

PARTNERSHIP FOR LEBANON

Background and Mission

The Partnership for Lebanon was launched by U.S. business leaders in September 2006 to provide critically needed resources to assist the reconstruction efforts in Lebanon and to help build a better future for the Lebanese people. The Partnership is led by five U.S. companies: Cisco, GHAFARI, Intel, Microsoft and Occidental Petroleum.

Working through public private partnerships and with the Lebanese people, the Partnership is focused on expanding the reach of education and workforce training, creating jobs, building out technology infrastructure and using technology to connect communities with needed services and resources. The pillars of the framework are represented through the five work streams.



The Five Work Streams

Connected Communities

The Partnership is working to enable full-service online community access points in Lebanon, offering citizens local portals to access job training, ICT certification, healthcare, education, social services and government resources. A pilot program for five connected community centers has been initiated in the villages of Alma Chaab, Baalbek, Bint Jbeil, Bourj al Barajneh, and Nabatiye. Plans are now underway to expand the program to each of Lebanon's 25 districts.

Workforce Training and Education

The Partnership is placing qualified Lebanese interns in Lebanese businesses and government agencies, as well as in top corporations in the U.S. The internships are planting the seeds of sustainable economic growth by providing Lebanese youth with improved worker training and education, critical skills training and knowledge transfer. The Partnership plans to place 500 interns in top companies around the world over the next three years. The first group of interns has completed their six month program, and all of them have found jobs in Lebanon.

Job Creation/Private Sector Revival

The Partnership's goal is to help create jobs and careers in Lebanon to stop and, eventually, reverse the flight of skills and brain drain from the country. While the Partnership is working

with companies of all sizes, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are getting special attention since they are considered the backbone of the Lebanese economy and can benefit more from the private sector initiatives.

The Partnership has embarked on making equity investments in promising companies with a focus on clusters in sectors of the economy where Lebanon is well positioned to compete regionally as well as globally. The Partnership has approved a \$1.3 million grant to Relief International that will be used to encourage Lebanese entrepreneurs to establish new ICT businesses in rural areas.

“The Partnership for Lebanon is putting the resources of leading corporations to work on behalf of the people of Lebanon.”

Renée S. Acosta, President & CEO, Global Impact

ICT Infrastructure

A modern communications infrastructure can be a powerful and inexpensive way for a small knowledge-based nation to stay competitive in a global marketplace. The Partnership is working with Lebanon's Telecommunications Regulatory Agency (TRA) to modernize Lebanon's communications infrastructure, providing a foundation for improved communications and e-commerce and potentially decreasing costs for the Lebanese people. The Partnership is helping develop a national broadband strategy to encourage ICT innovation, investment and infrastructure development in Lebanon, has provided the TRA with an Internet Exchange Point, and is assembling the equipment needed to install an International Internet Gateway.

Relief and Response

Working with proven NGOs including ANERA, Habitat for Humanity, Mercy Corps, and UNICEF, funds raised by the Partnership are being used to rebuild homes, rehabilitate schools and expand workforce training programs.

To contribute to the Partnership for Lebanon or to learn more, please visit www.partnershipforlebanon.org.



GHAFARI



Microsoft

