



AID DEVELOPMENTS

Arab Monetary Fund signed an agreement with the Ministry of Finance

On 7 January 2011, the Ministry of Finance and the Arab Monetary Fund signed a \$45 million line of credit agreement which will be used to help the Government of Lebanon decrease the cost of importing petroleum products to generate electricity.

Arab Trade Financing Program provided support to two Lebanese commercial banks

On 17 January 2011, the Arab Trade Financing Program announced that it had provided a \$20 million line of credit to BLOM Bank and a \$4 million line of credit to BLC Bank in order for the two commercial banks to refinance their commercial transactions between Lebanon and Arab countries. The ATFP was created in 1990 by the Arab Monetary Fund in order to promote inter-Arab trade. Since then, the program has provided 130 lines of credit to 25 Lebanese banks and government institutions for a total amount of \$1.4 billion.

United States provided a grant to the American University of Beirut

On 24 January 2011, the United States Ambassador to Lebanon provided a \$1.5 million grant to the President of the American University of Beirut for student scholarships. This grant is a reimbursement for scholarships provided to 854 meritorious yet financially needy Lebanese students at AUB from January till September 2010.

Canada provided a grant to the American University of Beirut

On 28 January 2011, the Environment and Sustainable Development unit at the American University of Beirut (AUB) received a donation of \$246,000 dollars from the Canadian International Development Research Center. The objective of the grant is to achieve further research on sustainable development and publish books about the subject.

China provided a grant to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On 29 January 2011, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China provided a \$753,000 in-kind grant to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for equipment including buses, trucks, cars, a generator and computer equipment.

European Union signed an agreement with the Lebanese Parliament

On 31 January 2011, the speaker of the Lebanese Parliament and the Chief Executive of Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at strengthening good governance in the country. The European Union will cover 80 percent of the costs of the 21-month program, providing Euro 500,000 of the Euro 625,000 project. The program will work with Members of Parliament and develop an advisory unit to provide technical support and expertise to the finance and budget as well as the administration and justice parliamentary committees. WFD is an independent political foundation, sponsored by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



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Reconstruction of the Nahr El-Bared Camp and surrounding areas

The reconstruction works of 200 homes under Package 1 of the Nahr El-Bared Camp are expected to be completed at the end of February 2011. The works under Package 2 are progressing well. In its appeal for relief funding for 2011, UNRWA has so far received pledges totaling 31 percent of its total relief needs, equivalent to \$5.8 million, from Denmark, Republic of Korea, Norway, Turkey, the USA and the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO), out of a total of \$18.5 million requested for the year.

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