



AID DEVELOPMENTS

European Union supports the Ministry of Agriculture

On 13 July 2012, the European Union provided Euro 1,810,270 to the Ministry of Agriculture for technical assistance for the Agricultural and Rural Development Programme. The programme consists of: the strengthening of the capacities of the Ministry of Agriculture to design, implement and monitor agricultural policies; the improvement of the quality of agricultural products; the provision of better extension services; the increase of the competitiveness of the agricultural products; the increase of the economic development of farmers and agricultural cooperatives through easier access to credit and improved extension services; together with the development of rural infrastructure (ex. building of hill lakes, rehabilitation of the Ministry's forest nurseries, etc.). The technical assistance will ensure technical, financial and administrative management of the programme and will provide technical assistance on the implementation of the project components. The period of implementation is 36 months.

European Union supports nine Lebanese municipalities

On 19 July 2012, the Head of the European Delegation and the President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) signed grant contracts with nine municipality clusters for local development projects in the North of Lebanon for a total of Euro 2.5 million. The projects are part of a larger Euro 18 million programme dedicated to the development in the North of Lebanon. Projects in the municipality clusters of Fneideq, Beit Younes, Machta Hassan, Hrar, Mkybleh and Dawra (caza of Akkar), Kfarbnine (caza of Minnieh-Dinniyeh), Qasr and Hermel (caza of Hermel) cover activities in education, health, water and sanitation, irrigation and agricultural development, and waste management. These two-year projects, which will benefit around 80,000 inhabitants, were identified and prepared by the communities themselves following a participatory procedure. The projects will be implemented by the municipal clusters with the support of the Economic and Social Fund for Development, which will provide technical assistance in fund management. In the last few years, municipalities have become privileged partners of the cooperation of the European Union with Lebanon, with more than 69 projects being funded, amounting in total to more than Euro 48 million.



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Islamic Development Bank funds wastewater project

On 30 July 2012, the Minister of Energy and Water, the Minister of Finance and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) signed a loan agreement for \$26.8 million to finance the West Bekaa Wastewater Project, phase II. In addition, a grant agreement was signed for \$180,000 as technical assistance to the project implementation. The signature was done by correspondence. The project aims to provide West-Bekaa area with a wastewater network, to improve life, health and environment conditions of the population of the area covered by the project. This project is the second phase and is supposed to complete the previously executed first phase of the project, funded from the Islamic Development Bank. The IDB financing will cover the following: (1) installation of wastewater piping network; (2) installation of secondary network for house connections; (3) construction and equipment of pumping stations; (4) consultancy services.