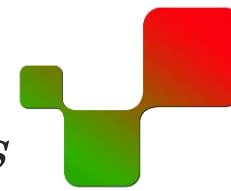
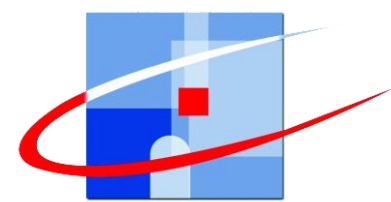


United Cities of Lebanon/ Technical Office of Lebanese Municipalities



UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
CITÉS ET GOUVERNEMENTS LOCAUX UNIS
CIUDADES Y GOBIERNOS LOCALES UNIDOS
منظمة المدن والحكومات المحلية المتحدة



BUREAU TECHNIQUE DES VILLES LIBANAISES
المكتب التقني للبلديات اللبنانية

- **The United Cities of Lebanon/ Technical Office of Lebanese Municipalities** manages the network of Lebanese cities that are members of the world organization “**United Cities and Local Governments**” (UCLG). The mission of UCLG is to be the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through cooperation between local governments, and within the wider international community.
- **The Technical Office of Lebanese Municipalities** was founded in 2001. It is in charge of providing technical and institutional support for municipalities to develop and implement their development projects and expand their international ties.
- The United Cities of Lebanon/ Technical Office of Lebanese Municipalities also manages **the Lebanese Mayors’ Committee** founded in 1995 and elected by the Lebanese Municipalities and Unions of Municipalities that are members of UCLG.

- ✓ 1995 election of the first Lebanese Mayors' committee
- ✓ 1997 the "World Federation of United cities" (FMCU) Lebanon office is established
- ✓ 2001 the technical office of Lebanese Municipalities is established
- ✓ 2004 the FMCU becomes united cities and local governments (UCLG)
- ✓ 2015 united cities of Lebanon is established
- ✓ UCLG has 72 Member municipalities and municipal unions in Lebanon
- ✓ Representing 75% of the Lebanese population



Challenges



- ❑ Raising awareness and advocating for the active role of local actors in order to recognize and address their own internal problems (of leadership and capacity) which prevent them from claiming and performing their potential developmental role
- ❑ Articulating that collective *voice* and making it heard by government, civil society and donors
- ❑ Finding multiple sources of financing to reinforce the capacities of municipalities, and how to adapt and cope to the different work methodologies of donors & Institutions in order to ensure an effective decentralization.

Approaches



- Developing and advocating a “Local Development through Local Governments” (LDLG) approach
- Advocating and sustaining the momentum of decentralization reforms
- Raising the awareness, and developing the capacities
- Partnering with aid agencies (decentralized cooperation, where technical (and in some cases financial) assistance has been secured



The National Program of Support to Lebanese Municipalities

- In response to the Minister of Interior and Municipalities' request to the Lebanese Mayors' Committee
- Methodology designed on a participatory approach by United Cities of Lebanon/Technical Office of Lebanese Municipalities with Lebanese local authorities, with local authorities and State representatives and with Lebanese stakeholders (local and national) and donors.
- Objectives of the program:
 - Strengthening the recognition of municipalities in Lebanon
 - Strengthening the Lebanese municipal institution
- Implementation of activities to achieve these objectives through:
 - National targeted thematic projects identified by the program stakeholders as priority issues, including: sanitation, heritage promotion, training of local public actors, metropolization, waste management...
 - Bilateral or collaborative pilot projects through decentralized cooperation



Lessons Learned



- *Central government commitment is a precondition for effective support*
- *One Size Never Fits All*
- *Approaching comprehensive sustainability*
- *Without Sustained Funding the LGA Objectives Cannot Be Attained*
- *There is a need for long-term support - Single Donor Funding Can Restrict Or Even Undermine*

Questions

- What should the LG Associations do, to develop a better understanding of Local Development among its members and place its promotion at the center of their action?
- How could the Associations of Local Authorities help link the promotion of Local Development by Local Governments with the pursuit of national and global goals like the SDGs?
- How to enhance the role and importance of national Association of Local Authorities with government institutions, mayors and elected municipal officials?