



## Aid Developments

### **World Bank approves the Mobile Internet Ecosystem Project**

On 31 July 2013, the Board of the World Bank approved a \$6.4 million project to improve the mobile internet system in Lebanon. The Mobile Internet Ecosystem Project (MIEP) will strengthen innovation and entrepreneurship in the Lebanese mobile Internet ecosystem. Beneficiaries include software developers, university students and graduates, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) firms, industries where new software applications can improve productivity, and mobile users at large. The project will increase entrepreneurial skills and practical training of the Lebanese talent pool to enhance competitiveness in the industry. It will help create instruments to interact and develop innovation networks to increase global competitiveness. Moreover, areas of improvement will be identified to help the government implement needed reforms.

### **European Union launches seven initiatives in Lebanon under Euro-Med Youth Programme**

On 3 July 2013, seven initiatives were selected under the Euro-Med Youth Programme IV call for proposals for a total amount of Euro 164,000. The grants awarded to civil society organizations and local authorities will allow the facilitation of partnerships and networks among young people within the Euro-Mediterranean region through implementing activities aimed at promoting intercultural learning and encouraging active citizenship. The recipients of the grants are the Makhzoumi Foundation, Holy Spirit University in Kaslik, Zgharta Municipality, Sebeel Municipality, Youth Women Christian Association (YWCA), Chabibeh Sporting Club and the Hermel Union of Municipalities.

### **Italy supports through UNDP project Lebanese communities hosting Syrian refugees**

On 28 June 2013, the Government of Italy, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, approved a grant of Euro 300,000 to UNDP to implement an initiative aimed to increase and sustain stability in the areas affected by Syrian crisis. The grant aims to improve livelihoods and service provision through support to economic recovery, community security and social cohesion in affected Lebanese communities and an inclusive community based approach.

### **Italy renews support to UNRWA health reform in Lebanon**

On 27 June 2013, the Government of Italy, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, allocated a grant of Euro 1 million in favor of UNRWA. The donation renews the support to an ambitious initiative launched by UNRWA in 2010 and adds to a previous contribution of equal amount. The objective of UNRWA's health reform is to ensure Palestinian refugees better access, coverage, quality, coordination and communication and increase monitoring and control in health care.

### **Italy expands bilateral projects to support the Lebanese Government in Syrian crisis response**

On 27 June 2013, the Government of Italy, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, approved the allocation of additional funds to the framework of three ongoing bilateral projects with the Lebanese Government. The budget of each project was extended with a grant of Euro 400,000 in order to scale up projects' activities to regions highly affected by the impact of the Syrian crisis. The selected projects are:



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- MOSAIC – MOSA Child-Centered Initiative, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA). This project aims to strengthen national policies for child protection and to promote concrete mobilization of actors at the local level, following the Italian model of “Friendly City of Children”.
- National program for local socio-economic development through strengthening of Social Development Centers (SDC) and the reinforcement of the social development fund in Lebanon, in partnership with MOSA. This project aims at strengthening the technical capacity of SDCs (MOSA decentralized structures) to deliver social, paramedical and psychosocial services.
- Support to municipal finance reform for the improvement of local development, in partnership with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MOIM). This project targets critical reform issues, such as the creation of a municipal development fund, the strengthening of the municipal finance framework and the provision of reform-based municipal development grants.

#### **Italy supports UNHCR and UNICEF to face Syrian refugees emergency in Lebanon**

On 8 May 2013, the Government of Italy, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, allocated two grants of Euro 800,000 in favor of UNHCR and Euro 500,000 in favor UNICEF to respond to the UN appeal for the implementation of the Syrian Regional Response Plan in Lebanon.



### **Aid Coordination**

#### **The Ministry of Social Affairs increases coordination to alleviate pressures on the local communities impacted by the Syrian displaced crisis**

Since April 2013, the Ministry of Social Affairs allocated 27 centers spread across Lebanon to deal with the impact of the Syrian crisis. MOSA social workers have been active in the field enhancing coordination between municipalities, NGOs, donors and other government agencies. From April to June 2013, the Ministry assisted 9,960 cases by referring them to the UNHCR system of support or by allowing access to the social development centers services and facilities. The Ministry is enhancing its overall coordination role and is emphasizing the urgent need to support local communities. At end July, the displaced from Syria were present in over 1400 locations in Lebanon and, thus, support for the local communities is essential to ensure that these numbers do not overwhelm regional and local coping capacities.

#### **CALL FOR PROPOSALS: European Union launches "Support to Freedom of Expression in Lebanon"**

On 8 July 2013, the Delegation of the European Union launched a call for proposals aimed at increasing freedom of expression and freedom of media in Lebanon. Priority under this call will be given to actions in Lebanon that contribute to improve the situation relating to at least two of the following themes:

- Support for actions that contribute to consolidate the right to freedom of expression, including artistic and cultural expression, the right to information and to communication;
- Support for civil society to be an effective watchdog for freedom of expression including monitoring, documenting and denouncing censorship and self-censorship;
- Support for actions that contribute to consolidate freedom of media, including all forms of social media, and support for the protection of journalists' rights;
- Support to monitor media integrity and advocating media reform including drafting media legislation;
- Support for actions that contribute to build the capacity for an independent, quality based media sector.

The grants awarded under this call fall between Euro500,000 and Euro500,000. The full guidelines for applicants are available on: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome&nbPubliList=15&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&searchtype=RS&aofr=134581&userlanguage=en>

The deadline for submission of full applications is Monday 7 October 2013 at 4 p.m.

#### **CALL FOR PROPOSALS: European Union to support civil society in Lebanon**

On 5 July 2013, the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon launched a call for proposals through the Civil Society Facility. The objective is to enhance the civil society organizations' role in local development and poverty reduction in Lebanon. This call aims at providing direct and tangible benefits to the vulnerable population in Lebanon and in particular to the areas most affected by the consequences of the Syrian crisis. In this regard, priority will be given to actions aiming at developing or improving the delivery of services to local communities. Special focus will be on initiatives providing better access of the vulnerable population to social and economic services including among others:

- Services: water, sanitation and electricity, waste management, especially through the use of sustainable methods;



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- Social: health, skills development for small-scale economic activities, social assistance and poverty reduction.
- Economic: job creation, raising labour productivity.

Deadline for submission of applications is Monday 2 September 2013. Additional information available at the following link: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome&nbPubliList=15&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&searchtype=RS&aofr=134639>



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