



Office of the Special Coordinator
for Lebanon

Bureau du Coordinateur Spécial
pour le Liban

**United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Michael Williams
Statement During Tour of Nahr El-Bared Camp
Nahr El-Bared, North Lebanon**

Wednesday, 27 October 2010

Good Morning

I am very pleased to be visiting Nahr El-Bard Camp again today. It is an opportunity for me to examine the progress being made on the ground

I just visited the construction site and met with the camp's popular committee. UNRWA staff have explained some of the challenges that still lie ahead, of which the most significant is the large financial shortfall to complete the reconstruction. It was heartening to see the first two packages – with a thousand homes and three school buildings – under construction, but \$210 million is still needed for the reconstruction of the remaining six packages, three school buildings, a health centre and other facilities. More is needed to restore the heavily damaged adjacent areas around the camp, where reconstruction seems to have stalled. Furthermore, \$18 million is required each year to support the 5,000 families who have been displaced for more than three years now. I take this opportunity today to call on all donors and the international community to contribute more to maintain the momentum of the reconstruction, and to support this distressed community in the interim.

I was pleased to learn that, in spite of many hurdles and some setbacks, the first displaced families will be moving back into the newly reconstructed camp soon. I understand there is a problem of freedom of access. Contacts are underway with the Lebanese authorities to see how access into the camp may be eased while meeting national security concerns.

My hope is that my next visit will be to a reconstructed camp where refugees live in dignity – able to provide for themselves and their families – without the widespread dependency and evident stress I witnessed today. The ongoing work in Nahr El-Bared is a good example of how collective efforts and cooperation among all stakeholders -- the Lebanese Security Forces, the local municipalities of Muhammara and Bhannine, and the representatives of the community, NGOs and UN Agencies like UNRWA -- can help promote socio-economic conditions but also camp management and governance.
