



AID DEVELOPMENTS

Arab Trade Financing Program signed a line of credit with Byblos Bank

On 6 May 2010, Byblos Bank and the Arab Trade Financing Program (ATFP) signed an agreement of USD 25 million, providing a line of credit to help fund foreign trade activity.

Italy provided a grant to the Ministry of Energy and Water

On 14 May 2010, the Government of Italy provided a Euro 1.8 million grant to the Ministry of Energy and Water to finance a hydrological study to improve the management of the national water resources and to launch a Lebanese center for water management and preservation. The agreement was signed by the Minister of Energy and Water, the Italian Ambassador to Lebanon, the UNDP Deputy Special Coordinator for Lebanon, and the President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction. Since 2006, Italy has contributed more than Euro 81 million to the development of the energy and water sectors.

World Bank prepares for new aid package to Lebanon

On 19 May 2010, the World Bank indicated that the World Bank Group Country Partnership Strategy for 2010-14 is being prepared for early approval. Under the Country Partnership Strategy, an aid package of about USD 500 million could be made available to Lebanon to help the Government implement economic reforms and launch investment projects that would generate more jobs and reduce the gap between different Lebanese regions.

United States announced additional funding for the Nahr El Bared camp project

On 19 May 2010, the United States Ambassador to Lebanon announced a new USD 20 million grant to the Nahr El Bared camp project in North Lebanon. Of the total grant, USD 18 million will be used for the physical reconstruction of the Nahr El Bared camp. The remaining USD 2 million will go towards relief and recovery support, which will allow UNRWA to continue providing essential health, relief, housing and education services to the displaced refugees until they can return to the reconstructed camp. Since 2007, the United States has contributed USD 91.8 million to the Nahr El Bared reconstruction project.

Kuwait signed bilateral agreements with Lebanon

On 20 May 2010, the Lebanese President and the Emir of Kuwait witnessed the signing of several cooperation agreements between the two countries in the media, economy, commerce, and culture sectors. Since 2006, Lebanon has benefited from more than USD 300 million in assistance from the Government of Kuwait.

The Lebanese Council of Ministers approved the third amendment to the United States Agency for International Development Paris III grant agreement

On 20 May 2010, the Lebanese Council of Ministers approved the third amendment to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Paris III grant agreement. The third amendment extends the deadline for disbursement of the remaining tranche (USD 75 million) by one year until the end of 2010.



REPUBLIC OF LEBANON
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

AID COORDINATION NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2010

ISSUE 31

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European Union allocated aid to Lebanon for 2011-2013 period

On 26 May 2010, within the framework of the European Neighborhood Policy Instrument, the European Union announced the allocation of Euro 150 million assistance to Lebanon for the 2011-2013 period. Out of the total allocation, Euro 91 million is for socio-economic reforms, Euro 34 million for economic recovery and reinvigoration, and Euro 25 million for political reforms.

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AID COORDINATION

Reconstruction of the Nahr El-Bared Camp and surrounding areas

The USA announced an additional USD 18 million contribution to UNRWA for the reconstruction of the Nahr El-Bared Palestinian Refugees Camp (NBC). Also, the Government approved the detailed designs for the UNRWA schools, thus allowing the buildings to be ready for the next academic year. The Government, and in close coordination with UNRWA, continues to address all technical issues at interface between the NBC and adjacent areas.

In the NBC adjacent areas, the Central Fund for the Displaced issued the tender documents for the Italian-funded Housing Repair and Rehabilitation project (Euro 5 million) with the submittal date set for June 25, 2010. Furthermore, the Council for Development and Reconstruction is launching the Euro 1 Million infrastructure project funded by Greece.

In the NBC surrounding municipalities, the Recovery and Reconstruction Cell (RRC) at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers continues to monitor and coordinate the implementation of development projects in the NBC surrounding areas and will issue the fifth Briefing Note in June 2010. The RRC is also launching policy research work on the future governance of the NBC adjacent areas.

Tenth Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership Ministerial Meeting

On 18 May 2010, the tenth Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP) Ministerial Meeting and the Ministerial Meeting on the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean were held jointly in Brussels. The FEMIP is the vehicle through which the European Investment Bank operates in the Mediterranean partner countries since October 2002. FEMIP supports infrastructure projects, investment in human capital and environmental protection schemes through loans, private equity and technical assistance. The concept of FEMIP Ministerial Meetings was launched at the end of 2002 and the purpose of the meeting is to review the policy issues confronting the Mediterranean partner countries in their quest for sustained and sustainable growth and development. The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) focused on the general economic situation in the Euro-Mediterranean region and the response to the financial crisis. The FEMIP Ministerial Meeting approved the FEMIP annual report for 2009 and adopted the following topics for FEMIP conferences in 2011: support for small and medium size enterprises (SMEs), and public-private partnerships. Moreover, one of the topics discussed at the Ministerial Meeting concerned better meeting SME needs; in this connection, FEMIP financed from its Trust Fund a feasibility study on the implementation of the Mediterranean Business Development Initiative, one of the priorities of the Union for the Mediterranean (adopted at the July 2008 Paris Summit).