southeast of Beirut).

Southern families headed to more secure cities like Sidon, the capital of the South (45 km south of Beirut). According to the Mayor of Sidon, Abdel Rahman Bezri, "more than 5,000 people are now taking shelter here, all from border villages. They are living in 13 public schools and centres, and we are working on providing them with what they need."

Other Lebanese are taking shelter in safer eastern parts of the Lebanese capital of Beirut - where the majority of the population is Christian - or in northern and southeastern districts of Lebanon such as Akkar (110 km north of Beirut) and the Chouf Mountains (20 km southeast of Beirut).

Some people who had fled their homes were forced to flee a second time due to IDF bombardments (2006)

- This was particularly the case for displaced people who fled south Lebanon and sought shelter in the southern districts of Beirut
- The districts of Ghazieh and Chiyah were two areas where displaced people sought safety which were subsequently targeted by Israeli airstrikes in the days prior to the ceasefire
- Civilians had fled the areas of Deir Intar, Majadel and Touleen of Bent J'beil and sought refuge in Chiyah

COI, 10 November 2006

"In addition, some individuals who had fled north of the Litani river seeking safe shelter with family or other members of the community were affected a second time by IDF bombardments. The Commission received reliable information and gathered witness testimonies in relation to two such incidents, in Ghazieh and Chiyah districts respectively.

Until the last days of the conflict, Ghazieh was seen as a safe haven for displaced civilians coming from the south and, according to the mayor, over ten thousand displaced people arrived in the town over the course of the conflict. According to witness testimonies, on Monday 7 August at around 0800 hours the town was attacked by Israeli air strikes. Several buildings were seriously damaged and at least three houses were completely destroyed by direct hits. Roads and bridges were also badly damaged, resulting in the isolation of Ghazieh from the main points of access into and out of town. According to one witness testimony, eight people were killed in one attack on a residential building, while another victim reported that he had lost his wife and four of his children in the bombardment. In another attack, a house was hit directly and its five inhabitants, including a two-year old, two sisters and their mother, were killed when the structure collapsed. In total, at least twenty-nine civilians died in Ghazieh between 6 and 8 August.

In the Chiyah district of south Beirut, civilians had sought shelter with family members after having fled southern Lebanon earlier in the conflict. According to testimonies collected by the Commission, as well as information provided by local non-governmental organisations, civilians had fled the areas of Deir Intar, Majadel and Touleen of Bent J'beil and sought refuge in Chiyah. Others had fled to there from the Ghobeiri neighborhood of southern Beirut, which had been heavily hit by air bombardments. The Commission received information in relation to at least one building in Chiyah occupied by people displaced from the South, which was destroyed by air strikes. On 7 August 2006 at around 1945 hours, at least 39 civilians were killed in their homes

when the Israeli air force bombarded the building in the residential neighborhood of Chiyah. One witness from Chiyah explained to the Commission that her family had been hosting displaced people who had fled the conflict in southern Lebanon. She stated that although they felt safe, the house was extremely crowded and the children were constantly fighting as a result. She confirmed other reports received by the Commission that no warning had been given prior to the air strike on the evening of 7 August, which destroyed the building next door and caused significant damage to neighbouring buildings. The witness's 16-year old son was killed when the building collapsed. Her 13-year old son was seriously injured and her youngest son, a five-year old, suffers from serious post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of the incident."

Civil War

Other factors than security may account for long-term displacement (1997-2002)

- According to UNDP, long-term displacement is not only due to the inability of families to return to their former homes for security reasons, but also due to social and economic considerations

USCR 2002

"In the past, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has questioned the central assumption underlying the Lebanese government's approach to long-term internal displacement: that the solution to the problem lies in reversing the process and returning the displaced to their former homes. UNDP said that the goal of returning the displaced disregards the past 20 years of social and economic changes in Lebanon, and argues that these changes, many the result of rural-to urban migration, would have taken place even in the absence of war."

UNDP 1997

"There is reason to believe that prolonged displacement cannot be explained entirely in terms of the inability of families, for security reasons, to return to the places where they lived before the war. Economic and social considerations have played a role in determining the pace of return.

Displacement produced large-scale demographic shifts resulting in total or partial segregation on religious/sectarian basis. These shifts altered the demographic features of both the areas of origin and areas of destination, affecting in the process the unity of the society and creating real problems at the level of social integration. In addition, the economy suffered from the segregation of the labor market, the increase in the rate of emigration abroad, and the impoverishment of displaced families, reflected in the loss of resources, incomes and jobs; and from the deterioration of conditions affecting housing, education, health care and other services."

Majority of displaced were Muslim early in the war and Christian in later phases (1975-1991)

- In the beginning of the civil war, displacement of Muslims by Christian Militias and of Christians by the Palestine Liberation Organization took place in and around Beirut
- In the later phases of the war, many Christians were displaced from the mountainous region of the Chouf

UNDP 1997

"Before 1975 many parts of Lebanon had predominant confessional groupings, but settlement patterns were complex and intertwined. The civil war led to the wholesale expulsion of Muslims from regions controlled by Christian militias, and substantial displacement of Christians from regions controlled by the PLO [Palestine Liberation Organization] and the LNM [Lebanese National Movement]. Most of these 'population exchanges' took place in and around Beirut, and probably led to the long-term displacement of between 250,000 and 300,000 people, the great majority Muslims.

The later phases of the war saw many Christians displaced from the Shouf, the mountainous region to the southeast of Beirut. The Bekaa region in the east of the country, and to a lesser extent the north of Lebanon, also saw displacement, largely of Christians to areas controlled by the Christian militias, particularly Zahleh and Beirut. An estimated 650,000 Lebanese left the country altogether during this period (a disproportionate number of them Christian). (Dammers 1998, p.185)

"Displacement was associated with large-scale destruction of villages, towns and housing units, rendering immediate return impossible, and prolonging forced displacement for years after the cessation of military operations."

USCR 2002

"Lebanon's civil war caused the violent fragmentation of a pluralistic society into fairly distinct sectarian areas. At the height of the conflict, up to a million people were internally displaced, and many people were often displaced briefly during the course of the fighting."

Internal displacements were not continuous but occurred in waves during the conflict (1997)

- A distinction needs to be made between temporary and permanent displacement
- Temporary internal displacement was caused by internal strife and external aggression, such as the Israeli invasions of 1978 and 1982 and the fight between Syrian forces and Lebanese militias
- Permanent internal displacement was provoked by massacres and expulsions aimed at creating confessionally homogenous zones

ILO, 1997, Sect. 4.1.2

"Displacement is the most serious phenomenon that affected the Lebanese population as a consequence of war. This internal migration followed a concerted plan that was executed in different stages by numerous actors on the war scene. Two-thirds of the population were displaced. A distinction should be made between temporary and permanent displacement. The former was provoked by internal strife and external aggression, such as the Israeli invasions of 1978 and 1982 and the fight between Syrian forces and Lebanese militias. In those cases, the people would abandon their homes and go back as soon as fighting had ceased. The latter was provoked by massacres and expulsions aimed at creating confessionally homogenous zones.

Displacements were not continuous but occurred in separate, successive waves, corresponding to the different rounds of the conflict. During 1975-76, approximately 300,000 people were displaced in the capital city of Beirut alone. From 1978-82, an additional 150,000 people fled due to fighting in their area and the Israeli invasion. From 1982-90 a further 360,000 people were uprooted (Lebanese NGO Forum, 1994)."

PHYSICAL SECURITY & FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Physical security

Overall human rights climate: political uncertainty and security incidents (2008)

- Demonstrations in protest to electricity eruptions in south Beirut led to the deployment of the Lebanese army in January
- Demonstrations also reported in Tyre, Khiam and north east Lebanon resulting in several deaths
- Internal Security Forces representatives assassinated in January
- Several other explosions kill passer-bys and wound others
- Amnesty International reports more than 40 people killed in bombings and other attacks in 2007, while hundreds killed in fighting in and around Nahr el Bared

Amnesty 2008 Report

"Political violence and instability dominated the year, with more than 40 people killed in bombings and other attacks and hundreds killed in months of fighting between the Lebanese Army and the Fatah al-Islam armed group in and around Nahr al-Bared Palestinian refugee camp. The tension and divisions in the country, still recovering from the devastating war between Israel and Hizbullah in 2006, virtually paralysed parliament and prevented the election of a new President.

Women faced discrimination in law and practice, and the state failed adequately to protect them against violence. Palestinian refugees continued to suffer discrimination and violations of their social and economic rights. Reports of torture and ill-treatment in detention increased. Courts continued to condemn people to death but there were no executions."

OCHA, 31 January 2008

"Eight Lebanese opposition supporters were shot dead in Beirut on 27 January in some of the worst street violence since Lebanon's civil war, and at least twenty-nine more people were wounded. The violence escalated after an Amal activist was shot dead when the army moved to break up a protest over power cuts."

UNSC, 30 January 2008

"Political uncertainty had been exacerbated by the increased frequency of grave security incidents, he said. On 27 January, demonstrations had begun in a southern suburb of Beirut, apparently to protest against interruptions to the area's electricity supply. The unrest had led to the deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces and security services in an attempt to restore calm. Demonstrations had spread to the towns of Tyre and Khiam in southern Lebanon, as well as the north-eastern parts of the Beka'a Valley. By nightfall, seven people had been killed and up to 40 wounded. The Lebanese Army had announced that it would investigate the deaths.

He said that on 25 January, Lebanon had suffered yet another targeted assassination with the killing of Captain Wissam Eid and Adjutant Osama Merib of the Internal Security Forces in an explosion in Beirut. Four others had also been killed and up to 20 people injured. On 15 January, a car bomb explosion in an industrial area of Beirut had killed three passers-by and wounded dozens more. A diplomatic vehicle from the United States Embassy had also been impacted in the bombing and both occupants wounded. Besides attacks on the United Nations

Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), that was the first attack on a diplomatic target in Beirut since Lebanon's civil war. Additionally, on 21 January, a hand grenade had been detonated in a residential area of Beirut, causing material damage but no injuries. There had been no claims of responsibility for those incidents."

See also,

IRIN, "[Politicised power cuts behind deadly riots?](#)", 28 January 2008

IRIN, "[Al-Qaeda now unleached and targeting internationals, warn analysts](#)", 16 January 2008

Human rights groups call for investigation of violations occurring in May 2008 clashes (2008)

- Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch called on government to ensure proper investigations into killings and other abuses civilians in clashes between pro and anti-government forces
- At least 62 people died and 198 injured in the fighting that broke out on 7 May
- A woman and her son were killed in their car that was hit by a rocket
- Two other sons of this woman were shot later the same day
- Hizbollah reported 3 of its members were kidnapped, and two were later found dead

HRW, 18 May 2008

"Lebanese authorities should investigate killings of civilians and other serious violations of international humanitarian law during last week's fighting, Human Rights Watch said today. Lebanon's political leaders, meeting in Qatar to try to resolve their differences, should support impartial judicial investigations and not try to shield their supporters.

Fighting that broke out on May 7, 2008 between the Hezbollah-led opposition and pro-government groups left at least 65 dead and 200 wounded, according to the Lebanese Internal Security Forces. Human Rights Watch has documented violations of international humanitarian law committed by both opposition and pro-government fighters, including attacks on civilians and civilian property. [...]

Human Rights Watch spoke to several wounded civilians who said gunmen fired on them even though they were unarmed. A preliminary investigation shows that at least 12 of those killed were not involved in the fighting.

Members of the opposition groups – Hezbollah, Amal, and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP) – used small arms and rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs, often referred to as B7s) in densely populated areas of Beirut. These attacks killed and wounded numerous civilians. Amal Baydoun, 59, and her son Haytham Tabbarah, 35, died on May 8 while trying to flee their Ras al-Naba' neighborhood when opposition gunmen fired an RPG in the direction of their car. Tabbarah's two brothers were injured later that day when opposition gunmen shot at their car while they were trying to join their family in the hospital.

Opposition gunmen also detained suspected members of pro-government groups. In most cases, opposition forces transferred those they detained to the Lebanese army a few hours later, but a number of individuals were held for days in incommunicado detention. In the town of Chouweifat, Hezbollah detained four individuals suspected of being members of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) for three days; in a subsequent television interview, those released indicated that they were treated well. However, two individuals detained in Beirut by opposition gunmen told

Human Rights Watch that they were beaten and insulted: “I was detained for two hours in one of Amal’s offices in Beirut. We were approximately 18 in the room. I was beaten with the butt of a Kalashnikov. I saw others being beaten too.”

Supporters of the pro-government groups – the Future Movement and the Progressive Socialist Party – also resorted to violence against civilians and offices associated with opposition groups in areas under their control in northern Lebanon, the Beka` and the Chouf. Many of these attacks violated international humanitarian law. Hezbollah reported that PSP fighters detained two of its followers and executed them. Human Rights Watch examined photos of the two Hezbollah members showing that at least one had been shot in the head at very close range while the other appears to have had part of the skin of his forearm removed. Videos posted on youtube.com of the fighting in the northern town of Halba between armed men supporting the government and members of the opposition SSNP show wounded men, apparently belonging to the SSNP, lying on the ground being beaten and ill-treated by gunmen. [...]

The Lebanese judicial authorities have begun investigating some attacks on civilians. A policeman involved in one of the investigations and relatives of victims expressed concern to Human Rights Watch that they had little faith in the judiciary’s ability to succeed if Lebanese party and militia leaders shielded their supporters from justice.”

Amnesty International, 13 May 2008

“Amnesty International called on the Lebanese authorities to ensure proper investigations into the killing and any other abuses of those not involved in the armed clashes that broke out last week between members of pro- and anti-government armed groups.

According to official figures, at least 62 people have died and 198 have been injured in the fighting which broke out on Wednesday 7 May in the capital Beirut, and gradually spread to other parts of the country. The fighting started when members of Hizbullah-led opposition groups clashed with pro-government forces in Beirut following government decisions to close down the group’s telecommunications network and to dismiss Beirut Airport’s head of security, who was seen as sympathetic to Hizbullah.

On Friday 9 May, whilst attempting to flee the Ras al-Naba’a area in Beirut, a 60-year old woman and her 33-year old son were killed when their car was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade followed by a salvo of bullets fired by armed men. The same day, two other sons of this woman were seriously injured when they were shot in the back by a group of armed men in the al-Nwairi area in Beirut, while on their way to find out what had happened to their mother and brother. According to news reports, two civilians were killed at a 10 May funeral procession for a killed pro-government supporter, in Tariq al-Jdide, Beirut.

On Sunday 11 May, Hizbullah said that three of its members had been kidnapped in Aley, outside Beirut, by members of the pro-government Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and that bodies of two of the men had been found. PSP leader Walid Jumblatt acknowledged that three Hizbullah men had been killed and that he would accept responsibility if reports that the men had been tortured before being killed were found to be true.”

Allegations of abuses committed against Palestinians as they fled Nahr el Bared (2008)

- Amnesty International also reports that scores of Palestinians were threatened, humiliated and abused by soldiers

- An estimated 200 people were arrested and detained on account of suspected involvement with Fatah al Islam
- Protestors killed while demonstrating for return to Nahr el Bared

Amnesty International, 2008 Report

“On 22 May, two civilians were killed and others injured when a UN convoy delivering relief supplies inside the camp was hit by at least one explosive device. The army reportedly denied responsibility. The same day, Naif Salah Salah and a pregnant woman, Maha Abu Radi, were shot dead and other passengers were injured as their bus fleeing the camp approached an army checkpoint. A boy aged 13 or 14 was taken from the bus by armed men, threatened with a knife and given electric shocks to make him “confess” to planning a suicide attack, before being released. There were no known independent investigations into the incidents.

Scores of Palestinians were threatened, humiliated and abused by soldiers, often after being stopped at army checkpoints. Abuses included being stripped, being forced to lie on the road, and being beaten, kicked, hit with rifle butts, insulted and humiliated. In several cases individuals were reportedly whipped, given electric shocks and sexually abused.

Some 200 people were arrested and remained detained on account of their suspected involvement with Fatah al-Islam. Tens of these were reportedly charged with terrorism offences that can carry the death penalty. There were reports that some detainees were tortured or otherwise ill-treated.

On 29 June, three protesters were killed during a peaceful demonstration calling for refugees displaced from Nahr al-Bared to be allowed to return to their homes. Lebanese Army soldiers opened fire on the protesters and then reportedly failed to intervene when Lebanese civilians attacked the demonstrators.

On 12 December, General François el-Hajj, the Lebanese Army’s chief of operations during the fighting in Nahr al-Bared, and a bodyguard, were killed in a car bomb attack in Ba’abda.”

UN and human rights groups condemn Israel’s use of cluster munitions (2008)

- A report by Human Rights Watch found that cluster bombs fired by Israel have killed and maimed close to 200 people since the war ended
- Israel fired as many as 4.6 million submunitions across southern Lebanon in at least 962 separate strikes, the majority in the final three days of the war
- The 4.6 million estimate is higher than reported by other sources- it is based on additional information provided to Human Rights Watch by soldiers who fired cluster munitions
- Israeli police told Human Rights Watch the Hezbollah also fired clusters causing one death and 12 injuries
- The United Nations has estimated that up to 1 million submunitions did not explode on impact, but remained deadly, lingering like landmines
- Human Rights Watch calls on Israel to give deminers precise information to locate and clear the duds, such information has not been provided to the UN despite repeated requests
- Human Rights Watch calls for an independent and impartial public inquiry to assess the lawfulness of Israel’s cluster munitions use in Lebanon and to determine if individual commanders bear responsibility for war crimes
- In December, the Israeli military said that following its own investigation, Israel’s use of cluster munitions was in line with international humanitarian law

- In January the Winograd Commission, an Israeli committee of inquiry, released its own report that acknowledges that cluster munitions were used in populated areas and caused post-conflict civilian casualties

HRW, 17 February 2008

"In the 131-page report, "Flooding South Lebanon: Israel's Use of Cluster Munitions in Lebanon in July and August 2006," Human Rights Watch found that Israel violated international humanitarian law in its indiscriminate and disproportionate cluster munition attacks on Lebanon. [...]

"Israel fired huge numbers of cluster bombs into Lebanon, leaving bomblets that have killed and maimed almost 200 people since the war ended," said Steve Goose, director of the Arms division at Human Rights Watch. [...]

At a five-day conference which starts in Wellington, New Zealand on February 18, 2008 more than 100 countries will discuss the text of a treaty to ban the production, stockpiling, transfer, and use of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians. Israel's cluster attacks on Lebanon in 2006 played a major role in sparking the treaty process that began in Oslo last year and is scheduled to finish later in 2008. [...]

Israel rained as many as 4.6 million submunitions across southern Lebanon in at least 962 separate strikes, the vast majority over the final three days of the war when Israel knew a settlement was imminent. The 4.6 million estimate is higher than previously reported by other sources. It is based on additional information provided to Human Rights Watch by soldiers who fired cluster munitions from Multiple Launch Rocket Systems.

Israel hit dozens of towns and villages with cluster munitions, causing long-term and large-scale disruption of the largely agricultural economy. Human Rights Watch research found that many of the attacks on populated areas did not appear to have had a specific military target.

The United Nations has estimated that at least hundreds of thousands and perhaps 1 million submunitions did not explode on impact, but remained deadly, lingering like landmines. These submunition "duds" have caused about 200 civilian casualties since the war's end, and the toll continues to grow.

Human Rights Watch called on Israel to give deminers precise information to locate and clear the duds. Despite frequent requests, Israel has refused to do so, thereby further contributing to ongoing suffering in southern Lebanon. The UN has complained that Israel has only provided generic maps without the specific attack sites, and has not provided needed information on the specific types and quantities of cluster munitions used.

"Israel could quickly reduce the danger to civilians by telling the UN where it fired cluster munitions, and its refusal to help is shocking," said Goose.

Human Rights Watch calls for an independent and impartial public inquiry to assess the lawfulness of Israel's cluster munitions use in Lebanon and to determine if individual commanders bear responsibility for war crimes. Israel's continuing failure to mount a credible investigation reaffirms the need for the UN secretary-general to establish an International Commission of Inquiry to look at all possible violations of international law, including cluster munition attacks.

At the end of December 2007, the Israel Defense Forces issued the results of a second internal inquiry into their use of cluster munitions. The findings were a predictable whitewash justifying use of the weapon and finding no violations of international law.

However, the Winograd Commission, an Israeli committee of inquiry, released its own report on the conduct of the war on January 30, 2008, and its results mirrored many of Human Rights Watch's findings. It acknowledged that cluster munitions were used in populated areas and caused post-conflict civilian casualties, and expressed concern about the "lack of clear orders, discipline and effective controls." It recommended an independent and public "re-examination" of the rules surrounding Israel's cluster munition use. [...]

Human Rights Watch investigated the conduct of all parties to the 34-day war in 2006. Human Rights Watch found that Hezbollah also fired cluster munitions into populated areas of Israel, in violation of international humanitarian law. The Israeli police told Human Rights Watch the Hezbollah clusters caused one death and 12 injuries.

Israel used large numbers of older models of cluster munitions, some of which were produced in the 1970s, with very high failure rates. Most of these were supplied by the United States. [...] The Oslo Process, which Israel has not participated in, has garnered wide support for a global ban on cluster munitions. In addition to the ban, the treaty will include requirements for clearance of contaminated areas and assistance to affected individuals and communities."

Click here for the [full report](#)

IRIN, 28 December 2007

"Israel's military advocate-general, Brig-Gen Avihai Mendelblit, has said the military's use of cluster munitions during the conflict in Lebanon in 2006 was in accordance with international humanitarian law. Human rights groups and the UN had previously condemned the use of the bombs.

In a statement issued on 24 December, the Israeli military said it used cluster munitions to fight Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shia militant group, which had "heavily camouflaged" its launching sites for firing rockets at Israel.

The Israeli military "had to make use of weaponry which allowed for an immediate response to rocket fire while providing maximum coverage within the targeted area," the statement said, adding that the weapon itself "conforms to international law".

The "majority of the cluster munitions were fired at open and uninhabited areas", but in some cases the military hit residential areas, responding to rocket attacks by Hezbollah.

Amnon Vidan of Amnesty International in Israel said he was not surprised by the decision, noting that in such cases, rather than have the army investigate itself, it was better that an international investigation take place.

"The amount of cluster bombs used in civilian areas, as well as testimonies by soldiers about the use of the bombs, and Israel's refusal to hand over to the UN maps of the locations where it fired the bombs to help demining efforts," all point to different conclusions than those reached by the military, he told IRIN.

In August 2006, Jan Egeland, then the UN undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator, had harshly condemned Israel's use of cluster bombs, calling it "shocking and completely immoral."

"Ninety percent of the cluster bomb strikes occurred in the last 72 hours of the conflict, when we knew there would be a resolution," he said, adding that populated areas, such as homes and agricultural land were now covered with unexploded bomblets."

See also

IRIN, Israel's 2006 bombing of southern Lebanon could spur cluster bomb ban, 18 February 2008
IRIN, Israel must reexamine use of cluster bombs, committee says, 3 February 2008

Impunity for abuses committed during the civil war and its aftermath (2008)

Amnesty International, 2008 Report

"No criminal investigations or prosecutions were initiated into mass human rights abuses that were committed with impunity during and after the 1975-1990 civil war. Abuses included killings of civilians; abductions and enforced disappearances of Palestinians, Lebanese and foreign nationals; and arbitrary detentions by various armed militias and Syrian and Israeli government forces. In 1992 the Lebanese government said that a total of 17,415 people had disappeared during the civil war."

No one brought to justice for violations of international humanitarian law committed during the 2006 war (2008)

Amnesty International, 2008 Report

"No participants from either side of the 2006 war between Israel and Hizbullah were brought to justice for serious violations of international humanitarian law."

Hundreds of thousands of cluster bombs remain a security threat (2008)

- Injuries and deaths have affected civilians cleaning up rubble of their homes and fields, children, farmers, civilians moving about villages as part of everyday life; and professionals/civilians clearing submunitions
- Unexploded ordnance (UXO) continue to kill or wound on average two people per day
- Deminers continue to identify new cluster sites
- Since end 2006, unexploded ordnance and cluster munitions combined have led to 27 deaths and 218 injuries (UN MACC, as of April 2008)
- The UN has estimated that Israel used cluster munitions (artillery shells, ground rockets, and air-dropped bombs) containing between 2.6 and four million submunitions in Lebanon
- Human Rights Watch found that the estimated total of Israeli submunitions fired into Lebanon could be 3.2 to 4.6 million submunitions based on further information provided to the organisation by Israeli soldiers
- A total of 965 cluster strike locations were recorded by the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (as of end March 2008)
- 90 per cent of the cluster bombs were fired during the three days prior to the ceasefire
- In its resolution 1701 (2006), the Security Council called for all remaining maps of landmines in Lebanon in Israel's possession to be provided to the UN
- In early February, Israel presented some information regarding the clusters however, this information was found to have limited value (February 2008)
- The UN continues to urge Israel to submit detailed information on the cluster strikes fired in 2006
- There was already an existing mine problem in South Lebanon, mainly of mine fields placed by the Israelis along the "Blue Line" from Naquoura to Kfar Chouba before Israel withdrew in 2000

UN MACC, 14 April 2008

“As at 31 March 2008, 965 individual cluster strikes have been confirmed [...] The 965 individual cluster strikes cover an estimated contaminated area of 38,819,694 million square miles.

Civilian casualties in South Lebanon since 14 August 2006 up to 31 March 2008: Of 245 people there were 199 victims killed or injured by UXO and 46 victims by other UXO

[See also [Counting the Cost: the economic impact of cluster munition contamination in Lebanon](#), May 2008]

IRIN, 22 January 2008

“Deminers clearing Israeli-dropped cluster bombs in south Lebanon are turning up an average of 10 new sites per month, while Israel continues to ignore requests for data that would assist clearing the estimated one million unexploded bomblets, which continue to kill and maim civilians and decimate rural livelihoods.”

UNSC, 28 February, 2008

“Since the end of the 2006 conflict, the United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre-South Lebanon has coordinated the clearance and reduction of 33 million square metres of contaminated land, comprising 44 per cent of the surface and 25 per cent of the sub-surface areas, through a joint effort including the Lebanese Armed Forces, UNIFIL, the United Nations and bilaterally funded clearance organizations. In total, 140,362 cluster munitions have been located and destroyed. When operational planning began after the war, the size of the problem was estimated at some 32 million square metres, which has now increased to 38.7 million square metres to date. During the reporting period, the Mine Action Coordination Centre identified 12 additional cluster bomb strike locations, bringing the total to 963 locations recorded thus far.

Unexploded ordnance, particularly cluster munitions, continues to maim and kill civilians in southern Lebanon, with an average of two civilian casualties per month. Since the end of the 2006 conflict to date, unexploded ordnance and cluster munitions combined have led to 27 civilian fatalities and 209 civilian injuries, as well as 14 mine clearance fatalities (including one UNIFIL peacekeeper) and 34 mine clearance injuries.

Following persistent efforts by the United Nations both at Headquarters and in the field to secure technical strike data regarding cluster munitions, on 5 February 2008, the Israel Defense Forces submitted some information. Preliminary findings are however that the information provided is of very limited value. I reiterate with urgency my call on the Government of Israel to provide detailed strike data on the type, quantity and specific coordinates of submunitions fired during the 2006 conflict. This crucial information would greatly enhance the rate of clearance operations in southern Lebanon and reduce the number of incidents for both civilians and mine-clearance experts.”

UNSC, 12 September 2006, p.11

"In its resolution 1701 (2006), the Security Council envisaged that all remaining maps of landmines in Lebanon in Israel's possession be provided to the United Nations in order to enable a permanent ceasefire and long-term solution. IDF has been handing over some maps to UNIFIL as it withdraws from particular locations. The Israeli authorities have assured UNIFIL that all relevant maps of landmines and unexploded ordnance in their possession will be handed over on completion of the withdrawal.

While IDF has provided some maps to UNIFIL regarding cluster strikes, they are not specific enough to be of use to operators on the ground. I expect that Israel will provide further detailed information to UNIFIL regarding the exact location, quantity and type of cluster munitions utilized during the conflict.”

AI, 31 August 2006

"Amnesty International today called on Israel to immediately provide maps of the areas of Lebanon into which it fired cluster bombs during the recent conflict to enable their clearance and prevent further civilian casualties."

HRW, February 2008

"Given the sheer number of cluster duds on the ground, casualties are unavoidable, but most injuries and deaths fall into one of several definable categories: (1) civilians cleaning up the rubble of their war-torn homes and fields; (2) children playing with the curiosity-provoking submunitions; (3) farmers trying to harvest their crops; (4) civilians simply moving about villages as part of everyday life; and (5) professionals and civilians clearing submunitions."

HRW, February 2008

"MACC SL has estimated that Israel used cluster munitions (artillery shells, ground rockets, and air-dropped bombs) containing between 2.6 and four million submunitions in Lebanon. It arrived at that estimate in the following fashion. First, it calculated that Israel fired some 16,000 to 32,000 artillery cluster shells containing a total of 1.4 to 2.8 million submunitions. To those figures, it added 1,800 MLRS rockets carrying 1,159,200 M77 submunitions, which Israeli soldiers reported to *Ha'aretz* newspaper. It also noted that Israel dropped an unknown number of aerially delivered CBU-58B cluster bombs, each containing 650 BLU-63 bomblets. Given the high failure rates of these different types of submunitions, the UN has estimated that the cluster barrages left behind hundreds of thousands, possibly up to one million, hazardous duds.

Outside of the UN estimate, Israeli soldiers told Human Rights Watch that the 1,800 MLRS rockets accounted for only those fired by a reserve MLRS battalion, and that an active duty battalion fired 1,000 more, which would contain 644,000 submunitions, bringing the number of rocket submunitions to more than 1.8 million. This additional information could raise the estimated total of Israeli submunitions fired into Lebanon to some 3.2 to 4.6 million submunitions.

Israel's use of cluster munitions was the most extensive use of the weapon anywhere in the world since the 1991 Gulf War and was concentrated in a relatively small geographical area. The number and density of cluster munitions used in Lebanon vastly exceeded their use in prior wars in Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq where Human Rights Watch has also carried out investigations."

UNOCHA, 19 September 2006

"Most of these casualties have occurred as people checked their homes or fields.[...] Five civilians have been killed while herding or working their land and a further 16 have been injured. Most of the victims have been men. They were typically the first to return home after the cease fire and generally tend to be more involved than women and children in agriculture production and herding.

	Children (0 - 17)		Adult (18 +)		Total (Injury/ Death)
	M	F	M	F	
Injured	19	4	55	5	83
Killed	1	0	14	0	15
Total	20	4	69	5	98

Source: National Demining Office, 18 September 2006

One child has been killed and 23 others injured[...]. Most unexploded cluster bombs are small and innocuous looking, some in the shape of a soft drink can, often with ribbons attached, thus making them particularly attractive to curious children.”

OCHA, 31 August 2006, pp. 4 and 6

“Of real concern is the number of unexploded ordinance (UXO) that is killing on average one person a day and injuring three others. Across much of southern Lebanon, the high level of UXOs that have been discovered have made the concentration of these munitions – and the threat they pose to local communities – greater than that found in Iraq immediately after the United States campaign in 2003 [...].

The number of casualties continues to grow due as a result of the high level of contamination of UXOs. Since 26 August, 12 people have died (including two children) and 40 have been injured (including 12 children) as a result of UXO incidence. Unexploded ordnance, particularly cluster munitions, remains the direst threat to the civilian population and humanitarian workers. By 27 August, the Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) had identified 359 strike locations, a figure which is expected to rise. So far, approximately 100,000 unexploded cluster bomblets lie in identified strike locations. According to UNMACC, 90% of the cluster bombs were fired during the three days before the cessation of hostilities. Approximately 8,500 pieces of Israeli ordnance remain unexploded. [1] Clearance of UXOs inside houses is a major priority. [2] The Lebanese Army reports clearing 1,000 cluster munitions daily.”

MACC SL, 2004

“Landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) left over from the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and previous periods of conflict in the area dating back to the French mandate continue to hamper the effective restoration of peace and security in the area.

While landmine casualty figures have fallen significantly since initial levels recorded immediately following the withdrawal, the remaining landmines and UXO continue to impact on the reconstruction, socio-economic development and the return of normalcy to community life for those in affected areas.

It can often be misleading to focus on the number of mines however it is useful to note that the south of Lebanon is the most highly contaminated region of the country. At the end of 2003 there remains an estimated 410,000 landmines in the area.

The majority of these mines lie in the immediate proximity of the UN delineated ‘Blue Line’ between Lebanon and Israel. These minefields are known as the ‘border minefields’ and they stretch from Naqoura on the Mediterranean coast to Kfar Chouba in the east. These border minefields remain a risk to the UNIFIL troops operating in the area and to those villages in the immediate vicinity of the Blue Line. Mines and UXO are also present in and around the immediate vicinity of villages throughout the area away from Blue Line. The immediate areas of risk are those village communities living in close proximity to minefields within the former occupied zone other than along the Blue Line.”

Risk of injury and death high among farmers and sheppards working in areas contaminated with cluster bombs (2008)

- Agriculture is the main source of income in Lebanon, constituting 70 per cent of household income of the working population in the south
- According to UNDP, submunitions have contaminated an estimated 20 square kilometers of agricultural land

- Farmers have been unable to access their fields because of the substantial amounts of cluster bombs or forced to work in contaminated areas
- Risk of injury from agricultural activities has been especially acute since the demining organizations focused initial efforts on populated areas
- Cultivated areas have been hardest hit (particularly olives and other fruit trees)

HRW, February 2008

“Perhaps the most dangerous threat to civilian safety came as farmers and shepherds resumed the agricultural activities that characterize much of south Lebanon’s economy. Unexploded cluster duds blanketed the fields of south Lebanon, transforming olive and citrus groves and tobacco fields into de facto minefields. “Cluster bombs are causing great, great problems because they fell in all the olive and citrus groves,” `Ali Moughnieh, head of Tair Debbe municipality, told Human Rights Watch in late October 2006. According to MACC SL, 44 civilians have been injured and three killed in the course of working their fields or grazing their animals. Habbouba Aoun, coordinator of the Landmines Resource Center in Beirut, said the danger is no longer a lack of awareness of cluster munitions, but the risks posed by agricultural work. “At the beginning, people were being injured from doing reconnaissance in their homes,” Allan Poston of the UNDP said in October 2006. “Now, they are getting injured when working for their livelihood.”[...]

The hope of catching the end of the summer tobacco harvest and the urgency of the olive harvest, which takes place in the fall months, forced many civilians to work alongside unexploded submunitions.[...] The risk of injury from agricultural activities was especially acute since the demining organizations focused initial efforts on more heavily populated areas. Frederic Gras of Mines Advisory Group (MAG) said that his organization primarily focused its efforts on where people were living, not where they worked. [...]

The estimated hundreds of thousands and possibly up to one million submunition duds have greatly disrupted south Lebanon’s heavily agrarian economy. According to UNDP, submunitions have contaminated an estimated 20 square kilometers of agricultural land, which makes up more than half of the land contaminated. The UN Food and Agricultural Organization reported that submunitions contaminated at least 26 percent of south Lebanon’s agricultural land, a figure MACC SL described as “very conservative”.

[See also [Counting the Cost: the economic impact of cluster munition contamination in Lebanon](#), May 2008]

OCHA, 10 November 2006, p.3

“The impact of cluster bombs on agricultural livelihoods

South Lebanon is highly dependent on agriculture. It is the main source of income in south Lebanon – half the working population in the south earns their living entirely from agriculture and it constitutes 70 per cent of total household income.[...]

Yet it is agriculture land that is heavily contaminated with cluster bombs and with most ordnance disposal activity still focused on key roads, residential areas and schools, South Lebanon’s farmers cannot yet enter their fields to nurture and harvest their crop or to plant next year’s crop.

Farmers, in areas feared to contain cluster bombs, have not been able to irrigate or harvest their current crops and are unable to plant the winter crop, be it wheat, lentils, chickpeas or other vegetables. Next year’s agriculture cycle will also be affected if, as is likely to be the case, substantial numbers of cluster bombs are not cleared until the end of 2007.

In many instances, farmers have been burning off their fields after demarking the bomblets, in an attempt to destroy them but in doing so put their lives and the lives of others at risk.

*Total Household Monthly Income (US\$) by region,
1997*

	South Lebanon	Lebanon average
Public sector	1,125	1,486
Agriculture	841	486
Industry, Construction, Handicraft	1,707	2,258
Trade	1,452	2,174
Services	1,370	2,921
From abroad	636	586
Other labor income	4	16
Non-labor income	432	912
Total income	7,568	10,839

Source: United Nations Integrated Rural Development Programme

Cultivated areas, particularly those producing high-value crops, such as citrus fruits, bananas and vegetables, have been hardest hit by the cluster bombs. It is estimated that at least 6.4 per cent (94km²) of land used to cultivate citrus fruits and bananas and 10 per cent (74km²) of land used for planting field crops have been contaminated (*Map 2*).

Agricultural Areas of Production in South Lebanon

Olive	40%	23,431 Hectares
Fruit Trees	22%	17,469 Hectares
Agro industry	56%	6,239 Hectares
Vegetables	5%	2,161 Hectares
Wheat, Corn and Barley	18 %	10,624 Hectares

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, 2004

This figure, however, is believed to be a significant underestimate as dozens of new cluster strikes are being identified each week. The olive industry will feel the economic impact for at least two years as the unexploded ordnance keeps farmers out of their fields and unable to prune their trees. Cluster bombs have also affected more than 7 per cent (35km²) grasslands, used for the grazing of animals, according to UNMACC.

Water resources have also been contaminated. The banks and streambeds of 173 streams and rivers in South Lebanon are littered with unexploded cluster bombs putting shepherds and farmers irrigating their fields at risk (*Map 3*).

*Agricultural and non-agricultural income (US\$/year) in
selected agricultural areas, 1998*

	Agricultural income, \$/hh	Non- agricultural income, \$/hh	% of agricultural to total hh income
Hermel (North Lebanon)	2,537	4,430	36%
Baalbeck and Bejaa'	30,790	19,672	61%
South Lebanon	22,320	9,600	70%

See also maps included in "A Lasting Legacy: The Deadly Impact of Cluster Bombs in Southern Lebanon" linked in Sources Below

Follow up to the Report of the Commission of Inquiry (2007)

IDMC Note: Following the report of the Commission of Inquiry, the Human Rights Council adopted Resolution 3/3 in December 2006, which requested the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights... "to consult with the Government of Lebanon on the report and its findings and on the relevant recommendations contained therein and to report to the Council at its fourth session."

Consultations were undertaken, and a report was produced outlining steps taken by the High Commissioner and her Office and a wide range of other organisations to implement the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry.

See "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the follow-up to the report of the Commission of Inquiry on Lebanon" of February and June 2007 linked below

High level Commission of Inquiry established to "investigate systematic targeting and killing of civilians by Israel in Lebanon" (2006)

- The Inquiry examined types of weapons used by Israel and their conformity with international law and the extent and impact of Israeli attacks on human life, property, infrastructure and environment

OHCHR, 11 August 2006

~~"The second special session of the Human Rights Council today strongly condemned the grave Israeli violations of human rights and breaches of international humanitarian law in Lebanon and decided to urgently establish and immediately dispatch a high-level inquiry commission to the region."~~

OCHA, 27 September 2006

"A High Level Commission of Inquiry into the Situation in Lebanon arrived in Beirut on 23 September. The three-member delegation of the UN Human Rights Council includes Joao Clemente Baena Soares of Brazil, Mohamed Chande Othman of Tanzania and Stelios Perrakis of Greece. The independent and impartial body will remain in Lebanon until 07 October to investigate the systematic targeting and killing of civilians by Israel in Lebanon; examine the types of weapons used by Israel and their conformity with international law; and assess the extent and deadly impact of Israeli attacks on human life, property, critical infrastructure and the environment. The delegation will meet with government officials, the diplomatic community and representatives of civil society and will travel to areas affected by the recent conflict to collect evidence and witness accounts of the military operations."

[See the final report of the Commission of Inquiry](#)

Political instability: string of bomb attacks and assassinations (2004-2008)

- Political tensions have been accompanied by a series of assassinations and attacks targeting Lebanese officials and other prominent persons, such as journalists
- These include the assassination of Prime Minister Rafic Hariri on 14 February 2005, the assassination of Samir KAssir, a prominent journalist and politician George Hawi
- On 12 December 2007, an explosion killed Major General el-Hajj, head of operations of the Lebanese forces
- UN peacekeeping forces in South Lebanon were attacked on 8 January 2008
- Imad Moughniyeh, a senior commander of Hizbullah was assassinated in Damascus in February 2008

UNSC, 21 April 2008

“The series of terrorist attacks and assassinations that have shaken the country since October 2004, targeting symbols of Lebanon’s sovereignty, have continued unabated. On 12 December 2007, an explosion killed Major General François el-Hajj, head of the operations of the Lebanese Armed Forces, together with his driver, and injured nine others. On 25 January 2008, Major Wissam Eid, head of the technical section of the Information Branch of the Internal Security Forces, was killed along with five others and 20 people were injured.

On 8 January 2008, troops of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) were attacked for the third time since the war of July/August 2006, outside the area of operation. On 15 January, an explosion apparently targeted a vehicle of the Embassy of the United States of America, leaving three people dead and wounding dozens. This was the first attack on a diplomatic target in Beirut since the days of the civil war. The climate of insecurity has induced several countries to issue travel warnings to Lebanon and to reduce the staff of their Embassies in the country.

Late in January, demonstrations held to protest against ongoing power cuts in the southern suburbs of Beirut turned violent. Eight people were killed and about 22 others wounded in Beirut. Those riots were perceived as the worst violence the country had witnessed since 2007, when clashes erupted between supporters of the ruling 14 March coalition and others from the opposition camp, claiming the lives of five people at the Beirut Arab University. Lebanese leaders from across the political spectrum appealed for restraint and demanded that their followers withdraw from the streets. The Lebanese army is investigating those clashes. So far, 6 army personnel and 11 civilians have been arrested.

During the night of 12 to 13 February 2008 a car exploded in the Kfar Susseh neighbourhood of Damascus. The blast killed Imad Moughniyeh, a senior commander of Hizbullah, and his bodyguard.

On 14 February, with a massive rally, the Lebanese marked the third anniversary of the assassination of the former Prime Minister, Rafiq Hariri. On the same day, another gathering was held in southern Beirut on the occasion of the funeral of Imad Moughniyeh.

The protests in front of the Prime Minister’s office that started in December 2006 and which have disrupted regular political life in Lebanon and substantially affected the regular economic activity of the centre of Beirut have continued.”

UNSC, 18 October 2006, p.1-2

"A tense political climate has continued to prevail in Lebanon. In its midst, in a worrying return to last year's climate of frequent assassinations and terrorist acts, a senior Lebanese security official survived an assassination attempt while driving on a road in south Lebanon on 5 September. Four of his aides and bodyguards were killed in the attack and five were wounded.

In the early morning hours of 15 October, six Lebanese civilians were hurt when three rockets were launched into a building in downtown Beirut, close to both United Nations headquarters and the Grand Serail which houses the Prime Minister's offices. This disconcerting incident followed two other attacks which had not caused any casualties, with similar rocket launchers and with hand grenades against police stations in Lebanon. In the aftermath of the latest attacks, the Government of Lebanon has expanded the presence of the Internal Security Forces in Beirut by 800 men."

UNSC, 21 July 2006, para. 36

"Since the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafic Hariri on 14 February, Lebanon has undergone a period of increased political instability, manifested by the large-scale demonstrations in the capital, the resignation of the Government, several bomb attacks in various areas of Beirut, the assassinations of journalist Samir Kassir and politician George Hawi and, most recently, the attack on the envoy of Defence Minister Elias Murr. The withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon by the end of April, made possible the holding of free and fair parliamentary elections over a fourweek period in May and June. Lebanese armed forces now have to show that they can maintain effective security throughout the country at a time when the size of the Lebanese Army is being reduced significantly."

BBC, 12 December 2005

"A chronology of bomb attacks and explosions in Lebanon since October 2004.

December 12: Prominent anti-Syrian MP and journalist Gibran Tuani and three others are killed in a car bomb attack as they travel through the Mekallis area of eastern Beirut.

September 25: May Chidiac, a well-known television news journalist for the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation, is seriously wounded by a car bomb in Jounieh, north of Beirut.

September 17: A powerful blast rocks the Ashrafiyeh district of Beirut, killing one person and injuring at least 22 more.

August 22: At least two people are injured when an explosion takes place outside a hotel and shopping centre in the Zalka suburb of Beirut.

July 22: Several people are injured in a car bomb blast in a busy Beirut street.

July 12: Former Defence Minister Elias Murr - a staunch supporter of Syria - is injured and two others are killed in a bomb attack as his motorcade passes through the affluent Beirut suburb of Antelias.

June 21: Ex-Lebanese Communist Party leader George Hawi and critic of Syria is killed when his car blows up as he travels through the Wata Musaitbi district of Beirut.

June 2: Anti-Syrian journalist Samir Qasir is killed in a car bomb outside his home in Ashrafiyeh.

May 7: At least one person is killed and seven are injured in an explosion in Jounieh, east of Beirut.

March 27: A bomb explodes in a mainly Christian area of Beirut, wounding at least six people.

March 23: Three people are killed when a bomb explodes in a shopping centre in Kaslik, near Jounieh.

March 19: A car bomb has wounds at least 11 people in a predominantly Christian suburb of Beirut, New Jdeideh.

February 14 2005: Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri - a critic of Syria - is killed by a massive truck bomb blast in Beirut. 20 others were killed by the explosion - including former minister Bassel Fleihan.

October 1 2004: Marwan Hamadeh, a former Lebanese minister is injured and his driver killed in a blast near his home on Beirut's seafront."

High Commissioner for Human Rights condemns killings in Qana (2006)

OHCHR, 31 July 2006

"The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, today said: "I strongly condemn the killing of dozens of civilians, among whom a very high proportion were children, resulting from the shelling by the Israeli Forces of a residential building in which civilians were sheltering in Qana, South Lebanon, on 30 July.

"I call again on all parties to the conflict to respect their obligations under international law, and to take all measures to effectively protect civilians and civilian objects."

The High Commissioner extended her deepest condolences to the families of the victims.

Noting that Israel had warned the population of likely military action, the High Commissioner underlined that while effective advance warning of attacks which may affect the civilian population must be given, this legal obligation does not absolve the parties to the conflict of their other obligations under international law regarding the protection of civilians.

"All parties to the conflict must respect the principles of distinction and proportionality, particularly when civilians remain in the zone of military operations after a warning has been issued", the High Commissioner said. [...] The High Commissioner welcomed reports that Israel would conduct an inquiry into the civilian deaths at Qana. In order to establish facts and conduct an impartial legal analysis of the persistent allegations of violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law during this conflict, the High Commissioner reiterated the need for independent investigations. To this end, she advocated the active involvement of international expertise in any such investigations. Once again the High Commissioner reminded all parties of the need for accountability for violations of international law."

Human rights observers urge investigation into possible war crimes committed in Lebanon (2006)

- A report by Human Rights Watch argues that by systematically failing to distinguish between combatants and civilians, Israel has violated one of the most fundamental tenets of the laws of war: the duty to carry out attacks on only military targets

- The Israeli government claims it took all possible measures to minimize civilian harm, but the cases documented by Human Rights Watch reveal a systematic failure by the IDF to distinguish between combatants and civilians
- The report also notes that in none of the cases of civilian deaths it investigated is there evidence to suggest that Hezbollah forces or weapons were in or near the area that the IDF targeted during or just prior to the attack

HRW, August 2006, pp. 3-8

“This report documents serious violations of international humanitarian law (the laws of war) by Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in Lebanon between July 12 and July 27, 2006, as well as the July 30 attack in Qana. During this period, the IDF killed an estimated 400 people, the vast majority of them civilians, and that number climbed to over 500 by the time this report went to print. The Israeli government claims it is taking all possible measures to minimize civilian harm, but the cases documented here reveal a systematic failure by the IDF to distinguish between combatants and civilians.

Since the start of the conflict, Israeli forces have consistently launched artillery and air attacks with limited or dubious military gain but excessive civilian cost. In dozens of attacks, Israeli forces struck an area with no apparent military target. In some cases, the timing and intensity of the attack, the absence of a military target, as well as return strikes on rescuers, suggest that Israeli forces deliberately targeted civilians.

The Israeli government claims that it targets only Hezbollah, and that fighters from the group are using civilians as human shields, thereby placing them at risk. Human Rights Watch found no cases in which Hezbollah deliberately used civilians as shields to protect them from retaliatory IDF attack. Hezbollah occasionally did store weapons in or near civilian homes and fighters placed rocket launchers within populated areas or near U.N. observers, which are serious violations of the laws of war because they violate the duty to take all feasible precautions to avoid civilian casualties. However, those cases do not justify the IDF’s extensive use of indiscriminate force which has cost so many civilian lives. In none of the cases of civilian deaths documented in this report is there evidence to suggest that Hezbollah forces or weapons were in or near the area that the IDF targeted during or just prior to the attack.

By consistently failing to distinguish between combatants and civilians, Israel has violated one of the most fundamental tenets of the laws of war: the duty to carry out attacks on only military targets. The pattern of attacks during the Israeli offensive in Lebanon suggests that the failures cannot be explained or dismissed as mere accidents; the extent of the pattern and the seriousness of the consequences indicate the commission of war crimes. [...] This report analyzes a selection of Israeli air and artillery attacks that together claimed at least 153 civilian lives, or over a third of the reported Lebanese deaths in the conflict’s first two weeks. Of the 153 civilian deaths documented in this report by name, sixty three of the victims were children under the age of eighteen, and thirty-seven of them were under ten.[...]

The report breaks civilian deaths into two categories: attacks on civilian homes and attacks on civilian vehicles. In both categories, victims and witnesses interviewed independently and repeatedly said that neither Hezbollah fighters nor Hezbollah weapons were present in the area during or just before the Israeli attack took place. While some individuals, out of fear or sympathy, may have been unwilling to speak about Hezbollah’s military activity, others were quite open about it. In totality, the consistency, detail, and credibility of testimony from a broad array of witnesses who did not speak to each other leave no doubt about the validity of the patterns described in this report. In many cases, witness testimony was corroborated by reports from international journalists and aid workers. During site visits conducted in Qana, Srifa, and Tyre, Human Rights Watch saw no evidence that there had been Hezbollah military activity around the

areas targeted by the IDF during or just prior to the attack: no spent ammunition, abandoned weapons or military equipment, trenches, or dead or wounded fighters. Moreover, even if Hezbollah had been in a populated area at the time of an attack, Israel would still be legally obliged to take all feasible precautions to avoid or minimize civilian casualties resulting from its targeting of military objects or personnel. In the cases documented in this report, however, the IDF consistently tolerated a high level of civilian casualties for questionable military gain.

In one case, an Israeli air strike on July 13 destroyed the home of a cleric known to have sympathy for Hezbollah but who was not known to have taken any active part in hostilities. Even if the IDF considered him a legitimate target (and Human Rights Watch has no evidence that he was), the strike killed him, his wife, their ten children, and the family's Sri Lankan maid.

On July 16, an Israeli airplane fired on a civilian home in the village of Aitaroun, killing eleven members of the al-Akhrass family, among them seven Canadian-Lebanese dual nationals who were vacationing in the village when the war began. Human Rights Watch independently interviewed three villagers who vigorously denied that the family had any connection to Hezbollah. Among the victims were children aged one, three, five, and seven.

Others civilians came under attack in their cars as they attempted to flee the fighting in the South. This report alone documents twenty-seven civilian deaths that resulted from such attacks. The number is surely higher, but at the time the report went to press, ongoing Israeli attacks on the roads made it impossible to retrieve all the bodies.

Starting around July 15, the IDF issued warnings to residents of southern villages to leave, followed by a general warning for all civilians south of the Litani River, which mostly runs about 25 kilometers north of the Israel-Lebanon border, to evacuate immediately. Tens of thousands of Lebanese fled their homes to the city of Tyre (itself south of the Litani and thus within the zone Israel ordered evacuated) or further north to Beirut, many waving white flags. As they left, Israeli forces fired on dozens of vehicles with warplanes and artillery.

Two Israeli air strikes are known to have hit humanitarian aid vehicles. On July 18 the IDF hit a convoy of the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates, destroying a vehicle with medicines, vegetable oil, sugar and rice, and killing the driver. On July 23, Israeli forces hit two clearly marked Red Cross ambulances in the village of Qana. As of August 1, tens of thousands of civilians remained in villages south of the Litani River, despite the warnings to leave. Some chose to stay, but the vast majority, Human Rights Watch found, was unable to flee due to destroyed roads, a lack of gasoline, high taxi fares, sick relatives, or ongoing Israeli attacks. Many of the civilians who remained were elderly, sick, or poor.

Israel has justified its attacks on roads by citing the need to clear the transport routes of Hezbollah fighters moving arms. Again, none of the evidence gathered by Human Rights Watch, independent media sources, or Israeli official statements indicate that any of the attacks on vehicles documented in this report resulted in Hezbollah casualties or the destruction of weapons. Rather, the attacks killed and wounded civilians who were fleeing their homes, as the IDF had advised them to do.

In addition to strikes from airplanes, helicopters, and traditional artillery, Israel has used artillery-fired cluster munitions against populated areas, causing civilian casualties. One such attack on the village of Blida on July 19 killed a sixty-year-old woman and wounded at least twelve civilians, including seven children. The wide dispersal pattern of cluster munitions and the high dud rate (ranging from 2 to 14 percent, depending on the type of cluster munition) make the weapons exceedingly dangerous for civilians and, when used in populated areas, a violation of international humanitarian law.

Statements from Israeli government officials and military leaders suggest that, at the very least, the IDF has blurred the distinction between civilian and combatant, and is willing to strike at targets it considers even vaguely connected to the latter. At worst, it considers all people in the area of hostilities open to attack. On July 17, for example, after IDF strikes on Beirut, the commander of the Israeli Air Force, Eliezer Shkedi, said, “in the center of Beirut there is an area which only terrorists enter into.”[...] The next day, the IDF deputy chief of staff, Moshe Kaplinski, when talking about the IDF’s destruction of Beirut’s Dahia neighborhood, said, “the hits were devastating, and this area, which was a Hezbollah symbol, became deserted rubble.”[...]

On July 27, Israeli Justice Minister Haim Ramon said that the Israeli air force should flatten villages before ground troops move in to prevent casualties among Israeli soldiers fighting Hezbollah. Israel had given civilians ample time to leave southern Lebanon, he claimed, and therefore anyone remaining should be considered a supporter of Hezbollah. “All those now in south Lebanon are terrorists who are related in some way to Hezbollah,” he said.[...]

International humanitarian law requires effective advance warnings to the civilian population prior to an attack, when conditions permit. But those warnings do not way relieve Israel from its obligation at all times to distinguish between combatants and civilians and to take all feasible precautions to protect civilians from harm. In other words, issuing warnings in no way entitles the Israeli military to treat those civilians who remain in southern Lebanon as combatants who are fair game for attack.

[...]

This report does not address Israeli attacks on Lebanon’s infrastructure or Beirut’s southern suburbs, which is the subject of ongoing Human Rights Watch research. It also does not address Hezbollah’s indiscriminate rocket attacks on Israel, which have been reported on and denounced separately and continues to be the subject of ongoing Human Rights Watch investigations. In addition, Human Rights Watch continues to investigate allegations that Hezbollah is shielding its military personnel and materiel by locating them in civilian homes or areas, and it is deeply concerned by Hezbollah’s placement of certain troops and materiel near civilians, which endangers them and violates the duty to take all feasible precautions to avoid civilian casualties. Human Rights Watch uses the occasion of this report to reiterate Hezbollah’s legal duty never to deliberately use civilians to shield military objects and never to needlessly endanger civilians by conducting military operations, maintaining troops, or storing weapons in their vicinity.

The armed conflict between Israel and Hezbollah is governed by international treaties, as well as the rules of customary international humanitarian law. Article 3 Common to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 sets forth minimum standards for all parties to a conflict between a state party such as Israel and a non-state party such as Hezbollah. Israel has also asserted that it considers itself to be responding to the actions of the sovereign state of Lebanon, not just to those of Hezbollah. Any hostilities between Israeli forces and the forces of Lebanon would fall within the full Geneva Conventions to which both Lebanon and Israel are parties. In either case, the rules governing bombing, shelling, and rocket attacks are effectively the same.”

See the full report and recommendations in sources below

See also the [findings and recommendations](#) of four UN experts to Lebanon following the cessation of hostilities

See also, [Amnesty International's reports on Lebanon and Israel](#) which underline the need for the UN to establish a full and impartial investigation into violations committed by both sides of the conflict.

Displaced people targeted as they fled (2006)

- In several instances, convoys of displaced people were targeted as they fled

UNSC, 21 July 2006, p.2

“On the morning of 15 July, IDF announced via loudspeakers to the residents of Ayta ash Shab and Marwahin that they should vacate their villages. UNIFIL observed a large-scale exodus from Ayta ash Shab. However, a large group of villagers from Marwahin approached United Nations observation post Hin and position 1-21 on foot, requesting shelter and humanitarian assistance. UNIFIL explained that it was not in a position to provide humanitarian assistance to the villagers and asked them to return to their homes, where they would be safer. That evening and overnight, two UNIFIL armoured personnel carriers were stationed in Marwahin for the villagers' protection.

In an unrelated incident that day, 18 Lebanese civilians, including women and children, were killed on the road between Al Bayyadah and Shama villages as they were fleeing from Marwahin in two vehicles. Contrary to what was reported in the media, these were not the same civilians who had approached UNIFIL for shelter previously. UNIFIL took the initiative to retrieve the bodies of the civilians. The Force came under fire during the recovery mission. One UNIFIL soldier sustained an injury to his eye when a demonstrator threw a piece of glass at him during the recovery mission. In response to a request from the Government of Lebanon, the following day UNIFIL evacuated 283 inhabitants from Marwahin to Tyre. The convoy came under fire during the evacuation, but no injuries were sustained.”

Extract from LHRA, 8 August 2006

List of collective massacres perpetrated by Israeli Army in its attack against Lebanon in summer 2006							
No.	Village	Region	Date	Targeted area	Number of killed	Number of wounded	Remarks
13	Rmayleh massacre		17-Jul	Convoy of displaced people trying to flee their villages heavily struck by air raids	12 civilians	unknown	Chemical bombs were thrown on a convoy of displaced people
22	Nabi Sheeh massacre	West Bekaa	18-Jul	Hassan Shaker house	8 civilians	3 civilians	Amongst the victims there were displaced from Mayas Al-Jabal village, no entire families of 8 were killed
49	Shuyyah massacre	Beirut southern suburb	7-Aug	Hajraj residential neighborhood	20 civilians	30 civilians	The death toll increased later since many corpses were removed beneath the rubble. Amongst the victims, there were displaced from Beer Al-Abed, Haret Hayek, Hayy Alwanad
53	Marjeyoun convoy massacre	Bekaa	11-Aug	A displaced convoy heading to the Bekaa valley fleeing Marjeyoun area	7 civilians	32 civilians	The convoy was escorted by UN forces and had previous security clearance. It was constituted of more than 1500 civilian cars and 300 military cars

55	Breetat second massacre	Bekaa	13-Aug	One residential building in Breetat	13 civilians	22 civilians	Five families were looking for a safe haven in the building that was struck heavily by Israeli air raids
56	Jannabiyyeh massacre	Bekaa	14-Aug	A van carrying civilians	7 civilians	7 civilians	The van was carrying displaced people

(Click on link in sources below to see the full chart)

[See a list of massacres committed during the July 2006 war compiled in the report of the UN Commission of Inquiry](#)

Clashes between supporters and opponents of Syria's influence in Lebanon (2006)

- Clashes have broken out between supporters of the pro-Syrian former minister (Wiam Wahhab) and the anti-Syrian politician (Walid Jumblatt)
- Fighting broke out following a dispute over the display of posters in a town in south Beirut
- One person was killed and several wounded

BBC, 4 July 2006

"Security officials in Lebanon say that one person has been killed and five wounded in fighting between supporters of rival Druze politicians.

The clashes were between supporters of the pro-Syrian former minister, Wiam Wahhab, and the anti-Syrian politician, Walid Jumblatt.

They broke out during a dispute over the display of political posters in the town of Jahliye, south of Beirut.

The security forces moved in to stop the fighting.

It was not clear which side began the shooting, but acting Interior Minister Ahmed Fattat said all the casualties appeared to be supporters of Mr Jumblatt.

This is not the first clash between the two groups. In April, Mr Wahhab's bodyguards shot and wounded two civilians who objected to his presence at a funeral in a Druze mountain village.

Tensions between supporters and opponents of Syria's influence in Lebanon have increased since the assassination of the former Lebanese PM Rafiq Hariri, in February 2005.

Many Lebanese blame Syria for Mr Hariri's death and an on-going United Nations investigation has said the killing could not have taken place without the knowledge of high-ranking Syrian officials.

Syria has denied any involvement.

The assassination of Hariri precipitated the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon in April 2005, after a 29-year presence, under heavy domestic and international pressure."

Clashes between army and militants (2006)

- Clashes broke out in east Lebanon between a Palestinian militant group and the Lebanese army

BBC, 18 May 2006

"One Lebanese soldier and a Palestinian militant were wounded in clashes on Wednesday between the Lebanese army and Palestinian militants in east Lebanon.

The clashes broke out after an army patrol was attacked by the militants, the army said.

The AFP news agency reported on Thursday that both sides sent reinforcements to the area overnight.

The militants were from Fatah-Intifada, a secular, Syrian-backed group that has opposed peace agreements with Israel.

The group has a camp on Lebanese soil, about two kilometres from the border with Syria.

Reinforcements

Lebanese police told AFP that the Palestinian group smuggled 15 military vehicles carrying fighters, arms and ammunition into Lebanon from Syria overnight on Wednesday.

AFP also reported that the militants took up positions in the mountains overlooking the camps in which clashes took place yesterday.

Fatah-Intifada, led by radical Palestinian militant Abu Moussa, was established in 1983. Its headquarters are based in Damascus.

During Wednesday's clashes, a Lebanese soldier was kidnapped by the militants. He was later released, after the army threatened to break up one of the Palestinian group's camps.

UN resolution

On Wednesday, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution calling on Syria to forge formal ties with Lebanon and demarcate the border between the two countries.

The 15-member council adopted the resolution by 13-0 with Russia and China abstaining.

Resolution 1680 seeks full implementation of a 2004 resolution urging a complete end to external influence in Lebanon. It was co-sponsored by the United States, France and Britain.

In 2005, Syria withdrew its troops from Lebanon following 29 years of military and political rule over its smaller neighbour, in line with Resolution 1559 of 2004.

The move came after Damascus faced massive international pressure following the assassination of ex-Lebanese PM Rafik Hariri, in a bombing with which it denied any connection.

Border issue

However, Damascus has so far refused to formalise diplomatic contacts with Lebanon or open a Syrian embassy in Beirut.

Nor has it responded to Lebanese requests that the border between the two countries be officially demarcated.

Several Palestinian groups have camps in Lebanon, where about 400,000 Palestinian refugees live.

Lebanese factions who have been gathering for a national dialogue conference have agreed to disarm Palestinian groups active in Lebanon outside of the Palestinian refugee camps."

Sexual and Gender based Violence (SGBV)

UN Committee urges Lebanese government to implement targeted measures for IDP and refugee women and girls (2007)

- The Committee notes with concern that refugee women and girls and internally displaced women and girls remain in a vulnerable and marginalized situation, with regard to access to education, employment, health and housing and protection from all forms of violence

CEDAW, February 2008

"While commending the State party for its efforts to host refugees from neighbouring countries, the Committee is concerned that the State party has not enacted any laws or regulations relating to the status of asylum-seekers and refugees, thereby adversely impacting on women refugees and asylum-seekers. The Committee further notes with concern that refugee women and girls and internally displaced women and girls remain in a vulnerable and marginalized situation, in particular with regard to access to education, employment, health and housing and protection from all forms of violence.

The Committee also urges the State party to implement targeted measures for refugee women and girls and internally displaced women and girls, within specific timetables, to improve access to education, employment, health and housing and to protect them from all forms of violence and to monitor their implementation. The Committee requests the State party to report on the results achieved in improving the situation of these groups of women and girls in its next periodic report."

Some cases of women subjected to arbitrary detention, cruel and inhuman treatment (2006)

- Reports that some women were held and threatened by IDF; two were shot, one killed and one injured

COI, 23 November 2006

"Other challenges may include problems associated with the breakdown of communities, such as increased violence - in particular gender-based violence; difficulties linked to family reunification and tracing of family members; legal and financial issues related to property, as well as access to compensation and restitution for victims. These problems may be particularly acute for female heads of household and other women, who may be marginalized or isolated from social support networks.

The Commissioners learned first hand of the sufferings of women and children and of the elderly in this, as in other conflicts. As the Representative of the Secretary General on the Internally Displaced has pointed out, women and children represent the overwhelming majority of internally displaced persons. In addition to the general suffering of civilians, women have been the victims of more specific human rights violations such as arbitrary detention or cruel and inhuman treatment [243] In addition, due to the armed conflict there will be an increase in women-headed households with all the human rights problems that implies, such as limited access to social benefits and housing rights.”

[Footnote 243] The Commissioners heard from the women of Chihine, for example, how they remained in their village when the men had left whilst it was the target of bomb attacks; a number of them were held and threatened by IDF; two were shot, one killed and one injured. They said they had stayed in their village, along with the elderly, in order to take care of the tobacco plantations and olive groves.

Children and Youth

Save the Children Participatory Rapid Assessment with displaced Nahr el-Bared families (2007)

Save the Children, December 2007

<p>Results of a Participatory Rapid Assessment in Nahr al-Bared, conducted by Save the Children Sweden and the CPN shows that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children feel unsafe and unprotected, while most parents feel are incapable of protecting their issues. Protection issues include UXOs around homes, falling buildings, open homes (no doors, windows) therefore lack of security, and no electricity.• Women are feeling degraded by being thoroughly checked upon entering and existing the camp (although they are searched privately by women soldiers), while men feel humiliated by the treatment of the women. Adults are comparing these checkpoints to those in the occupied Palestinian territories.• Access to education is limited, as schools have not yet begun, students are having difficulties at checkpoints, and there is no transportation available to them.• Out of 565 families surveyed, 414 have no income and there are no economic or employment opportunities within the camp.• Families are in need of winter clothes, especially for newly born babies, and children under the age of 5.
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Thousands of children caught in fighting in Nahr el-Bared and Beddawi camps (2007)

- There are reports of use of Palestinian children by Palestinian armed factions and groups in the Palestinian refugee camps
- UNICEF estimated some 20,000 children from Nahr el Bared and Beddawi camps have been adversely affected by the fighting

UNSG, 21 December 2007

“Civilians, including several thousand children and family members, were caught in the fighting in the Palestinian refugee camp of Nahr el-Bared, northern Lebanon, which lasted from 20 May to 2 September 2007. It is estimated that the fighting between the Lebanese Army and the armed

extremist group of Fatah al-Islam resulted in 40 Palestinian civilians killed and over 200 injured, including children. There are reports of use of Palestinian children by Palestinian armed factions and groups in the Palestinian refugee camps.”

IRIN, 11 June 2007

“With the violence now in its fourth week, UNICEF estimates that some 15,000 children from Nahr al-Bared camp, once home to up to 40,000 people, and 5,000 children from the smaller Beddawi camp have been adversely affected by the conflict.

Not only have they been displaced from their homes and have seen their schools close, but the fear of what many have seen and heard, combined with the threats of ongoing conflict and political instability, are leaving many children traumatised.”

Cluster bombs pose serious threat to children in southern Lebanon (2008)

- According to statistics from the Mine Action Coordination Centre, 5 children have been killed and 78 injured by cluster bombs and other UXO since August 2006

UN MACC-SL, 14 April 2008

Civilian casualties in South Lebanon since 14 August 2006 up to 31 March 2008

Cluster bombs
Children (0-12)
Male
Injured 16
Killed 4
Female:
Injured 1
Killed 0
Youth (13-18)
Male
Injured 40
Killed 1
Female
Injured 5
Killed 0
Other Unexploded Ordnance
Children (0-12)
Male
Injured 6
Killed 0
Female
Injured 1
Killed 0
Youth (13-18)
Male
Injured 9
Killed 0
Female

Injured 0
Killed 0

HRW, February 2008

“Of MACC SL’s 192 reported civilian casualties, about 32 percent were under the age of 18. Children frequently grab submunitions out of curiosity, attracted by the ribbon or the weapon’s unusual shape and size. Several also reported that they thought the submunition resembled a soda can or, in one case, a perfume bottle. The submunitions “look like a toy,” said `Ali Fakih, the *mukhtar* of Kfar Dounine”

UNSG, 21 December 2007

“The extensive and unprecedented use by Israel of cluster bombs during the 2006 conflict left southern Lebanon severely contaminated with approximately 1 million unexploded submunitions and general unexploded ordnance. This continues to pose one of the most serious threats to children in southern Lebanon. From the cessation of hostilities on 14 August 2006 until 31 August 2007, 4 children have been killed and 66 injured as a result of unexploded munitions. On 24 and 25 December 2006, five children, aged 13 to 15 years, from Hanaway and Kaakaeyet al-Jiser, were injured by unexploded cluster bombs while playing. Israel has yet to provide the much-needed strike data on the quantity, types and location of the cluster bombs that were dropped.”

No reports of recruitment of children by regular armed forces, says UN Secretary General (2007)

- The government said that Lebanon would ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict
- Both the government and Hizbollah said children would not be involved in armed violence or political mobilisation

UNSG, 21 December 2007

“There are no reports of recruitment of children by the regular armed forces. Both Prime Minister Fouad Siniora, on behalf of the Government of Lebanon, and Parliamentary Deputy Mohamed Raad, on behalf of Hizbullah, informed my Special Representative during her mission to Beirut on 12 April 2007 that Lebanon would ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and not use children for armed violence or political mobilization.”

Psychological impact of 2006 war on children (2007)

- Save the Children highlights the stress and trauma still affecting children
- Survey by the Consultation and Research Institute found that 95 per cent of children in south Lebanon needed support to get back to their normal lives and 3.5 per cent needed psychiatric support

Save the Children, 7 July 2007

“Children bore the brunt of the July War, which left 1,191 dead, 4,409 injured and over 974,000 displaced in Lebanon as well as destroying homes, schools and hospitals. Up to 40 percent of those killed in Lebanon were children; over 400,000 were displaced.

Children returning to their ruined homes and communities anxiously faced not only an uncertain future but new dangers. “The end of fighting did not mean the end of suffering for children,” said Mat Cousins, head of Save the Children UK in Lebanon. “Stress and trauma continued to take their toll, with children suffering bad dreams, bed-wetting and fears for their families’ future.”

Children also risk death and injury from unexploded ordnance, especially in the south. According to Lebanese officials Israel is believed to have dropped over one million cluster bombs on Lebanon, often attractively shaped and brightly coloured like toys. At least 90 children have been injured in explosions caused by such ordnance since the war ended.”

Consultation and Research Institute, June 2007

“Nonetheless, regarding education, a large number of participants linked the deterioration in the level of education to the psychological stress faced by the students. According to a study undertaken by UNICEF, 3.5% of the children of the South are in need of psychiatrists and another 95% are in need of different forms of help to be able to get back to their normal lives.”

UN Committee on the rights of the child reiterates concern of impact of past conflict on children (2006)

Committee on the Rights of the Child, 6 June 2006

“The Committee reiterates its concern at the persisting negative impact of the past armed conflict on children, including the vulnerability to socio-economic deprivation and slow return of displaced families, and that the problem of landmines still exists.

[...]

In light of articles 38 and 39 of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party take all appropriate measures to ensure that children affected by armed conflict have access to adequate health and social services, including psychosocial recovery and social reintegration. It also recommends that the State party continue its demining activities and seek the necessary technical and financial support within a framework of international cooperation, including from United Nations agencies.”

SUBSISTENCE NEEDS

General

Psychological impact of 2006 war (2007)

- In a survey conducted among affected populations, participants identified stress and difficult conditions faced by the displaced as factors contributing to higher levels of chronic diseases
- Inadequate hygiene and malnutrition were identified as problems during displacement

Consultation and Research Institute, June 2007

“According to participants in focus groups, the level of chronic diseases, such as diabetes, hearts diseases and blood pressure, increased after the war. The psychological impact of the war, the increased stress levels and the difficult conditions faced by the displaced were thought to be behind this increase in chronic diseases. As for the persons with special needs, the main problem was high treatment cost, rather than an increase in their numbers, especially amidst the current economic crisis. This is a problem mainly faced by vulnerable groups. The main cause for any future deterioration in the health situation was the presence of cluster bombs in the neighbouring areas and fields. In some villages, this problem has already resulted in injuries and even deaths.

As for the deterioration in the level of hygiene, the extent of malnutrition and the spread of epidemics, they mainly occurred during the war. Inhabitants that remained in their villages faced difficulties in finding food and drugs. Some displaced people complained about the lack of hygiene and the spread of epidemics in the institutions hosting them.”

181 Palestinian refugee shelters destroyed or damaged in 2006 war (2006)

UNRWA, 2006

“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.”

Shortages in water and shelter identified by the UN as the most pressing needs (2006)

UN News, 21 August 2006

“With most Lebanese who fled the devastating month-long conflict in their homeland now having gone back to their homes, United Nations agencies on the ground have identified shortages of clean water and shelter as two of the most pressing needs faced by the hundreds of thousands of returnees.”

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food (2006)

- The Rapporteur's report notes that the war took place at the peak of the fishing and fruit harvest season, affecting the people who earn their livelihood from these sectors both directly in terms of damage, and more indirectly in terms of lost markets and revenues
- Much farmland has been affected by bombing and will continue to be affected by unexploded bombs that continue to make access to many fields impossible
- The destruction by the Israeli forces of infrastructure essential to the survival of the Population, particularly agricultural, irrigation and water infrastructure will also have long-term impacts on livelihoods and access to food and water
- Fishing was heavily affected by the massive oil spill following Israeli bombing of the four Jiyeh fuel tanks on 14 July 2006
- The Special Rapporteur found that loss of livelihoods and sources of income is the main threat to the future well-being of many thousands of families, particularly in rural areas.

UNGA, 5 October 2006

“The Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Jean Ziegler, has the honour to submit to the Human Rights Council the present report on his mission to Lebanon which took place from 11 to 16 September 2006. The mission was undertaken at the invitation of the Government of Lebanon. The Special Rapporteur also requested authorization to visit Israel to investigate the situation of the right to food of the affected Israeli population, but as of the time of writing, he had received no response from the Government of Israel. This report therefore covers only the situation in Lebanon, but the Special Rapporteur remains willing to visit Israel as soon as he receives permission from the Government.

The mission followed the war that took place from 12 July to 14 August 2006 between Hezbollah and Israel, following Hezbollah's capture of soldiers in a raid across the border between Israel and Lebanon. During the 34 days of the war the Israeli forces launched more than 7,000 air attacks and 2,500 attacks by sea as well as heavy artillery shelling. The war has had farreaching effects on the Lebanese population. According to the Government of Lebanon, the war resulted in 1,189 killed (mostly civilians), 4,399 injured, 974,189 displaced and between 15,000 and 30,000 homes destroyed.

During the war, a combination of destruction of road and transport infrastructure and repeated denial of safe transit by the Israeli armed forces made it very difficult for humanitarian agencies to transport food and other relief, especially to the approximately 22,000 people left trapped in the area south of the Litani River, where there are 38 localities under the control of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. The forced displacement of a vast number of people from their homes and agricultural lands disrupted normal access to food and left tens of thousands dependent on food aid.

The war took place at the peak of the fishing and fruit harvest season, affecting the people who earn their livelihood from these sectors both directly in terms of damage, but even more importantly, indirectly in terms of lost markets and revenues. Much farmland has been affected by bombing and will continue to be affected by unexploded bombs that continue to make access to many fields impossible. According to the United Nations Mine-Action Centre, hundreds of thousands of pieces of unexploded ordnances (UXO), mostly cluster bombs (antipersonnel weapons that spray bomblets indiscriminately over a wide area), will need to be cleared before agriculture can be re-established. It was reported that more than 1.2 million cluster bombs were dropped by the Israeli forces. About 90 per cent were dropped in the last 72 hours of the war when the Israeli forces were already aware that a ceasefire was imminent. The destruction by the Israeli forces of infrastructure essential to the survival of the Population, particularly agricultural, irrigation and water infrastructure will also have long-term impacts on livelihoods and access to

food and water. Fishing was heavily affected by the massive oil spill following Israeli bombing of the four Jiyeh fuel tanks on 14 July 2006.

The long-term impacts of the war on livelihoods are the key concern today. The right to food is not primarily about food aid; it is the right to be able to feed oneself through an adequate livelihood. The Special Rapporteur found that the livelihoods of a large part of the population have been disrupted by the war, and the process of reconstructing livelihoods has been slow. Loss of livelihoods and sources of income is the main threat to the future well-being of many thousands of families, particularly in rural areas.

In the light of his findings and the international obligations of the parties involved in the war, the Special Rapporteur concludes with a series of recommendations aimed at improving the realization of the right to food of the whole Lebanese population. In particular, the Special Rapporteur recommends that:

(a) Violations of the right to food under international human rights and humanitarian law should be further investigated, including to determine whether they constitute grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocol I thereto and possible war crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

(b) The International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission, established in accordance with Additional Protocol I, should be accepted by the Government of Israel and the Government of Lebanon to investigate violations of the right to food under international humanitarian law;

(c) According to international jurisprudence the Government of Israel should be held responsible under international law for any violation of the right to food of the Lebanese civilian population. The Government of Israel should be held responsible under international law for the violations of the right to food of the Lebanese civilian population. Under international law, the Government of Israel has the obligation to ensure that all victims receive adequate reparation and compensation for the losses suffered during the war as well as for ongoing losses due to the disruption of livelihoods;

(d) The Government of Lebanon, with bilateral and multilateral donors, should accelerate the clearing cluster bombs from agricultural fields. The Government of Israel should provide the full details of its use of cluster munitions in order to facilitate the destruction of the UXO and the clearing of affected areas.”

Displaced people were forced to live in crowded and insecure conditions during the conflict (2006)

- During the conflict around 142,397 internally displaced persons were accommodated in schools

COI, 23 November 2006

“During the conflict around 142,397 internally displaced persons were accommodated in schools, [...] while over 600,000 sought shelter with families, friends or in other temporary accommodation and, in some cases, in open spaces such as parks. As a result of the massive destruction of houses and other civilian infrastructure, displaced individuals and families were forced to live in crowded and often insecure conditions with limited access to safe drinking water, food, sanitation, electricity and health services. Other reports suggested an increased incidence of respiratory diseases and diarrhoea in schools and public areas during the period of displacement [...] It should be noted that the displacement crisis triggered by the conflict, as well as the serious

displacement-related protection concerns, may have led additionally to a humanitarian crisis were it not for the families, communities and organizations in Lebanon which hosted and/or supported many of the displaced during and after the conflict.”

Poverty in many areas of Beirut and its suburbs (2006)

- Prior to the summer 2006 conflict, many suburbs of Beirut lacked basic infrastructure
- Hay al-Selom and the suburb of Nabaa, north of Beirut's city centre, constitute the capital's two main poverty belts, according to a December 2005 study funded by the World Bank

IRIN, 21 Mar 2006

“Beirut’s impressive downtown district reflects much of the wealth and development that Lebanon has enjoyed since the end of the civil war in 1990. But a few minutes’ drive to the capital’s southern and northern fringes reveals a vastly different reality, featuring extreme poverty and underdevelopment.

Residents and NGOs working to alleviate poverty put much of the blame for the shabby condition of the suburbs on government inaction. “We’re second class citizens,” said Youssef Hassan, a 48 year-old resident of the southern suburb of Hay al-Selom. “Officials forget we exist below the poverty line.”

Those earning less than Lebanon’s monthly minimum wage – 300,000 Lebanese pounds (roughly US \$200) – are generally considered to be living under the poverty line, according to Sawsan Masri, project manager at the Ministry of Social Affairs.

“We have no electricity or paved roads, no health insurance and none of the essential services that a government should provide its people,” said Hassan who works as a taxi driver to provide for seven dependants. He and his family have been living in a two-room apartment in Hay al-Selom since they were forced out of the southern village of Arabsalim by the Israeli occupation 15 years ago.

“I get about 300,000 Lebanese pounds a month from driving people around,” he said. “It barely covers the rent of the car I’m using and basic needs, like food. We have to buy clothes second-hand – if not third-hand.”

Hay al-Selom and the suburb of Nabaa, about a 15-minute drive north of Beirut's city centre, constitute the capital's two main poverty belts, according to a December 2005 study funded by the World Bank. The study was conducted by the Lebanese Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR), set up by the government in 1977.

The survey, the aim of which was to identify deprived areas for future development, classifies these two suburbs as “the most deprived around Beirut.” It goes on to note that poverty on the outskirts of the capital was “one of the key issues that consecutive governments have failed to resolve.”

While relatively affluent neighbourhoods nearby have seen a modicum of reconstruction and development in the last decade, including road construction, wastewater treatment and electricity projects, such development has eluded the impoverished areas on the capital’s periphery.”

Southern region struggles to develop economy after years of war and occupation (2005)

- Little investment has been made in southern Lebanon
- According to an article by IRIN, 37 percent of households in the south live without basic needs, including sanitation systems and access to potable water
- The area also suffers from low levels of education
- Unemployment is widespread
- The rate of people out of work is estimated at 11.5 percent countrywide, according to UNDP/government figures, this rate is thought to be much higher in the south
- The Israeli occupation until 2000 and landmines left in the area have had a severe impact on the economy of the region

IRIN, 25 October 2005

“Ever since the Israeli withdrawal, there has been little investment in southern Lebanon.

Mukalled attributed this to a number of reasons, including the lack of government planning and political conditions often imposed by would-be donors.

Observers note that the dearth of investment also has to do with the presence in the area of the Hezbollah militia, which controls the south. The group, locally credited with the expulsion of Israeli forces, is also a political party, which enjoys 17 seats in parliament.

Experts argue that the group’s conflict with Israel and calls by Washington for its disarmament deters would-be donors from investing in the south.

Joint UN projects in the south over the past five years have totalled some \$4 million.

As a result of this shortfall, 37 percent of households in the south live without basic needs, including viable sanitation systems and access to potable water. The area also suffers from low levels of education. While there are several schools in all villages, many lack even the most basic equipment, such as desks.

Unemployment in the area, too, is rampant. While the rate of people out of work stands at 11.5 percent countrywide, according to UNDP/government figures, this rate is thought to be much higher in the country’s south.

Historically, residents of the area have been farmers, with traditional crops consisting of olives, grapes, figs, pomegranates, wheat and tobacco. With the coming of the Israeli occupation, however, much of the area’s arable land was planted with mines, curtailing the viability of the industry.

This, in turn, has led to a considerable outflow of the local work force.

“More than half of the young population have left to seek jobs in Beirut or abroad,” said Mukalled. “For those who are in the villages, there are few opportunities.”

No recent census has been conducted, largely for political reasons, and accurate statistics are hard to come by. But according to local aid workers, some 44,000 people from the village of Bint Jbeil, a few kilometres from the current Israeli border, left the area over the course of the occupation. A population of a mere 7,000 was left behind. "

Nahr el Bared Camp

Temporary housing completed for four hundred and forty families near Nahr el Bared Camp (2008)

UNRWA, 11 April 2008

“The Deputy Commissioner General of UNRWA, Mr Filippo Grandi, has inaugurated new housing for over a hundred families near the Nahr el Bared Camp in North Lebanon, which was destroyed by fighting last year. This will bring the total number of temporary shelters UNRWA has built in the Adjacent Area to Nahr el Bared to 570, providing 440 families with housing.”

Shelter a priority for secondary displaced Palestinians, many live in overcrowded conditions (2008)

- Most of the displaced have been housed in extremely overcrowded conditions in community facilities such as schools and mosques or with host families
- In Beddawi camp, tensions between residents and the displaced is growing
- A survey shows that the population declared that most critical need is rebuilding a house in Nahr el Bared (64%)

UNSC, 21 April 2008

“Given the detrimental effects of living conditions in the camps on the wider security situation in Lebanon, it is imperative that progress be made not only towards disbanding and disarming Palestinian militias in Lebanon but also towards improving the conditions in which the refugee population lives, without prejudice to the settlement of the Palestinian refugee question in the context of an eventual Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement. In this context, I thank the Government of Lebanon for its continued support to the ongoing Camp Improvement Initiative of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).”

Lebanese Republic, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Summary from World Bank Technical Note), 10 September 2007

“The physical reconstruction of Nahr el Bared will be a huge challenge. A recent survey shows that the population declared that most critical need is Rebuilding a house in Nahr el Bared (64%). A significant challenge, given that after three months fighting, the old camp has been largely destroyed, while the new camp has been less severely damaged. Preliminary estimates show that the total asset losses reached US\$155 million and US\$180 million when accounting for the improved-standard reconstruction costs.”

UNRWA, September 2007

“Since the mass exodus of civilians from Nahr el-Bared camp at the end of May, most of the displaced have been housed in extremely overcrowded conditions in community facilities such as schools and mosques or with host families. In Beddawi camp, tensions between residents and the displaced is growing and although incidents of violence have been few to date, UNRWA fears that if this situation is allowed to continue unchecked, widespread strife may result.

Even with the end of hostilities at the beginning of September, displacement continues and is likely to be only very gradually reduced over the next year as people are able to return. Many families are still being sheltered in UNRWA and government school buildings with many of the displaced preferring this option to staying with host families. UNRWA’s priority is to find

alternative temporary shelter for this group in order to vacate the school premises in order to allow the new school year to begin with a minimum of disruption.”

FAFO Survey: Housing conditions and social relations among Nahr el Bared displaced families (2008)

- Lack of privacy and over-crowdedness key features of housing conditions in August 2007

FAFO, 2 February 2008

“[S]tatistics based primarily on a field survey of 999 Palestinian families displaced from the Nahr El-Bared refugee camp outside the city of Tripoli. The study was implemented late August 2007, when approximately one-half of the displaced were accommodated in the nearby Beddawi refugee camp while the rest had found refuge primarily in and around Tripoli but also, in smaller numbers, in the Beqaa, Beirut, Saida and Tyre - inside as well as outside camps.

While expressing general content with their accommodation, the displaced showed signs of stress. Water and sanitation arrangements were adequate but lacking privacy and over-crowding were key features of their housing conditions in late August.

The average family size was five persons

Two-thirds of the families were accommodated in a private setting, while a third had found makeshift lodging in schools, offices, garages, stores, etc.

Two-thirds of the families paid rent

Three-fourths of the families shared accommodation with someone else

Seventy percent of the families had only one room at their disposal.

The average number of persons residing in a dwelling unit was 11.5

All displaced had access to safe water

Twenty-three percent relied on bottled water for drinking

All families had access to proper toilet facilities

Six in ten families stated that their relations to their neighbors were ‘very good’ or ‘good’

Three in ten families described the relationship between family members as ‘tense’

Physical violence between spouses and other family members was reported for one in ten families

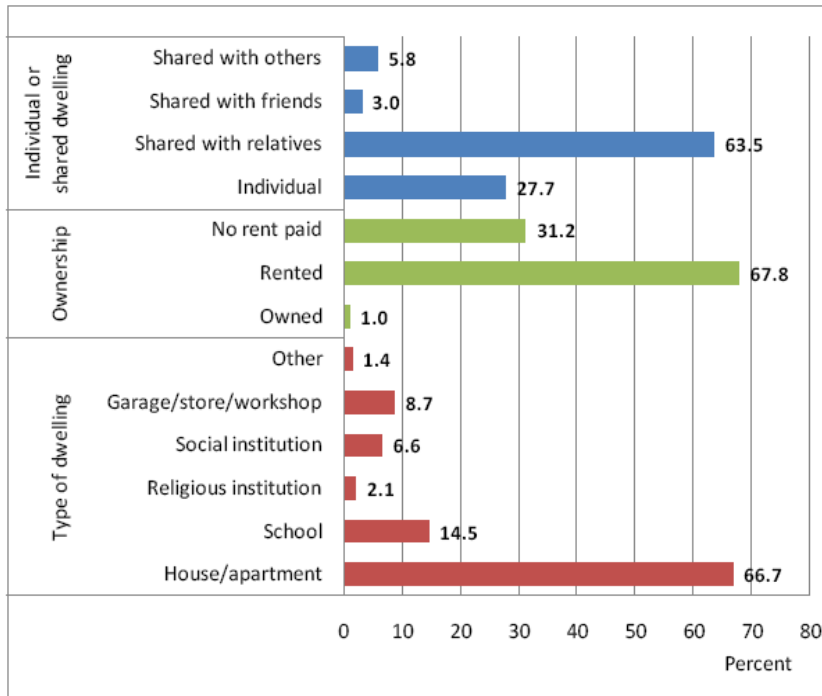
For further details, see the full survey, [Characteristics of Displaced Palestinian Refugees from the Nahr el Bared Refugee Camp](#), Åge A. Tiltnes, FAFO, 2008

FAFO Survey: Types of dwelling and other housing characteristics among Nahr el Bared displaced (2008)

- A majority of families surveyed were living with relatives and renting

FAFO, February 2008

Figure 1 Type of dwelling and other housing characteristics. Percent of families (n=999)



For further details, see the full survey, [Characteristics of Displaced Palestinian Refugees from the Nahr el Bared Refugee Camp](#), Åge A. Tiltnes, FAFO, 2008

FAFO Survey: Health conditions among Nahr el Bared displaced (2008)

- One in ten of the displaced has a chronic disease

FAFO, 2 February 2008

“[S]tatistics based primarily on a field survey of 999 Palestinian families displaced from the Nahr El-Bared refugee camp outside the city of Tripoli. The study was implemented late August 2007, when approximately one-half of the displaced were accommodated in the nearby Beddawi refugee camp while the rest had found refuge primarily in and around Tripoli but also, in smaller numbers, in the Beqaa, Beirut, Saida and Tyre - inside as well as outside camps.

The survey concentrated on chronic illness when it assessed the health conditions of the displaced from Nahr El-Bared. One in ten of the displaced has a disease of some sort, and three percent are disabled. Twice as many men as women are impaired. Heart-related diseases are widespread but many diseases were not identified by the survey. Physical impairment and audio-visual problems are the most common forms of disability. Disabilities are principally thought to be caused by diseases, or inherited. A significant majority (over 80 percent) of people with chronic illness identify medicines as the key area where more assistance is needed. The disabled present a more varied list of unmet needs.

One in ten displaced persons has a disease

Three percent are disabled

Physical impairment and audio-visual problems are the most common forms of disability

Eighty percent of the chronically ill ask for more help with medicines”

For further details, see the full survey, [Characteristics of Displaced Palestinian Refugees from the Nahr el Bared Refugee Camp](#), Åge A. Tiltne, FAFO, 2008

FAFO Survey: Most displaced from Nahr el Bared have access to safe drinking water (2008)

- They had more limited access however to piped water compared to their situation pre-displacement

FAFO, 2 February 2008

“As shown by Table 6, the displaced had reasonably easy access to water as a majority either had it piped into their dwellings (51 percent) or into the building where the dwelling was located (22 percent). This is deterioration when compared with the situation before displacement, when nine in ten families (households) had water piped into their homes (Tiltne 2007). Nevertheless, the key finding in Table 6 is that all displaced, perhaps with the exception of those that report using water from ‘other’ sources, had access to what is usually considered safe water.

Table 6 Main source of water. Percent of families

	Public water piped to residence	Public water piped to building	Public tap	Public reservoir	Tanker truck	Artesian well/borehole	Other source	Total	n
All families	51	22	3	6	2	16	1	100	999
Conventional dwelling	61	14	3	3	1	18	0	100	666
Makeshift dwelling	30	37	3	14	4	11	2	100	333
Beddawi	56	32	4	3	3	1	0	100	470
Other locations	46	12	2	9	1	28	1	100	529

For further details, see the full survey, [Characteristics of Displaced Palestinian Refugees from the Nahr el Bared Refugee Camp](#), Åge A. Tiltne, FAFO, 2008

Food and shelter subsidies needed for displaced and host families in NBC and adjacent areas (2007)

Lebanese Republic, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, 10 September 2007

“The provision of food subsidies to displaced persons and host families is required in the coming period. With over 65% of the adjacent areas to the NBC allegedly destroyed, it is estimated that around 995 Lebanese households will require food subsidies during the coming 12 months to help affected families meet their basic requirements in food. The HRC has specified a household food ration that lasts for 2 weeks costing 33 USD. The estimated total cost of this subsidy is equal to USD0.79million.

Similarly, around 995 Lebanese households will require rental subsidies during the coming 12 months. The HRC estimates that the cost of a monthly rent in the region is on average equal to 300 USD. The estimated total cost of this subsidy is equal to USD3.60million.”

Qualitative Needs Assessment: shelter needs among Nahr El Bared IDPs residing in Beddawi camp (December 2007)

- 83 % of displaced people surveyed reported crowdedness of temporary shelters as a concern
- 47 per cent of IDPs assessed their shelter conditions as ‘bad’ and ‘very bad’. The majority of these IDPs are currently residing in collective centres

Lebanon Support, December 2007

“Sample Details:

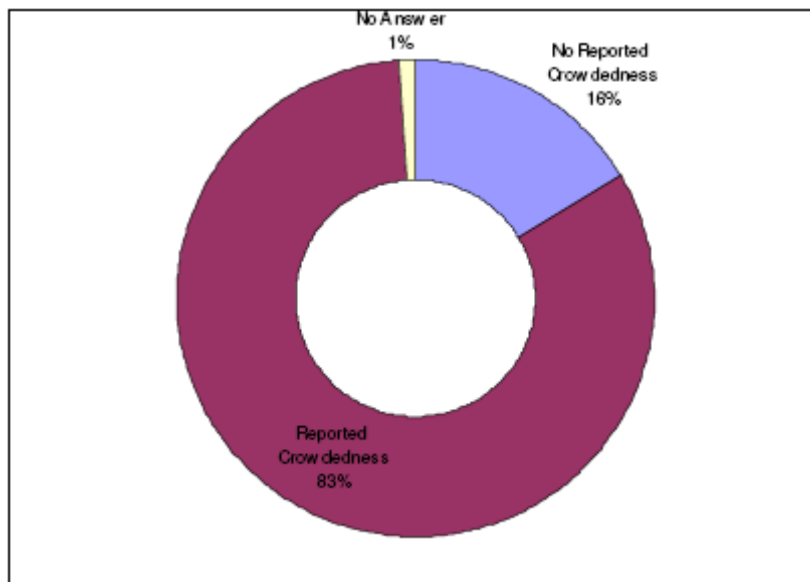
Interviewed Families: 194 || Approximately 10% of the NBC IDPs in Beddawi Camp (1848 Families)

Number of Persons: 1258

Females: 744 || 59%

Males: 513 || 41%

Current Shelter Conditions



Families who have reported having crowded shelters have an average space per person ratio of 4.3 m2 per person.

Families who did not report any crowdedness in their current shelters have an average space per person ratio of 10.89 m2 per person.

General Space per Person Ratio of all interviewed families is: 4.78 m2 per person.

Ratio of space per person inside gathering centres is about 3.18 m2 per person.

Ratio of space per person inside self-rented apartments is about 6.79 m2 per person.

Average number of persons per bathroom for all interviewed families is about 9.50 persons per bathroom.

IDP's Evaluation of Shelter Conditions

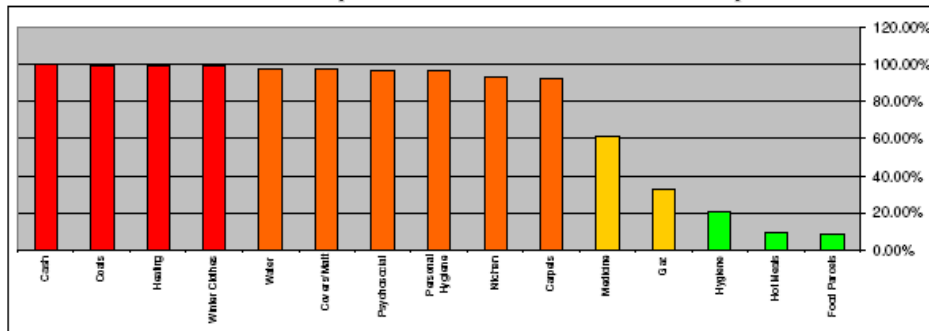


Most of the Families who have reported having bad and very bad shelter conditions are located in gathering centres.
 Most of the Families who have reported having “Ok” and “Good Shelter” conditions are located in rented apartments.
 15% of interviewed families reported having high humidity in their current residence.”

Qualitative needs assessment among IDPs in Baddawi Camps (December 2007)

Lebanon Support, December 2007

Identified Needs based on the opinion of NBC IDPs in Beddawi Camp



Food Parcels	8.76%
Hot Meals	9.28%
Hygiene	20.62%
Gaz	32.47%
Medicine	61.34%
Carpets	92.78%
Kitchen	93.30%
Personal Hygiene	96.39%
Psychosocial	96.39%
Covers/Mattresses	97.42%
Water	97.94%
Winter Clothes	99.48%
Heating	99.48%
Coats	99.48%
Cash	100.00%

Profile: Nahr el Bared Camp

Lebanese Republic, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, 10 September 2007

"The Nahr el Bared Camp (NBC) was established in December 1949 by the League of Red Cross Societies in order to accommodate the Palestinian refugees suffering from the difficult winter conditions in the Beqa'a valley and the suburbs of Tripoli. Located 16km from the city of Tripoli and occupying an area of about 20 km², some 31,000 displaced Palestinians and their descendents live in and around the camp, named after the river that runs south of the camp.

The NBC is made up of the official camp (the "old camp") and the adjacent area (the "new camp"). The old camp is under UNRWA management responsibility, while the new camp obviously requires stronger collaboration between UNRWA, local and national authorities. While the aggregate social indicators for Nahr el Bared old camp are far below the national average, the new camp presents a different social mix and a much lower density of population. The new camp is also housing affluent Palestinian families who have built large housing units. While relatively small, the number of Lebanese families grows progressively as one moves away from the old camp boundaries."

UNRWA, 2003

"Nahr el-Bared camp is situated 16 km north of Tripoli near the coastal road. The camp was originally established by the League of Red Cross Societies in 1949 to accommodate Palestine refugees from the Lake Huleh area of northern Palestine. UNRWA started providing services for the refugees in 1950.

Factional violence in the early 1980s inflicted a heavy toll on this camp.

The camp is very overcrowded and the infrastructure is poor. Although all shelters have indoor water mains, these are linked to a very inadequate water supply which is pumped from the ground source. All shelters are connected to a sewerage system which discharges untreated sewage into the sea.

UNRWA with support from ECHO rehabilitated 28 shelters in 2003.

For more information, see [UNRWA Lebanon Camp profiles](#)

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

General

Some decline in post-war school enrolment rates in urban areas (2007)

- In a survey conducted on the impact of the war by sector, participants found that generally the war did not have a great impact on education, as a result of immediate interventions on this sector (waiver of tuition fees, rebuilding of schools)
- Some participants identified the economic crisis which resulted from the war and forced displacement as factors which caused some decline in enrolment rates

Consultation and Research Institute, June 2007

“Most participants did not see the war as greatly altering the performance of the education sector. This limited impact is due to the immediate interventions targeting this sector following the war. The government’s decision to waive fees, the rebuilding of the destroyed schools in addition to the numerous interventions by NGOs, international organisations and foreign and Arab countries, mitigated the impact of the war [...]

The drop-out rates and absenteeism was not considered a serious problem in rural areas, however mostly affecting urban ones. The causes of these two problems were specific to each area. Some participants mentioned the economic crisis as the main cause, as more students are forced to work or their parents being unable to pay school fees. Another cause is the forced displacement of some families and the difficult access to schools. These two factors were also cited as causes of the limited decline in enrolment rates.”

Schools targeted and school year disrupted due to the conflict, particularly in areas worse hit (2006)

- 16 schools were directly hit and 157 seriously damaged according to the Ministry of Education
- More than 128,760 people sheltered in schools during the conflict
- In some cases, schools where displaced people were sheltering were targeted
- The start of the school year was delayed by some three weeks, until 16- 18 October 2006
- It was reported that 85% of children in primary education were able to return to school by 18 October
- Specific problems were encountered in areas worst hit, particularly along the Blue Line, where children were attending school in neighbouring villages, using double shifts when necessary, as their own schools had been completely destroyed
- The ongoing displacement of some teachers and children made it difficult for them to reach their schools and some schools were reported to be emptier than usual

COI, 23 November 2006

“The conflict took place at a time when children were on summer holidays. According to statistics issued by the Ministry of Education[...], some 16 schools were directly hit, causing major destruction of the building. Another 157 were seriously damaged, either following direct hits or in

collateral damage from attacks on adjacent buildings. Some 3 others were in need of repair having been using as shelter for as many as 128,760 internally displaced. In Bent J'beil six schools were completely destroyed and another two partially. Two private schools and two public schools had been totally destroyed in the town of Khiyam, with another two, including a vocational (agricultural) school, badly damaged.

In Bent J'beil the Commission saw one school that had been destroyed completely but for the ground floor. It was later learned that pupils would return on 16 October, using only this ground floor as the rest of the building was being restored. In one school in the town, the Commission was informed, 37 civilians had taken shelter and the building came down around them; injuries were suffered and one old man and one old woman were found under the rubble at the end of the war. In Yatar, the Mayor recounted how the school had been attacked and the Lebanese Army found one unexploded missile there shortly before the school year began again. In Al Duweir, the members of the Commission were told how the religious school in Saida, at which Sheikh Adil Akash[...] taught, had been targeted. In Taibe, they were told how Israeli soldiers had occupied the private school and despoiled the teachers' kitchen and left urine in bottles around the classrooms. In Khiyam, the Commission visited one of the schools that had been very badly damaged, a school that UNESCO had helped build. One school in the town had already been renovated with help from Qatar; that and the agricultural school would be used to accommodate pupils from all four destroyed schools when the school year began again.[...]

In the circumstances, the start of the school year was delayed by some three weeks, until 16- 18 October 2006, to allow time for repair, restoration, disinfection, clearance of debris and refurbishment of school buildings. The costs of this were estimated at US\$44,000,000. Major support came quickly for early recovery efforts, in particular from the United Arab Emirates,[...] focusing on rehabilitation of schools and provision of basic equipment. This was accompanied by a Back to School campaign led by UNICEF and the Ministry of Education.

Thus it was reported that 85% of children in primary education were able to return to school by 18 October [...]. Of the other 15%, it is still not clear how they will continue with their education. Specific problems were encountered in those areas worst hit, particularly along the Blue Line, where children were attending school in neighbouring villages, using double shifts when necessary, as their own schools had been completely destroyed. The issue of displacement continued to contribute to the problem, as there were still an unknown number of children, and teachers, living far from their family homes; thus, some schools were more empty than usual, while others were overcrowded and still others were missing teaching staff. The full picture would only be known as the year progressed.

The more serious impact would be in relation to the effects of this sudden and major conflict on children and young people, and how they would cope with the trauma and feelings of insecurity. Thus attention was being given to the quality of education in the aftermath of the conflict, the management of classrooms in these circumstances and the psychosocial needs of children and young people[...].”

Nahr el Bared Camp

FAFO Survey: Access to education among Nahr el Bared displaced (2008)

- In late August, school registration and enrolment was lower for all age-groups compared with the situation at end 2005-2006 school year

FAFO, 2 February 2008

"[S]tatistics based primarily on a field survey of 999 Palestinian families displaced from the Nahr El-Bared refugee camp outside the city of Tripoli. The study was implemented late August 2007, when approximately one-half of the displaced were accommodated in the nearby Beddawi refugee camp while the rest had found refuge primarily in and around Tripoli but also, in smaller numbers, in the Beqaa, Beirut, Saida and Tyre - inside as well as outside camps.

The general situation is that men still holds an edge over women as illiteracy is more abundant for women and higher education is more prevalent among men. However, in line with the trend for the Palestinian community in Lebanon as a whole, this picture is changing and among the youngest adults a higher proportion of women than men have achieved a secondary or post-secondary degree.

In late August, school registration/enrolment was lower for all age-groups compared with the situation at the end of the 2005-2006 school year. Girls and young women seem to attend school slightly more often than their male counterparts. The survey examined if the hostilities in Nahr El-Bared had affected schooling negatively and found that 77 percent were able to complete the previous school-year while 23 percent were not.

Illiteracy is more abundant for women

Higher education is more prevalent among men

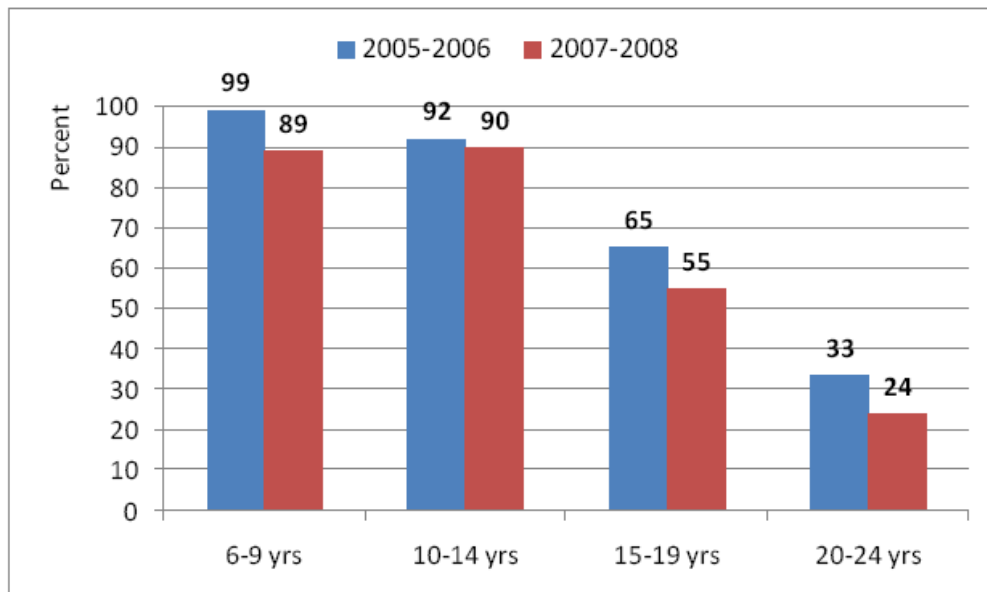
Among the youngest adults a higher proportion of women than men have achieved a secondary or higher degree

In late August, school registration/enrolment was lower for all age-groups as compared with the enrolment in 2005-2006

Girls and young women attend school slightly more often than their male counterparts

Three in four had completed the previous school-year

Figure 8 School enrolment among people aged 6-24 in the school-years 2005-06 (n=1,238) and 2007-08 (n= 2,335). 90 percent of the figures for 2005-2006 are from Tiltnes 2007. Percent in age group



For further details, see the full survey, [Characteristics of Displaced Palestinian Refugees from the Nahr el Bared Refugee Camp](#), Åge A. Tiltnes, FAFO, 2008

Most children from Nahr el Bared are able to return to school (2007)

- The last group of children will resume classes in January in the new temporary schools located in the Beddawi and Nahr El Bared areas

UNRWA, 28 December 2007

"Most of the children from the heavily damaged Nahr El Bared camp in Lebanon have already been able to return to school thanks to a donation of US\$ 1.277 million made by Dubai Cares. The last group of children will resume classes in January in the new temporary schools located in the Beddawi and Nahr El Bared areas.[...]

With Dubai Cares contribution, UNRWA has rented, furnished and equipped schools in the Bedawi camp area, to allow displaced children to continue their education as normally as possible. Traumatized children are also receiving psychological support, and recreational activities are being organized for them."

ISSUES OF SELF-RELIANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

General

2006 conflict exacerbates already poor living conditions in affected areas (2007)

- Areas hit by prolonged attacks historically among the most deprived
- The war rendered existing problems more acute in affected areas, especially housing, income generation and public infrastructure

UNDP, 12 September 2007

“The areas of Lebanon that suffered the most prolonged attacks and hence bore the brunt of both the direct and indirect impact of the war – namely, South Lebanon, the Southern Suburb of Beirut, and the Bekaa --are also historically among the most deprived. While the north of Lebanon was subjected to relatively less direct physical destruction, it is the area of Lebanon where the highest incidence of poverty is concentrated -- particularly Akkar, Minieh, Dinniyeh – and, hence, suffers the adverse indirect impact of the war on the economy, particularly on investments, employment and incomes.”

Republic of Lebanon, January 2007 (UNDP – MOSA Mapping of Living Conditions)

“In 1998, the Mapping of Living Conditions showed that regional disparity was a major characteristic of poverty in Lebanon. The four peripheral districts (Qadas) of Bent Jbail, Hermel, Akkar, and Marjayoun had a deprivation incidence of more than 60% of their resident population as compared to less than 20% for the central districts (Qadas) of Keserwan, Metn and Beirut. Recent studies show no change in these patterns of disparity.

For example, in 1996, Akkar accounted for 12% of the total number of the poor in Lebanon, and 23% of the extremely poor. It was characterized with poor socio-economic indicators that revealed very poor conditions in comparison with other regions. The preliminary results of the 2004 MPS, using the same living conditions index of 1998, shows that Akkar continues to have the highest share of deprived households in Lebanon.”

Consultation and Research Institute, June 2007

“The war did not herald a new period with a new set of problems, as much as it rendered existing problems more acute:

Poor housing conditions were considered as a problem even before the war; the war come only to worsen this problem. Many vulnerable groups suffer from the high cost of living, especially concerning health services. As a group, the incidence of disability is very high, making the share of health services out of total expenditure high. The high costs of living were felt in relation to food prices, electricity fees and school fees. A significant part of vulnerable groups suffer from the economic situation. Some participants had their enterprises destroyed or suffered from the damage to the agriculture sector, leading to the loss of their only source of income. The presence of cluster bombs compounded this problem, by rendering the access to the neighbouring fields impossible. Lastly, the economic crisis, with the increase in unemployment, led a number of families to lose their only source of income. □□ Another difficulty is the poor state of infrastructure and high costs of usage fees. Some households mentioned their need to buy potable water after the destruction of the water network, further adding a financial burden on their already limited resources.”

Unemployment doubled following 2006 war (2007)

- In the aftermath of the conflict, the Higher Relief Council estimated that unemployment was as high as 75% in some parts of Lebanon

UNDP, 12 September 2007

"The economic impact of the war was also immediate and severe in all sectors, especially for an economy in which the service industry generates 75% of GDP. The expected spike to 6% in the projected GDP growth rate for 2006 was reversed, declining by 11-points to -5%. Unemployment doubled, and stands in excess of 20%."

OCHA, 31 August 2006, p. 8

"The Higher Relief Council (HRC) has estimated that unemployment is as high as 75% in some parts of Lebanon. [...]"

Farming is one of the primary livelihoods for Lebanese households. The month-long conflict wrought much damages on agricultural infrastructure with thousands of hectares of agricultural land and greenhouses destroyed or burnt. Furthermore, the conflict broke out at the peak of the fruit and potato harvest. Many farmers fled their land while others could not afford the fuel to transport their produce to market and yet others could not access export markets due to the blockades. Some crops perished on the ground while others were lost due to the lack of irrigation.

Fishing and tourism, two other important economic sectors, have also been impacted. A 15,000-tonne oil spill in the Mediterranean Sea, caused by an Israeli air strike against a fuel storage facility on 13 July, has had a severe impact on fishing and tourism-based livelihoods, despite international efforts to mitigate the damage."

Polling stations set up for displaced (June 2005)

Daily Star, 8 June 2005

"Aley MP Fouad Saad said polling stations for displaced Lebanese villagers will be placed within village boundaries, but will be located on or near borders, so as to minimize friction between voters and current village residents. Speaking on Voice of Lebanon Radio, Saad said the decision was a compromise between MPs, obligated to follow the law requiring polling places to be within villages, and current residents, foreseeing election day conflicts. Some of the displaced, all Christians, from five villages - Brih in the Chouf, Kfar Matta, Baawerta, Abey and Daqoun in Aley - will be able to vote Sunday."

Economic growth and development slower in some regions (2002)

- There are an estimated one million poor in Lebanon, of whom 75% are urbanized
- Economic growth and reconstruction have favored some regions, like Beirut, to the detriment of other parts of the country
- Growth of service sectors over agriculture and industry
- Without adequate social integration, the problem of poverty, particularly in cities, may prove destabilising
- Low participation of women in public and political life, and in labor force in general

UNDP, 2002

"The economic crisis has nevertheless led to continuation of high levels of emigration, particularly of youth, over the last 10 years, and increased pressure on the living conditions of vulnerable and poor households. Of particular concern regarding the repercussions of the economic crisis are the poverty conditions in the already-depressed regions of the country such as the northern Bekaa and the North. With unemployment estimates hovering as high as 12-14%, this remains a very considerable challenge for the government."

EU 2002, p. 2, 9

"Lebanon's remarkable decade of reconstruction following a devastating 15 year civil war saw strong economic growth gradually slide to a halt by 1999. The cost of rebuilding highways, schools, airports, seaports, housing, power stations, and government buildings pushed public debt to 160% of GDP and led to chronic budgetary problems: spending outstripped revenues by over 50%. GDP per person, estimated at €5,200, is below prewar levels. The process of reforming economic policy, modernising manufacturing capacity, improving the investment climate and opening the internal market has begun, and form the basis for economic recovery in the decade to come.

The challenge for Lebanon is to carry through the reforms while reconstructing the economy. The tax system will need to replace revenues lost as customs tariffs fall (they traditionally contributed half of all budget revenues) with VAT, and with more coherent income and company taxes. Privatisation of state agencies, some loss-making, are essential for restructuring. Ways are needed to improve productivity levels suitable in industry, the services sector and in agriculture for an open trading economy, without which future growth will be jeopardised. The second challenge is to tackle poverty and income disparities. The UN estimates that one third of Lebanese lack basic needs. Weak agricultural productivity and a widening gap between rural and urban incomes have led to accelerated urbanisation, environmental degradation, and social imbalance. Policy needs to balance growth with social development, so that transition to a fully liberal economic regime is matched by good governance, the strengthening of democracy, respect for the rule of law and the guarantee of human and individual rights.[...]

There now prevails significant poverty and income disparities as society is increasingly dichotomised between the very rich and the poor. According to the World Bank's crude Living Condition Index which measures the degree of satisfaction of basic needs, 32% of Lebanese households are at the low end of the index, 42% at the intermediate level while 26% reach the high end of the index. A UN study calculates that 35% of the population lack basic needs, ie. live below a poverty line of minimum living standards. There are up to an estimated one million poor in Lebanon today, of whom 75% are urbanised. Economic growth and reconstruction have favoured some regions, notably parts of the Beirut region, to the detriment of large parts of the country. It has also favoured services sectors over typically labour-intensive employing activities in agriculture and industry. Illiteracy reaches 15% to 20% in the disadvantaged areas of the Beka'a valley, South Lebanon and the North, and is acute amongst women. Unemployment, officially given as 8%, is at least double this figure according to studies, and is highest amongst the young. Tight monetary policy, a narrow tax base, and economic recession has led to declining real incomes of many salary earners. The risk of unbalanced growth is social tension and the exploitation of poverty by political organisations which have proved particularly effective in supplying much-needed services on the margins of society. Without adequate social integration, the problem of poverty, particularly in cities, may prove destabilising. Public welfare programmes and social safety nets are largely non-existent in Lebanon, are narrowly based, and often subject to mismanagement. Remittances from expatriates go some way to alleviating the situation amongst underprivileged communities. There is no national health care policy. The system favours equipment, curative and tertiary services driven by the supply of an abundant private sector, rather than primary health care and prevention. There is a need to develop national

poverty reduction programmes, to establish a comprehensive social development policy, and to tackle health care.

Particular attention will be paid to the role of women in Lebanon. Rights of women are affected by forms of sectarianism (there is no civil marriage law), incidence of 'honour' killings, low participation rate in public and political life (only 2% of the 128 parliamentary deputies are women; only three of the 300 municipal councils are headed by women), when measured against university graduation rates (50% women), and contribution to employed labour force (27%)."

Political, social, economic and legal consequences of displacement (1997)

- Displacement caused the country to split along religious lines, exacerbated economic imbalances and contributed to the disintegration of social ties
- Illegal occupation of houses and loss of property caused countless legal problems for the displaced

UNDP 1997

"It is difficult to identify all the negative consequences of displacement at the political, social and economic levels in the immediate and long term. A brief summary of the main consequences of displacement is given below.

At the *political level*, displacement caused the country to split along religious lines, resulting in the loss of identity between geography and the national entity. It also led to greater homogeneity between the sectarian and regional notions, and strengthened the feeling of belonging to the sect/region, which impaired national and social integration.

At the *economic level*, displacement was accompanied by the destruction of productive assets and widespread neglect of agricultural land as farmers - who constituted 55 percent of the heads of displaced families - were denied access to their holdings. The industrial sector sustained direct losses as forced displacement affected the labor force and prevented workers from reaching the work place, especially in large plants which were not relocated, contributing to exacerbate regional and economic imbalances.

At the *social level*, problems emerged in integrating the displaced - who felt alienated as a result of their moving from generally rural socio-cultural surroundings to a different and mostly urban setting in poor housing accommodations - in the societies of receiving areas. The move put severe strain on displaced families especially when displacement was associated with the death of a family member. It also contributed to the disintegration of social ties, lowering of social and moral standards, and in multiplying problems confronting youth.

Studies carried out on the displaced indicate a general deterioration in their living conditions. Their participation in economic activity fell below the national average and unemployment in their ranks increased. They were also exposed to extensive impoverishment, with an estimated 50 percent among them not able to meet their very basic needs; and 12.5 percent living in absolute poverty and unfit accommodations. The standard of education of the displaced population also fell below the national average, with 50 percent and 24 percent of them reported as not having gone beyond elementary and intermediate levels, respectively.

In addition, many *legal problems* arose as a result of the displaced being deprived by force of their property or its exploitation, the unlawful occupation of houses, confiscation of property, disadvantageous contracts, and many other legal disputes at a time when resorting to courts was not possible."

Nahr el Bared Camp

FAFO Survey: widespread unemployment among displaced communities from Nahr el Bared Camp (2008)

- Unemployment increased from 45 percent before to 79 percent after displacement for women and leaped from 25 percent to 79 percent for men
- Prior to flight, more than one-half of the economically active population aged 15-24 was out of work, subsequent to displacement nine in ten in this age group were jobless

FAFO, 2 February 2008

"[S]tatistics based primarily on a field survey of 999 Palestinian families displaced from the Nahr El-Bared refugee camp outside the city of Tripoli. The study was implemented late August 2007, when approximately one-half of the displaced were accommodated in the nearby Beddawi refugee camp while the rest had found refuge primarily in and around Tripoli but also, in smaller numbers, in the Beqaa, Beirut, Saida and Tyre - inside as well as outside camps.

The survey shows widespread unemployment after displacement.

Nearly one-half of all persons aged 15-64 (47.6 percent both before and after the displacement) were in the labor force (i.e. they were employed or unemployed). The remaining persons studied, carried out domestic work, or were prevented from gainful employment by old age, illness, a handicap, etc. Sixteen percent of women were economically active as compared with nearly 80 percent of men.

The labor force was relatively young, with a mean age of 34 years. Nearly one in five persons in the workforce had completed as a minimum secondary education, and such higher education was more common among economically active women than men. Unemployment increased from 45 percent before to 79 percent after displacement for women and leaped from 25 percent to 79 percent for men. Prior to the flight, more than one-half of the economically active population aged 15-24 was out of work, which is more than twice the unemployment for older people. Subsequent to displacement nine in ten in this age group were jobless.

Since unemployment was rampant after displacement, a description of people's jobs before displacement provides the better picture of their work experiences and resources. Various forms of (often petty) trade and maintenance and repair work (refrigerators, bicycles, cars, PCs, etc) as well as employment in hotels and restaurants kept approximately one-third of the employed busy. This sector was almost as significant to the work of women as men. A second key sector is construction, employing one-fourth of the men. Services within the fields of education, health and social work employed almost 30 percent of women.

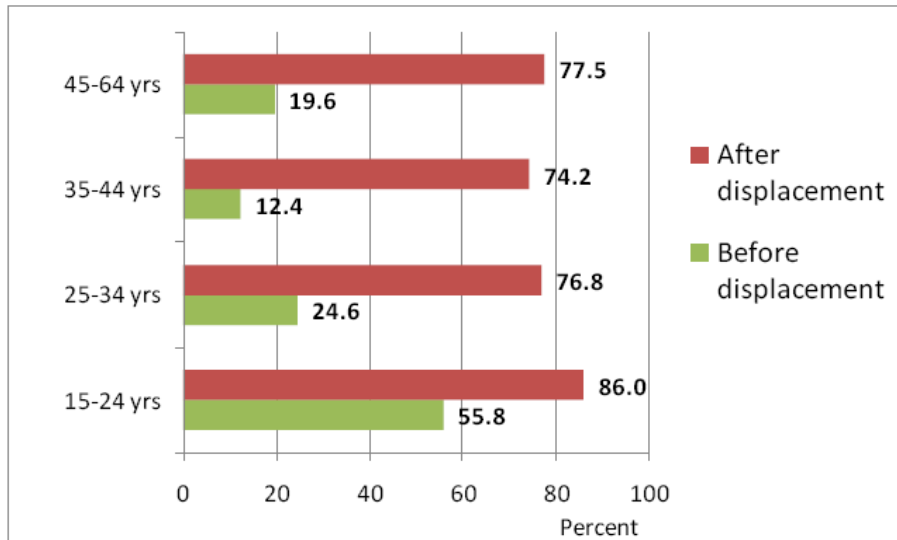
Before the flight four in ten worked as craftsmen. They were primarily employed in construction but also in manufacturing and (petty) trade and various repair work. One in four were service and sales workers and one in six were employed as professionals and managers.

One third of the unemployed said they intended to establish an enterprise or get a paid job at the time of the interview. A few students and housewives wanted the same. This exceedingly low figure testifies to the difficulties involved in finding work, at least as perceived by the workless in August.

Seventy percent of the altogether 297 businesses we have information about in the survey were based in the camp proper, while another one sixth of the businesses were located in its immediate vicinity. It probably used to be as many as 1,500 enterprises in the Nahr El-Bared camp.

Twelve percent of those in the labor force thought they could benefit from some kind of training in the search for a job or improved work opportunities. Computer skills and business management were the most popular topics.

Figure 15 Unemployment before and after displacement by sex. Percent



Nearly one-half of all persons aged 15-64 were in the labor force/economically active (i.e. they were employed or unemployed)

Sixteen percent of women were economically active

Eighty percent of men were economically active

One in five persons in the workforce had a secondary or higher degree

Unemployment increased from 45 percent to 79 percent after displacement, for women

Unemployment leaped from 25 percent before to 79 percent after displacement, for men

Subsequent to displacement nine in ten people aged 15-24 (and in the labor force) were jobless

Various forms of (petty) trade and maintenance and repair work (refrigerators, bicycles, cars, PCs, etc) kept approximately one-third of the employed busy

A second key sector is construction, employing one-fourth of the men

Nearly 30 percent of women employed in education and health services and social work

Before the flight four in ten worked as craftsmen, primarily employed in construction but also in manufacturing and (petty) trade and various repair work

It might have been as many as 1,500 enterprises in the Nahr El-Bared camp prior to its destruction

Twelve percent of people in the labor force said they could benefit from training in the search for a job or improved work opportunities

Ten percent of the unemployed expressed willingness to accept short-term (manual) jobs”

For further details, see the full survey, [Characteristics of Displaced Palestinian Refugees from the Nahr el Bared Refugee Camp](#), Åge A. Tiltnes, FAFO, 2008

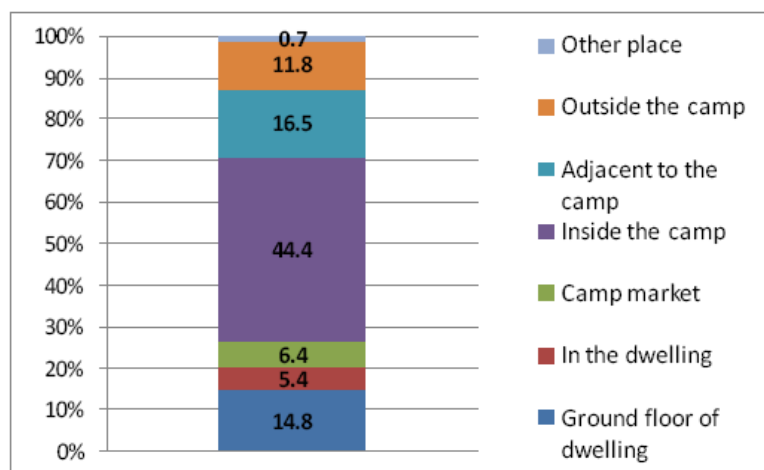
Widespread destruction of business and service infrastructure in Nahr el Bared (2008)

- According to a 'Business Sector Survey' carried out by UNRWA in 2002-2003, there were 700 enterprises in Nahr El-Bared at that time
- However, a survey by FAFO, suggests that the 2004 UNRWA study may have somehow excluded certain types of businesses
- The FAFO survey findings suggest that there may be as many as 1,500 enterprises at the camp level, twice as many as identified by UNRWA survey in 2002-2003

FAFO Survey, February 2008

"Seventy percent of the altogether 297 businesses we have information about in the survey were based in the camp, while another one sixth of the businesses were located on the camp border or in its immediate vicinity (Figure 18). Just over ten percent of the businesses operated from outside the camp. In 276 cases (93 percent) the owner knew that the enterprise had been damaged by the armed battles and bombardments. In five cases (less than two percent) people reported no destruction, and in 16 cases (five percent) people did not yet know if the business had experienced any damage. This reality underscores the material losses of the camp population and the detrimental impact that the hostilities in Nahr El-Bared had not only on private housing and the general physical infrastructure of the camp but also on people's ability to earn a living.

Figure 18 Location of establishment before displacement. Percent (n=297)



According to a 'Business Sector Survey' carried out by UNRWA in 2002-2003, there were 700 enterprises in Nahr El-Bared at that time (UNRWA 2004). The study categorized the enterprises into over 100 different groups. The largest groups were grocery shops (128), clothing stores (49), barbershops (37), shops selling shoes (22), and butcheries (20). The 700 enterprises covered by the study, and of which seven percent were Lebanese or Syrian, exclude mobile enterprises that are not confined to a premise or a fixed location. This might be businesses in the transportation sector, perhaps a one-man company where the person owns and operates a motor-bike, a pick-up truck, or a taxi, or in the construction sector where the business centers on a mobile concrete mixer. One-person enterprises are the most common business-size, making up 70 percent in all the Palestinian refugee camps of Lebanon taken together (UNRWA 2004). Twenty-eight percent of the studied enterprises had one or two employees in addition to the owner, while the remaining two percent had three or more workers.

However, based on the survey of the displaced, we suspect that the 2004 UNRWA study represents a significant undercount of businesses or somehow have excluded so many different forms of businesses that it presents an incomplete picture of self-employment and the enterprise structure of Nahr El-Bared. Street peddling is seemingly not covered; neither are enterprises operating out of people's homes. The survey of displaced found that five percent of the enterprises operating prior to the flight had been located in people's homes, and that another 15 percent were run from the ground floor of the dwelling. Some of the latter may not have been included in UNRWA's 2004 study, particularly if the enterprise did not carry a visible name tag and somehow advertised its existence outside. As mentioned above, the displaced survey identified 297 enterprises from a sample of between one-fifth and one-sixth of all the families in Nahr El-Bared. This would imply perhaps 1,500 enterprises at the camp level, twice as many as identified by UNRWA in 2002-2003."

UNRWA, September 2007

"With the initial dislocation of civilians now compounded by the destruction of business and service infrastructure, the lack of means to earn income is a serious threat to the security and stability for the majority of the displaced. To identify the main needs and opportunities involved in recovering refugee livelihoods, in partnership with ILO, UNRWA will conduct, a socio-economic survey and develop recovery activities in accordance with the results of the research."

Economic and social impact of the conflict in Nahr el Bared (2007)

- Businesses were mostly non operational from May 2007 until the end of the year
- Level of destruction suggests that 433 businesses affected

Lebanese Republic, (Summary from the Preliminary Economic and Social Impact Assessment), 10 September 2007

"The conflict in NBC is also having a significant socio-economic impact. The conflict resulted in a large scale destruction of businesses in the camp and surrounding area. The amount of destruction in businesses reaches US\$15.2 million for businesses in the old and new camp. Moreover, businesses suffered also from losses in equipment and inventories, reaching US\$12.5 millions.

Aside from assets losses, the conflict in NBC is having a strong economic impact on the camp and the surrounding region. Nahr el Bared is one of the most economically integrated camps in Lebanon with a wide range of interaction and externalities with the region. NBC has a dense trade and services activity and is a labor provider to the surrounding areas. The camp is close to a major transport network linking Tripoli to Syria and the coast to the hinterland of Akkar. Therefore, many of businesses at NBC are oriented toward: (i) servicing the transport sector (reparation and maintenance), (ii) servicing travelers and drivers (food and beverage), (iii) providing neighboring villages and Akkar with goods and services. Available information show that the Value Added (VA) that would have been generated by end-2009 would reach US\$100 million.

The survey of businesses gives an assessment of the level of activity inside NBC, where more than 433 businesses have been affected. Based on the survey, we estimate that prior to the conflict, 443 businesses were censused in NBC. Over 69 percent of these businesses were owned, the rest being rented. These businesses are entirely operated by Palestinian nationals, and are mainly self operated entities, since they employed altogether 450 people, including the owners. Most of the businesses are in the services sector (94 percent) and, more specifically, retail trade

(79 percent). With the extent of destruction, these businesses are virtually not operational since the beginning of the fighting at end-May 2007 and for the rest of the year 2007.”

ISSUES OF FAMILY UNITY, IDENTITY AND CULTURE

General

Separation of extended families identified as issue in some villages, post 2006 war (2007)

Consultation and Research Institute, June 2007

"The level of family separation was limited to the war period. In only five villages the respondents deemed this level to have significantly increased. It was mostly due to the separation of extended families, brought about by the displacement of some households due to the destruction of their dwellings."

Families still searching missing relatives from civil war period (2006)

- An estimated 17,000 people went missing during the civil war period (1975-1990)
- Three committees have been set up to investigate disappearances with little success

IRIN, 31 May 2006

"The parents of Lebanese nationals still detained in Syrian jails and of those who went missing during the civil war protested in front of the parliament building on Tuesday, demanding an international commission to investigate the fate of their loved ones."

According to the NGO Support of Lebanese in Detention and Exile (SOLIDE), hundreds of Lebanese citizens are still languishing in Syrian prisons, with some detainees reportedly having been held since 1991. A total of about 17,000 Lebanese are believed to have gone missing during the civil war, which lasted from 1975 to 1990, many of whom may have been killed and buried in mass graves or handed over to belligerents in the war, such as Israel and Syria."

IRIN, 14 May 2006

"According to SOLIDA (le Soutien aux Libanais Detenus Arbitrairement), about 17,000 Lebanese nationals went missing during the country's civil war from 1975 to 1990. Over the years, three committees have been set up to investigate the fate of the missing Lebanese, with little success."

PROPERTY ISSUES

July-August 2006

Overview of compensation payments (2008)

UN Habitat*, Shelter Cluster Data, 10 January 2008

Overview of payments

Paid	Total Sum Due US\$	Total Sum Ready / Paid Number of Villages
Villages Not Paid Yet	\$945,731,181.00	70
Villages Paid	\$545,183,065.33	\$279,626,829.33 261
Grand Total	\$1,490,914,246.33	\$279,626,829.33 331

Total Amount of Compensation Due Including South Beirut = \$1,490,914,246.33

Total Amount of Compensation Ready for Payment = \$279,626,829.33

Overall Percentage of Total Payments Ready = 18.76%

Payments are ready for 261 out of 331 villages.

Percentage of Payments Ready Vs Payments Due in the 261 villages = 51.29%

Summary of Updates:

Payments were done in 48 villages for the period extending from 1 December 2007 until January 8, 2008

Total Number of Housing Units Covered until January 8, 2008: 76,881 housing units

**Overview based on data received from the Council of the South*

Compensation payments: procedures and damage categories for South Lebanon (2006)

- The High Relief Commission verifies compensation payments in accordance with damage assessments conducted by the Council of the South and verified by Khatib & Alami consulting company
- Compensation payments are made through the Council of the South
- Payments are made in two phases

Shelter Cluster, Information received from the Council of the South, 2 November 2006

Compensation payments installations mechanisms in South Lebanon

Compensation payments are made in accordance with the damage assessments conducted by the CoS engineers and verified by Khatib & Alami (an Engineering consulting company appointed by the prime minister's office for compilation and verification of damage assessments in all of Lebanon). The damage assessments cover only structural damage of the homes and do not cover furniture and personal items or equipment. Furniture compensation is 20% of the Damage Assessment.

After verification, the payment values are then requested from The High Relief Commission (HRC) who in turn issue compensation checks addressed directly to the beneficiaries through the ministry of finance and the checks are later sent to CoS who distribute the checks among the villages.

All compensation payments above LL 12 Million are distributed in two instalments, and cover three categories of damage assessments: (Refer to Table Below) i. Payment for Repairs of Homes without Structural Damage ii. Payment for Repairs of Homes partially destroyed iii. Payment for Reconstruction of destroyed homes

After receiving the first payment, the beneficiary has to repair enough to cover the first instalment amount, after which the beneficiary will apply for the second instalment. CoS will then send engineers to overlook the repairs and deduct the repairs from their checklist to ensure that the first instalment is covered.

After reassessment is made CoS will send requests for second instalment checks to HRC which will in turn send a payment order to the ministry of finance for payment and the second instalment checks are then distributed through CoS.”

Description of the Three Damage Categories	First Installment			Second Installment	Total Payments Ceiling
	Repair Works	Furniture	First Payment Ceiling	Repair Works and Furniture	
First Category: Minor Repairs (No Structural Damage)					
Homes with Minor repairs Less than LL 5 Million	LL 200,000 --> LL 5 Mill	N/A	LL 5 Million	N/A	LL 5 Million
Homes with Repair Works Up To LL 10 Million	LL 5 Mill --> LL 10 Mill	Add 20%	LL 12 Million	N/A	LL 12 Million
Homes with Repair Works Above LL 10 Million	LL 10 Mill	LL 2 Mill	LL 12 Million	Up to 24 Million	LL 36 Million
Second Category: Major Repairs (Structural Damage)					
Homes Partially Destroyed	LL 10 Mill	LL 2 Mill	LL 12 Million	Up To 36 Million	LL 48 Million
Third Category: Total Reconstruction					
Homes Totally Destroyed	LL 25 Mill	LL 5 Mill	LL 30 Million	Up to 30 Million	LL 60 Million

Government sets up mechanism for the compensation of property losses with the exception of southern Beirut (2006)

- The mechanism will provide compensation for damage to housing and other lost property
- People who undertook rehabilitation or reconstruction at their own expense may also file for indemnity

President of the Council of Ministers, 5 October 2006

“The first mechanism addresses damages to housing and other units resulting from the Israeli aggression between July 12th & August 14th 2006, on the whole of the Lebanese territory with the exception of Beirut Southern Suburbs. It covers the following aspects (detailed in Appendix 3): i. The mechanism for assessing damages and indemnities: It includes detailed information on how to submit requests to the Council for the South, Ministry of the Displaced or the Central Fund for the Displaced; the required documentation; the surveys carried out by the technical committees; cost estimates according to set prices; indemnities assessment (noting that the overall indemnity - 1st and 2nd payments - for total destruction has been set at LBP60 million); financial and technical survey audit and procedure to follow to disburse the two payments (by way of cheques issued by the HRC in the names of beneficiaries and distributed by the Council for the South or the Ministry of the Displaced after submitting all required documents). ii. The furniture indemnity set at 20% of the value of the rehabilitation or reconstruction compensation iii. The

indemnity mechanism for those who undertook rehabilitation or reconstruction at their own expenses iv. Detailed technical and financial principles used v. The ability to obtain a housing loan from the General Housing Institute."

"Decree No 146/2006

The President of the Council of Ministers,

According to decree no 14952 of 19-7-2005 (nomination of Mr. Fuad Siniora President of the Council of Ministers),

According to the decision of the Council of Ministers no 1 of 16-7-2006 (entitling the President of the Council of Ministers to take all necessary measures and steps to overcome the Israeli aggressions),

Since it is necessary to enable citizens whose houses, stores and establishments have been demolished to rebuild them,

And since it is necessary to pay the concerned party a supplementary amount as an encouragement to rebuild in the same estate,

And since it is necessary to give to the concerned party the freedom to choose between rebuilding his property or buying another one,

And since it is necessary to adopt simple measures that will facilitate agreement between the demolished estate owners to rebuilt it and will not allow any of the owners to abuse the other owners,

And since it is important to enable owners of damaged or partly destroyed houses, stores or establishments to restore them and use them again,

And according to public interests necessities,

Decides the following:

Article 1: Assessment and compensation payment for the damaged housing and other units from the Israeli aggression between July 12, 2006 and August 14, 2006 in Beirut Southern Suburb are carried out according to the attached mechanism.

Article 2: This decision is applied upon publication.

Beirut,

**Fuad Siniora
President of the Council of Ministers"**

For more information on the mechanism, see [Appendix 3, "Indemnities assessment and payment mechanism in compensation for the damaged housing and other units from the Israeli aggression between July 12, 2006 and August 14, 2006 on the Lebanese territories with the exception of the Beirut Southern Suburb"](#)

See also ["The Summer War on Habitat in Lebanon: Addressing Housing Violations as War Crimes"](#), Habitat International Coalition, November 2006

Government creates second mechanism to compensate property losses in Beirut's southern suburbs (2006)

- A special mechanism has been set up for compensation due to damage in the southern suburbs of Beirut

HLRN, 20 November 2006

“Concerning Beirut Southern Suburbs, the adopted indemnities scheme is very similar to the first scheme; differences are due to the complexity of co-ownership in that area. These differences include the following (detailed in Appendix 4): i. Indemnities for total destruction has been set at LBP 80 million, including furniture indemnity, to be paid according to a two-phase payment scheme ii. A general ledger will be prepared for each building, or for buildings sharing the same plot number, and will be sent to the technical auditor iii. A special incentive, consisting of an additional LBP 50 million paid upon rebuilding a major part of the building, is given to the building owners committee to motivate people to rebuild on the same plot iv. A special mechanism for indemnity in the case of tenants v. This mechanism has been designed to facilitate agreement among plot owners avoiding unnecessary rebuilding complications, and especially to avoid unfair practices by any owner or landlord hindering reconstruction efforts as the main objective of this mechanism is to help and motivate people to rebuild houses on same plot.”

For more information, see "[Indemnities assessment and payment mechanism in compensation for the damaged housing and other units from the Israeli aggression between July 12, 2006 and August 14, 2006 in Beirut Southern Suburb](#)"

See also "[The Summer War on Habitat in Lebanon: Addressing Housing Violations as War Crimes](#)", Habitat International Coalition, November 2006

Damage to infrastructure and economy is extensive (2006)

- Israel targeted civilian infrastructure, including according to the government 109 bridges and 137 roads
- The destruction obstructed free movement of humanitarian assistance and of displaced people
- Housing, water facilities, schools, medical facilities, numerous mosques and churches, TV and radio transmission stations, historical, archaeological and cultural sites also suffered massive damage
- According to preliminary assessments, the direct cost for early recovery and reconstruction of the damages caused by the Israeli aggression is estimated at around USD2.8 billion

COI, 10 November 2006, p.6

“During the conflict, major damage was inflicted on civilian infrastructure, including critical infrastructure. According to the Lebanese Government, 32 “vital points” were targeted by the IDF, 109 bridges and 137 roads damaged. The destruction of the land transportation network had a huge impact on humanitarian assistance and on the free movement of displaced civilians. Housing, water facilities, schools, medical facilities, numerous mosques and churches, TV and radio transmission stations, historical, archaeological and cultural sites also suffered massive damage. The economic infrastructure was targeted by aerial bombardment and 127 factories were hit by IDF strikes. In addition, agriculture and tourism were particularly hit.”

HRC, 21 November 2006

“According to preliminary assessments, the direct cost for early recovery and reconstruction of the damages caused by the Israeli aggression is estimated at around USD2.8 billion. However, this figure is expected to be much higher when taking in consideration the indirect effects that have yet to be fully assessed for all sectors, in addition to a USD2 billion reduction in the estimated GDP for 2006, equivalent to a regression of 10-11%. Indeed, GDP was expected to increase by 6% for this year, based on economic indicators as of end June 2006. In effect, current economic indicators show that GDP for 2006 will decrease by 4-5% from GDP in 2005 and forecast negative repercussions on GDP size and growth for years to come.

As for the loss in public finance, it is estimated to reach USD1.6 billion by end 2006. This is mainly due to the slide in revenues which will sum up to around USD920 million by year end, equivalent to 4.25% of GDP, and to the increase in public spending by around USD684 million, some 3.7% of GDP, which are needed to compensate for the heavy toll in human life, to cover assistance needs addressing destruction in housing and infrastructure, to finance health and relief services, as well as cover the expenses in the area of security incurred by an increase in the numbers of Security Forces.

Moreover, and for the first time in 6 years, there will be a primary deficit of around USD778 million compared to the initially expected primary surplus of USD827 million. This would entail a total deficit of USD3.5 billion which amounts to almost twice the deficit for 2005. Public debt is expected to reach USD41 billion by end 2006, equivalent to 190% of the 2006 estimated GDP.

In the current circumstances, government priorities have to be reviewed. Nevertheless, the government remains committed to its pre-war Reform Program, and to finding solutions to address the deteriorating social conditions and negative growth. For example, the social sector reforms, aimed at improving social indicators and strengthening social safety nets have become a critical element of the government's new strategy for all the Lebanese territory, as has the need to accelerate recovery efforts and reconstruction activities, which will positively affect a number of sectors. It is also important to emphasize the crucial role of the external Arab and international support in backing the government's efforts to address the vicious cycle of rising debt and to enhance growth, which remains well below its potential. All of this requires a tremendous effort, not only from the State through all its constitutional entities, but also from civil society organizations and citizens. This effort should be aimed at intensifying internal endeavors, promoting external support from brothers and friends for government efforts towards stability and increased growth, and ultimately to allow the country to overcome the crisis brought upon by 30 years of recurrent wars and occupations, the last of which was the July 2006 aggression.”

OCHA, 31 August 2006

“Thousands of residential buildings, as well as roads, bridges and other civilian infrastructure was destroyed. The private sector was also impacted including factories, offices, gas stations and small businesses. It is estimated that at least 30,000 housing units have been damaged or destroyed, the vast majority in the south of Lebanon. [1]”

[Footnote 1] Preliminary assessment results of damage and destruction of housing units vary but are consistently around or above the 30,000 mark (Council for Development and Reconstruction, UNDP Damage Assessment, south Lebanon)

UNSC, 18 August 2006

"The damage to essential infrastructure, residential housing and the economy is severe. An estimated 15,000 apartments have been destroyed and 140 bridges hit. Initial assessments, for example, indicate that in the villages of Ghanduriyah and Zibqin more than 60 per cent of residential housing has been destroyed"

Compensation and assistance presents a big challenge in the aftermath of conflict (2006)

- The Commission of Inquiry expressed concern at possible discrimination which could result from the various approaches to the reconstruction
- It stressed the need for cooperation among the various actors
- A central issue with regard to compensation is the legality of construction, many buildings have been constructed in the southern districts of Beirut for example, without a legal permit
- A comprehensive strategy in line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement is needed

COI, 10 November 2006

“Due to the number of housing units which were partially damaged or completely destroyed, the reconstruction and compensation process will be a major issue over the months and even years to come and will require huge financial and human resources.

The Commission was told that the Government of Lebanon is intending to provide a number of prefabricated housing units which, it is feared, might have a deleterious effect on sustainable housing solutions for the affected. [...] In addition, as the winter season is approaching, there is a real need to help people to winterize their houses and to find adequate housing for those who do not have so far.

In addition, the Commission is concerned at the discrimination which might result from the various approaches to the reconstruction process. Indeed, the fact that some villages have been “adopted” by donor countries [...], while others might have been left aside, may amount to discrimination. Moreover, due to the number of organizations and government departments working on reconstruction, duplication of work will probably arise.

The need for cooperation among the various actors participating in the reconstruction of housing units is essential as some people are refusing repair works from NGOs fearing that they will not be eligible for compensation promised by pledging countries and the Government of Lebanon. This is why, in Southern Lebanon, the main actors agreed with the Council of the South to adopt guidelines for the procedure of work they intend to carry out in order to avoid duplication. [...] These guidelines will be an essential asset in order to establish priorities, ease the process and ensure a better implementation of the right to adequate housing free of discrimination.

So far as compensation is concerned, the situation varies widely according to the area under consideration. Indeed, the Commission met with individuals who informed it that they had received compensation from the Hezbollah, mainly an amount in cash in order to allow them to pay their rent and to buy furniture in another building. Others said that they had not received anything [...]. The majority complained that the Government of Lebanon had not given them anything for the time being. This can be explained by the extent of the work which needs to be done. However, the Commission wishes to recall that non-discrimination in compensation is a paramount issue.

For both reconstruction and compensation, a central legal issue will be the dubious legality of many homes and commercial structures, notably in the South where there was no government supervision in this area for many years. It might be the opportune time for municipalities to adopt urban planning schemes for each village in order to ensure legal security of tenure. The Commission was also informed that the situation is very similar in South Beirut. In addition, the situation of widows will have to be taken into due consideration as their ownership rights might differ from those of men. Mechanisms should be devised to ensure appropriate consultation and

participation in decisions concerning reconstruction. Compensation procedures should be just, timely, accessible, free of charge, and age and gender sensitive. More generally, within the process of return of people to their homes and of compensation, all relevant human rights standards related to the right to adequate housing[...] should be respected and attention should be paid to the human rights standards regarding restitution and compensation [...].”

UN GA, 2 October 2006

“Tens of thousands of persons were left homeless in the *Dahiye* and in South Lebanon as a result of the Israeli bombing. [...]The mission witnessed efforts to remove the rubble [...] and rebuild destroyed and damaged housing. These efforts are led by Hezbollah, and in particular its construction arm Jihad al-Bina. [...] Reports indicate that, in addition to serving Shiite areas, Jihad al-Bina is also working in predominately Sunni areas, like the northern area of Akkar, where it recently repaired some 200 houses in 13 villages. [...] Hezbollah’s apparent efficiency constitutes a considerable challenge to the Government’s role and calls for more coordination in post-conflict work than is currently the case. [...]

The Government has been successful in raising funds for reconstruction. [...] It has also announced that it would pay US\$ 33,000 to each family whose home had been destroyed, [...] but it yet has to make such payments and generally to prove its effectiveness in the reconstruction. In the end, the reconstruction process in Lebanon will probably involve a triangular configuration of private owners, Government and Jihad al-Bina, [...] which will require considerable coordination to avoid some victims falling through the cracks. As winter with its cold rains approaches, time is of the essence.

A further complication to the return and reconstruction process is the insecurity surrounding the legal status of a significant portion of the real estate involved. In South Beirut and parts of southern Lebanon, many destroyed buildings reportedly had been constructed illegally and on land owned by the Lebanese State, religious endowments and individuals displaced during the 1975-1989 civil war. There is therefore a real risk of property-related disputes delaying or impeding the reconstruction and return process.

The Government should develop, in cooperation with the international community, a comprehensive strategy to assist internally displaced persons and returnees taking into account the most vulnerable groups such as women heads of household and children or elderly people without family support. Such a strategy should use a rights-based approach, in line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, and urgently address the following protection challenges: (i) access to basic services (in particular shelter, water, sanitation, education and health) for returnees and for the poor and vulnerable among those who continue in displacement; (ii) access to livelihoods, in particular in farming areas affected by UXO; (iii) protection in cases of domestic violence, which are likely to increase in situations of stress and cramped housing and living conditions; and (iv) access to courts and other conflict resolution mechanisms in the context of property disputes that might occur in South Beirut and parts of southern Lebanon.”

Civil war period

Many people say they have not received compensation and are unable to rebuild their homes (2006)

- Returnees interviewed by IRIN in Mount Lebanon noted that there they did not receive compensation to rebuild their homes

- The NGO Caritas also notes that in many areas there is a lack of essential infrastructure

IRIN, 5 January 2006

"After years of displacement, Hasib Saad and his wife Margaret have returned to Remhala in Mount Lebanon, which they fled during the civil war, some 20 km from the capital, Beirut.

Sometimes, though, they wish they hadn't.

"Life is tough here. Very few people have returned and there is no investment," Hasib said. "This place was thriving before we left, and now it's a useless pit."

There are approximately 100 villages in Mount Lebanon. While the area is now a peaceful place, brimming with quaint fir trees, there is little activity.

According to Dorine Abou Rachi, who heads the Lebanese Displaced Programme run by the Caritas Catholic international NGO, the villages of Mount Lebanon are ghost towns.

"Not more than 17 percent of the people have returned to their villages," she said. "There are no medical or education facilities and the government hasn't put any effort into rebuilding schools and hospitals."

"There isn't any development or investment," she added.

More interested in booming cities like Beirut, investors have shied away from Mount Lebanon, where only relatively small businesses are in evidence.

Abou Rachi estimated that 75 to 80 percent of the people now living in the area are unemployed.

"Finding jobs is the villagers' first priority," she noted. "Those who came back are mainly low-income families who can't afford to live in the cities."

If they hadn't been forced to return by their economic situations, they would never have come back," she added.

The 1975-1990 Civil War, along with the Israeli "interventions" of 1978 and 1982, resulted in the displacement of an estimated million people in this small Mediterranean country of roughly 4.5 million.

"We had to leave our home because we could see rockets falling and knew there were snipers outside," Saad recalled.

On 1 November, Minister for the Displaced Nehme Tohme announced that his ministry had been granted the funds required to resolve the issue of displaced persons.

"According to statistics conducted by the ministry, the amount of money required to settle the issue is LL550 billion (approximately US \$366 million)," he said.

"Teams from the ministry and the fund will be visiting the villages of the displaced in order to check on the situation of the houses and buildings," Tomeh explained.

According to Abou Rashi, however, little implementation has been seen so far.

"Many families haven't received any payment yet, or only part of it," she said. "It's not enough to have the money – there needs to be a real action plan as well."

While no reliable statistics are available, the Ministry for the Displaced says that almost 80,000 people have been able to return to Mount Lebanon since the end of the war."

Caritas, 1 August 2004

"The amount allocated for the displaced families for rehabilitation and reconstruction were in general divided into three payments. Unfortunately, many families received only one payment, while others two and some three payments depending on the funds available."

Many displaced people have not reclaimed or rebuilt former property (2004)

- Large-scale destruction of towns and villages during the civil war prolonged forced displacement
- As of end 2004 the vast majority of displaced persons have not attempted to reclaim and rebuild their property
- Government paid squatter families to rebuild their homes but the vast majority of displaced have not reclaimed their property
- Minister of the displaced stated that issue of compensation needs to be moved away from sectarian wrangling and attention focused on reintegrating the displaced
- Government authorities took measures to make it easier for owners to rebuild their house in the south, following the withdrawal of Israeli troops

US DOS, 25 February 2004, Sect.2d

"There were no legal restrictions on the right of citizens to return to the country. However, many emigres were reluctant to return for a variety of political, economic, and social reasons. The Government encouraged the return to their homes of over 600,000 internally persons displaced during the civil war. Although some persons began to reclaim homes abandoned or damaged during the war, the vast majority had not attempted to reclaim and rebuild their property."

USCR, 24 May 2004

"The Lebanese government offered compensation to internally displaced people to rebuild homes, but the vast majority of the displaced have not yet reclaimed their properties."

UNDP 1997

"Displacement was associated with large-scale destruction of villages, towns and housing units, rendering immediate return impossible, and prolonging forced displacement for years after the cessation of military operations. The number of villages and towns affected numbered 949, of which 174 villages were totally or partially destroyed. The number of destroyed or damaged housing units was 45,020, which further exacerbated the housing problem in Lebanon."

US DOS 4 March 2002, Sect.2.d

"The Government encouraged the return to their homes of over 600,000 persons displaced internally during the civil war. During the year [2001], the Central Fund for the Displaced continued to disburse funds to assist internally displaced persons return to their homes. The Fund provided approximately \$20 million (30 billion Lebanese pounds) for the repair of infrastructure in villages most affected by displacement. Between July 1999 and October 2001, the Fund disbursed approximately \$208 million (300 billion Lebanese pounds) for the repair and reconstruction of homes. The Central Fund discontinued payments in November due to a lack of funds. Although some persons have begun to reclaim homes abandoned or damaged during the

war, the vast majority of displaced persons have not attempted to reclaim and rebuild their property."

Ministry of the Displaced 2001, I, vi

"Housing: This is a big issue in the lives of the displaced. First of all, so many families have lost their homes and are occupying someone else's houses or buildings that are neither inhabitable nor made as residences. The level of housing deteriorated, building codes were violated. In some cases more than one family live together. In essence, buildings are everywhere on others' or public properties, the disorder in communities got out of hand."

Daily Star 24 February 2001

"The war will not end except after the return of the last displaced person to his land and property, ' said Helou [Minister of State] [...]. Former Aley MP Marwan Abu Fadel also called for a set plan for the return, coupled with a 'comprehensive development plan that would attach the returning residents to their land.' In his remarks, Minister for the Displaced Marwan Hamade said 'we intend to move the issue of compensation away from sectarian wrangling and ensure integration among residents and those returning to their homes.'"

Daily Star 24 February 2001

According to a resident of the South of the Lebanon, "although there was no central planning before the construction [of the rebuilt village] began, records of the original property deeds were checked and the owners were permitted to build on their respective plots. He added that the authorities had agreed to waive the \$5,000 fee for a construction license for five years to encourage the rebuilding of the village."

Central Fund for the Displaced announced immediate eviction of illegally occupied property (2002)

- The Central Fund for Displaced announced eviction of all people illegally occupying properties would be implemented in June 2002

Daily Star 6 June 2002

"The Central Fund for the Displaced announced Friday that eviction of illegally occupied properties would be implemented immediately, with the use of force if necessary.

According to fund president Fadi Aramouni, the Displaced Affairs Squad in Beirut will evict people who have received compensation but failed to leave the properties in question. Evictions will also encompass those illegal occupants who were not eligible for compensation.

A meeting was held at the fund's office in the presence of Minister for the Displaced Marwan Hamade and officials from the ministry and the fund. Aramouni said the fund had decided to issue warnings to all beneficiaries of compensation who did not use the money for reconstruction and renovation purposes and urge them to start works."

See also, [the report of the ministry \(1992-1997\) on evictions of illegal occupants](#) [archived]

IDPs persons residing in Beirut had to vacate former homes in return for compensation (1999)

- Displaced families protested that compensation payments were lower than promised originally

Ibrahim in Daily Star 19 August 1999

"Hundred of residents of Beirut neighborhoods gathered Wednesday at the gates of Speaker Nabih Berri's residence in Ain al-Tineh, demanding a solution to their impending eviction by the Ministry for the displaced.

The displaced families, most of which are originally from the south and occupying residences in Clemenceau, Qantari and Hamra, have been given until the end of the month to sign commitments to vacate their premises in return for compensation. [...]

Under the ministry's 1999-2001 plan to return the displaced, \$5000 is being awarded per housing unit, and \$8,000 in the case of residents of the Israeli-occupied zone, due to their inability to return home.

The eviction orders are long-standing, but have usually been delayed due to the Central Fund for the Displaced's inability to make payments. The protesters were especially incensed that payment levels have been altered, since past payments were calculated per family, and not housing unit. [...]

Austerity measures have required paying on the basis of a housing unit, even if multiple families reside there. [...] One solution suggested was constructing inexpensive housing for the displaced."

See also, the [Ministry of Displaced report, including a section on evictions of illegal occupants](#). The report was issued in 1997 [archived]

Highest destruction of houses and villages occurred in the Mount Lebanon region (1996)

Ministry of Displaced, 1996 (Return of the Displaced in Lebanon: Towards a Better Life in the 21st Century)

Table 1. Destroyed houses by county

County	Partially destroyed	Totally destroyed	Damaged	Total	Percentage
Mount Lebanon	6410	14778	4630	25818	57,35%
South	4424	4845	3231	12500	27,77%
Beirut	573	2576	344	3493	7,76%
North	673	1053	499	2225	4,94%
Bekaa	235	409	340	984	2,19%
Total	12315	23661	9044	45020	100,000
%	27,35	52,56	20,09	100,00	

Table 2. Destroyed villages in Aley, Chouf & Baabda area

Caza	# of villages	Damaged	Completely destroyed	Partially destroyed
Aley	68	48	13	35
Chouf	95	67	24	43
Baabda	56	10	7	3
Total	219	125	44	81

Nahr el Bared Camp

Reports of widespread looting, burning and vandalism of vacated homes and property (2008)

- Government says the army is investigating the reports

Amnesty International, 2008 Report

“During the clashes, both sides put civilians at risk. Fatah al-Islam established armed positions in the camp and withdrew to them after attacking an army base. The army carried out heavy and possibly indiscriminate artillery shelling of the camp. The camp was largely destroyed. It appeared that after the army took control there was widespread looting, burning and vandalism of vacated homes and property. In December, the Prime Minister wrote to Amnesty International to say that the army was investigating the reports, noting that one finding was that the army had burned some homes to rid them of a poison spread by Fatah al-Islam.”

Community-based initiative: Nahr El Bared Reconstruction Commission advocates for participatory approach to reconstruction (2007)

- The commission is composed of grass roots actors, representatives of camp committees and networks

Nahr el-Bared Reconstruction Commission, 19 September 2007

“The Nahr el-Bared Reconstruction Commission – for Civil Action and Studies (NRC) is a community-based committee involving Nahr el-Bared grass-roots actors, representatives of camp committees and networks (such as the Popular Committee, Traders Committee etc.), professional planners, architects and social scientists that are producing studies, plans and strategies for the reconstruction of Nahr el-Bared camp in direct relation with the needs and way of life of its inhabitants. The Commission combines the contribution of local knowledge with professional expertise to further inform and impact the planning and reconstruction process.

The NRC was born out of the concern that most of the actors in charge of reconstruction have little knowledge of the camp, its way of life and its social, economic, and cultural dynamics, combined with a worrisome lack of initiatives or actions involving the inhabitants of Nahr el Bared in the planning process.

The Commission’s scope includes:

Preparing the necessary studies and research about the camp before its destruction from various perspectives (urban, social, economic etc.) as a foundation on which any planning activity needs to be based.

Facilitating through participatory mechanisms the participation of the camp’s inhabitants throughout the research, planning and design phases of the reconstruction, including:

Updating the camp’s dwellers on news and decision regarding the planned reconstruction
Collecting their concerns, priorities and needs related to the reconstruction
Involving them in research activities and the preparation of plans and studies

Facilitating community decisions and actions that would be necessary at different stages of the planning process.

Developing reconstruction plans and strategies based on the produced research and the community's feedback.

Following up and monitoring the reconstruction process The Commission in general would be continuously lobbying and campaigning for a greater and more active role of the Nahr el-Bard dwellers in the camp's reconstruction. The produced studies and plans are a source of knowledge for the community that would better inform them of the real choices they have in rebuilding their camp and would be a tool for empowering the Nahr el-Bared community in order to impact the planning process Since August 2007, the Commission is engaged in several activities:

Drawing detailed maps of the camp describing the urban fabrics, homes, alleys, neighbourhoods, topography, landownership, land/building use, population densities, mental maps, etc.

Conducting workshops and community meetings that document social practices, perceptions, problems, needs, aspirations in regards to the old camp and the new camp

Researching the social practices and spatial qualities of various elements of the camp: sample neighbourhoods, homes, markets, etc.

Preparing a reconstruction publication – to be distributed to the camp – that includes the work of the Commission, ideas and thoughts of the people on rebuilding, articles on other reconstruction experiences from Southern Lebanon, Jenin Camp in Palestine, Ein el Hilweh Camp in Lebanon, etc.

Preparation for a design “charette” to start in late November

Producing the “Reconstruction principles and guidelines” (details below).

This document results from of a set of meetings, workshops and feedbacks with and from Nahr el-Bared inhabitants presently living in Beddawi as well as local Palestinian NGOs that endorsed the outputs of this process.”

See link below for Naher El Bared Reconstruction Commission Guidelines For Civil Action and Studies.

85 % of houses in Nahr el Bared Camp damaged or completely destroyed (2007)

- Living conditions in other camps, especially Beddawi worsen as a result of high influx of secondary displaced

UNRWA, September 2007

“Camp facilities have been seriously damaged in the course of the fighting with currently available estimates suggesting that up to 85 percent of the camp infrastructure has been fully or partially destroyed. Water services in the camp are almost certainly no longer functioning and most of the water reservoirs and tanks that serve the camp have been severely damaged.

As a consequence of the displacement from NBC (where virtually no civilians remain), the population of Beddawi Camp increased from 16,000 to more than 30,000 exacerbating the already congested living conditions of the residents and overburdening the existing infrastructure. The extent of the hostilities has placed severe pressure on the refugee families hosting those displaced from NBC having scarce resources and thus reliant on cash or in-kind assistance for their basic needs.”

PATTERNS OF RETURN AND RESETTLEMENT

General

Displaced families given permission to return to Nahr el-Bared Camp temporarily to gather personal items (2007)

BBC, 10 October 2007

“The first families have returned to the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp in Lebanon, the scene of months of fighting between soldiers and Islamic militants.

Clutching plastic bags of possessions, the families waited patiently at the camp entrance to be searched before being allowed back to their homes.

They are the first of about 400 families granted permission by the Lebanese Army to return to the camp.”

Ceasefire prompts "immediate and massive" return movements (2006)

UNSC, 18 August 2006, para. 43

“The announcement of the cessation of hostilities, however, has prompted an immediate and massive movement of displaced populations returning to their home communities. It is estimated that despite numerous cautionary messages from the Government of Lebanon and international aid organizations, 400,000 people, including 107,000 who have returned from the Syrian Arab Republic, have returned to the southern suburbs of Beirut and other areas further south. The almost 800 public institutions, schools and buildings temporarily occupied by up to 150,000 displaced persons are now virtually empty, thereby significantly easing the stress on host communities.”

Return movements to Chouf, Baabda and Aley (2005)

- According to the Ministry of Displaced, 40 per cent of Baabda's displaced population returned; 30 per cent have returned to Aley and 42 per cent to the Chouf area

Daily Star, 1 October 2005

“Nehme Tohme, minister for the displaced, threatened he would resign if the government does not grant his ministry the \$400 million needed for the return of the remaining internally displaced persons. In an interview with Magazine, Tohme said that between 70 and 90 percent of damaged or destroyed houses in areas the displaced should return to have been repaired, according to UN statistics. According to Tohme, 40 percent of Baabda's displaced population has returned, while 30 percent of Aley's displaced are back in their hometowns and 42 percent of the displaced from Chouf villages and towns have returned. Tohme reiterated that reconciliation between Druze and Christians is still being awaited in seven villages”

Some return movements to south Lebanon are temporary (2004)

- A post clearance review undertaken in several areas since 2003 found that construction of homes is active in and around villages in south Lebanon, yet many of these homes are owned by Lebanese expatriates
- Some people are returning to build their homes, yet many still work outside of their villages of origin, returning only on weekends
- Most permanent residents are elderly
- Returnees to the villages of Rshaf and Hanin who received assistance to rebuild their homes noted that they do not live in them permanently due to lacking socio-economic conditions

The Operations Emirates Solidarity (OES) is a project for mine clearance in South Lebanon funded by the United Arab Emirates since 2001. The Mine Action Coordination Centre for South Lebanon together with the United Nations Development Programme has undertaken post clearance reviews in demined areas since September 2003 to measure the impact of mine clearance. Overview of findings for Villages and Towns cleared in South Lebanon, including At Tiri, Bayt Lif, Bayt Yahun, Bint Jbeil, Dibil, Haddathath, Hanin, Rshaf, Al Ghanduriah, Al Qantarrah, Al Qusayr, Deir Mimass, Deir Siriane, Ett Taibe and Sarda

MACC SL, 2004, pp.4-5

“In general the villages reviewed [...] have increased populations since the end of the occupation. Almost none have reached their pre-conflict population numbers however. Many experienced relatively large emigrations of residents during the post conflict period.[...]”

Construction of homes is active both in and around the majority of villages. As found in Post Clearance Review of OES1 some of these homes are owned by Lebanese expatriates.[...]

While many of the villages exhibit visible change principally through the presence of new homes and tended land areas surrounding them, some people stated there is not many opportunities within the villages for employment. In some locations people may have returned to build homes but still work outside the villages, returning only in the weekends. The permanent residents today in many of the villages are the elders who, while happy to see some former residents return and activity back in the area, express concern that the former lifestyle of the villages has not returned. In many ways this is to be expected especially amongst the younger generation who left the area and have subsequently developed different lifestyles and needs.[...]

In the OES 2 sector we have two villages who have received considerable assistance from the Kuwaiti Fund. The Fund provided financial payments to former residents of the villages of Rshaf and Hanin whose homes were destroyed as a result of the war. While the returned residents of both villages are appreciative of the assistance they received it was interesting to note them comment that the development that followed the reconstruction of the homes has been very limited. The majority of the people whose homes have been rebuilt do not in fact reside in the villages as there are no work opportunities for them there. Many of these people return to use their homes in the weekends. Those that are actually living there on a permanent basis tend to be elders of the village who work their small land lots sustaining themselves on small scale agriculture.”

See also:

MACC SL, “[Post Mine Clearance Review of Operations Emirates Solidarity, Area 1](#)”, 2004
The [website of the Mine Action Coordination Centre for South Lebanon \(MACC SL\)](#)

South Lebanon: 25 years of instability and occupation destroyed socio-economic fabric needed for return (2002)

- The local economy, basic infrastructure, housing and social systems were largely dismantled following more than 25 years of occupation
- The area once occupied by Israel included an approximate resident population of 104,000 inhabitants (73 villages)
- A number of factors including severe social and economic restraints led to an exodus in particular of youth towards safer areas

UNDP, 2002

“The region of Southern Lebanon has been a region of instability and military conflict for the past twenty five years. The continued Israeli attacks on the region, most recently those in June 1993 and April 1996, have resulted in considerable damage to the basic infrastructure and services, productive sectors, and private housing, as well as the rupture of the economic and social fabrics and systems. The local economy has been badly effected and the prevailing situation has led to a wave of steady migration. After more than 25 years of occupation, the Israeli forces evacuated southern Lebanon in May 2000.

The region of Southern Lebanon referred to within the context of this Programme is bounded from the north and the west by the Litani river, and from the South by the 1949 internationally recognized border between Lebanon and Israel. Thus, it refers to the four districts of Tyre, Bint-Jbeil, Marjeyo, and Hasbaya. The Israeli Controlled Area used to include 73 villages with an approximate resident population of 104,000 inhabitants. In general, residents of the ICA suffered from severe economic and social constraints due to the difficult constraints imposed on them. In addition to the lack of contact with the rest of the country, residents faced the dangers of military actions every day. All of these factors have had serious repercussions on the socio-economic development of the area and the long-term economic prospects of the residents, causing the exodus of a considerable percentage of the residents, especially youth, towards safer areas.

The majority of the families in the southern Lebanon rely on agriculture as their primary source of livelihood. However, such income sources are seasonal and irregular and do not cover the basic needs of families. Agriculture is mostly developed in areas where irrigation water is available. Irrigated areas are planted with fruit trees, whereas cultivation in arid areas is limited to olives and tobacco. Where they exist, irrigation networks are old and need rehabilitation. The marketing of agricultural output is dependent on the local market. In many villages, war related activities used to constitute the majority of the income to households in the region. Basic socio-economic infrastructure is in a very bad condition. Education and health service infrastructure is weak. The road system in the region is in a very poor condition and in urgent need of rehabilitation. The majority of the villages do not have access to water systems, and where they exists water networks are damaged because of the military operations. Some of these villages resort to the use of precipitation water stored in artificial reservoirs without taking any sanitary precautions. Sewer networks is almost in-existent in most villages, and houses depend on sanitary pits with disastrous effects on the underground water and the environment.”

See also: "[The Development of South Lebanon: Assessing needs and defining priorities](#)" United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), 4 March 2001

Seminar on "[ESCWA Assistance for South Lebanon: Achievements and Proposed Projects](#)", United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), 9 June 2003

Evacuation of Israeli troops from South Lebanon prompted former residents to return to the area (2001)

- Lebanese government has difficulty to cope with the number of applications for a return to south Lebanon following the evacuation of Israeli troops

HRW, December 2000

"Israel's unilateral military withdrawal from south Lebanon in May, followed by the rapid collapse of the Israeli-backed militia – the South Lebanon Army (SLA) – marked the abrupt end of over two decades of occupation for the civilian population. Families who had fled violence, intimidation and impoverishment in the occupied zone began to return as well as those whom the SLA had summarily expelled from their homes."

Ibrahim in Daily Star, 7 February 2001

"[T]he liberation of the South and the possibility of people returning to their homes has eased a lot of the pressure that was a problem last year. The only problem we have to deal with is the scope of the issue', including the processing of applications [Shadi Masaad, Director of the Central Fund for the Displaced said], [...] 'because we are not equipped to deal with the 2,500 applications we receive everyday."

The 1989 Taif Agreement declared the return of the displaced necessary for reconciliation and sustainable peace (2000)

- Taif Agreement acknowledged the right of every Lebanese citizen displaced since 1975 to go back to the place from which she/he was displaced
- It also pledged financial support to enable the displaced to reconstruct their homes and villages

Assaf & El-Fil, 7 April 2000

"The Document of National Understanding (known as the Taif Agreement after the Saudi city in which Lebanese parliamentarians met to agree it) was signed in 1989. It put an end to the fighting and declared the return of displaced persons a necessary condition for permanent reconciliation and sustainable peace: 'The Lebanese territory is one and undivided land for all the Lebanese people. Every Lebanese citizen has the right to live anywhere on this territory under the sovereignty of law; there is no division, no separation and no settlement of people on the basis of their belonging.

The document sought a just and enduring solution to the dilemma of the displaced. It required the government to 'solve completely the problem of IDPs, and acknowledge the right of every Lebanese citizen displaced since 1975 to come back to the place from which he/she was displaced; to establish the legislation that safeguards this right and ensure the means of reconstruction.'

The Taif Agreement thus stressed not only the right of IDPs to return to their place of original residence but also pledged financial support to enable them to reconstruct their homes and villages. This has always been a major issue in all attempts to put an end to conflict in Lebanon. It was one of the main concerns at the Lausanne Conference in 1984. It was also an important feature of the abortive Tripartite Agreement between militias under the aegis of Syria, which provided for the return of IDPs within a period of 'three months after the formation of a new Cabinet'.

The right of IDPs to return to their homes was formalized in 1990 through an amendment to the 1926 Constitution. The right of Lebanese citizens to unrestricted freedom of movement and residence in all parts of the country was enshrined in the constitution. An implicit corollary was rejection of any kind of partition of the territory of Lebanon."

[View the Lebanese Charter of National Reconciliation \(Ta'if Agreement\) \(1989\)](#)

Obstacles to return and resettlement

Political crisis and inflation in building materials among causes for delays in compensation payments and rebuilding (2008)

- Delays in compensation payments have been caused by political deadlock as well as rivalry between donors
- Some residents are also petitioning the government claiming that damage to their homes were undervalued
- In interviews with Al Wa'ad, the foundation tasked to oversee the reconstruction of Beirut's southern suburbs, claimed a lack of cooperation from the government was hampering work

IRIN, 24 April 2008

"Two hundred and nineteen buildings were destroyed in all. A further 150 buildings were partially destroyed and 233 buildings damaged, according to Lebanon's Higher Relief Council (HRC).

Nearly two years on, Salam Hassoun and other residents of the southern suburbs returned to the first newly built apartment block this month only to find themselves caught up in the political conflict between the government and the Hezbollah-led opposition that has hampered reconstruction and left many displaced families tens of thousands of dollars in debt.[...]

After the July War, triggered by Hezbollah militants capturing two Israeli soldiers in a cross-border raid, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah pledged to rebuild every home damaged by the conflict. The party made initial distributions of \$12,000 to affected residents, financed by a \$150m donation from key Hezbollah-backer Iran.

In October 2006 Prime Minister Fouad Siniora launched an appeal to international donors for \$1.3 billion for post-war reconstruction. So far the government says it has received only \$748.3 million, most from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, and has spent \$466.3 million on reconstruction - \$141.1 million of which in the southern suburbs. The government promised compensation in two payments of \$26,666 to each family who lost their home due to the war.

Since December 2006, however, Hezbollah has led opposition to the coalition government, resigning from the cabinet, accusing the government of pursuing US and Israeli interests and refusing to elect a replacement to former President Emile Lahoud, whose term expired in November 2007. [...]

Officials from Hezbollah's construction firm Waad, which means "promise" in Arabic, say the political split has hampered its efforts to rebuild the southern suburbs.

"Our first goal is to rebuild the suburbs as soon as possible because the people are part of the victory Hezbollah achieved in the July War, and this victory will not be complete unless we rebuild all the houses," Waad General Manager Hassan Jeshi told IRIN.

"There are many obstacles facing Waad; two years on from the war the government has only paid residents 55 percent of the first compensation payment promised, which means it has paid only about a quarter of total compensations promised," said Jeshi.

Waad has been demanding the government pay the compensation due to residents directly to the Hezbollah construction firm in order to pay for the rebuilding of homes.

The government has refused to pay money directly to Waad, saying it pays only to individual residents, and said compensation payments have been complicated because many buildings in the southern suburbs were built illegally during the 1976-1990 Civil War, or residents do not have legal documents proving tenancy or ownership.

Of the 17,904 homes in the southern suburbs processed, some 13,706 have received cheques, according to the HRC website covering post-July-war reconstruction. [...]

Hoda Alam Aldeen, an architecture professor at the American University of Beirut (AUB) and member of Waad's consulting committee, rejected accusations that buildings in the southern suburbs were illegal.

"Only two out of 219 [destroyed] buildings are illegal and we found a solution for these buildings by buying land so we can rebuild these buildings on it," she said.

The stall in compensation payments has left residents in the southern suburbs indebted to Hezbollah, which has demanded residents sign legal documents granting Waad the right to rebuild their homes and to collect their compensation money if and when it is paid by the government.

Rent payments while displaced and purchasing new furniture have left residents further in debt. Salam Hassoun said she spent nearly \$9,000 on rent between late September 2006 and January 2008, of which Hezbollah paid \$4,000, and she took a \$17,000 loan for buying furniture and making improvements to her flat that Waad rebuilt. Hassoun also owes Waad \$48,000 for rebuilding her home, which is to be paid on receiving compensation from the government. She has not yet received her first payment. [...]

Waad's Jeshi said despite the stall in compensation, the firm was rebuilding 200 of the 219 destroyed buildings using "clean money" - a reference to Iran, which finances Hezbollah - and hopes to finish the job by the end of 2009.

To date, Waad has repaired 105 of the 150 partially destroyed buildings with all 1,470 families moved back in. So far the firm has only rebuilt one of the 219 destroyed buildings, meaning only 25 of the 3,405 families whose homes were completely destroyed have been able to move back."

IRIN, 11 April 2007

"International efforts to repair Lebanon's war damage offer examples of bridging the sectarian divide, but rivalries between external donors, as well as the domestic political crisis between Hezbollah and the Sunni-led government of Prime Minister Fouad Siniora, are hampering reconstruction efforts, observers say. [...]

While spending goes on, about 200 residents of Bint Jbeil have petitioned Qatar that surveys made by the Lebanese government's Council of the South had underestimated the damage to their homes [...]

Iran's major reconstruction aid to Lebanon is being hampered by the opposition campaign against the government, led by its ally Hezbollah, analysts say. [...]

But it is over rebuilding the rubble of Beirut’s southern suburbs that political wrangling has been most intense, often to the detriment of the area’s homeless residents. [...]

[H]ezzbollah’s construction firm Jihad al Binaa – meaning ‘The Struggle to Build’ – claims it has been hampered in efforts to begin rebuilding Dahiyeh, Beirut’s worst-hit southern suburb, because of a lack of cooperation from the government.”

[See related documents linked below]

Cluster bombs continue to pose obstacle to land use (2008)

- Cost of agricultural production loss estimated at 22.6-26.8 million US\$
- Access was also denied to 26 per cent of arable land
- With half of the working population in the south relying on agriculture, the loss of the harvest had a profound impact
- A December 2006 report by the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) initially found around one quarter of all farmland had been infected, though the UN now estimates the figure is higher

Landmine action, May 2008

Table 1a. Summary of current and projected losses due to cluster munition contamination

Area of economic cost	Lower estimated loss (US\$)	Upper estimated loss (US\$)
Costs of lost agricultural production	22.6 million	26.8 million
Cost of clearance and risk reduction activities	120.4 million	120.4 million
Cost of deaths and injuries	10.8 million	86 million
Total	153.8 million	233.2 million

IRIN, 22 January 2008

“Tens of thousands of the bomblets still lie on farmland, however, making agriculture - the mainstay of the economy in south Lebanon on which 16,000 families depend - a dangerous and increasingly unprofitable pursuit.

A December 2006 report by the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) initially found around one quarter of all farmland had been infected, though the UN now estimates the figure is higher, and that nearly US\$100 million in crops had been lost, along with 20,000 livestock.

Head of operations at Zawtar West Ghassan Suleiman said many farmers continue to plough their fields even knowing the land is littered with unexploded ordnance.

“Several farmers could not wait to plant their tobacco and vegetables and so took the risk and ploughed,” Suleiman told IRIN. “Many farmers and shepherds have been injured while sheep and many goats have been killed in the past two months, which represents a big loss for farmers.”

Tobacco crops have been hit particularly hard, with official figures reporting a 20 percent drop in the last harvest. Local farmers say their land has been so badly poisoned by the scorching of

explosions that where 20kg of tobacco plant would have grown, today yields on the same soil are just one kilogramme.

Many farmers have been forced to abandon their land and lease non-infected land, adding a further heavy cost and reducing profits for some to less than US\$1,000 for the year.”

UNSC, 28 October 2007

“Cluster munitions victimize entire communities, not just individuals. The scale of the problem of unexploded remnants of war was a major factor preventing 200,000 people from returning to their homes in south Lebanon last year. Access was also denied to 26 per cent of arable land. With half of the working population in the south relying on agriculture, the loss of the harvest had a profound impact”

[See [Counting the Cost: the economic impact of cluster munition contamination in Lebanon](#), May 2008]

CRI Survey: Destruction of homes and lack of employment opportunities barriers to durable returns (2007)

- Most villages surveyed were found not to have been affected demographically following the 2006 war
- This rapid return was attributed to a willingness to return and a sense of belonging as well as to the availability of institutional support
- In very few villages, around 10% of the inhabitants, whose dwellings were still destroyed, had not returned
- However, the economic crisis caused by the war, was a factor forcing some people to leave their areas

Consultation and Research Institute, June 2007

“The demographic structure of the surveyed villages was not significantly affected by the war. The return of almost all the inhabitants left the social fabric of these areas intact; in around fifteen villages, the indicators were left unchanged following the war. Nevertheless, the current economic crisis is leading to a gradual increase in the levels of migration.

The number of permanent residents was evaluated as mostly unchanged as a result of the war. The prompt return of most inhabitants following the war maintained the level of permanent residents at its pre-war level. Some surveyed villages saw an earlier wave of migration, during the first years of the civil war and the Arab-Israeli conflict. But the July 2006 war did not see such movement of population. In very few villages, around 10% of the inhabitants, whose dwellings are still destroyed, did not return. The level of permanent residents declined relatively more in urban areas, where some inhabitants returned to their hometowns.

The rapid return of most of the displaced inhabitants was the result of two causes. The first cause is the willingness and sense of belonging of citizens, which prompted them to return to their villages immediately after the end of the hostilities. The second cause was the ‘institutional’ support of this return, illustrated by the support and compensation provided by non-governmental bodies, including political parties, the government and the Arab and international community.

The levels of migration were deemed to be a more serious problem, with the migration indicators declining by an average of 10%. The increase in these levels is not directly caused by the war,

but is a reflection of the economic crisis, forcing some inhabitants to leave their areas in search of employment opportunities.”

Majority of cluster munitions dropped in last 72 hours before ceasefire with intention to inhibit and prevent return (2008)

- International concern has prompted a number of investigations into the use of cluster bombs in Lebanon

HRW, February 2008

“After the conflict, international concern prompted a number of investigations. A group of four UN Special Rapporteurs traveled to Israel and Lebanon and released a report in October 2006 to the UN Human Rights Council, which criticized Israel’s use as “inconsistent with principles of distinction and proportionality.” The Special Rapporteurs reported that although Israel said it acted in accordance with IHL, “actual practice fell short” in various respects, including the “reckless, perhaps even deliberately reckless, use of cluster munitions.” The panel noted that Israel claimed cluster munitions were the most effective weapon against Hezbollah launch sites, but that the “IDF interlocutors of the mission did not provide any information that would confirm that these weapons were in practice used in a manner consistent with this military rationale.”

The Special Rapporteurs noted that some Israeli officials denied the allegation that the majority of cluster munitions were fired in the last 72 hours, while others said there was a gradual crescendo in use of cluster munitions in the last 10 days. The panel concluded, “If proven, the widely reported claim that the great majority of these bombs were dropped in the final 72 hours of the campaign, when a ceasefire was imminent, would indicate an intention to inhibit and prevent the return of civilians and a reckless disregard for the predictable civilian casualties that have occurred.”

Read the [report of the Special Rapporteurs](#)

Post 2006 conflict, extensive reconstruction necessary (2007)

UNDP, 12 September 2007

“Damage to civilian infrastructure was extensive: 125,000 housing units, 612 public schools and 80 private schools, 97 bridges, 16 hospitals and 65 outpatient clinics, 850 commercial enterprises in the manufacturing and service sectors, 151 segments of the road network, and damage to three airports, including the international airport in Beirut. The cost of reconstruction was estimated by the government to be in the order of US\$2.8 billion.”

Overview of challenges for returning communities and people who remain in a situation of displacement (2007)

- Human rights concerns for the medium and longer term recovery for displaced and returning populations include the urgent need for clearance of all unexploded ordnance and the rebuilding of civilian homes and other infrastructure
- In addition there is a need for resolution of property-related legal issues in South Beirut and southern Lebanon, the restoration of economic activities and infrastructures; and health systems in Lebanon, which have been affected by the displacement of medical staff and damage to health facilities

- In the longer term it will be necessary to develop and implement a strategy, through proper consultation with those affected by the displacement, for redressing the social and economic inequalities with regard to the South

COI, 23 November 2006

“While the longer term consequences of displacement are difficult to measure, it is clear that the displacement of nearly one-quarter of the country’s population will have lasting social and economic repercussions, both for host communities and for communities of origin. Routine health services, including child immunization, were severely disrupted during the displacement period and, as many IDPs continue to live with relatives and friends, efforts to re-launch these services are complicated. Economic activity was severely disrupted during the conflict and even after due to the continuation of the blockade; at the same time, displaced persons were forced to rely on family and extended social networks for their survival and deplete their savings, placing a strain on both displaced and host families. The presence of unexploded ordnance continues to act as a major impediment to the return of IDPs and refugees, as well as threatening the lives and livelihoods of those who have chosen to return, and will further exacerbate the social and economic impact of displacement.[...]

Other challenges may include problems associated with the breakdown of communities, such as increased violence – in particular gender-based violence; difficulties linked to family reunification and tracing of family members; legal and financial issues related to property, as well as access to compensation and restitution for victims. These problems may be particularly acute for female heads of household and other women, who may be marginalized or isolated from social support networks [...]

Serious human rights concerns for the medium and longer term recovery for displaced and returning populations include the urgent need for clearance of all unexploded ordnance; rebuilding of civilian homes and other infrastructure, as well as resolution of property-related legal issues in South Beirut and southern Lebanon; [...]restoration of economic activities and infrastructures; and restoring and strengthening health systems in Lebanon, which have been affected by the displacement of medical staff and damage to health facilities.[...] Longer-term rehabilitation and recovery also will require the development and implementation of a strategy, through proper consultation with those affected by the displacement, for redressing the social and economic inequalities with regard to the South.”

UN GA, 2 October 2006

“While each category of person faces specific problems, the main obstacles to the resumption of a life in safety and dignity are to a large extent shared by persons still displaced, returnees, and those who did not leave their homes in South Lebanon during the conflict. In Lebanon, the major obstacles to resumption of normal life in the affected areas are the violations of the right to adequate housing and health, including the destruction of housing, lack of access to water, electricity and sanitation, and the dangers of unexploded ordnance.”

Cluster bombs and other unexploded ordnance pose obstacle to return to the south (2006)

- A paramount concern for the protection of the displaced returning to their homes, as well as to the lives of humanitarian and reconstruction workers and others, is the threat posed by unexploded ordnance, in particular cluster munitions
- Some 965 individual strike locations have been identified by the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre south of the Litani river (as of 14 April 2008)

- 90 per cent of cluster bombs are believed to have been discharged in the three days prior to the cessation of hostilities
- Most casualties have been young men and boys
- In the aftermath of the conflict, the majority of fatalities occurred during "reconnaissance of homes"
- In addition to cluster munitions, the south and areas in the north and east of Lebanon are also littered with rockets, mortars and other ordnance
- Prior to the 12 July crisis, there was already a significant threat of mines laid by Israel before it withdrew from south Lebanon in 2000

MACC-SL, 14 April 2008

"Tragically, the continued threat from ERW, specifically unexploded sub-munitions continues to pose a danger to the lives of locals and hinders development and reconstruction activities."

MACC-SL reported 965 individual cluster strikes in an estimated contaminated area of 38,819,694 million square miles. MACC-SL reported 245 civilian casualties in South Lebanon since 14 August 2006 up to 31 March 2008 from cluster bombs and other unexploded ordnance.

COI, 10 November 2006

"Following the cessation of hostilities on 14 August, massive numbers of internally displaced persons and refugees returned to their areas of origin, particularly in southern Lebanon and the southern suburbs of Beirut. According to UNHCR, approximately 90 per cent of those displaced in Lebanon during the hostilities returned to their homes, or were staying nearby, within days of the ceasefire. Some, however, were displaced for a second time, having returned home to find their homes uninhabitable and their livelihoods destroyed. [...] A paramount concern for the protection of the displaced returning to their homes, as well as to the lives of humanitarian and reconstruction workers, peacekeeping personnel, and others, is the constant and pernicious threat posed by unexploded ordnance, in particular cluster munitions."

NDO, 6 November 2006

According to the Lebanese National Demining Office, the majority of fatalities have occurred during "reconnaissance of homes"

UNSC, 12 September 2006, p.10

"[A]n estimated 90 per cent of all cluster bombs were discharged between the time of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) on 11 August and the actual cessation of hostilities on 14 August. [...]"

In addition to cluster munitions, unexploded bombs, rockets, mortars and other ordnance also litter the south and areas in the north and east of Lebanon. [...]"

The contamination poses a serious threat to the deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces and the enhanced UNIFIL Force whose mission is to assist them. Unexploded ordnance has been found inside UNIFIL bases, along patrol routes and in proposed locations for the expanded deployment. The humanitarian impact of these explosive remnants of war on civilians has resulted in at least 14 deaths and 57 injuries. The vast majority of these casualties have been young men and boys. In addition to the threat to human lives, unexploded ordnance poses an obstacle to the return of displaced families, access to housing and agriculture activities affecting the livelihoods of the population of southern Lebanon."

UNSC, 18 August 2006, para. 53

“The conflict resulted in considerable unexploded ordnance contamination south of the Litani River and in areas in the north and east of the country. The widespread contamination of unexploded ordnance and mines has already led to maiming injuries and deaths among returnees to the South. Initial assessments of the Mines Advisory Group, a United Kingdom non-governmental organization, indicated that unexploded ordnance contamination in Lebanon was on a far higher scale than that identified in Iraq after the end of the war in 2003. Bombs, missiles, rockets, mortars, cluster bomblets and other sub-munitions litter routes, housing and the debris that must be cleared for reconstruction to commence. In the days since the cessation of hostilities went into affect, reports of civilian casualties, most notably from cluster bomblets and sub-munitions, have already been reported. The contamination presents a significant obstacle to humanitarian efforts and a threat to men, women, boys and girls returning to their homes and daily activities.”

MACCSL, 12 April 2006

“The Blue Line minefields continue to cause death and injury to the local population as well as denying prime agricultural and grazing land. There has been a steady rise in the number of casualties and this trend will continue until these Blue Line minefields are cleared from the threat of mines.”

MACCSL, 14 February 2006

“When Israel withdrew from South Lebanon in year 2000 it left behind a deadly legacy of some half million landmines. Even though five years have now passed since the end of the occupation the bulk of these landmines are still in place and causing death and injury to the local population.[...]

The number of mine incidents and civilian casualties are tragically increasing as the local demand for land continues to grow. In response, the MACC SL sought permission from the Government of Lebanon to commence clearance operations in the most affected locations along the Blue Line. Permission was granted in October 2005 and one mine clearance team, was assigned permanently to work in those minefields; permission to work in additional areas is being sought. This is an encouraging development, as these minefields continue to prevent the use of large areas of prime agricultural or grazing land having a direct impact on the life of the communities living adjacent to them.[...]

In spite of some 1,103,383 sq m being cleared and released back to the community and 385 landmines located and destroyed in 2005, civilian casualties have begun a worrying trend upwards. In 2005, 11 people were injured and 4 people killed as a direct result of the remaining landmine threat in South Lebanon. This tragic increase is largely due to an increased demand to use the limited available land for local agriculture and herd grazing: Five years after the withdrawal, South Lebanon is still struggling to return to normalcy following 22 years of occupation and the lethal legacy of the 370,000 remaining landmines consistently hinders this human struggle and routinely causes death, injury and disability.”

Lebanese National Demining Office, 2004

“While the number of landmine victims has been significantly reduced, remaining landmines and UXO have continued to affect the confidence of people living in the area and of those who might otherwise return, and, therefore, to seriously and adversely impact reconstruction, socio-economic development and general community life in the affected communities. This leads to the conclusion that a continued concerted mine action effort is not only justified, it is a necessary factor in the process to improve the social and economic well being of Lebanon.”

UN HCHR, 31 March 2004

“Even though some of the maps of the minefields have been turned over to the United Nations, many minefields are unmarked and unknown minefields are still suspected to exist. Moreover, the

process of verifying the accuracy of the maps is a lengthy one. According to UNIFIL officials, at the current rate of clearance, it will take at least four more years to clear known mines. The terrain of Lebanon also presents a more difficult task challenge. The rocky mountainous terrain hampers clearance efforts, driving the costs of de-mining up.

This problem is complicating the return of displaced people and hindering long-term reconstruction and socio-economic development of the south. The full cooperation of all parties to the conflict responsible for the planting of mines is an imperative for humanitarian reasons.”(UN HCHR, 31 March 2004)

For regular updates, see the [website of the Lebanese National Demining Office \(NDO\)](#) and the [website of the Mine Action Coordination Centre South Lebanon \(MACC SL\)](#)

For information regarding the impact of mines in Lebanon prior to 2006 see:

“[The Landmine Resource Center for Lebanon](#)” by Habbouba Aoun, Journal of Mine Action , December 2001

“[The Impact of Landmines on Socio-Economic Development in Southern Lebanon](#)”, by Mohamed Abdulkadir Ahmed, Journal of Mine Action, December 2001

Lack of reconciliation in certain areas prevents return of displaced communities (2005)

- In several villages, return has been complicated due to lack of reconciliation between communities, in particular in the Chouf-Aley villages between the Druze and Christian communities
- Some displaced people believe that it is more a matter of funds

Daily Star, 1 October 2005

“Nehme Tohme, minister for the displaced, threatened he would resign if the government does not grant his ministry the \$400 million needed for the return of the remaining internally displaced persons. In an interview with Magazine, Tohme said that between 70 and 90 percent of damaged or destroyed houses in areas the displaced should return to have been repaired, according to UN statistics. According to Tohme, 40 percent of Baabda's displaced population has returned, while 30 percent of Aley's displaced are back in their hometowns and 42 percent of the displaced from Chouf villages and towns have returned. Tohme reiterated that reconciliation between Druze and Christians is still being awaited in seven villages”

Daily Star, 29 April 2004

“Some argue that reconciliation in Chouf-Aley villages will not materialize without the election of a municipal council. But others disagree, and maintain that cancelling the elections is the only way to keep the pressure on for the return of the Christian displaced communities to their villages which they share with Druze residents.

‘How could we elect a council if we cannot live in our village and preserve our properties,’ said Mikhael Khouri, a displaced citizen of Abey and a member of the joint committee for reconciliation. ‘The government has to fulfill its obligation before demanding that we reconcile; we cannot elect it by remote control.’

In 1979, the Interior Ministry decided to suspend all elections in the displaced areas that had not reconciled yet.

'The government's decision is not wise;' said Naif Gharzeddine, a displaced medical doctor from Baawirta. 'The council could assist in the dialogue between concerned parties and help bring them closer,' he said.

In Daqoun, whose Christian inhabitants are displaced, a group of young individuals, mainly from the Shaaya and Shalhoub families, formed an uncontested council and won by default.

Khouri does not approve of such an approach, 'because this may delay the return of the displaced, and weakens our collective efforts for compensation and reconciliation,' he said.

In Abey-Ain Drafil, the present council is 41 years old; out of 10 members only three run the municipal affairs. 'This should not continue any further,' said Khouri. 'We must return as soon as possible before new facts on the ground become irreversable.'

Khouri was referring to new roads and houses built on churches and private properties.

Ain Ksour, another mixed community in Shehhar al-Gharbi, managed to reconcile before 1998 and the displaced returned to elect a municipal council. The inhabitants will participate in the elections next Sunday.

'In Ain Ksour, the problem and disputes between the two communities were not as severe as in Kfar Matta,' Mayor Khaddag said. 'Whereas, in our village the wound is deeper and the division is hard to bridge between the two communities,' he added.

The problem lies in the hands of the government according to Khouri.

'We have no dispute with our Druze fellow citizens. In fact, they demand that we return to live with them as we did for hundreds of years,' Khouri said.

'However, the Ministry of the Displaced claims not to have the funds needed to compensate for damages and losses. Money is the key to solving all issues,' he added.

Fouad Hamzeh, the vice president of Abey municipality, agreed with Khouri and said that, 'Shouf MP Walid Jumblatt told the reconciliation committee that the funds will come from outside the official budget and will help solve the problem very soon.'

Kfar Matta is one of the unbending parties that put stiff conditions on any reconciliation efforts. 'Therefore,' said Hamzeh, 'the file of Abey-Ain Drafil is now separate from Kfar Matta. When the funds become available and there is a return of displaced citizens, the elections will take place three months later.'

Kfar Matta Mayor Fouad Khaddag encourages reconciliation. However, he said that 'all contacts are made discreetly out of respect to the victims' feelings. The Christian militias shot 108 young men and women at close range during the Israeli presence in the village in 1982,' he said.

The militias left the victims unburied until their relatives returned five months later. 'This wound cannot heal easily,' Khaddag said.

The mayor admits that money, and large amounts of it, is one factor that could compensate for moral and material damages.

But, he acknowledges, 'Sooner or later, we will come together; we have no other choice,' he said."

Minister of Displaced: Lack of resources is the main reason for the delay in returns (2004)

- The Minister of Displaced refutes accusations of corruption in the ministry; including that it has used its funds for electoral or other personal purposes
- He noted in the interview that almost all villages that witnessed displacement during the war have seen their inhabitants return
- According to the Minister, there are three remaining towns where reconciliation has not been achieved: Brih in the Chouf, Kfarselwan in the Metn and Kfar Matta in Aley
- These villages, according to him, are exceptionally difficult cases
- Reconciliation and the return of the displaced are stipulated by the 1989 Taif Accord yet remain unresolved 14 years after the civil war ended
- According to the Minister, the reason for this delay is financial
- In the mid 1990s, the Lebanese Parliament endorsed a law granting the ministry LL680 billion, to be paid by 2000, yet the ministry claims not to have received this sum

Daily Star, 17 June 2004

"Minister for the Displaced Abdullah Farhat revealed on Monday that financial obstacles have until now been the reason hindering the return of the displaced to their hometowns. Farhat, who was speaking in the Baabda town of Ras al-Metn during the inauguration of the Exchange Meeting for the Youth in the Southern Metn, hoped that allocations would be released as soon as possible for the displaced file to be closed permanently.

The minister also spoke about the importance of undertaking the reconciliation projects in the mountain through accurate follow-up policies that respect the uniqueness of every file.

Farhat praised Ras al-Metn on succeeding in setting a role model to future towns of reconciliations. Farhat's speech was preceded earlier in the day with a visit to the Saydet al-Beshara Church and to the annual book fair that was inaugurated by Metn MP Ghassan Moukheiber."(Daily Star, 10 August 2004)

"During his chat with reporters, Farhat raised political and economic subjects. He also tackled the portfolio of the displaced, and the question of why 14 years after the end of the 1975-90 civil war, this file still has not been completed.

An economist, Farhat spoke at length about the current state of the economy and the tense political climate.

'The problem is that the economy is being held hostage by the political bickering,' he said, in reference to the constant squabbles between President Emile Lahoud and Premier Rafik Hariri.

"I believe that the first move that ought to be made is to release the economic portfolio from political bickering,' he said.

But beyond this dispute, lies a major socioeconomic problem, which Farhat said would need a miracle to be resolved.

[...]

Farhat proved to be a great defender of the Ministry for the Displaced, which has been mostly handled by members of Druze Leader Walid Jumblatt's Democratic Gathering - of which Farhat himself is a member.

'I don't think that any other ministry has dealt with the effects of the war like the ministry of the displaced did. ... We have worked with the wounded and the families of the victims. We have made people who had been separated by bloodshed sit together and reconcile. No other ministry has had to handle such a hard task,' he said.

Farhat refutes accusations of corruption in the ministry; that it had used its funds for electoral or other personal purposes. 'Before people point such accusations at us, let them tell us who else has done anything to mend the wounds of the war. We have achieved 80 percent of our goal. This is not negligible,' he said.

Farhat spoke about the achievements of the ministry and the fund for the displaced with great pride. 'There were some mistakes, of course, but they are very, very minor. On the other hand, it has been able to reconcile with the parents of victims of great massacres - something many people might have thought impossible,' he said.

Almost all the villages which had witnessed displacement during the war have seen their inhabitants return. There are, however, three remaining towns where reconciliation has not been achieved: Brih in the Chouf, Kfarselwan in the Metn and Kfar Matta in Aley.

These villages, according to Farhat, are yet to be dealt with because they are exceptionally difficult cases. 'They need human and psychological healing, as well as a lot of resources,' he said. He said Kfar Matta, is an exceptionally tricky case because of the atrocious massacres there - including the slaying of 180 members of one family, 'and this is why it is still hanging.'

Matters of 'reconciliation' and the 'return of the displaced' are binding; they are stipulated by the 1989 Taif Accord. But while they were expected to be completed sooner, they remain unresolved 14 years after the civil war ended.

According to Farhat, the reason for this delay is financial. In the mid 1990s, Parliament endorsed a law granting the ministry LL680 billion, outside the budget allocated to it in the state's yearly budget, to be paid by 2000. But the ministry still has not seen any of the money.

'If they pay the money, then the problem would be solved without delay. But we are short of resources,' he said, adding, 'we realize that paying such an amount would be a great burden on the treasury, but we cannot proceed without resources. ... People tend to forget the importance of the file of the displaced. It is crucial! And once it is solved, we'll have closed the door on the war forever. Until then, that door is still open.'"

For information on support to Lebanon, see "[Lebanon: Paris II Meeting](#)", Government of Lebanon, 14 November 2002

Caritas Survey: Many displaced unable to return due to lack of socio-economic conditions and financial support (2004)

- A survey begun by Caritas in 2001 in 110 villages, found that of 28,400 displaced families, only 5,396 people had returned
- The survey was undertaken in Aley, Chouf and Baada in 31 villages completely destroyed and 79 partially destroyed
- Many IDP families have lost hope of returning due to lack of socio-economic conditions (employment, health and educational facilities, etc.) in the Mount Lebanon region
- A number of displaced people have also received only partial funding from the government due to shortage in government funding

Caritas, 1 August 2004

"One of the objectives [...] was to gather data on the displaced families since officially no information exist on the subject. Social mapping started in 2001 in the different displaced villages. The objective of the social mapping was the following:

1. Acquire the real number of families who originate from each village.
2. Acquire the real number of families displaced from that region.
3. Acquire the real number of returnees to that area.
4. Find out the reason of non-return

[...]

The social mapping was conducted in three stages dividing the study on the three counties: Aley, Chouf and Baabda areas. 110 villages in total were visited, 31 of which were completely destroyed while 79 were considered partially destroyed [...].

The statistics according to what we saw of the actual situation today are the following:

- Total number of original families: 28,400
- Total number of Displaced Families: 22,273 (78.40%)
- Total number of returnees: 5,396 (24.20%)
- Total number still displaced: 16,877 (75.80%)

[...]

The Displaced families have lost complete hope of proper return. The region is completely ignored in terms of educational, economic and health development and the fact that the government does not have any more funds to compensate the families whose homes were completely destroyed or even partially destroyed is making things worse. There are some families who have received one payment and are still waiting for the second or third. That is why, when passing thru the villages, most homes are skeletal and cannot be lived in.

All this, has contributed to the demoralization of the displaced families since their situation was not properly looked into since 1991 and this issue has been dragging for the past 14 years. A lot of funding was allocated to this issue but unfortunately, the villages are so underdeveloped and empty [...]. [A]ll aspects are affecting return: social, economical, reconstruction, health, education etc."

Slow return and resettlement due to corruption, political rivalries, lack of finances and security concerns (2002-2004)

- Several hundred thousand landmines located in the South have caused death and injury and cross-border fighting between Israeli forces and Hizbollah guerrillas continued (2003-2004)
- More funds are needed to speed return of displaced
- Over 50 per cent of return process completed according to CFD
- Experts on the issue of the displacement say that anywhere between 20-30 percent of the displaced will never return, mainly due to the loss of social ties with their areas of origin
- Young displaced people in particular often commute, between place of origin and areas where they have relocated close to jobs, businesses, or schools, giving rise to a type of 'partial return'

US DOS, 25 February 2004, Sect.2d

"The resettlement process was slowed by tight budgetary constraints, destroyed infrastructure, political feuds, a lack of schools and economic opportunities, and the fear that physical security still was inadequate in some parts of the country."

USCR, 24 May 2004

"Return has been slow due to corruption and political rivalries between government officials, lack of money, and security concerns. Several hundred thousand landmines located in the south have caused death and injury. In addition, cross-border fighting between the Israeli forces and *Hizballah* guerrillas continued."

USCR, 2003

"Return has been slow due to corruption and political rivalries between government officials, lack of money, and security concerns. However, the UN agencies and international donors continued to support the government's efforts to reintegrate the internally displaced.

Many villages were partially or totally destroyed, employment options were limited, and security was still inadequate. The destruction of infrastructure, shortage of schools, and lack of economic opportunities prevented returns to many villages of origin. Several hundred thousand landmines located in the south have caused death and injury. In addition, cross-border fighting between the Israeli forces and *Hizballah* guerrillas continued."

LebanonWire, 8 July 2002

"Despite efforts to settle the issue, 12 years after the civil war deadlines are still hard to meet. Since the end of the civil war, the return of an estimated 450,000 displaced Lebanese to their villages and towns has been one of the state's top priorities. Struggling under the heavy burden of public debt and general budget constraints, officials have sought to fund this return through the Central Fund for the Displaced. But deadlines to complete the return have come and gone, mainly due to government austerity policies - leaving no set time-frame for returning people to their original homes. 'Since 1993, both the Ministry for the Displaced and the CFD have been working for the return of displaced citizens within a comprehensive plan,' said Fadi Aramouni, the chairman of the CFD, who was appointed to his post at the end of last year. In an interview with *The Daily Star*, Aramouni said that despite officials' attempts to announce deadlines for the conclusion of the return process, no dates can be given for the time being. 'All we can say is that the CFD and the government are both working hard to complete this process,' Aramouni said.

According to Aramouni, over 50 percent of the process has been completed - though he conceded that 'it looks like only 10-15 percent.' He added that completing the returns was contingent upon additional funds, which are provided either by laws passed by Parliament or irregular contributions from annual budgets. Experts who deal with the issue of the displaced say that anywhere between 20-30 percent of the displaced will never return, because their social ties to their places of origin are irrevocably cut - a phenomenon particularly true for young people who never knew their home village. This group of displaced sometimes opt for maintaining their new residences while visiting their home villages when it is convenient, giving rise to a type of 'partial return.' Aramouni justified what he called the 'weekend or summer vacation return,' by saying most displaced had resettled in places close to their jobs, businesses or children's schools, and that they chose to go to their home towns and villages only for vacations. Although Aramouni said he understood the reasons for such a trend, he said the fund sought to make the return of these residents to their homes 'permanent and sustainable.'

Aramouni also admitted that in light of increased migration to the cities, his institution was going against the current by trying to motivate people to return to their villages. But he also argued that bringing the displaced back home should be easier now, given the expansion of Beirut's surrounding areas. According to the CFD chairman, during the past two years a considerable sum of money has contributed to a boost in the fund's activity. 'Over this period, the CFD has

spent 50-60 percent of the total sum of the money it spent since its establishment' in 1993. 'Even when we are running low on funds, the CFD has its own administrative work to do,' he said. 'The government has been the only source of cash for our office and consequently the pace of our activity has depended on how much money the Finance Ministry pumps into the CFD.'

Decision-making on CFD expenditures is done in coordination with the Finance Ministry and, as with any other public institution, a sum of money is allocated for the fund in the annual budget. Aramouni said that in 1999 Parliament approved a special grant to the CFD of \$300 million, but 'the Finance Ministry is still holding on to the money.' Finance Minister Fouad Siniora told the CFD it will receive funds in the near future. 'A week ago, (Siniora) promised us that our funding problem would be solved,' said Aramouni, who estimated the total sum spent on CFD activity since 1993 at around \$1 billion. He also said the fund needed an additional \$800 million to complete the return process. 'For 2002, LL60 billion (\$40 million) was allocated to the CFD (from the budget). We hope that funding continues after we receive this sum,' he said.

CFD expenditures cover compensation to displaced citizens whose houses have been either completely or partially destroyed. In the first case, the CFD pays citizens up to \$20,000 for reconstruction. This amount, given in three payments, varies according to the property's building space. In cases of partial destruction, the CFD pays up to \$12,000 for renovation, according to space and damage. In this case, the displaced receive compensation in two payments.

Aramouni warned citizens who have received their first payment but have not started reconstruction or renovation to do so soon, saying they would be held accountable for the money they received. He also urged those who have received their first payment and completed 50 percent or more of the work to contact the CFD to receive their next payment. CFD expenditures also cover minor and 'complementary' infrastructure projects, such as the rehabilitation of water networks and the paving of roads, which should provide the minimum conditions required for the return of the displaced. Aramouni went on to say that one of the major issues tackled by the CFD and the Ministry for the Displaced is that of the second-generation of displaced residents. Under the new policy, children of displaced people are entitled to apply for reconstruction and renovation compensation. 'This step is crucial and is in line with our vision for the future of these villages,' he said.

He also said the eviction of illegal occupants of deserted property - a crucial step in the return process - was nearly complete, with only some 'minor exceptions in Beirut, Mount Lebanon, and the North. 'We blame ourselves for not finishing the issue. It is unacceptable that 12 years after the conclusion of the war, we still have cases of occupied property.

'This has prompted us to revive our eviction plans,' he said, adding that such cases were concentrated in villages of the displaced where no post-war reconciliation has taken place. The government uses the term 'villages of reconciliation' for around 20 areas where war-time sectarian massacres took place involving people from the village. Funding the return in these areas cannot begin unless an official reconciliation and signing ceremony takes place. Aramouni said all the CFD needed to finalize reconciliation was funding, and that only five villages - Kfar Matta, Brih, Kfar Salwan, Dqoun and Awarta - have yet to be compensated.

The CFD pays \$20,000 for the family of each victim of the sectarian massacres committed during the civil war. 'The administrative procedure for these villages has been established, but we just need the funds to pay these families,' he said."

See also ["Post-war corruption inevitable without stronger institutions"](#), Daily Star, 18 February 2004

["The dilemma of the country's displaced"](#), Bejjani, Elias, 28 January 1999 [Internet]

Displaced for over 25 years, many do not want to return to their former homes (2002)

- The Lebanese government offered compensation to IDPs to rebuild their homes, but the majority of displaced have not yet reclaimed their properties (2003-2004)
- Director of the Central Fund for the Displaced acknowledged that after 25 years, many displaced persons have become part of a new social context
- Budgetary constraints, destroyed infrastructure, lack of schools and economic opportunities, as well as security concerns also account for slow resettlement process
- According to the Lebanese NGO Forum, common distrust between Christian and Druze populations and leadership, corruption, no clear government policy to guarantee return and the absence of infrastructure are factors explaining slow rate of return

USAID 17 November 2000

"The end of the war provided an opportunity for many Lebanese to return to their homes and villages and to start rebuilding their lives. However, this return has been difficult and the majority of displaced have not been able to resettle."

Ibrahim in Daily Star 7 February 2001

"Masaad [Shadi Masaad, Director of the Central Fund for the Displaced] said that when appointed fund director in 1999, he was provided with two sets of statistics; one prepared by local religious authorities who said that the rate of return was about 12 percent, and another provided by the Ministry of the Displaced which set the rate at about 35 percent. According to him, both figures 'are equally right and wrong' depending on whether return is defined as the ability to return or the actual process of return.

'The problem is not with the houses and their reconstruction, its much more complicated than that' [Masaad said]. He said it would be naïve to expect people to move back overnight after being away from their villages for over 25 years and after having become part of a new 'social context.' 'We can't expect people to give up their work, their children's schools, and go back to what would be a new environment, especially since we haven't provided any employment alternatives for them,' Masaad said.

U.S. DOS February 2001

"The resettlement process is slowed by tight budgetary constraints, destroyed infrastructure, political feud, the lack of schools and economic opportunities, and the fear that physical security still is incomplete in some parts of the country."

USAID 1997

"[R]eturn has been complicated by the reality that thousands of homes, villages and businesses were destroyed or severely damaged during the war. Electricity, water and telecommunications networks were destroyed, directly affecting 1.5 million people and cutting off potable and irrigation water. The abandonment of communities and farms not only affected economic growth, but resulted in severe environment degradation, urban overcrowding and unemployment."

Helou, 10 April 2001

According to Lebanese NGO Forum, "Many reasons explain this poor percentage of returnees:
1.the common distrust between Christian and Druze populations (Christians were forced to leave their region

- 2.the lack of will and "entente" between the Christian and Druze leadership
- 3.the widespread corruption that surrounded the return issue: the money allocated to the fund for the displaced was used by some officials in charge of the Fund for personal political reasons, which resulted in spoiled money benefiting to one part of the population at the expense of the other
- 4.the absence of a clear and firm political decision at government level to end this matter and guarantee the return of all the displaced
- 5.the absence of government policy to ensure proper infrastructure necessary to encourage the return of the displaced: reconstruction and restoration are not enough if initiatives at government level are not taken to follow up with developmental projects that will ensure socio-economic activities."

See also a survey on return to the South cited in "[The Development of South Lebanon: Assessing needs and defining priorities](#)", United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), 4 March 2001

Nahr el Bared Camp

Return to Nahr el Bared Camp expected to take several years (2007)

- A full return to NBC is expected to take at least two years
- A return plan has been prepared by the Government of Lebanon, the UN and other stakeholders

UNRWA, September 2007

"It is now clear that a considerable longer term humanitarian relief operation is needed, as the majority of those displaced will not be able to return in the immediate aftermath of the conflict due to the extent of the destruction. Indeed, a full return may take up to two years or more."

Lebanese Republic, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, 10 September 2007

"Addressing humanitarian needs of the Nahr el Bared displaced population together with those of the surrounding areas, will take longer than expected. During the first stages of planning of the emergency response, it was envisaged that the fighting would be short lived and access to the camp, including the return of displaced families to NBC would be possible during the first three months of implementation of the UNRWA Flash Appeal (June-August 2007). A Return Plan was prepared jointly by the Government of Lebanon, UNRWA, UN agencies and other stakeholders. Unfortunately, whereas a part of the NBC population will be able to return immediately, it is now clear that a longer term humanitarian relief operation will be required, and a full return to NBC will take longer than initially expected, at least two years."

Nahr el Bared surrounding areas, infrastructure affected by fighting (2007)

- Six municipalities were affected: Muhammara, Bebnine, Bhanine, Minieh, Beddawi and Deir Ammar

- Damage is estimated at 28 million USD, excluding housing and infrastructure within NBC and adjacent areas
- Initial assessment by World Bank suggests 6000 residential and commercial units damaged or destroyed
- Health and education infrastructure severely damaged
- Water wells and reservoirs damaged, some needing complete reconstruction

Lebanese Republic, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, “Relief and Early Recovery for the Municipalities around NBC”, 10 September 2007

“The region surrounding the NBC sustained serious damages over the period of the conflict. Six municipalities, which are among Lebanon’s poorest, were mainly affected. These include: Muhammara, Bebnine, Bhanine, Minieh, Beddawi and Deir Ammar. Several rockets were fired into these areas and neighboring villages causing human casualties and material damage. The direct damages sustained in these areas are mainly in housing and businesses that have been partially or totally destroyed. Indirect damages include: (i) the interruption of labor supply and inaccessibility to some farming fields, (ii) lack of access to the sea and damages to boats and fishing nets by the fishermen of Abdeh and Tripoli (iii) closure of businesses and cessation of economic activities near the conflict zone and (iv) the interruption of circulation on the highway had detrimental effect on all businesses directly or indirectly involved in the transport sectors.

The immediate vicinity of NBC includes two municipalities, Muhammara, and Bebnine. These have sustained direct and indirect damages during the fighting, both within their strict boundaries and in the parts of the so-called ‘New camp’ that is under their jurisdiction.

The direct damage wrought by the NBC crisis on the population of the six adjacent municipalities runs well above the USD28million. This excludes the cost of housing and infrastructure reconstruction within the NBC and the adjacent areas (i.e. new camp), as well as losses in economic output, jobs, and the long-term direct and indirect costs to the economy including lost revenues in tourism, agriculture and industry.”

Lebanese Republic, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Summary from World Bank Technical Note), 10 September 2007

“Nearly 6,000 residential and commercial units were damaged or destroyed. Even for building which have not been fully demolished, their structural integrity is at risk. Moreover, considering the extent of the damage, it would be justified to level the residential buildings to provide much improved urban planning and higher quality buildings. Also at least 433 small enterprises—especially single family artisans, shopkeepers—were also totally or partially destroyed by the heavy bombing and rocket explosions.

Health and education infrastructure was severely damaged, with 3 hospitals and 4 clinics requiring either reconstruction or extensive repair, and over 15 schools, mainly kindergarten, destroyed or damaged. With the education and health facilities hit in the UNRWA compound the damage almost doubles. The loss of public building (community centers, mosques) represents the second largest loss after the housing sector. Other infrastructure services like water supply, electricity and telecommunications, were less extensively impacted.

Among the infrastructure networks the water and sanitation sector suffered most. Water wells and reservoirs providing water for domestic needs and industry were damaged, most of which will need complete reconstruction. The small-scale industries and the few medium-scale enterprises locate in the vicinity of the old camp were affected. Roads sustained minor damage mainly as a result from the intensive use of heavy military vehicles. Other infrastructure services like power and telecommunications suffered minimal disruption. Civil administration was affected, with office

buildings and records destroyed. More problematic is the impact of chemical pollution on the ground water. An environmental health assessment will be required as soon as situation allows.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

General

Attacks on UNIFIL (2008)

- Since the adoption of UN Resolution 1701, UNIFIL has faced at least three direct attacks and a number of security threats

UNSC, 28 February 2008

“During the reporting period, UNIFIL faced another direct attack and a number of security threats. On 8 January 2008, an improvised explosive device was detonated by remote control as a UNIFIL vehicle passed by on the main coastal highway connecting Beirut to southern Lebanon, outside the town of Sidon. The explosion caused minor injuries to two Irish peacekeepers and material damage to the United Nations vehicle in which they were travelling. [...] This was the third attack against UNIFIL since the adoption of resolution 1701 (2006), in addition to other failed attacks against the Mission [...] This latest attack was perpetrated outside the area of operations along UNIFIL’s main supply route with the Lebanese capital.

Investigations by both Lebanese and Spanish national authorities into the 24 June 2007 attack against UNIFIL, which killed six peacekeepers serving with the Spanish contingent, are ongoing. To date, no one has claimed responsibility for this attack and the perpetrators remain unknown. The Lebanese national authorities also continued their investigation into the 16 July 2007 attack against a UNIFIL military police vehicle from the Tanzanian contingent and have informed UNIFIL that one of the suspected perpetrators is under arrest.”

[See related news coverage linked below]

Human rights NGOs denied access to Nahr el Bared Camp (2007)

- Human rights NGOs denied entry into Nahr el Bared Camp
- ALEF, PHRO, and Witness call on the Lebanese Government to grant access for all humanitarian and human rights’ NGOs to the Nahr el-Bared camp
- The letter also calls for an impartial investigation on allegations of violations of human rights to take place

ALEF, PHRO, Witness, 24 October 2007

ALEF, PHRO, and Witness call on the Lebanese Government to ensure access to Nahr el-Bared camp without discrimination

“After unsuccessfully trying to enter the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp in Northern Lebanon on Thursday, October 18, the undersigned NGOs call on the Lebanese Government to allow access to the camp for all humanitarian and human rights’ NGOs without discrimination.

On October 18, the Association Libanaise pour l’Education et la Formation (ALEF), along with the Palestinian Human Rights Organization (PHRO), the Palestinian Human Rights Association (Witness), and Human Rights Watch tried entering Nahr el-Bared camp. Despite two attempts at

different entries of the camp, pursuant of statements of local army commanders, and a presentation of the file to the nearby army base, the organizations were denied access.

Having received several reports from different and reliable sources on allegations of looting, illtreatment and humiliation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), the signatories NGOs call on the Lebanese army to ensure implementation of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement regarding non-discrimination, dignity, safety and property restitution for the IDPs during the return process.

The right to liberty of movement is recognized by article 12 (1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (hereinafter ICCPR, ratified by Lebanon in 1972). This right can indeed be subject to some restrictions, understandable in the current situation, but only “those which are provided by law, are necessary to protect national security, public order (ordre public), public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others, and are consistent with the other rights recognized in the present Covenant”. These conditions are cumulative, meaning that for a restriction to be lawful, it should meet all criteria stated by the article.

Besides, Principle 30 of the Guiding Principles reads “All authorities concerned shall grant and facilitate for international humanitarian organizations and other appropriate actors, in the exercise of their respective mandates, rapid and unimpeded access to internally displaced persons to assist in their return or resettlement and reintegration”.

ALEF, PHRO, and Witness call on the Lebanese Government:

To grant access for all humanitarian and human rights’ NGOs to the Nahr el-Bared camp so as to ensure freedom of movement.

To make clear and known all criteria it applies when granting NGOs access to the camp, so as to ensure implementation of the principle of non-discrimination.

To ensure non-discrimination of IDPs when re-entering the camp.

To implement its responsibility to “establish conditions, as well as provide the means, which allow internally displaced persons to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, to their homes or places of habitual residence”, as provided for by Principle 28 (1). In this regard, allegations of ill-treatment and humiliations at checkpoints, are a very serious concern and if confirmed, a gross violation of the right to return with dignity.

To ensure its duty “to assist returned and/or resettled internally displaced persons to recover, to the extent possible, their property and possessions which they left behind or were dispossessed of upon their displacement” under Principle 29 (2). In this regard, allegations of looting, if confirmed, are a violation of the right to property recovery under the Guiding Principles, as well as Principle 2 of the Pinheiro principles.

To allow for an impartial investigation on allegations of violations of human rights to take place. The same organizations call on the Lebanese Government and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the Humanitarian situation in Nahr el-Bared and Beddawi refugee camps meet the international standards and ensure implementation of International Human Rights.”

Israeli military operations block delivery of humanitarian assistance and free movement of displaced civilians (2006)

- Humanitarian workers reported that on many occasions their movement was limited because Israeli authorities did not give permission and because roads and bridges were severely damaged
- The UN Humanitarian Coordinator called for an end to attacks in Lebanon on civilian infrastructure and to measures which slowed down or hindered the distribution of humanitarian supplies to thousands of IDPs

COI, 10 November 2006

“The destruction of the land transportation network had a huge impact on humanitarian assistance and on the free movement of displaced civilians, notably those who had been ordered by the IDF to leave their villages. The Commission was told by humanitarian workers that on many occasions their movement was limited not only because the Israeli authorities did not consent to it but also because the roads and bridges were severely damaged. On many occasions this destruction occurred after humanitarian organizations had obtained a clearance from Israel to use these roads. In the same vein, the Commission was told that the evacuation of civilians was particularly hampered by the destruction of roads and bridges. This was for example the case for the convoy of Marjayoun as part of the road had been heavily bombed and therefore the progress of the convoy was dramatically delayed (the convoy left at about 1600 hours and reached Western Bekaa at 2130 hours).”[...]

For example, the World Food Programme was confronted early in the conflict by serious movement and deployment limitations, including cases of close firings against its humanitarian convoys. [...] Although no WFP convoy was directly hit, two security incidents occurred next to the same convoy on 6 August 2006. According to a WFP report “[O]n the way to Tyre, some 15 km north of the city, a van travelling in the opposite direction was hit by a missile, apparently fired from the air. Both occupants of the vehicle were killed. There was no damage or injuries to the UN convoy. As the empty trucks were returning to Beirut, another vehicle, some 30 meters ahead of the convoy, was hit by a missile. The driver, who was apparently alone in the vehicle, was killed.” [...] In view of the difficulties to provide humanitarian assistance to civilians in need, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator called for an end to attacks in Lebanon on civilian infrastructure and to measures which slowed down or hindered the distribution of humanitarian supplies to thousands of displaced persons. [...].

Further evidence of the difficulties faced by humanitarian agencies can be seen in the humanitarian cargo movement notification procedure. [...] According to this procedure, no humanitarian convoy could move without the Israeli authorities’ express authorization (so-called “concurrence” mechanism). In fact, many convoys were not given authorization by the IDF. In many cases, while authorization was granted, IDF bombed roads which, due to the advance notification process, it knew were to be used by the convoys. Consequently, numerous humanitarian assistance movements had to be cancelled. In a press communiqué released on 10 August, WFP stated that “a combination of 70 bridges destroyed and the denial of “concurrence on safety” by the Israeli Defense Forces for aid convoys is crippling WFP’s efforts, on behalf of the entire humanitarian community, to organize overland transport of relief items, including food for one quarter of the Lebanese population displaced from their homes.” [...].

Efforts undertaken by humanitarian agencies to ease access for humanitarian relief but were often unsuccessful. On 28 July, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Jan Egeland, called for a 72- hour pause in the fighting to facilitate aid efforts, but Israel rejected the call the following day. [...] On 30 July, the Security Council also urged all parties to grant immediate and unlimited access to humanitarian assistance. [...] Despite the announcement made by a US State Department spokesperson of 30 July 2006 that Israel had agreed to a 48 hour suspension of aerial bombardments, [...] Israel continued with its military operations in the South, thus impeding humanitarian agencies’ access to locations south of the Litani River.[...].”

UN News, 10 August 2006

“Stressing that Israeli civilians and ordinary Lebanese were the “biggest losers” in the conflict in Lebanon, the top United Nations emergency official said today it was a “disgrace” that Hizbollah and Israel were preventing humanitarian supplies getting through to more than 100,000 people in the devastated south of the country.

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland said there were over 200,000 people throughout Lebanon who humanitarian workers have been unable to reach because of the escalating violence, adding that the war-ravaged country was one of the worst places in the world in terms of getting aid to those most in need.

“We have not had any access for several days to the besieged population of southern Lebanon. It is a disgrace really, because the parties to the conflict, the Hizbollah and the Israelis, could give us access in a heartbeat and then we could help 120,000 people in southern Lebanon,” he told a press conference in Geneva.

“The civilian population in Lebanon and in northern Israel have been the biggest losers in this senseless cycle of violence that is now exactly one month old... Civilians were supposed to be spared and in this conflict they are not.”

Despite the enormous difficulties, UN humanitarian agencies continue to do what they can and a spokesman in New York said 15 trucks carrying relief items travelled from Beirut to the town of Baalbek this morning, but he confirmed that another convoy was unable to go to Nabitiyeh in the south after failing to get clearance from the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF).

The World Food Programme[...] also appealed today for a cessation of hostilities by both sides to allow the passage of desperately needed relief assistance, as food, fresh water and fuel stocks in particular are running dangerously low in Lebanon. [...]

A combination of 70 bridges destroyed and the denial of “concurrence on safety” by the IDF for aid convoys is crippling WFP’s efforts, on behalf of the entire humanitarian community, to organise overland transport of relief items, including food for one quarter of the Lebanese population displaced from their homes, the agency said in a press release.”

Israeli Defense Forces targeted UNIFIL (2006)

- UNIFIL was targeted by IDF fire on several occasions during the July-August 2006 conflict
- There were also an incident in which a Hezbollah rocket hit near a UNIFIL position

UNSC, 18 August 2006, para. 9-10

“In the midst of the escalation of fighting in the final hours leading up to the cessation of hostilities, UNIFIL personnel endured 85 IDF-fired artillery shells impacting directly inside several positions, 35 in the area of Tibnin alone, in addition to 10 air-to-ground rockets and 108 artillery rounds landing in the immediate vicinity of these and other United Nations positions, including the UNIFIL headquarters in Naqoura. UNIFIL very fortunately did not suffer casualties but a number of positions sustained significant material damage. The mission strongly protested to IDF command throughout the period in question.

UNIFIL also strongly protested to the Lebanese authorities one incident of a Hizbollah-fired rocket impacting directly inside a UNIFIL position in the area of Ghanduriyah. The impact caused material damage but no casualties.”

UN News, 13 August 2006

“There were five incidents of firing from the Israeli side directly inside UNIFIL positions in the areas of At Tiri, Bayt Yahun and Tibnin (3) yesterday and this morning, and one incident of firing from the Hizbollah side directly inside a UNIFIL position in the area of Ghanduriyah yesterday.

The impacts caused extensive material damage in all the positions, but no casualties, the mission said in a news release. There were nine other incidents of firing from the Israeli side close to UN positions in the areas of At Tiri (4), Ghanduriyah (2), Brashit, Tibnin and Ibil as Saqi.

“UNIFIL strongly protested all the incidents to the Israeli and Lebanese authorities respectively.”

The Force's freedom of movement and the ability to re-supply positions and provide humanitarian assistance were denied because of the lack of security clearance from the IDF and due to the intensive hostilities on the ground. For a week now, a humanitarian convoy to distribute food to the villages in the western sector, and other humanitarian activities planned by UNIFIL, could not proceed because the IDF has denied consent.”

UNSC, 21 July 2006, p.2

“Three UNIFIL positions (1-21 near Marwahin, 6-44 near At Tiri and 8-33 near Hula) have been hit by IDF fire. On 17 July, one artillery smoke bomb penetrated the roof of a prefabricated living shelter at position 1-21. The bomb did not detonate but did cause damage to the roof of the shelter. No personnel were injured. On 16 July, two IDF artillery shells exploded inside position 6-44, near At Tiri, causing major damage to prefabricated living quarters and two containers. UNIFIL troops were in shelters at the time and there were no casualties. The same day position 8-33, near Hula, was hit by two IDF tank rounds. One soldier was seriously injured by shrapnel and was evacuated to the Indian battalion headquarters for immediate medical treatment. He is reported to be in stable condition. In addition, UNIFIL has reported more than 48 instances of firing close to its positions.”

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

Overview

Overview: National and international response (June 2008)

National and international response

Lebanon does not have a national IDP strategy, nor is there a national coordination mechanism focused specifically on the issue of forced displacement in Lebanon; and so the response to displacement situations has been largely specific to each region and conflict. Separate coordination structures have been established for northern Lebanon, southern Lebanon and southern districts of Beirut.

In northern Lebanon, UNRWA has taken the lead on the UN humanitarian response to displaced Palestine refugees from Nahr el-Bared. The Lebanese government is responsible for those displaced in the “new camp”, areas adjacent to Nahr el-Bared camp. In September 2007, UNRWA launched a \$55 million appeal to meet the emergency humanitarian needs of those displaced from Nahr el-Bared camp and adjacent areas, which identifies provision of temporary shelter for displaced Palestine refugees as a priority (UNRWA, 10 September 2007). The appeal consolidates humanitarian activities in various technical sectors or “clusters” of intervention.

In February 2008, UNRWA and the government launched a plan for the reconstruction of Nahr el-Bared camp. It was prepared together with the Nahr el-Bared Reconstruction Commission for Civil Action and Studies (NBRC) a network of representatives of Nahr el-Bared including displaced Palestine refugees that formed to ensure that Palestine refugees are involved in planning and decision-making processes which affect them (UNRWA, 12 February 2008 and May 2008).

Despite the important involvement of community-based organisations in the reconstruction plan, under-participation of organisations representing Palestine refugees is reported in most UN clusters, and concerns have been raised about co-ordination between NGOs, the government and UNRWA, especially with regard to resource allocation and donor proposals, duplication and the setting of standards (IRIN, 24 June 2008; ALEF, 18 June 2008). Human rights organisations have raised concerns that UNRWA as the lead humanitarian agency does not have an institutional protection mandate, making it more difficult to ensure that fundamental rights of secondary displaced Palestine refugees and affected populations are respected and addressed at all levels of the humanitarian response (ALEF, 18 June 2008). Currently, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is leading the protection cluster in cooperation with UNRWA (UNRWA, 30 May 2008).

Since 2005, the government has cooperated more closely with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and UNRWA, adopting a policy aimed at improving conditions for Palestine refugees. A Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC), established in October 2005 within the Prime Ministers Office, was mandated to address outstanding socio-economic, legal and security issues related to Palestine refugees in Lebanon, in collaboration with UNRWA. Other policy initiatives adopted more recently, include the Palestine Declaration for Lebanon, adopted on 7 January 2008 which addresses among other issues living conditions for Palestine refugees (UNSC, 21 April 2008; GoL, 23 June 2008). On 23 June 2008, UNRWA and the

government of Lebanon launched a common appeal for the reconstruction of Nahr el-Bared and the surrounding areas over the next three years.

The national and international response to the 2006 hostilities shifted quickly from humanitarian aid to development support. Most of the IDPs returned to their communities and the areas of Lebanon affected were deemed to have good community-based support networks after years of Israeli occupation and the civil war. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which took the lead in providing protection for IDPs during the emergency period, phased out its IDP operation at the end of December 2007. UNHCR noted that many of the issues identified for returning communities were long-standing problems, exacerbated by the 2006 war, but not necessarily caused by it (UNHCR Lessons Learned, 2007). Other UN agencies and many NGOs continue to implement programmes to support sustainable returns, mainly related to shelter and reconstruction, mine clearance, and income generation.

In January 2007, the Lebanese government adopted a national recovery, reconstruction and reform plan which was largely supported by the international community. The plan encompassed a broad range of recovery and reconstruction activities (Lebanese Republic, 2 January 2007). A number of national institutions are involved in the reconstruction. The High Relief Commission (HRC) remains responsible for those displaced from the 2006 war. It coordinates with the Central Fund for the Displaced (originally created to finance the return of the civil war displaced), the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Council of the South and the Council of Development and Reconstruction. In addition to the role of the government on reconstruction (through its recovery and reconstruction unit at the Prime Minister's Office), political organisations, notably Hizbullah, remain key actors in the distribution of assistance, social services and reconstruction. A number of donors, particularly Arab donors, have pledged for reconstruction through an "adoption" scheme, for example adopting one or several villages, a school, hospital, or mosque (UN HRC, 4 June 2007).

UN Security Council resolution 1701 provides for an expanded UN peacekeeping force. United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) peacekeepers numbers over 13,000 troops and is tasked among other things with supporting the safe return of displaced persons in southern Lebanon (UNIFIL, 31 May 2008).

Political crisis impairs national and international efforts

Political crisis and insecurity has slowed the pace of rebuilding and created a climate of insecurity for displaced and local communities alike. Lebanon had no president from November 2007 to May 2008 and disputes between the various political groups and the resignation of several ministers paralysed the parliament for 18 months. In May 2008, clashes broke out between pro- and anti-government forces in Beirut, which spread to other parts of the country and left more than 69 people dead and over 180 injured, and temporarily displaced several thousand people, according to press reports (UNSC, 28 May 2008; BBC, 15 May 2008 and 9 June 2008; AFP, 11 May 2008). Following a cease-fire mediated by the League of Arab States, agreement was reached on the election of a new president, composition of the government, and a ban on use of arms or violence to resolve political conflicts (The Daily Star, 22 May 2008; Al-jazeera, 20 May 2008).

However, the situation remains fragile. Sporadic clashes in eastern and northern Lebanon were reported several weeks after the agreement was adopted (Al Jazeera, 22 June 2008; BBC, 17 June 2008). Human rights organisations have called on the Lebanese government to properly investigate killings and allegations of other abuses of civilians committed during the clashes in May, including the shooting of a woman and her son as they fled their home in Beirut (AI, 13 May 2008; HRW, 18 May 2008; IRIN, 20 May 2008).

In the last year, a series of assassinations and other security incidents has included the assassinations of the head of operations of the Lebanese Armed Forces, a

representative of the Internal Security Forces, and a senior commander of Hiz-bullah. Other security incidents were re-ported in the first half of 2008, including an explosion allegedly targeting a United States embassy vehicle, violence in Ain el-Hilweh Palestine refugee camp, and the killing of eight people in a protest over power cuts in the southern suburbs of Beirut (UNSC, 21 April 2008; IRIN, 16 January 2008 and 28 January 2008).

Lebanon's domestic disputes are linked to issues of international interest, including the establishment of a special tribunal in 2007 to try suspects of the assassina-tion of prime minister Hariri, the disar-mament of armed groups in Lebanon, violations of Lebanese sovereignty by Israel, an Israel-Lebanese prisoner ex-change, and the broader Arab-Israeli con-flict that is linked to the delineation of disputed borders and continued occupa-tion of Lebanese territory by Israel.

While the situation in south Lebanon since the ceasefire has been mostly quiet, some incidents have been reported. These include an attack on UNIFIL troops and reports from the Israeli Defense Forces that two rockets had been fired into the town of Shelomi, both in January 2008 (UNSC, 21 April 2008, 23 April 2008 and 28 February 2008; UNR, 10 April 2008).

National and international response: civil war period

International Response (prior to June 2006)

The UN country cooperation framework agreement (2002-2006) in Lebanon includes the objectives to support post-conflict reconstruction and development in two regions of the country: Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon, both areas affected by the civil war and regions of displacement (UNDP, 2002).

Since 1992, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been the key UN agency assisting IDPs and returnees in Lebanon. Between 1994 and 1997, UNDP provided technical support to the Lebanese Ministry of Displaced as well assistance in management and coordination. UNDP also facilitated coordination between international and local organisations and provided support to resource mobilisation. An evaluation mission carried out in 1996 concluded that the project successfully established statistical databases to monitor the return of IDPs and compile information on a wide variety of geographic, demographic, social and economic indicators. Following the first phase of the programme, UNDP focused more on socio-economic issues affecting IDPs in the Mount Lebanon region (UNDP, 2002).

In 2006, UNDP continues to be the only UN agency working directly with IDPs. UNDP provides support to the return and reconciliation process in Alley, El-Chouf and Baabda of the Mount Lebanon region through its "Reintegration and Socio-Economic Rehabilitation of the Displaced" programme that was expected to be completed in 2005 but has been extended until 2007 (UNDP 2002, 2004; UNDP June 2006). The UNDP Programme is focused on helping IDPs, returnees and residents in Damour, Joun, Harf, and Bhamdoun. The programme includes a focus on employment and income generation through small-scale socio-economic interventions, social rehabilitation and small-scale community infrastructure (UNDP, 2002).

Most of the other UN agencies in Lebanon have focused their efforts on south Lebanon. These initiatives include mine clearance, employment promotion and socio-economic rehabilitation and

development. For instance in one of his reports, the Secretary General notes that “I wish to stress the need for an intensified focus by all concerned on the rehabilitation and economic development of the south. The achievements made in demining over the past year, accomplished through exemplary cooperation among the United Arab Emirates, the United Nations and the Lebanese authorities, were part of an encouraging trend supporting stability and social and economic development. In this respect, I urge the Government of Lebanon and the international donors to bolster their efforts. The United Nations remains strongly committed to assisting Lebanon in its economic rehabilitation of the south.” (UN SG, 21 July 2004, p.6)

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon has maintained a presence in South Lebanon since March 1978. UNIFIL was established by Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426 to restore international peace and security, assist the government in re-establishing authority over the area, and confirm the withdrawal of Israeli troops. UNIFIL has cooperated closely with government authorities and the UN in the implementation of development projects in South Lebanon; undertaken mine clearance; and remained focused on maintaining ceasefire patrols in its area of operation.

On a yearly basis, the mandate of UNIFIL has been renewed due to tensions between Israel and Lebanon along the border. In January 2006, UNIFIL’s mandate was renewed following tension and violence along the Blue Line, including an exchange of fire by Hizbullah and Israel in November and December 2005 as well as the continuing Israeli violations of Lebanese air space (UNSC, 31 January 2006)

In 2001, the UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) launched an initiative to promote socio-economic development in South Lebanon. The eight tracks for support to South Lebanon include urban development, social issues, vocational training, environment and small businesses. The tracks were identified following discussions with representatives of Lebanese officials and the local communities in South Lebanon.

The European Union provided humanitarian and post conflict assistance including support to IDPs between 1978 and 2000. The E.U. has also supported NGO partners in the implementation of projects including support to the return of the internally displaced in the Chouf region, economic reintegration in South Lebanon, and support to the socio-economic rehabilitation of return areas. However, programmes supporting IDPs and returnees were largely completed at the end of 2003 (EC, August 2004). The EU continues to support a number of programmes in Lebanon, including democracy and human rights and assistance to socio-economic development.



Useful Links:

UN:

See *the evaluation of the “Reintegration and Socio-Economic Rehabilitation of the Displaced Programme”* and other related reports on [UNDP’s website](#).

For more information, see the [website of the UN System in Lebanon](#)

For information on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon see [UNIFIL’s website](#)

See also the [website of ESCWA South Lebanon](#)

EU:

See the [website of the Delegation to the European Union to Lebanon](#)

National Response (prior to June 2006)

Government Response

Resolving the issue of internal displacement has repeatedly been emphasised as a national priority by governmental representatives, codified in the 1989 Taif Agreement, which declared the return of IDPs an essential condition for permanent reconciliation and peace (Daily Star, 15 November 2005; 21 January 2004; Monday Morning, 30 April 2003; Lebanese government, 30 June 2004). The agreement binds national authorities to “solve completely the problem of IDPs, and acknowledge the right of every Lebanese citizen displaced since 1975 to come back to the place from which he/she was displaced; to establish the legislation that safeguards this right and ensure the means of reconstruction” (Assaf and El-Fil, April 2000; Taif Agreement 1989). The agreement also pledges financial support to IDPs to reconstruct their homes and villages (Assaf and El-Fil, April 2000; Lebanese government 1989).

Following the conflict, two central government structures were created to implement the return process. A Ministry for the Displaced was established to rehabilitate infrastructure and housing, improve the economic sector, and to achieve national reconciliation, and a Central Fund for the Displaced (CFD) was created to finance the return of the displaced. The government designed a comprehensive return programme, including compensation to IDPs to rebuild their homes, support to the reconciliation process between residents and returnees and socio-economic rehabilitation (Ministry of the Displaced 1997, 2001; UNDP 2002).

The government has undertaken some innovative initiatives, such as providing support to "second-generation" displaced in order to encourage their return, acknowledging that second-generation displaced people may be less likely to return due to a lack of socio economic opportunities (Ibrahim Alia, 2 March 2001). The government along with NGOs also supported reconciliation between communities, including between Christian and Druze residents in villages in the Chouf and Aley regions (U.S. DOS February 2001). In early 2004, the Ministry of the Displaced announced a new type of micro-credit loan for IDPs, intended to encourage displaced people to return to their homes by providing them with economic opportunities (Daily Star, 21 January 2004). The government reconfirmed its commitment to secure the return or resettlement of all people displaced by war in 2004 (Republic of Lebanon, 30 June 2004).

According to government representatives, the absence of funds has stood and still stands in the way of the national strategy for the return of people displaced during the conflict (Lebanon Wire, 8 July 2002; UNDP, 2002; Monday Morning, 30 April 2003; Daily Star, 21 January 2004 and 10 August 2004; Lebanese government, 30 June 2004). The Minister of the Displaced announced at the end of June 2004 that 185 billion Lebanese pounds (approximately \$122 million) are needed to secure the reintegration of all people displaced by the war (Lebanese government, 30 June 2004).

However, the government has come under criticism for failing to secure the return of IDPs due to mismanagement of funds and political corruption. Reports indicate that large percentages of the Ministry's expenditure went to people who were occupying houses but were not always displaced. Case-studies in villages of return indicate inconsistencies between government discourse and practice. For instance, many returnees have not been paid the full compensation promised and the physical infrastructure of many villages is only partially repaired (ILO 1997; UNDP 1996; Caritas, August 2004; Assaf, 7 April 2000; Daily Star, 18 February 2004). In the early to mid 1990s, implementation of programmes was also characterised by an absence in planning and coordination. For example, some areas were provided with electricity but not potable water or cash payments were made to rebuild houses in areas where infrastructure and public services were non existent (Assaf & El-Fil, 7 April 2000). The opposition has criticised the government's "continuous postponement of resolving the issue of the displaced" (Lebanon Wire, 2 March 2002).

During 2005, the Ministry of Displaced announced that a new plan was in place to address the issue of internal displacement. Minister of Displaced, Nehme Tohme said that the Ministry had put together a detailed and effective plan which is estimated to cost around \$400 million (Daily Star, 13 September 2005 and 1 October 2005). In November 2005, the Minister announced that the money required to implement solutions for people still displaced from the 1975-1990 conflict had been allocated to the ministry (Daily Star, 2 November 2005). He also noted that teams from the ministry and the fund would be visiting the villages of the displaced in order to assess the needs (Daily Star, 2 November 2005). Former Minister of the Displaced, Adel Hamieh, noted that the Ministry had succeeded in signing reconciliation and return agreements for the towns of Baatoura and Dqoun (Daily Star, 28 July 2005). Current minister of displaced, Tohme, also noted in a press conference that in total, the ministry had conducted reconciliations in 22 villages in Mount Lebanon (Daily Star, 20 August 2005).

Further Information:

Ministry of Displaced Persons

"[T]he direct reasons of the program [of return of the Ministry] are:

Objective 1: To rehabilitate the reconstruction sights in the areas of return

Objective 2: To rehabilitate the infrastructure

Objective 3: Housing

a-Repairing the destroyed houses

b-Rehabilitate the partially destroyed houses

c-To reconstruct the totally destroyed houses

d-To evacuate the illegally occupied houses

Objective 4: Resetting the general services, social and educational services and develop them. Provide educational, health and social services. Support the work of local associations.

Objective 5: To rehabilitate the productive economical sectors

Objective 6: Achieving reconciliation." (Ministry of the Displaced 2001, II, B.)

See the [website of the Ministry of the Displaced](#) (archived)

See the [report of the Ministry on achievements 1992-1997](#) (archived)

Central Fund for the Displaced

"The Central Fund of the Displaced was formed in order to finance the return of the displaced. In addition it is supposed to finance the return, and its security, of the displaced to all the Lebanese areas. It also gives grants and loans for similar reasons. The Fund coordinates with the Ministry in a complementary manner. It handles the following:

-Investigate the cases of illegally occupied houses and making payments for the occupiers.

-Assess technical reports to make compensations for rebuilding

Observe the progress of work and assess the second payment in coordination with the Ministry" (Ministry of the Displaced 2001, II, D.)

A'idoun

"It is a nationally implemented program called, UN Reintegration and SocioEconomic Rehabilitation of the Displaced, in cooperation with UNV's, Ministry of the Displaced, UNDP and UNESCO. [...]

"A'idoun" program is predetermined to remedy any socio economic need for the return of citizens. In the first stage, building of houses was the goal. The biggest challenge of return is to make it a permanent return, as the residents have spent enough time in the city. The fact remains, would they want to return to the rural life where so many of the living conditions are lacking or have been destroyed. It is obvious that making this return permanent should come from [...] a development program which would support the socio economic duties [...]. [A'idoun] worked in cooperation with UNCHS Habitat [...]." (Ministry of the Displaced 2001, II, D.)

"Other State ministries responsible for addressing the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons in virtue of the duties entrusted by the Lebanese Constitution and Laws:

Lebanese Council of the South (South Lebanon)

The Lebanese Council for the Reconstruction and Development (CDR)" (Ministry of Displaced, 4 August 2004)

"The Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) is the primary government institution that is responsible for the planning and the development of programmes for the country as a whole." (UNDP, 2002)

See the website of the [Lebanese Council for Development and Reconstruction](#)

Civil Society

A number of national and international NGOs continue to provide a range of assistance to displaced and returnee populations, ranging from housing restoration programmes to micro-credit and financial assistance. However, many no longer receive funds, and rely on their own resources to implement projects for IDPs (Caritas, August 2004).

Among these NGOs, Caritas Lebanon has assisted displaced and returning populations since the beginning of the war in the 1980s. In early ritas Lebanon shifted its focus from short-term charitable giving and assistance to longer-term rehabilitation and development projects. (CARITAS, 2004). In addition to providing support to a number of disadvantaged groups, CARITAS programmes provide assistance to internally displaced people in war damaged regions, including South Lebanon.

Begining in 1984, Caritas provided broad assistance to displaced and returnee populations. In 1991, Caritas worked to support return, including by providing grants for reconstruction and loans for economic development, assisting 12,500 IDP families. In 1998, Caritas began to focus its attention on the Mount Lebnaon region. Since 1998, Caritas has implemented projects in about 22 villages including rehabilitation of homes, micro-credits, reconstruction of a school and youth developments. These programmes have benefited approximately 750 IDP families.

Caritas implements programmes to encourage return of IDPs including, housing restoration in areas of return (specifically the Chouf villages and East Saida including the villages of Mtolleh, Aalman, Jmeilieh, Majdalouna, Mazmoura, Mohtokra and Mazraet el-Dahr; provision of plant crops and agricultural knowledge to farmers in the Chouf region, and support to women and young girls from displaced families that have returned tot he Hammana (high Metn) area, including the villages of Bmaryam, Falougha, El-Kourayye, Khalwat, Tikhnay, Chbenieh, Khraiby, Kobay El-Kala'a. Since 1992, Caritas has granted credits and financial assistance to facilitate the return of IDPs, mainly in Mount Lebanon and East Sidon, but also throughout the country. Caritas also provides professional training and a micro-credit programme. (Caritas, 2004). Caritas assists populations in war damaged regions including rehabilitation projects in South Lebanon (Jezzine, Marjeyoun and Hasbaya). For more information, see [CARITAS Lebanon's website](#)

The Saradar Foundation started an initiative, the Saradare IT Programme to provide information technology to disadvantaged communities. In its first phase, the project focused on providing information technology to IDPs in Baabda, Aley and Chouf (Mount Lebanon) focusing specifically on women and children. The project is intended to complement programmes of the Ministry of Displaced and UNDP in regions of displacement to encourage sustainable return and development in war torn areas. In 2003, the IT programme was provided to IDPs in Araya,

Bhamdoun and Kfarhim. In 2004, the programme will be provided to IDPs in Jezzine. For further information, see [SARADAR's website](#)

Another key NGO who worked with IDPs is The Lebanese NGO Forum (LNF). The LNF provided support ranging from infrastructure rehabilitation to legal awareness and education campaigns. (LNF, 2002). However, as of 2004, the LNF has ceased to work with IDPs and focused its efforts on migrants and refugees in Lebanon. For more information, see the [website of the Lebanese NGO Forum \(LNF\)](#)

Maronite Outreach in Lebanon is a church based organisation that also seeks to support the return of IDPs (Maronite Outreach, 2003). For more information see the [website of Maronite Outreach](#)

For further information on organisations working in Lebanon, the UN website lists a number of organisations involved in the reconstruction and rehabilitation process in Lebanon, see [UNDP Civil Society Organisations](#)

National law and policy

Lebanon: ratifications to international treaties

CAT-Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	Accession		04/11/2000	05/10/2000
CAT-OP-Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	No Action			
CCPR-International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Accession		23/03/76	03/11/72
CCPR-OP1-Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	No Action			
CCPR-OP2-DP-Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	No Action			
CEDAW-Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	Accession		16/05/97	21/04/97
CEDAW-OP-Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	No Action			
CERD-International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	Accession		12/12/71	12/11/71
CESCR-International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Accession		03/01/76	03/11/72
CMW-International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	No Action			
CRC-Convention on the Rights of the Child	Ratification	26/01/90	13/06/91	14/05/91

CRC-OP-AC-Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict	Signature only	11/02/2002		
CRC-OP-SC-Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography	Ratification	10/10/2001	08/12/2004	08/11/2004

[For further information, see the Lebanon page of the OHCHR](#)

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The Guiding Principles have been translated into Arabic.
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