

Lebanon Updates

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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

UN  HABITAT

A Local Dialogue Platform to Promote Inclusive Recovery in NBC Adjacent Area

In cooperation with the Municipality of Muhammara, UN-HABITAT held on November 17, 2008 a public meeting in order to launch the project “Integrated Approach for the Rehabilitation of NBC Adjacent Area”.

The meeting, which gathered around 100 representatives from the central government, local authorities as well as civil society organizations, aimed at presenting the project activities and gaining the commitment of community representatives to take part actively in the implementation of planned actions. By the end of the meeting, six thematic Joint Working Groups (JWG) were set up (works, procurements, recovery, youth, social/health and education) comprising each an average of 12 members representing the Lebanese and Palestinian communities (including the municipality of Muhammara, NGOs and CBOs and local residents).

“The set up of the JWG is not an end by itself, Nancy Hilal, project capacity building coordinator explained. It is rather an approach to gather crisis-affected communities and engage them in a dialogue to voice their recovery needs and propose feasible solutions”

In this context, UN-HABITAT in cooperation with working group members embarked in a consensus building exercise where community members took part actively in series of meetings to identify for each thematic sector: the problems, the objectives and solutions and potential projects that respond to urgent recovery needs. As a follow up,

five Quick Impact Projects (QIP) would be identified and implemented in an attempt to address recovery needs in the areas of infrastructure, livelihoods, health, education and youth.

Improving municipal service delivery is another main component of the project. UN-HABITAT would supply the Municipality of Muhammara with adequate machineries in order to contribute to improved living conditions in Nahr el Bared Camp and surrounding neighborhoods. “We have carried out a rapid assessment for municipal services covering NBC adjacent area, George Najem, Project Coordinator stated. Through field interviews and meetings, we were able to identify with key local stakeholders the priority services that

need immediate intervention”. The Municipality of Muhammara and the Popular Committee will be joining their efforts for managing service delivery and tax collection in an efficient and sustainable manner in the town of Muhammara and the new camp.

The entire initiative is part of a joint project “Integrated Approach to the Rehabilitation of NBC Adjacent Area” implemented by UNDP, UNRWA, ILO, UNICEF and UN-HABITAT and funded by the European Commission – Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO). ♦



Community representatives in Muhammara & NBC take part in project planning sessions

UN-HABITAT Showcases 21 Quick Recovery Projects in Southern Lebanon

Under the patronage of the Minister of Interior and Municipalities, Mr. Ziad Baroud, UN-HABITAT held on December 2008 a ceremony showcasing the successful implementation of 21 quick recovery projects im-

plemented in Southern Lebanon in cooperation with the three unions of municipalities of Tyre, Bint Jbeil and Jabal Amel.

These projects were funded by the Republic of Cyprus which “decided after

July war 2006 to include Lebanon in the list of top priority countries for Cypriot Development Cooperation”, Dr. Kyriakos Kouros, Charge D’Affaires explained. “The EURO 500,000 funding provided to UN-HABITAT for the project in Southern Lebanon is the largest ▶

UN-HABITAT Launches Community-Led Housing Reconstruction Campaign in Southern Lebanon

A new tool was recently produced by UN-HABITAT to help communities monitor and complete the final stages of the reconstruction of their totally destroyed houses in Southern Lebanon.

“This initiative comes at a crucial time where the majority of affected families received the first installment of housing compensations and obtained (or will obtain) the second installment to finish the construction operation, Tarek Osseiran, Project Manager stated. It is a user-friendly booklet that does not only provide families with basic technical information, but also assists them in doing the proper distribution of the second installment to carry out the finishing works and complete a habitable house”.

An information campaign was implemented to distribute the booklet, in a targeted manner, reaching affected families whose houses are still under-construction. The campaign entailed intensive community mobilization and awareness raising activities. Public meetings were organized in each of the 21 pre-selected heavily affected villages in Tyre, Marjeoun and Bint Jbeil Cazas. During these meetings, the content of the booklet was presented to targeted families in order to enable them understand better how to make full use of the provided information and to actively engage in finishing the reconstruction of their houses in a better manner.

It is expected that not less than 3,000 families would benefit from this campaign, which would last until June 2009. ▶



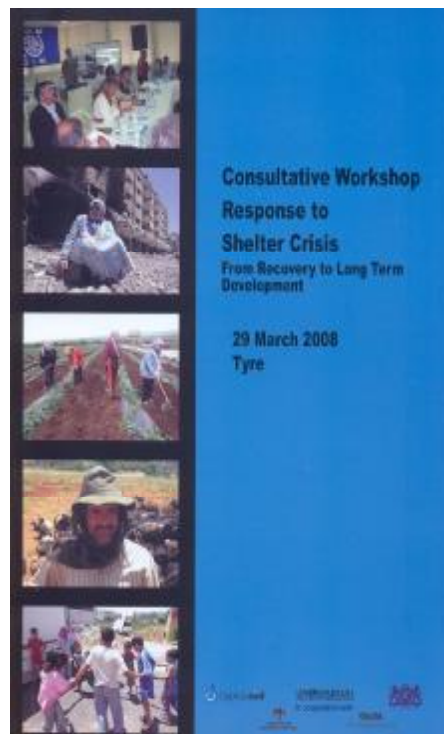
H.E Minister Baroud and Dr. Kouros learn about Markaba recovery project

ever made by the Republic of Cyprus in the field of Development cooperation and Humanitarian Aid” Dr. Kouros added.

In his speech, the Minister of Interior and Municipalities, Mr. Ziad Baroud emphasized the importance of balanced development to reach all deprived areas in Lebanon including the South, North, Beirut and the Bekaa. He noted that the Ministry is committed to support municipalities by all means to help them play an effective role in promoting development in their villages and towns. The Minister added that the unions of municipalities were asked to allocate 10% of their revenues from the Independent Municipal Fund to implement development projects. Finally, Minister Baroud praised UN-HABITAT work in Lebanon and announced that the Ministry would benefit from the agency’s support in the near future to promote municipal decentralization reforms and implement a national municipal capacity building program.

At the end of the ceremony, the Minister visited exhibition booths that displayed basic information, including maps and data on the completed 21 projects.

During the event, UN-HABITAT announced the recent publication documenting the proceedings of a consultative workshop on housing reconstruction in Southern Lebanon. ♦



UN-HABITAT recent publication on housing reconstruction in Southern Lebanon

This project component is funded by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is part of UN-HABITAT project “Good Governance for Enhanced Post-War Reconstruction in Southern Lebanon” implemented in cooperation with the three unions of municipalities of Tyre, Bint Jbeil and Jabal Amel, Beit Bil Jnoub organization and the American University of Beirut. ♦



User friendly content to reach affected families in a simple manner

Building the Capacities of Local Elected Leaders and Community Representatives in NBC Adjacent Area

In an attempt to enhance the capacity of urban governance actors to play a significant role in promoting sustainable recovery and development, UN-HABITAT and UNDP in cooperation with the International Management and Training Institute (IMTI) organized in December 2008 and January 2009 series of training workshops addressing two topics:

- Competencies for Improving Local Governance: communication skills, leadership, overseeing, representation.
- Local Government Finances.

To date, around 300 participants took part in the 14-day training workshop. They represent the elected leaders of the six municipalities of Muhammara, Bebnine, Bhanine, Minnieh, Beddawy and Deir Ammar, municipal staff as well as NGOs and CBOs.

The identification of training topics and the development of training materials were carried out by the partnering training institute, IMTI, and UN-HABITAT according to the following process:

- Carrying out a rapid training needs assessment covering the six targeted municipalities.

- Localizing UN-HABITAT internationally tested training modules.
- Making use of available training modules covering similar topics.

The overall training approach is participatory using interactive methods including sharing of experience and know-how between participants, brainstorming, case studies analysis and working groups.

Two additional training topics would be introduced during March and April 2009:

- Creating a Financial Framework for Local Governments.
- Building Bridges, including strategic planning & conflict management.

In parallel with the training workshops, on-the-job training activities would be implemented and would include follow up individual meetings and coaching sessions with each municipality. ♦



Trainees in the session “Competencies for Local Elected Leaders”



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