



AID DEVELOPMENTS

Italy approves project grants totaling €16.6 million and signs agreement with CDR for Nahr el-Bared Support

On September 4, 2008 the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs approved additional €16.6 million of grants to Lebanon. The grants include: €8.8 million for development projects and €5 million for the reconstruction and recovery of Nahr el-Bared and surrounding area, both to be implemented by CDR; €1.2 million for a project to provide infrastructure in twelve villages of Mount Lebanon that host displaced populations, to be implemented by Italian Development Cooperation Office; and, €1.6 million for a project to improve water use and management in seven municipalities of the Tyre Caza, to be implemented by Italian non-governmental organizations.

The grant for €5 million for the reconstruction of Nahr el-Bared and surrounding area was approved by the Council of Ministers of 18 September 2008.

The German Embassy announces additional contributions to Lebanon

The German Embassy announced that it will provide additional support to Lebanon, including €6 million loan for the project of protection of the water source of Jeita; €4 million grant for reconstruction of the Nahr el-Bared camp and surrounding area; €1.2 million grant for technical assistance for the project of protection of the water source in Jeita; and, €4 million additional grant for the environment fund, particularly for projects in North Lebanon.

US increases contribution to Nahr el-Bared

The US announced an increase in contribution for the recovery and reconstruction of the Nahr el-Bared camp and surrounding area by \$13 million, to a total of \$35 million. The additional funds will be provided directly to UNRWA.



AID COORDINATION

Paris III Seventh Progress Report

The Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with the Government Reform Program Coordination Office at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, will publish the International Conference for Support to Lebanon - Paris III Seventh Progress Report during the second week of October. The report highlights developments in the implementation of the Paris III reform program and in resource mobilization during the third quarter of 2008. The report will be available on www.finance.gov.lb.

Aid coordination at the World Bank / IMF 2008 Annual Meetings

A Lebanese Delegation will represent the Government at the World Bank / IMF Annual Meetings, which take place from October 11 to 13, 2008 in Washington DC. The Delegation will hold a donor Core Group Meeting and bi-lateral meetings to update the donors on progress achieved in recent months and plans and priorities for reform implementation and resource mobilization.

Progress on the Recovery and Reconstruction of the Nahr El-Bared Camp and Conflict Affected Areas of North Lebanon

At the financial planning level, the newly established Nahr El-Bared Camp Recovery and Reconstruction Cell (RRC) at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers completed the validation of donor financing pledged at the Vienna conference. The RRC worked closely with the World Bank to expedite the establishment of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF). The establishment of the MDTF is expected within Q4 2008 and a draft Operations Manual has been circulated for donor feedback.

At the institutional level, the RRC clarified the scope of the government's consulting firm (Khatib and Alami) during the reconstruction of the Nahr El- Bared Camp (NBC) and surrounding areas. This consists of: (i) review of both design and construction of housing and infrastructure works in the NBC and; (ii) preparation of the New Camp Masterplan, as well as the design and supervision of infrastructure works in the New Camp.

At the reconstruction planning level, work is progressing on the NBC land expropriation and masterplan approval by the Government. The RRC has also established a monitoring and evaluation system aimed at overseeing and coordinating the implementation of local and regional development projects in both NBC adjacent and surrounding areas. The system is being used by the Government as strategic planning tool that will help better orient government and donor support to the targeted communities.