



# New Prospects for North Lebanon

Creating job opportunities, developing infrastructure and facilitating dialogue to strengthen social cohesion and improve living conditions

## Lebanon



Project name	Local Development Programme for Urban Areas in North Lebanon (UDP_NL)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implementing organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Cofinanced by	European Union
Project region	North Lebanon
Lead executing agency	Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)
National partners	Municipalities, non-governmental organisations, vocational schools, private training providers, community-based organisations, universities and the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in Tripoli
Duration	October 2017 to December 2021
Volume	28.5 million euros (including an EU cofinancing contribution of 20 million euros)

## Economic and social challenges

Lebanon is one of the smallest countries in the Middle East, with a population of six million. In spite of this, the neighbour of Syria has so far taken in more than one million Syrian refugees. This makes Lebanon the country with the highest number of refugees in proportion to its population worldwide. Particularly in the north, where unemployment and poverty are high, people are feeling the impacts of this population growth. Urban growth continues unchecked, and competition for jobs and income is increasing. The persistent economic and finan-

cial crisis is preventing the country's small and medium-sized enterprises from developing. Young people and women in particular lack prospects for the future due to the shortage of job and training opportunities. People's lives are also worsening due to the lack of recreational facilities and the increasingly dilapidated public infrastructure. These economic and social challenges directly affect social cohesion and increase the potential for violence and conflict.

## A project with twin benefits

On behalf of Germany's *Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)* and the *European Union (EU)*, the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH* is working to improve the lives of both the local population and refugees in North Lebanon. Together with local communities and partners, GIZ is creating prospects. Women and young people are improving the physical and social infrastructure in host communities, and receiving urgently needed income in return. As a result a liveable and vibrant public space is arising that is geared to the needs of the local population. Dilapidated leisure facilities and social centres are being rehabilitated, thus providing people with a place to meet.



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New and rehabilitated sports centres are enabling young people to interact with each other in positive, fun ways. These athletic and cultural encounters are strengthening social cohesion between the different population groups and breaking down prejudice and preconceptions.

Lebanese women and youth are receiving training in which they are taught both technical and entrepreneurial skills. In the long term this will prepare them for the labour market. For instance, some women are learning how to 'upcycle' worn-out clothing into good-as-new products, and receive sewing machines and other tools to turn their new skills into business opportunities. GIZ is supporting local enterprises in producing and marketing their products, and supporting community-based organisations with their offerings for young people.

## Our results

Through the cash-for-work measures 1,200 vulnerable women and youth in five districts of North Lebanon are receiving temporary jobs and income. Labourers are



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involved among other things in fifteen infrastructural measures, where they are gaining practical experience for their future working lives. Both Syrian refugees and the local population are benefiting from these measures.

Some 3,000 participants will receive further vocational training. At least 120 existing and 100 new small and medium-sized enterprises will receive a boost through support measures.

For 5,000 young people sports and cultural events are creating opportunities for social interaction. This is helping to break down prejudice. It is also boosting the self-confidence and self-reliance of the young women and men, and strengthening social cohesion..

## 'I'm proud of the project'

Sanaa Altom, a Lebanese housewife and mother, is proud. Together with other talented women and young people she has beautified Qalamoun, a neighbourhood in Tripoli, with works of art and bright colours. She says: *'I'm really proud to be a part of this project and make my area nicer.'*

In cooperation with the local non-governmental organisation Utopia For Social Justice, Sanaa and her fellow artists spent over two months painting local façades in return for cash. By doing so they not only improved their own lives, but also made the neighbourhood a nicer place for others to live in.



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The project is part of BMZ's 'Tackling the root causes of displacement, (re)integrating refugees' initiative. The supported measures benefit forcibly displaced people and host communities alike. By taking a sustainable approach, the measures mitigate structural causes of displacement in the long term, such as social inequality or a lack of prospects. This project enables the temporary stabilisation of households in North Lebanon.

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