

The 2001-2002 National Human Development Report for Lebanon is an initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in cooperation with the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR), its national counterpart.

The NHDR strives to present independent review and objective analysis of statistical and other relevant data, and applies the human development perspective to priority national concerns and emerging challenges. The NHDR, through its preparatory and follow-up processes, focuses primarily on national policy formulation and on consensus building among national stakeholders. Throughout the process, national dialogue has been promoted through active involvement of national development specialists, extensive consultations with key stakeholder groups and informal networking.

The preparation of the NHDR was initiated in May 2000 and the draft report was completed in September 2001. The data in the report are those that were available at the end of the year 2000.

Salim Nasr, General Director, Lebanese Centre for Policy Studies (LCPS), was the **National Coordinator** for the preparation of the report with support from national experts. The National Coordinator developed the annotated outline, coordinated the preparation of the background papers and the consultations with stakeholders and development partners of different public institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector, and prepared the draft report, ensuring coherence and consistency. National experts were assigned to write papers on subjects relating to the theme of the report. The background papers provided useful material for documenting the corresponding chapters of the report. They were prepared by **Adnan Al-Amin, Georges Assaf, Antoine Haddad, Raymond Houry, Roger Melki, Charbel Nahas, Salim Nasr, and Maude Stephan**, as well as **Rasha Kashkoush**.

The publication of the NHDR itself is the centerpiece of a dynamic process that involves participatory preparation, extensive dissemination and advocacy, sustained follow-up and monitoring of impact. Within this context, a process of awareness raising and consensus building about globalization and human development issues has been actively pursued.

In September and October 2000, a series of six in-house workshops was organized at LCPS, each involving fifteen national specialists in an attempt to better understand the subject matter and issues involved. Subsequently, the National Coordinator continued bilateral consultations.

Also, UNDP contributed to a number of initiatives in the form of substantive presentations and support for conferences and seminars. Among others, a series of information meetings and thematic roundtables was launched in mid-2001, including roundtables on aspects of globalization – the perspective of human development; information and communication technology; and, governance. One salient conclusion of these meetings has been the need for increased and enhanced dialogue between national decision makers and different actors in the public sphere on the one hand and the many different actors in civil society, the private sector and the media on the other.

Special thanks go to all the cooperating ministries and other public agencies and institutions for the time afforded in consultations and for the data and information supplied to members of the team. Thanks also to the civil society organizations, private sector specialists, and UN System organizations in Beirut that offered information and contributed ideas emanating from their wide experience in the field. Special thanks for contributions to the report in terms of information, ideas and/or comments on the draft are due to Jihad Azhour, Moez Doraid, Asma Kurdahi, Hala Naufal, Rola Rizk, Hala Makarem Saab,

Zina Sanyoura and Tania Zaroubi. At LCPS, Lina Ghossoub contributed to the coordination and consultation process; Mona Harb contributed to the substantive editing of the report; and, Badra Alawa, Ayman Mackie, Dima Sader, and Samar Sawayya were involved in preparing data and information and providing research support for the preparation of the report. The UNDP Sub-Regional Resource Facility for Arab States (SURF-AS) contributed in reviewing the final draft of the report.

Riad al-Khouri, consultant, undertook editing, including substantive editing of the Overview.

Thanks also go to Soha Bsat Boustani, UNDP, for managing the artistic production of the report and to One-Off for the graphic design and layout of the report.

The Steering Committee, led by the President of CDR, Jamal A.R. Itani, and previously Mahmoud Osman, and the Resident Representative of UNDP, Yves de San, provided general direction and oversight, and was assisted by a Joint CDR/UNDP Committee entrusted with guiding, supporting and monitoring the progress of the report preparation, including reviewing and commenting on the different drafts. The Joint Committee was chaired by Basheer Mounla, Director of Programmes, and previously Ali Serhal, and consisted of Amal Karaki and Ghazi Osseiran (representing CDR), and Randa Aboulhosn and Christian De Clercq (representing UNDP). The latter, as Project Manager, steered and facilitated the NHDR process, providing advice and technical support from the initial development of the concept paper and resource mobilization through the substantive review of the drafts of the different chapters and the finalization of the draft report and its publication. Throughout, Michèle Abou-Saad provided administrative and secretarial assistance to the Joint Committee, processed the first and final drafts, and assisted in the production of the report.

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The report is designed in an attractive manner in order to be of interest to the widest readership possible. First, the Overview is intended to give a summary of the contents of the report and the areas in which action seems to be needed. Second, in each chapter of the report a number of sentences are highlighted separately from the text and in bold letters so as to give a quick idea of the contents of the chapter. Third, boxes provide details on a specific aspect, introduce a new idea, or reveal good practice and successful experience. Finally, the main text of the report is intended as a reference document.

The views and opinions presented in this report are not necessarily those of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) or the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR).