

ANNEX

Action Fiche

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title	UNRWA Refugee Camp Improvement for Health Infrastructure for Palestine Refugees in Lebanon		
Total cost	€4 million		
Aid Method	Project approach – joint management with an international organisation		
DAC-code	14030	Sector	Water and Sanitation

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Sector Context

In 2006, 404,170 Palestine refugees were registered by UNRWA offices in Lebanon. Under UNRWA's definition, Palestine refugees are persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine between June 1946 and May 1948, and who lost both their homes and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict.

Palestine refugees in Lebanon are denied civil rights, including the right to work and the right to private property. More than half of them live in 12 official camps. The living conditions are extremely difficult: overpopulation, lack of access to quality basic services, unemployment, and poverty. Since 1949, UNRWA has provided Health, Education, Relief and Social services to the registered Palestine refugees and it is responsible for water and sanitation networks within the 12 official camps.

The Lebanese Government has recently shown a new interest in improving living conditions of Palestine refugees. The European Commission has welcomed the "Camp Improvement Initiative" launched by Prime Minister Siniora in May 2006. In her letter dated 3rd July 2006, Mrs Benita Ferrero Waldner has confirmed EC's continuous efforts to support Palestine refugees in Lebanon. In her letter dated 24 January 2007 she has confirmed the EC's support to UNRWA both to the General Fund contribution and for other actions in support of the refugees.

2.2. Lessons learnt

The present project will build on the results of previous Commission support including the water and sanitation project in Gaza and a project in Lebanon which aims to improve water supply in Palestinian camps. These projects have allowed drinking water, sewage and storming water drainage systems to be installed in order to solve the problems of wastewater and flooding. An ex-post evaluation for the latter project will take place from January to March 2007. The recommendations will be taken into account by UNRWA.

2.3. Complementary actions

Since 2002, the EU has provided a support to Palestine refugees in Lebanon through thematic budget lines (co-financing, rehabilitation, food security, ECHO) and very recently through MEDA (€19 million). The sectors covered are water, sanitation, economic development, vocational training, education, health, psychosocial, shelter rehabilitation, food aid, and youth activities. The main beneficiaries are European and Palestinian NGOs as well as UNRWA for specific projects. The European Commission also contributes annually to UNRWA's general fund.

2.4. Donor co-ordination

The Commission has been since 2006 officially part of the UNRWA Advisory Commission, the main body where donor coordination takes place. This structure was expanded and reinvigorated and should play in the coming years a vital role in enhancing the dialogue between the various stakeholders for the final benefit of the refugees.

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The overall objective to which the project will contribute is to improve living conditions of Palestine refugees. The specific objective is to improve the environmental health infrastructure in refugee camps.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The expected result is the rehabilitation of the environmental health infrastructure of the camps. UNRWA will rehabilitate drinking water, sewage and storm water drainage systems in order to solve the problems of wastewater and flooding. UNRWA will also install where necessary water wells within the limit of available funds.

3.3. Stakeholders

The direct beneficiaries of this programme are the Palestine refugees.

3.4. Risks and assumptions

The Project has been designed taking into consideration the following risks:

- The political environment does not deteriorate to an extent that it will affect UNRWA's operations significantly;
- UNRWA allocates necessary resources.

3.5. Crosscutting issues

Environmental considerations will be integrated in the action. Good governance is integrated through the ongoing reforms of UNRWA administration.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Implementation method

The programme will be implemented through joint management through the signature of an agreement with an international organisation. The contracting authority is the European Commission. UNRWA is the implementing agency of the project, with whom the EC will sign a Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA), the standard contribution agreement.

4.2. Procurement and grant award procedures

For agreements with international organisations, all contracts implementing the action must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the international organisation concerned.

4.3. Budget and calendar

The total financial contribution of the EC to the project amounts to €4 million. The implementation of the programme will last 36 months from the date of the signature of the contribution agreement between UNRWA and the EC.

4.4. Performance monitoring

Achievements will be monitored regularly by UNWRA and the results will be reported regularly to the EC. The key indicators will be defined in the contribution agreement.

4.5. Evaluation and audit

The project will have an evaluation that will be directly managed by the EC in agreement with UNRWA. All auditing issues related to this project are governed by the Verification Clause annexed to and forming an integral part of the FAFA.

4.6. Communication and visibility

The European Commission will ensure that adequate communication and visibility is given by UNRWA to the EC funding (press conference, brochures/flyers, media reports, etc.).