

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)

1st 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.



The Youth at Ain Yaacoub- Akkar enjoy their new sports playground inaugurated by UNDP Live Lebanon

Poverty and Social development

Recent news

Launching of the "Lebanese Host Communities Support Programme"



In response to the Syrian Crisis and the increasing influx of Syrian displaced to Lebanon, the Ministry of Social Affairs in coordination with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), organized a press conference to launch the "Lebanese Host Communities Support Programme" on 28 February.

This initiative aims at supporting Lebanese host communities struggling to cope with the tremendous additional burden in an already harsh socio-economic environment. The fund will be used to implement projects falling under Output 3 of the Lebanese Government Response Plan: "Assist the Lebanese hosting communities to preserve social cohesion, solidarity and prevent conflict and tension.

Media Partnership between UNDP and Al-Jadeed TV



The United Nations Development Programme and Al-Jadeed Television announced a new partnership on Monday to promote Live Lebanon, an initiative that connects Lebanese

individuals with associations around the world committed to local development projects.

The UNDP Resident Representative Robert Watkins signed a memorandum of understanding with Al-Jadeed General Manager Dimitri Khodr at a press conference that was held on the 4th March 2013 in Beirut, in the presence of Live Lebanon Good Will Ambassadors Mr. Ghaleb Farha and Fadi Salameh. Through this partnership, Al-Jadeed TV will contribute to raising awareness about living conditions of local communities, strive to highlight the most pressing needs of deprived areas, and incite all Lebanese people to "Live Lebanon" through contributions to the initiative.

New Leisure facilities in baakline



As part of its social development initiatives, UNDP live Lebanon, in partnership with BBAC, inaugurated a leisure facility which it had built in the village of Baakline in Chouf on April 12th.

Baakline lacked a safe and guarded place for children and youth to engage in sports and other outdoor activities. Live Lebanon, in collaboration with the Municipality of Baakline, equipped a public garden with new outdoor toys and renovated a deteriorated basketball court for the 12000 inhabitants of Baakline to enjoy.

New opportunities for Youth in Ain Yaacoub



As part of its social development initiatives, UNDP live Lebanon, in partnership with BBAC, inaugurated a sports field and playground which it had built in the village of Ain Yaacoub in Akkar on April 11th.

The lack of social opportunities in Ain Yaacoub has led to a negative impact on adolescent's behaviour and social interaction between the different youngsters in the villages. The newly built sports field and playground offers a chance for social interaction between young people, benefitting the residents of Ain Yaacoub as well as its surrounding villages such as Bazbina and Chaqdouf.