



## AID DEVELOPMENTS

### **Italy finances a new project at the Ministry of Finance**

On 2 February 2010, the Embassy of Italy, through the Italian Development Cooperation Office in Lebanon, approved a grant of Euro 452,000 to the Ministry of Finance for a program Capacity Building in Public Procurement, to be implemented by the Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance. The project aims at upgrading the skills of civil servants to better manage, at the operational level, the public procurement function; it will have a duration of twelve months.

### **Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development provides a new loan to Lebanon**

On 2 February 2010, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) announced that it would provide a loan of \$18 million to finance the construction of a water dam and reservoir in the Falougha area in Mount Lebanon. The reservoir would have a capacity of one million cubic meters of water and would cover the water needs of 35 towns in Mount Lebanon.

### **United States provides technical support for municipal elections**

On 5 February 2010, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a \$600,000 grant to support Lebanon's municipal elections, funded by the US government and to be implemented by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). The project aims at training election workers and assisting the Ministry in developing a public media outreach program on the election process. It will also provide technical support for the Ministry's Observer Coordination Unit, which supports domestic monitoring of the elections by Lebanese civil society organizations.

### **Parliament approves two development loans**

On 23 February 2010, Parliament approved two development loans: \$70 million loan from the World Bank as additional financing for the Urban Transport Development Project (UTDP); and, \$215 million framework agreement with the Islamic Development Bank for projects in various sectors, including water and wastewater, infrastructure, health, schools, rehabilitation of roads and contingencies. The World Bank's UTDP aims to improve the Greater Beirut area urban transport infrastructure and the additional financing supports this objective and covers cost overruns, the counterpart contribution as well as additional works, such as three intersections at Dekwaneh, Mucharafieh, and Jal El Dib, and training of the traffic police. The loan was signed by the World Bank and the Ministry of Finance and CDR on 30 January 2009.



## AID COORDINATION

### **Reconstruction of the Nahr El-Bared Camp and surrounding areas**

The Government's focus in February 2010 centered on initiating a resource mobilization campaign aimed at securing additional funding from Arab and international donors to cover the shortfall in the Nahr El-Bared Palestinian Refugees Camp (NBC) reconstruction budget. Also, the Government is expediting the issuing of the relevant decrees for the UNRWA schools and UNRWA compound in the NBC area with the aim of allowing the NBC students to access adequate schooling facilities starting September 2010.

In the NBC adjacent area, the Government, and in coordination with the Palestinian Ambassador and the Popular Committees, is assuming a greater role in housing rehabilitation and infrastructure provision. Hence, the NBC Recovery and Reconstruction Cell (RRC) at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers completed the identification of the (EURO 1.0 million) infrastructure project to be funded by Greece and initiated the preparation of the relevant tender documents for its implementation. In turn, the Central Fund for the Displaced is in the process of completing the service procurement of an International NGO to implement the housing repair and rehabilitation project (EURO 5.0 million), to be funded by Italy in the NBC adjacent area. Also, the RRC initiated discussions with France in order to mobilize the EURO 1.0 million pledged at the Vienna donor conference. Finally, discussions are continuing with USAID to identify areas for future support for the NBC adjacent area and the adjacent municipalities.

### **Ministry of Finance releases the Paris III Eleventh Progress Report**

On 18 February 2010, the Ministry of Finance released the International Conference for Support to Lebanon - Paris III Eleventh Progress Report. This quarterly report doubles as the annual review detailing achievements and progress made in reform implementation and resource mobilization in 2009, with emphasis on the fourth quarter. The report builds on the Tenth Progress Report that gave an overview of progress made in the second and third quarters of 2009. The Eleventh Progress Report is available on [www.finance.gov.lb](http://www.finance.gov.lb). The report is published by the Ministry of Finance, in cooperation with the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the Council for Reconstruction and Development, with inputs provided by natural owners of the reform program.