

UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON
(UNIFIL)

Naqoura,
27 September 2006

PRESS RELEASE

UNIFIL: Helping people in South Lebanon

Since 14 August 2006, when the cessation of hostilities went into effect, UNIFIL has cleared thousands of meters of roads, distributed 1,716,680 liters of water, and provided medical and dental treatment to over 3,000 civilians in South Lebanon. In addition, the Indian Battalion has treated over 12,500 animals. UNIFIL de-mining teams, most of them from the Chinese Battalion, collected and destroyed approximately 3,500 unexploded ordnances.

“Humanitarian assistance is not the primary function of UNIFIL and we do not have the financial resources for these activities, most of the work is funded by the battalions themselves. However, the people of South Lebanon have been relying to a large extent on us for this kind of help,” said **UNIFIL Force Commander Maj.-General Alain Pellegrini**, *“Therefore, UNIFIL is doing everything it can to meet the needs of the people.”*

Maj. Acharya Mamta is working for the Indian Battalion as a Medical Officer providing support to 20 local clinics in the northeastern part of South Lebanon. *“We are treating all kinds of diseases,”* said **Maj. Mamta**, *“Medical treatment is very expensive for many people here and they often rely on the assistance of UNIFIL.”*

UNIFIL also provides veterinary care. According to veterinary doctor **Lt. Col. Parasanali Bapu**, *“Many farmers had to leave their cattle during the war. Animals that survived are suffering from different diseases and wounds. Peoples’ live hood depends on these animals and UNIFIL is here to provide help free of charge.”*

“We will continue our humanitarian work and I am personally involved in relaying to the new contingents on how important our assistance is to this long suffering area,” said **Maj.-General Pellegrini**.

Note to editors: *Photographs illustrating this press release are attached.*

On 26 September, a Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) helicopter landed in Naqoura for the first time since the establishment of UNIFIL. The helicopter was carrying the LAF delegation for a meeting with the UNIFIL Force Commander.

For further information, Please contact Alexander Ivanko, UNIFIL Spokesman, at (+961) 70 910064.



CAP Chinese Battalion destroys unexploded ordnances. Chinbatt UNIFIL.



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CAP Indian battalion provides medical assistance to civilians in South Lebanon. Hanna Snarberg. UNIFIL 31 Aug. 2006



CAP Indian battalion provides veterinary assistance to farm in Khiam, south Lebanon. Hanna Snarberg. UNIFIL 31 Aug. 2006



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