



## AID DEVELOPMENTS

### **SANAD Fund supports SME development**

On 4 January 2012, SANAD Fund signed a senior loan facility totaling \$5 million with BLC Bank S.A.L., its first investment in Lebanon. The loan will enable BLC Bank to further expand its small and medium enterprise loan program, thereby allowing SMEs to gain better access to long-term credit. SANAD Fund, initiated by KfW Entwicklungsbank (the German Development Bank) with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union, is committed to providing financial institutions with instruments and products adapted to their specific needs.

### **Germany funds a project to protect the Jeita source**

On 10 January 2012, the Council of Ministers approved a Euro 7 million soft loan agreement between German KfW and the Council for Development and Reconstruction for the second phase of the project to protect the Jeita water source. The Council of Ministers also approved a Euro 7 million soft loan co-operation agreement between the Council for Development and Reconstruction and the Government of Germany for the third phase of the project to protect the Jeita source.

### **World Bank funds a water project**

On 11 January 2012, the Minister of Finance, the World Bank Director for North Africa and Middle East and the Secretary General of the National Council for Scientific Research (NCSR) signed a project agreement entitled Regional Coordination on Improved Water Resources Management and Capacity Building Program. The total budget of the project amounts to \$5,334,595, of which \$1,050,000 allocated to Lebanon; the project will also benefit Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. The project objective is to establish a land station, that will allow the NCSR to monitor vegetation, forest fires and land temperature on a daily basis. The NCSR land station will receive images from MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer), which is an instrument aboard the Terra and Aqua - United States-owned research satellites.

### **Spain supports the Ministry of Agriculture**

On 14 January 2012, the Lebanese Minister of Agriculture and the Catalonian Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing signed a cooperation agreement for the provision of consultancy and technical assistance under the title Tools for the Sustainable Management and Conservation of the Oaks in Lebanon. The cooperation budget amounts to \$100,000 and covers a period of ten months.

### **Kuwait supports the Litani River project**

On 16 January 2012, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) announced the start of the implementation of the first phase of the newly launched Litani River project through the signature of the contract document between the contractor and the Council for Development and Reconstruction. The first phase will cost \$330 million and consists of two parts, with the first part needing around \$200 million, 80 percent of which will be financed by KFAED, AFESD and the Government of Lebanon. The project will transport around 110 million cubic meters of water annually from the Qaraoun dam to southern Lebanon and is expected to irrigate land up to 800 meters above sea level.



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### **Kuwait supports a water project**

On 17 January 2012, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) announced the start of the implementation of a water supply project for South Bekaa through the signature of the contract document between the contractor and KFAED. The project will be financed by a \$35 million grant out of the pledge made by the Government of Kuwait after the 2006 war.

### **Italy supports the rural population of Southern Lebanon**

On 19 January 2012, the National Observatory for Women in Agriculture and Rural Areas (NOWARA) announced a socio-economic development project for the rural population of Southern Lebanon. The Euro 120,000 project will be funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture and the Italian NGO CTM. NOWARA will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the project which will last three years and which aims to provide training to beneficiaries as well as technical and financial support.

### **Food and Agriculture Organization supports three water projects**

On 24 January 2012, the Food and Agriculture Organization announced three future projects whose objectives are to address water shortages and improve food security of poor populations. These new projects will be undertaken in collaboration with the Italian Development Cooperation Office, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Energy and Water. The first project involves the treatment of wastewater in the plant in Laat. The second project focuses on ways to address the shortage of water resources. Its objective is to strengthen the capacity of local actors in the management of water resources and use in agriculture. The third project concerns the improvement of water management in the Caza of Marjeyoun. The challenge is to promote agricultural development in the region through the modernization of management methods of irrigation.

### **European Union funds Quality Assurance in Higher Education project**

On 27 January 2012, the European Union and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education launched a new European Union Tempus-funded project entitled Towards the Lebanese Quality Assurance Agency (TLQAA). The Euro 634,554 project aims at preparing the ground for a national quality assurance agency by defining a set of customized standards and procedures, and training Lebanese experts to conduct evaluations of academic programs and institutions. The need for a formal quality assurance process has been recognized by Lebanese universities. Recently, a law for the establishment of a national Quality Assurance Agency was drafted and is being discussed in the Council of Ministers. The project brings together a consortium of twenty partners, twelve from Lebanon and eight partners from Europe, including the quality assurance agencies from Spain and France and six academic institutions. The TLQAA is funded in the framework of Tempus, a program supporting modernization of higher education systems and creation of an area of cooperation between the EU and its neighborhood countries.