



As 2011 was the year that witnessed the launching of transitional and drastic events in the Arab region, the year 2012 saw unprecedented escalations and complications in the Syrian crisis. The repercussions of such conflict are no longer limited to the Syrian society but started to reach neighboring countries, including Lebanon. It is true that solidarity with the displaced Syrians is a national and humanitarian duty; however, Lebanon must take into account the future worsening of the crisis and must set its options on how to deal with it. These options are not easy to take; since it is the duty of the State and its institutions to take a decision particularly that the impacts of such crisis do not only affect the humanitarian and relief aspects, but also extends to reach the entire social and economic components.

Despite the efforts that are being exerted on the public services, they will continue to suffer from some malfunction and will be under pressure due to the demand on these services which will exceed the level of investments. Therefore, the Council for Development and Reconstruction, in collaboration with the concerned ministries and institutions, and in coordination with development partners, is trying to give a new boost to invest in the public services and infrastructure.

The CDR lunched, in the year 2012, a significant number of projects in all sectors and regions to be added to the ongoing projects and programs. Equally, the CDR's funding activities did not drop, for several funding agreements were referred to the Cabinet, while another group of signed agreements is waiting to be ratified by the Parliament. The Progress Report gives details about all aspects of these activities.

There is no doubt that Lebanon is facing great challenges. There is also no doubt that it would be quite impossible to face these challenges without consolidating the national unity and social cohesion, and upgrading the social and economic development.