



AID DEVELOPMENTS

Italy and Ministry of Interior and Municipalities signed Euro 950,000 cooperation agreement for support to local development

On 2 November 2009, the Ambassador of Italy and the Minister of Interior and Municipalities signed Euro 950,000 cooperation agreement for "Support to Local Development" project. The project will support municipalities and the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities in fighting forest fires.

UNDP launched LiveLebanon project

On 12 November 2009, the United Nations Development Program launched the LiveLebanon project, which will allow Lebanese living abroad to finance projects in their villages of origin. The project offers the diaspora a mechanism by which they can contribute directly to the development of their communities. The project website is www.livelebanon.net

UNDP signing ceremony of the project "Disaster Preparedness and Management in Lebanon"

On 18 November 2009, the United Nations Resident Representative and the Swiss Ambassador signed a funding agreement for the "Disaster Preparedness and Management in Lebanon" project at the Swiss Embassy in Lebanon. This project will provide technical assistance for developing policies, strategies and planning for disaster preparedness and response, and will promote coordination among the government, donors and civil society. In collaboration with the Prime Minister's Office, the project aims to create an inter-ministerial Disaster Risk Reduction Unit to support the Government of Lebanon in setting and implementing a comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy. The Swiss embassy will fund \$286,000 out of the \$800,000 project.

Great Britain announces Chevening Scholarships

On 24 November 2009, the British Embassy announced that it is offering a number of Chevening Scholarships to enable Lebanese and Palestinian nationals residing in Lebanon to undertake postgraduate study in the UK during the academic year 2010/11. The British Chevening Scholarships are funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



AID COORDINATION

Paris III - Tenth Progress Report issued in November 2009

The Ministry of Finance released the Tenth Progress Report on the International Conference for Support to Lebanon - Paris III. This report was prepared as a collaborative effort, managed by the Ministry of Finance in cooperation with the Government Reform Program Coordination Office at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR), with input from the various natural owners of the Paris III reform program. The report is available in hard copy and on the Ministry of Finance website www.finance.gov.lb

Second Meeting of the European Neighborhood Policy Economic and Finance Subcommittee held in Brussels

On 13 November 2009, the second European Neighborhood Policy Action Plan Economic and Finance Subcommittee Meeting was held in Brussels. The meeting covered various topics, such as the impact of the financial crisis on the Lebanese fiscal and macroeconomic situation, fiscal accountability in the context of public expenditure management, internal control and audit. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Loukas Stemitsiotis representing the EU, and Mr. Alain Bifani, Director General of the Ministry of Finance, representing the Minister of Finance and was attended by representatives from the ministries of Finance, Economy and Trade, and Foreign Affairs.

European Commission completed the formulation mission of the Support Program for Infrastructure Sector Strategies and Alternative Financing

The European Commission completed the formulation of the Euro 9 million "EC Support Program for Infrastructure Sector Strategies and Alternative Financing (SISSAF)" in the water, energy and transport sectors. The four-year project is expected to be approved by the EC by the end of 2010 and will help in preparing the ground, during the 2011-2013 period, for the introduction of innovative development aid financing modalities to one of the above-mentioned sectors.

Reconstruction of the Nahr El-Bared Camp and surrounding areas

On 20 November 2009, the reconstruction activities at the Nahr El-Bared Camp (NBC) resumed, following satisfactory completion of all archeological investigations and backfilling works under Package-1 in the Camp. The Nahr El-Bared Recovery and Reconstruction Cell at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (NBC-RRC) has also completed all the preparatory work for the launch of the housing stabilization and repair works of the partially damaged buildings in the "Prime Areas" of the adjacent area to the NBC. This activity, funded by a Euro 5 million grant from the Italian Cooperation, will be implemented by the Central Fund for the Displaced.

On 25 November 2009, the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee organized a consultation workshop for the adjacent and surrounding municipalities to the NBC during which the government strategy for the future development of the area was presented, and a progress update on the implementation of donor activities was provided. The workshop also proved to be a useful platform for dialogue between various stakeholders.