



AID DEVELOPMENTS

Islamic Development Bank provides funding for Sour public hospital

On 5 March 2013, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Minister of Health and the President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) signed two agreements to finance the construction and equipment of Sour public hospital for \$ 8.66 million loan and \$ 5.45 million lease. The two agreements are within the Framework Agreement of \$ 245 million for the Reconstruction of Lebanon, signed with the IDB and ratified by the Parliament on 6 March 2010.

France supports project preparation

On 22 March 2013, the Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD), CDR and the Embassy of France signed a grant agreement for Euro 700,000, to be used for phase 2 of the Fond des Etudes et de Preparation des Projets (FEPP), which covers all aspects of projects preparation. AFD created this Fund, which is used when local partners cannot provide independent expertise and quality.



Aid COORDINATION

European Union enhances economic growth and social prosperity in Lebanon

On 4 March 2013, the Economic and Social Council of Lebanon organized a seminar entitled Regional Cooperation, Good Practices in the Region, Working in Social Dialogue and Cooperation, within the framework of the EU TRESMED programme. TRESMED aims at strengthening the role of the economic and social agents in decision-making processes in order to create a representative model for integration within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy. The main objectives of TRESMED IV include the mutual exchange of experiences in the field of institutionalized social dialogue, the strengthening of the economic and social councils, the reinforcement of civil society organizations, the strengthening and promotion of social dialogue via education and awareness-raising. TRESMED IV contributes to promoting social dialogue in order to build an inclusive society where everyone finds its place and contributes to the development of the whole country. For more information: <http://www.tresmed.es>

European Union contributes to developing innovation capabilities and competitiveness in Lebanon

On 7 March 2013, the European Union participated in the launch of a pioneer program on Best Practice in Developing Innovation Capabilities and Competitiveness of SMEs in Lebanon, organized by Berytech Technology Pole from the EU-funded program IMProve-European Innovation Management Academy. The IMProve Academy delivers support services and hands-on tools aimed at improving innovation management capabilities and competitiveness of enterprises at the national and international levels. The programme is expected to have a strong impact in Lebanon as it aims to create a pool of well-trained innovation counselors, who will obtain a European certification. Their skills will then be applied to enhance the competitiveness and innovation of enterprises in Lebanon. For more information: <https://www.improve-innovation.eu/> and <http://www.beryttech.org/>.

European Union supports the participation of women in economic development and decision-making in Lebanon

In the framework of its Investing in People programme, the European Union improved human and social development in Lebanon, in accordance with the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, by funding five initiatives through a grant of Euro 3 million, namely improvement of living conditions of underprivileged women in North Lebanon, improvement of socio-economic conditions of women refugees in camps, support for the empowerment of women in rural areas in Byblos, Bcharreh and Batroun, addressing gender inequality for Palestinian women refugees, and working with men and boys to end violence against women in the Middle East. On 8 March 2013, on the occasion of International Women Day, the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon organized a panel debate on Women in Decision Making in Lebanon, in Beirut. Last October, the EU and UN Women launched, among many other initiatives, Spring Forward for Women, a new programme for the South Mediterranean Region, which aim to support national and regional stakeholders to empower women economically and politically. The participation of women in decision making, both in political and public life, is a human rights issue because women are an integral part of the future of every country.



AID COORDINATION

Donors support the displaced Syrians

On March 7, 2013, the number of Syrian displaced in Jordan, Turkey, Iraq, Egypt and Lebanon hit the one million mark. By the end of March, the number had already reached 1,200,000 people, marking a notable 20 per cent increase. As reported, UNHCR registered additional 48,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon in March 2013, bringing the total of registered and awaiting registration to just under 400 000. The distribution of the registered Syrian displaced population in Lebanon, 251, 407, is as follows: North Lebanon: 110,204, Bekaa: 95,457, Beirut and Mount Lebanon: 25,746 and South Lebanon: 20,000; this compares with 150,000 registered Syrian displaced at end-December 2012.

The Government of Lebanon works intensely with UN agencies on producing a consolidated response plan that would help generate the Regional Response Plan 5 to be launched by the UN towards end of May. It is expected that these documents would address donors and funding agencies in an attempt to draw assistance in meeting the emerging needs of the ever increasing numbers of displaced as well as Lebanese communities. In fact, based on the projections of the number of displaced and accounting for the current trend, away from any unexpected event that might cause a massive influx into Lebanon, the expected number of Syrian displaced registered and those awaiting registration would reach 1 million in December 2013. However, in the absence of resources at the national level and mega assistance arising to the level of the suffering, the number of people in need that Lebanon will be looking at also will include the Syrian seasonal workers, those Syrian displaced unwilling to register, Lebanese hosting communities and as well 26 percent of the Lebanese population living under the poverty line and expected to be suffering tremendously the burden of the crisis. .

In March, the Ministry of Public Health, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the second phase of the nation-wide vaccination campaign targeting Syrian and Lebanese children to be vaccinated against polio and measles.