



AID DEVELOPMENTS

Italy launched the closing ceremony of a project for the municipalities of Tyre

On 27 September 2010, the Italian Ambassador in Lebanon, the President of the Union of Municipalities of Tyre and the Representative of the Italian NGO CESVI in Lebanon took part in a closing ceremony of the project entitled Strengthening the capacity of the Tyre Municipalities Union. The initiative was funded by the Italian Government through the Italian Development Cooperation Office for a total amount of Euro 243,000 and created a Coordination Office and a Job Center to improve the Union of Tyre services in favor of the municipalities and local population.

Italy funded an initiative to preserve the Lebanese cultural heritage

On 6 October 2010, the Italian Development Cooperation Office announced its financing through a grant of Euro 194,000 the conservation and restoration works for the so-called Tomb of Tyre Roman frescoes, for the presentation and valorization of the Tom and for the rehabilitation of the area facing the funerary chamber. The restoration campaigns are headed by an Italian expert and an Italian restorer, and will work together with a Lebanese team of skilled restorers.

United States provided a grant for demining

On 26 October 2010, the United States embassy announced that the United States Department of State provided a \$200,000 grant to the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) as part of a two-to-one matching grant for sub-munitions clearance in Lebanon with the American Task Force for Lebanon, which succeeded in raising \$100,000 in private donations in September. The American Task Force for Lebanon is a non-profit organization comprised primarily of Americans of Lebanese heritage and others who share a common interest in Lebanon. MAG is a humanitarian organization that clears remnants of conflict to benefit communities worldwide.

Correction to March 2008 Aid Coordination Newsletter

In the October 2010 issue, it was reported that the Embassy of Italy, through the Italian Development Cooperation Office in Lebanon, approved a grant of Euro 400,000 to the Ministry of Agriculture. The date of approval was 30 July 2010.



AID COORDINATION

Ministry of Finance participated in the Technical Advisory Group Meeting of the International Aid Transparency Initiative

On October 4-6, 2010, a representative of the Ministry of Finance attended the Technical Advisory Group Meeting of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) in Cookham, UK. The main objective of the meeting was to enable attendees to participate actively and make progress on a range of topics related to transparency and effective and accountable aid, and the role of IATI in improving transparency. The conference was attended by representatives from partner countries such as Nepal, Ghana, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Colombia; from donors such as Germany, Spain, UK, the Netherlands, the World Bank and UNDP. The IATI is a new initiative which aims to make information about public and private aid flows more available and accessible to all stakeholders, particularly partner countries, in order to increase the accountability, predictability and effectiveness of aid and reduce transaction costs.

A Lebanese delegation attended the World Bank Group / International Monetary Fund Annual Meetings

On October 8-10, 2010, a Lebanese delegation, led by the Minister of Finance and including the Governor of the Central Bank and representatives of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and Ministry of Economy and Trade, participated in the World Bank Group / International Monetary Fund Annual Meetings in Washington, D.C. The general discussions centered around the economic situation in Lebanon and the implementation of the reform agenda in light of the latest political developments. During bilateral meetings, the delegation discussed funding requirements, resource mobilization and the provision of technical assistance in areas of interest.

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 Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Central Fund for the Displaced (CFD) signed contracts with two International NGOs (ICU and AVSI/NRC) that will be implementing the Italian Cooperation-funded housing repair and rehabilitation project in the NBC Adjacent Areas. The CFD also completed the rubble removal exercise in the project area.

Tripoli Special Economic Zone

Under the technical oversight of the Office of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Phase-I of the Feasibility study for the Tripoli Special Economic Zone that is funded by USAID is expected to be completed in December 2010. A workshop is planned on 23 November 2010.