



## AID DEVELOPMENTS

### **France renewed a health cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Public Health**

On 10 November 2011, the Lebanese and French Ministers of Health renewed the ongoing cooperation agreement between the two countries in the health sector for three years. The agreement aims to establish a framework that hospitals in France and Lebanon would abide by, covering a new policy to regulate the transfer of blood and pharmaceuticals between the two countries, the organization of medical services, the provision of training and exchange of medical experts, and the work to improve hospital administration.

### **German Agency for International Cooperation supports the Ministry of Agriculture**

On 16 November 2011, the Ministry of Agriculture and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) signed a cooperation agreement on deforestation and desertification. GIZ will provide technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture and help it raise funds to preserve forests, which cover only 13 percent of the total area of Lebanon.

### **United States funded a reforestation and conservation initiative**

On 25 November 2011, the Ambassador of the United States launched an \$11.9 million Lebanon Reforestation Initiative, which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and which will be implemented by the US Forest Service over a four-year period. The Lebanon Reforestation Initiative will build the capacity of environmental organizations and other Lebanese institutions to manage and expand the forests in the country, increase the planting of hundreds of thousands of native trees on selected sites across Lebanon, and establish a financially and technically endowed foundation to continue supporting reforestation at enhanced levels over the longer term.

### **World Bank approved the Mediterranean Sustainable Governance and Knowledge Generation Project**

On 29 November 2011, the World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved a \$3 million grant for the Mediterranean Sustainable Governance and Knowledge Generation Project for Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. The objective of the project which was conceived in cooperation with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), is to help governments in the Mediterranean region to ensure the sustainability of their natural resource base in support of their economic development programs and actions. In its first phase, Sustainable MED focuses on water resources and coastal zone management. Future phases will be defined as the Program evolves, ideally broadening the spectrum of focal areas. Sustainable MED will achieve its objective through a combination of policy dialogue, investment lending, and technical assistance.



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### **The Ministry of Environment held a third sector donor coordination meeting**

On 4 November 2011, the Ministry of Environment organized the third sector donor coordination meeting to present and discuss its work program for 2011-2013. The work program focuses on three pillars, namely (i) the activation and consolidation of the role of the Ministry of Environment, (ii) strictness in conserving the natural wealth of Lebanon, and (iii) the management of environmental risks through prevention and remediation. The meeting was attended by a variety of stakeholders including donors and government representatives.

### **International Monetary Fund undertook the annual Article IV consultation mission**

On November 8-23, 2011, the International Monetary Fund undertook a mission to conduct discussions in the context of the annual Article IV consultation. The mission met with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, the Governor of the Banque du Liban, the Head of the Parliamentary Budget and Finance Commission and various members of Cabinet and administration officials as well as representatives of the private sector, civil society and academia. Upon concluding the mission, a press release was issued (<http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2011/pr11432.htm>).