



Project funded by the
European Union

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PRESS RELEASE

EU Funded Socio-Economic Development Projects in the Palestine Refugee Camps, implemented by UNRWA with LPDC Support

Within the framework of the project "*Improving the Living Conditions of Palestine Refugees in Lebanon*", funded by the European Union and implemented by UNRWA in collaboration with the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC), over a three-year period, the Agency organised a workshop at the Siblin Training Centre-North campus in Nahr el Bared Camp, to present the progress made on the implementation level in vital areas. The EU funded the project with a €6 million grant.

Attending the workshop were representatives of various agencies, local and international NGOs, Palestinian civil society and Lebanese stakeholders. UNRWA team explained the most important areas of intervention covered by the programme:

- Ensuring the **provision of mental health and psychosocial support services** to Palestine refugees in all the camps by a specialised staff, in parallel to the establishment of a referral mechanism inside and outside the UNRWA health centres, in partnership with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and UNICEF;
- Securing **loans for young Palestine refugees**, through the Microcredit Community Support Programme, to expand self-employment opportunities and business expansion;
- **Improving education, technical and vocational training** to increase employment opportunities and promote social inclusion among young Palestine refugees, as well as setting up recreational and sport clubs for the students of Siblin Training Centre, in addition to the implementation of inter-communal activities to promote understanding and concord between the Palestinian and Lebanese communities in an effort to improve social inclusion;
- **Upgrading environmental health conditions by rehabilitating the infrastructure** in the central and southern sectors of Ein el Hilweh camp at the level of water supply, drainage systems, sewage and roads rehabilitation;
- **Strengthening the participatory mechanisms** to promote local and national engagement and support the decision-making process throughout the duration of the project. This is being carried out in consultation with the Popular and Sector Committees. And community-oriented focus groups are appointed to discuss and follow up on the progress and impact of the project, with a particular attention given to women, youth and persons with disabilities.

The European Union is the main donor to UNRWA. The total support of the EU to UNRWA fund in 2013 amounted to €40 million for projects and emergency calls and €95 million for the General Fund.