



## Editorial

It still surprises me that in a country as modern and vibrant as Lebanon that men have retained the leading positions in political and economic life. I believe that it is deeply regrettable that as we enter another new year, women's access to decision-making and leadership positions, in both public and private sectors, remains limited. It is high time that Lebanon moves beyond a patriarchal vision of the society- shared often by women and girls themselves- where women's rights and roles are defined in terms of their gender and not by their abilities and ambitions. This outdated vision is holding not only Lebanese women back – but also Lebanon as a nation.

There is today overwhelming evidence that gender equality and women's empowerment are closely linked to stability and peacefulness. Data has showed that when women are more empowered, the state is less likely to experience conflict. To that end, there is a need to adjust the education system and reform the structures that hamper gender equality.

It is encouraging that the ministerial statement of the Lebanese Government, focuses on the promotion of women role in public life and in political participation as well as on refining laws to eliminate all forms of discrimination. And recent efforts have paid off, for example, in the past year, women and men protested against Gender Based Violence advocating for the abolishment of Article 522 that allowed rapists to escape prosecution by marrying their victims. These efforts resulted in the abolishment of this article in 2017.

Furthermore, women have expressed their right for political participation during the municipal elections, with unfortunately only a slight improvement in comparison to 2010. More significant however, 2016 witnessed for the first time the establishment of a portfolio for Women Affairs within the cabinet, a first tangible sign that there is a political will in Lebanon to make a change.

Collective and mutual efforts should continue to be invested into achieving gender equality, and one of the initial stages for that is raising awareness among women about their equal rights in society. It has also become increasingly clear that to create real change, men and boys should be involved. In the UN, we call this "He-for-She". Their active engagement and support can positively impact and accelerate the process of women empowerment.

The United Nations in Lebanon has long fought for this cause, mainly under Sustainable Development Goal 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. I believe there is scope to create a real change here in Lebanon aiming at empowering women on all levels, representing their interests and equal rights.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Laffarioni', is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

# Latest Stories

## Women Municipal Police “Strength and hope to accomplish equality in the society”.

With the support of the Embassy of Canada to Lebanon and UNHCR, and in coordination with the municipalities of Burj Hammoud and Zahle – UNDP in Lebanon launched the Female Municipal Police Exhibition this week in districts of Burj Hammoud and Zahle. The Exhibition aims to promote the inclusion of women in municipal police across the municipalities in Lebanon as most municipalities have little or no women in their municipal police forces. The inclusion of women in municipal police is seen as an important tool in promoting gender equality amongst the society, [Read more...](#)



“ Being a woman municipal police gives you strength and hope to accomplish equality in the society.” - Denise, a municipal police in Zahle,

## Ray Bassil – UNDP Lebanon Goodwill Ambassador for Youth and Gender

Years of hard work, long hours of training, and perseverance are what brought Lebanese Olympian and trap shooting champion Ray Bassil to where she is now. The first Arab woman to compete in an Olympic game in London in 2012 and in Rio di Janeiro in 2016, Bassil’s commitment and achievements are an inspiration to every woman, every athlete, and every individual with a goal in the Arab world. On October 3, 2017, Bassil was named Lebanon’s United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Goodwill Ambassador for youth and gender. In a ceremony held at the Grand Serail in the presence of Prime Minister Saad Hariri and United Nations officials



“ Unfortunately, [Lebanon is] a country that doesn’t provide much for youth with potential and talent; I want to fundraise for them.” Ray Bassil

## Rural Women’s Cooperatives in Lebanon Get a Taste of Marketing & Technology

At first glance, the women participating in the marketing training session at the Rural Delights boutique in Gemmayze had nothing in common. Later into the training, however, they all began to tell their stories with “I wanted to do something different, that is why I am here today”. Within the framework of the Lebanon Host Communities Support Programme – LHSP; a joint Programme between the Ministry of Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme, funded by Norway and implemented by the Rural Delights Cooperative and Live Love Beirut, a training session was held more than ten rural women’s cooperatives from all over Lebanon. [Read more...](#)



“ Today we created our first Instagram account, @aasalnalb. We have learned a lot of new methods today, including how to use #hashtags and how to create attractive campaign names/titles,” she added.



# Latest Stories

## Women as Peacebuilders and Actors of Change at the Local Level

“I am taking part in the conflict analysis workshops because I believe that it is my responsibility to be an actor of change in my community”, says Manal from Baysour, Mount Lebanon. And just like Manal, Oumaya wants to be an actor of change in her community Hasbaya, in South Lebanon. On the other side of the country, in the sunny Bekaa valley, Christiane from Bouday believes in the power of dialogue. “It is very important to talk about the problems of our communities, and analyze them. Once we discuss these issue, we begin the journey of solving them”, she says. [Read more...](#)



“We are the power of change, the wives, the mothers and the daughters. We bring people together”, Asmahan, a teacher and local actor from Tal Abbas Al Gharbi in North Lebanon.

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## Ward Al Makassed Brings Livelihood Opportunities to 66 women In Tariq El Jdide

As part of UNDP’s partnership with Ward AlMakassed – a women economic empowerment hub in Tariq El Jdide, 66 women are now benefitting from a four-month intensive training on artisanal handicrafts, beauty care, veil fitting and English. Supported by PRM, these trainings are expected to help the women participants overcome barriers to their economic participation through training, marketing and sales activities provided at Ward Al Makassed. [Read more...](#)



“Thanks to the people of Japan, the rehabilitation of the community kitchen at Ward Al Makassed will allow hosting additional trainees in the month of December 2017 and will serve more local women chefs after their graduation.

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## Adolescent Girls Meet for Sports and WASH Rights in Baalbek

As part of their annual eco-football tournament, UNDP and Beit Atfal Assumoud organized a five-day summer camp in July 2017 in its center in Baalbek, bringing together 20 Palestinians residing in Syria and Lebanon adolescent girls from Nahr El Bared Palestinian Camp and Adjacent Area. Funded by the People of Japan, the camp’s program included a four-hour training on football, ping pong and basketball as well as two-hour awareness sessions inspired by the WASH-school friendly toolkit published by UNDP and UNRWA last year. [Read more...](#)



“The camp concluded with friendly games bringing together the local NGO team and those of Inaash NGO and the Qastal UNRWA School in Baalbek.

# Latest Happenings

## The Hariss Women Cooperative Expands its Reach Across Lebanon

A brand-new compact van equipped with 4 seats was delivered to the Hariss Women Cooperative through funds from Italy, within the framework of the Lebanon Host Communities Support Programme. The 21 female members of the agricultural cooperative in the southern village can now transport their products at lower costs and participate in exhibitions and events in any area. [Read more...](#)



## Livelihoods Working Group of Beirut and Mount Lebanon Holds Women Entrepreneurship Mini-Workshop

The Livelihoods Working Group of Beirut and Mount Lebanon organized a mini-workshop session at the UNDP Beirut County Office. The UN, NGOs, and Ministry of Economy and Trade representatives participated in the workshop which aimed to shed light on empowering and supporting women entrepreneurs through the identification of key actors from the working groups, main initiatives, as well as field challenges and recommendations. [Read more...](#)



## Opening of a Regional Operations Room for Crisis Management in Aley

Disasters occur at the local level, that's why the key to successful emergency management is a quick and effective response by local authorities and communities. In this context, the UNDP in collaboration with the Qaimaqam of Aley Mrs. Bader Zeidan inaugurated the first of its kind at the caza level, the Crisis Management regional operations room (ROR) for the casa of Aley. [Read more...](#)



## Young Entrepreneurs in Palestinian Gatherings Empowered for Better Livelihoods

After they completed a six-month intensive training on photography, graphic design, barbering, and beauty services, 25 young women and young men from Palestinian Gatherings in Saida and Tyre have kicked off their small businesses, thanks to UNDP support and the generous funding of Netherlands. [Read more...](#)



## Crisis Communication Training of Trainers 18 – 20 September 2017 - Grand Serail of Beirut

“Responding correctly in a crisis can save lives, which is why good communications and coordination between government, the emergency services and the media are so crucial” said UK Ambassador to Lebanon Mr. Hugo Shorter at the opening session of a three days training of trainers on Crisis Communications, organized by the UNDP Disaster Risk Management (DRM) project at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in collaboration with the UK embassy to Lebanon. [Read more...](#)





# Latest Happenings

## The Road to Lebanon’s Future in Focus

For the fifth consecutive year, UNDP Lebanon held the Social Good Summit (SGS) 2017 in Beirut, at Teatro Verdun on Tuesday. Around 300 attendees arrived at the Summit, among them university students, activists, journalists, opinion leaders, and youth from different parts around Lebanon. The Social Good Summit is a worldwide event that occurs each year as a part of United Nation’s Global Goals Week, which aims to address the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. [Read more...](#)



## Playback Theatre in Tripoli: A Glimpse of the Past for the Future

Who hasn’t heard of the rounds of armed conflicts between Jabal Mohsen and Bab al-Tabbaneh? This topic has become such an over-talked issue that we no longer pay attention to it or to what has happened there since the fighting stopped in 2014. The rounds of conflict left their marks on the local communities; locals say that little was done to help with their healing as citizens of one city, Tripoli, North Lebanon. [Read more...](#)



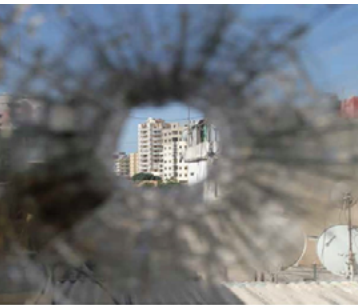
## Principals of Tripoli’s Schools Rely on the Mukhtars to Spread Messages of Peace and Non-Violence

When Tripolitans will visit “Mukhtars” of Al Qobbeh, Abou Samra and El Tall in Tripoli during the month of October, they will receive flyers with messages highlighting the importance of the role of parents in the education and schooling of their children. The idea of the campaign comes from the principals of six schools participating in the Violence Free schools’ initiative implemented in Tripoli and its neighboring areas. [Read more...](#)



## Tripoli’s Ex-Fighters Meet for the First Time

Tripoli. A city in North Lebanon that has long been linked to conflict, armed fights and intemperance. This reputation has a historic dimension in Tripoli; it dates back to the time of the Lebanese 1975-1990 Civil War. Yet, Tripoli was one of the few regions where violent conflicts persisted, more or less intensely, until 2014, in particular in two adjacent areas, Bab El-Tabbaneh and Jabal Mohsen, where the conflict can still erupt again any time. [Read more...](#)



## Religious Media to Serve Civil Peace: Reflection and Action

Religious media has taken an important space in the media landscape in Lebanon, but what is its role in strengthening civil peace? UNDP and Maharat Foundation invited religious media representatives to gather and discuss the monitoring study titled “Religious Media Speech and its Conformity to Civil Peace”. The study was prepared by Maharat Foundation in cooperation with the UNDP “Peace Building in Lebanon” project and funded by Germany. [Read more...](#)





## Lebanon: Desrisking Renewable Energy Investment

The objective of this report is to analyse the most cost-effective public derisking measures to promote private sector investment in large-scale wind energy and solar PV in Lebanon. The report sets out the results from a quantitative, investment-risk informed modelling analysis. Modelling data has been obtained from structured interviews with private sector investors and developers. The report was prepared in close coordination with both the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Energy and Water as well as Electricité du Liban (EDL). [Read more...](#)



## “Peace Building in Lebanon” project’s 17th issue of the Newsletter

The UNDP “Peace Building in Lebanon” project is launching its 17th issue of the Newsletter! Discover what the project’s been up to since June 2017. You will read stories on the “Violence Free Schools” initiative in Tripoli, the “Mechanisms for Social Stability” in North, South and Mount Lebanon, and in the Bekaa, in addition to a preview on the latest News Supplement and media discussions, among other topics. [Read more...](#)



## Empowering People and Building Peaceful Societies

The Strategic Partnership Agreement signed by the European Commission and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2004 is based on a shared set of goals for advancing peace and security, human rights and development across the globe. A guiding principle of our work is to support countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of 17 universal goals adopted by world leaders at the United Nations in September 2015 to achieve a more peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future by 2030. [Read more...](#)



## The Lebanon Host Communities Support Programme’s (LHSP) quarterly newsletter July-September is out.

The Lebanon Host Communities Support Programme is jointly implemented through a MoSA - UNDP partnership as a comprehensive, coordinated, and durable response to the needs of the host communities during the Syrian Crisis and its implications on the country. LHSP has become the main UNDP contribution to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (2017-2020). [Read more...](#)

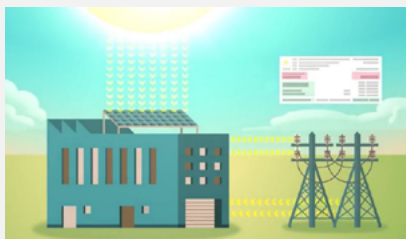
# Latest Videos



## Flood Simulation Exercise in Hermel

Field exercise simulating a flood scenario on the borders of Assi River in Hermel organized by the UNDP Disaster Risk Management Project at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

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



## Hybrid PV-Diesel System: Functions & Benefits

This video was developed based on the 7 implementations completed by the CEDRO project in various facilities throughout Lebanon. The video details the functioning of the system, its benefits in particular to business owners in Lebanon and gives information about the available financing mechanism offered by the Central Bank.

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



## Professional Media Coverage Standards for Strengthening Civil Peace

Fourteen National News Agency reporters participated in a four-day media training titled: "Professional Media Coverage Standards for Strengthening Civil Peace" organized by Maharat Foundation, in collaboration with the UNDP, in partnership with the National News Agency, and funded by Germany. [To watch the video, click here](#)



## Empowering Lebanese Women to Achieve Financial Independence

Implemented under UNDP's Together Towards Sustainable Development project (T2SD), and with the support of Senteurs d'Orient and StartLine Foundation, several training workshops targeting Lebanese women were held in the 5 governorates of Lebanon. These workshops aimed at empowering women and become socially and economically independent. [To watch the video, click here](#)



## #BeyondAllLimits campaign for Women Empowerment

The #BeyondAllLimits campaign, held from 13-24 November, was designed to show the importance of empowering women who aspire to go beyond limitations in our society, and to share different stories of women who have defied them! Implemented jointly with the Office of the Minister of State for Women Affairs.

[Read more...](#)



## International Day for Disaster Reduction 2017

The International Day for Disaster Reduction is celebrated on October 13th, around the world each year. The aim is to raise awareness of the extent of disasters worldwide and on the need to build resilience so that we reduce the numbers of people affected by disasters. #IDDR2017 #switch2sendai

[Read more...](#)



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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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