



AID DEVELOPMENTS

USAID continues disbursement of Paris III contribution for debt reduction

On 15 May 2008, USAID paid on behalf of Lebanon \$5.4 million to cover Lebanon's debt and debt service to the World Bank. The payments bring total disbursements made by the USA to \$125 million, almost fulfilling the full amount of the signed grant agreement (\$63,078 remaining). The grant is part of the US pledge to Lebanon of \$250 million budget support at Paris III. The related grant agreement was signed between the Ministry of Finance and USAID on 31 August 2007 and amended on 17 December 2007.

The Arab Trade Financing Program signed \$57 million in credit agreements with four banks

The Arab Trade Financing Program, a subsidiary of the Arab Monetary Fund, signed credit line agreements with Crédit Libanais, Fransabank, Banque-Libano Française and BankMed totaling \$57 million. These agreements provide credit to finance foreign trade activities and bring the total line of credit made available by the ATFP to \$157 million since the Paris III Conference. The lines of credit signed exceed the pledge of \$100 million for private sector support by the Arab Monetary Fund at Paris III. AMF pledged \$250 million in support to Lebanon, \$150 million of which are budget support and \$100 million are for private sector support.

Canada will assist the Ministry of Labor in developing labor market information with the assistance of the ILO

The Canadian International Development Agency, on behalf of the Canadian Government, approved in March 2008 a project to implement a public employment service system at the Ministry of Labor. The project aims, among others, at developing a labor market information system and an Electronic Labor Exchange. The International Labor Organization will implement the system which is expected to be completed in two years. The project is estimated at \$2.2 million.

AID COORDINATION

Update on Aid Monitoring and Reporting System at the Ministry of Finance

The design of the Aid Monitoring and Reporting System (AMR) at the Ministry of Finance started in February 2008 and will be completed in June 2008. The system is based on JD Edwards integrated applications. Significant progress was achieved towards the completion of the AMR including the design of all interface programs and the mapping to the system used by the Council of Development and Reconstruction. A prototype system will be ready by end of June 2008 with full rollout expected in August 2008. The MoF implementation team will now focus on data collection. The data collection strategy includes two major phases: (i) the initial data entry, i.e. migration from existing system, compilation and processing and (ii) the regular update of the system. A data collection input form is available and explains the different means of data collection from donors and/or implementing agencies to AMR.