

D-RASATI Lebanon

Background

D-RASATI (“my studies” in Arabic) is a comprehensive school improvement program supporting all 1,281 of Lebanon’s public primary and secondary schools. Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the project supports the Ministry’s efforts to enhance student learning through action in several interrelated areas:

- **Improving children’s learning environments.** D-RASATI will repair 300 schools and equip many others with science laboratories and ICT equipment.
- **Enhancing skills among Lebanon’s public school teachers.** D-RASATI will strengthen the Ministry’s capacity to provide high-quality, in-service professional development for teachers and extracurricular learning opportunities for students.
- **Strengthening school leadership to lead school improvement and engage communities.** D-RASATI will train over 400 school principals to lead school improvement planning activities, including conducting outreach to parents and communities to involve them in school improvement initiatives.

By addressing school environments, institutional structures, and community resources together, D-RASATI will help Lebanon develop greater capacity to support effective learning throughout the nation.

Assessment Note: D-RASATI’s multi-stage nationwide assessment of public school needs forms a foundation for the Ministry of Education and Higher Education’s future planning and evaluation work.



Our Story: Country Ownership in Action

D-RASATI’s needs assessments have provided a strong and objective base for government decision making and policy development. The extent to which counterparts have embraced project work as their own is evident in statements by Ministry officials in public forums with stakeholders. High-level administrators have articulated D-RASATI’s criteria and process for the selection of schools for rehabilitation as “scientific, transparent, objective, and ours.”

Regional Education Directors have urged principals to facilitate teacher participation in a classroom performance study because “it serves our national needs, builds on our national standards, and allows us to base planning on objective information, rather than on personal opinions.” Regional training directors have become champions of teacher assessment activities outside their usual scope of work, because they believe “these activities bring us all together around a common vision and help us to move forward to better schools.” In a complex and dynamic context, D-RASATI’s support to the Ministry of Education’s decision-making is an outstanding example of the Paris Principles in action.





D-RASATI is the first project in Lebanon to work closely with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to improve entire systems in order to catalyze better learning.

—Helen Boyle, Project Director and Director of Middle East and North Africa Programs

Our Story: Bteghrine Secondary School



Bteghrine public secondary school was one of the first to benefit from the USAID funded, D-RASATI project. Engineers visited the school this past summer to take measurements and review the damages

in detail before beginning rehabilitation work that will repair the building, renovate the science and computer labs, and, resolve the school's drainage issues. Poor drainage has wreaked havoc on the well-being of this thirty year old school building that has more than 100 students.

"It is very cold in the winter and the kids have to sit in the classroom with water running down the walls," says school director, Yolla Saliba. Even in the heat of the summer the water's damage is evident; there are cracks in all the walls and ceiling, the paint is peeling, and there are fallen tiles. "We try to create a positive environment, but with all this, it's impossible to make it a nice place to learn," says Ms. Saliba. The D-RASATI project also has plans for the only place where there isn't water: the science lab sinks. D-RASATI will replace the existing lab with one that is fully equipped and modern. Students at Bteghrine Public School will be able to conduct hands-on experiments to support the more theoretical physics, biology and chemistry courses in the school's curriculum. Ms. Saliba is hopeful: "everyone has been so professional. I am sure there is going to be a good result." Physical repairs, provision of equipment, and establishment of computer and science laboratories are part of the D-RASATI project. Together with the Ministry of Education, D-RASATI aims to improve the learning environment of all 1,281 public schools in Lebanon.

Project Goals

A five-year program that began in 2010, D-RASATI will achieve the following results:

- Student learning outcomes improve.
- Teachers use more effective teaching practices in their classrooms.
- School leaders use participatory and evidence-based approaches to manage school improvement.
- School infrastructure and physical learning environments improve to support these efforts.
- School communities share a common understanding of what effectiveness means and requires.
- Government and communities share a common vision for educational improvement and have productive and sustainable relationships.

Implementing Partners

AMIDEAST

American University of Beirut

The Cooperative Housing Foundation

The Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development

The International Orthodox Christian Charities



Education Development Center, Inc.

Boston • Chicago • New York • Washington, DC

E-mail: IDDinfo@edc.org • Web: idd.edc.org and edc.org

Phone: 202.572.3700