



RAPID REHABILITATION OF KEY MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY



Only a few days after the July war, UNDP launched its recovery efforts in South Lebanon and the Southern suburbs of Beirut. Thanks to its field presence in the South, the subsequent network with local communities and municipalities, and its central collaboration with the Government all obstacles were crossed to reach the communities in record time.

Recovery works starting with rubble removal and other quick impact activities were carried out in close observation of transparency, where activities were prioritized by individual municipality work plans, shared with the communities. Accountability was ensured through the use of UNDP rules and regulations and regular field monitoring, municipal adherence to administrative and financial rules, and steady information flow to all involved stakeholders. European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) was among the first donors to observe and engage with the massive recovery efforts of UNDP and UNDP in turn made sure that the generous donor grants were used in the most efficient manner.



▲ Family with no home in Ayta Al Shaab

How it came about

The Aftermath of the July War 2006

The war that Israel waged on Lebanon in July 2006 caused massive physical destruction of civilian infrastructure and public services and utilities.

The hostilities destroyed or damaged 125,000 housing units, 612 public schools, 97 bridges and several hospitals; claimed nearly 1,200 civilian lives, one-third of them children; injured 5,000 people, 15% of whom were left with permanent disabilities, displaced more than a quarter of the Lebanese population, the bulk of whom immediately returned on the same day that the cessation of hostilities took effect. Yet, more casualties and fatalities have continued even after the cessation of the hostilities as a result of the unexploded cluster munitions that contaminate large swathes of land, particularly in the south, and thus impede the restoration of lives and livelihoods for the hundreds of thousands of displaced families.

The reconstruction costs alone were initially estimated at US \$3.6 billion (now revised downwards to \$2.8 billion). However, the indirect effects of the war on the economy, social indicators, and employment are greater still.



▲ Al Imam Hassan Compound in Beirut Southern Suburb



▲ Bint Jbeil Marketplace

High impact – quick intervention: UNDP initiative

In this context, and as a quick response to the early recovery efforts, UNDP initiated a package of early recovery projects, funded from its own resources and endorsed by the Lebanese Government, making it possible for UNDP to respond with concrete and timely actions within the first week of the declared end of hostilities.

The first UNDP initiative was launched in 101 villages/towns in South Lebanon and four localities in the Southern Suburb of Beirut.

Due to the immense destruction resulting from the

severe bombing on South Lebanon and the Southern Suburb of Beirut, UNDP agreed with local authorities' representatives, heads of municipalities and local stakeholders to prioritize the rubble removal, roads clearance and openings and debris lifting. Activities were prioritized and expediently implemented by municipalities. Field operations for rubble removal, roads openings, quick repairs of the roads (filling in the holes resulted of the bombing) started on August 26, 2006; these were implemented through municipalities for a budget of \$1 million.

Early Recovery Projects: UNDP - European Commission Humanitarian Department (ECHO) initiative

UNDP initial early recovery support to the municipalities in South Lebanon and the Southern Suburb of Beirut has been sustained and boosted through a new partnership with the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) - the General Directorate for Humanitarian Operations at European Commission. In October 2006, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) agreed with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to combine their efforts for the Early Recovery Operations and jointly implement an operation for the **Rapid Rehabilitation of Key Municipal Infrastructure for Local Service Delivery** with a total budget of EURO 1.5 (one million five hundred EURO).

The project tackles the restoration of major damages resulting from the war ravage on 143 communities in South Lebanon and four localities in the Southern Suburb of Beirut, namely Haret Hreik, Borj Al Barajneh,

Chiah and Ghobairy.

Prioritization of the quick repairs to be conducted relied on many criteria out of which public safety, meeting people's priorities and eliminating obstacles to sustainable return, reconstruction and rehabilitation were of highest importance. Priorities were also identified through assessing the needs and surveying the damages caused by the war.

The main methodology followed in the implementation of the Early Recovery High Impact/ Quick Intervention carried out by UNDP under the European Commission Humanitarian Department (ECHO) fund relied on the active participation of the community members and recruitment of local manpower/labours. Major achievements were realized through the utmost cooperation and coordination between UNDP staff at administrative level and field level and the municipalities themselves.

Achievements of European Commission Humanitarian Department (ECHO) - UNDP initiative in South Lebanon:

The “Rapid Rehabilitation of Key Municipal Infrastructure for Local Service Delivery” project aimed at **assisting the victims of the conflict through support of the local municipalities for the restoration of lives and livelihoods.**

The support to local municipalities under this project covers the provision of basic municipal services and activities as follows:

- Rubble removal and lifting of rubble mixed with garbage,
- Restoration of street lamps/poles,
- Clean up of the sewage system, storm water conduits and open drainage conduits
- Rehabilitation of the sewage system, storm water conduits and open drainage conduits,
- Restoration of public buildings and facilities.

Project implementation started early October 2006

and continued until the end of January 2007. This initiative covered 143 municipalities in South Lebanon and four others in the Southern Suburb of Beirut.

According to the monitored progress of the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) - UNDP project activities, achievement of the planned services was accomplished during a period of four months through direct implementation of the sub-projects with local municipalities, considered in this case as the local implementing partners of UNDP and European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO).



▲ Rubble Removal in Nabatieh



▲ Rubble Removal in Qana

Implementation in South Lebanon

143 municipalities in South Lebanon completed urgent basic rehabilitation of infrastructure assets, particularly in the affected areas pertaining to the priorities emerging from the aftermath of the July 2006 war. Areas surrounding residential neighbourhoods, marketplaces, commercial and other vital centres were prioritized and primarily selected for the quick intervention for restoration of infrastructure assets as needed.

The cost of the quick fixes and repairs undertaken in South Lebanon summed up to EURO 1,038,500 distributed as follows (Table 1):

Table 1: Grants distribution to the Southern Kadas

Kada	Amount (Euro)	Granted Municipalities
Bint Jbeil	319,000.00	34
Tyre	276,500.00	38
Marjeyoun	184,000.00	21
Nabatieh	165,000.00	29
Saida	39,500.00	8
Hasbaya	29,000.00	7
Jezzine	25,500.00	6
TOTAL	1,038,500.00	143



127 municipalities in South Lebanon made quick restoration to the Street Lighting System, whereas 49 municipalities rehabilitated public buildings such as the municipalities' premises, nurseries, civil defence and others. Although the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) – UNDP project was implemented after one month and a half from the cessation of hostilities endorsement, rubble removal was maintained in 39 villages in South Lebanon to ensure safe path for the returnees and facilitate the access to housing areas and agricultural lands. The distribution of the municipalities against the rehabilitation activities/services is detailed in the table below:

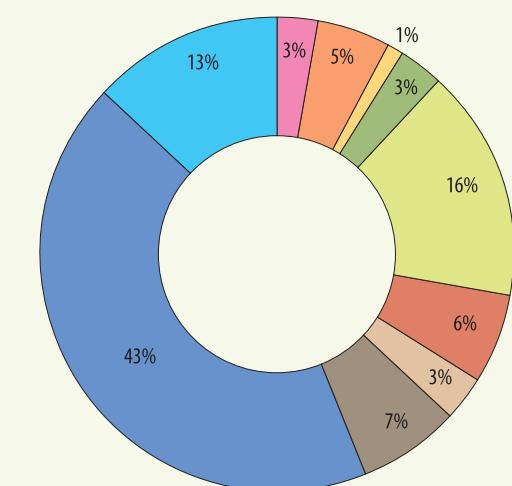
Table 2: Municipalities distribution against activities

Activity	N° of villages per activity
Clean up sewage system	8
Clean up storm water conduits	16
Restoration of open drainage conduits	3
Other	10
Restoration of public buildings	49
Restoration of secondary water network	18
Restoration of sewage system	9
Restoration of storm water conduits	20
Restoration of street lighting	127
Rubble removal	39



The Charts below outline the sectoral fund distribution in South Lebanon as follows:

Figure: Distribution of municipalities across sectors of intervention



- Clean up of sewage system
- Clean up of storm water conduits
- Restoration of open drainage conduits
- Other
- Restoration of public buildings
- Restoration of secondary water network
- Restoration of sewage system
- Restoration of storm water conduits
- Rubble removal
- Restoration of street lighting

Below is a detailed overview of all rehabilitation services conducted under European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) fund implemented by UNDP:

Activity	Unit	Total Unit
Restoration of street lamps	base	85
	pole	491
	lamp	15424
	brass line (m)	66991
	Transformer	742
Restoration of public buildings	Municipalities	27
	Dispensary	6
	Library	1
	Nursery	1
	patching roads (m)	5335
	Retaining wall (m ²)	780
Rubble removal	Site	1165
Restoration of storm water conduits	Canal	6165
	Manhole	465
	Other	350
Repairs of secondary water networks	Canals	2425
	Manhole	12
	Other	710
Clean up of sewage networks	Canals/m	25515
	Manhole	658
	Other	2
Clean up of storm water conduits	Canal	32976
	Manhole	1107
Restoration of sewage networks	Canals/m	5310
	Manhole	615
Restoration open drainage conduits	Canals/m	10
	Manhole	6



◀ Charqieh Store Water Conduits

As for the distribution of funding in each kada according to the implemented activities, results came as follows:

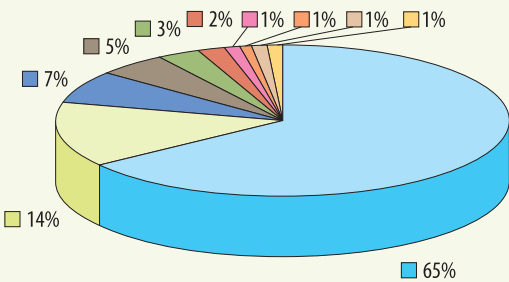
1. The highest percentage, 65% of the funding in **Bint Jbeil** was disbursed on the restoration of Street Lighting while the restoration of public buildings comes second with the use of 14% of the funds.



Fund distribution across sectors of intervention in Bint Jbeil kada.

Bint Jbeil Funding % per activity

- Restoration of street lights
- Restoration of public buildings
- Rubble removal
- Restoration of storm water conduits
- Other
- Restoration of secondary water network
- Clean up of sewage system
- Clean up of storm water conduits
- Restoration of sewage system
- Restoration of open drainage conduits

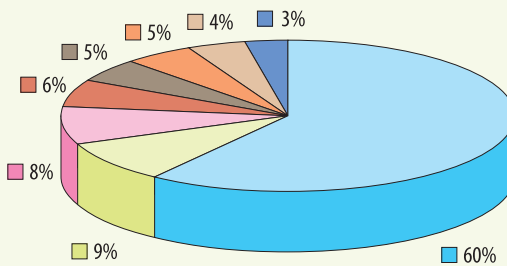


2. Similar to main restoration activities undertaken in Bint Jbeil kada, 60% of the funding in **Tyre kada** was allocated to the repairs of the Street Lighting System while the second priority was the clean up of the sewage system valued of 9% of the funding.

Fund distribution across sectors of intervention in Tyre kada.

Tyre Funding % per activity

- Restoration of street lights
- Restoration of public buildings
- Clean up of sewage system
- Restoration of secondary water network
- Restoration of storm water conduits
- Clean up of storm water conduits
- Restoration of sewage system
- Rubble removal



◀ Kfar Hamam: Rehabilitation of Municipality sewage system.

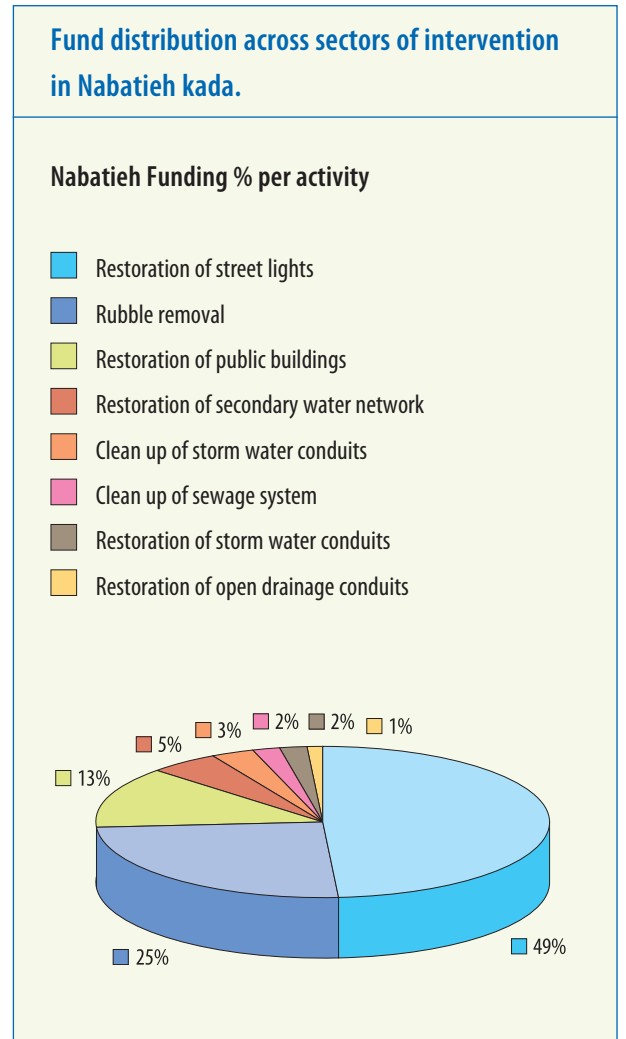
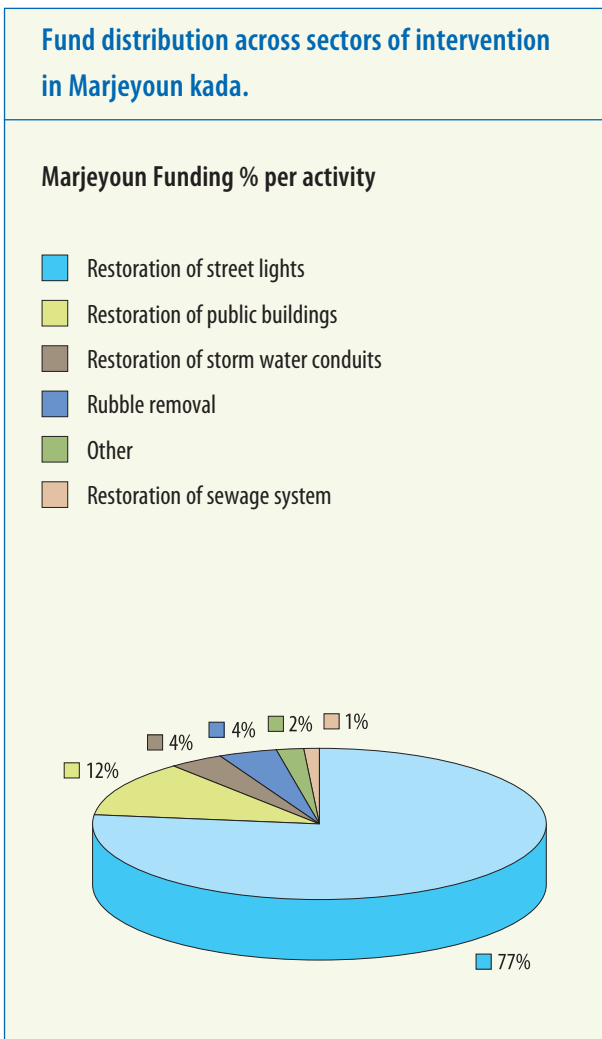


▲ Beni Haiyane: Restoration and rehabilitation of the Municipality premise

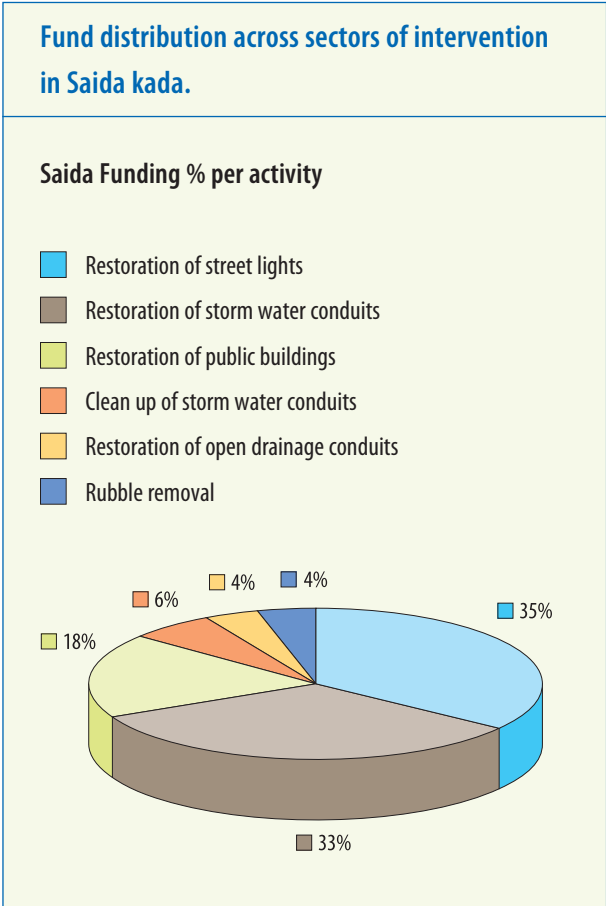


3. The restoration of the Street Lighting was also a priority in **Marjeyoun kada** where 77% of the fund allocated to this kada was disbursed on such activities. Restoration of public buildings came second in the list with 12% of the funding.

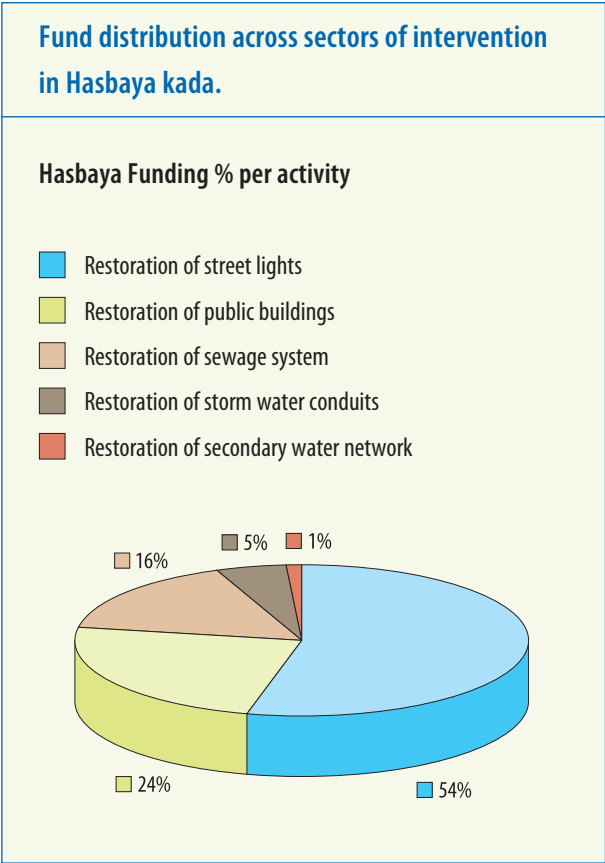
4. Priorities in **Nabatieh kada** have slight changes comparing to other kadas particularly in terms of rubble removal using 25% of the funding allocated to Nabatieh while the main sector of intervention remained the restoration of street lighting covering 49% of the funding. 13% of the fund was used for the restoration of public buildings.



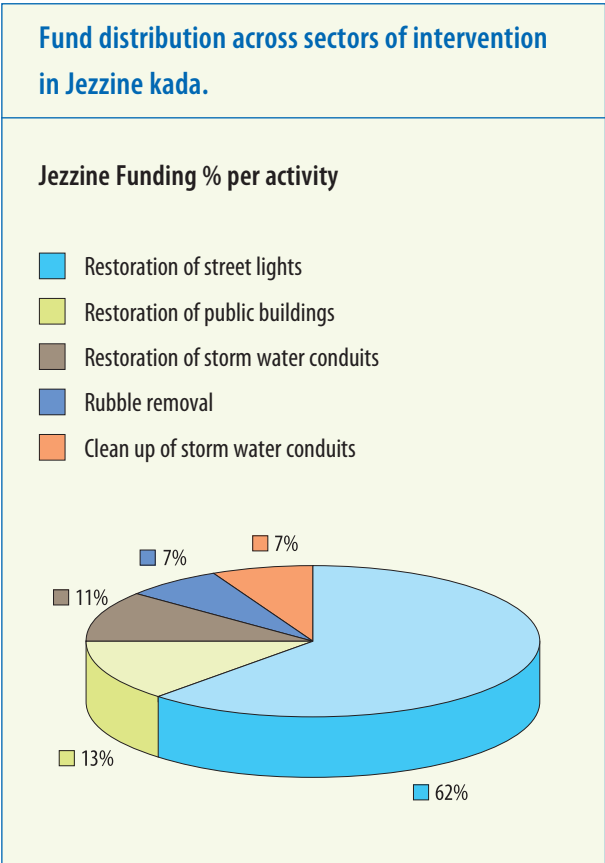
5. Funding was disbursed in **Saida kada** as follows: 35% for the restoration of the Street Lighting, 33% for the restoration of storm water conduits and 18% for the restoration of public buildings and 18% for the restoration of public buildings.



6. 54% of the funding allocated to **Hasbaya kada** was disbursed on the restoration of the Street Lighting, while 24% spent for the restoration of Public Buildings and 16% for the restoration of the sewage system.



7. **Jezzine kada** was the least affected among the seven kadas covered under the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) funding. The majority of the funding (62%) allocated for Jezzine was spent on the restoration of the Street Lighting, while the second priority of funding (13%) was the restoration of public buildings along with 11% spent for the restoration of storm water conduits.



Beirut Southern Suburbs



Part of the capital, Beirut Southern Suburbs (BSS) is located south of Beirut. It is administratively affiliated with governorate of Mount Lebanon. Beirut Southern Suburbs includes Borj Al Barajneh, Bir Al Abed, Haret Hreik, Ghobeiry, Chiah, Hay El Selom, Al-Laylaki and Farhat neighborhood. Al-Ouzai is its sea front.

With the forced migration from the area of Borj Hamoud during the civil war, Beirut Southern Suburbs's population grew sporadically. This went along with migrations from villages in South Lebanon and Bekaa during Israel assaults on Lebanon. The result was an unchecked expansion in all aspects of life. Beirut Southern Suburbs never really had the chance since then for real planning, neither in terms of physical infrastructure nor in terms of social and economic frameworks.

Impact of the July 2006 War on Beirut Southern Suburbs

Beirut Southern Suburbs had been a primary target of Israeli air strikes during the recent 33-day war on Lebanon. Although four areas in Beirut Southern Suburbs were targeted (Haret hreik, Borj Al-Barajneh, Chiah and Ghobeiry), Haret Hreik sustained the greatest amount of damages. Out of the 262 totally destroyed buildings, 232 were in Haret Hreik. On average, each destroyed building contained 20 housing units for a total of 5,240 housing units. More than 8,000 other housing units were damaged or partially demolished. Causing tremendous losses of livelihoods, the July 2006 war further aggravated poverty. More than 55.47% of economic losses incurred on Lebanon were in Beirut Southern Suburbs. The area sustained a total of 3,459 destroyed businesses, representing 36% of the total number of destroyed businesses across the coun-

try. Further, 80.6% of these losses were valued below \$50,000, indicating that the majority of destroyed businesses in Beirut Southern Suburbs fell into the micro and small categories.



▲ Destruction in Maawad Area

UNDP-European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) Early Recovery Support to Beirut Southern Suburbs:

UNDP initial early recovery support to the municipalities of Beirut Southern Suburbs has been sustained and boosted through the new partnership with the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO). This is mainly to support the efforts of the four most war affected municipalities. With a total budget of **Euro 270,000** (Two hundred and seventy thousand EURO), the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) grant supported the implementation of quick high-impact early recovery initiatives in the four areas of BSS. In addition to the removal of rubble, the grant allowed municipalities to repair roads and public buildings, to restore basic services such as street lighting, to clean up sewage systems and storm water conduits and to procure machinery.

Allocation of Grants: The allocation of the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) 270,000 Euro grant was directly proportional to the scope of damages sustained in the respective four municipal areas.

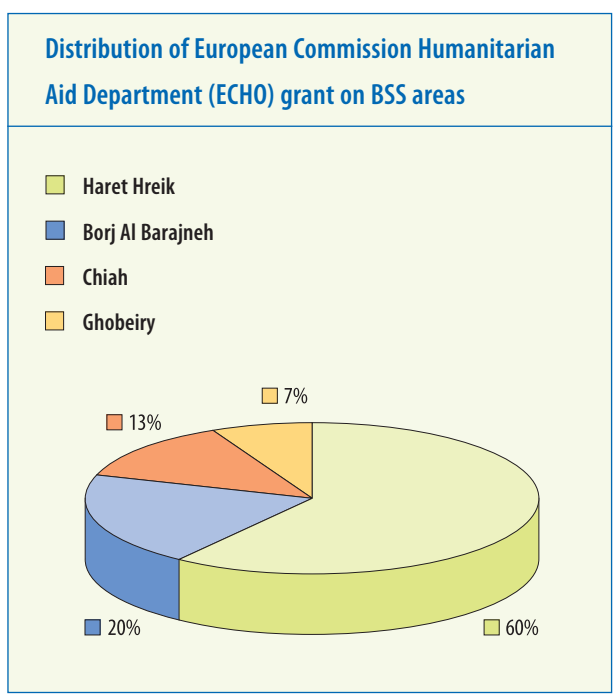
Haret Hreik	Euro 165.000
Borj Al Barajneh	Euro 50.000
Chiah	Euro 35.000
Ghobeiry	Euro 20.000



▲ Maawad Area. Deryan Street



▲ Haret Hreik. Next to Al Manar TV

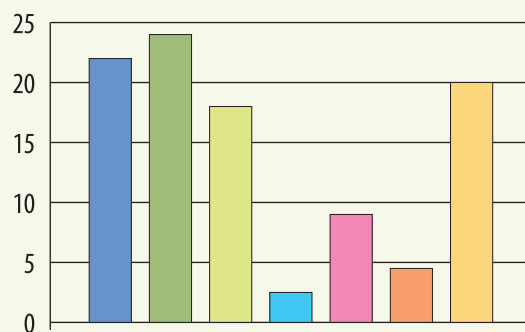
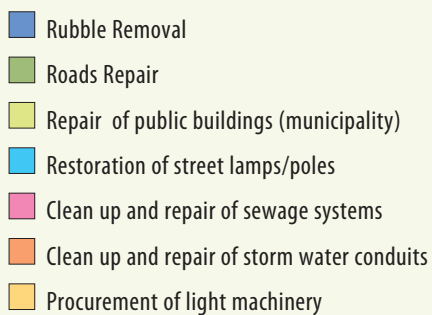


Works undertaken by each municipality: The table below shows the series of works carried out by each municipality across seven sectors agreed in close collaboration with UNDP field officers:

Works Undertaken across Sectors	Borj Al Barajneh Municipality	Chiah Municipality	Haret Hreik Municipality	Ghobeiry Municipality
Rubble Removal	✓	✓	✓	✓
Roads Repair	✓	✓	✓	
Repair of public buildings (municipality)			✓	✓
Restoration of street lamps/poles		✓		
Clean up and repair of sewage systems	✓	✓	✓	
Clean up and repair of storm water conduits	✓			
Procurement of light machinery (pick-ups & bobcat)			✓	

Procurement of machinery was planned only for Haret Hreik municipality. This is in view of the heavy damage and destruction sustained in Haret Hreik and the heavy financial burden of renting equipment for the continuous rubble removal resulting from the ongoing cleanup and rehabilitation works.

Distribution of European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) grant across Sectors in BSS



Monitoring was key... UNDP field staff visit the supported municipalities on a daily basis to ensure effectiveness and timely delivery of works. Close planning and monitoring is undertaken by UNDP to ensure adherence with planned works. Prioritization is done by local stakeholders, led by municipalities.

◀ Repair of Water Conduits in Borj Al Barajneh

Testimonies - Stories from the field



Adshit – Nabatieh Kada

Hassan Mohamad Saleh, known as Hajj Abou Nazih, 56 year old, is a farmer residing in Adshit.

During July war, he moved to Saida because Adshit was constantly and highly bombarded. He stayed in Saida with his family. On the 13th of August 2006, immediately after cease fire he returned to his village, his house was affected like most of the village's houses, except that it was severely contaminated with cluster bombs littered on the roof and in the surroundings. Despite the danger, he refused to search for a safer residence and preferred to stay home.

This winter and due to the massive destruction in the water infrastructure, Hajj Abou Nazih's house flooded with rain water. The road leading to his house and to 75 other houses used to sink in water. The water flood invaded Hajj Abou Nazih's house and woke up his family in the middle of rainy nights and force them to clean it up.

"Now my wife, daughter and I can sleep deeply at night without being afraid of waking up flooded with water. Even our neighbors can now walk to their houses and rain water is no longer a threat to them or to us. All of this is due to the UNDP quick intervention in our village where storm water conduits were restored", stated Abu Nazih.



Alma Al Chaab –Tyre kadaa

Mr. Nicolas M. Farah, 41 years old, is the mayor of Alma Al Chaab.

“During this last war (July 12,2006), I remained in the village until July 27, 2006 helping the families with food distribution, securing a safe place for the children and ensuring their evacuation to safer villages or to Beirut”, stated Mr. Farah.

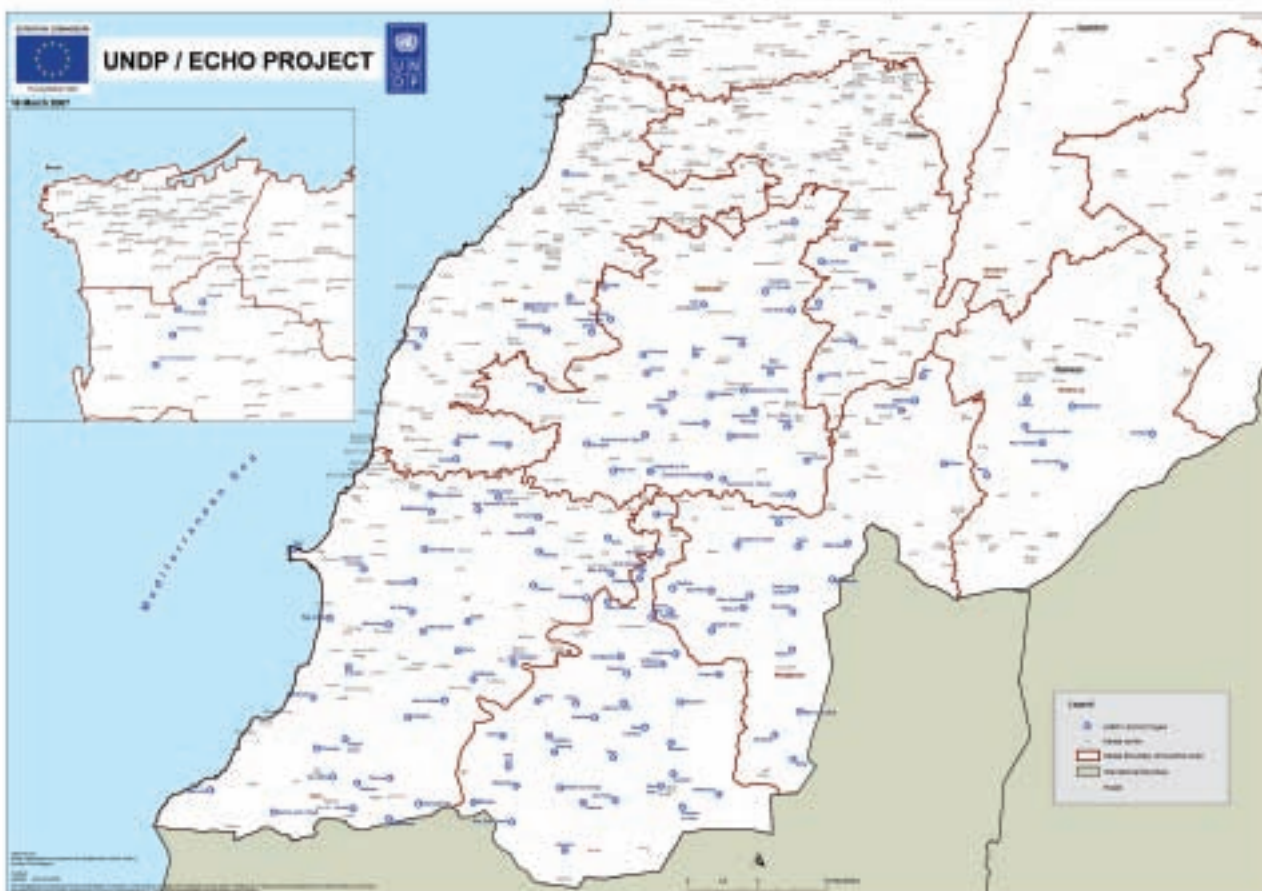
*“Our village was damaged during the last war but for sure less than other neighbouring villages, however, UNDP was always the prime supporter for us; **it was here when we needed them.** Many organizations visited the village and promised to help us, only UNDP acted so quickly and implemented its intervention as of the cessation of hostilities. We were impressed by its integrity, honesty, transparency and legitimacy and most importantly by its **UNIQUE** method of work avoiding the usual long time boring routines of management and control”, expressed Mr. Farah who seems also to appreciate the monitoring system set by UNDP. “UNDP’s capacity of constant supervision, follow up and technical assistance will refrain any wasting of resources and funding”, stated Mr.Farah.*

“Moreover, I believe that the direct coordination with local authorities in the villages and the long experience of the UNDP field officers and their knowledge of the area and its needs is the reason of effectiveness and approaching the project’s goal.”

At the end, Mr. Farah re-stressed on the importance of media coverage of UNDP – European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) projects in all villages because *“the grants allocated to the villages through UNDP and European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) interventions are higher than any other funds and particularly meet the needs and requirements of the population in the villages.”*

UNDP ongoing efforts - European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) promising support

- For more than seven years, UNDP has been operational in South Lebanon supporting the Socio-Economic Rehabilitation in the area and facilitating the developmental progress towards creating an enabling socio-economic environment and mobilizing local resources conducive to job creation and reintegration of vulnerable groups.
- For the Recovery Phase, UNDP led coordination for early recovery, both centrally and in the different regions.
- European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) has funded many recovery initiatives in Lebanon through partnership with UN agencies and international NGOs. Furthermore, European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) and UNDP will proceed with the joint venture in implementing new recovery projects particularly under the Restoration of Lives and Livelihoods and the Coordination sectors.





The Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission funds relief operation for victims of natural disasters and conflicts outside the European Union. Aid is channelled impartially, straight to victims, regardless of their race, religion and political beliefs.



UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

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