



USAID | LEBANON

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

COUNTRY PROFILE

2009



Mission Director Denise A. Herbol visits science laboratory at Jran Boys and Girls School, funded under the USAID LEAD program.

(Photo: IOCC)

OVERVIEW PROGRAMS

USAID/Lebanon implements a large, complex U.S. foreign assistance program in coordination with other U.S. Government civilian and military agencies. The \$447 million USAID/Lebanon program for FY 2007 to 2009 reinforces a democratic Lebanon. USAID programs contribute to U.S. foreign policy objectives for stability in the Middle East. Years of civil war have resulted in damage to infrastructure throughout the country, massive government debt, and a weakened economy. Lebanon's complex religion-based political system exacerbates an already demanding development environment. USAID programs strengthen legitimate state institutions and support the country to become a stable and prosperous partner in the region. Activities cover a wide range of objectives, including support for an effective judicial system, strengthening civil society, economic growth and prosperity, improving public education facilities, water resource and environmental management, and reconstruction. USAID's program in fiscal year 2008 was valued at \$44.6 million and is \$67.5 million for fiscal year 2009.



GOVERNING JUSTLY AND DEMOCRATICALLY

USAID assistance focuses on sustainability of local government modernization and enforces transparency, accountability and good governance. The program enables the municipalities of Lebanon to better serve their constituents, encourage democratic practices, and promote respect for the rule of law. The program enables municipalities to carry out activities that increase citizen participation, support employment and private sector investments. A recent USAID program is focused on strengthening the independence of the judiciary and access to justice. USAID also supports the Lebanese government in its efforts for legitimate, transparent parliamentary elections in 2009 and municipal elections in 2010.

USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives program provides financial and technical assistance to Lebanese-led initiatives that encourage conflict-resolution through participation by youth and communities in shared decision-making for consensus-based solutions.

INVESTING IN PEOPLE

An effective public education system, along with job opportunities, provides an alternative to extremism. USAID rehabilitates public schools, provides

LEBANON SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1943
 Population: 4.1 million (2007)
 Income per person: \$5,770 (yr)

Source: World Development Indicators 2007

USAID IN LEBANON

<http://www.usaid.gov/lb>

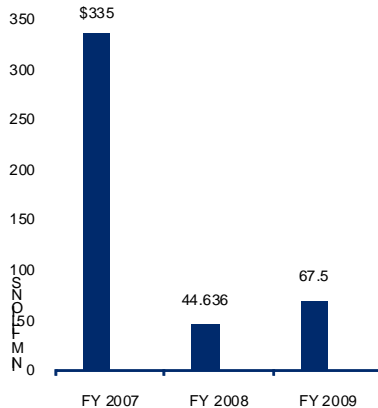


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COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

USAID ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON



Funding Sources: Development Assistance, Economic Support Funds, and PL 480 Title II Food Aid

*\$295 million in Economic Support Funds, appropriated in the FY 2007 Emergency Supplemental budget

For more information, see the FY2007 Congressional Budget Justification <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/>

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science laboratory equipment, and offers extracurricular activities to students. USAID provides scholarship assistance to American educational institutions in Lebanon. A professional training program supports short-term training for select professionals from the public and private sector.

USAID has established a number of wastewater and solid waste treatment plants in Lebanon. To complement these community-based waste management facilities and reduce pollution from the Litani River, USAID has developed designs for seven larger community-based wastewater treatment plants on the Upper Litani river basin. Two facilities have been constructed and two more are under preparation benefiting 50,000 people in the Bekaa Valley. USAID works with the water authorities and establishments in Lebanon to develop new management and analytical tools. The project includes developing business plans, financial cost recovery models, and a financial accounting system. USAID recently completed cleanup of the oil spill along 60 kilometers of coastline in northern Lebanon. In addition, USAID works with the U.S. Forestry Service to address fire risk and management issues for Lebanon's forests and mountains.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

USAID promotes job-creation in agribusiness, information and communications technology, and rural tourism. The program creates links businesses across the value chain. A program to strengthen municipal services transforms rural municipalities in Lebanon into effective agents for change through democratic engagement with the private sector and community. USAID provides assistance to 21 Lebanese communities located in the communities surrounding the Nahr El Bared Palestinian camp, helping to revive economic livelihoods following the fighting that impacted this area. USAID is providing assistance to the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority in support of Lebanon's economic reforms for the privatization of the telecommunications sector. Through Leahy funding, USAID assists landmine and war survivors lead productive lives through a unique cooperative effort in the South of Lebanon. A \$250 million cash transfer program provides funds for repayment of debt based on positive economic reforms in Lebanon.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

As part of its reconstruction efforts, USAID is rebuilding the Mudeirej Bridge. The bridge is a vital link for transport between Beirut and the Bekaa Valley. The bridge should be completed by late October 2009.