

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



In 2014, the Lebanese Government and the Lebanese public institutions combined their efforts to improve the level of public services and to withstand the repercussions of the Syrian crisis which placed huge strains on the economic and social activity and increasingly overburdened the infrastructure and public services. The Lebanese Government called upon the international community to scale up its support to help the Lebanese public entities in assuming their responsibilities which greatly outweighed humanitarian and rescue interventions and entailed significant development challenges.

The Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) and the Ministry of Social Affairs endeavored to seek funding to finance development programs and projects, as well as to integrate sectorial programs into plans and strategies aimed at addressing the negative impacts of the Syrian Crisis on Lebanon.

On the other hand, the CDR continued to implement the previously scheduled programs and to prepare for future projects. In 2014, new contracts were awarded across all sectors with emphasis on the water and wastewater sectors. Indeed, many contracts were awarded to outsource the repair, construction and installation of water and waste water systems across different Lebanese regions, noticeably a US \$200 million contract funded by the World Bank to supply areas of Greater Beirut with drinking water from the Awali River. In a parallel course, preparations have been underway to launch the project on the construction of the Bisri Dam, considered as a second phase of the project aimed at increasing water supply to Greater Beirut.

With regard to financial assistance, the total value of foreign funds secured in 2014, reached around US\$ 824 million (90% loans) and (10% grants) as detailed out in this report.

One of the major funding agreements signed in 2014 is the loan agreement pertaining to the construction of the Bisri Dam and its annexes, estimated at US\$ 474 million inclusive of US\$ 155 million for land expropriation.

The value of the foreign funds allocated in 2014, reflects the continuous support to Lebanon by the Arab and international institutions, despite the fact that the Lebanese Government has not yet completed a number of necessary legal and administrative procedures to activate these funds.

We hope that the constitutional institutions will shortly resume their regularity, which will normalize the cycle of infrastructure and social and economic development projects.