



AID DEVELOPMENTS

United Nations Population Fund supported the Ministry of Public Health

The United Nations Population Fund Lebanon and the Ministry of Public Health signed a two-year project that aims to support national efforts for fulfilling Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5 pertaining to improving maternal health within a wider reproductive health perspective. The project, which is co-financed by the Ministry, falls within the endeavor to achieve health sector reform by strengthening health systems and performance along border areas - in underserved regions - with emphasis on enhancing the quality of reproductive health of care and outreach components. Lebanon made significant progress in the past few years in reducing maternal mortality at the national and regional levels. This progress was translated into improving reproductive health outcomes in terms of prenatal care and post natal care as well as proportion of births attended by skilled personnel with yet regional disparities. Similarly, there has been improvement made in the use of contraceptives - particularly for modern methods. Maternal mortality rate dropped from 140 in 1996 to 107 per 100,000 live births in 2000. The 2004 Pan Arab Survey for Family Health (PAPFAM) indicates that 96% of all births are attended by skilled health personnel.

World Bank provided a grant to finance a water resources and agricultural management project

On 9 June 2011, the Board of Directors of the World Bank approved a \$4.6 million grant to finance water resources-related projects in Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, and Egypt. This new project, financed by the World Bank Global Environmental Facility, is the first in a series of investments under the Arab World Initiative and is a partnership between the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and NASA. The project entails mapping water levels in reservoirs and rivers, rainfall patterns and soil moisture by satellites high overhead. The Lebanese share of the grant will be around \$1.05 million and will enable the government to use the satellite data to track the impact of increased temperatures and reduced rainfall on changes in local snow cover. Early predictions of changes in snow cover are an important indicator of the change in water available to springs, rivers and aquifers. The new technology will also help predict droughts and will be able to predict naturally occurring forest fires by measuring pictures of thermal heat on the ground.

Australia provided a grant to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

On 24 June 2011, the Australian Agency for International Development, AusAID, made a contribution of \$545,000 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for its tertiary health care in Lebanon. Tertiary care services, a more technologically sophisticated form of hospitalization, are provided in fifteen contracted hospitals and are covered only partially by the Agency. The Australian assistance has allowed UNRWA to raise the ceiling per hospital admission for tertiary care from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Spain funded a center for medical waste management

On 30 June 2011, the Spanish State Minister for International Cooperation and the ambassador held a ceremony to mark the completion of a \$750,000 Center for Medical Waste Management in Sinniq, South of Lebanon, which was funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation office and implemented through the Lebanese non-governmental agency ARC EN CIEL and which is aimed at protecting the environment and health through the proper treatment of infectious hospital waste.



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Lebanese Ministry of Finance endorsed the International Aid Transparency Initiative

On 31 May 2011 the Lebanese Ministry of Finance endorsed the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI); thus, Lebanon became the 20th developing country to endorse IATI, a voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiative that includes donors, partner countries and civil society organizations. Together, they support the IATI Accra Statement. IATI aims to make information about aid spending easier to access, use and understand. Its purpose is to help implement the transparency commitments made at the Accra Agenda for Action in the most consistent and coherent ways. The Accra Agenda for Action arose from the March 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. For more information, please consult the following website: <http://www.aidtransparency.net>

Reconstruction of the Nahr El-Bared Camp and surrounding areas

On 9 June 2011, the Danish Ambassador visited Nahr El-Bared Camp (NBC) and the adjacent areas. Denmark contributed \$2.9 million to the NBC relief effort over the past four years, including the 2011 donation of \$881,057.

With respect to the reconstruction, UNRWA is working with the contractor to rectify defects in the blocks in Package 1 which have not yet been handed over. Blocks N3 and N5 are nearing completion and should be handed over soon. N4 is less complete and will follow a month later. In Package 2, construction in five out of the seven blocks continues. The first concrete for the remaining two blocks is about to commence. As with N2, blocks will be handed over to the community as soon as they are finished to a sufficient quality.

Arab NGO Network for Development organized an Aid Effectiveness Multi-Stakeholder Consultation in Lebanon

On 22 June 2011, the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), in cooperation with the Reality of Aid Network, organized a civil society workshop and multi-stakeholder consultation on aid effectiveness in Lebanon. The consultation was organized in preparation for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness scheduled on November 29-December 1, 2011 in Busan, Korea, as part of a series of events in the Arab region and the world to tackle issues related to development and its funding, to elaborate civil society perspectives on these questions and to establish a constructive dialogue with development partners from governmental, donor and private organizations. The event was attended by representatives from the Ministries of Finance and Social Affairs as well as representatives from the High Relief Committee. Representatives from civil society organizations formulated a series of recommendations addressed to the remaining stakeholders, and the dialogue brought forth one practical recommendation which was to organize a joint committee on aid effectiveness that includes representatives from all relevant government agencies, international organizations, donors, the private sector and civil society to cooperate on enabling the aid effectiveness process as well as the development effectiveness process in Lebanon.