



AID DEVELOPMENTS

Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development funds hospitals

On 6 September 2011, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) announced that it will fund equipment for two hospitals as part of a comprehensive project to establish thirteen public hospitals in different regions in Lebanon. The Tannourine Government Hospital will receive equipment for its intensive care unit, and Sir Dannieh Government Hospital will receive dental medical equipment. KFAED has given Lebanon seventeen loans since 1966 worth \$500 billion. These were invested in the health, agriculture, transportation and reconstruction sectors.

European Union supports Palestinian refugees

On 16 September 2011, the European Union announced that it will provide Euro 12 million support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The program aims at providing adequate shelter to the most vulnerable Palestinian refugee families living in Lebanon, by securing funds for the rehabilitation of shelters in Palestinian camps throughout Lebanon and by paying cash rental subsidies in 2011 and 2012 to the families waiting to return to their reconstructed houses in Nahr El-Bared camp. The program will be financed by the Instrument for Stability (IfS), which is the EU mechanism to respond to crises, facilitate recovery processes and pre-empt further relapses. Together with humanitarian aid, support from IfS and from the European Neighborhood Partnership Instrument, the EU has disbursed more than Euro 64 million in support of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon over the last four years.



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Third Meeting of the European Neighborhood Policy Economic and Finance Subcommittee

On 20 September 2011, the third European Neighborhood Policy Action Plan Economic and Finance Subcommittee Meeting was held in Beirut. The meeting covered various topics, such as the fiscal and macroeconomic situation in Lebanon and the EU, the role and challenges faced by the central bank of Lebanon, and EU-Lebanon cooperation including a review of the ENP Action Plan and reform of Public Finance Management and EU cooperation assistance. The meeting was co-chaired by the Director General of Finance of the Ministry of Finance and the Head of Unit, Neighboring Countries-Macrofinancial Assistance from the EU Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs and was attended by representatives from European embassies, and representatives from the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Ministries of Finance, Economy and Trade, and Foreign Affairs, and the Banque du Liban.

A Lebanese delegation attended the World Bank Annual Meetings

A Lebanese delegation, led by the Minister of Finance and including the Minister of Economy and Trade and the Governor of the Central Bank as well as representatives of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the Council for Development and Reconstruction, participated in the World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings on September 23-25 in Washington, D.C. The delegation updated donors on the state of the Lebanese economy and Budget Proposal 2012 as well as progress achieved in the implementation of the reform program, and discussed funding requirements and resource mobilization in a number of bilateral meetings.

Reconstruction of the Nahr El-Bared Camp and surrounding areas

On 28 September 2011, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) inaugurated Package 1 and three schools as part of an extensive effort to reconstruct Nahr El-Bared Camp at a ceremony held under the patronage of the President of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Najib Mikati. Many Lebanese and Palestinian officials, high-level donor delegations, community members, other UN agencies and a large group of media representatives attended the ceremony. Package 1 includes 56 commercial stores and 369 flats that will house 317 families.

Work continues on Package 2. UNRWA recently secured all funds for the reconstruction of Package 3, of which Blocks N13 and N20 are under tendering along with the first of the three blocks in Area A-zero. Construction will start as soon as the contracts are awarded. Construction of the fourth large school complex will also commence before the end of the year, and the construction of the health center early next year.

During the ceremony, new donations were announced for the reconstruction and relief services of NBC, including \$10 million contribution from the Saudi Fund for Development, \$2 million donation from the Palestinian Liberation Organization, and \$13 million contribution from the United States Government. Overall, UNRWA has secured around 40 percent of its funding needs for 2012, but is still seeking approximately \$26 million to meet its funding shortfall for the year 2013.