



AID DEVELOPMENTS

Food and Agriculture Organization provided funding for the agriculture sector

On 24 October 2011, the Food and Agriculture Organization launched a honey production project in the Keserwan area (\$12,000). The project includes building honey production centers in the villages of Baskinta and Ayn El Kabou and is intended to support agricultural cooperatives in the region through providing local beekeepers with a range of beekeeping equipment. The project also aims to contribute to raising local incomes and improving food security.

The International Organization of la Francophonie provided a grant to the Ministry of Culture

On 30 October 2011, the Secretary General of the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF) provided a Euro 80,000 grant to the Ministry of Culture to create four new reading centers and cultural activities in different regions in Lebanon.



AID DEVELOPMENTS

International Monetary Fund Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Finance

On September 13-26, 2011, the International Monetary Fund Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center undertook two missions to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Finance. The objective of the mission to the customs administration was to support the modernization plans of the administration. The mission reviewed customs reform implementation, provided technical advice in relevant operational areas, and assessed the needs going forward. A second mission took place to review the compliance management schemes of the banking sector and train staff in the Large Taxpayers Office (LTO) on efficient compliance methods and audit techniques.

The Ministry of Social Affairs launched the Government of Lebanon's National Poverty Targeting Program

On 17 October 2011, and in the context of the International Day of Poverty, the Minister of Social Affairs launched the Government of Lebanon National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP) in the presence of the Lebanese President, the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the House. The objective of the program, which will be implemented jointly by the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, is to establish a national targeting system to be used by the Lebanese government in the delivery of social transfers and services aimed at improving the living standards of the population, and in particular of the poor and vulnerable. The NPTP is part of the Second Emergency Social Protection Implementation Support Project (ESPISP II), a \$6 million grant from the World Bank to Lebanon. The objective is to improve the administration, delivery, financial sustainability, and targeting of social services. This is done through the implementation of new systems and the adoption of new policies in the National Security Fund, the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. The major output of the NPTP will be a credible, accurate and automated live database on the poor and vulnerable that will include over 150,000 households, enabling an objective assessment of the households welfare and their ranking. The database is expected to be completed by February 2012.