Background

Lebanon is subjected to a range of natural hazards. The largest, single, natural disaster threat is that of a severe earthquake, possibly with an associated tsunami. In addition, frequent smaller-scale disasters include floods, forest fires, landslides and drought.

The vulnerability of the Lebanese population to disasters is compounded by the following factors: a) lack of capacity of government ministries in peripheral regions; b) haphazard housing and uncontrolled urban expansion; and c) lack of enforcement of building codes and lack of regulation of land use. The fundamental challenge of effective disaster preparedness in Lebanon is the lack of a national disaster management plan and strategy. Furthermore, an official national authority developing DRR initiatives and establishing linkages with respective ministries is lacking.

In Lebanon most resources are directed at relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, and not enough at DRR. However, the recurring mild earthquakes in the south of the country over the last few years have prompted both internal and external pressure for the establishment of a new mechanism for disaster risk reduction to be located in the Office of the Prime Minister.

Project Summary

UNDP Lebanon provides assistance to the Government of Lebanon in raising awareness on all aspects of DRR through capacity development and knowledge transfer, both at local and central level. The three-year project focuses on the creation of an inter-ministerial DRR Unit, which establishes a DRR strategy with clear, measurable and time-bound objectives and a National Action Plan to achieve those objectives.

Activities

- Develop and propose legislative mechanisms;
- Establish branches for the DRR unit in the various mohafazats (governorates);
- Establish an institutional framework for DRR;
- Support DRR plans in all relevant line ministries;
- Establish an inter-ministerial committee to support DRR;
- Develop a training strategy for line ministries and organize training workshops;
- Establish operation centres in all governorates of the country;

Key Objective

- To assist the Government of Lebanon to develop its disaster management and corresponding risk reduction strategy.

Expected Results

- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Management Unit established.
- National DRR strategy and systems developed and implemented.
- National capacities at central and regional level built.
- Public awareness raised on DRR.
- Gender equality initiatives integrated into DRR institutional framework and into regional and local plans.

Total Budget: USD 550,000.00
UNDP/BCPR: USD 500,000.00
Government: USD 50,000.00
Project ID: 00071806
Period: December 2009 – April 2012
Partners: Office of the Prime Minister, relevant ministries, Civil Defence General Directorate, UN agencies, national and international NGOs.
• Create a database on hazard vulnerability, risks and resources;
• Develop a coherent DRR strategy;
• Develop a national disaster management plan;
• Develop a disaster management system information database (with Geographic Information System or GIS);
• Create local databases;
• Consider different gender needs in local level disaster management plans;
• Make gender-disaggregated information available;
• Develop national capacities at central, regional and sub-regional levels;
• Establish linkages with regional programmes;
• Develop national capacities at central, regional and sub-regional levels for vulnerable women’s groups;
• Develop and implement public awareness campaigns, including campaigns on gender issues and DRR activities;
• Integrate gender concerns into the proposed legislative mechanism for DRR, the DRR institutional framework, the national disaster management plans; and
• Develop a gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation plan.

Contact information:
UNDP Country Office Lebanon
Website: http://www.undp.org.lb/

For further information:
Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) Progress Monitor
Website: http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/progress/reports/?pid:222&pil:1

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