

Issue 14 - January- March 2016

NEWSLETTER



United Nations Development Programme – Lebanon

*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

HIGHLIGHTS



UNDP Lebanon retreat 2016



Luca Renda and BPRM representative visit Daouk Palestinian Gathering

UNDP Director Luca Renda and Popular Committee in Daouk Palestinian Gathering accompany the representative of the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the US State Department in her visit to completed BUS and shelter works, following a presentation on the Daouk improvement plan launched by UNDP in December 2015.



The UNDP “Peace Building in Lebanon” joint news supplement



The UNDP “Peace Building in Lebanon” joint news supplement was published on Tuesday March 22nd with An-Nahar and As-Safir newspapers in Arabic, and with The Daily Star in English and L’Orient-Le Jour in French.

The supplement contains articles by writers, journalists, media professionals, researchers & artists from Lebanon and Syria; they cover the repercussions of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon and the relations between Lebanese and Syrians, employing objective approaches that are free of hatred and misconceptions.

This supplement is produced by the UNDP «Peace Building in Lebanon» project with the generous support of the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development through KfW.

The One Voice Choir Celebrates Mother’s Day

The youth of the “One Voice Choir” project celebrated Mother’s day on Saturday 20 March 2016 at the Conservatoire Hamzakayin “Levon Shant” in Bourj Hammoud. Sixty-three (63) youth from different schools in the area gave a performance in celebration of the day in the presence of their mothers, UNDP’s Mount Lebanon office staff and representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA).

After the event, the youth distributed hand-made gifts that they prepared for their mothers during awareness workshops as part of the project funded by the Waldensian Church-Italy and implemented within the “Lebanon Host Communities Support Project”, which is a joint multi-donor project between MoSA and the UNDP.



The choir project aims at bringing serenity, happiness and hope to the lives of the youth, using music as a tool for adaptation and co-existence. The project offers the youth 21 choir-training sessions and 10 awareness sessions. It hopes to bring them together allowing the start of a dialogue, sharing of experiences and interaction among youth from different backgrounds.

Arab Region Expert Meeting in Riviera on Local-Urban Indicators in the Arab Region



The UNDP Disaster Risk Management Unit at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), organized a two day workshop on Local-Urban Indicators in the Arab Region, for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR).

In this context, UNISDR worked with experts, local and national government representatives to develop a set of new local urban indicators, building on the Ten Essentials of the campaign for Making Cities Resilient and aligned with Sendai Framework for DRR.

The workshop was held at the Riviera Hotel Beirut on the 15th and 16th of March 2016, brought together key experts from Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia and Palestine as well as representatives from several municipalities in Lebanon, to discuss and review the Arabic version of the local-urban indicators. Participants also provided feedback to the means of implementation of the Sendai Framework, before the piloting of the indicators that will take place at the end of March in the city of Aqaba, Jordan.

Towards Improving the Local Welfare System

Within the “support to Integrated Service Provision at the Local Level” initiative representatives from 12 Social Development Centers (SDCs) of the Ministry of Social Affairs met on Thursday 17th March 2016, with Dr. Luigi Triggiano, International Health Cooperation Coordinator at ASL 8 Tuscany Region, Mr. Adnan Nasserline, Head of Social Development Centers Division at the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), and UNDP staff.



The meeting focused on the challenges faced in the development of the integrated health and social plan at the local level. Being part of the initiative’s working groups, directors of the involved SDCs highlighted the importance of the on-going dialogue with representatives from municipalities that lead the working groups and the coordination with public schools, SDCs and the Primary Health Care Centers of the Ministry of Public Health.

On 15 September 2014, the initiative’s Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between UNDP and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the Ministry (MEHE) of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM).

Funded by the principality of Monaco and the Tuscany Region-Italy, this initiative focuses on Local Governance and Territorial Development through applying a resilience-based approach to tackle problems in health, social and education sectors. It aims to support the development of Integrated Health and Social Plans at local level in order to systematize the social and health services offered by stakeholders, increasing access to high-quality primary health care and social services in the targeted communities. The initiative seeks to improve the environment in public schools and to increase awareness about health between its students and staff.

The “Tripoli Youth Entrepreneurs” Project under the Lebanon Host Communities Support Project



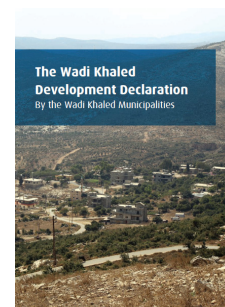
On March 17th, 20 youth entrepreneurs were trained on developing business plans as part of the “Tripoli Youth Entrepreneurs” business plan competition, within the Lebanon Host Communities Support Project LHSP in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs MoSA , implemented by BIAT Business Incubation Association in Tripoli and funded by the Regional Development and protection Programme RDPP.

The “Tripoli Youth Entrepreneurs” Competition was launched in order to support young entrepreneurs in developing innovative ideas in launching their start-ups which will be creating job opportunities in the most vulnerable communities. The project includes the training of the youth on entrepreneurship and business planning where a technical jury will choose 4 groups who will win a grant of maximum 15000 USD.

“The Wadi Khaled Development Declaration” Transforming crisis into developmental opportunities

On Lebanon’s northeast borders adjacent to Syria, around 400 participants coming from the 8 towns of Wadi Khaled, Al Hisheh, Khat Al Petrol, Bani Sakhr, Mqaybleh, Jermnaya-al Rama, al Amayer-Rajm Issa and al Fard have witnessed the declaration of the Wadi Khaled Union of Municipalities on March 10th, 2016.

It was a special day for the mayors of these communities who have also announced, in addition to the birth of the Union of Wadi Khaled municipalities, the launch of the “Wadi Khaled Development Declaration”. This was done in the presence of Akkar Governor, UNDP Country Director, several tribal and religious figures, political figures, representatives of different UN and International organizations and local actors from Akkar.



The Good Manufacturing Practices in Lebanese Food Factories



On March 10, the Ministry of Industry launched “the Guidance Manual for the Good Manufacturing Practices in Lebanese Food Factories,” which encompasses the sectors of chicken production, raw and processed meat, their preparations and products, bread, sweets and readymade food items.

The event was sponsored by the Minister of Industry Dr. Hussein Hajj Hassan, with the participation of the UN Deputy Special Coordinator for Lebanon Philippe Lazzarini, the Regional Representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Cristiano Pasini, the Director General of the Ministry Dany Gedeon, the President of the Syndicate of Lebanese Food Industrialists (SLFI) Ahmad Hoteit, as well as food and drug industrialists and representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry, the Lebanese Standards Institutions (Libnor) and the Industrial Research Institute.

“Palestinian Gathering” Children of Daouk re-create their neighborhoods

As part of the participatory planning inspiring the design of the improvement plan in Daouk, UNDP organized a six-day photography and drawing workshop for 10 Palestinian and Syrian adolescents in Daouk. This workshop, funded by BPRM, started with a community mapping by adolescents to highlight risks and opportunities that surround them in their community. After acquiring basic photography skills and taking photos for spaces where they spend most of their time, participants illustrated the changes they would like to see in these community through drawing.



Participants drew throw-in bins, handrails, graffiti, and roof gardens, among many other elements they added to the photos to make their neighborhoods cleaner, safer and more beautiful. Many of these changes will be actually implemented by UNDP as part of the improvement plan it launched in the Gathering in December 2015. UNDP will organize an open exhibition of the children’s art work in Daouk, as part of a series of public events promoting environmental practices and sharing the achievements of the improvement plan.

International Women’s Day at the Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan



On March 8, the Institut des Finances Bassil Fuleihan and the Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals TOKTEN – UNDP celebrated International Women’s Day during a meeting held at the institute’s headquarters, animated by Goodwill Ambassador for UNESCO for the Dialogue of Civilizations, the Ecuadorian of Lebanese origins Yvonne Abdel Baki and Sigrid Kaag, United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon.

A roundtable discussion was then held, titled “Women leaders, the Role of Women as partners for State building and modernization,” in which

Dr. Janane El-Khoury, Head of Legal Department in the Legal IT Center at the Lebanese University, Gloria Abi Zeid, Director General of Cooperatives, Acting President of Green Plan, Naziha El Amine, Head of Follow-up Department at the Presidency of Council of Ministers, participated.

Each one presented her experience and the challenges she faces to achieve her goals. The possibility of creating a coalition gathering women in state decision-making positions to support the presence of women there was then discussed.

International Women's Day

“Women Participating in Municipal Councils in Support of Local Development” conference

NCLW and LAU organized the event under the patronage of Minister of Interior and Municipalities and UNDP delivered a speech (Luca Renda). LEAP intervention / support was to show a teaser on a short documentary entitled “Women in Municipalities: Success Stories and Challenges”, since it was developed with the support of NCLW.

Lebanese Women in Municipalities event

UNSCOL, NDI and Women in Front organized an event to launch the initiative of “Lebanese Women in Municipalities”. LEAP provided logistical support and developed visibility materials to the event. On a later stage, we will provide technical assistance and an awareness toolkit on women’s participation in municipal elections (which we are developing now) to the info sessions that will take place in 8 different regions in Lebanon.



The Launching Ceremony of a Report Entitled “The Economic Costs to Lebanon from Climate Change: a First Look”



Under the patronage of the Minister of Environment Mr. Mohammad El Machnouk, the Ministry of Environment and the United Nations Development Programme organized a ceremony to launch a report entitled “The Economic Costs to Lebanon from Climate Change: a First Look”, on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at 11 a.m., at the Phoenicia Hotel.

The press conference came to launch the study, which falls within a series of events organized by the Ministry of Environment, in cooperation with the UNDP during this week, to carefully research each of the report’s perspectives. The title “Climate Truth in a Week” was chosen for this series of activities that include academic presentations at the American University of Beirut – AUB and the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik – USEK on how to improve the methodology adopted in the report and fill of gaps resulting from the lack of availability of national data, a panel discussion with the British Universities Alumni Association -BUAA about how to raise climate awareness in the different fields to reduce the sectoral economic implications of climate change, a panel discussion at the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut about the implications of the new climate change agreement which was adopted in Paris in December 2015 on the projected figures in the study.

Field visit to Tyre



On March 16, 2016, Mr. Philippe Lazzarini, Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, visits Tyre to Joint efforts of the Humanitarian and development agencies in Southern Lebanon.

The “Mount Lebanon Youth Entrepreneurs” Project

On March 22nd, 10 groups of youth entrepreneurs presented their business ideas in front of a jury at Berytech in Mount Lebanon, and 4 groups will be able to convince the jury with their ideas and the efficiency of their business plans and will win a grant. They will start up their business this year with the support of Berytech and KDC. The groups have been working on their business plans for 2 months, during which they attended a workshop on business planning at Berytech.



This project is funded by the Regional Development and Protection Programme RDPP and is implemented by Berytech in partnership with the Knowledge Development Company KDC within the Lebanon Host Communities Support Project LHSP with the Ministry of Social Affairs MoSA UNDP.

The initiative is supported by the Regional Development and Protection Programme which is led by Denmark through a generous contribution from the European Union, Ireland, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Norway, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, and is one of the interventions that are implemented by MoSA and the UNDP in Lebanon under the Lebanon Host Communities Support Project (LHSP). LHSP is a joint initiative by the Ministry and the UNDP that aims to implement efforts of stabilization and development under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and the impacts of the Syria crisis on Lebanon.

‘Daouk is recycling’, announce the children of the Palestinian Gathering through animation



Within the framework of the soon-to-be launched improvement plan for the Daouk Palestinian Gathering in Beirut, UNDP has agreed with the Popular Committee of the Gathering to test a plastic recycling initiative at the community level starting March 2016. UNDP and the Popular Committee selected a corner in the Gathering, where a mural will be painted to promote recycling and a plastic waste container will be placed. UNDP has already agreed with the recycling collection center Zero Waste Act to pick up sorted plastic from Daouk twice a month. To support this initiative and ensure community engagement, UNDP is planning a series of activities encouraging behavior-change in solid waste management at the household level.

As a first step to advertise the recycling initiative and thanks to the generous support of BPRM, KFW and the Government of Japan, UNDP organized an animation training in PARD's community center in Daouk, in which 7 Palestinian and Syrian children residing in the Gathering spent a week to create a short animation video to raise the awareness of their peers on the importance of reducing plastic consumption, re-using and recycling. Participating children wrote the script of the movie, drew its characters, and animated them using a child-friendly software. “I was always passionate about drawing and movie making. Now, I’m also passionate about recycling!” says Omran Alwani, a Syrian refugee who has participated in the workshop. “The next time I go to the grocery shop, I will not ask for a plastic bag if I don’t need it.”

UK Delivers its Commitments in Bissarieh through the Lebanon Host Communities Support Project



Over 4000 residents in Bissarieh will benefit from a UK-funded project designed to meet increased demand for water resulting from the refugee influx. In 2014/15 the UK has doubled its support to municipalities, meaning that \$21million will reach 49 of the most vulnerable municipalities on the frontline of Lebanon's unprecedented refugee crisis. The project is part of the UNDP's Lebanon Host Communities Support Project in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA).

On March 3, in a visit to Bissarieh, where he met with Mayor Fouad Mchawrab and members of the municipal council, Ambassador Designate Hugo Shorter inaugurated two UK-funded projects. He was accompanied by UNDP's Chief Technical Adviser Marina Lo Giudice and the National Coordinator of the Lebanon Host Communities Support Project at MoSA, Suheir El Ghali. The water tank will provide access to clean water for around 800 households, helping reduce environmental and health threats. At the second, a community kitchen designed to support women's livelihoods, he met with Lebanese women who are learning about safety and efficient processes for food production

Infrastructure upgrading projects create better living environments in 9 Palestinian Gatherings across Lebanon

After completing 56 WASH and infrastructure works in 20 Palestinian Gatherings last year, UNDP succeeded to complete 24 new upgrading projects in 9 Palestinian Gatherings between January 2016 and March 2016; 2 other projects were launched.

Funded by KFW, BPRM and the Government of Japan, works included installing a water network, rehabilitating a well, installing 8 storm water networks and channels, building one retaining wall and stairs, paving 5 roads, as well as installing or rehabilitating 8 water networks. Completed projects covered Palestinian Gatherings located in the North, Beirut, Saida and Tyre.



Shelter needs assessed in Palestinian Gatherings in preparation for their rehabilitation in the next quarter



In preparation to kick-off in April 2016 rehabilitation works in shelters of most-in-need households in Palestinian Gatherings across Lebanon, UNDP completed this quarter the assessment of 145 shelters, including 75 in Old Saida Palestinian Gathering and 70 in the Adjacent Areas of Nahr El Bared. The assessed shelters are currently home to 483 Palestinians from Lebanon, 88 Palestinians from Syria, 205 Lebanese and some 20 residents from other nationalities.

Also this quarter, UNDP has completed a study to restructure and rehabilitate the electricity network of AlBahaa collective center located at Tawari Adjacent Area to Ain El Helwe and hosting around 220 Palestinian refugees from Syria. It is worth noting that UNDP has succeeded to rehabilitate 412 shelters and equip them with WASH facilities in 2015, thanks to the generous support of KFW, BPRM and the Government of Japan.

Mr. Philippe Lazzarini joins the “Violence-Free schools” initiative activities in the Bekaa



«Education is the best investment. Returns are invaluable,» said Mr. Philippe Lazzarini during his visit to the Bekaa.

On March 2, the UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator visited Laat public school to check on the Violence-Free schools activities implemented by the UNDP «Peace Building in Lebanon» project, involving students, parents and teachers.

Mr. Lazzarini interacted with students, school personnel and parents on the importance of the intervention and the graffiti role in promoting non-violence and positive impact on their school.

Lebanese and Syrian youth from Sarafand and the neighboring villages run together in the marathon



On February 29, 2016, Lebanese and Syrian youth from Sarafand and the neighboring villages run together in the marathon organized by the joint socio-cultural committee of Sarafand supported by the UNDP piece building in Lebanon project. This activity is funded by DFID - UK Department for International Development.

Wadi Khaled and Akroum local actors trained on managing their newly established Unions of municipalities

Coming to Cheqqa from the different villages of Wadi Khaled and Akroum, 40 mayors, council members and local actors participated in a two-day workshop organized by the UNDP “Peace Building in Lebanon” project on the 26th and 27th of February 2016.

Participants were trained on administrative and financial management of their newly established Unions of municipalities. This activity was funded by UK DFID.



LAU Hosts Philippe Lazzarini to discuss the Comparative Work of United Nations Organizations in Lebanon and other Countries



On Tuesday, February 23rd, The Institute of Social Justice and Conflict Resolution at the Lebanese American University had the privilege of hosting Mr. Philippe Lazzarini, UN Resident Coordinator in Lebanon, as a guest lecturer. Lazzarini who was introduced by the Institute Director Dr. Imad Salamey, discussed what the United Nations’ is all about, what it promotes, his role as Resident Coordinator, and emphasized the role it plays in confronting refugee crisis. He tackled current problems residing in Lebanon, such as the trash crisis, sectarian issues and refugees’ predicament, and discussed how we can work together with UN assistants help resolve these difficulties.

Violence-Free Schools initiative implemented in Jal El Dib

Violence Free Schools Initiative lands in Jal el Dib Public School: Intermediate level teachers took part in a discussion session on violence, discrimination and conflicts and thought of ways and methods to address them. This session is part of the Violence Free Schools Initiative implemented by the Peace Building in Lebanon project at UNDP Lebanon with KDC and funded by Royal Norwegian Embassy in Beirut.

Students and parents joined their teachers in Jal el Dib public school to set the basis for their school's Code of Conduct on Nonviolence.



German Ambassador to Lebanon Visits the Bekaa



Tuesday, February 23, 2016 HE Mr. Martin Huth, Ambassador of Germany to Lebanon, accompanied by Mr. Luca Renda, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Country Director and the UNDP Bekaa area office staff visited Ghazze and Mansoura villages in the Bekaa. Mr. Huth met with the mayors in both municipalities and visited three projects funded by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development through KFW and within the "Lebanon Host Communities Support Project" (LHSP).

The first stop was at the site of the newly constructed water drainage canal that will guide storm water to the Litani River and will save local residents, displaced Syrians and farmers in Ghazze from the risk of flooding. The second stop at the village was to check the constructed wastewater network in 'Margarita' neighbourhood. This network will improve the living conditions of the Lebanese and displaced Syrians residing in housing units in Ghazze and preserve the environment.

The visit was concluded at the rehabilitated agricultural roads in Mansoura village, where Mr. Huth met with a number of beneficiaries. These roads have an important economic impact on the livelihood of local residents as they facilitate access to farmlands in the village whose economy relies mainly on agriculture. The rehabilitated roads will have a positive impact on the farmers' livelihood by decreasing the cost of transportation, reducing production cost, and facilitating access to additional arable lands.

Media and Crisis communication training workshop

From 22 till 25 February the UNDP Disaster Risk Management Unit at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in collaboration with the Euromed PPRD South II Program organized a training workshop on the role of Media and communication officials in rescue and security agencies, in crisis communication.

Journalists and communication officials at several ministries and agencies working on disaster risk reduction participated in the training which included practical exercises on setting communication strategies to be implemented in times of crises. Furthermore the workshop focused on highlighting the importance of communicating appropriate and useful information during times of crises as well as using adequate media outlets to deliver them. During the workshop participants highlighted the role played by social media in this field.



The Lebanon Host Communities Support project (LHSP) Fourth Steering Committee

On 16 February 2016 the fourth Steering Committee of the “Lebanon Host Communities Support Project” (LHSP) was held at the Ministry of Social Affairs, chaired by HE the Minister of Social Affairs Mr. Rachid Derbas in the presence of Mr. Philipp Lazzarini, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Lebanon, as well as representatives from donor countries and relevant ministries, to overview LHSP’s achievements in 2015 and its strategic scope of work for 2016 and beyond. Representatives from the donor countries (Italy, Japan, KFW-Germany, Netherlands, Norway, the Regional Development and Protection Programme RDPP - Denmark, the UK Department for International Development, the United States, the Waldensian Church), as well as ambassadors, representatives from the Prime Minister Office, the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR), the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities and other concerned ministries attended the meeting.



As part of the national strategy to respond to the impact of the Syria crisis on the local communities, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme partnered in 2013 to support Lebanon’s stability and promote development through LHSP by improving basic services delivery, increasing job opportunities and promoting social stability in the most vulnerable communities that host a high number of Syrian Displaced compared to their Lebanese residents.

Training Course on Risk Assessment and Mapping for Authorities and Organizations Working in DRM in Lebanon

The UNDP Disaster Risk Management Unit at the Presidency of the Council of ministers in collaboration with the Euromed PPRD South II Program held a training course on “Risk Assessment and Mapping for Governmental and Non-Governmental Authorities and Organizations Working in Disaster Risk Management in Lebanon”.



The training course was held at the Grand Serail from 15 to 19 February and attended by representatives of ministries and institutions involved in the management of risks and disasters, including Governorates representatives, Municipalities federations and scientific organizations.

The main objective of this training was to equip Lebanese officials with the procedure and necessary skills for assessing the risks in interactive methodology following the EU’s standards. The training is divided into two phases, this training as the first phase was designed to provide the fundamentals of the risk assessment concept and process and the necessary information regarding the essential tools in the risk assessment process such as the Geographic Information System (GIS) and community communications and consultations. The second phase of the training which will be held in June 2016 will be more practical and will allow all participants to make use of GIS open sources software. Participants were asked to prepare for the next workshop, their own institutional data base and to prepare a presentation of their institution’s approach to risk assessment.

ID Media Campaign: “You ask for everything but you don’t ask about your ID?!”



The Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) - Directorate General of Personal Status (DGPS), with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – Lebanese Elections Assistance Project (LEAP), developed and launched an awareness campaign to encourage citizens who don’t have an Identification Document (ID), or possess one that needs update to take necessary actions, according to the current legal framework. The campaign also encourages citizens who already applied for a new ID, to collect it from the MoIM.

The campaign was launched on March 16th and will last till April 16th 2016. It included TV/Radio/Cinema clips, billboards, newspapers and magazines ads, posters and flyers.

The ID card is the main document of identification for voters in the upcoming municipal elections. Therefore, it is essential for citizens to possess their ID cards in order to exercise their right to vote. The UNDP Lebanese Elections Assistance Project is funded by the European Union.

2016 Voter Registration Campaign “Check the accuracy of your Data before March 10th”

From 10 February to 10 March of each year, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) publishes the preliminary updated voter register and calls all citizens to check their records in order to add their names if by any mistake they were inadvertently omitted, or rectify their data if needed.

Hence the Ministry, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – Lebanese Elections Assistance Project (LEAP), developed and launched in February 2016 a public awareness campaign to remind and encourage citizens to check the accuracy of their data on the voter register, in order to be able to vote in the upcoming municipal elections scheduled on May 2016. The campaign ran from 10 February to 10 March and entails TV spots, radio spots, cinema spots, billboards, press ads, and flyers.



In addition, the MoIM, with the support of LEAP, established and launched a call center (hotline 1766) to help and guide voters on how, when and where they can check and rectify their records. The UNDP Lebanese Elections Assistance Project is funded by the European Union.

Ain El Helwe Camp entrance creatively promotes environmental responsibility



Ain El Helwe Camp entrance creatively promotes environmental responsibility With the support of BPRM, UNDP decorated the rehabilitated entrance of Ain El Helwe camp with murals promoting water conservation and solid waste management, while commemorating the Palestinian villages from which the dwellers of Ain El Helwe originate, as a way to attract their attention.

Led by two female and two male Palestinian local artists, painting works were implemented throughout February, engaging children and youth groups from Ain El Helwe who were recruited by UNDP local partner CEHC. The 15 murals decorating a wall of 100 m located at

Bustan Abou Jamil Adjacent Area, carry messages serving the objectives of the UNDP WASH behavior-change campaign.

“Monitoring political talk shows”- Maharat studies

Media representatives from institutions that signed on the Journalists’ Pact for Strengthening Civil Peace in Lebanon gathered on 20th of January, to discuss Maharat’s 5th study titled «Monitoring Political Talk Shows».

For the first time, Media and Journalism students are also taking part in the discussion session, a step towards raising more awareness on the pact and the importance of applying its clauses.

The study that monitored and analysed talk shows in the Lebanese Media, was prepared in cooperation with the UNDP «Peace Building in Lebanon» project funded by KfW.



Lebanese and Syrian women of Akroum sewing new friendships



On January 17, a tricot and sewing training was given for Lebanese and Syrian women in Akroum organized by the Socio-cultural committee and supported by UNDP peace building in Lebanon project.

This activity aims at empowering the role of women at the local level and encourages cultural exchange. The training also includes awareness raising sessions for women on their rights facilitated by the Ministry of Social Affairs field coordinators. Activity is funded by KfW.

Workshop on good manufacturing practices

On January 25, a workshop on good manufacturing practices was given to 7 Agro-food cooperatives, represented by 16 women participants. “Empowering our women”, project is implemented by UNDP and the chamber of commerce, industry and Agriculture in Saida and South. It is funded by Drylands development Centre.



Bank Audi’s “My Carbon Footprint” Addressing Climate Change and sensitizing the youth

On Tuesday, January 26, 2016, Bank Audi in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched “My Carbon Footprint project”. Mr. Marc Audi, General Manager Lebanon – Bank Audi sal , Mrs. Lea Kai Abou-Jaoude, the Manager at the UNDP Climate Change Office at the Ministry of Environment, and Mrs. Hasmig Khoury, Head of CSR at Bank Audi attended the conference.



The “My Carbon Footprint” project, whose pilot phase is launched in partnership with La Sagesse and Al Makassed schools, consists of two aspects: it addresses climate change whilst raising awareness among 10 to 15-year olds on the use of resources and its impact on the environment.

An informative and fun microsite, www.my-cfp.com, was developed by Bank Audi in this respect, with a view to inducing the youth to monitor and reduce their household energy expenses and carbon footprint. The site will allow children to database their homes’ electricity, paper, gas and fuel consumption, during a period of four months starting February 1st, 2016.

Conducting the MRR in 272 most vulnerable municipalities

To identify the needs of the most vulnerable local communities the “Lebanon Host Communities Support Project” (LHSP) has been applying a participatory methodology (Maps of Risks and Resources – MRR) since 2014. The methodology was implemented in 144 out of 251 most vulnerable municipalities highly affected by the Syria crisis. In February 2016, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) officially adopted the MRR and is leading its third phase. Three years into implementation, the MRR aims at assessing the needs of an additional 128 most vulnerable communities in Lebanon, reaching a total 272 municipalities.



The Ministry, with the technical support of UNDP, have so far conducted the MRR in 10 municipalities out of the new 128; 7 in the South, 1 in Nabatieh, 1 in the North and 1 in Baalbek el Hermel. The methodology involves the communities in the production of a multi-sectorial municipal action plan; a platform that supports the municipalities and local service providers in planning their interventions for better service delivery at the community level. The participation of the local authorities, civil society organizations and public sector representatives, gives them a leading role in defining the problems within their community and agreeing on the solutions and priorities.

Aspects of conflicts discussed and debated in Mount Lebanon schools



In the Iskandar Rizk public school, perched on the top of the quiet village of Ashkout in Mount Lebanon, 50 students reflected on the meaning of “conflict”.

“What are the aspects of conflict in our society?” asked the trainer from the Knowledge Development Center (KDC). Students actively answered the question: “it is violence between students, parents and teachers, between parents and administration, and between students themselves sometimes due to difference in nationality, social class or language...”

Funded by Norway, this sensitization session is organized by the UNDP “Peace Building in Lebanon” project in partnership with KDC. The Iskandar Rizk school is one of 15 public schools in Mount Lebanon where the violence-free school initiative is implemented with the aim of integrating peace building into formal and non-formal educational channels in public schools. It is established through training and raising awareness of school principals, students, teachers, and parents on the concept of peace building and dealing in a non-violent and non-discriminatory way with conflicts.

Representatives from every community will work as a task force and agree on a code of conduct for a violence-free school and develop related projects at the end of the year. During the last academic year 2014- 2015, the project carried out successful interventions in 15 intermediate public schools in Bekaa and 11 public schools in Beirut Southern Suburbs.

Social Media Campaigns:



#UNDP #Lebanon - #SupportSyrians & local host communities

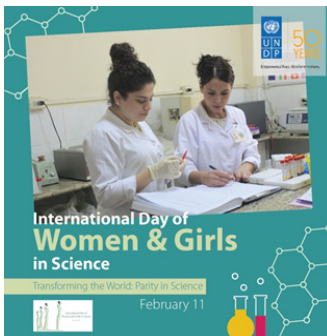
Al-Marj Market, #Bekaa: Problems with the market's infrastructure are just one example of the vulnerability of this poor community that sits close to Lebanon's border with #Syria. The project to renovate the Al-Marj market was undertaken as one part of UNDP's efforts in the region (through funds by UNHCR) which are focused on coping with immediate needs, recovering from impacts of the crisis and sustaining recovery through development gains.



Zero discrimination

is #ZeroDiscrimination Day. Let's come together to end discrimination and celebrate diversity, tolerance and inclusion. By joining our voices together, we can be part of a resounding call for human rights, compassion, tolerance and peace that cannot be ignored.

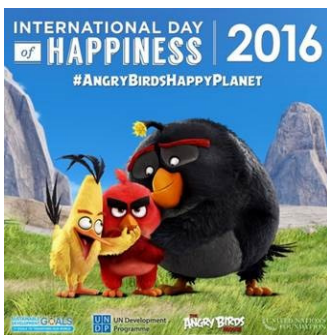
On #ZeroDiscrimination Day 2016, celebrate individuality and stand out. Embrace the diversity that exists around us, understand and accept people's differences, open minds and respect and support one another. Discrimination is a violation of human rights and must not go unchallenged. This #ZeroDiscrimination Day, by joining our voices together, we can be part of a resounding call for compassion, tolerance and peace that cannot be ignored.



International day of women and girls in science

«Eradicating poverty requires economic growth which is inclusive and sustainable. It needs well-designed social protection systems which enable people to sustain basic living standards even when shocks occur,» said Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator, on The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty October 17 2015.

Building a sustainable future: Coming together to end poverty and discrimination.



International day of happiness

The International Day of Happiness is held annually on 20 March to recognize the relevance of happiness and well-being as universal goals and aspirations in the lives of human beings around the world and the importance of their recognition in public policy objectives.

This year, it will focus on the link between a healthy planet and people's happiness and the simple actions people can take for a "happy planet".



International women's day

International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

The 2016 theme for International Women's Day is "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality".

The idea of this theme is to consider how to accelerate the 2030 Agenda, building momentum for the effective implementation of the new Sustainable Development Goals, especially goal number 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; and number 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all

#IWD2016 #Planet5050 #EmpowerWomen



Women's economic empowerment campaign

Women's economic empowerment requires bold and sustained action to advance women's opportunities and rights and to ensure that women can participate and be heard.

To increase their economic opportunities, women need access to more and better jobs, a business climate that supports them in starting and doing business, a financial sector that gives them access to financial services tailored to their needs, and greater livelihood security in times of food and fuel crises.

#WEF #EmpowerWomen

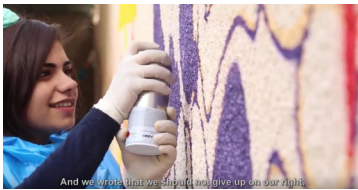


World water day

Water is the essential building block of life. But it is more than just essential to quench thirst or protect health; water is vital for creating jobs and supporting economic, social, and human development.

Half of the world's workers - 1.5 billion people - work in water-related sectors. Moreover, nearly all jobs, regardless of the sector, depend directly on water. Yet, despite the indelible link between jobs and water, millions of people whose livelihoods depend on water are often not recognized or protected by basic labor rights. #WaterisWork

Latest Videos:



Violence Free Schools Initiative

Published on Mar 24, 2016

How is the UNDP "Peace Building in Lebanon" project implementing the "Violence-free schools" activity in Bekaa and Beirut Southern Suburbs public schools? How did it raise the awareness of school principals, students, teachers and parents on the concepts on peace building, conflict resolution, nonviolence, and nondiscrimination?

This documentary details the work done under the education component of the UNDP "Peace Building in Lebanon" project.



The «One Voice Choir» perform on Mother's Day

Published on Mar 18, 2016

The "One Voice Choir" project has started in Burj Hammoud, where 63 youth from the area's different schools sing and learn together! The journey has just begun, & the youth are so excited to learn more songs and come closer together.

This project falls within the Lebanon Host Communities Support Project (LHSP) in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and UNDP, funded by the Waldensian Church - Italy.



The «One Voice Choir» perform on Mother's Day

Published on Mar 22, 2016

The «One Voice Choir» celebrate Mother's Day in an amazing performance and sing along!

The choir is a project funded by the Waldensian Church (Italy) and implemented within the Lebanon Host Communities Support Project (LHSP) in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and UNDP. The project aims at promoting social dialogue through music.



UNDP «Peace Building in Lebanon» Joint News Supplement - 11th Issue

Published on Mar 18, 2016

The 11th issue of the UNDP "Peace Building in Lebanon" news supplement will be distributed on Tuesday 22nd of March 2016 with An-Nahar and As-Safir newspapers while the

English version is distributed with The Daily Star and the French one with L'Orient-Le Jour.

Follow us on UNDP Lebanon Facebook page to have more information

Latest Videos:

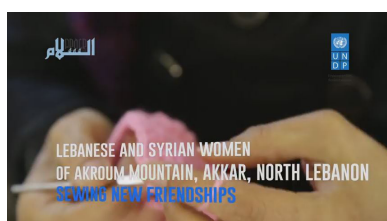


Mr Philippe Lazzarini's Interview on the International Women's Day 2016

Published on Mar 7, 2016

UN Resident and Humanitarian Representative & UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Philippe Lazzarini's interview on the occasion of the International Women's Day 2016

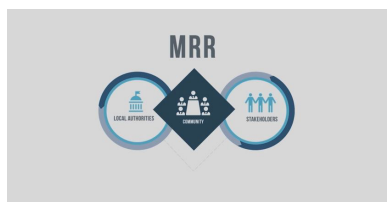
Mr. Lazzarini's Twitter handle: @UNLazzarini



Lebanese and Syrian women of Akroum sewing new friendships

Published on Mar 7, 2016

Challenged by the weather, tough living conditions and culturally challenging environment, women in Akroum, Akkar, in North Lebanon, grasp the biggest offered opportunity so far as they say: a women-empowering workshop. Supported by the UNDP "Peace Building in Lebanon" project and funded by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development through KfW, the Akroum socio-cultural committee organized a tricot and sewing workshop in Qenieh municipality from January until March 2016 gathering over 130 Lebanese and Syrian women from the seven villages of Akroum.



Achievements of the Lebanon Host Communities Project in 2015.

Published on Feb, 2016



Media monitoring of the political TV shows

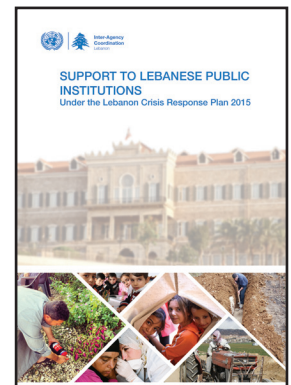
Published on Jan 25, 2016

Maharat Foundation in collaboration with the UNDP "Peace Building in Lebanon" project, with funding from the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development through KfW, has launched a study entitled "Media monitoring of the political TV shows" based on analysing and monitoring the implementation of the Journalists' Pact for Strengthening Civil Peace in Lebanon.

The content of seven political shows (Bi Mawdouiyya on MTV, Al Ousbou' Fi Saa'a on AL Jadeed TV, Inter-views on Future TV, Hadis Al Saa'a on Al Manar TV, Kalam El Nas on LBC, Bila Hasana on OTV, Kalima Hurra on Tele Liban) was monitored and analysed by Maharat Foundation with an average of 8 episodes per show throughout the months of April, May, August and September 2015.

Latest Publications

Support to Lebanese Public Institutions Under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2015



Four published Maharat studies with three of them translated into English

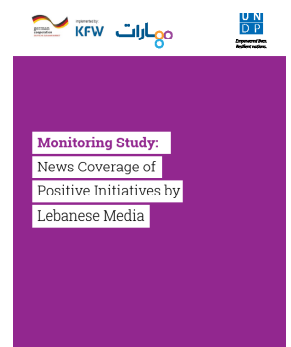
Maharat Foundation in cooperation with the UNDP “Peace Building in Lebanon” project has been publishing since 2015 studies around the main themes of the “Journalist’s Pact for Strengthening Civil Peace in Lebanon” launched in 2013 under the patronage of the Ministry of Information.

Maharat based its studies, funded by KfW, on analyzing and monitoring the implementation of the pact content by the participating media outlets. By signing this pact in 2013, 34 participating media outlets have pledged rejecting discrimination, promoting civil peace, and respect. All of these studies were discussed and debated over sessions with media representatives.

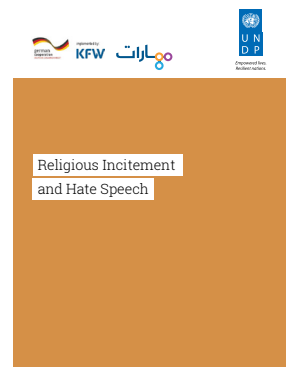


Monitoring Racism in the Lebanese Media The Representation of the “Syrian” and the “Palestinian” in the News Coverage

Monitoring Study: News Coverage of Positive Initiatives by Lebanese Media



Religious Incitement and Hate Speech



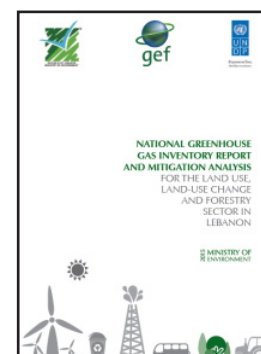
“Peace Building in Lebanon” project’s 10th issue of the Newsletter

In this issue of the newsletter, the project highlights the work done with municipalities, media outlets and NGOs in the fields of social stability and peace building.



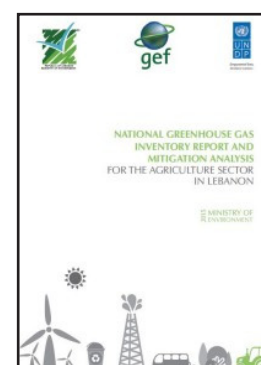
National Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Mitigation Analysis for the Land-Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry Sector in Lebanon

In the framework of Lebanon’s Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions resulting from the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry Sector (LULUCF) in Lebanon were estimated for the period of 1994-2011. The sources of emissions as well as the main removals in this sector were identified in the purpose of targeting the largest contributors. This allowed the development of the potential mitigation actions for the reduction of GHG emissions and for increasing the carbon sequestration effect of the Forestry sector.



National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report and Mitigation Analysis for the Agriculture Sector in Lebanon

In the framework of Lebanon’s Third National Communication (TNC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions resulting from the agriculture sector in Lebanon were estimated for the years 2005 through 2012. the report presents main sources of emissions and proposes appropriate measures to reduce the carbon footprint of the sector.



National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report for Industrial Processes in Lebanon

In the framework of Lebanon’s Third National Communication (TNC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions resulting from the industrial sector in Lebanon were estimated for the years 2006 to 2011. the report presents the emissions from the main industrial activities in the country and proposes appropriate measures to reduce emissions and enhance efficiency of this sector.



Environmental Impacts of the Syrian Crisis in Lebanon Fact Sheet

In September 2014, the Ministry of Environment (MoE), with support from the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), published the “Environmental Assessment of the Syrian Conflict (EASC) & Priority Interventions”, which provided an extensive analysis of the incremental environmental impacts of the Syrian conflict.

The main objective of this Updated Fact Sheet in 2015 is to provide an overview of the environmental situation vis-à-vis the impact of the Syrian conflict on the environmental resources one year after the assessment of 2014. The update is based on previous methods and findings presented in the EASC of 2014.



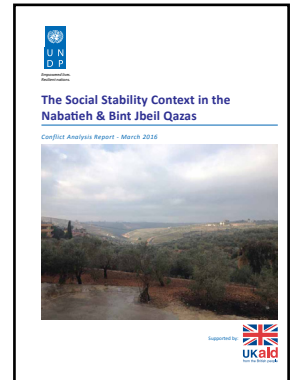
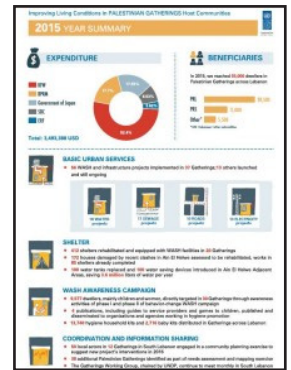
UNDP in Palestinian Gatherings - 2015 Year Summary

Improving Living Conditions in Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities is a project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that falls under the UNDP Lebanon Stabilization and Recovery Program – Supporting Resilience in a Time of Crisis.

Active in the 42 Palestinian Gatherings across Lebanon since 2012, this project is designed to help stabilize and develop the resilience of these host communities, home to 110,000 original Palestinian dwellers (PRL) and recently some 44,000 Palestinian and Syrian refugees (PRS and SRS) as a result of the Syrian crisis.

The Social Stability Context in the Nabatieh & Bint Jbeil Qazas

This report presents a brief analysis of the social stability context in the Qazas of Nabatieh and Bint Jbeil in the Nabatieh governorate. Written by Muzna Al-Masri as part of a conflict analysis consultancy for UNDP Peacebuilding Project, it aims to inform and support UNDP programming, as well as interventions from other partners in the frame of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP). Through this research, which was supported by DFID, UNDP seeks to provide quality analysis to LCRP Partners on the evolution of local dynamics, highlighting how the local and structural issues have been impacted and interact with the consequences of the Syrian crisis in Lebanon.



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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