

**THE CONTRIBUTION OF**  
**UNDP**  
**TO THE EARLY RECOVERY PROCESS OF**  
**PALESTINIAN**  
**AND LEBANESE**  
**POPULATIONS AFFECTED BY THE**  
**NAHR EL BARED CRISIS**



EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid



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## I. INTRODUCTION



Nahr el Bared refugee camp (NBC) established in December 1949 by the League of Red Crescent Societies, is located in the Northern part of Lebanon 16 km from the city of Tripoli, wedged between 6 surrounding municipalities and the Mediterranean Sea. The camp was originally established in order to accommodate Palestinian refugees, who whilst arriving to Lebanon had no shelter and were suffering from the difficult winter conditions in the Bekaa valley and suburbs of Tripoli. The United Nations Relief Works Agency (UNRWA) started providing services to the inhabitants of the camp in 1950 and with its mandate still intact, today acts as the sole manager responsible for the area known as the *Old Camp*<sup>1</sup>, the original area of habitation. Over the years a belt of new buildings was constructed around the original camp (referred to as the *New Camp*), with the management duties of the adjacent area requiring substantive collaboration between UNRWA, local and national stakeholders and international agencies. The total number of registered refugees in the NBC camp is 31,000<sup>2</sup>. With serious overcrowding and poor infrastructure in place as well as limited livelihood opportunities, the camp's occupants live in conditions of at times extreme poverty.

In May 2007, whilst most of Lebanon was still struggling to recover from the destruction caused by the July 2006 conflict, violent clashes erupted between the Lebanese army and militants from the Fath el-Islam radical group in NBC. Three months of heavy fighting took place including aerial and artillery bombardment, leaving the camp in utter destruction with the Palestinian population displaced causing 31,000 refugees to seek temporary shelter in the neighbouring Beddawi and other Palestinian refugee camps. Similarly, the residents of the surrounding municipalities of Muhammara, Bebnine, Bhanine, Minieh, Beddawi and Deir Amar found themselves partially displaced until the gradual returning process started 10th of October 2007, after the hostilities had ceased on the 2nd of September. However, as a result of intense aerial and artillery shelling the physical destruction in the camp and the neighbouring communities was immense, destroying around 85% of both public and private infrastructure.

UNDP provided support to the early recovery component of UNRWA Flash Appeal that took place in June-August 2007 and the UNRWA Emergency Appeal, in September 2007-August 2008. Similarly, during the crisis UNDP started working with UNRWA on drafting the Return Plan to the NBC, which was prepared in consultation with the government, the wider UN system and the NGO community. UNDP has also played a critical role in the recovery planning and the donor conference of September 10th 2007, through provision of technical advice to the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC) and UNRWA in the preparation of background documents for the Donor meeting for NBC held in Beirut. Furthermore, UNDP continued to provide support for the preparation of the International Donor Conference, which took place on the 23rd of June 2008 in Vienna<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>For purposes of clarity, the area of Nahr el Bared camp is separated into two sections the *Old Camp* and the *New Camp*. The *Old Camp* covers the original area of the camp as constructed in 1950, and the term *New Camp* is used for the expanded surroundings of the *Old Camp*.

<sup>2</sup>Figure from survey conducted by UNRWA in 2007- 2008

<sup>3</sup>For further reference on the donor conferences, see <http://www.lpdc.gov.lb/index.php>

## I. INTRODUCTION



### BOX 1. UNDP'S NBC RECOVERY STRATEGY AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

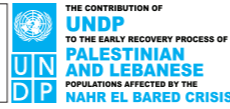
From the start of the return process of the Palestinian refugees to NBC, the Lebanese Government has been determined to live up to its promises regarding the facilitation of the return of the NBC residents and the regeneration of economic activity. The government is also resolute in bringing security matters of the NBC under the control of the proper state authorities. A major challenge to this effort is posed by the living conditions of the Lebanese communities residing in the areas surrounding the camp. To address this, the government is adopting an inclusive integrated approach that encompasses development of the Lebanese communities and the early recovery of the Palestinian population in a parallel process. This provides UNDP with an excellent opportunity to play a key role in such efforts based on its experience with the recovery and reconstruction activities undertaken after the July/August 2006 war. The agency's strategy is based on:

- i) Providing technical and operational assistance to UNRWA, as required, in support of its lead role for the return of the displaced to NBC and the reconstruction of the camp
- ii) Supporting the Lebanese Government's efforts in enhancing the living conditions of the surrounding Lebanese communities around the camp and in Northern Lebanon through integrated local development initiatives
- iii) Providing support to the Government's efforts to promote Lebanese – Palestinian dialogue

The UNDP recovery process is guided by a set of core principles, which have been identified as conducive and sustainable in the implementation of recovery activities. The principles include national ownership and leadership of the recovery process; Strengthening local and national capacities; Transparency and accountability to donors, the government and to beneficiaries; Participation and decentralized planning and programming; Comprehensive needs assessments; Integration of cross-cutting issues such as gender, environment, disaster management, employment, human rights and HIV/AIDS, in to the strategy; Reorientation of and building upon ongoing development initiatives with a conflict sensitive approach; Monitoring, evaluating and learning to allow timely identification of corrective measures, capturing the experiences and voices of the target population.

Source: UNDP

## II. SUPPORTING RECOVERY OF THE LEBANESE COMMUNITIES



### 2.1. BACKGROUND

The NBC crisis compounded previously existing vulnerabilities in an area, which is one of the poorest in Lebanon consisting of a relatively young population with high levels of school drop-outs and youth unemployment. The six municipalities of Mhammara, Bebnine, Bhanine, Minieh, Beddawi, and Deir Amar sustained damages to various degrees during the conflict, making it pivotal to add these surrounding areas into the overall reconstruction plans. In the immediate vicinity of NBC there are two municipalities, Mhammara and Bhanine, which sustained direct and indirect damages during the fighting. These damages can be found within strict boundaries of the two municipalities as well as in the New Camp that also falls under their jurisdiction. It is estimated that an average of 5,000 jobs have been lost in the two municipalities (job holders were both Lebanese and Palestinian prior to the conflict) decreasing from an original number of 6,700 to 1,800. Similarly, many of the infrastructure needs that the municipalities had prior to the conflict were increased as a result of the destruction that occurred during the conflict.

As a response to the needs of the surrounding communities, UNDP in close coordination with the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) developed a project proposal, which is funded by the Italian Government. The implementation of the Early Recovery of Municipalities of Mhammara, Bebnine, Bhanine, Minieh, Beddawi and Deir Amar - project, which started in February 2007, focuses specifically on the recovery needs of the Lebanese population in the area. The project aims to gain impact through i) restoration/improvement of local infrastructure in the municipalities ii) rehabilitation of livelihoods activities in the municipalities and iii) coordination of support to the government in responding to the NBC crisis. The intervention is strategically in line with UNDP's approach to reduce regional disparities and promote peace building approaches through the reduction of tensions between the Lebanese and Palestinian communities.



#### CASE STUDY 1

Mr. Mustafa Akel, the mayor of the Municipality of Minieh, is pleased that he finally has the chance to improve the Municipality's sewage system. "We have a really bad sewage system. Every year fields are flooded damaging the crops and houses are flooded as well making it a difficult issue to deal with". The work has just started and Mayor Akel is happy to see that the problem will be solved in only one month. "We really did a good job in selecting the adequate subcontractors to handle the job. We have seen the plans and they look very promising". This project is the first infrastructure project to be executed in the municipality.

## II. SUPPORTING RECOVERY OF THE LEBANESE COMMUNITIES



### 2.2. PROGRESS

Coordination support has been provided to the government throughout the process, specifically through support to the LPDC (see pg.14). The infrastructure and livelihoods components have been implemented through consecutive processes with the infrastructure paving way for the livelihoods interventions in the various municipalities of the target area. In this context, a workshop was organised by UNDP and LPDC in joint collaboration with donors such as the World Bank and European Commission, to outline the early recovery needs of the 6 municipalities. (See ANNEX III for List of Priorities by municipality).

#### I | INFRASTRUCTURE

Priority infrastructure needs have been identified with the municipalities and agreements between UNDP and all six municipalities have been signed, with the procurement procedures completed. The needs outlined by the authorities vary between hard and soft infrastructure. Furthermore, work plans have been developed in collaboration with the municipal authorities identifying the time frame and mode of implementation for works and agreements have been signed by 5 municipalities to start the construction work, with the finalisation of the last one (Deir Amar) pending the final approval of the list of health equipment by the Ministry of Health. Execution of works has started and completion is expected by the end of September. The municipalities have prioritized their needs as follows:

Source: UNDP

MUNICIPALITY	ACTIVITY	TIME FRAME
Mhammara	-Drainage of water channels -Construction of retention walls -Electricity repairs	May 2008 – July 2008
Bebnine	-Provision of equipments and goods to make the municipal centre operational	May 2008 – July 2008
Beddawi	-Provision of equipment for garbage collection for NBC displaced -Municipal public works	May 2008 – July 2008
Minieh	-Construction of irrigation channels	May 2008 – July 2008
Bhanine	-Drainage of water channels -Asphalting works for main roads leading to the village	May 2008 – July 2008
Deir Amar	-Providing health equipment to the municipality clinic + technical assistance in collaboration with WHO	June 2008 – July 2008

## II. SUPPORTING RECOVERY OF THE LEBANESE COMMUNITIES



### II | LIVELIHOODS

Livelihoods restoration activities have been initiated in the area and in depth assessments are under way. Several recovery interventions will be conducted based on the results provided by data collection and in collaboration with the NBC livelihoods cluster. These interventions will target the recovery needs of the Lebanese population of the surrounding municipalities, as well as the 150 Lebanese families living in NBC. While several development partners - such as the World Bank and European Commission - have committed significant support for infrastructure interventions, UNDP is so far the only agency working on livelihoods restoration in the surrounding Lebanese communities of NBC. Additionally, the UNDP Art Gold Project has been mobilised to ensure further sustainability of recovery interventions. This includes joint interventions such as municipal capacity building and long term economic development (for example through the upcoming Local Economic Development Agency (LEDA) in the North).

A critical priority for livelihoods is dredging the harbour of Abdeh located in the municipality of Bebnine, which is used by a Lebanese fishing cooperative includes some Palestinian fishermen. This intervention will directly benefit 250 fishermen belonging to the cooperative and 1,100 households that are linked with the cooperative. Additionally, livelihoods of the families of cooperative members, the catchment population, women working on fishing nets and the fishing community outside the cooperative structure will also be improved through the intervention. The technical preparatory work was completed during the reporting period and relevant technical documents have been produced by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport. Furthermore, the procurement process for the intervention is being launched with technical assistance from the Environmental Assessment team and UNDP Iraq where UNDP has previously been involved in similar infrastructure works. Execution of works is expected to start in October 2008.

In August 2007, UNRWA and ILO conducted a Socio-Economic Survey of the displaced Palestinians from NBC<sup>4</sup>. In order to ensure more targeted interventions under the Livelihoods Cluster and guarantee equal support to both Palestinian and Lebanese populations, UNDP, ILO and UNRWA launched a Livelihoods Survey inside NBC and the surrounding municipalities of NBC. The survey will provide a comprehensive picture of needs in terms of livelihoods and gather key socio-economic data, including information on employment (prior and post the conflict), perceptions of beneficiaries and future plans in terms of income generation. The survey started mid-June 2008 and is expected to be completed in September 2008.

Furthermore, in order to maximise the potential economic benefits deriving from the reconstruction of NBC (totalling nearly 400 million USD) a joint UNDP/ILO Value Chain Analysis workshop will be conducted in September 2008.

<sup>4</sup>See a summary of the results in LPDC webpage <http://www.lpdc.gov.lb/index.php>

## II. SUPPORTING RECOVERY OF THE LEBANESE COMMUNITIES



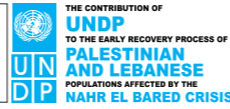
### III | BUILDING CAPACITY OF LOCAL LEADERS

As a component of the recovery efforts in the Lebanese community, an intervention focusing on capacity building and advocacy activities has been designed in partnership with UN-HABITAT. The main objective of this component will be to enable local actors to engage in good governance and play a significant role in promoting sustainable recovery and development in their respective municipalities. Also, activities such as learning, dialogue and information exchange on governance issues will be implemented.

The training targets 100 representatives of local elected leaders, local NGOs and CBOs in the surrounding municipalities of NBC in order for participants to acquire basic competencies and know how as policy and decision makers, leaders, communicators and enablers. Similarly, members of procurement committees and leaders will be introduced to basics of local government finances and procurement and given the planning tools for financial frameworks.

During the reporting period, the agreement with UNDP and UN-Habitat was finalised and activities for this project will start in July 2008. Furthermore, under a UN consorted effort to enhance capacity building, five joint Lebanese-Palestinian committees will be set-up in the Municipality of Mhammara for the provision of various social services. This will serve as a pilot experience of a joint Palestinian- Lebanese effort to improve the management of public services.

### III. SUPPORTING RECOVERY OF THE PALESTINIAN COMMUNITIES



In addition to work implemented in the surrounding municipalities, UNDP has committed to supporting UNRWA's efforts in the recovery process of NBC, both in the *Old* and the *New Camp*. This has been undertaken through various interventions, targeting both immediate and medium term needs. While initially focusing on electricity repairs and rubble removal, UNDP has expanded the works to cover other needs under a UN joint intervention, including UNICEF, ILO, UN-Habitat and UNRWA. This new joint project, under final steps to be approved, includes activities in the *New Camp* such as road construction, water and sanitation, basic social infrastructure and livelihoods.

#### 3.1. ELECTRICITY

##### BACKGROUND

Under UNRWA's Flash Appeal, UNDP was requested to provide support for emergency repairs of the electricity system in the New Camp. The electrical works are directly related to the urgent needs of the displaced population and to facilities that will assist in the return of nearly 15,000 refugees to the New Camp. Through this intervention, UNDP developed a partnership with Electricité du Liban (EDL) for i) assessment of needs ii) supervision of works iii) provision of equipment for all subscribers and iv) linking up the electricity network. Similarly, the execution of works (such as linking cables and erecting electricity poles) has been contracted to a Lebanese electrical construction company. The area has been divided into sectors running from A- E, in order to coordinate the repair works in two phases. The first phase targeted sectors B and C as the returning population was the highest in these two sectors (see Map 1).



##### CASE STUDY 2

Mr. Mohammad Ahmad Hejjo owns a small grocery store located on the ground floor of his building in NBC sector C. Ever since the electricity was repaired in his sector, Mohamed regained his hope of sustaining his business. "I was so excited the day we got the electricity back! I was so happy that my family asked me why I was in such an ecstatic state and I kept on saying joyfully: The electricity is repaired in my shop!" Everything changed for Mohammad since that day. He now goes to his shop everyday from Beddawi camp where he and his family are temporarily located as refugees, hopeful that the coming days will be more promising than the past months. He no longer has to worry that his merchandise will deteriorate because of the limited power that UNRWA's emergency generators were able to provide. "My refrigerators are on nonstop now, and I can offer my clients cold drinks and ice cream, especially in the summer season. I am so relieved that I don't have to worry about electricity again. Really, everything changed now for the best."

### III. SUPPORTING RECOVERY OF THE PALESTINIAN COMMUNITIES



#### PROGRESS

EDL has provided immediate needs assessment and technical specification of the works for procurement purposes (information such as type of cable needed, number of transformers and materials, overview of standard prices etc) and UNDP has subcontracted the work to a local contractor. The works so far have been technically supervised by EDL in close collaboration with UNRWA and UNDP.

During the reporting period, works on sectors B and C (Phase 1) have been completed and the network is at present functioning. Works during the process included completion of all excavation and concrete works; deployment and completion of all poles and pole earthings and all substation and substation earthings; installation of all substations in sectors B and C; deployment and installation of transformers; installation of Torsade cables and bare copper wire; installation of 122 lighting lamps and installation of additional low voltage and medium voltage poles (on UNRWA's request). Also, 75 % of "old" EDL subscribers have been re-connected to the network.

While the execution of works evolved as planned, some difficulties have been encountered in terms of the overall intervention. The issue of new EDL subscribers (previously benefiting from illegal connections and/or private networks) is not solved, and it was hoped that the Donor Conference will provide additional funding for a permanent solution to this complex problem. Furthermore, the municipality of Mhammara has agreed to cover the cost of public lighting of the *New Camp* (previously no public lighting was available). However, the commitment is likely to materialise after progress with electricity works in the village of Mhammara are underway, causing a possible delay.

Lessons learned from the implementation of works in sectors B and C will be used in the next phase of the intervention aiming to connect sectors A, D and E (Phase 2). So far, activities implemented in these sectors include: The completion of a technical assessment by EDL and the completion of the procurement process and beginning of works. The completion of works in the *New Camp* is predicted to take place in September 2008.

### III. SUPPORTING RECOVERY OF THE PALESTINIAN COMMUNITIES

MAP 1: A SATELLITE PICTURE OF NAHR EL BARED CAMP



#### 3.2. DEMOLITION, RUBBLE REMOVAL AND RECYCLING

##### BACKGROUND

As a direct consequence of the conflict, the original NBC area suffered from severe infrastructural damage making the Camp uninhabitable. After UNDP's experience in the South of Lebanon and on request of UNRWA, UNDP has taken on the implementation of demolition, rubble removal and recycling activities in NBC. The rubble removal activities will be followed by reconstruction of the Camp and ultimately a secure return of the displaced population to NBC.

The intervention, which is the largest ever implemented by UNDP of its kind, aims to demolish and remove 500,000m<sup>3</sup> of rubble from the *Old Camp*, treat and minimise the rubble and dispose of the waste in an environmentally sound manner. After the treatment, the clean rubble will be re-used for infrastructure works as such requests have already been received from the Ministry of Public Works and Transport who has will be using the treated material for rehabilitation activities of the port of Tripoli. The solid non re-usable waste will be disposed of at Tripoli landfill.

### III. SUPPORTING RECOVERY OF THE PALESTINIAN COMMUNITIES

##### PROGRESS

Since September 2007, nearly 75 000 m<sup>3</sup> of rubble has been removed from the New Camp of NBC by UNRWA, constituting approximately 80% of the New Camp. At present, Palestinian refugees are progressively allowed to enter the NBC area to retrieve their personal belongings.

Progress on the rubble removal has taken place through implementation of a series of preparatory activities, paving the way for the actual removal of the debris. During the reporting period, a substantive amount of coordination work between UNDP, UNRWA and the Government was conducted. So far, the project has been approved by the Government; initial assessments have been made; an expression of interest launched to identify qualified suppliers which resulted in the selection of five pre-qualified companies; and a tender document has been launched. The process for contracting a company for the rubble removal is underway. The demolition and rubble removal works will be implemented in parallel with clearing a significant amount of explosive ordinances from the area (see box 2).

Prior to the tendering process, UNRWA and UNDP completed a Mine Action Survey (see box 2) with an Environmental Assessment of the process underway. An Operation Plan has been designed for the camp including (i) the clearance of the UNRWA compound that commenced on the 5th of June 2008, (ii) demolition and transport of 500, 000<sup>3</sup> of rubble including disposal of toxic waste to the treatment facilities, as well as, sorting, crushing and screening the material and (iii) final disposal of the rubble. It is expected that the entire rubble demolition and removal operation will take around 18 months. Similarly, the entire cycle of recycling the rubble could take up to 21 months. This operation has already been endorsed by the Government of Lebanon.

#### BOX 2. CLEARANCE OF EXPLOSIVE ORDINANCES

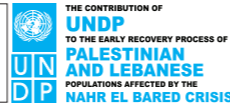
A significant pre-requisite to the actual rubble removal intervention has been to conduct a Risk Assessment and Survey in order to identify risk management measures and the density of Explosive Ordinances (EO) in the camp. The Mines Advisory Group (MAG), commissioned by UNDP to conduct the work, concluded that the majority of the area is 30% - 70% contaminated, however, there is also a slip of land, which has a 70% -100% contamination risk, making it dangerous to both the public's safety, as well as, the rubble removal process. Recommendations made by the MAG will be followed in the process of tendering. This report has been supervised and validated by the national Lebanese Mine Action Centre (LMAC).

Overall conclusion of the EO study:

- The majority of the area is considered to have 1349- EO's per hectare
- The areas hit hardest by the artillery during the conflict have 50125- EO's per hectare
- There is significant sub-surface contamination in most areas, however, in some sectors surfaces level EO's are also common
- A booby trap threat level remains low, but tunnels and bunkers remain largely un-cleared

See <http://www.undp.org.lb/WhatWeDo/Docs/NBCRASReport.pdf> for the full study

### III. SUPPORTING RECOVERY OF THE PALESTINIAN COMMUNITIES



#### 3.3. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: BUILDING BACK BETTER

##### BACKGROUND

Due to the substantive damage that took place during the fighting, the environmental impacts such as the significant increase in special waste, primarily construction and demolition waste and scrap vehicles, pollution of water resources (including seawater) due to leakage of pollutants, and increased air pollution are significant. In order to reconstruct the camp in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner, an assessment needs to be conducted to minimize further disruption of the environment and to follow the concept of “Build Back Better”.

UNRWA and UNDP jointly commissioned for an Environmental Assessment (EA) to take place in the NBC camp, with the aim to develop an Action Plan consisting of a series of practical, integrated and ready to implement structural and non-structural measures for rebuilding NBC in a sustainable manner while addressing the significant environmental damage caused during the conflict of summer 2007. The assessment commenced in April 2008 through i) Identification and quantification of key issues of environmental concern related to the conflict ii) Conduction of a rapid assessment of the issues and prioritization of them and iii) Development of an Action Plan for recommendations to minimize environmental damage during the re-construction efforts and to address significant environmental impacts.

##### PROGRESS

Meetings informing the Government and stakeholders such as CDR, Ministry of Environment and the Prime Minister’s Office of the assessment were conducted and a field study with sampling will start in July 2008. Furthermore, it has been agreed within UNDP that the study originally covering the NBC area will also be extended to the six municipalities in the surrounding area of the camp. So far, the assessment team has provided environmental options for reconstruction and assisted in preparation of documents for the donor conference taking place in June 28 in Vienna, through the preparation of documents on issues such as Sewage, Solid Waste Disposal and Rubble Removal in NBC.

### IV. ENHANCING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE LEBANESE & PALESTINIAN COMMUNITIES



The crisis in NBC has been the most recent one, especially of this scale to UNRWA, thus innovative partnerships have been required when responding to the crisis. In order to support rapid and sustainable recovery, the UN Country Team (UNCT) made a decision to support UNRWA’s response to NBC crisis leaning on the comparative advantage that the different UN agencies have. Coordination activities have been a priority for both UNDP and other UN agencies from the beginning of the crisis and UNDP has taken on a leading role in all recovery related activities (for both Palestinian and Lebanese), with the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO) supporting the overall coordination structure. Furthermore, enhancing dialogue between the Lebanese and Palestinian communities has played a vital part in UNDP’s Recovery Strategy as tensions between the two communities have been high after the conflict. UNDP has strategically supported mainly three elements of the dialogue process i) increased capacity of the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee ii) provision of support to the coordination of the overall response by the RCO and iii) improvement of the Data Information and Management Mechanism in support of the overall operation.

#### 4.1 LEBANESE PALESTINIAN DIALOGUE COMMITTEE

The Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC) was established by the Lebanese Government on October 2005. The committee includes representatives of the Prime Minister’s Office and representatives from several line ministries, who meet on a monthly basis. The broad mandate of the Lebanese Palestinian dialogue committee includes: (i) in collaboration with UNRWA, improving the living conditions of Palestinian refugees residing in and outside refugee camps in Lebanon; (ii) initiating a dialogue to manage the issue of arms inside the camps (iii) ending the possession of arms outside the camps and (iv) studying the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations and representation between Lebanon and Palestine<sup>5</sup>. In February 2007, prior to NBC crisis, UNDP recruited a team of professionals to strengthen LPDC capacities<sup>6</sup>.

The LPDC office is at the centre of the NBC intervention through their coordination of government policy during the Nahr el-Bared crisis and continuous coordination work with various stakeholders aiming to implement the new Government policy towards Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. During the reporting period, UNDP has played a critical role in supporting the LPDC through provision of both technical and financial assistance, additional human resources and transparent tracking of donor resources. As the representative of the Government at NBC, LPDC with the support of UNDP has been actively liaising with UNRWA to ensure interventions inside and outside the camp are coordinated and implemented in a coherent manner, maximizing dialogue opportunities between the two communities. So far, UNDP has supported (i) the recruitment of three additional qualified staff (ii) the preparation for donor meetings and conferences and (iii) the adaption of a pre-existing Development Assistance Database (DAD) for the NBC Donor conference, currently capturing nearly 90 million USD of commitments, disbursements and expenditures in a transparent manner (<http://www.dadlebanon.org/dad>).

<sup>5</sup>The decision of the Council of Ministers to re-open the PLO office in Beirut on 72006/1/ marks the beginning of diplomatic relations between Lebanon and the Palestinians.

<sup>6</sup>See <http://www.lpdc.gov.lb/index.php>



## IV. ENHANCING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE LEBANESE & PALESTINIAN COMMUNITIES



In addition to above mentioned efforts with LPDC, UNDP also supports dialogue through interventions such as the Summer School that will take place in July 2008 for Lebanese and Palestinian Youth (see box 3). Similarly, several Youth and Reconciliation activities will follow in the second semester of 2008.

### 4.2 COORDINATION OF THE OVERALL RESPONSE BY UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR'S OFFICE (RCO)

The RCO supplemented UNRWA's current operation through the Cluster System, which in May 2007 only hosted regularly Housing, Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) and Health Clusters. The UN RCO has also been active in liaising with other UN agencies and active Civil Society Organisations whose expertise may be required in the process. Similarly, UNDP played a supporting role in UNRWA's Flash Appeal and Emergency Appeal, through provision of background documents and continuous technical support.

In order to provide effective support, RCO has activated a sub-office in Tripoli to coordinate activities in NBC. This office has been active in facilitating coordination and collaboration between UNRWA and other organizations working on the NBC crisis. The sub-office is currently assisting cluster leads in coordination and reporting activities. The following Clusters are now active and meet regularly: Protection, Education, Health, Water and Sanitation, Shelter, Livelihoods and Food Items and Non-food Items. During the reporting period, the RCO-Tripoli also held several meetings with international and national non-governmental organizations to identify challenges and coordination needs.

The main activities of the RCO in Tripoli include holding meetings with Cluster Leads to evaluate the process; development of generic ToR's for cluster (<http://www.lpdc.gov.lb/index.php> Clusters) and reporting guidelines, monitoring Cluster operations, developing Cluster Action Plans and preparation of a rapid assessment of the cluster system. Similarly the RCO has also been active in the Inter-Cluster Early Recovery Forum (which ensures the oversight of the entire operation) through initiation and follow up of the monthly meetings and enhancing the system to address challenges as well as cross-cutting and uncovered issues.

#### BOX 3. LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN SUMMER SCHOOL FOR CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

The 2008 summer school will address the issue of conflict transformation and relationship between Lebanese and Palestinian population, with 25 selected participants from the NBC and surrounding areas will attend the meeting in July 2008. Building on previous UN experiences with Lebanese summer schools in 2004, 2005 and 2007, this session will be implemented by the Lebanese Centre for Policy Studies (LCPS) in close collaboration with the LPDC. It is expected that several initiatives for dialogue between Lebanese and Palestinian youth will be identified by participants and implemented after the event with support from development partners, including decentralised cooperation.  
[www.undp.org.lb](http://www.undp.org.lb)

## IV. ENHANCING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE LEBANESE & PALESTINIAN COMMUNITIES



### 4.3 DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

As an effort to strengthen UNRWA's leading role in NBC, UNDP provided information support through assisting in the compilation of background papers for donor conferences, as well as, provision of additional survey information. As a part of this activity, UNDP has produced and delivered a series of 7 satellite maps and 2 comparative damage assessments based on the satellite images, which were used to make the estimations of the cost of NBC recovery and reconstruction, and presented at a Donor Meeting on September 10, 2007.

Furthermore, UNDP jointly with UNRWA, LPDC and UNRCO has taken on a lead role in enhancing communication and accountability towards beneficiaries, through sufficient information flow structures. An information campaign targeting rubble removal activities is being implemented, including Town hall meetings with key Palestinian stakeholders and poster and leaflet campaigns.

Similarly, the complex involvement of numerous stakeholders has required a structure that it can operate in, ensuring reporting lines and information flow is primarily taken on by UNRWA but also assisted by the other agencies. In this context, UNRCO has taken on a primary assistance role in supporting UNRWA and Lebanon Support in standardizing and updating the Displaced and Returnees database.

<sup>5</sup>The decision of the council of ministers to re-open the PLO office in Beirut on 72006/1/ marks the beginning of diplomatic relations between Lebanon and the Palestinians.

<sup>6</sup>See <http://www.lpdc.gov.lb/index.php>

## V. RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS



More than six months after the first Palestinian families started to return to Nahr el Bared, nearly a third of the NBC population has come back to the *New Camp*. So far, humanitarian needs of the displaced have been covered, thanks to the generous donor support to UNRWA's appeals. However, most of the recovery and reconstruction activities still remain to be done, tensions between Palestinian and Lebanese population in area remain high and require increased trust building initiatives.

UNDP's work in response to the crisis in the first six months progressed as scheduled, focusing on coherence and complementarities with other key actors, such as the government, the UN family (led by UNRWA) and the surrounding municipalities. Based on the current context and lessons learned, UNDP will pursue its commitments with Palestinian and Lebanese affected population through a two tiered approach:

### AT THE MACRO LEVEL

1. UNDP will pursue and reinforce its support to Government coordination efforts, in particular to the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee, in order to contribute to the reconstruction efforts of NBC, and use it as a "model" to improve both the human rights and living conditions of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon .
2. UNDP will likely expand its support to UNRWA for the implementation of its Social and Environmental Safeguards during the reconstruction process, including gender issues and increased communication and accountability to beneficiaries, donors and national authorities.

### AT THE MICRO LEVEL

3. UNDP will reinforce its support to operational coordination in NBC, in particular through the Cluster System in Tripoli, under the new UN Integrated Programme.
4. Efforts in support to electricity repairs in the *New Camp* will be completed, with particular attention to durable solutions for Palestinian refugees as claim holders.
5. Rubble removal in the *Old Camp* will be initiated in late August, once the tender process is completed and the operational site (UNRWA compound) cleared. This complex exercise will aim to serve as a good practice on environmental management of rubble removal.
6. Given current pledges for infrastructure projects, UNDP support to the 6 Lebanese surrounding municipalities will focus primarily on gender sensitive livelihoods restoration, paying particular attention to sustainability of these interventions and linking them with ongoing regional development efforts (Akkar is one of the poorest regions in Lebanon). The results of ongoing data collection efforts will help in orientation of ongoing efforts.
7. A capacity building programme of municipalities and local actors will be launched immediately, building on the experience gained through the implementation of infrastructure projects by the municipalities. Particular attention will be paid to the municipalities who host Palestinian refugees, including the mobilisation of partnerships with the decentralised cooperation.
8. The support to youth/dialogue activities will be further strengthened, and a programme in support to Lebanese and Palestinian Youth (with focus on women) implemented in the next reporting period based on the results of the Summer School and previous UNDP and LPDC experience in the area.

## ANNEX I: OVERVIEW OF UNDP PROJECTS RELATED WITH NAHR EL BARED CRISIS (JUNE 08)



TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	DONORS	TOTAL BUDGET
Coordinated Support to UNRWA in response to Nahr el Bared crisis (electricity, mapping, coordination)	2007	2008	UNDP/ UNRWA	1,022,352
Early recovery of Nahr el Bared six surrounding municipalities	2008	2008	Italy	1,917,405
Environmental Assessment (NBC)	2008	2008	UNRWA	100,000
Demolition and Rubble Recycling (1)	2008	2008	UNRWA	15,000,000
UN integrated support to early recovery in the New camp (2)	2008	2009	ECHO	3,800,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>21,839,000</b>

(1) US \$ 10 million committed for the Old Camp. The Spanish Government pledged a further 0.8 +million USD for the activity at the International Donor Conference in Vienna.

(2) Pending finalisation of legal agreement, includes a joint programme for UNICEF, UN-Habitat, ILO, UNRWA and UNDP ( as lead agency)

## ANNEX II: RESULTS MATRIX OF UNDP INTERVENTIONS



RECOVERY OUTCOMES	EXPECTED RESULTS (MEASURABLE INDICATORS) UP TO DEC 2009	LOCATION	UN AGENCY RESPONSIBLE	COSTS US \$ MILLIONS	PROGRESS
<b>Outcome 1: National capacities for NBC recovery coordination improved</b>	A Development Assistance database (DAD) established and capturing 90% commitments for NBC relief, recovery and reconstruction	All NBC and surroundings	UNDP	0,1 (0,02)	DAD captures US \$ 88 million of commitments for NBC and is operational at Prime Minister's Office
	The Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC) at the PM Office plays a catalytic role in the government coordination mechanism and donor conferences	All NBC and surroundings	UNDP	0,5 (0, 2 available)	Three highly qualified staff recruited Preparatory background documents for September 2007 and June 2008 donor meeting prepared with LPDC support
	The LPDC plays a critical role in risk reduction through dialogue between Palestinian and Lebanese youth	All NBC and surroundings	UNDP	0,5 (0,03 available)	A Lebanese-Palestinian summer school will take place in July with LCPS and LPDC
	The Early Recovery Cluster (ERC) is operational	All NBC and surroundings	UN Resident Coordinator (RC) Office and UNRWA	0,1 (-)	Six clusters (e.g. shelter, water and sanitation and livelihoods protection operational) underway in Tripoli
	The capacities of the 6 municipalities to set-up priorities and improve service delivery ensured	Surroundings	UNDP & UN-Habitat	3 (0,06)	Workshop UNP/LPDC identified priorities for 6 municipalities and substantive financial donor support: Agreement UNDP/UN-Habitat signed
<b>Outcome 2: Lives and livelihoods in the NBC surrounding communities partially restored</b>	At least 6 conflict affected municipalities successfully implement physical infrastructure projects	Surroundings	UNDP & WHO for health centre	1 (0,4 available)	5 project signed (for USD 250.000) and interventions in 6 municipalities underway
	Livelihoods recovery small projects identified in a participatory manner and successfully implemented in 6 municipalities	Surroundings	UNDP, ILO, FAO	4 (0,9 US \$ million available)	Preparatory technical work for the dredging of the Abdeh port conducted Agreement with ILO for technical assistance signed and a livelihoods survey under implementation
	Links with local medium/long term economic development plans and capacity development developed (Art-Gold)	Surroundings	UNDP	-	A task-force for joint intervention between recovery and development projects is operational

## ANNEX II: RESULTS MATRIX OF UNDP INTERVENTIONS



RECOVERY OUTCOMESR	EXPECTED RESULTS (MEASURABLE INDICATORS TBC) UP TO DEC 2009	LOCATION	UN AGENCY RESPONSIBLE	COSTS US \$ MILLIONS	PROGRESS
<b>Outcome 2: Lives and livelihoods in the NBC surrounding communities partially restored</b>	Key recommendations of a comprehensive action plan for greening recovery, reconstruction and reform implemented	All NBC and surroundings	UNDP	2,4 (0, 1 available)	Agreement with UNRWA signed and assessment underway
	500.000 m3 of rubble removed, and treated in an environmental friendly manner	NBC	UNRWA and UNDP	15 (10 available)	Proposal agreed UNRWA. Tender launched. Mine action survey (with MAG) completed
	Support to UNRWA for electricity repairs in NBC new camp provided	NBC new camp	UNDP	1 (0,9)	100% of works in sectors B and C completed and execution of works for sectors A, D and E initiated
	An integrated UN socio-economic intervention for returning NBC population ensured	NBC new camp	RCO, UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, UNRWA, UN-Habitat	7 (3,8 pledged)	A joint UNICEF/ILO/UNRWA/UNDP/UN-Habitat programme for NBC new camp has been drafted
<b>Total</b>				33,6 (16,8 available)	

Source: UNDP

**ANNEX III: LIST OF INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES BY MUNICIPALITY**  
(AS OF MARCH 2008)



BEBNINE	BEDDAWI	BHANINE	DEIR AMAR	MINIEH	MHAMMARA
Construction of a sewage system (6 km)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creation of water channels to evacuate water rains (3 km)</li> <li>2. Enlarging and asphaltting roads</li> <li>3. Creation of 2 sidewalks</li> <li>4. Create coastal road of 2 km</li> <li>5. Construction of retaining walls</li> <li>6. Construction of a sewage system (4km)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Construction of sewage system</li> <li>2. Asphaltting main and individual roads</li> <li>3. Construction of a secondary school and restoration of a middle school.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creation of drainage systems</li> <li>2. Enlarging and asphaltting roads</li> <li>3. Construction of sewage system (3 km)</li> <li>4. Construction of retaining walls</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve sewage system</li> <li>2. Enlargement and restoration of internal roads</li> <li>3. Resume potable water project</li> <li>4. Improvement of draining systems and retaining walls</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Construction of a sewage system (3 km)</li> <li>2. Construction of water pipeline (12 km)</li> <li>3. Construction of internal roads (3 km)</li> </ol>

Source: Municipalities, Government of Lebanon and UNDP (from Workshop on early recovery needs on March 2008 in Tripoli)



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