



# LPDC NEWSLETTER

LEBANESE PALESTINIAN DIALOGUE COMMITTEE

## Building on Partnerships with the International Community



*"This government will bear its responsibilities towards the Palestinians living in Lebanon ... We will do, as government and as parliament, what needs to be done. But the international community has to also bear the responsibility that those Palestinians will have the right to go back to their homeland and to the state of Palestine, with Jerusalem as its capital. ... This conflict cannot continue to the end of time, because all of us in this region will pay the price and all of you around the world will pay the price."*

*Prime Minister Saad Hariri*

*Excerpt from a speech delivered in Beirut, June 29, 2010*

### Partners



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*Ambassadors and diplomats attending the donor countries meeting at the Grand Serail*

### LPDC Presents its 2011-2012 Work Plan to Donor Countries Representatives

**November 8, 2010** - The first Donor Countries meeting was held at the Grand Serail upon the invitation of LPDC president Maya Majzoub to present the 2011-2012 Work Plan as defined in the new LPDC project document, update partners on the results of the consultations, contacts, activities and steps adopted during the past few months and lay the bases and pillars for future cooperation on various levels as well as answer any query or concern. The meeting was attended by UNDP Resident Representative Marta Ruedas, UNRWA Deputy Director Robert Hurt and a crowd of ambassadors and high ranked diplomats.

At the onset, LPDC president welcomed the participants and stressed that the ratified Master Plan underlines the Government's policy and commitment towards the Palestinian refugees since 2005, as it reflects LPDC's vision with regard to Lebanese-Palestinian relations. It also outlines very specific objectives and activities that will support LPDC action and lead to concrete results on the level of improving the living conditions of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

The meeting aimed at securing the needed resources to implement the projects and actions outlined in the LPDC Work Plan. It highlights the international community's commitment and responsibility, in partnership with the Lebanese government and the embassy of Palestine, in boosting Lebanese Palestinian dialogue and improving the living conditions of Palestinian refugees inside and outside the camps on the Lebanese territory.



# Taking Actions

Issue 4  
November 2010

## NBC Working Group members

Col. Suheil Khouriyeh (Army)  
Lt Col Wajdi Chamseddine (Army)  
Salvatore Lombardo (UNRWA)  
First Lt Shawkat Jomaa (ISF)  
First Lt Shadi Hanna (ISF)  
Dr Sateh Arnaout (RRC)  
Marwan Abdel Aal (NBC Follow up Committee)

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*Support from the Government of Lebanon  
Commitment towards the Palestinian refugees  
Partnership with the international community  
Cooperation with stakeholders*

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## LPDC Inter Ministerial Committee members

Judge Pierre Francis (Justice)  
Col. Souheil Khourieh (Defense)  
Dr Iman Khaz'al (Labor)  
Rabih Narech (Foreign Affairs)  
First Lt. Shawkat Jomaa (Interior)  
Hassan Hteit (Health)  
Shadi Hanna (General Security)

## NBC Working Group: Security issues topping the agenda



LPDC hosts the "Working Group" Preliminary Meeting" at the Grand Serail

**November 3, 2010** - The LPDC Working Group (subcommittee for Nahr el Bared) held its first meeting to set up a list of priorities and agree on cooperation mechanisms, especially with regard to emerging issues in light of the complex situation on the ground and the upcoming return of the first group of families, with the conclusion of the reconstruction works in Package 1. The participants agreed on holding regular

meetings in order to discuss and solve the problems hindering the progress of works and the return of NBC residents. The main topics of the discussion were: funding, access permits, camp governance, economic situation and other long term issues. The next meetings will focus on setting a list of priorities and seeking to yield positive results by the joined efforts of all WG members.



**LPDC Inter ministerial committee monthly meetings: September 22, 2010:-** the inter ministerial committee held its monthly meeting to discuss the major developments and set coordination mechanisms. It reviewed the joint projects implemented with the member ministries and submitted suggestions to move the cooperation forward in various areas and remove any impediments hindering the implementation process.

## LPDC-Lebanese Army Joint Communication Strategy



**September 24, 2010** — LPDC and Lebanese Army Communication officers met to discuss and set up their communication plan for the necessary steps to adopt in next phase, which will be marked by the return of the first group of NBC residents. They agreed on the need to initiate an awareness campaign to inform the returning residents about the administrative procedures in a clear and simple way.



# Working in Concert

Issue 4  
November 2010

## “Undocumented Palestinian Refugees: a Regional Plight” *Regional conference*



**October 6-7, 2010 -American University of Beirut (AUB):** Frontiers Ruwad Association and Aidoun Refugee Rights Center held a joint two-day conference at AUB under the LPDC patronage and the active support of the Spanish Ministry of Exterior Affairs and Cooperation” and “Solidaridad Internacional”. The conference sought to initiate dialogue and engage the countries directly concerned with the issue. It highlighted the legal and policy gaps and the related policy development in order to come up with a reasonable, comprehensive and sustainable solution. It was attended by representatives of concerned Arab countries (Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Palestinian authority and Lebanon), of the Arab League, UNRWA and UNHCR, as well as MPs from the committees of Human Rights and of Administration and Justice and representatives of the embassies of Palestine, Iraq, EU and relevant NGOs activists and regional, international and independent experts. A regional approach seems to be required for a sustainable legal solution.



**UNRWA-ADCOM preliminary meeting / Jordan**  
**October 20, 2010:** Amman- LPDC president took part to the "UNRWA Advisory Commission" preliminary meeting in Amman, aimed at preparing the agenda of the upcoming gathering of donor and host countries and discussing means to overcome the UNRWA crisis.

**UNRWA-ADCOM official meeting / Jordan**  
**October 29, 2010:** Amman: During the "UNRWA Advisory Commission" official meeting held in Amman, participants examined the elements of the UNRWA resources crisis and after thorough discussions, they outlined potential solutions and follow ups.

## “From Relief to Human Development: UNRWA and Palestinian Refugees after 60 Years” *International conference*

**October 8-9, 2010- American University of Beirut (AUB):** The two-day conference organized by UNRWA and the AUB’s Issam Fares Center brought together regional and international experts; it focused on examining the role of the UN agency. The shared responsibility between UNRWA, popular committees, religious authorities, competing political factions, and host governments causes uncertainty over how the camps - and the services within them - should be administered. Moreover, concerns that pursuing social policies may lead to permanent settlement has for decades prevented the establishment of a solid framework for governance. The growing challenges of reduced funding and a rising population has increasingly shown that UNRWA alone cannot adopt the wide-ranging role requested by most Palestinian representatives. Seeking a better managed relationship between the various power centers is the only viable alternative, delegates heard. Addressing the audience, LPDC president stressed the need to support the UNRWA and the PLO as strategic partners in boosting recovery and relief projects as well as the programs placed under the Camp Improvement Initiative (CII) umbrella.





# Visiting the Field

Issue 4  
November 2010

## 2011 JNSJGHJ

*“The 2011 work plan, stemming from past achievements and lessons learned, will seek to face the many challenges and develop a pragmatic vision to progress on many paths: governance, rights, recovery, reconstruction, and communication, boosting conflict prevention and peace building.”*

*Me. Maya Majzoub*



*“People... who need people are the luckiest people in the world”*

*B.S. from the album: “People”*

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**We have a website**  
[www.lpdc.gov.lb](http://www.lpdc.gov.lb)



### Nahr el Bared Camp Access Permits roundtable: LPDC/PHRO

**September 29, 2010**—The Palestinian Human Rights Organization (PHRO) and LPDC held a joint roundtable titled “The Nar el Bared Access Permits Procedure”, at the PHRO headquarters in NBC. On the panel were Edward Kattoura, PLO representative; Ghasan Abdallah, head of PHRO; Me Maya Majzoub, LPDC president and representatives from the camp’s popular committees and NBC residents.

The discussion dealt with four main topics: the grounds for the access permits system, the issuance procedures, the impact of these procedures on the camp’s residents and workers and on the economic cycle. The discussion was concluded by a list of recommendations aiming at alleviating the military regime in order to transfer the area to civil governance.



### Nahr el Bared/Beddawi/Tripoli Popular Committees meeting with LPDC delegation

**September 6, 2010**— Representatives from the NBC and Beddawi camps and Tripoli popular committees met with the LPDC delegation headed by Me Maya Majzoub to present an overview of the situation on the ground and confer about the urgent issues faced by the Palestinian refugees.

### NBC Iftar with popular committees and donors representatives

LPDC delegation headed by Me Maya Majzoub shared a Ramadan Iftar, followed by a discussion about the camps situation, with the North popular committees representatives at the PHRO center in NBC. The event was also attended by US embassy diplomats and NGOs.



## Inside this issue

Meeting : Donor countries	1
Meeting: NBC Working Group meet-	2
Meeting: Inter ministerial committee LPDC-Army Communication officers	
International Conference: Undocu-mented Palestinian Refugees	3
Regional conference: UNRWA after 60 years: from relief to development	
Nahr el Bared roundtable: Access permits	4
NBC, Beddawi and Tripoli Popular committees meeting/ Iftar	



**500,000\$ donation from Brazil to NBC**  
**Sep 22**-The government of Brazil has donated \$500,000 to contribute to the NBC relief and reconstruction efforts. The announcement was made during a press conference held at the UNRWA head office. Attending were Brazilian Amb Paolo Roberto da Fontura, Palestinian Amb Abdallah Abdallah, LPDC president Maya Majzoub and Salvatore Lombardo, UNRWA Director .