

Support for Lebanon's Accession to the World Trade Organization, 2009-2012

Overview

In cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and Trade, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched this \$3 million program to help Lebanon build a strong connection to the global economy and expand commercial opportunities for local businesses. The program will support continued progress on World Trade Organization (WTO) accession and related legislative reform and capacity building. This three-year program will create efficient and informed legal institutions capable of handling increased economic activity; guarantee access to foreign markets and stable rules governing trade and investment; contribute to an increase in trade and investment volumes; improve access to advanced production technologies; expand consumer choice; and secure access to trade dispute resolution mechanisms.

Through this project, USAID will work closely with the Ministry of Economy and Trade to drive Lebanon's economic growth and enable the expansion in economic activity necessary for widespread job creation through:

- Supporting the Government of Lebanon in the technical understanding of the questions posed by other WTO members, developing answers and making the necessary changes;
- Assisting the Government of Lebanon in implementing key reforms to bring its foreign trade regime in conformity with WTO agreements;
- Providing support for building the capacity of the different institutions to implement the required reforms;
- Building public support for WTO accession