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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. Awards \$5 Million Contract for Oil Spill Clean Up in Lebanon

WASHINGTON, DC – The United States Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), has awarded a \$5 million contract to SEACOR Environmental Services to assist in cleaning up an oil spill following the recent conflict in Lebanon.

Experts from across the United States Government worked in consultation with the Lebanese Ministry of Environment to develop the initiative. Clean up efforts will focus on the northern Lebanese coast from Byblos to Enfeh, including Batroun. This important tourist area includes commercial harbors, public beaches, and several historic sites, such as the Byblos Port.

SEACOR, a U.S.-based, global provider of environmental, industrial and emergency response solutions, has utilized the services of a sub-contractor with substantial experience operating in Lebanon, allowing for a quick response. With the onset of winter looming—and expected turbulent, high water conditions on the way—time is of the essence. SEACOR will train clean-up crews, employ Lebanese residents whose livelihoods have been impacted by the oil spill, and provide the necessary equipment to ensure that the clean up is safe, thorough, and environmentally and historically sound.

This contract is funded as part of more than \$230 million for humanitarian, reconstruction and security assistance to Lebanon announced by President Bush on August 21, 2006. The clean up initiative is one of a number of ways the United States is offering support to the Lebanese people as they recover and rebuild.

For more information on the U.S. Government's humanitarian efforts in the region, please visit USAID's website at: http://www.usaid.gov/locations/asia_near_east/middle_east/.

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