



AID DEVELOPMENTS

Italy approves grants totaling €6 million for projects in Lebanon

On 7 August 2008, Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs approved a grant of €1.5 million to finance three projects in Lebanon, including €995,100 to conserve and protect the Assi river, with the participation of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature; €480,000 to support gender equality in education, in cooperation with UNESCO; and, €40,000 to improve and develop a strategy for modernizing Parliament, in cooperation with UNDESA. In addition, as part of its 2008 funding for Lebanon, Italy announced the approval of grants of €4.6 million to multilateral organizations. The grants include €600,000 to the International Labor Organization; €300,000 to the International Organization for Migration; €1,200,000 to UNICEF; €1,200,000 to UNDP, €300,000 to UNIDO; and, €1,000,000 to UNRWA.

Iran and the Council for Development and Reconstruction sign agreement for road rehabilitation

On 7 August 2008, the Council for Development and Reconstruction and Iran signed an agreement to rehabilitate the Naqoura - Marjayoun road as part of the support for the recovery and reconstruction of Lebanon after the July 2006 War.

Belgium and the Council for Development and Reconstruction sign an agreement for the rehabilitation of the Tebnin General Hospital

On 21 August 2008, the Council of Ministers approved the agreement between Belgium and the Council for Development and Reconstruction for the rehabilitation and the equipment of the Tebnin Public Hospital. The grant, at €3 million, is part of the €5 million humanitarian and recovery assistance of Belgium to Lebanon announced after the July 2006 War. The balance of the amount was channeled through United Nations agencies and civil society organizations.

Parliament approves four development loans

On 26 August 2008, Parliament approved four development loans: €30 million from Agence Française de Développement for waste water and water project in the North; KWD 9 million (\$34 million) from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for an administrative development project with OM-SAR; KWD 5 million (\$19 million) from the the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development to complete a water project in various areas in Lebanon; and \$42 million loan from Islamic Development Bank for the construction of the engineering and architecture faculties of the Lebanese University in the North.

Lebanon Recovery Fund: Ninth meeting of the Steering Committee approves four projects

On 29 August 2008, the Steering Committee of the Lebanon Recovery Fund held its ninth meeting. The Steering Committee approved four new projects, all funded by Spain, for a total amount of \$10.5 million: CEDRO III - Country Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Demonstration Project for the Recovery of Lebanon, \$3.5 million, to be implemented by UNDP and the Ministry of Finance; Flood Risk Prevention and Management in Baalbeck-Hermel, \$3.8 million, to be implemented by the UNDP and the Ministry of Agriculture; Socio-economic Rehabilitation Program in the framework of ART GOLD Lebanon (decentralized cooperation), \$2.4 million, to be implemented by UNDP and CDR; and, Recovery Coordination Support, \$0.75 million, to be implemented by UNDP and the Recovery and Reconstruction Cell. The Lebanon Recovery Fund was set up by the Lebanese Government with the assistance of the United Nations Development Group to implement donor-funded projects for Lebanon's recovery after the war of July 2006. The project portfolio under implementation amounts to \$25.4 million (15 projects), funded by Spain (€25 million), Sweden (\$10 million), and Romania (€0.5 million).



AID COORDINATION

July 2006 war-related Support for Lebanon

Since the July 2006 war, \$2.1 billion were pledged by the donor community for relief and reconstruction. Half of all pledges were implemented by donors themselves, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations, and civil society organizations.

- Forty-eight percent of the pledges were earmarked to be implemented by the Government, 43 percent donor implemented, 5 percent to be implemented by UN agencies, 2 percent to be implemented by civil society organizations, and 2 percent to be channeled through the Lebanon Recovery Fund, set up with the assistance of the United Nations Development Group.
- As of August 31, 2008 about \$1.3 billion of the pledged support was signed into agreements for emergency relief, humanitarian assistance, recovery and reconstruction. The related projects are under implementation.
- The Government has received a total of \$811 million, including \$590 million from Saudi Arabia, \$82 million from Kuwait, \$50 million from Oman, \$37 million from Iraq; \$15 million from UAE, \$10 million from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and Italy \$7 million.
- Donor implemented support was the option taken by Qatar (\$300 million), Kuwait (\$185 million), UAE (\$70 million), and the EC/ECHO (€107 million).
- The United Nations and the Lebanon Recovery fund are estimated to have received \$143 million (based on donor reporting). The largest contributors include Spain (€25 million); Australia (\$16 million), Canada (\$12 million); Italy (€10 million); Sweden (\$10 million).
- Civil society organizations are estimated to have received \$39 million (based on donor reporting). Italy is the largest donor with €15 million implemented through the Ross Emergency Program at the Italian Embassy.

To ensure internal coordination and to access all information from various donor and implementation channels, the Government established a coordination mechanism consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Finance, the Recovery and Reconstruction Cell at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, and the Council for Development and Reconstruction. The working group initially met on a weekly basis to coordinate support to Lebanon. The coordination effort led to the creation of a database to monitor the aid effort following the July 2006 war. The coordination mechanism remains in place and has expanded in scope to include the Paris III pledges and other donor activities in Lebanon.