



> Economic Development



> Economic Development

Economic growth is one of the most effective tools to fight poverty. High and sustained growth is also necessary to generate needed public resources for social welfare and physical infrastructure, and to encourage investment in law and order. The role of the private sector and small businesses in particular is instrumental for job creation and income growth. The European Union, together with the Government of Lebanon, the private sector and intermediary organisations, support projects that aim at boosting economic growth and development, and improve the living conditions of the Lebanese people.

Programmes:



EU

Support to Reforms III

Budget	€ 8 000 000
Duration of Project	2011-2014
Implementing partners	Administration Office (PAO) at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers
Beneficiaries	Ministry of Finance, Customs Administration, exporters, importers and civil society at large.

Lebanon's accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the required reform efforts it entails are instrumental for boosting competitiveness and reducing the cost of doing business. Lebanon's economic growth and competitiveness are hampered by substantial import, export and transaction costs that are acting as obstacles to trade integration and more efficient markets. Additionally, a key element of the Government's current fiscal reform plans is the establishment of a modern tax system and an administration capable of managing taxes effectively and efficiently. The EU support aims at providing better conditions for growth, facilitating WTO accession through mainstreaming and simplifying customs procedures and improving the government's fiscal position by modernising and developing a more efficient and fair tax collection process.



For this purpose, two «Twinning» programmes were launched: A two-year joint programme with the Italian Customs to assist in modernising the clearance system of their Lebanese counterparts; and a joint tax modernising Programme with the French Ministry of Finance. The latter is complemented by the creation of a Tax Payers' Call Centre for friendlier, customer-oriented service to tax payers. The EU is also providing assistance for the reinforcement and upgrade of the Public Finance Management Systems in Lebanon.

Reinforcement of the Private Sector Competitiveness

Budget	€ 14 000 000
Duration of project	2009–2014
Implementing partners	Ministry of Economy and Trade, Ministry of Industry - Industrial Research Institute, Euro-Lebanese Centre for Industrial Modernisation, Kafalat
Beneficiaries	Lebanese small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and start- ups, young or new entrepreneurs

The private sector's key role in economic growth and prosperity is reflected in its potential to be a main source for job creation. Within its Private Sector Development Programme, the EU looks to bolster a business-enabling environment, enhance investment conditions, and facilitate access to financing instruments. This programme provides support and assistance to Kafalat (a loan guarantee fund initiative) and to the Lebanese Franchise Association and other identified business incubators.

Job Creation Component – Economic and Social Fund for Development (ESDF)

Budget	€ 21 000 000
Financing instrument	
Date of project	2002- on going
Implementing partner	Banks, BDS
Beneficiaries	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)

> Economic Development

The Job Creation unit at the ESFD aims to facilitate access to financing and job creation by providing loans to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) through partner commercial banks. By doing so, the programme engages sustainable activities that will have direct and significant impact on poverty alleviation. Financed projects cover the sectors of agriculture, trade, services and industry, and are distributed across the Lebanese territory. The programme's main partners are:

- Competent Partner Banks acting as intermediaries to channel fine-tuned loan products at preferential conditions. Banks are selected through a tendering procedure on the basis of competence, financial strength, and outreach.
- Business Advisors (BDS) supporting SME owners with little or no experience with financial institutions or credit file preparation. BDSs also offer technical training to ESFD beneficiaries.

Since 2002 the Programme has:

- Provided 8,299 loans
- Created 5,853 new jobs
- Launched 897 new start-ups
- Supported 1,412 female entrepreneurs
- Total Value of loans: 137,650,502,440 LL
- Average No. of jobs per months: 50

Support to the Business Incubator Biat (Business Incubation Association in Tripoli)

Budget	€ 853 000
Financing instrument	ENPI
Date of project	2010 – 2013
Implementing partner	Administration Office (PAO) at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.
Beneficiaries	BIAT, companies, entrepreneurs, start-ups

The BIAT Business Development Centre is a not-for-profit organisation established with the assistance and back up of the Integrated SME Support Programme, an EU-funded project at the Ministry of Economy and Trade of Lebanon. BIAT has played a vital role in the economic recovery of North Lebanon by shouldering enterprises and start-ups with financial, technical promotional, financial, legal and commercial counsel. Between 2010 and 2013, BIAT has helped over 2000 entrepreneurs to launch new initiatives and has administered over 80 seminars and training workshops.



Support to the Business Incubator Southbic (South Business Innovation Centre)

Budget	€ 721 000
Financing instrument	ENPI
Date of project	2011-2014
Implementing partner	Administration Office (PAO) at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers
Beneficiaries	BIAT, companies, entrepreneurs, start-ups

The South Business Innovation Centre (SouthBIC) is a business development centre in South Lebanon providing assistance and expertise to enterprises and start-ups. SouthBIC helps entrepreneurs and businesses in the South to achieve their goals and to enhance their competitiveness through targeted and specialised assistance. It offers incubation services to both start-ups and existing Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and regularly organises exhibitions in its newly established Business Exhibitions Centre.

Support to Kafalat (Guarantee for Loans to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises – SMEs)

Budget	€ 3 000 000
Financing instrument	ENPI
Date of project	2012-2015
Implementing partner	Administration Office (PAO) at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers
Beneficiaries	SMEs and entrepreneurs

Kafalat is a guarantee fund providing loan guarantees to SMEs based on business plans/feasibility studies. It has a key role to play in facilitating access to finance to SMEs. By improving access to finance for SMEs, job creation and entrepreneurial innovation will be enhanced. The guarantee fund specifically targets innovative start-ups or SMEs and aims to stimulate borrowing from the commercial banks in Lebanon. Kafalat targets SMEs and innovative start-ups that belong to one of the following economic sectors:

• Industry • Agriculture • Tourism • Traditional Crafts • High Technology

> Economic Development

Support to QUALEB, the Quality Programme Unit of the Ministry of Economy and Trade

Budget	€ 4 300 000
Financing instrument	ENPI
Date of project	2012-2015
Implementing partner	Administration Office (PAO) at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers
Beneficiaries	Ministry of Economy and Trade; public administrations and private companies

The main objective of the programme is to increase the quality and conformity of Lebanese products and services to international standards. The Qualeb Programme, hosted at the Ministry of Economy and Trade, has helped to improve the major components of the conformity assessment chain, including industrial, agricultural and agro-food products. This aims at reaching a better production and ensuring internationally required standards for more Lebanese export oriented products and services.

Extension and Sustainability of Biat's Support Programs and Services to Face the Impact of the Syrian Crisis on North Lebanon Economy

Budget	€ 600 000
Financing instrument	ENPI
Date of project	2014-2017
Implementing partner	Business Incubation Association in Tripoli, BIAT
Beneficiaries	BIAT, companies, entrepreneurs, start-ups

This action will help start-ups and existing enterprises to create jobs and generate growth in the region of North Lebanon. It promotes entrepreneurship and self-employment as a source of socio-economic development. It's an extension of the BIAT programme and will help the Akkar Satellite Office in its capacity to promote innovation and to support entrepreneurs and would-be entrepreneurs. The programme will make the services of BIAT accessible for vulnerable and deprived individuals, groups, and communities residing in the region of North Lebanon.



Enhancing the Dairy Sector in North Lebanon

Budget	€ 709 679
Financing instrument	ENPI
Date of project	2014-2016
Implementing partner	Rene Moawad Foundation (RMF)
Beneficiaries	Farmers

This project will improve the living conditions of rural populations in North Lebanon who were largely affected by the Syrian displacement and its long-term economic repercussions in order to alleviate extreme rural poverty and to keep the populations in their villages. This objective responds to an acute need for resources and services in the Northern regions, while specifically targeting farmers and agricultural cooperatives that represent a majority of the residents.

Improved Livelihoods for Small-Scale Farmers in Akkar, North Lebanon

Budget	€ 655 867
Financing instrument	ENPI
Date of project	2014-2016
Implementing partner	Mada
Beneficiaries	farmers

This action improves the livelihoods of small scale farmers in Akkar through more efficient and sustainable agricultural practices. The content and design of the training is tailored to respond to the needs and requests of the farmers and delivered in such a way as to engage farmers and encourage participation. Actions taken to provide continuous access to information include the creation of material on sustainable farming practices, which will be made available to farmers, stakeholders, students, and experts. Finally, a new approach is used to empower farmers in the market by working on their relationship with market stakeholders and alleviating the barriers which prevent farmers from playing a stronger role in the market.

> Economic Development

Improved Livelihoods for Underprivileged Women in Northern Lebanon

Budget	€ 868 362
Financing instrument	DCI GENRE
Date of project	December 2012- May 2016
Implementing partner	René Moawad Foundation (RMF)
Beneficiaries	Women's Committees, cooperatives and civil society organisations in the North of Lebanon (Akkar & Dounniyeh)

This project aims at improving social and economic wellbeing of women living in rural underserved areas in North Lebanon. It will contribute to improving women's participation in the economic growth in North Lebanon through empowering them, facilitating their access to existing services and enhancing their understanding of their economic rights.

Reduction of the Impact of the Syrian Crisis on Lebanese Communities and on Syrian Refugees Through the Strengthening of the Association of Cooperatives in Deir El Ahmar (Bekaa Region, Baalbek District)

Budget	€ 224 716
Financing instrument	ENP
Date of project	February 2014 – January 2015
Implementing partner	Institute for University Cooperation (ICU)
Beneficiaries	The Lebanese host communities and the refugees affected by the Syrian crisis

The overall objective of the project is to ameliorate the livelihoods for the vulnerable Lebanese communities and for the refugees affected by the Syrian crisis. The activities are focusing on enhancing the capacity of the Association of Cooperatives of Der El Ahmar which includes 14 cooperatives as well as improving the technical skills of 660 Lebanese and Syrian workers (mainly women) at the Association of Cooperatives.



One of the activities implemented within this project is the construction of a packaging centre which has allowed the association of cooperatives in Deir El Ahmar to increase its capacity for washing, grading, packaging and storage of potatoes, onions and apples. It also contributed to creating job opportunities. The centre will help improving the export capacity of the association both in quantitative and qualitative terms.

Economically Empowering Vulnerable Palestinian Refugees in Risk of Social Exclusion in Lebanon

Budget	€ 650 691
Financing instrument	DCI GENRE
Date of project	December 2012 - June 2015
Implementing partner	CIVES MUNDI
Beneficiaries	Palestinian women in Rashidiyeh, Ein el Helwe and Beddawi camps in Lebanon

The project contributes to the empowerment of Palestinian women refugees. It promotes Palestinian women refugees' equal access and control over economic resources in Rashidieh, Ein el Helwe and Beddawi refugee camps. The project has succeeded so far in turning more than 90 women into skilled artisans who are able to merge the tradition of Palestinian embroidery with modern designs in order to create fashionable products, unique and high quality, that can be sold all over the world through an online store.

> Economic Development

The Social and Economic Advancement of Lebanese Women in Rural Areas, through the Development of Tourism, Hospitality and Micro-Enterprise Networks.

Budget	€ 640 945
Financing instrument	DCI GENRE
Date of project	December 2012- June 2015
Implementing partner	ONAY
Beneficiaries	Young women & women micro-entrepreneurs in rural areas in the Jbeil region.

Young women of North Lebanon's rural areas have been marginalized for many years, due to lack of employment opportunities in the industrial, commercial and agricultural sectors.

This led to a significant exodus, causing a negative impact on their social and economic situations. Emigration reached an even higher rate for young active women, who constitute the social force and labor of the country.

To achieve the development of these communities, the action will focus on the promotion of tourism and hospitality in an area with a strong development potential, due to its environmental characteristics.

The action will push women to acquire skills to enhance their social and economic empowerment.

The project's main objective is to economically and socially empower women through the dynamics of job creation and reduce the migration through the development of hotel tourism.

Specific objectives:

1. Promote appropriate vocational training for women, in the "entrepreneurial" context of rural tourism and hospitality.
2. Encourage the entrepreneurial initiative of women by supporting the creation of micro -enterprises and access to financial instruments.
3. Promote the creation of entrepreneurial networks.



Spain

Creating Professional Opportunities for Young Persons that Dropped Out from School

Budget	€ 375 918
Financing instrument	--
Date of project	2014
Implementing partner	Cives Mundi
Beneficiaries	Lebanese Youth

The opportunities of employment in Lebanon are becoming rarer every day. This important project helps young Lebanese who have dropped out from school in to find a job, build a future and reintegrate into society.



France

[AFD] DAMAN 2

Budget	€ 500 000
Financing instrument	Grant
Date of project	2013 - 2016
Implementing partner	Agriate, ADR – Association for Rural Development
Beneficiaries	Six cooperatives: Borj Qalaway, Froun, Houlla, Qaounine, Rshaf, & Srifa

In coordination with the civil-military cooperation of the French UNIFIL contingent, the project is being implemented in six cooperatives: Borj Qalaway, Froun, Houlla, Qaounine, Rshaf, and Srifa. It aims at providing appropriate responses to the needs of farmers in order to:

1. provide training and technical advice to farmers to improve their technical and cultural practices and their management of mills;
2. modernise the production tools of the six cooperatives through the provision of appropriate equipment (modern presses, small equipment, means of transport);
3. strengthen the governance and capacity of administrative and financial management of cooperatives;
4. Support the development of profitable economic cycles of the olive oil production.

> Economic Development

[AFD] Fair Trade, a Local Development Tool for Rural Communities in Lebanon

Budget	€ 374 067
Financing instrument	Grant
Date of project	2011 - 2014
Implementing partner	Catholic Committee against Hunger and for Development - CCFD, Fair Trade Lebanon - FTL
Beneficiaries	500 producers in the Bekaa, the North and South Lebanon

The overall objective is to contribute to local development in remote rural areas of Lebanon (Bekaa, North, and South Lebanon) and to fight against exodus and emigration of families of small producers through the fair trade lever. 500 small farmers in the Bekaa, North and South Lebanon, grouped in 16 production units (agricultural cooperatives, food processing cooperatives, small family businesses) increase and perpetuate their income through fair trade, thereby enhancing their traditional know-how and their territory.

Gift-Mena Network (Governance Institutes Forum for Training – Middle East and North Africa)

Budget	Allocated by French Partners € 500 000 since January 2011
Financing instrument	French Treasury and the Ministry of Decentralisation and Public Service
Date of project	Network created in 2006
Implementing partner	Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance – Secretariat of GIFT MENA Network and ADETEF (French expertise)
Beneficiaries	Training Schools & Institutes in the MENA region and agents of Public Service in 19 Arab countries



The GIFT-MENA Network, launched in Beirut by the Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance in March 2006, aims at promoting the exchange and cooperation among its members to better support reform programmes and institutional development of countries in the region.

Being an instrument of South-South cooperation, created in the South of Lebanon, the network is managed by southern institutions and currently includes 58 institutional members in 19 Arab countries and 17 associate partners and members, including Arab regional organisations and international organisations.

Developing a quality public action constitutes the essence of GIFT-MENA foundations by focusing in particular on the training of public officials, the exchange of best practices, dialogue, consultation and cooperation.

Based in Beirut at the Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance, which provides the secretariat, the network maintains close ties with France, which has strongly supported the network since its inception through the expertise and engineering of ADETEF, the French financial and economic technical cooperation agency.

GIFT-MENA joins other Euro-Mediterranean projects that emphasise the commitment of the countries in the region to the values of the rule of law, good governance and sustainable development, including the Union for the Mediterranean Union and the Deauville Partnership.

The annual conference network was held in Marrakech from 10 to 12 of February 2015, upon the invitation of the Ministry of Public service and the Modernisation of the Administration of the Kingdom of Morocco.



Support to Municipal Finance Reform in Lebanon for the Improvement of the Local Development

Budget	€ 1 749 000 as grant
Financing instrument	Development Cooperation Instruments (DCI)
Date of project	2011-2015
Implementing partner	Lebanese Government
Beneficiaries	Ministry of Interior and Municipalities

The overall objective of the project is to improve the link between the municipalities and their central administration by addressing the issue of municipal finance for a sustainable improvement of service delivery at local level. The project targets critical reform issues such as the creation of a municipal development fund, the strengthening of the municipal finance framework and the provision of reform-based municipal development grants. As a following phase of the capacity building of local administrators, development grants will be launched on competitive bases.

> Economic Development

Support to Decentralization Process: Local Development Fund

Budget	€ 650 000 as grant
Financing instrument	Development Cooperation Instruments (DCI)
Date of project	2009-2015
Implementing partner	Lebanese Government
Beneficiaries	Ministry of Interior and Municipalities

The project objective is to assist the Lebanese Government, in particular the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, in carrying out a decentralisation process and strengthening legal and technical capacities of the Unions of Municipalities. In particular, technical assistance is provided to create and implement the necessary institutional, legal, technical and dissemination procedures. The project also explores opportunities to create the basis for a multi-donor fund mechanism. Last but not least, local development actions are being formulated and executed in synergy with other donors involved in the local development sector, and with the active participation of the targeted Unions of Municipalities.

Training and Education in the Agricultural Technical Schools in Lebanon

Budget	€ 1 045 122 as grant
Financing instrument	Development Cooperation Instruments
Date of project	2015 - 2017
Implementing partner	NGO AVSI
Beneficiaries	Lebanese Agricultural Technical Schools

The project aims to strengthen the technical and educational skills of teachers and the provision of training in seven agricultural technical schools of Lebanon.



Yalla ya Shabhub: Human Development, Social Innovation and Support Young Entrepreneurs in Jezzine

Budget	€ 785 845 as grant
Financing instrument	Development Cooperation Instruments
Date of project	2015 - 2017
Implementing partner	NGO OXFAM
Beneficiaries	Jezzine Municipality

The initiative concerns the creation of a space on the model of the Impact Hubs in the Jezzine Municipalities. The overall objective is to promote the active participation of young people in Lebanon in the social, economic and political life at the local level so as to trigger innovative and sustainable processes of human development.