



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

## MEMO

Brussels, 10 September 2015

### **EU provides €15 million for better living conditions and increased economic opportunities in Lebanon**

The EU has adopted a first 2015 package of measures totalling €15 million to assist Lebanon in the implementation of its Mine Action Strategy and to improve housing for the most vulnerable Palestine refugees in the country. It consists of the following two programmes:

- **Supporting Lebanon Inclusive and Sustainable Socio-Economic Development through Mine Action (€10 million):** Through this programme, the EU will continue and deepen its support to Lebanon with a focus on capacity building and institutional support, clearance and land release. This aims to foster inclusive and sustainable development and to support victims, whose rights are not yet guaranteed, and exposed communities.

The programme will be implemented by four NGOs which have been accredited by the Lebanese Mine Action Centre: DanChurchAid (Denmark), Handicap International (France), Mines Advisory Group (United-Kingdom), Norwegian's People Aid (Norway). Additionally, the University of Balamand will address Mine Risk Education and Mine Victims Assistance.

Since 2006, the EU contribution for demining activities has reached €28 million and has achieved significant results in terms of the area cleared and immediately re-used (97% for agriculture), with the resulting positive socio-economic impact for the communities concerned, and in terms of support provided at institutional level and increased security for the population.

- **Improvement of housing of the most vulnerable Palestine refugees in Lebanon (€5 million):** This programme aims to rehabilitate the dilapidated shelters. It will have direct benefits for the well-being of the shelters' inhabitants, providing a positive social impact for highly vulnerable Palestine refugees in Lebanon who are most in need for better housing.

After a very positive evaluation of the previous programmes which rehabilitated 1,286 shelters, this new programme will replicate the "self-help" approach to renovate the housing of around 400 families residing in 11 camps in the country.

### **For more information**

EU Delegation to Lebanon:

[http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lebanon/index\\_en.htm](http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lebanon/index_en.htm)

EU support to Lebanon:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/countries/lebanon/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/countries/lebanon/index_en.htm)

EU Neighbourhood Info Centre: <http://www.enpi-info.eu/>