



Social and Economic Development

Integrated Regional Development Projects

Economic and Social Fund for Development

The Economic and Social Fund for Development (ESFD) contributes to social development in Lebanon and acts as a permanent institution striving for poverty reduction. The purpose of ESFD is to reach out to the underprivileged strata of the population to improve the welfare of local communities and create job opportunities for Small and Medium Enterprises.

First. Job creation and income increase Component

In 2013, the ESFD offered financial support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to execute 646 projects, which led to the creation of 638 new jobs.

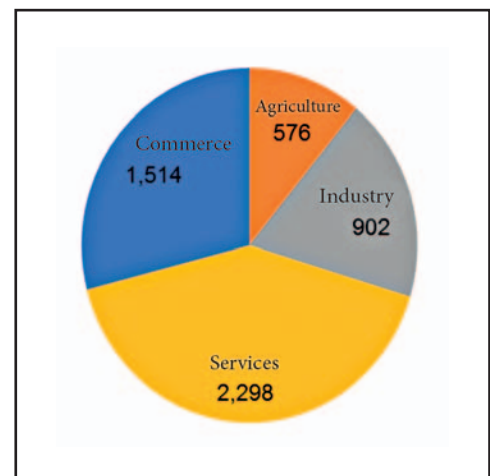
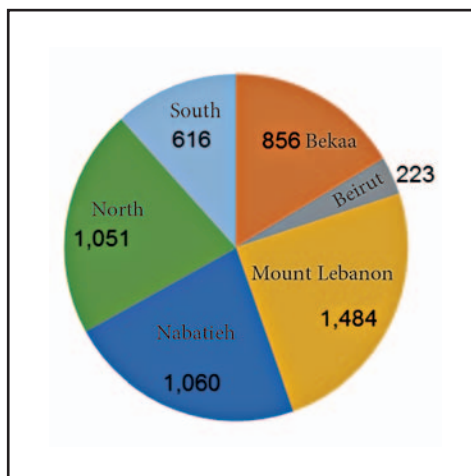
From 2004 until the end of 2013, the ESFD financed 7,688 projects and created 5,290 jobs.

The ESFD works in collaboration with five commercial banks to provide financial services to customers who were previously unable to have access to loans.

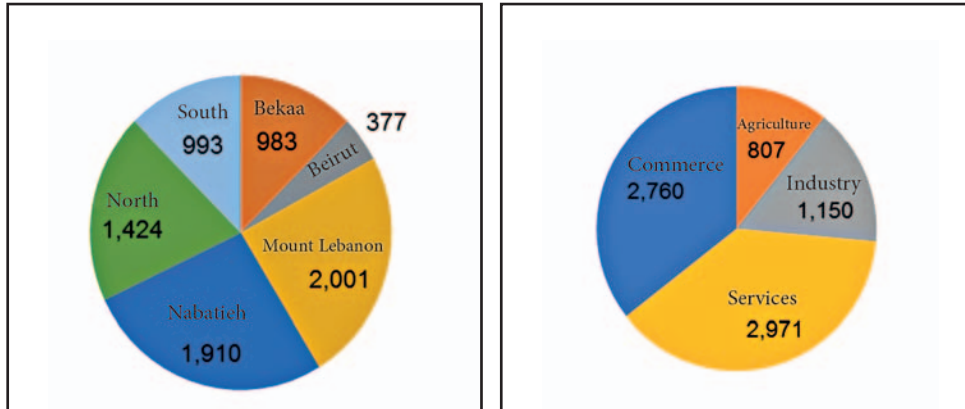


A factory for the production of natural sponges in Baakline

Distribution of job opportunities by Sectors and Governorates until 2013



Distribution of job opportunities by Sectors and Governorates until 2013



A woman who benefited from a loan to open a beauty salon and an accessories shop in Nabatiyeh



Business Consulting Services

To make it easier for individuals and SMEs to get loans from financial institutions to start a new business or improve and expand an established firm, the ESFD seeks the help of mentoring experts. These mentors provide advice and guidance on how to create a business plan, prepare a cash flow forecast and fill applications to ensure that applicants are in the best possible position to receive funding from a bank collaborating with the Fund. These business consultation experts also follow up on the implementation of these business projects.

In 2013, the ESFD relied on a team of 16 Freelance Business Advisors to offer Business Consulting Services, which contributed to the funding of 272 projects and the creation of 232 new jobs.

Second: Local Development and livelihood

Improvement Component

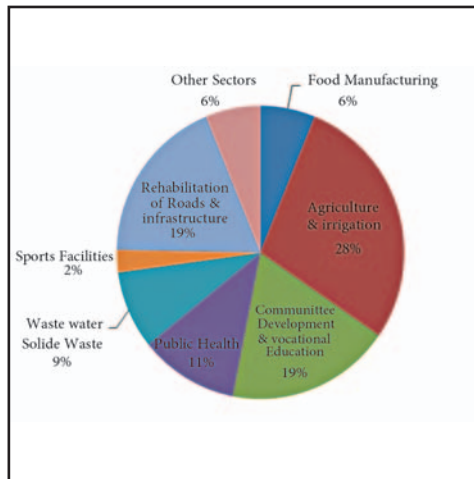
The EFSD helps 120 villages in the most deprived regions by mobilizing the efforts of partners in local communities, their elected representatives and other local stakeholders to achieve development.

In 2013, the ESFD, in collaboration with its local partners, studied around 17 projects with a value of EUR 12 million.

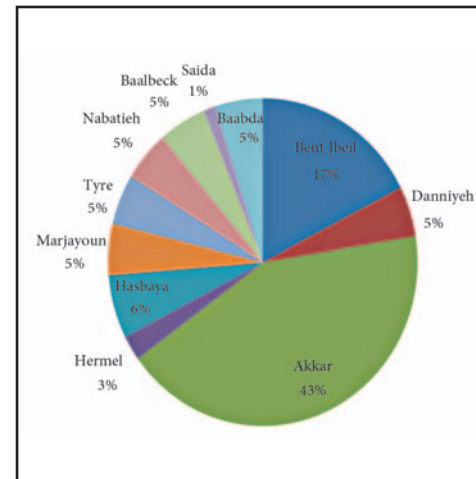
Since the commencement of this Component up until the end 2013, working groups and local committees received support to implement 95 local development projects, valued at around EUR 22.5 million. The EFSD follows a participatory approach in the local development process with emphasis on women needs and priorities and environment protection.



**Projects Distribution by Sectors
(2003-2013)**



**Projects Distribution by Caza
(2003-2013)**



A. Project to Support Local Development in North Lebanon (ADELNORD)

As part of the funding agreement for ADELNORD, signed between the EU and the Lebanese Government, a

EUR 2.9 million grant was allocated to support local development in the regions of Akkar, Hermel, and Dennyeh.

In June 2012, priority development projects were identified and 9 grant

contracts were signed. These projects are carried out by local communities. The role of the ESDF is to supervise the purchasing and procurement processes, to ensure that criteria and specifications are adhered to.

Name of Project	Number of Beneficiaries	Estimated Value (in Euro)
North Hermel 1. Installation of potable water networks and digging wells in the remote villages of North Hermel Total	29,700	315,000
South Hermel 1. Provision of drinking water in the villages of Wadi El Ratl and Turkmen 2. Provision of agricultural machinery and equipment to 3 agricultural cooperatives Total	28,200	200,000 60,000 260,000
Beit Younes (Akkar) 1. Rehabilitation of irrigation canals 2. Provision of trash collection trucks and street cleaning vehicles to municipalities Total	34,240	195,100 74,900 270,000
Beit Younes (Akkar) 1. Rehabilitation of irrigation canals 2. Creation of an educational support centre at Hrar public school 3. Rehabilitation of the municipal hall Total	22,280	290,300 47,700 14,000 352,000

Name of Project	Number of Beneficiaries	Estimated Value (in Euro)
Denniyeh (Denniyeh) 1. Provision of drinking water in the villages of Debeel, Korhaya and Aysamout 2. Organization of training workshops for local associations 3. Provision of equipment to a primary health care centre in mfarbanin 4. Rehabilitation of a playing field in Kamamin public school Total	15,300	194,683.33 9,750.00 55,328.33 40,238.34 3000,000.00
Wadi Khaled (Akkar) 1. Provision of equipment to the health centres belonging to the network of the MoPH and MoSA in Hisheh and Amayer 2. Conducting expedited vocational training and school support Total	39,638	274,25.00 135,205.00 409,230.00
Fneideq (Akkar) 1. Creation of a plant for solid waste treatment Total	24,400	394,000.00 394,000.00
Mashta Hassan (Akkar) 1. Provision of equipment to a primary care center Total	22,400	250,000.00 250,000.00
Dora (Akkar) 1. Creation of sewage network and sewage treatment station Total	4,100	360,000.00 360,000.00
Total ADELNOR Grant Budget ADELNORD		2,910,230.00

B - Support to the Municipal Finance in Lebanon (MUFIN)

In september 2013 the ESFD launched a new project funded by the EU titled Support to the Municipal Finance in Lebanon (MUFIN) to alleviate the impact of influx of Syrian displaced on Lebanesees host communities..

The estimated budget of this project is 16 Million Euros. The project targets municipalities in local communities in North Lebanon and Bekaa that is hosting a high number of displaced.

The project seeks to improve the level of quality of services offered by these municipalities within the potable water, wastewater

treatment and solid waste management sectors. Below is a list of projects implemented.

List of Bekaa Projects

Local Community	Project	Number of Beneficiaries	Estimated Value (in Euro)
Kaa	Provision of trash collection vehicles to the Municipality	17,700	176,000
Gaza	Establishment of station for drinking water refinement	26,500	315,000
Majdel Anjar	Installation of drinking water network	12,500	155,000
Souairy	Installation and rehabilitation of drinking water network	12,500	155,000
Dalhamieh	Purchase of solid waste containers and trucks	8,700	186,850
Hermel	Installation of sewage network and refinement station	36,500	2,750,000
Bar Elias, El Marj Kab Elias	Establishment of solid waste treatment plant	166,500	3,146,000
Saadnayel	Rehabilitation of water distribution network	34,000	880,000

List of North Projects

Local Community	Project	Number of Beneficiaries	Estimated Value (in Euro)
Tripoli	Digging and installing of artesian well in Kobbeh and Bab el Tebaneh	185,394	462,000
Menieh	Provision of trash collection vehicles	100,000	324,450
Badawi	Provision of trash collection vehicles	44,000	103,000
Kfartoun	Rehabilitation and installation of an artesian well	7,500	148,500
Akroum	Provision of drinking water	5,920	250,000
Qonnieh	Rehabilitation of an artesian well and expansion of the drinking water distribution network	2,350	225,000
Mouhamara	Rehabilitation of an artesian well and expansion of the drinking water distribution network	41,500	462,000
Shaile	Rehabilitation of 2 artesian wells and linking them to the village drinking water reservoir	2,020	410,300

Main Orientations of the Fund in 2014

In addition to the current projects that are carried out by the ESDF through its two main components: Job creation and local development, the Fund will continue – through the MUFIN Project signed with the EU- to provide support to municipalities in the regions hosting huge numbers of Syrian refugees with a EUR 16 million grant.

The Fund will also play a role in boosting the local economy in the villages overfilled with Syrian refugees through the implementation of “RELOC”, a project that will be signed with the EU, to implement productive agricultural projects of a value of EUR 7 million, which will lead to the creation of new jobs.

The Fund will also make efforts to cooperate with the World Bank to

implement projects in the Fund’s 2014 work plan.

Project for Innovative Partnership to Promote Interregional Communication through Local Development (ART GOLD¹ Lebanon)

Since the launching of the ART GOLD (AGL) Programme in September 2006, as part of the ART global initiative, UNDP continues, in partnership with CDR, to implement this Programme in order to achieve balanced and sustainable development in four regions characterized by high poverty rates and raging socio-economic problems. These regions are:

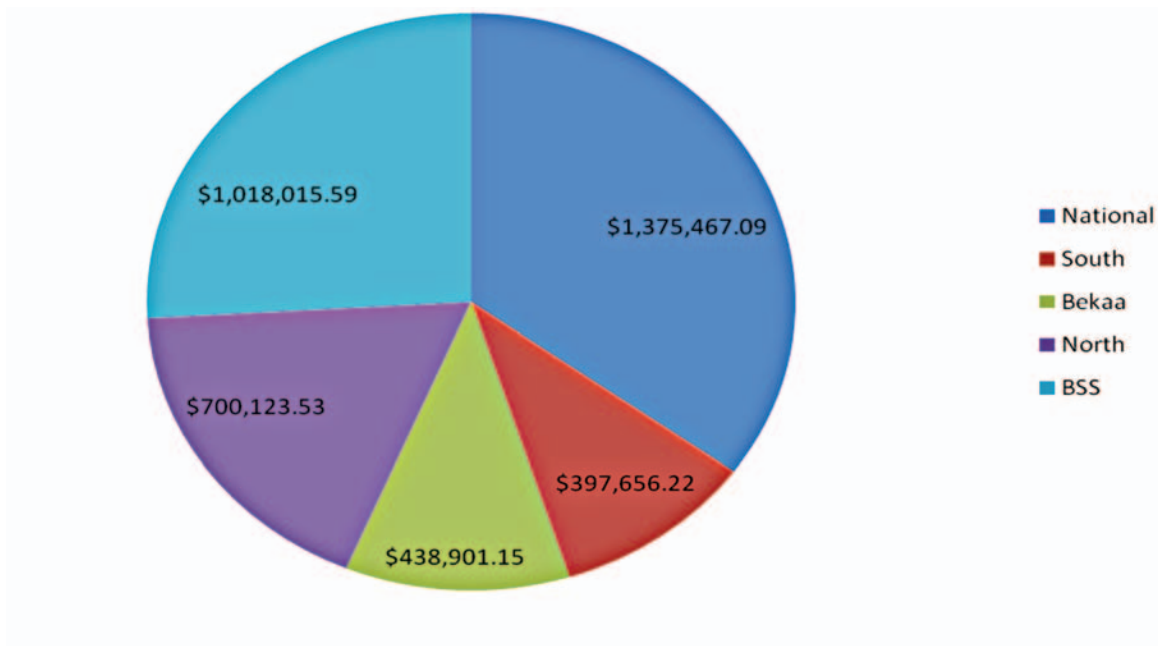
1. North Lebanon (Three districts): Akkar, Minyeh-Danniyeh and Tripoli.
2. South Lebanon (Five districts): Marjeyoun, Bent Jbeil,

- Nabatieh, Sour and Hasbaya.
3. Bekaa (Five Districts): Rashaya, West Bekaa, Baalback, Hermel and Zahle.
4. Beirut Southern Suburbs (Baabda District): Municipalities of Chiyah, Borj El Brajne, Furn El Chebak, Ghobeiry, Haret Hreik and El Mreyjeh.

In the beginning of 2013, the AGL phase II was launched by UNDP and CDR, for a period of 36 months (2013 to 2015). New financial contributions were secured from the EU, the Italian government and the Principality of Monaco in addition to contributions from NGO’s and European decentralized cooperation institutions.

The AGL three-year total budget (2013-2015) amounts to US\$ 3,9 million distributed by regions as follows:

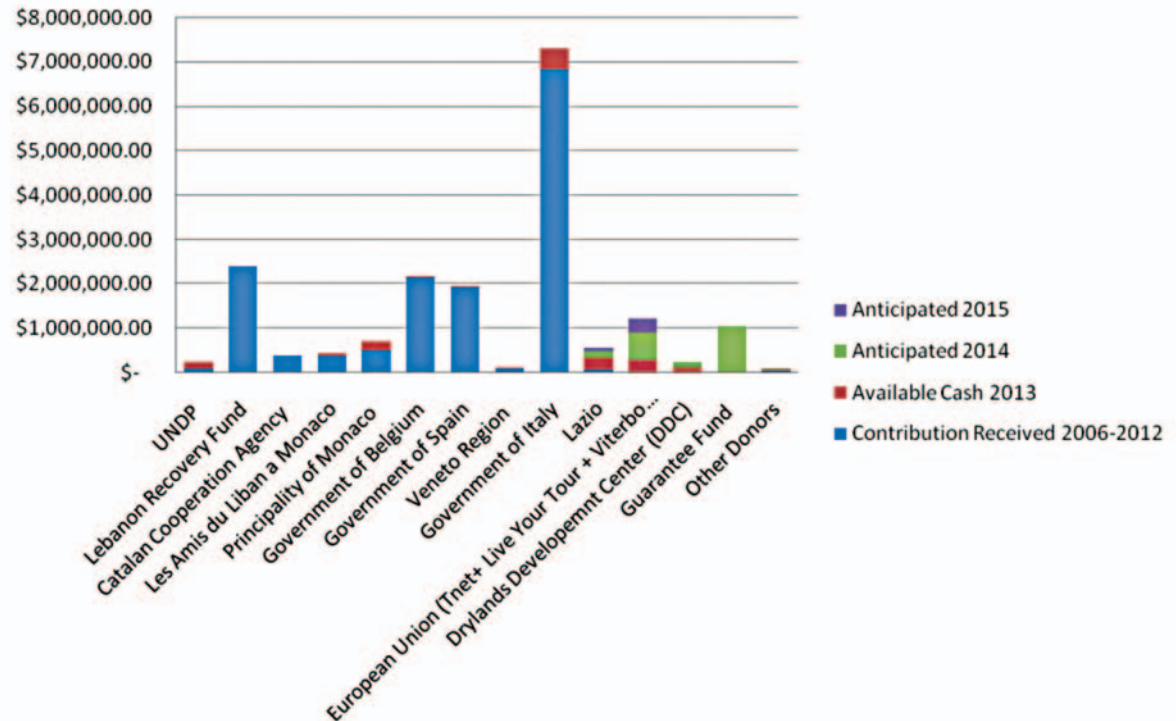
Distribution of ART GOLD project budget by regions (2013-2015)



1) ART: Appui aux Réseaux Territoriaux [Support to Territorial Networks] – GOLD: Governance and Local Development

The total budget of ART GOLD since it has been launched in 2006 up until 2013, amounted to US\$ 17,6 million distributed as follows:

Distribution of ART GOLD project budget by donors (2006-2013)



Major achievements of ART GOLD Lebanon in 2013:

In 2013, the ART GOLD Programme has made significant accomplishments across various sectors, in partnership with local agencies and authorities in the targeted regions.

First: Main achievements across different sectors:

1. Social sector (Youth):

- A social and cultural center for the youth created and equipped in the village of Kawkaba in the South of Lebanon. The project was funded by “Les Amis du Liban A Monaco” and managed by the Lebanese Association for Community Development and Dialogue. The center creates a friendly and cooperative environment where young people can engage in coordinated recreational and

social programs that also attract young people from neighboring villages (Ebl el Saqi, Hasbaya and Marjeyoun).

- A train the trainer program in Akkar. It hosted Lebanese professional soccer trainers who explained soccer techniques and arts. Under this program, the Italian Puglia region offered sport clothing to 6 soccer teams composed of 90 young players and secured the cost of their soccer training.
- A soccer field rehabilitated and equipped in Halba (Akkar-North Lebanon), managed by the Environmental Scout Organization in Lebanon, to host a soccer tournament that gather participants from 4 neighboring villages (Halba, Meniara, Cheikh Taba and Jdeidet el Joume). The project benefited around 3500 persons and was

funded by Les Amis du Liban A Monaco.

2. Local Economic Development Sector (including agriculture):

2.1 Local Economic Development Agencies (LEDAs):

In 2013, ART GOLD continued to offer support to Local Economic Development Agencies in the four targeted areas of the Programme to help them in achieving self-sustainability within a period not exceeding 3 years, by adopting a partial support strategy. Below are mapped out the main activities achieved in this context:

- Appointment of the human resources of the Local Economic Development Agencies (LEDAs) in the North, Bekaa, and Beirut Southern Suburbs (BSS) and preparation of the operating manual of the BSS LEDA which was officially

launched in December 2013.

- In September 2013, a three-day workshop brought together the staff of the Local Economic Development Agencies (LEDAs) of the four regions. The purpose of the workshop was to inform LEDAs staff about the principles and concept of LEDAs and to provide them with insight into international experiences in this field. Also, the technical managers of the LEDAs participated in the second World Forum on Local Economic Development held in Brazil. The Forum enabled a truly effective sharing of innovative policies and practices in different thematic areas within the field of local economic development.
- A packaging center rehabilitated and furnished with equipment in Tyr, to support farmers and farmers' cooperatives in Tyr and the neighboring villages. This initiative is implemented by the South LEDA and the relevant cooperatives in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture. The inauguration of the packaging center is scheduled for 2014.
- Provision of support to fishermen cooperatives in Ouzai port/Beirut Southern Suburbs: In July 2013, the Programme invited an Italian experts delegation who was mandated to conduct a survey on fish stock, types of fish sold in the Lebanese market and fish selling price. The delegation conducted interviews with no than 40 fishermen to assess and upgrade

their fishing techniques.

2.2“Enhancing Economic and Social Development in North Lebanon” Project, funded by the Government of Italy: the purpose of the project is to improve the economic and social conditions of farmers who have been under a lot of strain due to the exacerbation of the Syrian crisis and the closure of the northern borders. The project also aims at improving the level of primary health care services in Wadi Khaled-Akkar. The team has completed all preparatory work for this project, and the agreed activities are scheduled for 2014.

3. Tourism Sector:

- In 2013, the Municipality of Marseille in partnership with ART GOLD offered financial and technical support to the Al Fayhaa Union of Municipalities, to encourage historical and archeological tourism. A GIS Application was created to enable visitors and tourists using smart phones to look into the history of historical sites on the distribution map in the three Al Fayhaa cities (Tripoli, El Mina and Baddawi). 25 archeological buildings and sites were selected to be included in the GIS Application that offers main information in Arabic, English and French when scanning the code affixed on the entrance of the site. The project duration is 2 years (2013 – 2014).

4. Health Sector:

Strengthening primary health care

in Ghobeiry/Beirut Southern Suburbs (BSS) Municipality: The Municipality of Ghobeiry lacks health care services due to high population density. To tackle this problem, the Municipality established a new primary health care center in partnership with ART GOLD Programme and Italian Tuscany Region. The center was equipped and the medical staff trained. The range of services offered by the Center was enlarged to cater for five public schools attended by no less than 4000 students.

Within the same context, the cooperation continued with Lazio region to train more than 30 health educators from beneficiary public schools and 6 coordinators from the Ministry of Public Health on the use of “School-based Oral Health Education Manual” which has been previously prepared. All these activities were conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Education & Higher Education and the Lebanese University-Faculty of Dental Medicine.

5.Governance Sector:

- Social survey of family livelihood conditions in Furn El Chebak/Southern Suburbs of Beirut: The purpose of the survey is to collect and analyze data on family livelihood conditions in the region of Furn El Chebak and Beirut Southern Suburbs, in order to formulate a strategy for the municipality to implement projects that respond to local community needs.

In 2013, around 8723 residential and economic units (shops, clinics

etc....) were surveyed as part of the survey that the municipality launched in 2012, through the municipal social office and in cooperation with ART GOLD Programme. The analysis of the survey's findings and the issuance of the results are scheduled for 2014.

6. Education Sector:

- “Support to Public School Students” project: This project targeted four public schools located within the area of the Municipality of El Mreyjeh/Beirut Southern Suburbs (Tahwitat El Ghadir Public School, El Laylake Public School, El Ghadir Public School and Borj el Brajne Public School). Activities focused mainly on conducting 17 extra-curricular courses that benefited around 200 intermediate certification students.
- A study on school dropout rate in El Mreyjeh/Beirut Southern Suburbs: Within the framework of the initiative designed to reduce the drop out of children aged 8-14 years old – and after ART GOLD Programme trained the staff of the social municipal office of the Municipality of El Mreyjeh on collecting data, in collaboration with stakeholders in all five targeted public schools (Tahwitat El Ghadir Public School, Laylake Public School, El Ghadir Public School, Borj El Brajne Public school) – the persons in charge of this survey continued the data collection process in 2013. The analysis of the findings and the issuance of the final report are scheduled for 2014.



Training Session on Strategic Planning

Second: ART GOLD succeeded in securing additional funding to implement the following projects:

1- ENPI Projects:

a. “Live Your Tour” project for the development of sustainable tourism: “Live your Tour” (2013-2015) is implemented in the Bekaa by the Union of Baalbeck and Deir El Ahmar Municipalities, the Union of Chouf El Souayjani Municipalities and the American University of Culture and Education (AUCE). The project is designed to promote two geographical areas that have attractive tourist features, which are Chouf and Baalbeck/Deir El Ahmar. Besides Lebanon, “Live your Tour” involves three Mediterranean countries, Italy, Spain and Tunis.

In this context “Live your tour” carried out the following activities in the Bekaa:

- A technical committee composed of seven subject matter experts in the tourism field in Lebanon formed, to

provide technical support and guidance during the project implementation phase.

- Five workshops on strategic planning and tourism dynamics attended by representatives of Union of Municipalities, Municipalities and local entities in Baalback and Deir el Ahmar. The workshops led to the definition of the vision, mission and strategic objectives aimed at promoting Baalbeck and Deir Al Ahmar as leading rural tourist destinations in the Middle East.
- A study on the tourism status in Lebanon that covered Small and Medium Enterprises and tourism agencies, in partnership with municipalities and in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism. The final report of the findings of this study is scheduled for the end of 2014.
- A three-day workshop on strategic planning that gathered 13 program volunteers and social workers.

b. Local Agenda 21 in Territorial Planning in Energy and Waste Management: The project is implemented in the South of Lebanon from 2013 to 2015 in partnership with the Union of Municipalities of Jabal Amel. Below are outlined the major accomplishments of Local Agenda 21:



Training Session on Strategic Planning

- Five representatives of the Union of Municipalities of Jabal Amel attended a workshop on the basics and objectives of Local Agenda 21 in Mallorca – Spain, in 3- 11- 2013, and a workshop in Jordan in November 2013.
- UNDP staff participated to the second meeting of the Steering Committee in Mallorca, Spain in April 10, 2013.
- An observatory located in a building belonging to the Union of Municipalities of Jabal Amel furnished with equipment, satellite images and geographical information systems.
- A specialized expert was mandated to conduct a study on energy resources and waste management in order to shape a regional plan that includes 16 villages from the Union of Municipalities of Jabal Amel.

c. Inclusive Governance of Sustainable Coastal Metropolis (MEDSEATIES): The project's aim is to empower targeted local authorities in the multi-level decision-making processes related to environmental, economic and urban management of coast cities. The project is implemented in six metropolitan areas from 5 Mediterranean countries: Aqaba/Jordan, Tripoli/Lebanon, Thessaloniki/Greece, Genoa/Italy, Marseilles and Toulon/France. The Project duration is 1 years (2014-2015). In 2013, the preparatory phase of the Project was completed and the work plan was defined and discussed with the Donor.

d. Territorial networking for capacity building and local development:

a cross border experience linking Lebanon, Jordan, France, Italy. The project is implemented in Beirut Southern Suburbs for a duration of two years (2012-2014) in partnership with the Federation of Municipalities of Zgharta, Tyr, and Jezzine, Greater Madaba Municipality, the regions of Tuscany and PACA in Italy, OXFAM/Italy and ARCI . The project aims at promoting networking between partners to achieve economic development. The project launched its activities by conducting a study on the leather-manufacturing sector in Beirut Southern Suburbs to identify the needs and problems faced by this sector in collaboration with the Beirut Southern Suburb LEDA.

e. Supporting Dry Land Development: a project funded by the UN Dry Land Development Center, whose purpose is a) to support women cooperatives involved in agro-food processing in the South of Lebanon and Bekaa in order to improve their economic situation and b) to focus on renewable energy. The project duration is two years (2013-2014). A questionnaire was prepared to survey 11 women cooperatives in the South and the Bekaa, to assess their situation and define their needs.

Third: Decentralized Cooperation Partnerships:

In 2013, ART GOLD Programme organized many delegations to and from Lebanon to share best practices and experiences and provide technical support in many fields such as primary health care,

preservation of fish resources, and local economic development. Below, a brief summary of the main delegations:

- Two delegations composed of experts from the Italian Research Center in Sicily, to provide technical support to fishermen at the Port of Ozai in Beirut Southern Suburbs.
- Two delegations of experts from Tuscany Italy to strengthen the concept of primary health care in Beirut Southern Suburbs and study the possibility of extending the geographical framework to include other regions such as Wadi Khaled in North Lebanon.
- A delegation of experts from Lazio in Italy, to provide technical support and training to teachers and health supervisors on the use of the “School-based Oral Health Education Manual” in collaboration with the Ministry of Education & Higher Education and the Ministry of Public Health.
- A delegation of experts from the City of Marseilles to provide technical support to the IT department of the Union of Al-Fayhaa Municipalities in Tripoli (North Lebanon), to create a special computer program that locates tourist areas in the city of Tripoli.

Fourth: Main orientations of the Programme in 2014:

- Pursuing the projects that were launched in 2013, while continuing to support the Lebanese host communities affected by the Syrian crisis and alleviating the repercussions of



the crisis on the poorest communities.

- Promote the Decentralized Cooperation Partnerships to learn from international best practices and experiences related to local development and all sectors.
- Continuing to support the Local Economic Development Agencies (LEDAs) in the four regions to strengthen their participation in boosting the economy of the areas where each LEDA operates and to ensure the sustainability of their interventions.

f. Regional Development Program in Akkar – Phase II

The CDR and UNDP continued their efforts to implement the second Phase of the Regional Development Program in Akkar, aimed at supporting the development process in Akkar region, in particular in Wadi Khaled.

Main achievements in 2013:

- Providing support to Wadi Khaled Focus Group: Within the framework of promoting the local development of Wadi Khaled, and following the election of new municipal councils in the Wadi Khaled region in May 2012, the project team re-formed the local development committee that was established in 2010 and became known as Wadi Khaled Focus Group. The committee is composed of heads of municipalities, representatives of the villages that do not have municipalities, and representatives of civil society organizations.

In partnership with the UNDP “Peace Building in Lebanon” project, workshops were conducted to develop the capacities of the municipal councils’ members in the following areas:

- Administrative and financial municipal management,
- Local development methodologies,
- Conflict mitigation and management.
- Shaping the Wadi Khaled local development plan: In August 2013, the Programme team carried out an assessment to update the economic and social data in Wadi Khaled to identify the changes that took place in that region as the result of the Syrian crisis and the influx of Syrian refugees to Lebanon. The assessment covered 22 villages and residential agglomerations in Wadi Khaled. Based on the findings of the assessment, an economic and social area profile of Wadi Khaled was elaborated. The Programme continued in collaboration with local actors to shape the development projects proposed during the sectorial meetings (education, agriculture, health, youth, women and infrastructure) to tap funding resources for these sectors and ensure their sustainability.
- Pursuing the implementation of projects approved by the Programme in 2012: the Programme team pursued the implementation of projects approved by the Wadi Khaled focus group, with some interruptions caused by the incidents that heightened the tensions at the Lebanese-Syrian borders and the road blockages

experienced in the North of Lebanon region in 2013. This situation resulted in delaying the implementation of the soccer field project in the village of Majdel/Wadi Khaled located on the Lebanese- Syrian borders.

Assessment of the economic situation in Wadi Khaled: In August 2012, the consulting company selected by the Programme to assess the economic and social situation in Wadi Khaled started its assignment. In the last quarter of 2013, the company submitted a situation analysis report and suggested a mid-and-long term local development plan for Wadi Khaled.

The strategic objectives of the Wadi Khaled local development plan, which was vetted by the majority of Wadi Khaled actors are:

Objective 1: Increase and diversify income sources and create job opportunities by evaluating and benefiting from the existing economic, natural and cultural resources.

Objective 2: Upgrade the physical infrastructure and services of public utilities in order to improve the economic environment in the region, reduce household expenditures and protect natural environment.

Objective 3: Protect natural resources and improve the quality of the environment.

Objective 4: Strengthen planning capacities of the municipal councils, enable them to provide strategic services and build

organizational and technical capacities of the financial administration.

Objective 5: Improve the access to basic education and health services.

Coordination with other parties: As the result of the serious strains that the Syrian crisis is putting on Wadi Khaled with the presence of more than 25,000 refugees, international entities are directing an emerging focus toward this region. To rally around this focus, the Programme played a role in the facilitation of communication among representatives of Wadi Khaled cluster of villages, international and Lebanese entities and the central UNDP team, to facilitate the surveying process aimed at weighing the impact of the crisis on the Lebanese hosting communities in Wadi Khaled and Akkar.

The Programme also contributed to shaping a number of interventions that lead to the creation of jobs opportunities in Wadi Khaled, interventions that fall under the framework of UNDP activities, among which:

- A project to transport rainwater and build a mini-football in the village of Hisheh.
- A project to transport rainwater through 450 meter long pipes in Amayer.
- Equipping a laboratory and creating a blood bank in El Salam Hospital in Qobeyat.
- Equipping the development services center in Halba Akkar with a dental clinic.
- Provision of scientific lab equipment to seven public schools in Akkar.

- Consolidation of the foundations of Fneideq public school, which was threatened of collapsing; Rehabilitation of Meshmesh public vocational school.
- Installation of new drinking water pipes in Bezbina, adding three rooms to the public kindergarten and equipping it with audio-visual equipment and furniture.
- Provision of a trash collection vehicle to Khat Petrol Municipality (Wadi Khaled).
- Installation of a sewer piping system in Amayer, used by 6 villages in Wadi Khaled.
- Provision of trash bins to the Municipality of Halba and a trash collection vehicle to Bebnin Municipality.

Joint Projects with UN Organizations working in Lebanon

First: Support to the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals-MDGs

The CDR and UNDP signed the “Support to The Implementation of The Millennium Development Goals” project on 24/07/2008. The project aims at helping the Lebanese government implement policies and activities that contribute to the attainment of MDGs by 2015, as agreed by Lebanon and the countries of the world. The project involves as well several activities designed to assist the Lebanese government, communities and civil society organizations, in participating efficiently to the attainment of the MDGs.

Main achievements in 2013

1-Developing Public Policies

Based on the findings and recommendations of the Capacity Assessment that covered five public administrations and institutions, that directly influence the indicators of the 1st MDG, related to reducing very high poverty rate, the project offered support to the National Employment Office in order to establish a Lebanese Employment Fund. These public administrations and institutions are: the Administration of Planning and Programming at the CDR, the National Employment Office, the Planning and Development Authority and Social Services Directorate at the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Directorate General of Administrations and National Councils at the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, as well as the Directorate of Research and Coordination at the Ministry of Agriculture.

The purpose of this initiative is to activate the role of the National Employment Office to strengthen the opportunities to find decent and productive jobs, which leads to fair and equitable growth for the most affected groups. This support will enable the National Employment Office to seek the help of experts to define the organizational and structural procedures related to the establishment of the Employment Fund and strengthen the capacities of the Office staff to perform their assigned tasks.

The main achievements’ of this initiative in 2013:

- Elaboration of the draft laws governing the National Employment Office and the Employment Fund;
- A training seminar, attended by 14 employees from the National Employment Office. The seminar gave the attendees insight into communication methods, and the objectives of decent jobs and their related indicators within the scope of the MDG.
- Equipping the Employment Fund Office.

2 - Communication and Advocacy

In 2013, the Project prepared the “Lebanon MDG Report 2013”, the country’s national report outlining the progress in, and main challenges to, the achievement of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This report comes at a critical point in time for Lebanon, in particular with the presence of huge numbers of Syrian Refugees. It comes also less than two years before the 2015 deadline for attainment of the MDGs. The Report outlines Lebanon’s experience and the main lessons learned in order to contribute to the formulation of a new post-2015 development agenda

In this context, the Media for Development project which was launched, in partnership with France Press for training, France 24, and the French Embassy in Lebanon pursued its activities aimed at promoting the concepts of peace and development by developing the capacities of journalists working for Lebanese media channels (print, audio and visual). The implemented activities are summarized as

follows::

- Technical training for media-working-people: a series of training workshops were organized and attended by around 45 journalists who work for Lebanese media channels. The workshops covered various issues such as environmental sustainability, gender equality and poverty reduction.
- Awareness and Advocacy Campaigns: Under the supervision of UNDP, awareness and advocacy campaigns were conducted by the trained journalists, to emphasize on the role of media in development. These campaigns served as a platform to enhance communication between the media people and the society components (youth, students, universities and others).

3 - Main orientations in 2014

- Pursuing all activities aimed at creating the “Lebanese Employment Fund” in partnership with the National Employment Office.
- Launching the Phase II of the “Media for Development” Project and pursuing the performance of a number of workshops expected to gather a number of Lebanese media people and representatives of local civil society organizations.
- Launching the “Lebanon MDG Report 2013”, with the participation of the stakeholders in public administrations and institutions and civil society organizations.

Second: Enhancing Capacity for Social Development
The “Enhancing Capacity for

Social Development” project is jointly implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA). The purpose of the project is to offer the necessary support to MoSA to shift from a Ministry of social affairs to a Ministry of social development and promote its leading role in the improvement of the quality of life of local communities and groups from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Lebanon is witnessing a sharp rising influx of refugees representing a burden weighing heavily on the Lebanese host communities and competing for already limited social services, employment and other economic opportunities. To tackle this issue, the Lebanese Host Communities Support Project (LHSP) was created as part of the Enhancing Capacity for Development Project. The LHSP aims at increasing and sustaining stability in the areas affected by the Syrian crisis through improving livelihoods and providing basic social services. The project will also contribute to strengthening the capacities of the MoSA’s and local civil society actors in order to set priorities, mitigate conflicts, settle disputes, provide services and create jobs in the most affected areas.

A steering committee was formed to provide strategic direction for the LHSP and ensure that adequate mechanisms are in place to select and implement projects.

This committee is formed by representatives of the following entities:

- The Presidency of the Council of Ministers
- The Ministry of Social Affairs
- The Ministry of Education and Higher Education
- The Ministry of Public Health
- The Ministry of Interior and Municipalities
- The Council for Development and Reconstruction
- The World Bank
- The European Union
- UNHCR
- UNDP

Main achievements in 2013

With the financial support of UNHCR, the LHSP implemented projects in different sectors as follows:

Health:

Projects aimed at supporting primary health care centers and hospitals by equipping them with necessary laboratory and x-ray equipment and supplies. By supporting health centers, health services become available to both Lebanese and Syrians at reduced costs.



Education:

- a) Projects aimed at providing necessary laboratory and IT equipment to public schools
- b) Projects aimed at rehabilitating

a number of schools to increase school enrolment capacity



Water management:

People living in isolated remote areas are faced with water scarcity, they do not obtain water in sufficient quantities to cater for their daily needs. To tackle this problem, the LHSP installed water pipes and provided vehicles equipped with water reservoirs to transport water.

Waste management:

Due to the increasing number of Syrian refugees that made municipalities unable to handle huge quantities of accumulated trash, the LHSP provided municipalities with waste bins and trash collection and transfer vehicles and installed or rehabilitated sewer networks.

Income generating projects:

- a) Provision of new equipment and materials to women food associations to increase their productivity and improve the quality of their products.
- b) Creation of a vegetable market in the Village of el Marj (Bekaa).
- c) Promotion of forestation activities in the Bekaa, through

the cultivation of more than 40,000 of almond trees, pine trees, olive trees and vine grapes.

Social projects:

The aim of these projects is to encourage social activities that gather people from different social backgrounds and to ensure entertainment opportunities for the youth. Activities included the rehabilitation of public gardens and sport fields and the creation of theatres in the Bekaa and the North.

Social cohesion projects:

The aim of these projects is to promote interaction and communication between Syrian refugees and Lebanese host communities through awareness campaigns targeting public schools students in the Bekaa and the North.

Infrastructure Projects:

- a) Rehabilitation of internal roads to facilitate students' access to schools and employees' access to the workplace.
- b) Cleaning and rehabilitation of sewer networks, in particular in Akkar.



The following table offers a summary of these projects.

Sector	Number of projects implemented	Number of Lebanese beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	Total cost (US\$)
Education	15	24,246	15,679	615,712
Health	14	329,545	66,538	677,663
Infrastructure	4	159,000	23,828	439,120
Water Management	9	175,800	46,000	205,267
Waste Management	44	1,938,960	433,192	1,757,326
Income generating projects	16	8,645	3,380	1,104,500
Social affairs	4	42,500	19,200	114,842
Social Cohesion	2	116	24	40,190
Total	108	2,678,812	607,841	\$ 4,954,620

Mains orientations of LHSP in 2014:

- Conduct a needs assessment: by adopting a participatory approach and developing a comprehensive plan that target the most affected local communities (about 48 villages distributed as follows: 9 in Mount Lebanon, 16 in the Bekaa, 15 in the North and 8 in the South).
- Implement interventions that respond to the priority needs that will be identified in the light of the needs assessment conducted in full cooperation with the local administrations and the relevant governmental institutions.

Women's issues/Citizen's issues

• Population and development program:

The Population and Development Program is part of the current cycle of cooperation program signed between the UNFPA and the Lebanese Government for the 2010-2014 period. It aims at strengthening policies and the institutional framework to develop and implement strategies aimed at alleviating poverty and achieving just economic development. It also aims at developing capacities in using available information to include population factor, reproduction and gender equity in development strategies, and to

introduce monitoring and evaluation processes at the national, sectorial and local levels, through a variety of activities determined on a yearly basis. This program is implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the UNFPA.

In 2013, the Program continued its efforts to build the capacities of the Ministry of Social Affairs Units responsible for the inclusion of the population factor in the Ministry's development programs and plans at central and local levels, through the development services centers.

To follow up with the staff of the development services centers who

participated in previous workshops, ART GOLD organized a third training workshop in June 2013 on advocacy, to improve the participants' skills in supporting and advocating for causes and issues related to population and development, in the field in which each of them works.

• **Lebanon's participation in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD):**

As the 20-year anniversary of the landmark 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) is celebrated in 2014, a global review of the ICPD and its goals was launched, to identify ways to respond to the opportunities and challenges of today's world and come up with new recommendations.

Within this context, a conference took place in Cairo in June 2013, to review the implementation of the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the Arab Region, set its beyond 2014 Agenda and place the Conference clause at the heart of the UN post-2015 development agenda. The conference gathered high-level experts from governments and civil society, UN organizations, as well as members of parliaments and youth and women representatives, from the Arab region.

This Regional Conference served to present the regional results of the Global ICPD Survey, in which Lebanon took part.

An official delegation represented Lebanon at the Regional Conference on "Development Challenges & Population Dynamics in A Changing Arab World" which was convened by the UNFPA Arab States Regional Office in collaboration and coordination with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union and the League of Arab States. The Conference hosted a great number of youth representatives – among whom two from Lebanon - to express their views and ideas.

• **The "gender network" program in public institutions and administrations:**

The National Commission for Lebanese Women worked on developing a strategy for gender mainstreaming in public institutions and administrations, by promoting the role of relevant staff members in ministries and public administrations to be focal points. This strategy incorporates the following:

- a) Strengthen cooperation with the gender network.
- b) Expand the network and institutionalizing its organization and work.
- c) Develop the capacities of gender network members and benefitting from their professional potential.
- d) Promote the post and role of gender network members within their administrations.
- e) Work on raising the awareness of public institutions and administrations to include the

gender factor in their programs and policies.

Also, the National Commission for Lebanese Women worked on expanding the network of gender focal points to include additional public institutions and administrations. It updated and developed its database on this network, and in cooperation with the UNOHCHR, organized a series of workshops on deepening the knowledge of network members on the concept and requirements of gender issues. The cooperation will continue within this framework in accordance with the program planned by the National Commission for Lebanese Women.

• **Developing national capacities for dealing with natural disasters and mitigating damages by virtue of the Hyogo agreement:**

The National Commission for Lebanese Women cooperated with the UNDP and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers' Natural Disaster Management Unit to implement the Hyogo Agreement for Disaster Risk Reduction. In this context, a Hyogo work plan was developed (2005-2015) to urge the state to institutionalize national work to face natural disasters and reduce damages. It is important to note that the National Strategy for Women in Lebanon included among its objectives "protecting women and girls in cases of emergencies, armed conflicts, wars and natural disasters." Therefore, the Commission intended to add the

gender dimension in the national plans, as well as other studies, documents and programs arising from implementing the Hyogo work plan.

In this context as well, the Lebanese government adopted a special program for developing national capacities for dealing with natural disasters and mitigating damages in cooperation with the UNDP. The program embraced activities targeting women to take into consideration the needs of women when studying and detecting natural disasters, as well as developing relief and aid programs for victims. This would increase the contribution of women in bearing direct responsibility for facing and preventing disasters. It is worthy to note the CDR's participation in this type of activities, as well as its membership in the national committee to develop an emergency plan to face all sorts of disasters.