



AID DEVELOPMENTS

The European Commission provides Euro 18 million grant for socio-economic support to North Lebanon

On 20 July 2009, the EC signed Euro 18 million grant agreement with the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) for socio-economic support at the local level in North Lebanon. The CDR will be the implementing agency for this project.

Italy provides Euro 1.5 million grant for the Emergency Program for the Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon

On 22 July 2009, Italy signed EUR 1.5 million grant agreement with the CDR for the Emergency Program for the Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon. This agreement will be managed directly by the Embassy of Italy in Lebanon and will be implemented by Italian NGOs.

Italy donates Euro 7 million to fund twelve new projects

The General Directorate of Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs approved on 3 August 2009 the financing of twelve new projects in Lebanon for a total amount of Euro 7.2 million (US\$10,088,395). The projects cover a variety of fields, including cultural heritage, healthcare, fire prevention, and support to the decentralization process. The assistance consists of a Euro 5.7 million grant and a Euro 1.5 million soft loan. Since the 2006 war, Italian commitments in support of Lebanon total more than Euro 112 million.

The US government provides US\$ 40 million loan facility to Byblos Bank

On 12 August 2009, the US Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) signed a US\$40 million, 15-year term loan facility with Byblos Bank, under a risk-sharing agreement with Citibank to support loans to small and medium-sized enterprises, individual mortgages and consumer finance programs in Lebanon. Over the past three years, OPIC loaned US\$260 million to the Lebanese banking sector under the Lebanon Framework Agreement with Citibank.

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AID COORDINATION

Lebanon participated in the International Aid Transparency Initiative Regional Consultation in Jordan on 12-13 August 2009

The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) is a new, multi-stakeholder initiative, which aims to increase the availability and accessibility of information about aid. Launched at the Accra High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in September 2008, IATI now has sixteen donor signatories and a growing number of endorsements from developing countries. IATI is still at an early stage as detailed scoping and consultation work is on-going to ensure that the initiative meets the needs of key stakeholders and that the agreements reached are realistic for donors to deliver. The regional consultation included representatives from various partner countries in the region, such as Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Somalia and Syria.

Lebanon Recovery Fund update

The Lebanon Recovery Fund was established by United Nations Development Group (UNDG), following the Stockholm Conference of August 31, 2006, in support of Lebanon's recovery. The projects cover priority areas, including agriculture, education, women, youth, the disabled, energy efficiency, and local economic development, and involve a wide range of implementing agencies, namely FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNIDO, and UNRCO. The Lebanon Recovery Fund had committed funding for 24 projects amounting to US\$45,817,473 as at 30 June 2009. The fund's donors include Spain, Sweden and Romania. To date, four projects have been completed by FAO, ILO and UNDP for a total amount of US\$5,853,778.

EC Support Program for Infrastructure Sector Strategies and Alternative Financing

The Delegation of the European Commission to Lebanon initiated on 24 August the preparation of an EC-funded Support Program for Infrastructure Sector Strategies and Alternative financing (SISSAF) with kick-off meetings with the Ministers of Finance, Energy and Water, and Transport and Public Works. Euro 8 million have been allocated to this technical assistance program under the European Neighborhood Policy program for 2010. The purpose of the bilateral consultations held by international consultants with all stakeholders is to prepare the concept paper. Project formulation is planned to take place in October/November 2009 and, subsequently, the signature of the Financing Agreement is foreseen mid 2010 (program implementation would start beginning 2011).

The UN Development Assistance Framework for Lebanon 2010-2014 approved and finalized

The UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) is the strategic program framework for the UN Country Team (UNCT). It describes the collective response of the UNCT to the priorities in the national development framework - priorities that may have been influenced by the analytical contribution of the UNCT. Its high-level expected results are called UNDAF outcomes, which show where the UNCT can bring its unique comparative advantages to bear in advocacy, capacity development, policy advice and programming for the achievement of the Millennium Declaration/Millennium Development Goals (MDG)-related national priorities. The UNDAF for Lebanon for the period 2010-2014 was signed off by each of the UNCT members as well as by the Resident Coordinator and the President of the CDR.

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