



In the year 2013, Lebanon was caught up in the throes of the Syrian conflict, which has spilled over, resulting in massive influx of Syrian refugees into Lebanon and placing a heavy strain on the country in economic, social and demographic terms. During that year, many studies were conducted to better understand the impact of the different aspects of the Syrian conflict on the economy, public funding, employment, housing, health, education as well as on basic services such as water, wastewater, energy and transportation.

The studies have shown that the impact of this huge displacement has been enormous and took a disastrous toll on all sectors throughout the whole country. The burden has reached a point beyond the ability of hosting towns and communities. Lebanese public institutions have found themselves in need to combine their efforts and call on the international community to scale up their support to bridge humanitarian action with medium and longer terms initiatives aiming at improving access to and quality of public services offered to the most affected hosting communities.

In light of this situation, the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) had to make, as much as possible, great efforts to incorporate the projects intended to abate the repercussions of the Syrian crisis into on-going and in-progress projects, while at the same time trying not to disadvantage the areas least affected by the refugees' influx.

The CDR launched in 2013, a number of major projects covering all sectors and regions to complement the projects that were already underway. Several financing agreements were referred to the Council of Ministers, and many signed agreements are awaiting Parliament ratification. This report details out the activities and scopes of the projects carried out in 2013.

In the past, Lebanon had faced huge challenges that had brought the country and its people to the very verge of despair. Nevertheless, the Lebanese have always shown remarkable strength and resilience. We have every confidence that we will overcome one of our toughest periods by fostering our sense of national unity, solidarity and cohesion and by joining our efforts towards achieving economic and social development.