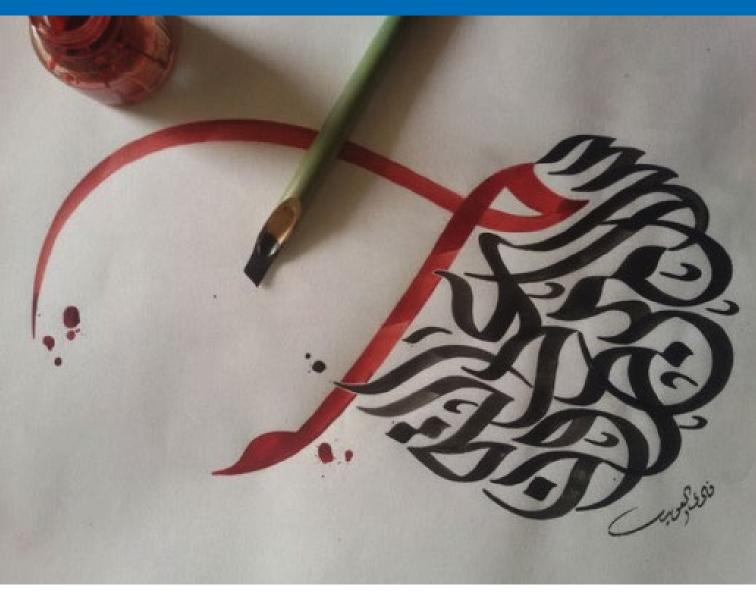




# "Peace Building in Lebanon" project's newsletter

ISSUE Nº16 - QUARTER 2 - 2017











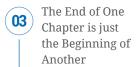


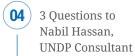


#### **Newsletter Content**



PEACE BUILDING THROUGH LOCAL COMMUNITIES









**CONFLICT MAPPING** AND ANALYSIS



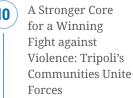


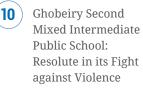
PEACE BUILDING THROUGH EDUCATION



PEACE BUILDING THROUGH MEDIA

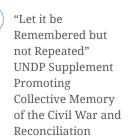
Teachers of Tripoli Act against Violence











### Implementation of Mechanisms for Social Stability (MSS)

The "Peace Building in Lebanon" project aims at analyzing the underlying causes of conflict across the different areas in Lebanon in order to provide a safe, common space for community groups to openly discuss their concerns, and to develop, in partnership with the municipality, a strategy to reduce tensions through the development of Mechanisms for Social Stability (MSS) to secure the appropriate space and to act as an incubator.

The mechanisms that were established in twenty-four villages across the Bekaa, Akkar, North Lebanon, Nabatieh and **South Lebanon** are functioning independently after the end of the MSS intervention cycle. The new group of villages in these regions are starting the MSS process through conflict analysis sessions, which will last for a few months.

newly established Unions of Municipalities is ongoing and focuses on technical support to the boards of the Unions and on organizing public events to increase the exposure of the Unions in their areas.

The Peace Building in Lebanon" project is also supporting five villages in West Bekaa - Kamed El Loz. Rawda. Sawiri. Kefraya and Jeb Jenine - to implement the established mechanisms. For the launch and implementation of each mechanism, a specific activity or set of activities was developed. In this context, a local NGO is helping the established mechanisms to better manage the Syrian crisis and respond to the challenges resulting from its impact on the Community and supporting the implementation of their activities.

As for Phase II of the Capacity Building Program for Mo-SA-SDC staff, it has already started and will further enhance the capacities of over 120 personnel from around 50 Mo-SA-SDCs and prepare them to lead the MSS process in the upcoming years.

In Wadi Khaled and Akroum, the project supporting the In order to support local authorities and other key local actors in 38 villages in the South, Bekaa, North and Mount Lebanon to better manage the crisis and respond to the additional challenges resulting from the impact of the Syrian crisis, the UNDP "Peace Building in Lebanon" project kicked off the MSS process that will be implemented over a period of 16 months.

#### The End of One Chapter is just the Beginning of Another



Over the course of six months, the UNDP Lebanese Host Communities Support Programme (LHSP) through the "Peace Building in Lebanon" project and in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), has implemented a training program to build the capacities of the managers, area coordinators, officials and staff members of the Social Development Centers (SDC) by implementing the Mechanisms for Social Stability (MSS) with the funds of UKDFID.

Since November 2016, and given their leading role in the field of development within the Lebanese communities, 116 area coordinators, SDC directors and staff from 55

**Cover Photo** "No justice, no peace" Artwork of Fadi Ouwyd







centers from all over Lebanon's governorates have benefitted from the coaching and training sessions. The first phase of the training program was completed with a closing ceremony that was held on Wednesday, April  $5^{\text{th}}$  2017 at Lancaster Hotel in Hazmieh. The ceremony was attended

by the Director General of the Ministry of Social Affairs, UK Ambassador in Lebanon and UNDP representatives, and it gathered the 116 MoSA staff from all around Lebanon. At the end of the day, MoSA and SDC officials received certificates for completing the first phase of the Mechanisms for Social Stability training program.

The first phase focused on identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the SDCs staff in relation to the MSS cycle and ended by equipping them with the needed skills such as critical thinking, conflict mapping and analysis, negotiation and mediation skills and mapping of local actors to understand the conflict dynamics. As for the second phase, it will start right after covering the practical side of the implementation of the MSS and will be an opportunity for the SDC staff to practice and use the skills and values they acquired from the training at the community level directly.

### Questions to Nabil Hassan, UNDP Consultant

# 1. What is the importance and the goal of the MoSA staff trainings on implementing the Mechanisms for Social Stability (MSS)?

The trainings aim at equipping the social workers with the set of skills and competencies needed to develop local mechanisms for social stability and influence the local dynamics in their communities. The expected role is part of the job description of the social workers and they are perfectly positioned to implement it. This role has recently gained extra importance as the tension between the refugees and host communities is on the rise, same as the need for local mechanisms to decrease tension.

Furthermore, the skills are helpful for Social Development Centers (SDC) staff to play their typical role as social workers (data collection skills, communication skills, analysis skills, etc...) and enhance their relationship with their communities.

### 2. How will these trainings contribute to social stability?

The social workers are connected to all community members and stakeholders and they already have projects implemented in the targeted communities. Equipping them with the skills to identify and analyze local triggers of instability and mainstream conflict sensitivity into their programming could highly contribute to local stability. Furthermore, the social workers can be a key player in linking the municipality, the active local stakeholders and the international donors, and set a conflict sensitive development plan for the local communities. They already have played a major role through conducting the Maps of Risks and Resources (MRR) process; adding the MSS will highly increase their leverage and influence on local

"Implementing the Mechanisms for Social Stability will become an essential part of the work of the Ministry at the local level around Lebanon", said Judge Abdallah Ahmad, Director General of the Ministry of Social Affairs during the closing ceremony.

UK Ambassador in Lebanon, Mr. Hugo Shorter, stressed on the continuous support of the United Kingdom to the MSS under the framework of the Lebanese Host Communities Support Programme jointly implemented by the UNDP and the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Participants had the opportunity to share together the challenges they commonly face in their work at the local level due to the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon. In addition to that, SDC representatives from different areas in Lebanon shared lessons learned from the past trainings contributing to peace building and social stability in their communities and expressed their enthusiasm to adopt the MSS in their agendas.

stability. Most of the triggers of instability can be dealt with if analyzed at an early stage and if a local mechanism involving all relevant stakeholders is set in place.

### 3. What is the importance of building the skills of government staff?

In general, training government staff is important for sustaining the initiatives and insuring that the knowledge is transferred to a local stakeholder that is not an external donor or consultant.

SDC staff will usually stay in the local communities long after all international stakeholders will leave. Their presence is neither time bound nor limited to a certain program, thus including them assures the sustainability of the interventions. Furthermore, they have excellent potential that is unfortunately not well-utilized; they can do a lot. Finally, they already are intervening in the villages and have ongoing programs, so having the know-how about conflict sensitivity would help them influence their ongoing programs as well.







# Time to Invest in North Lebanon's Forgotten Gem: Syr el Donnieh

"Our region is safe. It is such a wonderful place to visit and discover!" shouts a man from Syr el Donnieh at the entrance of Qasr el Ahlam (Castle of Dreams) in Syr, Donnieh.

Along many other members of Syr municipality, he wanted to express his anger from being stereotyped as extremists who are living in a so-called alienated region.

"We want the media to be interested in Syr and to show the world this forgotten gem", said Mohammad Saadiyeh, Head of Donnieh Union of Municipalities during a media visit to Syr, while enumerating different sites of the area, and their historical backgrounds.

A number of journalists and local actors visited Syr el Donnieh on April 7, 2017, and toured some of its natural sites. They also attended the official launch of the Syr tourism committee and explored the area's touristic plan, funded by UKDFID.

This committee was established with the support of UNDP as a result of the Mechanisms for Social Stability. The village conflict analysis identified several issues and challenges threatening stability in the region. Two of the crucial problems underlined were unemployment and negative perception of the village, as a result of the security incidents that had taken place during this last decade. The committee, which includes representatives of the local authority and local actors, decided to work on a touristic plan that focuses on the natural and archeological beauty of Syr as well as on its cultural diversity, with the aim of stimulating the local economy and changing people's perception of the region. Another stop added to the visit's itinerary was Zahlan Grotto where the calcite formations are breathtaking and the suspended bridge across the valley offers wonderful sceneries. Visitors were also enchanted by Al Jazzar, a retro-looking hotel built in 1934.

This feeling of being "forgotten" has forced locals and committee members to seek creative ways for attracting visitors to the region. With the help of UNDP, it is hoped

that the tourism plan would offer a vision for a more sustainable form of tourism development while raising more awareness on nature, culture and local traditions.

Gilbert Moukheiber, the tourism consultant who supported the committee in its plan preparation process, believes that the area deserves to be listed as one of the country's tourist attractions. "All it needs is the right infrastructure for tourism", he added.

If people are seeking a getaway with amazing natural beauty, Syr El Donnieh is definitely a place worth rediscovering.





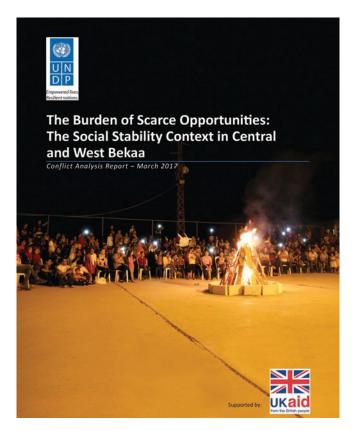








# The Burden of Scarce Opportunities: The Social Stability Context in Central and West Bekaa



The project conflict mapping and analysis component focused on one of the regions most affected by the refugee crisis: Central Bekaa with the release of a new conflict analysis report: 'The Burden of Scarce Opportunities: The Social Stability Context in Central and West Bekaa'. The area is of geostrategic importance as it contains the main border crossing to Syria and the Damascus highway, the international route from Beirut to Damascus. It is also home to around a quarter of all Syrian refugees in Lebanon. The region is trapped in the entanglements of the national Lebanese political schisms, and kidnapping as well as blocking of main roads are frequently used forms of social and political contestation. Municipalities are caught in between political divisions and pressure to address growing needs and demands for services, which affect their ability to mitigate local divisions and, at times, feeds antagonistic relations.

In terms of relationships between the host community and the refugees, the report highlights the implications of local competition over livelihoods and economic activities. Voices from the Lebanese side blame the Syrian refugees and request restrictions on their economic activities while Syrians, struggling with the overbearing difficulties of managing daily life, express a feeling of being exploited by their hosts. The national and regional policy concerning refugees requiring Lebanese sponsorship of Syrians in Lebanon and prohibiting the moving of settlements is increasing the vulnerability of Syrian refugees and contributing to the development of patronage and corruption networks.

The report reveals how conflict insensitive policies, implementation of such policies as well as media discourse contribute to a negative portrayal of the Syrian refugees. Such negative portrayal of the Syrian refugees is instrumentally used for local political gain. The report urges the Lebanese government to reconsider the policy on Syrian refugee's residency and shelter and to facilitate the registration of deaths and births.

Donor agencies and civil society actors are urged to invest in national level and structural interventions to support the economic infrastructure and create employment opportunities, as well as local level employment-generating projects particularly those encouraging Syrian-Lebanese cooperation like community markets. Support to host communities, particularly through infrastructure and solid waste management interventions and infrastructure at the municipal level and to livelihoods projects should be maintained.

During the next quarter, the project will focus on the Chouf region that has so far been poorly covered by other research and studies, with a conflict analysis of the Iqlim El Kharroub Union of Municipalities.

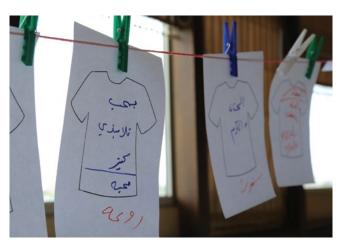
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The Violence Free Schools initiative was launched in 15 schools in Tripoli and its neighbouring areas this January 2017. The initiative is being implemented with the support of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and with the technical support of the Center for Active Citizenship and for Development. Following the sensitization sessions on violence that were held with 2,009 students, more than 150 intermediate level teachers received training on tackling the different forms of violence that they encounter in school. The training has covered several issues such as the psychology of adolescence, anger management and practical tools for the classroom. The training was an

opportunity for all the teachers to reflect and innovate on introducing non-violence concepts into schools within Tripoli. In May, the principals of the 15 participating schools have also started working with their local communities to seek their support to protect the school environment from external conflicts. The principals have identified the need to advocate among the leaders of their local communities (municipalities, religious figures, mayors, local organizations, etc...) for their support. They are currently in the process of developing a strategy to reach their local communities and more importantly, the parents of their students.

#### Teachers of Tripoli Act against Violence



"I always dreamt that my school would be phenomenal. I always wished that it would be a safe space of mutual respect. I thought I had no chance to make that happen... until today", a clear expression by a teacher from Tripoli, reflecting so much about the situation in the schools of the city. More than 155 teachers and principals from fifteen different public schools in Tripoli and its suburbs met in May 2017 to discuss issues they face every day yet speak so little about. The participants came from Tripoli and its neighboring areas to actively take part in positive change in their school environment, believing in the need of the community for such initiatives.

Since January 2017, the UNDP "Peace Building in Lebanon" project has been implementing the Violence Free Schools initiative in Tripoli, with the generous funds of KfW. The training sessions with the teachers and principals focused on analyzing and understanding the causes and forms of violence. In addition to that, participants were sensitized on the tools that help deal with violence among children and adolescents. They were able to express the challenges they face and later tried to propose ways to solve them. The trainings were organized in cooperation with CAC – Center for Active Citizenship and For Development.

Teacher Amal Ismaiil, from Al Jadida Intermediate Public School, was positive despite the challenges she faces in her school. She said: "We cannot judge our students by the environment they grew up in. We have to understand them and we have to listen to them. Even if we have to give up an hour of teaching; if that would make them feel better, let's give them the safe environment they miss. We cannot give up, our students depend on us."

"We understood today that the issues we face at our school are common among teenagers everywhere in this world. This hit home at a time when this generation has been exposed to so much violence on the street, on TV and online all over the world", said teacher Mazen Karim, from Tripoli's

Yazigi Intermediate Public School, during the training session. Karim explained that the training has helped him identify the issues he deals with every day, with the corresponding methods for handling them.

After previously working with the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders of these 15 schools, the UNDP "Peace Building in Lebanon" project has resumed the Violence Free Schools activity with teachers and school principals from Tripoli.

Teachers have been sensitized on peace building and conflict transformation and are now equipped with the means to inspire a school environment that encourages students to express themselves freely and respectfully. The teachers now aim at preparing their students to become positive citizens, peacemakers and leaders of the next generation of Tripolitans.

155 teachers from fifteen different public schools in Tripoli and its suburbs participated in the Violence Free Schools initiative's trainings. The trainings were organized by the UNDP "Peace Building in Lebanon" project in

partnership with CAC – Center for Active Citizenship and For Development and with the generous funds of KfW. Below are the thoughts expressed by the participants during the training sessions:



**Zeinab Diaa**, Teacher at Al Jadida Intermediate Public School

"I hope my school will set an example of healthy positive relationships among teachers and their students."



**Mazen Karim,** Teacher at Ibrahim Al Yazigi Intermediate Public School

"Respect has a great positive impact on students; it makes them feel secure and treated in a way they are not used to. Unfortunately, this generation has grown up in a violent world."



#### **Karima Ayoubi,** Teacher at Ibrahim Al Yazigi Intermediate Public School

"I will do my best to apply what I have learned today in conflict management inside my classroom. I am sure that it will reflect on our students, both inside and outside the school environment."





#### A Stronger Core for a Winning Fight against Violence: Tripoli's Communities Unite Forces

As part of the Violence-Free Schools Initiative being implemented in Tripoli and its neighbouring areas, the 15 participating public schools have decided to get their local communities involved by engaging the parents of their students.

The 15 principals of these schools have expressed that they suffered from the parents' lack of involvement and cooperation with the school. They believe that this factor is in great part responsible for the high rate of dropouts reported in their area.

The principals have set out a strategy aiming at advocating for a greater parent involvement in the schooling of their children. The first part of their strategy calls for the support of local community figures and institutions to help them in reaching parents and seeking their active participation in the education of their children. The municipality of Tripoli,

local religious leadership, mayors and local organizations are being mobilized in order to support the public schools in their call for a greater parent participation for a healthier society.

In this context, a meeting was held on Saturday the 3rd of June 2017 at the Al Nasr School for Boys, in the Mina area of Tripoli. The meeting brought together the school principals, mayors, members of the municipality of Tripoli and local organizations and aimed at seeking the support of these actors.

"Building strong ties between schools, communities, key actors, religious leaders, and civil society is very important. Building a trustful link and a common interest is destined to strengthen social stability", said Houda Sabbagh, head of the Cultural and Art Centre of Tripoli and one of the meeting participants.

#### Ghobeiry Second Mixed Intermediate Public School: Resolute in its Fight against Violence



As a symbol of dedication, hard work and sustainability, the principal of the Ghobeiry Second Mixed Intermediate Public School, Mrs. Fatima Salameh, has enabled her school once again to regenerate the peace building taskforce of passionate teachers, students and school staff. This time, the taskforce planned two theatrical pieces promoting nonviolence and the culture of acceptance and they were performed on May 12, 2017 during the school's end-of-year ceremony.



The peace building taskforce was formed during the implementation of the Violence Free Schools initiative by UNDP "Peace Building in Lebanon" project in 2015-2016. Since then, the school has been independently mobilizing the school community over the themes of the Code of Conduct for Nonviolence, designed by the taskforce.

The Violence Free Schools (VFS) initiative carried out its activities during 2015- 2016 in Mount Lebanon in 15 intermediate public schools, with the support of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and with the technical support of KDC – Knowledge Development Center and the generous funds of Norway.

The initiative is established through training and raising awareness of school principals, students, teachers and parents on the concept of peace building and dealing with conflict in a non-violent and non-discriminatory way. It aims at integrating peace building concepts into formal and non-formal education channels in public schools.

Principal Salameh said, "We are spreading the Code of Conduct among our students and teachers by working on a new theme for nonviolence every couple of weeks. We intend to implement them throughout the academic year, both inside and outside our school."

The performances involved around 20 students from the school and took place before a full house of audience from parents, teachers, school staff, students and all supporting parties that took part of the Violence Free Schools initiative in Ghobeiry in 2016, namely Norway, UNDP and KDC facilitators.

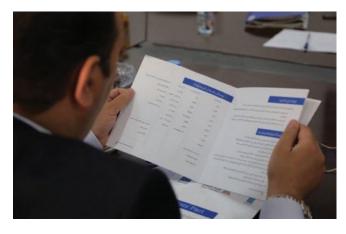
The peace building taskforce inside the school used the performance to re-announce their commitment to confronting violence through culture and art.

"We believe that impact occurs in a sustainable environment, this is why we are keen on revitalizing our efforts towards nonviolence throughout the years. We hope that the ethics we are committing to become an essential custom in our society", said principal Salameh.





#### Bekaa Reporters Meet the "Journalists' Pact for Strengthening Civil Peace in Lebanon"



Gathered in Anjar Municipality, Bekaa, local reporters and journalists coming from the Bekaa region discussed the clauses of the "Journalists' Pact for Strengthening Civil Peace in Lebanon". They also debated over the main challenges they face in their everyday missions in the field. The meeting was organized by Maharat Foundation in partnership with the UNDP "Peace Building in Lebanon" project on May 24th, 2017 with the generous funds of KfW.

This is the fourth meeting after the ones held in Tripoli in July 2016, in Saida in December 2016 and in Akkar in January 2017. This series of meetings aimed at introducing the Pact to media personnel and local reporters and advocating for a conflict sensitive reporting.

The Pact was signed by 34 media institutions in 2013 and was drawn up based on the input of the media outlet. It reaffirms the Lebanese media's leading role in rejecting discrimination and promoting civil peace and covers media ethics, duties of journalists and media institutions.

Holding a copy of the Pact, Annahar journalist, Danielle Khayyat, was surprised that she wasn't introduced to the Pact before this meeting. "I can relate to most of the clauses mentioned here", she said.

Journalists tackled the most challenging issues they are grappling with, such as time constrains, funding, social media trends impeding quality content, etc. The discussion drew attention to the urgent need to highlight the community-based approach to media reporting.

Commenting on the impact of social media and citizen journalism on traditional media, the owner of a community-TV from Zahle said that "journalism is struggling for survival in this new media age".

"Institutions we are working in often ask us for a picture that can make the audience cry", said one local journalist, while another added that "we are barely being able to swoop in and provide a one minute story nowadays while in the past we used to take our time to offer quality content and investigative reports".

The Pact was signed by 34 media institutions in 2013 and was drawn up based on the input of the media outlet. It reaffirms the Lebanese media's leading role in rejecting discrimination and promoting civil peace and covers media ethics, duties of journalists and media institutions.

#### Religious Media, why does it Matter?



Media today plays a leading role in shaping public opinions and strengthening and/or weakening the unity and cohesion of modern society.

In Lebanon in particular, where private political media was used as a weapon during war (from the article "News Bulletin Introductions and the Civil War" by Georges Sadaqa, the Peace Building in Lebanon news supplement, April 2017), the UNDP and Maharat Foundation's media monitoring study is tackling this time the role of Lebanese Religious Media in sustaining peace.

The UNDP "Peace Building in Lebanon" project has been observing, for the past three years, in cooperation with Maharat Foundation, the implementation of the Journalists' Pact for Strengthening Civil Peace by the participating media outlets.

On Thursday 20 April 2017, and under the framework of the Pact, around 30 religious media representatives, academics and organizations involved in intercultural and religious dialogue, were gathered to discuss the latest media monitoring study titled "Religious Media in Lebanon; Reality and Organizational Framework" and funded by UKDFID.

The main goal of this session was to present the findings of the study and understand the increasing role of religious media in the light of the evolving number of media institutions in the Arab space.

As is the case in Lebanon, where most religious media institutions, particularly the audiovisual media, are flourishing in the absence of a full authority, most of the religious media continue to function outside any specific regulating legal framework.

The discussion was facilitated by Mr. Walid Abboud, a prominent media figure and MTV news Editor-in-Chief. It was divided into three main topics: the legal organization of religious media organizations, the impact of the spread of religious media in Lebanon and the requirements of their involvement in sustaining civil peace.

"Now is the right time to think of a new organizational reality to religious media institutions, particularly during the national "plan of change" in the media, led by the current Ministry of Information"

Father Abdu Abu Kasm, director of the Catholic Information Center, said that the church's media committee was responsible for Christian religious media, which began in the early 1990s. The relation with the state is based on a measure that is not yet legalized. He stressed on the role of the Christian media which aims at spreading the culture of peace, promoting human and religious values and interfaith dialogue, and said: "If there is a will to organize religious media in Lebanon, we will definitely participate." Answering the question of Mr. Abboud about the role of religious media in society, Executive Director of Radio al-Fajr, Ayman al-Masri, replied "Religious media is not required to provide a secular speech; its function is





educational and related to raising awareness." He added: "Our problem in some religious discourse is that it denies the Other, and it exists in some religious media as well. We have to take the listener from the silos of worship and out to the broad life that allows us to meet with the Other".

According to Mr. Mohamad Rizk, member of the Supreme Council for the Regulation of Religious Media and Media Officer of the Supreme Shiite Islamic Council, "Unifying the organizational framework is a challenge to all media institutions, not only the religious ones. We have always tried to distance religious discourse from extremism and incitement because we believe that its ultimate role is to maintain civil peace."

"Now is the right time to think of a new organizational reality to religious media institutions, particularly during the national "plan of change" in the media, led by the current Ministry of Information", said Mr. Ghaleb Kandil, member of the National Media Council.

Mr. Kandil added, "Signing pacts is not enough. We need to modify the law to include conditions related to dialogue and civil peace in order to reach tangible results and so that the media does not turn into barricades that put the country at risk."

Within this context, Mufti Ahmed Taleb, said that "In our reality, media is dependent on political parties, and therefore there is no concern for the rights of citizens. Through its speech, religious media is inciting, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Should religious media promote religious thought or aim at raising the Lebanese sense of citizenship?"

The discussion was rich with shared experiences of the represented media institutions, who in their turn focused on the importance of establishing an organizational framework for religious media institutions. All participants agreed that the Lebanese religious media is required to conduct self-criticism and to counter the incitement of religious media coming from abroad in order to contribute to social stability and lead peace building movements.

Lebanon social media platforms in March 2017, and shared her personal story and her experience during the civil war. "Looking at my blank page, I wonder whether the war that has ravaged Lebanon since 1975 is really over. I wonder whether in our hearts we feel the calmness of peace", she mentioned in her article. Sitting next to Samira, Aicha Yakan from Tripoli, also a participant in the supplement, read the article she wrote within the context of the call for stories. "I do not usually write colloquially... But the memories of the war took me back to the depths of my scattered childhood which I was not able to express in formal language", she said.

In addition to Samira and Aicha' articles, UNDP published 6 other stories of people who shared an experience they had while fleeing from one region to another; in the bunker or hiding at home. Stories from both Lebanese and Syrians showed how both have went through similar experiences, and drew similarities between human sufferings.

This supplement gathered many other interesting topics, such as mass graves, the referents of memory, transitional justice, the case of the disappeared and the missing and the role of culture during war. Participants in the session shared their comments and questions with the writers, and offered recommendations and suggestions for upcoming issues.

While many organizations commemorated the war in various ways this year, UNDP offered a platform for a debate on its repercussions, on remembering it through the eyes of those who experienced it and wrote about it.

To read the supplement, please visit: www.lb.undp.org/pbsupplement

### "Let it be Remembered but not Repeated"

## UNDP Supplement Promoting Collective Memory of the Civil War and Reconciliation

Samira Fakhoury, 85 years old, came all the way from Hammana, Mount Lebanon to Beirut to participate in a discussion session around the 15th issue of the "Peace Building in Lebanon" news supplement. "I didn't want to miss the chance of discussing my experience with young activists and prominent journalists. Such discussions make me feel young again", she said.

The discussion took place on April 19, 2017 to deliberate the topics related to civil war memory and civil peace

mentioned in the supplement. Writers, journalists, activists as well as representatives of NGOs and INGOs discussed together the content of the supplement published on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April. The supplement was funded by KfW and distributed with An-Nahar newspaper in its Arabic version, The Daily Star in English, and L'Orient-Le Jour newspaper in French.

Samira is one of the supplement's participants and writers. She answered a call for stories posted on the UNDP



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The UNDP "Peace Building in Lebanon" project works since 2007 on enhancing mutual understanding and social cohesion by addressing root causes of conflict in Lebanon. The project has been also lately working on addressing the impact of the Syrian crisis on social stability in Lebanon.

The project supports different groups from local leaders to educators, youth, media professionals, journalists and civil society activists in developing both medium and long-term strategies for peace building, crisis management and conflict prevention.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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