



AID DEVELOPMENTS

Italy and UNDP signed €1.2 million grant agreement for Nahr el-Bared Camp

On 27 February 2009, Italy and UNDP signed €1.2 million grant agreement to improve the livelihood of the residents of Nahr el-Bared Camp surrounding area. The grant provides additional funding to the UNDP project 'Recovery and Preventive Development of Nahr al-Bared Surrounding Municipalities', which was started last year and also partially funded by Italy.

Italy and the Ministry of Energy and Water signed an agreement to assist in protecting the water environment

On 24 February 2009, Italy and the Ministry of Energy and Water signed a memorandum of understanding to install monitoring devices in Al-Assi, Hasbani and Wazzani rivers. The devices aim at protecting the environment at these three rivers. The project will be implemented by the Italian embassy with the assistance of a university that will do the measurements and assessment.

Kuwait continues to disburse financial support through the High Relief Committee for housing damages

On 23 February 2009, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development transferred additional \$354,276 to the High Relief Committee to compensate individuals for housing damages incurred during the July 2006 war. Total disbursements for housing compensation by Kuwait reached US\$86 million out of total US\$115 million pledged for that purpose.

The Council of Ministers approved €1.3 million grant from Greece

On 17 February 2009, the Council of Ministers approved a grant from Greece for €1.3 million to support the Ministry of Public Works in implementing a bridge in Riyak and 23 pedestrian bridges in several areas of Lebanon. The funds are to be received by the Ministry of Finance and allocated for that purpose.

USAID and the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority signed a Memorandum of Understanding for technical assistance

On 13 February 2009, USAID and the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority signed a memorandum of understanding for technical assistance and training for the establishment of an automated national Spectrum Management System for Lebanon's telecommunication system.

The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and CDR signed KWD 6 million loan agreement

On 4 February 2009, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Council for Development and Reconstruction signed KWD 6 million loan agreement. The loan is for building the road of Syr el-Dannieh – Jubal el-Humr – Hermel and for rehabilitation of part of a road in the Hermel area.



AID COORDINATION

Paris III - Eighth Progress Report to be issued in the second week of March 2009

The Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with the Government Reform Program Coordination Office, finalized the Paris III – Eighth Progress Report which will be released in the second week of March 2009. The Ministry of Finance will organize the quarterly donor information meeting to update the donor community on the reform program and economic developments to date around mid-March.

Update on the Nahr el-Bared Camp and surrounding area recovery and reconstruction

At the reconstruction level, and seven months after the donor conference in Vienna, the Government issued the land expropriation Decree (No. 1285) for the Nar El-Bared Camp (NBC). This was the result of a comprehensive technical exercise aimed at delimiting the official boundaries as well as the masterplan limits of the Nahr El-Bared Camp. In total, 32 privately-owned plots of land will be expropriated (28 to be fully expropriated and 4 partially). This will be carried-out in tandem with the NBC reconstruction and will be partially funded by the Sultanate of Oman.

At the financing level, the Window-1 of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for the Reconstruction of the Nahr EL-Bared and surrounding areas has been established by the World Bank upon the official request of the GoL. Window-1 is solely earmarked for the reconstruction of the Old Camp by UNRWA.

MDTF	Donor	Total Pledges (US\$ million equivalent)	%
1	Spain	7.90	84%
2	Norway	1.42	15%
2	Finland	0.13	1%
	TOTAL	9.45	100%

Ministry of Interior and Municipalities: Donor Coordination On Election Assistance

The international election assistance program aims to support Lebanon in conducting elections and to promote the development of a culture of participation.

To ensure that donor assistance is consistent with meeting the priorities in administering the elections, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MOIM) has set up and leads a coordination mechanism to optimize the efficient use of resources, to eliminate double allocations of funds to projects and initiatives, and to minimize potential differences among donors.

In response to the MOIM master plan on elections needs, UNDP, the EU and USAID designed projects to contribute to the electoral process.

A summary of activities of each of the main partners is specified below:



AID COORDINATION

UNDP

Period: 2008-2010

Budget: US\$ 4,281,070 / Contributing donors: **Spain** (USD 1.000.000), **Denmark** (USD 625,000), **Canada** (USD 560,000), and **Norway** (USD 505,000)

The project document was signed by MOIM and UNDP on December 5, 2008. The main components of the project are:

- Capacity building of the ministry's Elections Directorate through training program at the pre-elections and post-elections periods
- Enhanced communication and public relations capacity with development of a communication and outreach strategy, voter education campaign, establishment of a media center and elections hotline and publication of election materials
- Voter identification and registration by supporting upgrade of the ID card system with digital fingerprint technology, and support for the automation of personal status through storing data on micro-films
- E-day operations support through training of the elections administration staff and the publishing each polling station
- Post-election evaluation to draw lessons in preparation for next municipal elections scheduled for 2010 as well as next parliamentary elections scheduled for 2013. An action and implementation plan will be established.
- Out-of-country voting feasibility study to be conducted with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in preparation for 2013 elections

*UNDP still needs funding support to complete project activities as outlined above. For further information, please contact the project Chief Technical Advisor, Carmina Sanchis-Ruescas at carmina.sanchis@undp.org or +961 70 239 003.



AID COORDINATION

European Commission

Period: January – December 2009

Budget: Euro 4 million

On 21 January 2009, the European Commission (EC) and MOIM signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the basis of which the EC will provide technical and financial support for the June 2009 parliamentary elections, for a total of €4 million (approximately \$US 5,112,800).

The assistance provided by the EC to the MoIM focuses on three areas:

- Support the establishment of the Supervisory Commission on the Election Campaign (SCEC) and assist the MOIM in developing the SCEC so as to enable it to fulfill its terms of reference as envisaged in the 2008 Law on Elections. To this end, the EC project will focus, inter alia, on the procurement of the necessary equipment for the different departments of the SCEC, the provision of relevant training and technical assistance advice in development of the SCEC and its day-to-day operations
- The purchase of international standard polling equipment. The EC will procure directly electoral equipment needed in the polling stations; the exact technical specifications, types and quantities of the materials to be supplied have been agreed between the MOIM and the EC
- The provision of additional assistance to the MoIM, should funding and/or technical assistance gaps arise in the preparation and implementation of the electoral operational plan that may prevent the MOIM from meeting its electoral mandate and obligations. According to the MoU, this may include the introduction of a computerized results system.

For further information, please contact the project Task Manager in the EC Delegation to Lebanon, Duccio Bandini, at duccio.bandini@ec.europa.eu or +961 1 569 400.

USAID

(Implemented by International Foundation for Electoral Systems IFES)

The main components of the assistance are:

- Launching a public awareness campaign on voters registration
- Provision of training and training materials to election officials on core skills for the administration of elections, especially on polling and counting of votes
- Printing of the poll workers training manuals
- Establishment of a web portal to enhance transparency, facilitate voter information, publish results and broaden public access to the electoral process
- Countrywide codification and mapping of all polling locations to identify the level of accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the number of voters along with other relevant information
- Providing equipment for the Observer Coordination Unit and guides for international and domestic observers