

UN-HABITAT signs recovery Cooperation Agreements with three Unions of Municipalities in Southern Lebanon

As part of EURO 500,000 grants provided by CyprusAid, UN-HABITAT has signed in May 2008 special cooperation agreements with the Union of Municipalities of Tyre, Bint Jbeil, and Jabal Amel to provide USD 10,000 for urgently needed community projects in each of 21 towns and villages in their jurisdiction.

Allocation of the grants was agreed with each of the communities. Funded interventions included infrastructure repairs such as roads and pavements, renovations of village squares, public gardens, playgrounds, and also farming infrastructure services.

UN-HABITAT has undertaken a series of recovery projects in Lebanon to respond to the massive destruction caused by July war 2006. The “Good Governance for Enhanced Post-War Reconstruction” Project is a

comprehensive program co-funded by the Dutch, CyprusAid and Finnish governments with a total budget amounting to EUR 1.8 million. Its main goal is to strengthen the capacities of local authorities, the union of municipalities and community representatives to plan, guide, monitor and control the overall reconstruction process of the 21 towns and villages hit in the raids.

Mayors signing Agreement of Cooperation with UN-HABITAT



Launching ceremony gathering Mayors of 21 municipalities.

In This Issue

- UN-HABITAT signs recovery Cooperation Agreements with three Unions of Municipalities in Southern Lebanon 1
- Reconstruction Workshop in Southern Lebanon 2
- Updates on UN-HABITAT Reconstruction Assistance Programme 3
- Cooperation Framework between UN-HABITAT and the Directorate of Geographic Affairs 3
- China is hosting the World Urban Forum forth edition (3 – 7 November 2008) 4

Response to Shelter Crisis: From Recovery to Long Term Development

A National Consultative Meeting



Event organizers with the representative of the Dutch Embassy



Beit Bil Jnoub exhibition booth



Attendants of the consultative meeting.

UN-HABITAT in cooperation with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the Academic Observatory for Construction and Reconstruction in Lebanon (MAJAL) ALBA – University of Balamand organized a national consultative meeting on “**Response to Shelter Crisis: From Recovery to Long Term Development**”.

The meeting, which took place on March 29, 2008 in Tyre – Southern Lebanon aimed to achieve three main objectives:

- Review and assess the overall progress of the housing reconstruction process.
- Draw the lessons learnt from the 18-month reconstruction experience.
- Identify strategic areas of intervention to enhance the reconstruction process in the medium and long terms.

Over 70 participants attended the meeting representing various local, national, Governmental, and international organizations.

The first session of the consultative meeting focused on assessing the response to shelter crisis. A thorough analysis of achievements, gaps and lessons learned were presented and discussed with attendants.

The second session shed the light on key issues and interventions that need to be thoroughly addressed in order to achieve long-term sustainable development. Four main areas of intervention were identified:

- Improving reconstruction standards to conform to the needs of physically handicapped people.
- Enhancing human settlements planning and management.
- Municipal capacity development and improved local governance.
- GIS as tool for effective planning in disaster and post-disaster eras.

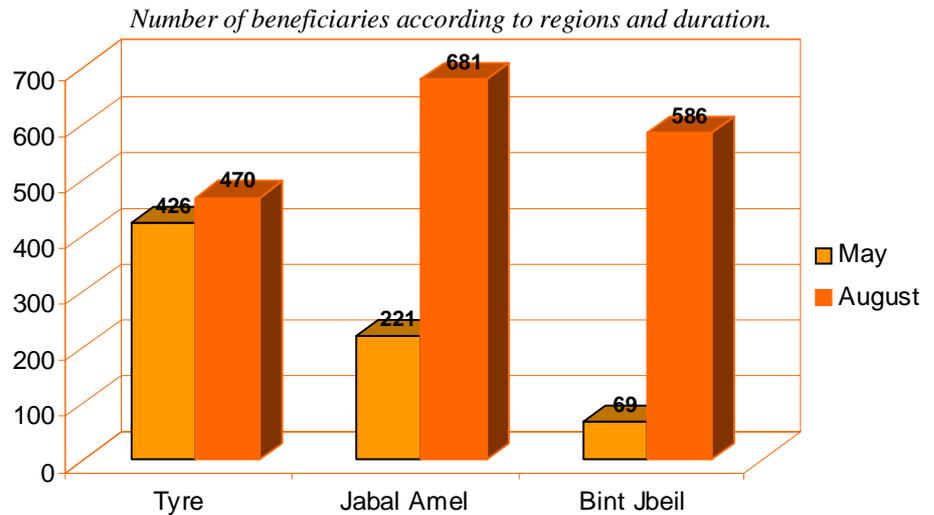
UN-HABITAT will publish in the near future a booklet documenting the entire proceedings of the meeting.

Updates on UN-HABITAT Reconstruction Assistance Programme

UN-HABITAT, in cooperation with ACTED, Beit Bil Jnoub and AUB, is continuing providing housing reconstruction assistance to families affected by July War 2006.

To date, assistance was provided to a total number of 1737 households distributed as follows:

- Jabal Amel Union of Municipalities: 681 households
- Tyre Union of Municipalities: 470 households
- Bint Jbeil Union of Municipalities: 586 households



Cooperation Framework between UN-HABITAT and the Directorate of Geographic Affairs

In light of the common areas of interest of making available accurate and up-to-date geographic data and turning them into good policies and plans, UN-HABITAT and the Directorate of Geographic Affairs (DGA) – Lebanese Army have established a cooperation framework to promote and further develop the nationwide GIS and mapping tools available within the DGA.

As part of UN-HABITAT recovery project in Southern Lebanon, the DGA is providing the needed support to establish Local Urban Observatories in the three unions of municipalities of Tyre, Bint Jbeil and Jabal Amel. This support includes:

- Providing digital GIS layers for 21 villages and towns.
- Assisting with the digitizing of the cadastral data for determined project areas.
- Conducting GIS training sessions to concerned UN-HABITAT partners.
- Assisting in implementing information campaign to promote the use and importance of GIS for improved municipal planning.

Under the cooperation framework, UN-HABITAT co-sponsored the DGA **Fourth Arab Conference for Geographic Names** that took place in Beirut on June 22 – 27, 2008. UN-HABITAT took part in the parallel exhibition event.



Opening session of the Forth Conference for Geographic Names



UN-HABITAT exhibition booth

China is hosting the World Urban Forum Forth Edition (3 – 7 November 2008)

The World Urban Forum (WUF) 4th session will be held in China – Nanjing from 3-7 November 2008. The Forum, which is held every two years, is the world's premier conference on cities. It was established by the United Nations to examine rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies and policies.

The Forum represents a global march in pursuit of a sustainable city. As instruments of governance, this remarkable series of conferences has been primarily political – raising awareness and seeking consensus on how to govern our cities more effectively, and for the good of all.

It shall comprise a series of different gatherings: plenary meetings, dialogues, roundtables, caucus meetings, special sessions, training events, networking events and an array of side events. Networking events give Habitat Agenda Partners a unique opportunity to share their knowledge, experiences and good practices for a better understanding of the challenges posed by rapid urbanization.

Two exhibitions will be held:

- A UN-HABITAT exhibition showcasing best practices and new ideas from cities around the world.
- A private sector exhibition displaying the latest developments and advances in many aspects of everyday city life, ranging from water and sanitation delivery to new construction techniques.

For additional information you can log on www.unhabitat.org/wuf



City of Nanjing



The Nanjing Convention & Exhibition Center

Partners



Union of municipalities of Tyre
 Union of municipalities of Bint Jbeil
 Union of municipalities of Jabal Amel

Donor Agencies



UNHABITAT Offices In Lebanon

- UNHABITAT Beirut Office: UNESCO Building, First Floor, Tel: 01-850013 (ext 111)
- UNHABITAT Tyre Office: Municipality of Tyre Building, Third Floor, Tel: 07-741217