



AID DEVELOPMENTS

Italy approved financing for four new development projects

On 9 December 2009, the Italian Development Cooperation Office in Lebanon approved the execution of four new development projects for Euro 4.8 million. These projects include the establishment of a national policy on public health for maternal and child healthcare in the poorest regions in Lebanon, the improvement of tourism in Baalbeck and the Bekaa, a contribution to the UNDP for the development of a plan on water resources, and a contribution to a UNIDO project on poverty reduction through productive activities.

European Commission signed two new financing agreements

On 9 December 2009, the Director for Europe, Southern Mediterranean, Middle East and Neighborhood Policy at the Europe Aid Co-operation Office of the European Commission signed two Financing Agreements with the Government of Lebanon in the presence of Prime Minister Saad Hariri. The first agreement signed with the Office of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, is for the reinforcement of private sector competitiveness and is for Euro 14 million. The second agreement signed with the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform, is for a project on the modernization of the Lebanese justice system and is for Euro 10 million. These agreements bring to three the number of EU/Lebanon Financing Agreements that entered into force in 2009, for a total amount of Euro 42 million. The third agreement is for support to local development in Northern Lebanon, for Euro 18 million.

UNDP inaugurated three reconstruction projects for the Southern Suburbs of Beirut

On 15 December 2009, the UNDP inaugurated three reconstruction projects for the Southern suburbs of Beirut: the construction of a training center for adults, the establishment of a closed market in Haret Hreik, and the rehabilitation of a sewage treatment plant in Bourj Brajneeh. The training center cost of \$225,500 was financed by the UNDP and the Government of Sweden while the equipment was financed by the Government of Austria. The closed market was financed by the UNDP, the Austrian and Swedish governments. The project for the rehabilitation of the sewage treatment plant (\$200,000) was financed by Kuwait, Sweden and the UNDP.

France finances the project for the modernization of the Beirut Stock Exchange

On 18 December 2009, the Beirut Stock Exchange and a French company, Société Arche Informatique, signed a Memorandum of Understanding for undertaking a study on the modernization of the stock exchange, for an amount of Euro 323,148. This project is financed by the French Ministry of Economy, Industry and Employment, through the Fund for Studies and Private Sector Assistance (FASEP-studies) of the Directorate General of Treasury and Economic Policy.

France extends deadline of Paris III loan agreement

On 18 December 2009, the Lebanese Minister of Finance and the French Minister of Economy, Industry and Employment signed an amendment to the Paris III loan agreement for Euro 375 million. The amendment is for the extension of the deadline of disbursement of the two remaining tranches (Euro 225 million) by one year until the end of 2010.



AID COORDINATION

Reconstruction of the Nahr El-Bared Camp and surrounding areas

The Government of Lebanon through the Nahr El-Bared Reconstruction and Recovery Cell issued its third Briefing Note on the reconstruction of the Nahr El-Bared and surrounding municipalities. Reconstruction work in the Nahr El-Bared camp is making good progress with full support from government agencies concerned. The master plan for the UNRWA schools and UNRWA compound has been approved by the Government and a decree is expected to be issued in January 2010. In the Nahr El-Bared Camp adjacent area and under the Italian Development Cooperation-funded housing repair and rehabilitation project, the selection process for the Italian NGO that will support the Central Fund for Displaced in project implementation was launched. The scoping of infrastructure works to be financed by Greece in the camp adjacent area was also initiated by the Government.