



REPUBLIC OF LEBANON
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Aid Coordination Newsletter

July 2013

Issue 68

Aid Developments

European Union supports the Ministry of Finance

On 17 June 2013, the European Union and the Ministry of Finance signed a twinning project “Institutional Capacity Development and Reorganization of the Ministry of Finance of Lebanon” with a budget of Euro 2.8 million and a period of implementation of thirty months. The project objectives include improving the performance of public financial management, increasing transparency of the overall budget, improving budget execution and forecasting, and enhancing control of expenditures. The project will be implemented by the Directorate-General of Finance, twinned with the French Government, through the ADETEF (the agency for international technical cooperation in the economic and finance departments of the French Republic) as management agency for the project, and with the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance, Treasury Department and Public General Accounting Department.

European Union supports the tax administration

On 18 June 2013, the European Union and the Ministry of Finance officially launched the twinning project “Modernizing the Administrative and Operational Capacity of the Tax Administration” between the Lebanese Directorate General of Finance and the French Directorate General of Public Finance for Euro 1,850,000 million, to be implemented over a period of eighteen months, which effectively started in March 2013. The project aims at improving the performance and security of the Tax Administration and at enhancing collection, both quantitatively and qualitatively, through administrative reform, greater transparency and efficient communication with citizens. The creation of a modern tax system and an administration that will manage taxes efficiently are key elements in the Lebanese government’s reform plans.

Italy supports culture and environment

On 25 June 2013, the Council for Development and Reconstruction signed a joint declaration with Italy on cooperation in the fields of culture and environment. The Government of Italy will provide grant funding for: (1) Technical Assistance Unit of the joint project with the World Bank entitled “Lebanon Environmental Pollution Abatement project - LEPAP, Euro 2.3 million; and, (2) Strengthening the cultural offer of the National Museum in Beirut: new museography for the basement floor. No amount has been yet identified for this project.



Aid Coordination

Fifth appeal to assist the increasing number of displaced Syrians in Lebanon

On 7 June 2013, the European Union announced Euro 400 million of additional funding for the Syrian humanitarian needs of 2013. The funding is expected to go towards the regional refugee response and humanitarian needs inside Syria. Euro 250 million will be used to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance in Syria and neighboring countries, and Euro 150 million will be allotted for development-related aid that includes support to communities hosting refugees and security for refugee camps.

On 18 June 2013, the Prime Minister and UN High Commissioner for Refugees launched, in the presence of international donors, a fifth revised appeal for Lebanon for \$1.7 billion to help Lebanon cope with Syrian refugees - part of the updated Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP5). The appeal for Lebanon includes \$450 million presented by the Government of Lebanon for direct support to national institutions and essential public services.

On 26 June 2013, the UNDP "Strengthening Civil Peace in Lebanon" project published the third joint news supplement with Al Nahar and Al-Safir on the socio-economic, cultural, and humanitarian impact of the Syrian crisis on the Lebanese host communities.

European Union expands its support to culture in Lebanon

On 19 June 2013, the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon launched its call for proposals for the funding of projects aimed at supporting sustainable democracy and democratic participation in Lebanon. The grants awarded under this call shall be between Euro300,000 and Euro450,000. The deadline for submission of applications is 5 September 2013 at 4 p.m.

An information meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 July 2013 at 11 a.m. at the premises of the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon:

http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lebanon/index_en.htm

Update on the Reconstruction of the Nahr El-Bared camp

In 2008, the Government estimated that the reconstruction of the Nahr El-Bared camp and an adjacent 1.6 square kilometer area known as "new camp" would take three years to complete, and would cost \$450 million.

At the 2008 Vienna Conference, the United Nations Refugee Works Agency was mandated to rebuild the old Nahr El-Bared camp. Reconstruction of the old camp was divided into eight packages. Construction of the first two packages is complete, with area three under construction and area four under tender process. The design of the fifth package has been finalized. However, the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth packages still do not have funding. The estimated shortage of funds is \$135 million.

Thus far, UNRWA has re-constructed 1,350 out of 4,591 housing units and 350 out of 880 shops destroyed during the 2007 clashes. Some 10,000 Palestinian refugees were able to reintegrate into the camp, leaving at least 20,000 of the nearly 30,000 Palestinian refugees yet to return. In the past year, the reconstruction pace was put on fast track thanks to efficiency improvement on the government institutions side (Directorate- General of Urban Planning, Prime Minister's Office,



REPUBLIC OF LEBANON
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

different ministries...) and on UNRWA side (UNRWA management, consultants and contractors...).

The new camp reconstruction was mandated to the Council for Development and Reconstruction. However, a legal obstacle preventing Palestinians from owning properties in Lebanon blocked formal reconstruction processes. Consequently, the reconstruction efforts were turned into projects funded by the European Union, Italy, Greece and Norway and executed by International NGOs. Till today, there is no formal framework for reconstruction of the fully destroyed buildings in the camp, which are estimated to be 60. This situation combined with the extensive focus on the old camp delayed the reconstruction of these areas. The intervention in the surrounding municipalities was limited to compensatory payments for damaged businesses and assets through the High Relief Committee.

It is noted that the camp master plan was shortlisted in May 2013 for the prestigious Agha Khan Award for Architecture in recognition of its socially conscious design.



REPUBLIC OF LEBANON
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

For further information, contact:
Ministry of Finance
Donor Coordination Unit
Tel: 961 1 981057/8
Fax: 961 1 981059
E-mail: dcu@finance.gov.lb
Website: www.finance.gov.lb