



AID DEVELOPMENTS

The Council of Ministers approved €1 million grant from Greece for Nahr el-Bared Camp and surrounding areas

On 26 March 2009, the Council of Ministers approved €1 million grant from the Greek Government that aims at contributing to the recovery and reconstruction of Nahr el-Bared Camp and surrounding areas. Greece pledged this amount in the Vienna Conference that was held on 23 June 2008. The funds will be used to finance engineering projects concerning construction supervision of the 'new camp' and water supply infrastructure projects.

USAID continues to provide scholarship funding to universities

On 20 March 2009, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) contributed \$1.2 million to the Lebanese American University's scholarship fund. This follows a contribution of \$1.9 million to the American University of Beirut scholarship fund on 3 February 2009. The funding is earmarked by the US Congress to provide financial scholarship support to American educational institutions in Lebanon.

The Council of Ministers submitted to Parliament a KWD 6 million loan agreement with AFESD and €100 million loan agreement with EIB

On 3 March 2009, the Council of Ministers submitted to Parliament a loan agreement between the European Investment Bank, the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) and Banque du Liban (BdL) to provide loans to the private sector totaling €100 million. BdL will manage the on-lending to the private sector, with the interest subsidized by part of a European Union grant of €15 million, approved earlier.

On 6 February 2009, the Council of Ministers submitted to Parliament a loan agreement between the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and CDR for KWD 6 million for building the road Syr el-Dannieh - Jubal el-Humr - Hermel.

Council of Ministers approved \$7 million grant from Oman for Nahr el-Bared Camp and surrounding areas

On 26 February 2009, the Council of Ministers approved \$7 million grant from Oman to assist in the recovery and reconstruction of Nahr el-Bared Camp and surrounding areas. The funds were received by the Ministry of Finance and will be used for the expropriation of land in the Nahr el-Bared Camp by CDR to allow for rebuilding.

The Kuwait Red Crescent and CDR signed an in-kind agreement for \$6.5 million

On 16 February 2009, the Kuwaiti Red Crescent and CDR signed an in-kind grant agreement for building a hospital in Minieh. The grant is estimated at \$6.5 million and will be implemented by the Kuwait Red Crescent. The Council of Ministers had approved the grant on 27 November 2008.

The Ministry of Finance and the World Bank signed a grant agreement for \$4 million

On 16 March 2009, the Ministry of Finance and the World Bank signed a grant agreement for \$4 million to provide technical assistance and expertise for implementing fiscal reforms at the Ministry of Finance. The project, which will become effective in April, has five components: fiscal analysis and policy advice, public expenditure management, debt management, aid coordination, and training. The grant (part of the Post Conflict Trust Fund of \$70 million) was approved by the Council of Ministers on 29 August 2008.



AID COORDINATION

Ministry of Finance held sixth donor meeting

On 18 March 2009, the Ministry of Finance held the sixth quarterly donor information meeting. The objective of the meeting was to update the donor community on achievements and progress made in the implementation of the economic and social reform program and on mobilization and implementation of external assistance since the donor briefing of October 2008. The Paris III- Eighth Quarterly Progress Report, Two Years On, was made available at the meeting. The presentation by the Minister of Finance and the report can be found on www.finance.gov.lb

Interministerial Committee meetings being held to review progress on reforms

On 6 March 2009, the Economic Interministerial Committee met to review developments in implementing the Economic and Social Reform Program and technical assistance needs. The meeting was chaired by the Prime Minister, with the participation of the Ministers of Finance, OMSAR, Economy and Trade and the Central Bank Governor. The Social Interministerial Committee is expected to meet by mid April.