

Fast Fact Sheet

United Nations Development Programme

Crisis Prevention & Recovery



UNDP Lebanon's Crisis Prevention and Recovery (CPR) Unit established in October 2008 is the new fourth pillar of the Country Programme. The CPR Unit supports recovery interventions in the north of Lebanon relating to Nahr El Bared Camp (NBC) and the 2007 crisis. Additionally, the Unit also provides technical support and mainstreaming of CPR into other relevant UNDP interventions.

SUPPORT TO THE NAHR EL BARED CRISIS

1.1 Support to the Government

The support of UNDP to national capacities has been ongoing since February 2007, when a team of professionals were recruited by UNDP to strengthen LPDC capacities. The team works on both general issues regarding Palestinian-Lebanese relations and provides specific support to issues such as the Nahr El Bared (NBC) crisis. UNDP has provided both technical and financial assistance, additional human resources and transparent tracking of donor resources. With the support of the programme, UNDP has supported LPDC to actively liaise with UNRWA to ensure interventions inside and outside the camp are coordinated and implemented in a coherent manner, maximize dialogue opportunities between the Lebanese and Palestinian communities. So far, UNDP has supported (i) the recruitment of three additional qualified staff (ii) the preparation for donor meetings and conferences and (iii) the adaption of a pre-existing Development Assistance Database (DAD) for the NBC Donor conference, currently capturing nearly 90 million USD of commitments, disbursements and expenditures in a transparent manner. Similarly, UNDP also supports LPDC in dialogue efforts, through interventions such as a Summer School that took place for Lebanese and Palestinian Youths in July 2008.

The Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC) was established by the Lebanese government on October 2005. The committee includes representatives of the Prime Minister's Office and representatives from several line ministries, who meet on a monthly basis. The broad mandate of the Lebanese Palestinian dialogue committee includes:

- (i) In collaboration with UNRWA, improving the living conditions of Palestinian refugees residing in and outside refugee camps in Lebanon;
- (ii) Initiating a dialogue to manage the issue of arms inside the camps
- (iii) Ending the possession of arms outside the camps and
- (iv) Studying the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations and representation between Lebanon and Palestine.

1.2 Support to UNRWA

UNDP's collaboration with UNRWA started immediately after the crisis in 2007 through technical support to the UNRWA *Emergency Appeal* and *Flash Appeal*, as well as, the drafting of the *Return Plan to Nahr El Bared*. Support has also been provided in the drafting of the background documents for the Donor meeting held in Beirut and the International Donor Conference held in Vienna in June 2008. UNDP supports UNRWA's efforts in the recovery process of NBC, in both the *Old* and *New Camp*. So far, this has been undertaken through various interventions targeting both the immediate and medium term needs. While initially focusing on electricity repairs and rubble removal, UNDP also covers needs under a

joint UN intervention, including UNICEF, ILO, UN-HABITAT and UNRWA, such as road construction, water and sanitation, basic social infrastructure and livelihoods.

i) Electricity

On the request of UNRWA, UNDP has executed the electricity works in the *New Camp* in collaboration with Electricité du Liban. The network for all sectors in the New Camp has been completed as of October 2008, already benefiting 50,000 people. Similarly, 50% of the beneficiaries have been connected to the network and the remaining are at this point still clients of UNRWA's temporary network until further connections are made. Public lighting has also been installed and an agreement has been made with the Municipality of Mhammara to pay the cost of public lighting to EDL.

ii) Rubble Removal

UNDP, in collaboration with UNRWA, has taken on the demolition, rubble removal and recycling of 500,000m³ of rubble from the *Old Camp*. The removal of the rubble is taking place through UNDP's contractor who clears the rubble in a parallel process with UXO clearance. (Handicap International has been contracted by UNRWA for the UXO clearance work) The rubble is sorted out in an environmentally friendly manner, and clean rubble is disposed of in Tripoli harbor on the request of the Government. The works have been divided into 8 packages, of which UNRWA will start reconstructing the camp in a parallel process and after the first package has been cleared. An Environmental Assessment has been conducted with the results feeding into a process of *Build Back Better*. Similarly UNDP, in collaboration with the Mine Advisory Group, conducted a risk assessment in order to measure the density of Explosive Ordinances in the camp prior to the rubble removal operation enabling accurate actions to be taken in terms of the mine action in the rubble removal process.

iii) Environmental Assessment

A comprehensive Environmental Assessment has been commissioned by UNDP and UNRWA in order to assess the damage of the conflict on the environment and develop an Action Plan for a series of measures for the reconstruction process. The assessment commenced in April 2008 through:

- Identification and quantification of key issues of environmental concern related to the conflict
- Conduction of a rapid assessment of the issues and prioritization of them
- Development of an action plan for recommendations to minimize environmental damage during the re-construction efforts and to address significant environmental impacts

A draft final report has been produced and follow-up measures taken with both UNRWA and the NBC Cluster System.

iv) Social and Environmental Safeguards

On request of UNRWA, UNDP is supporting the reconstruction process by implementing Social and Environmental Safeguards for the recovery process, ensuring better accountability towards beneficiaries and enhanced environmental procedures. These include activities such as the construction and implementation of a Grievance Mechanism for the recovery process, implementation of a communication strategy and advisory services on Gender for both UNRWA and the cluster system.

v) Support to the Surrounding Municipalities of NBC

UNDP's CPR Unit implements a project in the six surrounding municipalities of NBC, targeting vulnerable communities in a region which is one of the poorest in Lebanon. The intervention targets to a) restore and improve local infrastructure b) rehabilitate livelihoods activities in the municipalities c) build

capacity of municipal authorities in terms of service provision and d) implement youth and reconciliation activities between Lebanese and Palestinian youth. Progress under this component so far include the completion of infrastructure works in the 6 surrounding municipalities, dialogue sessions and summer schools between Lebanese and Palestinian youth, establishment of Joint Lebanese-Palestinian committees in the Municipality of Mhammara and the completion of a socio-economic survey in collaboration with ILO.

- a) The municipalities, in collaborations with UNDP's project team, have identified 6 infrastructure projects targeting rehabilitation needs of the municipalities. All projects have been completed, with inaugurations taking place in December 2008.
- b) Socio-economic surveys and livelihoods assessments have been completed, including a comprehensive assessment on the Abdeh harbor located next to NBC, and implementation will start taking place in Phase II of the project. Specific focus will be given to the fishing community, agricultural activities and women's activities.
- c) Workshops on municipal management, including components such as finance and procurement, have been implemented in collaboration with UN-HABITAT.
- d) Enhancing dialogue between the Lebanese and Palestinian communities has been a vital part of UNDP's approach to recovery efforts in the NBC context. Dialogue efforts have been actively mainstreamed into relevant interventions, but also, the programme has set up a component specifically targeting Youth and Reconciliation through dialogue. At present, dialogue sessions have been conducted in the form of summer schools in collaboration with LPDC. Follow-up activities have been undertaken, such as dialogue sessions surrounding cinema. Similarly, a joint Youth Committee has been formed in the municipality of Mhammara, aiming to extend the municipality's service provision to cover both Lebanese and Palestinian Youth issues. The committee will be executing small Quick Impact Projects and through them working at engaging local youth in dialogue. The component will be expanding in Phase II.

UNDP, under this programme, has taken on an integrated approach with other UN Agencies in order to maximize the impact of results on the ground and ensure that approaches are harmonized. This has been consolidated by the drafting of joint proposals to the Lebanese Recovery Fund and the MDG-F

18 Nov 2009: Signing ceremony of the "Disaster Preparedness and Management in Lebanon" project

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Swiss Embassy in Lebanon are organizing a signing ceremony of the "Disaster Preparedness and Management in Lebanon" project on Wednesday 18th of November 2009 at 2:00pm at the Swiss Embassy premises in Ashrafieh (BNPI building, 14th floor).



The project will support the Lebanese Government in setting up a Disaster Risk Reduction Unit (natural hazards, earthquakes, floods and others) capable of providing technical assistance for developing policies, strategies and planning for disaster preparedness and response.

09 October 2009: The Lebanese Palestinian choir: experience sharing across communities

In form of a concert performed by Al Faiha'a choir, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC) launched the "Lebanese Palestinian Choir" on Friday 9th of October 2009 in the Nahr el Bared camp northern entrance – Abdeh Harbor.



This event falls under the early recovery of Nahr el Bared surrounding municipalities' project funded by the Italian Cooperation. It is one amongst many youth activities implemented by UNDP in the context of Lebanese-Palestinian dialogue, such as youth summer schools and dialogue sessions

03 Aug 2009: Lebanese Palestinian youth summer school III - North Lebanon

For the second consecutive year, the United Nations Development Program organized, in partnership with the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC) and in cooperation with the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (LCPS), a summer school that gathered 16 young men and women from Nahr el Bared Camp and the six surrounding municipalities.



The summer school took place in Ramliye – Aley and extended for five days and lasted until Tuesday July 28th 2009, during which, participants were trained on conflict resolution, negotiations and

communications skills aiming to enable them to transfer the experience of the Lebanese Palestinian dialogue to their respective areas and environment, and consequently, contributing in reducing the tension that emerged following Nahr el Bared crisis.

17 June 2009: Launching of the In-Kind livelihoods support project for the Lebanese families living inside NBC

In the context of the “Early Recovery of Nahr El Bared Surrounding Municipalities”, the United Nations Development Programme has launched the In-Kind livelihoods support project targeting the Lebanese population living inside NBC on Wednesday 17 June 2009 in-kind assistance Project that aims at restarting and developing businesses was identified, through a socio-economic assessment conducted last year, as most appropriate activity to support Lebanese families living inside Naher El Bared Camp (NBC) to recover their sources of incomes and to improve their livelihoods.



This

27 Feb 2009: Signing agreement of the UNDP project "Recovery and Development of Naher el Bared Surrounding Municipalities"

The UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Marta Ruedas and the Ambassador of Italy, H.E Mr. Gabriele Checchia signed an agreement to implement the project “Recovery and Development of Naher el Bared Surrounding Municipalities”, funded by the Italian Government for a total amount of 1,2 million Euros.



The signing ceremony took place on Thursday 26 of February 2009, at the premises of the Italian Embassy, in the presence of the President of the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee, Ambassador Khalil Mekkawi, the director of UNRWA Affairs Mr. Salvatore Lombardo and the NBC Recovery and Reconstruction Cell of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Sateh Arnaout.

The project focuses on 6 municipalities surrounding the NBC area: Muhammara, Bebnine, Bhanine, Minieh, Beddawi and Deir Amar, with US\$ 1,917,000 committed from the Government of Italy for Phase I of the project. As a continuation of work already completed, the partnership with the Italian Government is being extended with a second phase to the project.