



## The Partnership for Lebanon Connected Community Centers Program

Working closely with experienced NGOs and key community stakeholders, the Partnership for Lebanon is enabling full-service online community access points in Lebanese towns. These Connected Community Centers use technology to bridge the gap between the Lebanese people and the services and applications they need.

Each Connected Community Center is equipped with computers and Internet connections sufficient to provide residents with ready access to a range of existing and future online services, from virtual job centers to primary health care information. A variety of online courses—such as teacher training, Web design, and ICT certification—are also at the community's disposal through these centers.

### Progress to Date

The Partnership has launched a Connected Community Center pilot program in five towns and villages affected by the recent conflict: Alma Chaab, Baalbek, Bint Jbeil, Bourj al Barajneh, and Nabatiye. Focus groups were held in all five pilot locations with youth, women, businesspeople and government officials to discuss ICT access and potential. Meetings with community leaders—Community Leadership Circles (CLC)—were then held to discuss focus group findings and to brainstorm on projects that could meet identified needs.

As the pilot program moves forward, the Partnership will continue to work with NGOs and community leaders who receive training and certification in community mobilization techniques to tailor community center offerings to the evolving needs of the communities served.

The pilot program has been a great success, but there is much more work to do to ensure that the connected community centers will be sustainable and replicable in the years ahead. The next step: expanding the program to each of Lebanon's 25 districts.

### How You Can Help

The Partnership's ability to expand the connected communities program will rely in part on the generosity of those individuals and corporations who share our commitment to the people of Lebanon.

A contribution of any amount will help us develop our connected community initiative. A donation of \$5,000 covers three years of internet access at a Connected Community Center. \$10,000 covers the development of a customized software application. \$30,000 covers the cost of a computer lab. \$35,000 covers a center's first year operational costs.

Corporations and individuals that take an active role in supporting the community centers may be eligible for inclusion on the Partnership for Lebanon Web site, newsletter, and other public relations materials and activities.

To find out how you can get involved, please email [connectedcommunities@partnershipforlebanon.org](mailto:connectedcommunities@partnershipforlebanon.org).

### About Us

The Partnership for Lebanon was launched by the leaders of Cisco, Intel, GHAFARI, Microsoft, and Occidental Petroleum. These leaders share a common conviction that U.S. companies can play a transformative role in distressed regions around the world.

Towards that end, the Partnership is working with U.S. and Lebanese businesses, government officials, NGOs and stakeholders on the ground to establish public private partnerships aimed at expanding the reach of education and workforce training, helping to create good jobs for the people of Lebanon, and building Lebanon's technology infrastructure.

For more information, please visit us at [PartnershipforLebanon.org](http://PartnershipforLebanon.org).

