



## AID DEVELOPMENTS

### **World Bank supported Lebanese enterprise**

On 3 February 2011, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), a member of the World Bank Group, and Kafalat S.A.L, signed a Memorandum of Agreement that will facilitate cooperation to promote cross-border investments. The parties committed to work together in order to raise awareness about risk mitigation instruments, such as political risk insurance, through events including joint conferences, seminars and training.

### **Canada launched a project with the Lebanese Customs Administration**

On 14 February 2011, the Canadian International Development Agency and the Lebanese Customs Administration launched a CAD 30,000 technical assistance project to support the implementation of e-payment systems via commercial banks in the Lebanese Customs Administration. This initiative will improve LCA's effectiveness in delivering its services. This is in line with the main objective of the CIDA Lebanon Program Framework (2007-2010) which seeks to strengthen democratic governance, through the strengthening of electoral processes and reform efforts.

### **United States provided a grant to the Lebanese American University**

On 17 February 2011, the United States Ambassador to Lebanon presented a \$186,495 grant to the President of the Lebanese American University for student scholarships, the final installment of a \$1.5 million grant. These funds provided partial scholarships to 232 Lebanese students from all over Lebanon to attend LAU.

### **Italy provided funding to the Palestinians from the Nahr El-Bared camp**

On 21 February 2011, the Ambassador of Italy presented the first checks to the families of Palestinian refugee from the Nahr El-Bared camp for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of their homes, as part of the Euro 5 million agreement signed between the Government of Italy and the Council for Development and Reconstruction. The initiative aims to alleviate the difficult living conditions and support the socio-economic development of the camp, through the redemption in cash of 70 percent of the total cost of the rehabilitation and repair of houses.

### **Spain launched a project for immigrant workers**

On 23 February 2011, the Ambassador of Spain launched a project of empowerment and social inclusion of immigrant workers and their children in the Greater Beirut area. The Euro 288,867 project will be financed by the Spanish International Development Agency and will be implemented by a Spanish NGO, AIDA, and the Insan center. Its objective will be to provide legal and social assistance to immigrant workers, to integrate their children in local schools, and to launch an awareness campaign on issues relating to immigrant workers.

### **European Union launched a demining project**

On 25 February 2011, the European Union launched a Euro 7 million demining project to be implemented by the Lebanese army and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in coordination with the Lebanese Center for Mine Action. The project will cover the entire Lebanese territory including Mount Lebanon and North Lebanon. The European Union's funding will last until 2013, whereas the entire project will go until 2015. Since 2006, the European Union has provided Euro 18 million for demining projects.



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### **Reconstruction of the Nahr El-Bared Camp and surrounding areas**

Phase I of the Housing Repair and Rehabilitation project in the Nahr El-Bared Camp adjacent area, funded by the Italian Development Cooperation Office, was officially launched by the Central Fund for the Displaced. Planning for Phase II of the project is underway in consultation with all stakeholders. Options for the future governance of the NBC are being evaluated by the Government and consultations on this matter with the concerned stakeholders are due in March 2011. Both the Government and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) are pursuing their technical assessment of the interface area between the NBC and the adjacent areas. Furthermore, the Government has officially asked UNRWA to allocate adequate space within Package-3 of the NBC for the establishment of a police station.

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