

Nuclear Security Projects Related to Border Control in Lebanon


By
Hélène Nasr
and
Marc Maouad




Republic of Lebanon
Ministry of Finance

International Symposium on Nuclear Security
30 March – 3 April 2009
Vienna, Austria

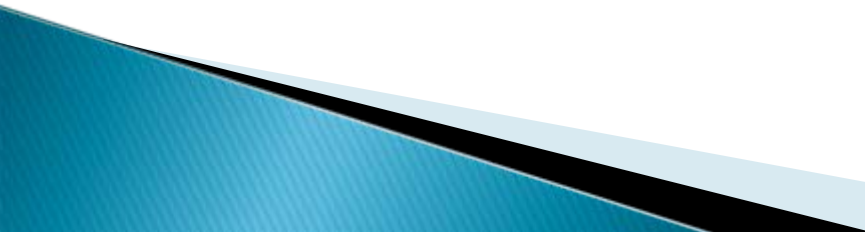
Table of Contents

- ▶ Introduction
 - ▶ Current State of Affairs in the Nuclear Security / Border Control
 - ▶ Projects
 - IAEA – EU funded project for Masnaa border
 - IAEA CRP
 - US–DOE Megaport Initiative
 - EU funded project: “Strengthening National Infrastructure related to Lebanese Trade and Border Control”
 - ▶ Progress achieved
 - ▶ Challenges
 - ▶ Expected results
- 

Introduction

- ▶ WHO?
 - ▶ Customs responsibilities:
 - Ensuring that all goods and persons entering and exiting Lebanon are in accordance with relevant laws and regulations;
 - In charge of prevention of smuggling and detection of fraudulent practices;
 - Clearance of persons, their baggage, cargo, and mail;
 - Protection of the general welfare of Lebanon.
- 

Introduction (Cont)

- ▶ WHY?
 - ▶ Increasing risk on public safety/security and trade.
 - Increasing need in upgrading detection infrastructure at the borders.
 - Initiatives to help improve control and protection of the borders, boosted by the UNSC Resolution 1701.
- 

Current State of Affairs in the Nuclear Security / Border Control

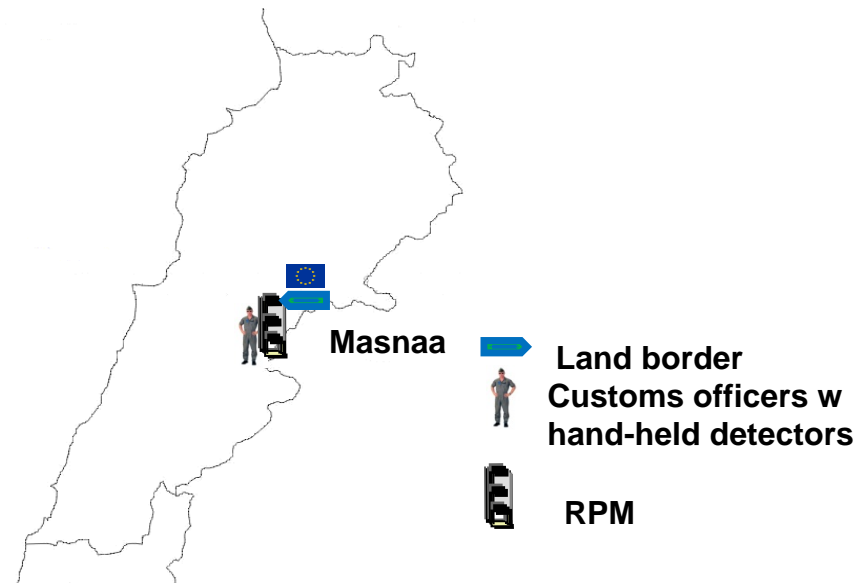
- ▶ Increasing need in enforcing control of movement of radioactive material across the borders (such as the increasing number of orphan sources).
- ▶ Increasing need in controlling scrap merchandise being imported.
- ▶ Illicit trafficking of merchandise due to
 - Difficulties in border control due to Lebanese geography: ravines, mountains, rivers etc...
 - Difficulties in border control due to Syrian and Lebanese villages expanding outside the border lines (German Support project for Northern border working on this issue).

Current State of Affairs in the Nuclear Security / Border Control (Cont)

- ▶ The Lebanese customs are currently working on upgrading their detection infrastructure with EU and other countries support.
- ▶ A Northern Border Pilot Project has been taking place under German management:
 - X-ray scanners installed at the borders,
 - Creation of a coordination team that includes the security agencies.
 - It is paving the way for a good implementation of the nuclear security projects at the borders and can be viewed as a support and as a complementary programme.

IAEA–EU funded project for Masnaa

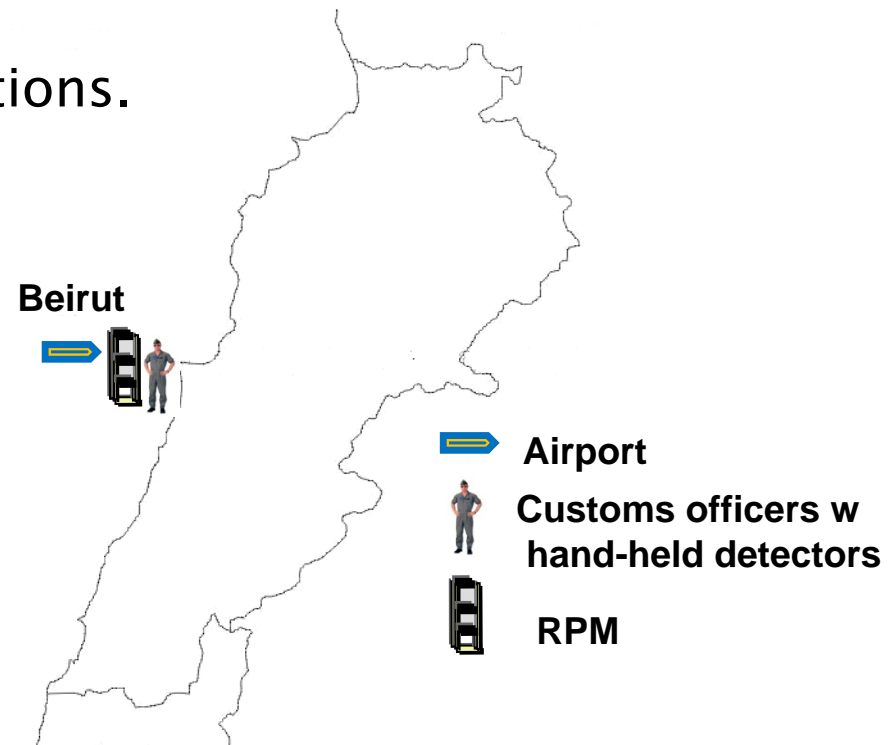
- ▶ Goal: offer an incentive to implement nuclear security at the borders.
- ▶ IAEA support (EU funds): one Radiation Portal Monitor (RPM) with control room to control one inbound lane of the Masnaa border, hand-held detectors and training in radiation detection.



IAEA CRP in Nuclear Security

- ▶ Goal: development and improvement of measures and techniques in nuclear security instruments.
- ▶ In a previous CRP, feasibility study was conducted for a Pedestrian Spectral Monitor for Airports.
- ▶ Under this CRP:
 - Testing under Laboratory Conditions.
 - Testing and developing of procedural work for Pedestrian Spectral Monitors.

Work to be carried in Beirut Airport.



US-DOE Megaport Project

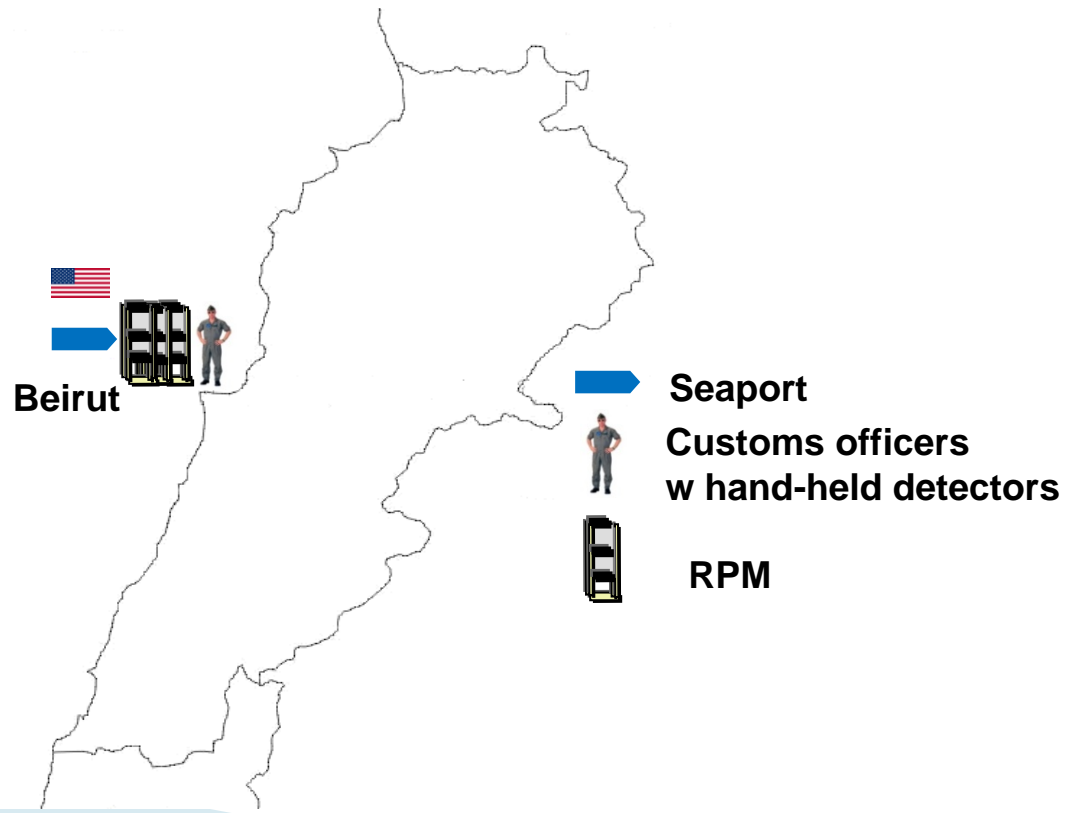
- ▶ Goal: improved measures towards adherence to international trade laws and regulations.
- ▶ Focus: export, import and transit at the Port of Beirut.
- ▶ Objective: inspect the largest number of containers without significantly impacting the port's operation.
- ▶ Target area:
 - Transit shipment area
 - Entry/exit of Beirut port.



US-DOE Megaport Project (Cont)

► Installation of RPMs:

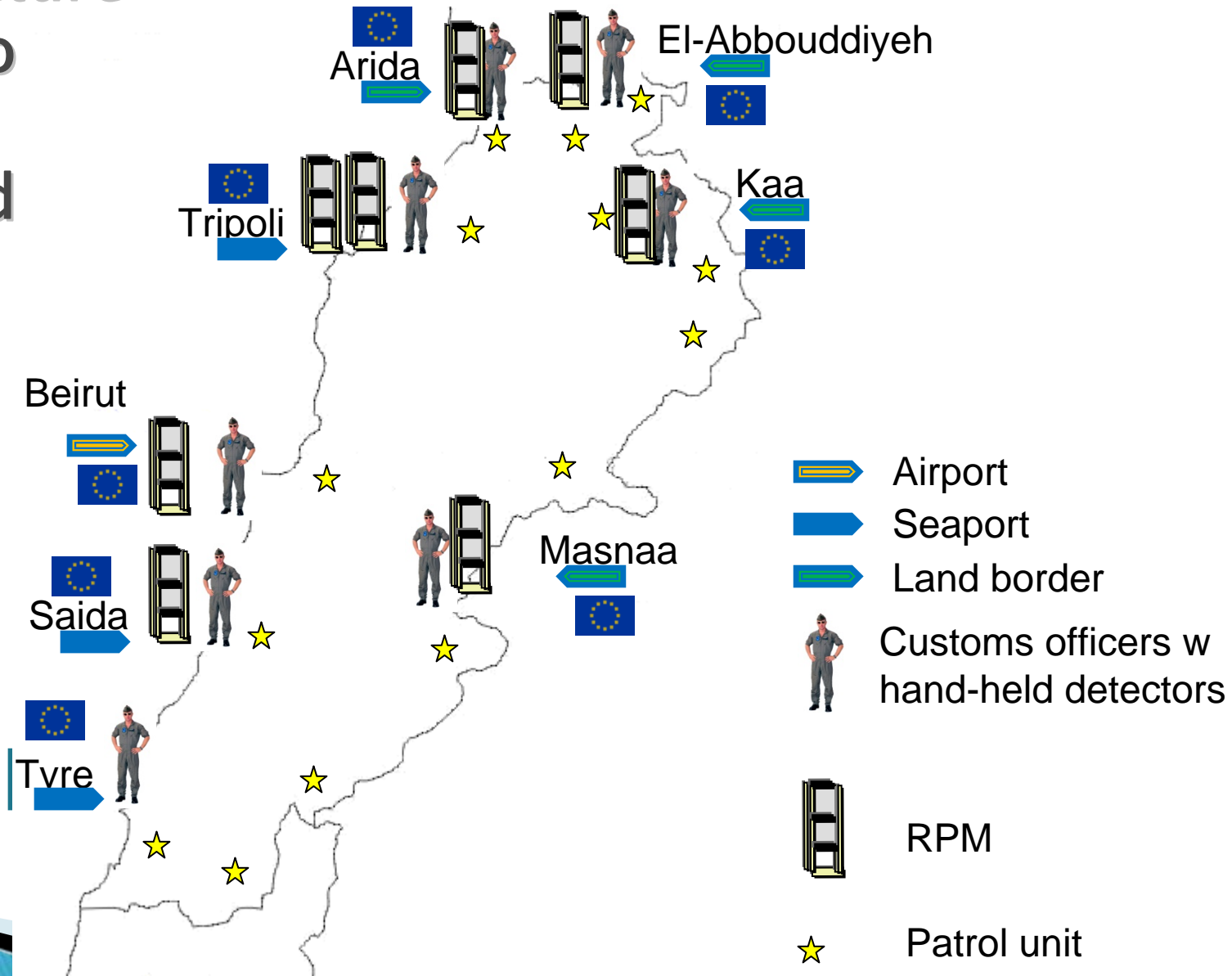
- transit shipment area entry gate (Gate-in) and exit gate (Gate-out)
- Gate 9 – inbound and outbound lanes of Beirut seaport – to target the scrap metal and steel shipments throughout the port.



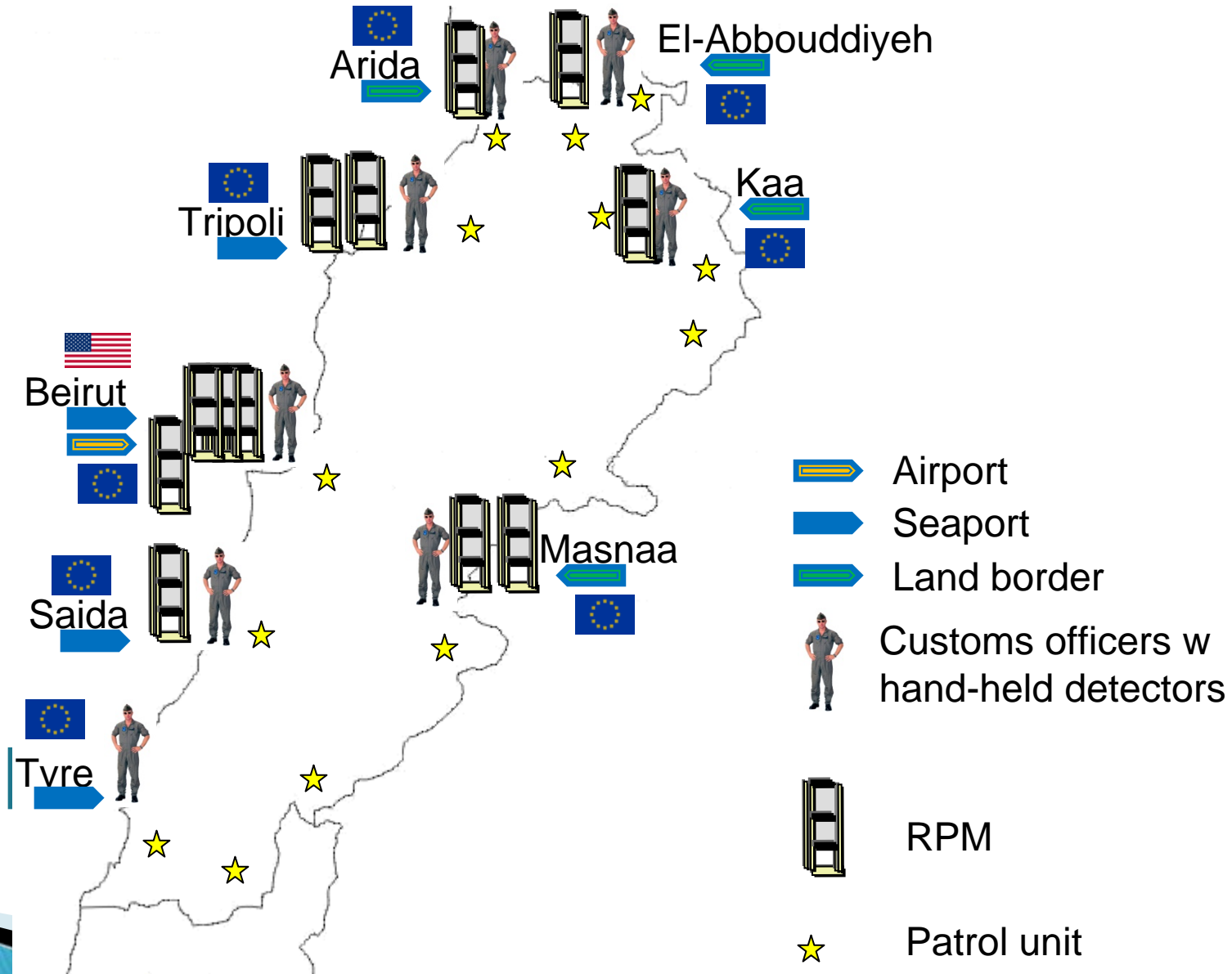
EU-funded project: "Strengthening National Infrastructure related to Lebanese Trade and Border Control"

- ▶ **Goal: Enhance security and safety at the borders, and facilitate Lebanese trade.**
- ▶ **Radiation detection:**
 - 8 RPM for the borders: Beirut airport, Saida and Tripoli seaports, Arida, Abboudiyeh, Masnaa and Kaa land borders.
 - Hand-held equipments
 - Training
 - Procedure settings
- ▶ **National Response Infrastructure:**
 - National Response Plan to be updated to include events related to hazardous materials;
 - CBRN Response: train and equip the CBRN response team.

EU-funded project: "Strengthening National Infrastructure Related to Lebanese Trade and Border Control (Cont)



Progress achieved – Programmatic plans




Progress Achieved (Cont)

- ▶ Progress:
 - ▶ IAEA–EU funded project for Masnaa inland border was concluded in 2008.
 - ▶ CRP project: instruments are being tested under laboratory conditions.
 - ▶ The Megaport project should be starting in 2009.
 - ▶ EU–funded project is currently under implementation by the IAEA.

Progress Achieved (Cont)

- ▶ Key element: Efficient coordination, communication, lobbying and outreach with all the involved stakeholders/donors was carried.
- ▶ More importantly, **coordination** is taking place:
 - Between the EU-funded and the Megaport projects for the training components and for the detection infrastructure at Beirut port, to avoid any redundancy or overlapping → Joint training program.
 - Between the EU-funded project and the IAEA-EU funded project for Masnaa inland border in the installation of the RPMs and a common monitoring room at Masnaa crossing point.

Challenges

- ▶ The challenges that we faced/ are facing are at different levels:
 - Strategy
 - Implementation and procedures
 - Sustainability
 - Multilateral Cooperation and Coordination
 - Communication
 - Timeline and deadlines
- 

Challenges

- ▶ **Challenges on the Strategic level:**
 - **Setting-up a well-defined Strategy for Lebanon for an integrated border control management plan.**
 - **Planning long-term core activities instead of punctual initiatives driven by donor assistance.**
 - **Focus on threat reduction as a final strategic objective and adjust the strategy consequently.**

Challenges

- ▶ **Challenges on the Implementation and Procedural level:**
 - Reduce **delays in delivery** of equipment and training to the concerned parties.
 - Adopt **systematic approaches** in the implementation of all nuclear security projects related to border control.
 - **Secure continuous commitment** of the Lebanese Customs and other involved parties.

Challenges

- ▶ **Challenges on the Sustainability level:**
 - Adopt programmatic plans and procedural work to ensure the long-term sustainability of effective border controls.
 - Build cooperation instruments between the Lebanese Customs and the IAEA on sustainability (i.e. periodic “state-of-health” report to be checked periodically).
 - **Capacity building** and successful Train the Trainers programs.
 - Use the pilot project at Masnaa land border as a **showcase** and **incentive** for a comprehensive National Nuclear Security Program at the borders.

Challenges

- ▶ Challenges on the Cooperation and Coordination level:
 - Good inter–agency cooperation → ensure effectiveness.
 - Good inter–donor cooperation → avoid redundancies between the various projects/initiatives.
 - Effective cross–border/regional/international cooperation. Especially between the Lebanese authorities and the neighbouring states so that orphan sources or illicit trafficking of radioactive material could be controlled more effectively.


Challenges

- ▶ Challenges on the **Communication and Project Management** level:
 - Clear Communication to all involved parties and awareness raising
 - Spread understanding and clarify scope and objectives of these initiatives.
 - Adequate local expertise and management to follow up on and coordinate the various initiatives
 - Create ownership by the FLOs.

Challenges

- ▶ Challenges on the Timeline and deadlines level:
 - The tight timeline of the donor-funded projects and the set deadlines to deliver:
 - Concerning the EU-funded project, the implementation deadline is February 2010 for the execution of all the tasks.

Expected results

- ▶ Effective radiation monitoring at the borders for security and safety of the public.
 - ▶ Trade facilitation
 - ▶ Improved support in nuclear security on the international level.
 - ▶ Better adherence to United Nations resolutions and international laws and regulations.
- 

Questions



Thank you!



Beirut port



Tripoli entrance and exit



Masnaa – gate for trucks only

