UAE Aid News

Red Crescent distributes aid to a thousand families in Lebanon

Emirates Red Crescent has continued the implementation of the second phase of the Tarahamou campaign for the relief of Syrian and Palestina families affected by the harsh blizzards in Lebanon. Relief items including clothes, blankets, and medicine were distributed among the families. (Al Ittihad, 30 March 2015)

Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan School in Kenya named best in Mombasa and Coast Province

The Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Secondary and Technical School has been chosen as the best school in Mombasa and the Coast Province among 4,000 other schools of the current academic year, according to a rating issued by Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs. (WAM, 22 March 2015)

Khalifa Foundation distributes aid to over 30,000 families in flood-stricken Malawi

The Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation has distributed aid to 32,000 underprivileged families on the outskirts of the Malawian capital, Lilongwe, as part of an emergency food and medical aid project targeting around 650,000 people affected by the floods that recently swept the African nation. (WAM, 19 March 2015)

Red Crescent offers AED1.2 million aid to flood-hit Albanian families

The Emirates Red Crescent has offered AED 1.2 million worth of relief materials to 2,000 Albanian families affected by floods triggered by heavy rains across four districts in Albania. (WAM, 17 March 2015)

UAE sends urgent humanitarian assistance to the Pacific Islands hit by Cyclone Pam

President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan has ordered USD 1.2 million to be made available for emergency relief efforts, immediately; to the affected islands of the South Pacific as a result of the tropical Cyclone Pam. Thousands of people have been affected by the worst tropical cyclone in over a decade. (WAM, 19 March 2015)

Dar Al Ber donates AED 2 million to Syrian refugees

The Dar Al Ber Society has continued its urgent relief aid to the Syrian refugees affected by the winter in Lebanon donating a total amount of AED 2.1 million in January and February as part of the Tarahamu campaign. (WAM, 4 March 2015)

Dar Al Ber donates AED 2 million to Syrian refugees. (Source: WAM)

UAE to offer extra AED367 million in humanitarian aid for Syria

The UAE has announced to provide an additional AED367 million in aid to support the humanitarian relief in response to the crisis in Syria.

The announcement was made by Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid Al Qasimi, Minister of International Cooperation and Development and Head of the UAE Committee for the Coordination of Humanitarian Foreign Aid, in her statement during the Third Pledging Conference for Syrian People, which opened in Kuwait with the participation of representatives of countries and organisations supporting the humanitarian situation in Syria.

Sheikha Lubna indicated the key role played by the UAE in the International Humanitarian Challenges to support the Syrian refugees inside Syria and the Syrian refugees in the neighbouring countries. The UAE humanitarian assistance to the affected Syrians from 2012 till the end of 2014 stood at over AED1.4 billion (US$365 million).

Sheikha Lubna said that in the framework of its response to support the affected Syrians and under the umbrella of the Third Pledging Conference for Syrian People, the country announces provision of an extra support for 2015 to the tune of US$100 million in the light of the country’s efforts to strive to provide better living standard for the suffering Syrians.
Currently, the world is reducing under-five mortality faster than at any other time during the past two decades. The global rate of under-five mortality in 2012 was almost half of its 1990 rate, dropping from 90 to 48 deaths per thousand live births. The estimated number of under-five deaths fell from about 12.6 million to 6.6 million over the same period: about 17,000 fewer children died each day in 2012 than in 1990 from diseases such as diarrhea, malnutrition, pneumonia, AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis.

However, the MDG 4 on child mortality is one of the goals lagging farthest behind: more than half of all countries are not on track to reduce the under-5 death rate by two-thirds by 2015, and less than one third of IDA countries will meet the goal. Regions such as Oceania, sub-Saharan Africa, Caucasus and Central Asia, and Southern Asia still fall short of the 2015 target and it will take until 2028 to reach Goal 4 globally at the current rate.

Nearly three million deaths occurred during the first 28 days of life (0–27 days)—the neonatal period. Many under-five deaths occur in children already weakened by undernutrition—a contributing factor in around half of global under-five deaths, mainly in low-income countries where malnutrition and infectious diseases are highly concentrated, predominantly among the poor.

It is critical to reduce the number of child deaths in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia Countries at all income levels have been getting steadily better at saving children’s lives and since 1995 the annual rate of reduction in the under-five mortality rate has accelerated. There have been notable reductions in the under-five mortality rate since 1990 and particularly since 2000 in some low-income countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Eritrea. As new analysis has suggested a comprehensive drop in under-five mortality rates among the poorest households in all regions.

Read the full article on MICAD’s website on www.micad.gov.ae

Domestic Private Financing and the SDGs

Development efforts to eliminate poverty extend far beyond the two traditional means of financing, namely: i) having the domestic government allocate public funds to support its own development agenda, and ii) foreign donor governments, usually from developed economies, providing assistance to developing countries. Financing from non-government sources, or private financing, have also become increasingly significant.

In the context of this report, private financing is referred to as those funds, or direct or indirect assistance towards eradication of poverty; economic growth; achieving social impact or sustainable development from non-government sources, or those that are not considered as ‘official public funding’, regardless of its primary purpose, that is, whether it is aimed at seeking commercial returns or not. Domestic private finance in this report therefore means those ‘private financing’ resources from within the country and whose development-related activities are in-country oriented.

To understand the role of the private sector in helping achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is fundamental to know who these ‘actors’ are. Recognizing that the private sector includes a wide range of diverse actors would allow for better mapping of their capacity and role, as well as their unique requirements to deliver “expected contributions” towards the three dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic, and environmental.

Into the future: The role of domestic private finance: Addis Ababa Document on Financing for Sustainable Development (post 2015 agenda)

The Addis Ababa document is set to be finalized and adopted by governments, and global development community representatives and leaders by July 2015 at the 3rd International Conference in Financing for Sustainable Development in Ethiopia.

Replacing the Monterrey Consensus, the outcome document, developed through an intergovernmental negotiations platform, will be the main framework to ensure the implementation of SDGs, through financial and non-financial resources, and involving all development actors, as well as both public and private.

The Monterrey Consensus looked at the contributions and roles of the private sector in development, with domestic private and international private financing mostly combined. Whether or not the post 2015 financing the SDGs framework would take the same approach, one thing will be left as is: the private sector will play a pivotal and very important role in order to achieve the SDGs. Full report is printed separately and is also available on MICAD’s website.

MICAD participates in peer review sessions

A delegation from MICAD participated in reviewing peers sessions for the German humanitarian and development aid in Berlin from 2-6 February and in Kenya from 2-6 March.

This participation helps reviewing the adopted evaluation and monitoring systems, structures and planning, development and humanitarian aid systems and evaluate their impact, including cooperation with partner countries receiving aid. Countries such as Canada, Japan and representatives of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) participated in the sessions.