

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



Lebanon

Democratic Governance

The primary focus of the governance programme in Lebanon is to create conditions that will allow for consensual, broad-based national policies. We prioritize public sector institution-building and capacity development. This includes enhancing the national debate on responsive governance and participation. Services include technical support for the development of public institutions, and the formulation and implementation of economic, administrative and financial reform policies and legislation. We are also on hand to support national dialogue and assist in the formulation of policies related to governance, participation, and empowerment.

The UNDP governance programme is located inside the Prime Minister's Office, key ministries, parliament and other public institutions. This positioning has allowed UNDP to play a greater and much-needed role in policy dialogue with Ministers. It also enhances the role of civil society in the shaping of public policy. These projects have provided functional capacity both for the respective ministries and with local governments and civil society organizations.

Recently, in addition to the elements outlined above, the governance programme has added several projects on inclusive participation. In 2005, the launch of the Technical Assistance to Electoral Law Reform project led to the enactment of a new electoral law. Furthermore, in 2008, a project with the Ministry of Interior provided technical assistance for the provision of fair and free elections. Away from elections, a project in support of the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee was launched in 2007. A special emphasis is being placed on the principles of international human rights and the incorporation of these rights in national legislation. UNDP is supporting the Human Rights committee in the Lebanese parliament to develop a National Action Plan for Human Rights in Lebanon. The objective of the Ministry of Justice project is to increase access to justice, and to enhance the capacity of legal professionals. This will improve the quality of legal services, especially for women and the most vulnerable groups.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

3rd Goal: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Gender equality is a social order in which women and men share the same opportunities, rights, obligations and duties. One of Lebanon's most remarkable accomplishments- in terms of the strife for gender equality- is the achievement of gender equality in primary, middle and secondary school levels. Despite improvements in the health and education conditions of women, considerable discrepancies exist between male and female participation in economic and political activities. Parliamentary seats held by women in Lebanon dropped to 3.2 % in 2009 (4 out of 128), the same humble situation is applicable to speaking of cabinet positions.

Gender equality is also emphasized throughout the portfolio, and specific activities such as a gender audit for the UNDP office and gender mapping of NGOs have been undertaken. A project on Lebanese women's right to nationality was launched towards the end of 2008. Several awareness-raising activities with business and religious leaders – both men and women – on HIV AIDS were also conducted in 2008.



Commando Forest Fighting Training techniques applied during a simulation in Ammiq – Bekaa region

Strong citizens, efficient country

Recent news:

Commando Forest Fighting Training Certificates



In cooperation with the Directorate General of the Civil Defense and the Lebanese Army Forces, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the French Embassy are organizing a ceremony to distribute certificates to the Civil Defense trainees after completing the Commando Forest Fire Fighting training on Friday 17th of June.

The ceremony took place at the army air force base in the airport and was attended by General Rafic Haddad representing the Commander in Chief of the Lebanese Army General Jean Kahwaji, the Interior Affairs Attaché of the French Embassy Commissaire Marc Pasotti, the Head of Operations of the Civil Defense Mr. Georges Abou Moussa, the Manager of UNDP's Governance Program Dr. Hassan Krayem and the Manager of UNDP's Civil Defense project Mrs. Ariane Elmas.

In two weeks, French experts trained 18 members from the Civil Defense on the techniques of commando forest fire fighting. This training aimed at building the capacity of both the Civil Defense and the Lebanese Army to fight fire in extremely rugged mountainous areas non-reachable by land transport.

Based on the success of last year's training, the Civil Defense and the Lebanese Army requested another training session. Furthermore, the Lebanese Army officially recommended the adoption of this technique due to its efficacy to control the fire and its cost effectiveness in terms of fuel and water.

On Thursday June 16th 2011, the Civil Defense and the Lebanese Army applied the newly learned commando forest fire fight techniques during a simulation in Ammik-Bekaa region.

Signing a memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Development Programme and Senteurs d'Orient

On July 8, 2011, The United Nations Development Programme Lebanon signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a Private Sector company Senteurs d'Orient. This MoU aims at promoting women educational/training programs for income generation.

Senteurs d'Orient will be providing UNDP with 10% of its profits for a 7 years period (2011-2017) to support UNDP in implementing educational projects for Lebanese women throughout the country to focus on income generation, through among others training sessions on marketing of products, entrepreneurship and starting up businesses, and vocational trainings.

In turn, women will be empowered to implement and transfer their skills to other women in their respective regions.

Lebanon is the 20th developing country to endorse the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)

On May 31, 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.

IATI is governed through several processes:

- A Steering Committee which is a multi-stakeholder group made up of representatives from multilateral and bilateral donors, foundations, partner countries, civil society organizations and aid information experts. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is a member of the Steering Committee.
- A Secretariat which administers IATI. The United Nations Development Program is part of the Secretariat and is responsible for partner country outreach.
- A Technical Advisory Group which leads on research, technical work and implementation of IATI and which reports to the Steering Committee.