



Lebanon Updates

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UN-HABITAT in Lebanon

Although UNHABITAT was active more than 10 years ago in Lebanon, the agency strongly came back in November 2006, when the country was recovering from the massive human and physical losses caused by the July war which lasted for 33 days.

Housing was considered a key issue in the July 2006 post war environ. Out of the total direct cost of early recovery and reconstruction estimated at around US\$2.8 billion, compensations for private housing was considered by far the largest component of the total losses (around 53% of the total direct cost).



Sustainable Recovery

From quick repair to sustainable recovery and reconstruction: this was UN-HABITAT guiding operational strategy in Lebanon. This motto was translated into the following interventions and programs:

- Coordinating the **shelter cluster activities** with the Council of the South and concerned UN agencies and NGOs operating in shelter programs.
- Designing and implementing **shelter recovery programs** in the most affected and destitute areas in Lebanon.
- Undertaking **housing reconstruction assessments** and developing relevant programs responding to emerging needs.

In This Issue

The first issue of UN-HABITAT newsletter is meant to provide readers with a comprehensive picture of the agency's programs in Lebanon. It is also an attempt to document and to share lessons learnt from UN-HABITAT on-going field experience in the country.

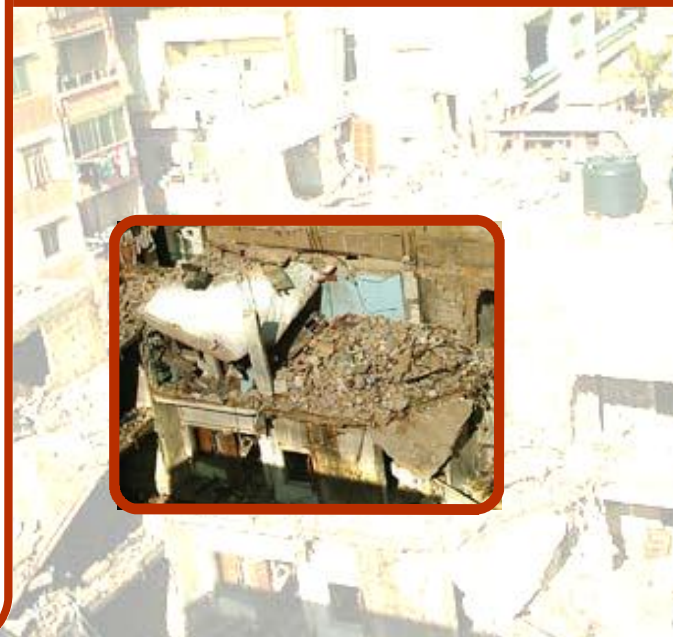
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Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who are contributing to help us achieve our mission in Lebanon, mainly local and national organizations as well as donor agencies (European Commission Humanitarian Aid, Dutch Government and the Development assistance Agency of the Republic of Cyprus) who provided the needed financial support to respond to the various needs of the country's destitute communities.

- Promoting **good governance practices and rights-based approaches** in post-war reconstruction.



Shelter & Infrastructure Rehabilitation in Hayy El Sullum (Beirut Southern Suburb)

Funded by ECHO, this EURO 700,000 recovery project (which started in May 2007) entails the rehabilitation of around one thousand homes (70 buildings) and several communal infrastructure facilities in the area benefiting around 5,000 people (two thousand families) affected by the recent war. In addition, vocational training programs are implemented covering several aspects of shelter repair that would be addressed throughout the project.

Participants are provided with job opportunities through linking them with the sub-contracted companies in charge of rehabilitation and repair works in the selected buildings.

The entire area of Beirut Southern Suburb was considered main military target during summer 2006 hostilities. Although Hayy el Sullum was not as severely damaged as other neighbourhoods in the suburb (mainly Haret Hreik – Bir El Abed), several buildings were damaged, especially those that are located within the vicinity of the Beirut airport, one of the very first target of the war. The blast caused by the air strikes targeting the fuel tanks at the airport caused structural damages to many buildings in the neighbourhoods. In addition, common infrastructure services, which were already inadequate before the war, were heavily damaged, mainly in roads, sidewalks and water and sanitation services.



Hayy El Sullum in Brief

- The area is located in Beirut Southern Suburb. The boundaries of Hay El Sullum are the Amrousieh incinerator to the South, the Ghadir River to the Southeast, and the airport from the North-western side. The area falls under the jurisdiction of Choueifat Municipality, Mount Lebanon Mohafazat.
- It has always been classified as one of the most deprived areas in Beirut Southern Suburb. The haphazard development of the area dates back to the 1950s and 1960s when rural people migrated to Beirut looking for job opportunities.



- In the 1970's and 80's, Hayy el Sullum received tens of thousands of Internally Displaced Persons who came from Southern Lebanon and Bekaa. Due to the prolongation of the Lebanese civil strife, the people stayed, seeking security and employment.
- Today, Hayy el Sullum population size counts around 150,000 residents. Poverty is significantly visible in every aspect of the existing urban fabric: haphazard construction absence of adequate infrastructure services and severe environmental pollution.

Mobile Units for Shelter Reconstruction in Southern Lebanon & Bekaa

This ECHO funded project is implemented by UN-HABITAT in cooperation with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). It was designed to respond to the massive destruction inflicted to tens of thousands of housing units in Southern Lebanon and Bekaa as a result of the July 2006 conflict. During a period of 6 months, the project seeks to provide necessary reconstruction assistance to 1,000 affected homeowners in Southern Lebanon and Bekaa regions.

The uniqueness of this project lies in the **Mobile Approach** UN-HABITAT has conceived to respond efficiently to the significant number of totally destroyed houses. Three mobile reconstruction units (vans converted into mobile offices) are outfitted with necessary technical equipment and staffed by engineers, surveyors and architects to provide immediate reconstruction assistance to affected homeowners.

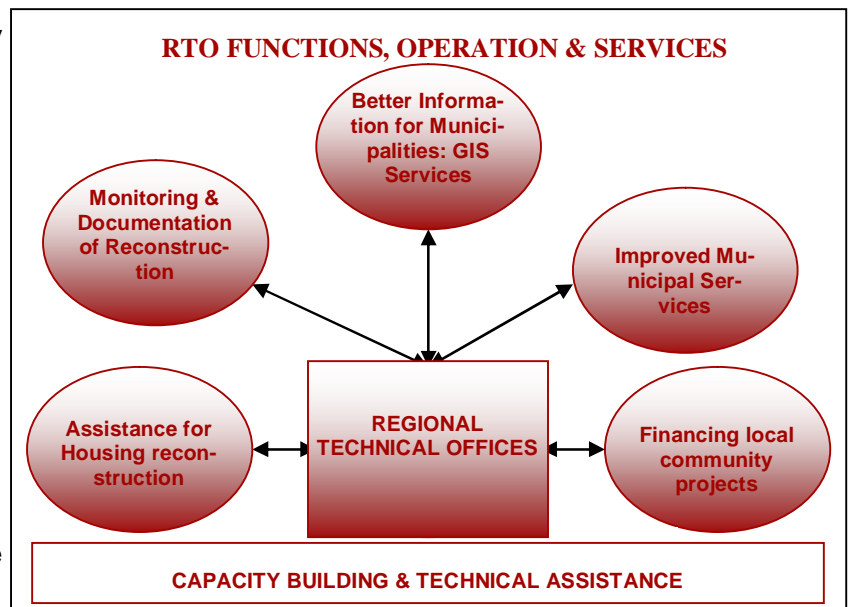


Good Governance for Post-War Reconstruction In Southern Lebanon

This EURO 1.3 million project is co-funded by the Dutch Government and Cyprusaid (the Development assistance Agency of the Republic of Cyprus). The project was designed in order to respond to numerous factors obstructing housing reconstruction, mainly:

- Absence of reconstruction regulatory frameworks.
- Lack of proper urban planning rules and regulations
- Inaccurate documentation of the built environment in general and housing in specific.
- Poor community awareness on how to manage the reconstruction process of totally destroyed houses.
- Weak municipal capacities.

In an attempt to contribute to shelter recovery and reconstruction in Southern Lebanon while laying the foundation for the long-term sustainable reconstruction and development, UN-HABITAT strategy entails the establishment of Regional Technical Offices (RTOs) in the three unions of municipalities of Tyre, Jabal Aamel and Bint Jbeil. The two-year project, which is currently operational in 21 municipalities, will reach a total of 4,000 affected families (whose houses were totally destroyed).



Pictures From The Field



Waterproofing & repair of sanitation system



70 Rehabilitated buildings in Hayy El Sullum



Housing damage assessment



Participation of affected communities in housing design



Mobile Unit in the field



Handing over reconstruction documents

Partners



Union of municipalities of Tyre
 Union of municipalities of Bint Jbail
 Union of municipalities of Jabal amel

Donor Agencies



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