



AID DEVELOPMENTS

United Nations Development Program launches four studies on the environment

On 3 August 2010, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Ministry of Environment launched four studies on the environment, in line with the environment component of the ministerial statement. The studies were announced at a press conference attended by the Minister of Environment and the UNDP Resident Representative. The Government of Lebanon will finance the project up to \$1.4 million per year for a period of four years. One study will develop a strategy to combat pollution in the Litani River and the Qaraoun lake. The other studies concern the development of permits required for quarrying and the reorganization of dumping sites.

Italy finances new development projects

On 12 August 2010, the Steering Committee of the Directorate General of the Italian Development Cooperation Office approved two new initiatives. The first project aims to construct wastewater treatment plants and pumping stations and to install sewage pipes in the villages of Hrajel and Mechmech. The project will be financed by soft loans worth Euro 14 million. The second project in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, aims to encourage the production of electricity from solar energy by installing more than 900 photovoltaic panels in public buildings; it will be financed by a grant of Euro 1 million. The Italian Development Cooperation Office also approved a grant of Euro 1.2 million for an initiative intended to replicate and improve the activities already financed and supported by the various phases of the ROSS emergency program, both for the Lebanese population and the Palestinians living in the camps.

Kuwait Fund for Economic Development announced renovation of archeological site

On 28 August 2010, the Head of the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development and the Lebanese Minister of Culture announced a two-year project to renovate the Beaufort Castle. The Fund will contribute 70 percent of the total cost of the renovation project of \$3 million. The works will include the renovation of cracks and fissures in the structure, excavation of antiquities, rebuilding of the main tower and entrances, reworking the surrounding area of the castle and the installation of lighting and drainage networks.



Aid Coordination

Reconstruction of the Nahr El-Bared Camp and surrounding areas

In coordination with the Nahr El-Bared Recovery and Reconstruction Cell (RRC) at the Office of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has expanded its assistance under the Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF) TAMKIN program to include villages and communities in the second ring around Nahr El Bared Camp (NBC) and the adjacent area. Building on the ongoing CHF TAMKIN that is already working in 40 villages within the North Lebanon Governorate, namely in Akkar, Dinnieh, and Zgharta cazas, CHF will implement economic development projects identified by the communities of these areas in close coordination with the local communities and private sector stakeholders under the expansion, where the program will use the same methodology implemented before. The TAMKIN program will prepare the Local Economic Development Plan (LEDP) and, more importantly will implement economic projects under this plan, which will improve the livelihoods of local communities.

It is important to note that the assistance projects in the adjacent area will generate incomes, create jobs and boost livelihoods of both Palestinians and Lebanese communities. The initiatives with the greatest potential for economic impact will be selected and funded through grants. The expanded program also includes special micro-loans tailored to expand micro-enterprises in targeted communities and will continue until April 2012.

Tripoli Special Economic Zone

Under the technical oversight of the Office of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Feasibility study for the Tripoli Special Economic Zone was launched in August 2010 and is expected to be completed in June 2011. The study is funded by USAID.