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#02

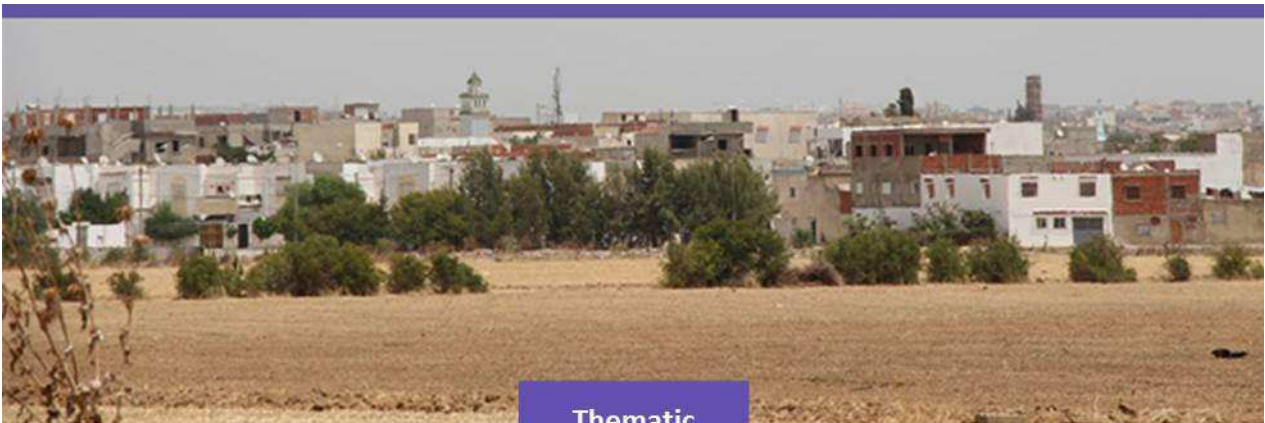
Newsletter
UPFI

Urban Projects
Finance Initiative

November
2017

UPFI, supporting sustainable urban project initiatives in the Mediterranean

Secondary cities & Precarious neighbourhoods



Thematic

Secondary cities in the Mediterranean: urban development for territorial rebalancing

In the Mediterranean, as in most parts of the world, urban growth is particularly strong in intermediate cities. Indeed, these cities, with a population of between 100,000 and 2 million depending on the country, are the destination for many new city dwellers drawn from migratory flows and rural exodus. Yet while capitals are at the heart of the reflections, these cities, which nevertheless play a key role in the territorial redistribution of wealth, are often abandoned by public policies, suffering from reduced technical and financial capacities, despite recent efforts

in some countries towards decentralisation.

Faced with this situation, the UPFI initiative seeks to support the development and implementation of 'secondary city' programmes in the southern and eastern Mediterranean. These programmes aim to, i) support the implementation by national and local authorities of public policies for decentralisation at territorial level; ii) identify and carry out priority urban investments, notably through the consolidation of financial resources, and thus reduce the deficit in infrastructures and services in regional urban centres; iii) build the capacities of national and local stakeholders in order to implement these secondary city programmes and to plan future interventions.

The main objective of this type of intervention is to support countries in rebalancing their territories by creating regional urban centres, by making secondary cities more attractive, and by favouring a more balanced spread of economic development across the territory.

Within this framework, the UPFI supports two 'secondary' city programmes that are in the preparatory phase:

- The [Regional and Local Development Programme](#) in Jordan, which aims to strengthen the capacities of Jordanian cities in carrying out priority urban investments and urban planning.
- The [Multi-City Urban Development Programme](#) in Lebanon, which aims to support several Lebanese cities in the identification and implementation of priority urban projects and to strengthen their capacity for resilience.

Find out more →



Project

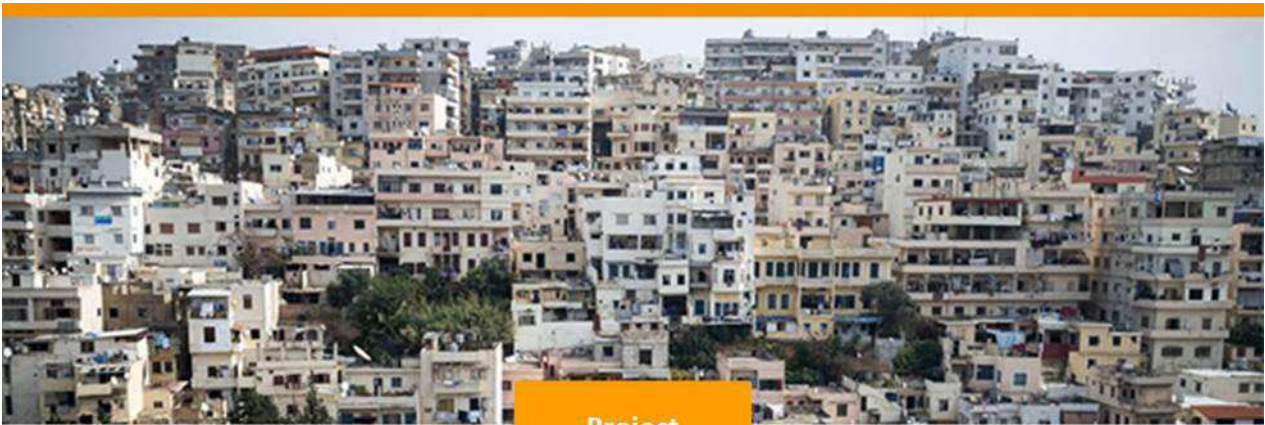
A secondary cities programme to support Jordanian municipalities in identifying and implementing urban investments

Faced with the need to stimulate economic and social urban development in several regional cities in Jordan and to meet the growing challenge of urban growth, local authorities need to be supported in identifying and introducing priority urban facilities and services.

The UPFI Regional and Local Development Programme (RLDP2) aims to support the municipalities of several intermediate cities in Jordan thanks to a twin action for investments and capacity building. In the long term, this programme will contribute to the emergence of attractive and sustainably developed secondary cities and to a rebalancing of the Jordanian territory.

Within this framework, the UPFI is currently conducting a technical assistance and feasibility study for the RLDP2 with the Jordanian Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the beneficiary cities, with a view to the eventual financing of this secondary cities programme by the UPFI's donor partners.

[See the project](#) →

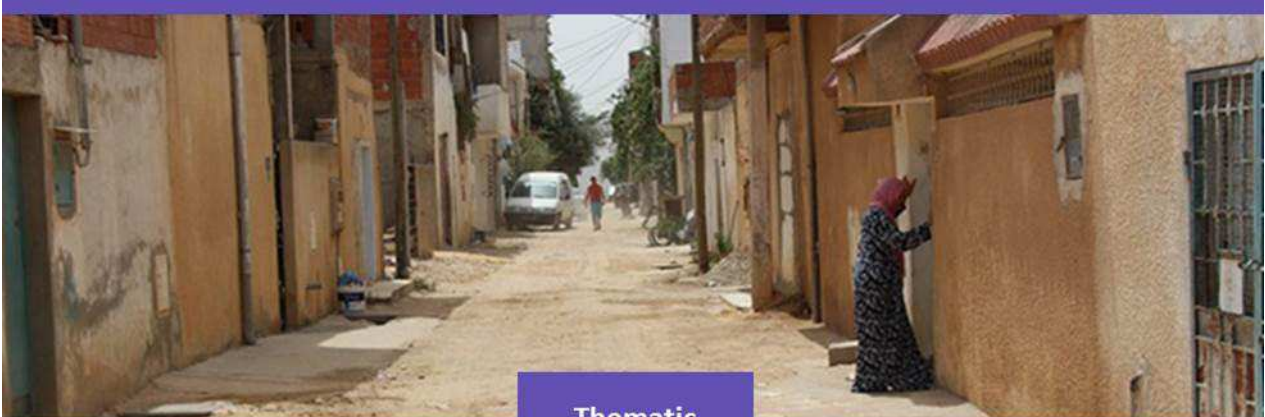


A multi-city urban development programme to strengthen the resilience of Lebanese cities

In early 2017, the UPFI initiative identified a multi-city urban development programme to support Lebanese cities in their urban planning. Since June 2017, the programme has been the subject of a feasibility and technical assistance study with the Lebanese Council for Development and Reconstruction, in order to identify beneficiary authorities in Lebanon and the type of urban investments to be carried out.

In a country where 90% of the population lives in urban areas, this 'secondary cities' programme aims to support Lebanese local authorities in handling the impact of the Syrian migration crisis, and in particular the pressure it puts on existing urban infrastructures and services. The planning, financing, introduction and management of these urban facilities will improve the living conditions of host and migrant populations, thereby strengthening the resilience of Lebanese cities and stimulating regional socio-economic development.

See the project →



Thematic

Interventions in precarious settlements in Mediterranean cities, reintegrating disadvantaged neighbourhoods in the city and improving living conditions for their inhabitants

Rural exodus, migratory flows and demographic growth all create a phenomenon of urban sprawl and contribute to the growth of informal neighbourhoods, a trend to which the Mediterranean region is no exception. Indeed, new city dwellers in Mediterranean cities mostly settle in precarious neighbourhoods. These neighbourhoods are defined by informal settlements that are marked by urban exclusion (lack of urban infrastructures and services, land tenure insecurity, poor quality buildings), social and economic exclusion (mostly informal activities, high levels of poverty and unemployment), and vulnerability to climate and environmental change. Such precarious neighbourhoods in the Mediterranean can take different urban forms, such as run-down old centres or medinas, shanty towns or illegal neighbourhoods, or under-equipped city extensions.

Often forgotten in town planning, these neighbourhoods are now a real urban problem due to their size, their form and the challenges they face, which must be addressed by national and local authorities, as well as donors.

The UPFI has identified several interventions in precarious neighbourhoods in its beneficiary countries. The objective of these urban projects is to rehabilitate precarious settlements by improving basic urban services and socio-collective facilities, placing local authorities and residents at the heart of the projects, and reintegrating these neighbourhoods into the city through an integrated urban approach. These interventions in precarious neighbourhoods should make it possible to significantly improve living conditions for residents and promote socio-economic development in these areas.

Within this framework of specialised intervention in precarious settlements, the UPFI has identified and launched the preparation of two projects:

- The [regeneration project for the precarious neighbourhoods of Imbaba and Al Warrak in Giza \(Egypt\)](#).
- The [Phase 2 of the Programme for the Rehabilitation and Integration of Residential Areas](#), which targets several popular neighbourhoods across Tunisia.

[See the project →](#)**Project**

Redeveloping the precarious Egyptian neighbourhoods of Imbaba and Al Warrak and supporting residents' access to urban infrastructures and public services

Suffering from rapid and anarchic urbanisation, affecting a population mainly composed of low- or middle-income families, North Giza is desperately short of public services and infrastructures (hospitals, schools, cultural or public spaces). Urban networks and services (drinking water, solid waste collection, sewage and sanitation) are inadequate or run-down, most housing is in poor condition, and there is a chronic lack of public transport.

The North Giza UPFI project aims to redevelop the popular neighbourhoods of Imbaba and Al Warrak, which are among the most densely populated in the Cairo conurbation, and to improve residents' access to public infrastructures and services through an integrated urban development approach and by capacity building for the Giza Governorate in the implementation of this type of urban project.

A feasibility study, launched in the framework of the UPFI, is currently being finalised and will lead to a study on funding options for this project.

[Find out more →](#)



Project

Meeting the needs of informal settlements in Tunisia in terms of infrastructures, services and urban facilities, and promoting local socio-economic development

In the past few decades, 'popular' neighbourhoods have sprung up and spontaneously developed in the urban periphery of Tunisia's cities. Lacking access to basic services and facilities, these neighbourhoods are an illustration of the strong social and territorial inequalities in Tunisia.

In early 2017, the UPFI has identified the Phase 2 of the Programme for the Rehabilitation and Integration of Residential Areas (Programme de Réhabilitation et d'Intégration des Quartiers d'Habitation or PRIQH 2), and has included it among the projects supported by the initiative. In this framework, a feasibility and technical assistance study has been conducted since June 2017 in order to prepare this programme of intervention in precarious neighbourhoods. The aim is to intervene across the Tunisian territory, following principles of integrated urban development, and to provide these districts with basic infrastructures strengthen access to socio-collective facilities and favour the establishment of industrial activities in order to improve the living conditions of residents, while promoting local socio-economic development. PRIQH 2 also aims to strengthen the capacities of local authorities in the implementation and management of such 'precarious settlements' projects, and to support at central level efforts to prevent the development of informal housing.

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monde arabe en transition Réflexions et perspectives pour l'action urbaine, Conférences et Séminaires, Juin 2013



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