

# FAST FACTS

United Nations  
Development Programme



Lebanon

## Social and local development

UNDP Lebanon works to fight poverty in the poorest regions, especially North and South Lebanon, Bekaa and Beirut Southern Suburbs. We also analyze root causes of poverty and work with the Lebanese government, civil society organizations, local authorities, vulnerable groups and community organizations to promote the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Lebanon.

UNDP's support in the area of poverty reduction focuses on policy and operational support. At the national level, UNDP provides policy advice for the development of national policies for social development and poverty reduction. It also builds the country statistical database for poverty measurement and monitoring. At the local level, UNDP supports the implementation of local development and local governance initiatives in four poorest areas of the country, including Southern Lebanon, the Bekaa, North Lebanon and Beirut Southern Suburbs.

UNDP continues to forge partnerships with local government institutions and civil society organizations to build their capacity. Together, we implement targeted initiatives to combat poverty reduction and generate employment. Focusing on the rural poor, services may include micro-finance, business advisory services or community development. Demonstration programs also target locally generated initiatives, facilitate cross-learning, and encourage the development of local networks and the expansion of local initiatives. In addition, given Lebanon's history, UNDP has been supporting initiatives aimed at building a culture of tolerance and peace. UNDP is supporting surveys for collective identity, and will implement capacity development activities targeting local government, non-governmental organizations, youth groups, and the media.

On the occasion of the Millennium Development Goals Summit, UNDP Lebanon produced a flyer to raise awareness and booster efforts to reach the eight Millennium Goals which aim to reduce poverty, hunger, maternal and child deaths, inadequate shelter and gender inequality by 2015.

### Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Goal: Reduce Poverty and Hunger

Relative poverty is the lack of basic human needs such as nutrition and clean water, clothing, education and health. Extreme poverty is the condition of being unable to secure the basic needs of nutrition and water. What is most critical about poverty is the fact that it is always associated with social problems such as environmental degradation, domestic violence, child labour and the prevalence of crimes such as theft and drug abuse. In Lebanon around 300,000 are considered extremely poor, and lack the basic needs of nutrition and water, while around quarter of the population is considered as relatively poor, and can't afford to secure the basic human needs of food and lack access to basic services such as education and health. The most deprived areas are North Lebanon and Bekaa.



Jana Al Ayadi Women Association – Deir El Ahmar

# Poverty and Social development

## Recent news

### "Media for Development" supports the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals



Under the patronage and in the presence of H.E Minister of Information, Dr. Tarek Mitri, The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with the AFP Foundation and Canal France International (CFI), launched on April 12, 2011 the "Media For Development" initiative.

This two-year initiative jointly implemented with AFP foundation (AFP-F) and Canal France International (CFI), falls under the framework of the "Support to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals" project and aims at raising awareness on the media's potential impact on development, through training local reporters, editors, and other potential media staff.

Around 30 local reporters, journalists, editors, and cameramen from around 15 Lebanese media outlets attended the first three-day workshop training, on best practices on Media for Development held in April 13-15, 2011.

The first introductory session of the workshop brought together teams from different outlets, and different political affiliation around the theme of development challenges and more than 10 reports (including TV, radio, newspapers, and electronic) were published.

Participants were exposed to numerous interactive discussions particularly on the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the crucial development challenges in Lebanon. Discussions also portrayed the current media situation in Lebanon where political disputes are taking the larger space of the Media coverage, at the expense of any other vital topics.

### Support the capacity of Lebanese municipalities in the local administration: Accompany the challenges related to municipal works

The Lebanese Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MOI&M) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) have launched a capacity development project for municipalities in the local administration in collaboration with Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan (IoF) and Knowledge Development Company (KDC). The project aims at developing the capacities of municipalities to better manage local resources in order to improve the quality of services provided to citizens. The project is comprised of different components related to the municipal work, ranging from municipal laws to the financial management to local development. The project targets the newly elected municipal council members and the new municipal councils.

The proposed training is considered as an essential contribution to activating local governance within the municipal work and, and falls within the efforts and initiatives of the MOI&M to promote administrative decentralization, and improve the performance of the municipalities and the municipalities unions. It also points out the important role that municipalities play in local development and in promoting the culture of dialogue among the local community in all decisions and initiatives related to economic and social issues.

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### Local municipal council members, heads of Unions sharpen their mediation techniques

In the event of any kind of conflict in my village, I will not hesitate to use my newly acquired mediation techniques and test my skills on the ground," explained Nathalie Badran from Asia Municipality in Batroun, North Lebanon.

Badran, the only female participant in a program on advanced mediation skills organized by the UNDP Peace Building Project at the Four Points Sheraton, Verdun joined nine other municipal council members, heads of Unions, mayors, deputy mayors and municipality staff in a three-day residential program. Participants came from Beirut and its suburbs, the South, the Bekaa, the North and Keserwan to deepen their peace building and conflict resolution skills acquired through several training programs with UNDP since 2009.

Complimentary to the training conducted, in 2010, municipal officials were invited to submit proposals to implement peace building oriented projects in their communities. Some 10 municipalities received grants to implement projects including the creation of public spaces, green areas, setting up youth camps and building sports arenas.