



UNRWA

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNRWA appeals for \$7.2 million in emergency humanitarian interventions in Lebanon and Syria

The deteriorating humanitarian situation in Lebanon and South Lebanon in particular, requires UNRWA to seek additional funding from donors. In cooperation with other UN agencies and humanitarian organizations, UNRWA has contributed to the United Nations' Flash Appeal for Lebanon which was launched on 24 July 2006.

Of the 405,000 Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA in Lebanon, 104,000 reside in camps in and around Saida area and a further 99,000 are registered in the vicinity of Tyre. Both communities are directly affected by an armed conflict that shows no signs of abating. Residents live in fear of death or serious injury, and normal life has come to a standstill. Many shops and businesses have been closed since the conflict began two weeks ago and stocks of basic commodities are running out quickly.

While focused on the plight of Palestine refugees within its mandate, UNRWA has extended its support to those who need help within the wider Lebanese population. In Saida, Tyre, Beirut and North Lebanon UNRWA teams are caring for displaced persons who have taken refuge in UNRWA schools.

UNRWA's Commissioner-General, Karen AbuZayd, said, "UNRWA's humanitarian expertise and long experience in the region are being placed at the service of the needy in Lebanon." She added: "With donors support, UNRWA and its partners will ensure civilians affected by the conflict receive the protection and assistance they so badly need."

UNRWA joins other UN agencies in calling for the establishment and maintenance of safe routes allowing humanitarian supplies to reach the affected population. Its appeal takes into account the resources needed to protect staff and secure installations. UNRWA has already begun to procure food packages and household items for 10,000 displaced persons across Lebanon, and is preparing to distribute emergency food rations. Further interventions are planned to address immediate health needs by providing emergency healthcare kits and funds to cover hospitalization costs. UNRWA's activities will also address the urgent task of repairing disrupted water supplies.

Emphasizing the need for a quick response from the international community, ABuZayd said: "I urge donors to respond generously to this appeal and to do so with the urgency demanded by the situation in Lebanon".

For further details please contact:

Sven Bertelsen (Beirut)
+961-1-822-415/6

Adnan Abu Hasna (Gaza)
+972-599-428-061