



Aid Developments

Italy supports Lebanese population and Palestinian refugees living in the camps

On 17 October 2011, the Italian Development Cooperation launched a Euro 1,080,000 grant initiative to consolidate and strengthen actions financed through the previous emergency programs. The present program target the most vulnerable, including youth and Palestinian refugees, addressing emergencies in the environmental and social sectors. The overall program will implement ten micro-projects spread around the country, from Tripoli to the South.

Italy signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Tourism

On 12 December 2011, the Minister of Tourism and the Italian Ambassador signed a memorandum of understanding to support the development of religious tourism in Lebanon, for Euro 414,000 grant. The objective of the project, which will be jointly implemented by the Ministry of Tourism, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the Italian Development Cooperation, is to create new opportunities for economic development through the definition and promotion of religious tourism itineraries. It aims at including Lebanon among the international destinations for cultural and religious tourism in order to enable the country to benefit from the pilgrimages and tourism-related incomes. Main expected results will be the creation of a comprehensive and accurate database of all the religious sites and destinations provided with thorough information related to the definition of the tourist resources in Lebanon and to the religious tourism market; the elaboration of religious tourism itineraries to be promoted in the international tourist market and an action plan for private investors and donors to leverage the economy of the religious sites and namely those located in rural areas.

Italy supports municipal finance reform

On 28 December 2011, the Lebanese Minister of Interior and Municipalities and the Italian Ambassador signed a memorandum of understanding to support municipal finance reform, for Euro 1,749,000 grant. The Italian Cooperation financial contribution will be entirely allocated to the implementation of local development projects and investments submitted in the framework of the call for proposals by the Unions of Municipalities. The aim of the initiative is to support the reform processes in the area of municipal finance by increasing the management capacities, both at central and local levels, and by providing complementary funding to improve service delivery at local level. This project was subject of a joint identification exercise with the European Commission, which will support the project's objective through a parallel funding to the Government of Lebanon.



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UNDP supports the Phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs)

On 18 January 2012, the Minister of Environment and the United Nations Development Program signed a project concerning the Phase-out of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) products that contribute to the depletion the Ozone layer, funded by the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol for \$2,495,109.

The objectives of the overarching strategy of HCFC Phase-out Management Plan for Lebanon are:

1. To facilitate compliance of Lebanon with the control targets for HCFC consumption with minimal impacts on the national economy, on environment and on occupational health.
2. To implement a combination of interventions such as technology transfer investments, policies and regulations, technical assistance, training and capacity-building, awareness and education and monitoring and management in the HCFC consuming sectors, contributing to achieve sustainable reductions and phase-out of HCFC consumption. HCFC phase-out Management Plan (HPMP Stage-I) for Lebanon will target the Foam and Air-conditioning sectors and upon successful completion, the plan will result in net sustainable reduction of minimum 20 Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP) tonnes in national HCFC consumption by 2015, contributing to the compliance of Lebanon with the 2013 and 2015 control targets for HCFCs. In addition, the project will result in net CO₂-equivalent emission reductions of about 0.66 million tonnes annually from 2015.

European Union supports new cultural projects

On 29 February 2012, the European Union announced a new grant of Euro 108,686 for four cultural projects, which will be implemented by three Lebanese civil society organizations: Association MADA, Arc-en-Ciel and Khayal (Cooperative Association for Arts and Education), and the European organization Comitato di Coordinamento delle Organizzazione per il Servizio Volontario (COSV). The projects cover various cultural fields: the organization of an intercommunity festival at the Tebnine castle, an itinerant circus, the production of theater plays for children and the organization of a comics festival. These projects will be carried out by young Lebanese and Euro-Mediterranean artists and will cover several regions in the country.

European Union supports shelter rehabilitation in Lebanon Palestinian refugee camps

On 11 March 2012, the European Union launched a new project grant for Euro 6 million enabling Palestinian families living in refugee camps in Lebanon to rehabilitate their houses. This project 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. In addition, the project will be implemented on self-help basis, which is a new approach that promotes the sense of self-reliance among the refugees. At least 736 Palestinian families will benefit from the project. The resources will be provided in tranches through bank transfers. The families will execute the works themselves, under the supervision of engineers from UNRWA. Another Euro 6 million will serve to implement another project component to pay cash rental subsidies for 2011 and in 2012 to the displaced families awaiting to return to their reconstructed houses in Nahr el-Bared Camp.



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Chinese Government provided a grant to the Council for Development and Reconstruction

On 21 March 2012, the Council for Development and Reconstruction signed with the Ambassador of China a grant agreement with the Chinese Government for 50 million Yuan (equivalent of \$7.5 million) to contribute to the financing of economic and technical cooperation projects between the two countries.

Kuwait provided funding for wastewater sector

On 29 March 2012, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Energy and Water and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) signed a loan agreement for 13.5 Kuwaiti Dinar (equivalent of \$ 47 million) for the construction of sewer systems, including wastewater treatment plants for the two systems of Marjayoun - Khi-am and Chakra in the South, including as well a reuse system for irrigation purposes.



Aid Coordination

The European Union organized the EU-Lebanon cooperation days

On 23 and 24 March 2012, the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon organized the EU-Lebanon Cooperation Days. The event aimed to raise public awareness concerning the programmes that the EU and its Member States are funding in Lebanon, and more specifically to:

- Showcase projects and activities benefiting from EU financial assistance;
- Explain the funding opportunities offered by the EU to different partners (State institutions, nongovernmental organisations, private sector, students, etc.);
- Generate discussion on the reform agenda in Lebanon.