



AID DEVELOPMENTS

World Bank provides technical assistance in wind power project

The World Bank initiated a technical assistance to study the development of a pilot wind power project in the country. The main objectives of the technical assistance are to enable the Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC) and the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) to develop a broad strategic framework for the development of a wind power market in Lebanon and to understand the policy issues the ministry will need to address in promoting renewable energy, in particularly wind power, in Lebanon.

Japan provides support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees in the Near East

On 30 November 2011, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) announced a \$2 million support to install new water distribution, sewerage and storm water drainage systems in the market area of Ein El Helweh camp, aimed at improving the health conditions of nearly 1,500 Palestinian refugees residing in the market sector of the camp.

Switzerland provides support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees in the Near East

On 30 November 2011, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) announced a \$2.6 million initiative that aims to remediate and upgrade water supply networks at seven Palestinian camps, including Shatila, Burj El Barajneh, Mar Elias, Dbayeh, Beddawi, Mieh Mieh and Wavel.

France supports the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East

On 30 November 2011, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the French Government signed an agreement by which the French Agency for Development (AFD) will contribute Euro 1 million for reconstruction efforts in the Nahr El-Bared camp. The funding will be used to rebuild a health center and partially fund a school in the Palestinian refugee camp. The health center is expected to be operational by early 2013 and is expected to cost around Euro 800,000.

European Investment Bank helped launch the Lebanon Growth Capital Fund

On 5 December 2011, the European Investment Bank (EIB), Cisco, and Riyada Enterprise Development (member of the Abraaj Group) announced the launch of the \$50 million Lebanon Growth Capital Fund. The fund aims at providing long-term capital and institutional support to small and medium enterprises in Lebanon. It will target investments in thirteen to fifteen businesses expected to expand into new regional and international markets. EIB announced it will invest \$6.75 million into the fund. Cisco will invest \$7 million in the fund.



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European Union supports four Lebanese municipalities

On 8 December 2011, the European Union announced the signature of four grant agreements for a total of Euro 310,340 with the municipalities of Andaket in Akkar, Deir Qannoun and Douier in the South and Assia in Jbeil. These agreements fall within the EU European Neighborhood Policy Action Plan and will fund the municipalities' projects, which were selected following a call for proposals issued by the Delegation of the European Union. The projects cover various socio-economic activities in the fields of environment and eco-tourism.

France signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Social Affairs

On 13 December 2011, the Minister of Social Affairs and the French Ambassador signed a memorandum of understanding for a new Euro 400,000 project to support selected Lebanese civil society organizations in 2012 and 2013. The social development fund, entitled 'Support to the People of Southern Lebanon', will support initiatives by Lebanese civil society organizations targeted towards the most vulnerable communities in southern Lebanon, such as women, children and the disabled. The five civil society organizations selected are the Lebanese Association for the Promotion of Literacy, AMEL international association, the Association for the Protection of Children from War, Fair Trade Lebanon and the School for Children with Special Needs.

International Finance Corporation supports the technology sector in Lebanon

On 14 December 2011, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, announced a \$2 million equity investment in software company MobiNetS. The investment will support the firm, which specializes in mobile telecommunications software, as it embarks on a plan to expand into new international markets and will help create high-quality programming and software engineering jobs in the technology sector in Lebanon.

France signed a loan agreement with the Council for Development and Reconstruction

On 15 December 2011, the Ambassador of France and the President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) signed a Euro 20 million loan agreement financed by the French Agency for Development (AFD) for the completion of a cultural heritage project, which aims at modernizing cultural and historic sites in five cities, notably Saida, Baalbeck, Jbeil, Tripoli and Tyre. This project comes as part of a multi-donor funded operation initiated several years ago by the World Bank and including the Italian Government.



AID COORDINATION

Embassy of Korea organized a joint Lebanon-Korea economic seminar

On 23 November 2011, the Embassy of Korea organized a joint economic seminar in coordination with the Lebanese Ministries of Economy and Trade, Finance, Environment and Energy and Water, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of cooperation between Lebanon and Korea. The objective of the seminar was to host experts from both Lebanon and Korea, who presented a general overview of the possible fields of cooperation between the two countries and discussed ideas for reducing the gap in trade exchange between Lebanon and Korea. A number of ideas and recommendations for follow up action were formulated.