

UNDP NEWSLETTER

United Nations Development Programme

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Editorial

The ongoing war in Syria has taken its toll on Lebanon's peace and stability. The country hosts over 1.5 million refugees, together with the economic slowdown, has placed a huge strain on the limited resources and infrastructure of the country and services. Presence of refugees in poorer parts of Lebanon – such as Akkar and parts of Bekaa – exacerbated historical underdevelopment there. As a result, poverty, unemployment and social tensions between different communities are increasing while the country's socio-economic disparities are deepening.

There is a crucial need for both humanitarian and development actors to deliver support in a simultaneous way rather than a sequenced approach and as such addressing structural inequalities and reducing underlying risks, so that vulnerable communities can withstand future natural and human-induced crises even as they recover from them.

Furthermore, The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) affirm this call to action. They commit to help the very worst-off first, including 'refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants'. The SDGs encourage cooperation to 'strengthen the resilience of communities hosting refugees, particularly in developing countries'.

Through its different programs, UNDP aims for development during the time of crisis. Being the UN co-lead of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) - a collective vision catering to the country's social, economic and environmental stability- UNDP is responsible to ensure that all aspects of the plan will contribute to Lebanon's long-term stability. With more than USD \$50 million delivered under the LCRP in 2016 alone, UNDP is at the forefront of efforts to support public institutions and host communities in Lebanon.

Another program is the Lebanon Host Communities Support Programme (LHSP). Since 2013, UNDP completed more than 460 projects in 120 localities and 42 Palestinian Gatherings throughout the country. It delivered services, improved livelihoods, and worked with communities to build a more stable future.

Enjoy the different stories highlighted by this newsletter reflecting the spirit of development at the time of the crisis.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Laffarini'.

Latest Stories

Improving Access to Reliable Energy

Electricity is a foundation of vital social services. The onset of Syrian crisis is endangering the already weak and inefficient electricity systems, threatening Lebanon's social stability and economic development. The electricity demand of displaced Syrian amounts to 486 MW, a rough equivalent of one thermal power plant. Construction of new power plants is neither sufficient nor quick enough to tackle this urgent situation. How can we cover the rapidly increasing electricity demand while improving the resilience and sustainability of Lebanese systems? Taking the lead in this role, UNDP has identified key actions and undertaken a restoration of the electricity network.

[Read more...](#)



“This project is the most beneficial and successful because electricity is as essential to the people of Barja as water,”-Head of Barja Municipality

“Youth Employment Support” project

Through the Lebanon Host Communities Support Programme – LHSP, a wave of support began in 2013 targeting the vulnerable communities most affected by the crisis. As one of the donors supporting LHSP, the UK contributed to help implement several livelihood projects. “Youth Employment Support” project was a model intervention that supported 680 young men and women from all over Lebanon. The project provided vocational and technical training, as well as paid internship placements, giving the Lebanese youth the chance to gain first-hand experience, learn new skills, and meet employers and partners. [Read more...](#)



“My life has just begun, I now have a degree that will help me build my future,”-16-year-old Mohammad Zeiter

Garbage Crisis Brings forth Recycling in Kharayeb:

Municipality and Palestinian Popular Committees join hands to recycle almost two years after the eruption of the garbage crisis in Lebanon. Following six months of joint-efforts between Kharayeb Municipality, UNDP and local NGO PARD, over 2,400 families and enterprises are now engaged in sorting waste at-source in the town of Kharayeb and the four adjacent Palestinian Gatherings of Wasta, Jim Jim, Itanieh and Kfarbadda, thanks to the support of KFW, the Swiss Embassy and the People of Japan. [Read more...](#)



“In just two months, Kharayeb has succeeded to rescue 60% of its recyclables, a rate that equals threefold of what all Lebanese municipalities could achieve in the peak of recycling initiatives following the garbage crisis”

Latest Stories

A chance for Lebanon to institutionalize social stability mechanisms

As a response to the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon, the UNDP "Peace Building in Lebanon" project, funded by UKDFID, is building the capacities and skills of the staff of Social Development Centers of MoSA. Located at the local level in the Mechanisms for Social Stability model of UNDP, the trainings include skills of conflict analysis, negotiation and mediation.

116 area coordinators and SDC director from 55 centers all over Lebanon's governorates, have benefitted from the coaching and training sessions which focused on Conflict Mapping and Analysis and Mapping of Local Actors. UNDP designed the MSS to help local and municipal leaders in communities better manage their tensions. [Read more...](#)



“Implementing the Mechanisms for Social Stability (MSS) will become an essential part of the work of the ministry at the local level around Lebanon,”-said Judge Abdallah Ahmad, General Director of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Latest Happenings

Summer of Innovation Initiative Aims to make Lebanon a global Innovation hub

As part of this vision, PM Hariri launched the Summer of Innovation initiative, which brings together under one umbrella summer activities in the areas of innovation, technology, entrepreneurship and creativity. This program aims to increase interest of young people (6-25 years) in innovation, science, technology, research, entrepreneurship, and creative sectors. [Read more...](#)



Regional Development Meetings at the Grand Serail Aim for direct Approval of urgently needed Development Projects.

Initiated by H.E. PM Saad Hariri, a series of Regional Development Meetings were held at the Grand Serail, headed by the PM, or his VP, Minister Ghassan Hassbani.

These meetings aimed at mapping various needs of municipalities, as well as identifying hurdles facing important projects' implementation.

[Read more...](#)



Teachers of Tripoli Act against Violence

More than 155 teachers and principals from fifteen different public schools in Tripoli and its suburbs met in May 2017 to discuss issues they face every day yet speak so little about. The participants came from Tripoli and its neighboring areas to actively take part in positive change in their school environment, believing in the need of the community for such initiatives.

[Read more...](#)



Latest Happenings

Poster Design competition 2017

On the 30th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the Ozone Layer, the National Ozone Unit of Lebanon is pleased to launch the "Poster Design Competition 2017" – Caring for all life under the sun. [Read more...](#)



Minieh Public Garden Provides a Safe Space for Children, Reduces Tensions among Communities

In the heart of Minieh, the municipality celebrated on May 22nd the inauguration of its new public garden established within the framework of the Lebanon Host Communities Support Programme – LHSP, funded by the UK. Children and adults alike can now come together, socialize, and enjoy the safe green space. [Read more...](#)



New Community Kitchen in Old Saida Improves Livelihood Opportunities for Women in the Area

Old Saida, with its numerous touristic attractions remains one of the poorest neighborhoods in Saida. Within the framework of LHSP and through funds from Norway, the community kitchen and restaurant Tawlit Saida was established in Old Saida in partnership with the Hariri Foundation, to support the local economy by creating job opportunities. [Read more...](#)



Launch of an Educational Board about Disaster Risk in Lebanon

"Raising children's awareness on disaster preparedness is the best way to ensure well prepared generations and resilient communities that could effectively resist any risk of disasters", said Mr. Luca Renda at the launch of an educational board about disaster risk in Lebanon UNESCO Palace. Project funded by the European Union, the embassy of Switzerland in Lebanon, The Netherlands, and the Government of Kuwait. [Read more...](#)



This year, UNRWA Schools in Beddawi are WASH-Friendlier!

As part of its partnership with UNRWA for WASH-Friendly Schools, the UNDP project in Palestinian Gatherings supported 1,766 students of three UNRWA schools in Beddawi to celebrate Earth Day through week-long activities, including cleaning and mural painting in their playgrounds and side gardens, performances of "Shu Sar bi Kfarmenkhar?" [Read more...](#)

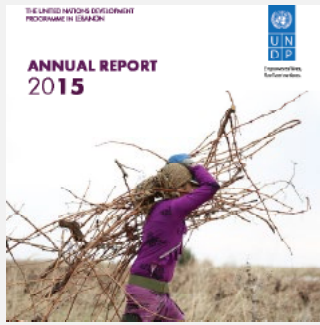


Safer Homes for Salma and 140 Others in Old Saida

In collaboration with Saida Municipality, the UNDP project in Palestinian Gatherings continues to rehabilitate houses in the historical neighborhood of Old Saida, home to some of the most deprived Lebanese and Palestinian families. Thanks to the support of the Swiss Embassy and the People of Japan, 42 houses were so far rehabilitated, among other works. [Read more...](#)



Latest Publications



Annual Report 2015-2016

UNDP's work in Lebanon aims to help the country move towards a number of interlinked goals. These include good governance, peacebuilding and crisis prevention; social and local development; and sustainable management of energy and the environment. The report summarizes some of the highlights in each of these areas during 2015-2016.

[Read more...](#)



The Sustainable Development Goals 2017: Lebanon's report

In addressing issues that are highly relevant to Lebanon and its residents, including goals on equality, economic growth, governance and the environment, the Sustainable Development Goals are an opportunity for the country to develop an ambitious and shared vision of Lebanon fifteen years from now, The Lebanon We Want.

[Read more...](#)

Latest Videos



Waste sorting initiative from the source in the town of Al-Kharayeb

Highlighting the success of the waste sorting initiative from the source in the town of Al-Kharayeb and its surroundings in southern Lebanon, which involves 15,000 Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian residents.

[To watch the video, click here](#)



laat and Temnin Fawka Schools work on the Violence Free Schools Initiative

For the second year, laat and Temnin Fawka intermediate public schools, among 13 others in the Bekaa, are working on the Violence Free Schools initiative.

[To watch the video, click here](#)

Social Media



World Environment Day 2017

#WorldEnvironmentDay gives us all a chance to connect #withnature & think about how we are part of nature & how intimately we depend on it. UNDP projects vary from ensuring clean water to investing in renewable energy.

[Read more...](#)



International Youth Day 2017

Today, we celebrate International Youth Day! International Youth Day 2017 gives an opportunity to celebrate the youth's views and initiatives, and is dedicated to celebrating young people's contributions to conflict prevention and transformation as well as inclusion, social justice, and sustainable peace. #Youth4Peace

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About UNDP

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in nearly 170 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

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