

Cologne, 4 August 2006

## **Relief Activity Report No. 2 Lebanon Crisis**

### **Overall Situation**

The Government of Lebanon reports that up to today about 900,000 people, a quarter of the population, have fled their homes. Out of that number 210,000 were able to leave the country. The majority of internally displaced persons are staying with relatives and friends but an estimated 125,000 are temporarily located in schools and public institutions.

Especially these people are in need of assistance in order stay healthy and sufficiently nourished. Urgent humanitarian problems are a scarcity of basic goods and the resulting skyrocketing of prices on the local market. Another major concern is the shortage of fuel, the severe security constraints for humanitarian supply convoys and the damage to the civilian infrastructure including roads and bridges. However, the crucial problem is not to buy relief items for Lebanon but to distribute them in Lebanon because of the lack of security and safe passages. The Lebanese association reports that the demand for medical drugs can be covered by the local market for another month and that the provision via Syria restarts to function even though very reluctantly.

### **Activities of the Lebanese Association**

The Lebanese Association of the Order of Malta continues to provide assistance as well to the resident population in the most hard-hit regions of the country as to the internally displaced persons (IDP) who left their homes and moved to the North.

The Association focuses on:

- the stock and provision of medical drugs especially for the most vulnerable groups among the IDPs
- medical care for the resident and the displaced population in 8 health centres (out of 10, which were operative before the war)
- prevention and treatment of communicable diseases such as diarrhoea
- improving the hygiene of the temporary locations for example by building up sanitary facilities
- distribution of relief items and food to displaced families especially in the centre in Raoum where the association is in full charge of around 1,000 IDPs

Paul Saghbini, responsible for the emergency relief operation of the association, reports a most dramatic situation for the city of Rmeich where only two medical doctors remain in charge for a population of an estimated 6,500 persons. The association was able to bring a first load of medical drugs to Rmeich, but a second load has been trapped in Tyr because of the deteriorating security situation.

Since Monday 31 July a medical team of volunteers started working with a mobile clinic to serve IDPs who are unable to reach a health centre.

The Lebanese association also anticipates a major challenge for their structures and all other NGOs after the end of the hostilities when all the IDPs will return to their places of origin. Preparation for this moment is of utmost importance.

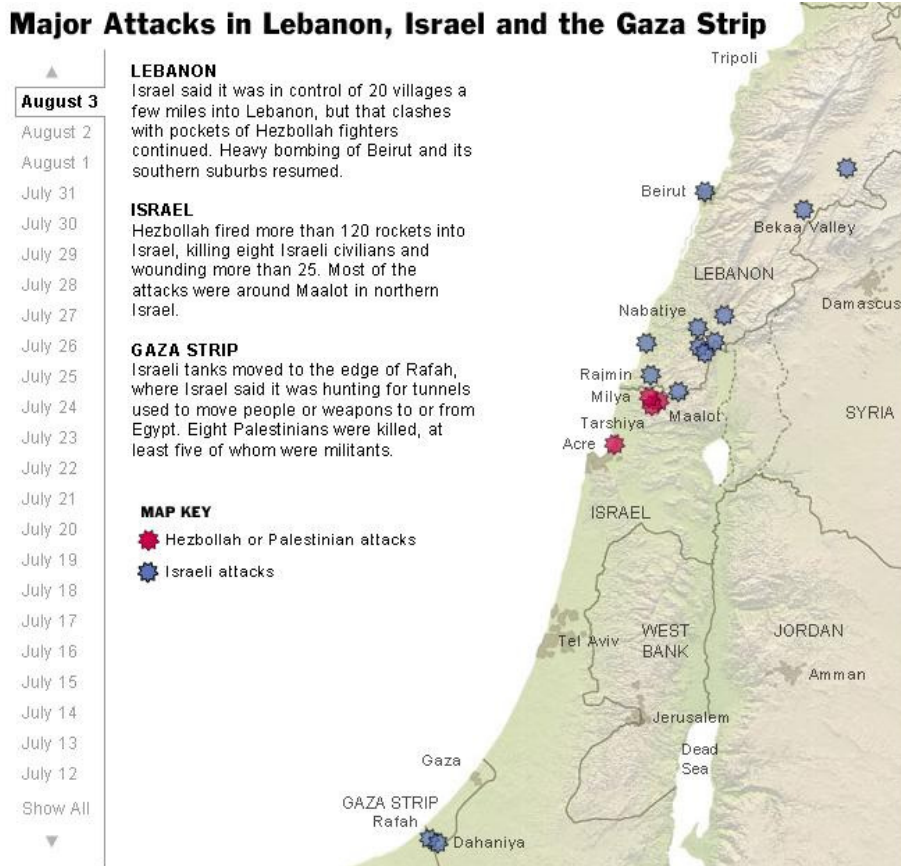
## Activities of Malteser International

Malteser International is in constant contact with Paul Saghbini in order to:

- support the Lebanese association in every possible way and to react quickly to reported needs
- disseminate information about the situation on the ground to the public, other associations and to potential donors
- carry out a fundraising campaign that provides the necessary financial means for the operation
- be prepared for a new assessment of the situation and possible relief and rehabilitation scenarios in case a ceasefire agreement is reached anytime soon

Furthermore Malteser International closely monitors the humanitarian situation on the ground. All future activities will depend on the challenges the Lebanese Association faces in the coming weeks and the availability of funds coming from public and private donors.

Until today a lot of associations of the Order have made a tremendous effort in order to be able to support the Lebanese association in this difficult time. Cash donations have for the time being the advantage to provide the Lebanese association with much needed resources in a timely manner and allow them to purchase exactly what is needed for their disaster response. They will be able to use their long-standing local expertise to evaluate the needs of the displaced and resident population and to spend the available funds in the most adequate manner.



Source: New York times at [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

### **Information request**

Up to now, associations of the network of the Order of Malta have provided about 200,000 € which have been transferred or are in progress to be transferred directly to the Lebanese association. In order to keep and update about the contributions of the Order we kindly ask you to send us the information about the amount of donations sent to the Lebanese association by your association.

For further inquiries, please contact Mrs. Janine Lietmeyer

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Yours sincerely

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