Context

The Lebanese industrial sector suffers from the limitations of its economy, i.e. the small size of the national market; unreliable supplies and high costs of utilities (in particular electricity) and infrastructure; the inadequate provision of business support services; and a non-conducive institutional and regulatory framework and the absence of an overall policy/strategic framework. Its potential is also hindered by relatively limited capacities to invest, the unavailability of specialized skills and the absence of modern management capabilities, especially in the SME sector.

Since 2011, the Lebanese industrial sector has further suffered from the deterioration of the overall security and macroeconomic situation in the country as a result of the Syrian crisis. In the absence of structural reforms, these difficulties have reinforced the Lebanese economy’s underlying vulnerabilities including a sizeable debt and trade imbalance.

The experience in emerging economies has shown that well designed initiatives by the state have been instrumental to stimulating investment and growth of the private sector. The effort to develop industrial zones has been seen as part of this cluster of state-led initiatives. Industrial parks are typically one among a mix of instruments that governments can employ to kick start business activity in post conflict situations.

Main Approach

This project aims at developing comprehensive techno-economic feasibility studies and development plans for three prospective industrial zones in Lebanon (Baalbek, Joune, and Tourbol). These studies will cover legal/regulatory, financing, financial, environmental and management aspects of the zones development and operations, and will include market/demand assessments and the preliminary design of on-site infrastructure.

Expected Results

- Master Plan Development for the defined areas;
- Capacity Building to Government Institutions
- Formulation of an Industrial Zones Development strategy

At a glance

Goal: Development of Master plans for 3 Industrial Zones in three different locations in Lebanon.

Donor: Government of Italy


Budget: € 500.000

Duration: 1 year