



AID DEVELOPMENTS

Switzerland provided funding for the Lebanese - Palestinian Dialogue Committee

On 26 November 2010, the Ambassador of Switzerland in Lebanon and the United Nations Development Program Resident Representative signed an agreement to support the UNDP project entitled Support to the Lebanese - Palestinian Dialogue Committee. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation will provide funding for a total amount of \$300,000. By funding this project, the Swiss Agency aims to improve the living conditions of the Palestinian refugees and to protect their rights. The Lebanese - Palestinian Dialogue Committee was created in November 2005 by the Council of Ministers, in response to the goal set by the Government of Lebanon to improve the living conditions of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

European Union signed an agreement to strengthen democracy and human rights

On 8 December 2010, the European Union and the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform signed a Euro 10 million agreement to strengthen democracy and human rights. The four-year program includes three components: support to the reform of prisons, the protection of migrant workers, namely female domestic workers, and support to civil society in the socio-economic development of Lebanon.

European Union launched project support to the Central Administration for Statistics

On 10 December 2010, the European Union launched an 18-month Euro 900,000 twinning project between the Northern Ireland Research and Statistics Agency and the Lebanese Central Administration of Statistics. The project aims at improving techniques for the preparation of national accounts, business and social statistics to conform with international standards, and improving the quality of the information provided by the Central Administration of Statistics to public and private sector decision-makers.

European Union signed two financing agreements to support education, finance and trade development

On 10 December 2010, the Head of the European Union delegation and the Secretary General of the Council of Ministers signed two financing agreements for a total of Euro 22 million. The Euro 14 million agreement will support education and public finance management reforms. The project intends to reinforce the capacities of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in order for them to meet the sector performance and public finance management eligibility criteria for sector budget support, thus increasing the effectiveness of external aid. The Euro 8 million agreement will support the Government of Lebanon in reform areas which will improve economic growth and fiscal balance, namely trade facilitation and integration and tax performance enhancement.



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United States Agency for International Development signed two agreements with the Ministry of Economy and Trade

On 13 December 2010, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of Economy and Trade signed a \$3 million Memorandum of Understanding to support Lebanon in its accession to the World Trade Organization and a \$3 million Memorandum of Understanding to consolidate the cooperation efforts between Lebanon and the United States in agriculture. This program will help support the strengthening of quality control and certification of agricultural products, thereby enabling food and agricultural companies to respect international quality standards and to access new markets.

Italy approved a project for local socio-economic development

On 15 December 2010, the Embassy of Italy, through the Italian Development Cooperation Office in Lebanon, approved a Euro 2.5 million national program for local socio-economic development through the strengthening of the Social Development Centers (SDC) and the enhancement of the Social Development Fund in Lebanon. The twelve months project will contribute to the national strategy of the Ministry of Social Affairs for social development, particularly the protection of the most vulnerable persons. The direct beneficiaries of the project will be the Social Development Department and the district departments of the ministry, the staff of the selected SDCs, as well as detainee women, their families and children.

World Bank approved the Greater Beirut Water Supply Project

On 16 December 2010, the Board of the World Bank approved a \$200 million water supply project in Greater Beirut designed to satisfy access to water. The project aims to meet the water needs of 1.2 million residents of Baabda, Aley, parts of Metn, Southern Beirut and the Mount Lebanon region, including 350,000 low-income residents of the Southern Beirut suburbs. The project will build the infrastructure required for the intake, treatment, conveyance and storage of water to meet the pressing daily demand for 250,000 cubic meters of potable water.

United States Agency for International Development signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education

On 17 December 2010, USAID and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education signed a \$75 million Memorandum of Understanding for a five-year Developing Rehabilitation Assistance to Schools and Teacher Improvement (D-RASATI) project, which will improve student achievement in all public schools in Lebanon. The project will improve the learning environment by repairing and equipping schools; enhance the skills of public school teachers through in-service teacher training; engage Lebanese students in extra-curricular activities; and stimulate increased parental and community involvement in schools.



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United States Agency for International Development launched a new geographic information system at the Ministry of Economy and Trade

On 17 December 2010, the United States Brand Protection Group launched a new web-based geographic information system for the Consumer Protection Department of the Ministry of Economy and Trade that will help the ministry improve consumer protection. Funded by a \$50,000 grant from USAID and in partnership with the Ministry of Economy and Trade, this project will provide Consumer Protection Department inspectors with the tools to streamline their procedures, thereby improving the detection of trademark violations. The project will improve consumer protection nationwide, and is part of the \$9.3 million USAID Transparency and Accountability Grants program, implemented by AMIDEAST, that encourages civil society organizations in Lebanon to play a more active role in promoting good governance in both the public and private sectors.

European Commission Macro-Financial Assistance to Lebanon expired

On 21 December 2010, the European Commission's Macro-Financial Assistance approved in the context of the Paris III conference in 2007 expired. The Macro-Financial Assistance of up to Euro 80 million was composed of a grant of Euro 30 million and a loan of Euro 50 million. The objective of this assistance was to support Lebanon's efforts to reduce public debt to a sustainable level. The first disbursement of Euro 40 million was conditioned on the satisfactory implementation of EPCA II and the Euro 15 million grant was received on 30 December 2008, while the Euro 25 million loan was received on 5 June 2009. The release of the second installment was conditioned upon a positive evaluation by the European Commission, on behalf of the European Community, of progress made with respect to specific economic reform measures relating to public finance management, as well as the power and social sectors.

Denmark approved funding for the construction of the Nahr El-Bared Camp

On 23 December 2010, the Danish government approved funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the construction of the Nahr El-Bared camp for a total amount of \$290,000.



AID COORDINATION

Reconstruction of the Nahr El-Bared Camp and surrounding areas

On 2 December 2010, the Board of the Council for Development and Reconstruction by decision no. 967 approved the award of the Design and Supervision of the Nahr El Bared Adjacent Areas Water System Infrastructure contract to Khatib & Alami for an amount of Euro 80,600. The contract will be funded by the Greek Embassy.

Third Meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee of the European Neighborhood and Partnership Cross Border Cooperation Mediterranean Sea Basin Program

On December 13-14, 2010, a Lebanese delegation, including representatives from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the third meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee of the ENPI Cross Border Cooperation Mediterranean Sea Basin Program in Valencia, Spain. The JMC meeting approved the 30 projects selected by the Project Selection Group during the first call for proposals and decided to make some modifications to the JMC rules of procedures for the second call for proposals. The Program is part of the European Neighborhood Policy and of its financing instrument (European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument - ENPI) and has a budget of Euro 173.6 million for the 2007-2013 period.

Fourteen different countries are eligible to the Program which aims at reinforcing the cooperation between the European Union and partner countries placed along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea in the following fields: socio-economic development and enhancement of territories; environmental sustainability at basin level; conditions and modalities for ensuring the mobility of persons, goods and capital; cultural dialogue and local governance.