

Technical Support to the Office of the Minister of State for Women Affairs (OMSWA)

Project ID: 00103917

General Information		Contact Information	
Short Title	OMSWA	Project Manager	
Geographic Coverage	Lebanon	Number of Staff	5
Project Status	Ongoing	Donors & Total Budget 2017	
Start Date	01 February 2017	Ministry of State For Women's Affairs	\$399,329.85
Expected End Date	31 January 2018	Total	\$399,329.85
Implementing Agency	Ministry of State for Women's Affairs		

Background

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will be partnering with the Office of the Minister of Women Affairs (OMSWA) to provide technical support to the latter and the Lebanese government, in addressing priorities pertaining to women affairs. UNDP will support the OMSWA and the Lebanese Government through the subsequent phases of preparation, implementation and monitoring of the action plan and follow-up on specific project development and implementation, based on the inputs of technical experts. The project will be implemented over a one-year period, and/or linked to the life span of the OMSWA.

Expected Results

- A consolidated all-inclusive action plan for the OMSWA to mainstream gender equality at the national level developed.
- Support to the OMSWA to coordinate and implement quick-win projects provided.

Achievements

- Cooperating with UNDP through initiating a project document that aims to support OMSWA technically
- Recruiting OMSWA staff
- Launching OMSWA and signing the agreement with UNDP on February 28, 2017 at the Grand Serail. With the attendance of more than 200 participants including parliamentary members, ministers, ambassadors and representatives of local and international organizations, the agreement between the UNDP and OMSWA was officially signed.
- Developing the different tools for communication and outreach including:
 - Website: www.womenaffairs.gov.lb
 - Twitter: @WAMLEBANON
 - Facebook: WAMLebanon
 - Instagram: WAMLEBANON
 - Youtube: WAMLEBANON
- Drafting law proposals to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women. Two proposal were submitted:
 - Law to penalized sexual harassment: this law was submitted and approved by the Council of Ministers and it awaits voting by the parliament to become effective
 - Law to eliminate discrimination in the National Social Security Fund: this law was submitted to the Council of Ministers.
 - Request to the Council of Ministers to activate a previous recommendation dating back to 2010 to implement a women's quota when appointing high officials and board members in public administrations and boards.

Risks

- Difficulties in developing a strategic national plan concerning women empowerment and gender equality, due to lack of technical support from international agencies.
- Inability in allocating a budget to fund programs and projects.