



AID DEVELOPMENTS

European Union supports the improvement of living conditions of underprivileged women in North Lebanon

On 1 December 2012, the European Union and the Rene Mouawad Foundation launched a project to improve livelihood of underprivileged women in Akkar and Dannieh, North Lebanon. The project is co-funded by the European Union and the Rene Mouawad Foundation in the framework of the European programme Investing in People; the EU contribution amounts to Euro 868,362. The objective is to improve social and economic wellbeing of women living in rural underserved areas through facilitating their access to existing services in the country. The project will also lead to a better understanding of the economic rights of women and will enhance their participation in the economic development of the country.

European Union supports the improvement of socio-economic conditions of women refugees living in camps in Lebanon

On 1 December 2012, the European Union and Cives Mundi, a non-governmental organization, launched a project for Euro 826,170 to promote the empowerment of Palestinian women refugees living in camps in Lebanon. The contribution of the European Union is Euro 650,690. The project will address the problem of economic dependence of vulnerable groups. It aims at enhancing socio-economic rights of women refugees and promoting their equal access and control over the economic resources.

IFC supports trade financing in Lebanon

On 4 December 2012, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Bank of Beirut and Arab Countries (BBAC) signed a trade finance agreement for \$15 million to help the private sector in Lebanon access global import and export markets and spur trade. Through this agreement, IFC and BBAC will help clients access new markets and expand their existing trade channels. The initiative is part of \$5 billion Global Trade Finance Program of IFC, which extends and complements the capacity of banks to deliver trade financing. The program provides risk mitigation in new or challenging markets where trade lines are constrained. It also offers banks partial or full guarantees covering payment risk for trade-related transactions in emerging markets. BBAC is the sixth bank in Lebanon to join the Global Trade Finance Program of IFC. Since the inception of the program in Lebanon in 2006, IFC has provided trade finance guarantees worth \$1 billion to improve trade performance of the country.

European Union supports state capabilities for law enforcement and fight against crime

On 5 December 2012, the European Commission and GFA Consulting Group signed a contract for technical assistance to be provided to the Lebanese authorities in the framework of the programme Developing National Capability for Security and Stabilisation (SSP). The specific objective of this Rule of Law and Fight against Crime component is to improve the capability and legitimacy of state institutions and security forces (namely the Internal Security Forces and the Office of the General Prosecutor) in enforcing the rule of law and fighting crime in the full respect of the citizens' rights and liberties. The SSP represents a total budget of Euro 12 million, of which Euro 6.4 million dedicated to the Rule of Law and Fight against Crime component (Euro 3.7 million to the Integrated Border Management Component and Euro 1.9 million to Promoting People-Centered Security Sector reform). The technical assistance will be implemented over the next three years.



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European Union allocated additional aid to Lebanon

On 7 December 2012, the European Commission allocated Euro 32 million additional funding to Lebanon, adding three new programs focusing on improving the quality of the public sector, vocational training and education as well as promoting social justice. The additional funding is allocated as follows: (1) Euro 12 million for programs stimulating sustainable growth and job opportunities; (2) Euro 8 million for education reform programs targeting community and labor-oriented schemes; and, (3) Euro 12 million for promotion of social justice. The program will develop capacity building activities in support of the Parliament, promote and contribute to protect human rights, develop social protection for the most vulnerable population and ameliorate the social dialogue among social partners.

UNDP supports Lebanese electoral assistance project for the 2013 Parliamentary elections

On December 14, 2012 the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MOIM) signed a project document for the Lebanese Electoral Assistance Project for the 2013 Parliamentary Elections (LEAP), which was earlier approved by the Council of Ministers. The LEAP total budget, approximately \$6 million, is funded by the European Union, the United States Agency for International Development and the United Kingdom. It aims at providing technical assistance to the MOIM for the management of the elections according to international standards, to ensure inclusiveness and to enhance credibility and transparency. Focus will be placed on enhancing vote secrecy, training and professional development of electoral officials, the modernization of electoral procedures, and operational planning. LEAP also aims at assisting in developing the role of the supervisory commission on election campaigns, supporting effective voter education initiatives, assisting in developing and better documenting the resolution of electoral disputes, and supporting initiatives to improve election opportunities for women.

European Union supports empowerment of women in rural areas in Byblos, Bcharreh and Batroun

On 15 December 2012, the European Union and the Organizacion Navarra para Ayuda entre los Pueblos launched a programme with focus on promoting economic and social emancipation of women in the service sector in Lebanon, for a total amount of Euro 640,945. The EU contribution in the project is Euro 512,750. The project aims at empowering women to become active agents towards reducing poverty in their rural communities, namely in the three targeted cazas of Byblos, Bcharreh and Batroun. Through training, entrepreneurial initiatives and business networking, the action will contribute to enhancing generation of additional family income and providing better access of women to the various financing instruments available.



AID DEVELOPMENTS

Italy supports UN agencies in Lebanon to face Syrians refugees emergency

On 19 December 2012, the Government of Italy, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, allocated through the multilateral channel two funds, Euro 500,000 in favor of UNHCR and Euro 300,000 in favor of UNICEF, for the implementation of the Syrian Regional Response Plan. In particular, the contribution to UNHCR will allow the implementation of a part of the UN Refugee Agency Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) strategy. The allocation to UNICEF will be used to carry out a child protection project in favor of Syrian and Lebanese children. The latter fund follows a previous grant of Euro 500,000 allocated in favor of UNICEF in July 2012 aimed to implement education and child protection interventions.

European Investment Bank supports energy efficiency and renewable energy

On 21 December 2012, the European Investment Bank and the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) signed a Euro 50 million loan to support private sector investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy throughout Lebanon. By reducing consumption of conventional generated electricity and heat, the project contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and diversification of supply. The Council of Ministers approved the loan on 19 December 2012, decision No.49.

European Investment Bank supports upgrading of road infrastructure

On 21 December 2012, the European Investment Bank and the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) signed a Euro 75 million loan to finance the upgrading of 10.3 Km of the coastal motorway (the A1 connecting Beirut to Tripoli) between Nahr El-Kaleb (12 Km North of Beirut) and Tabarja. The project also includes improvements of three link roads to the vicinity of the highway. The Council of Ministers approved the loan on 19 December 2012, decision No.48.

Italy allocates an additional fund for Nahr el Bared and adjacent areas

In December 2012, the Government of Italy, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, allocated an additional fund of Euro 60,000 to the Italian Embassy in Beirut Cooperation Office, in order to expand operations carried out in the framework of the emergency intervention AID 9716.



AID COORDINATION

Lebanese Government responses to the Displaced Syrians Crisis

On 3 December and 17 December 2012, the Prime Minister, in the presence of the Ministers of Social Affairs, Health and Education, chaired a meeting with representatives from donor countries to discuss the Government plan for Syrian displaced in Lebanon, which had become an urgent humanitarian right. Mid-December, more than 150,000 Syrian displaced were officially registered and hosted in Lebanon; almost 65 percent of the displaced are women and children. In view of the escalation of the fighting and the deterioration of the situation, an additional number of families is expected to flee, which would add to the suffering of those present in the hosting communities and would definitely stretch the capacity of all concerned to its limit. The displaced families are hosted in communities that are structurally disadvantaged, underdeveloped and suffer extreme poverty. Developments have impacted the Lebanese social fabric. The influx of displaced Syrian families, which at first was thought to be of short duration, has been increasing. Though intense at first, the assistance efforts were scattered, in the absence of a dynamic, comprehensive response plan.

In view of the emerging and deepening crisis and to be coherent with the Regional Response Plan to be launched by the UN agencies in Geneva on 19 December 2012, a national response plan was developed by the Government of Lebanon.

Through this plan, the Government of Lebanon aims to achieve the following:

Output 1: Ensure that all displaced families and individuals are registered. Based on clear selection criteria, provide all vulnerable individuals and households with the needed immediate assistance through adequate provision of shelter, food and basic commodities to respond to their physical, social and emotional needs.

Output 2: Provide the needed health care and education services to preserve the human capital of the displaced, as well as direct attention to the most vulnerable groups awaiting their return to their homes.

Output 3: Assist the Lebanese hosting communities to preserve social cohesion, solidarity and prevent conflict and tension.

Output 4: Plan comprehensively towards coordinated efforts between the different stakeholders under the guidance of the Government.

Output 5: Build the capacities of government agencies for services delivery and mobilization to respond effectively in case of massive influx and a further deterioration of the situation.

The Government of Lebanon aims at establishing a mechanism to deal comprehensively with the response plan, institute a clear division of responsibilities between the different agencies to identify the most vulnerable and needy, allocate properly resources, prevent the abuse at all levels, and maintain documented channels of communication and reporting. Thus, an inter-ministerial committee, headed by Prime Minister, will be the primary responsible for the implementation of the response plan.