

WEEKLY REPORT

NOVEMBER 17 – NOVEMBER 24, 2006

Lebanon Rapid Post-Conflict Recovery Program

Funded by USAID / Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)

Welcome to Mercy Corps Lebanon's weekly progress report on OFDA-funded activities implemented in southern Lebanon, Borj el Barajne, and the Bekaa Valley. Please direct any questions or content suggestions to Shaula Bellour: sbellour@mercycorpsfield.org.



A primary school student receives an education kit in the village of Ham, Bekaa Valley

Mercy Corps, in partnership with OFDA, implements programs in the following sectors:

- I. Protection**
- II. Logistics and Relief Commodities**
- III. Food Security & Agriculture**

- IV. Water, Sanitation & Hygiene**
- V. Nutrition**

Progress Update by Activity

I. PROTECTION

School Rehabilitation

Baalbek—Mercy Corps began the tendering process for Phase II structural rehabilitation works at ten public schools. Works should begin the first week of December.

Nabatiye—Additional Phase I rehabilitation works at three schools are complete; works at Zautar Sharkiye and Kfar Roumane schools are ongoing. All sites will be handed over to the communities by the end of the month.

Mercy Corps completed an assessment of Phase II rehabilitation needs at 30 schools across Nabatiye and Marjayoun Cazas. Over the next week Mercy Corps will finalize the list of schools and scope of work for Phase II rehabilitation, including waterproofing, roof works, and bathroom upgrades. Tendering and contracting will immediately follow.

Psychosocial Activities

Nabatiye—Mercy Corps and the Jaber Center organized a postcard design competition alongside the distribution of supplemental school kits. All Primary 1-4 level students in Nabatiye public schools are invited to design postcards with the theme ‘Greetings from Southern Lebanon’. A jury from each school will select the best design to represent the school in the Caza-wide competition. All winning designs will receive an award and the first prize school will be equipped with a drawing lab. Students are already showing a great deal of interest in the competition. The submission deadline is December 5th.

Borj el Barajne—Mercy Corps staff are continuing to work with members of the Youth Leadership Centers (YLC) in Borj el Barajne and Borj el Hammoud to support organizational capacity building and to develop project plans based on community needs and youth interest. Members of the Borj el Barajne YLC will hold elections on November 26th to elect a president, facility manager and team leaders.

II. LOGISTICS AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

Baalbek—L.O.S.T. held an opening event on November 19th to launch the University Education Kit project. L.O.S.T. will distribute 3050 education kits (books and stationary) to students from Baalbek/Hermel at the Zahle branch of the Lebanese University. The distribution of primary school kits will be completed on November 25th.

Nabatiye—Mercy Corps and the Jaber Center continued to distribute supplemental schools kits to public schools in Nabatiye Caza—reaching 4087 students over two days. The distribution will reach all students at the Kindergarten, Primary 1-6 and Intermediate 1-3 levels. Mercy Corps is also preparing to distribute winter coats to the same group of students.



Students at Zibdine Intermediate school (l) and Maifadoun Intermediate school (r) signing the school kit distribution lists

III. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

No new updates

IV. WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

No new updates

V. NUTRITION

Borj el Barajne—Mercy Corps is preparing to distribute 1,700 additional food kits in December.