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Fifth Consolidated Annual Progress Report on Activities Implemented under the Lebanon Recovery Fund

**Report of the Administrative Agent of the Lebanon Recovery Fund
for the period 1 January – 31 December 2011**

Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
Bureau of Management
United Nations Development Programme
<http://mptf.undp.org>

UNEDITED DRAFT
(14 May 2012)

Lebanon Recovery Fund (LRF)

Participating Organizations¹



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)



International Labour Organization (ILO)



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)



United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT)



United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)



United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)



United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

¹ Participating Organizations that have concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, as the Administrative Agent of the Lebanon Recovery Fund.

Contributing Donors



Romania



Spain



Sweden

Abbreviations and Acronyms

| | |
|-------|---|
| AA | Administrative Agent |
| AARDO | Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization |
| ACSAD | Arab Centre for Studies in Arid Zones and Drylands |
| ADR | Association for the Development of Rural Capacities |
| AFDC | Association for Forests, Development and Conservation |
| AFIAL | Association of the Friends of Ibrahim Abd El Al |
| APAU | Association of Umbrian Beekeepers |
| ARDA | Aarsal Rural Development Association |
| ATWG | Ad-hoc Thematic Working Groups |
| AUB | American University of Beirut |
| BC | Beddawi Camp |
| BDS | Business Development Service |
| BoS | Balance of System |
| CCECS | Centre for Civic Engagement and Community Service |
| CDR | Council for Development and Reconstruction |
| CSE | Socio-Economic Research Centre |
| CTA | Chief Technical Advisor |
| DGA | Director General of Antiques |
| DRM | Disaster Risk Management |
| DSA | Development Studies Association |
| ELARD | Earth Links and Advanced Resources Development |
| EOI | Expression of Interest |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| FMD | Foot and Mouth Disease |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |
| GIS | Geographic Information System |
| GTZ | German Agency for Technical Cooperation |
| HFSHD | Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development |
| IFAD | International Fund for Agricultural Development |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| IMC | Inter-Ministerial Committee for Social Issues |
| IMTI | The International Management and Training Institution |
| IMU | Information Management Unit |
| JP | Joint Programme |
| LCEC | Lebanese Centre for Energy Conservation |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| LDEM | Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management |
| LED | Light-Emitting Diode |
| LEDA | Local Economic Development Agency |
| LMAC | Lebanon Mine Action Centre |
| LOA | Letter of Agreement |
| LPDC | Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee |
| LPHU | Lebanese Physically Handicapped Union |
| LRA | Litani River Authority |
| LRF | Lebanon Recovery Fund |
| MDGs | Millennium Development Goals |
| MPTF Office | Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (Administrative Agent of the LRF) |
| MoA | Ministry of Agriculture |
| MoEW | Ministry of Energy and Water |
| MoE | Ministry of Environment |
| MoET | Ministry of Economy and Trade |
| MoIM | Ministry of Interior and Municipalities |
| MoSA | Ministry of Social Affairs |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| NBC | Nahr el Bared Camp |
| NCLW | National Commission for Lebanese Women |
| NEEAP | National Energy Efficiency Action Plan |
| NGO | Non-governmental Organization |
| OCHA | Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs |
| PAG | Project Approval Groups |
| PHCC | Primary Health Care Centre |
| PSC | Project Steering Committee |
| PV | Photovoltaic |
| PVCA | Participatory Value Chain Analysis |
| RC | Resident Coordinator |
| RPS | Risk Preparedness Strategy |
| RRC | Recovery and Reconstruction Cell (renamed to the Development Unit) |
| SDSC | Social Development Service Centres |
| SC | Steering Committee |
| SLM | Sustainable Land Management |
| SME | Small and Medium Enterprises |
| TOR | Terms of Reference |
| TSG | Technical Steering Committee |

| | |
|------------|--|
| SHW | Solar Hot Water |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNCG | United Nations Communication Group |
| UNCT | United Nations Country Team |
| UNDAF | United Nations Development Assistance Framework |
| UNDG | United Nations Development Group |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UN-HABITAT | United Nations Humans Settlement Programme |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children’s Fund |
| UNIDO | United Nations Industrial Development Organization |
| UNIFEM | United Nations Development Fund for Women |
| UNIFIL | United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon |
| UNMAC | United Nations Mine Action Centre |
| UNOPS | United Nations Office for Project Services |
| UNRWA | United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East |
| UNSCOL | Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon |
| UXOs | Unexploded Ordnances |
| VDPA | Village Dairy Producers’ Association |
| WWCs | WE PASS Women Committees |

Definitions²

Approved Project

A project that has been approved by the LRF Steering Committee.

Allocation

Amount approved by the LRF SC for a project/programme.

Approved Project/Programme

An Annual Work Plan, a project/programme document, etc., that is approved by the LRF SC.

Balance of Funds

Balance of funds with Participating Organizations refers to amounts with the Organizations that have not been reported as expended. Balance of funds with the Administrative Agent refers to the cumulative, undisbursed amount in the LRF Account and includes donor contributions, returned funds and interest.

Direct Costs

Costs that can be directly attributed to the programme activities.

Donor Commitment

A contribution expected to be received or already deposited by a donor based on a signed Letter of Agreement, now Standard Administrative Arrangement, with the MPTF Office, as the Administrative Agent of the LRF.

Donor Deposit

Cash deposit received by the MPTF Office for the LRF Account.

Financial Implementation Rate

Expenditure against net transferred amount.

Indirect Cost

A general cost that cannot be directly related to any particular programme or activity of the Participating Organizations. Under UN MPTFs, these costs amount to 7 per cent as per the UNDG agreed MPTF cost recovery.

Participating Organization

An organization that has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the MPTF Office and is thereby eligible to receive transfer of funds under the LRF.

Project Expenditure

Amount of project disbursement made plus un-liquidated obligations during the year.

Project Financial Closure

A project or programme is considered financially closed when all financial obligations of an operationally completed project or programme have been settled, and no further financial charges may be incurred.

Project Operational Closure

A project or programme is considered operationally closed when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under the approved programmatic document have been completed.

² Common definitions used by the MPTF Office in consolidated progress reports.

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The Lebanon Recovery Fund (LRF) was established at the request of the Government of Lebanon and enables donors to pool their resources and rapidly provide funding to recovery and reconstruction efforts related to the aftermaths of the July 2006 Israel-Lebanon war. On 31 August 2006, the Government of Lebanon presented a strategy for a national early recovery process at the Stockholm Conference for Lebanon's Early Recovery, hosted by the Government of Sweden in close collaboration with the Government of Lebanon and the United Nations. At the conference, a number of donors pledged their support to the early recovery priorities.

The Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the Administrative Agent (AA) of the LRF. As of 31 December 2011, it has concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with twelve Participating Organizations and a Letter of Agreement (LOA) - now referred to as Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA) - with three donors enabling the Participating Organizations to receive funding through the LRF mechanism.

This Fifth Consolidated Annual Progress Report on Activities under the LRF provides extensive narrative and financial information on the implementation of projects (including extensions) that were operational during the current reporting period, 1 January – 31 December 2011. The Annual Report should therefore be read as a sequence to previous years' LRF Annual Reports (2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010), all available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org>).

The Annual Report is consolidated based on information and data contained in the individual progress reports and financial statements submitted by Participating Organizations to the MPTF Office. It is neither an evaluation of the LRF, nor the MPTF Office's assessment of the performance of the Participating Organizations.

Strategic Framework

The LRF, as stated in its Terms of Reference dated 3 November 2006, finances Government-approved priority recovery and reconstruction projects that can be executed with the support of Participating Organizations, in partnership and cooperation with government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), within the scope and time frame of national priorities. It also facilitates the Government's coordination of international assistance and enables the Government to ensure transparent fund administration and project implementation in line with its reform agenda.

The LRF complements other funding mechanisms that are used by the Government and United Nations organizations, and its arrangements seek to ensure that:

- Each project approved for funding is part of a Government-approved priority programme for recovery and reconstruction activities based on and formulated in consultation with concerned line ministries and beneficiary communities and, to the extent possible, donors and other stakeholders;
- The activities financed through Participating Organizations are implemented, to the extent possible, directly by or in collaboration with national implementation partners, under the overall ownership and leadership of the Government, to ensure sustainable local capacities; and
- Funding and implementation are undertaken with special attention to transparency and accountability as well as to ensure prompt delivery and efficient use of donor funds.

Governance

The LRF is governed by the LRF Steering Committee (SC) in accordance with its Terms of Reference. The LRF SC provides strategic guidance and oversight as well as makes final decisions on fund allocation. The SC is chaired by the Minister of Economy and Trade, or his/her designate, and composed of the Head of the Development Unit (formerly the Recovery and Reconstruction Cell), a representative from the Ministry of Finance, five representatives of donors, and the UN Resident Coordinator (RC). A second tier of review involves the Project Advisory/Approval Group (PAG), which reviews and approves proposals and allocates funds for all projects specific to recovery activities. The Development Unit is located in the Office of the Prime Minister and is the designated national entity in Lebanon responsible for prioritization of and resource allocation to recovery and reconstruction. During the reporting period, the LRF SC decided to dissolve the Thematic Support Groups and transfer its responsibilities to the PAG.

Project Approval Status

No new projects or cost-extensions of existing projects were approved by the LRF SC in 2011. Consequently, the MPTF Office made no transfers in 2011. The total LRF projects approved for funding (including extensions and returns of funds) therefore remains stable at \$45,600,533 as of the end of the reporting period (31 December 2011). The 25 projects were executed by 6 Participating Organizations: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The three main sectors targeted by the 25 LRF projects approved to-date are:

- Environmental projects, including the forest fire management, the renewable energy and the mitigation of the flood effects in the rural areas (7 projects/phases; \$20,976,120 allocated with an overall delivery rate of 63.6 per cent).
- Local Socio-Economic Recovery projects, including the agro-food and industry, women empowerment and income generation activities, support of the dairy sector and establishment of public private partnerships (16 projects/phases; \$23,296,401 allocated with an overall delivery rate of 94.1 per cent).
- Coordination projects, including the coordination offices of the UN and the LRF Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (2 projects; \$1,328,012 allocated with an overall delivery rate of 89.8 per cent).

Project Implementation Status: Achievements and Challenges

During the current reporting period (1 January – 31 December 2011), the lessons learnt during the first four years of the LRF (2007–10) have contributed to and allowed Participating Organizations to take appropriate measures within existing projects to ensure that improved project implementation and management arrangements are introduced, where applicable. Additional information on previous years' approved projects is included in the Consolidated Annual Progress Reports for 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 (see the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org>)).

A number of projects have reported notable achievements during the reporting period, with 20 of the 25 projects reporting a cumulative financial expenditure rate of 85 per cent or above, and 17 of these projects reporting a delivery rate of over 95 per cent, by the end of the reporting period. The overall expenditure/delivery rate is, as of 31 December 2011, 79.9 per cent – which is a significant increase from that of the previous reporting period (31 December 2010; 62.6 per cent). The high delivery rate appropriately reflects the advanced implementation stage that many of the projects are in.

Whereas no new projects were approved during the current reporting year, projects approved in previous years continued to be implemented, and 17 projects were reported as operationally closed as of the end of the reporting period, having achieved most or all of their expected results.

Participating Organizations have reported notable project activities and achievements during the reporting period, with comprehensive details of these activities and achievements available in the report. As in previous years, a characteristic across nearly all projects is Participating Organizations' extensive collaboration with implementing partners, including national authorities, local foundations or NGOs. Across most projects, Government Ministries, foundations, NGOs and community-based groups have formed a core element of project formulation and implementation.

Financial Performance

As of 31 December 2011, the cumulative amount contributed by donors to the LRF amounted to \$45,857,496. During the current reporting period, no additional deposits were made by donors. The three contributors to the LRF as of 31 December 2011 were Spain (\$35,400,500), Sweden (\$9,797,465) and Romania (\$659,531). In addition, as of 31 December 2011, the LRF Fund Account had cumulatively earned \$1,518,316 in interest (\$18,316 in 2011), whereas Participating Organizations had cumulatively reported and returned \$1,139,424 in interest (\$326,936 in 2011). The total interest amount earned (\$2,657,740) far exceeds the AA fee of one per cent (\$458,575) charged on donor contributions.

By the end of the reporting period, the LRF SC had approved funding to 6 Participating Organizations for 25 projects, amounting to a net transfer of \$45,600,533. Of this amount, a total of \$36,453,935 (79.9 per cent) was reported as expenditure as of 31 December 2011, an increase from 62.6 per cent in the previous year. Participating Organizations' indirect support cost, as a percentage of total programme cost, was reported as 6.95 per cent; just below the 7 per cent permissible under the LRF.

As no new deposits were made during the reporting period, no AA fee was deducted during the reporting period. The cumulative AA-fee charged at the approved rate of one per cent on deposits amounted to \$458,575.

Transparency and Accountability of the LRF

The major vehicle for public transparency of operations under the LRF during the reporting period was the MPTF Office GATEWAY. Launched in 2010, the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org>) continues to serve as a knowledge platform providing real-time data from the MPTF Office accounting system (Atlas) on financial information on donor contributions, programme budgets and transfers to Participating Organizations. It is designed to provide transparent, accountable fund-management services to the United Nations system to enhance its coherence, effectiveness and efficiency. Each MPTF and Joint Programme (JP) administered by the MPTF Office has its own website on the GATEWAY with extensive narrative and financial information on the MPTF/JP including on its strategic framework, governance arrangements, eligibility and allocation criteria. Annual financial and narrative progress reports and quarterly/semi-annual updates on the results being achieved are also available. In addition, each programme has a Factsheet with specific facts, figures and updates on that programme.

The GATEWAY provides easy access to more than 6,000 reports and documents on MPTFs/JPs and individual programmes, with tools and tables displaying related financial data. By enabling users in the field with easy access to upload progress reports and related documents, it also facilitates knowledge-sharing and management among UN agencies. In its second year, the MPTF Office GATEWAY continues to be recognized as a 'standard-setter' by peers and partners.

Introduction

The Fifth Consolidated Annual Progress Report on Activities Implemented under the Lebanon Recovery Fund (LRF) is submitted to the LRF Steering Committee (SC) for onwards submission to donors contributing to the LRF, in fulfilment of the reporting provisions of the LRF Terms of Reference (TOR), the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) and Participating Organizations, and the Letter of Agreement (LOA) between the MPTF Office and Donors. The MPTF Office represents UNDP as the Administrative Agent (AA) of the LRF. The Annual Progress Report covers the period from 1 January – 31 December 2011, but also includes comprehensive information on projects approved in the first four years of LRF operations (2007–2010). The separate 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 Annual Reports are available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org>). The Progress Report provides information on progress made in the implementation of projects funded by the LRF, as well as the common challenges faced and lessons learnt.

The Annual Report is consolidated based on information and data contained in the individual progress reports and financial statements submitted by Participating Organizations to the MPTF Office. It is neither an evaluation of the LRF nor the MPTF Office's assessment of the performance of the Participating Organizations – tasks that belong to an independent evaluation. However, the report does provide the LRF Steering Committee with a comprehensive overview of achievements and challenges associated with projects funded through the LRF, enabling it to make strategic decisions and take corrective measures, as appropriate.

Report Structure

This Annual Report is a consolidation of individual project-level progress reports submitted by Participating Organizations. Chapter One provides a review of the strategic framework of the LRF as well as the establishment of the LRF. Chapter Two provides an overview of the LRF's governance and fund management arrangements and decision-making bodies. Chapter Three provides an update on project approvals and implementation status during the reporting period as well as highlights of key project implementation progress, with details to demonstrate the achievements, challenges, and lessons learnt to-date. Chapter Four provides an overview of the financial performance of the LRF. Chapter Five elaborates on efforts made to ensure LRF transparency and accountability. Chapter Five provides concluding comments and observations.

1 Strategic Framework

The Lebanon Recovery Fund (LRF) was established at the request of the Government of Lebanon and enables donors to pool their resources and rapidly provide funding in the aftermath of the July 2006 war.

The month-long war caused immeasurable destruction to the lives, livelihoods, and social and physical infrastructure of the people of Lebanon. Prior to the conflict, the Government of Lebanon had prepared a reform agenda that sought to place the country on a path to solid growth and sustainable development. The war and the subsequent total land, sea, and air blockade imposed by Israel resulted in a major setback to the country's encouraging economic outlook and to the reform agenda that the Government of Lebanon had elaborated.

The Government presented a strategy for a national early recovery process at the Stockholm Conference for Lebanon's Early Recovery, hosted by the Government of Sweden in close collaboration with the Government of Lebanon and the United Nations, on 31 August 2006. At the conference, the Government presented its early recovery priorities, and a number of donors pledged their support. The early recovery process included initial quick-impact, sector-based initiatives developed to respond to Lebanon's most critical needs.

According to the strategy, the Government provides overall coordination of the recovery process, ensuring that initiatives are in alignment with national priorities, and projects are implemented in close coordination with partners, including UN agencies, bilateral development agencies, and international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The LRF, as stated in its TOR of 3 November 2006, finances Government-approved priority recovery and reconstruction projects that can be executed with the support of Participating Organizations, in partnership and cooperation with government organizations and NGOs, within the scope and time frame of national priorities. It also facilitates the Government's coordination of international assistance and enables the Government to ensure transparent fund administration and project implementation in line with its reform agenda.

The LRF complements other funding mechanisms that may be used by the Government and United Nations organizations, and its arrangements seek to ensure that:

- Each project approved for funding is part of a Government-approved priority programme for recovery and reconstruction activities based on and formulated in consultation with concerned line ministries and beneficiary communities and, to the extent possible, donors and other stakeholders;
- The activities financed through Participating Organizations are implemented, to the extent possible, directly by or in collaboration with national implementation partners, under the overall ownership and leadership of the Government, to ensure sustainable local capacities; and
- Funding and implementation are undertaken with special attention to transparency and accountability as well as to ensure prompt delivery and efficient use of donor funds.

2 Governance

The LRF is governed by the LRF SC in accordance with its TOR (3 November 2006) which states the governance arrangements of the LRF. Below is an overview of the main bodies involved in the review, allocation, and decision-making process, as well as the fund administration of the LRF.

2.1 The LRF Steering Committee

The LRF SC provides strategic guidance and oversight, and makes final decisions on fund allocation. The Committee is chaired by the Minister of Economy and Trade, or his/her designate, and composed of the Minister of Finance, the Head of the Development Unit at the Prime Minister's Office, four representatives of donors (the European Commission, the State of Kuwait, the Kingdom of Spain, and the United Arab Emirates), and the UN Resident Coordinator (RC). The Committee's work is governed by its TOR and Rules of Procedure, operates by consensus, and whereas it is expected to meet regularly to review progress of the LRF operations and ensure reporting to all LRF donors. It met once in 2011, on 8 August 2011.

2.2 The Policy Advisory/Approval Group

A second tier of review involves the Project Advisory/Approval Group (PAG), which reviews project proposals, provides technical advises on projects' progress and extension requests, undertakes monitoring and evaluation, ensures proper reporting and provides advice to the LRF SC. The PAG is co-chaired by the Head of the Development Unit and the UN RC, and comprises leaders of the Ad-hoc Thematic Working Groups (ATWG), as necessary. The PAG met six times during 2011, in February, March, April, May, July and October with the objective to review the progress of the on-going projects, discuss major challenges faced by some of the projects and suggest convenient actions including no-cost time extension requests. The PAG also launched in 2011 a new call for proposals for the remaining funds under the LRF.

2.3 The Development Unit

The Development Unit (formerly the Recovery and Reconstruction Cell) is located in the Office of the Prime Minister and is the designated national entity in Lebanon responsible for prioritization of and resource allocation to recovery and reconstruction. The Unit supports the work of the SC and PAG and reviews all projects submitted for funding by the LRF to ensure alignment with approved national priorities and available resources. Following its review, project submissions and recommendations are forwarded either to the SC or the PAG.

2.4 The Technical Support Group (*Dissolved*)

In an effort to increase efficiency, at its meeting in August 2011, the LRF SC decided to dissolve the Technical Support Group and transfer its responsibilities to the PAG (see above).

2.5 The Administrative Agent

UNDP's MPTF Office is the Administrative Agent (AA) for the LRF. Its responsibilities as AA include the receipt, administration, and management of contributions from donors; disbursement of funds to the Participating Organizations in accordance with instructions from the SC; and consolidation of narrative and financial reports produced by each of the Participating Organizations, as well as provision of these reports to the SC for onward submission to Donors.

3 Project Approval and Implementation Updates

3.1 Project Approval Status

The first project under the LRF was approved in May 2007. An additional nine projects and extensions were approved and funds transferred during 2007, eight more projects and extensions were approved during 2008, and seven projects and extensions were approved in 2009. In 2010, one cost extension was approved. During the current reporting period (1 January – 31 December 2011), no new projects or cost-extensions were approved. In total, therefore, the 25 projects with associated extensions remained at \$45,600,533. This number includes amounts returned by Participating Organizations.

The 25 projects and extensions are executed by 6 Participating Organizations; 14 projects and extensions by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that received \$28,262,501 of total funds transferred to Participating Organizations; 4 projects/ extensions by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) amounting to \$8,370,670; 2 projects/extensions by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) amounting to \$4,500,000; 2 projects/extensions by the International Labour Organization (ILO) that received \$2,683,108; 2 projects by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) totalling \$789,396; and 1 project by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with an approved budget of \$994,858. Annex 1 provides a complete list of all 25 projects and extensions approved during 2007–2011.

3.2 Project Implementation Status: Achievements and Challenges

The 25 projects approved under the LRF are designed to address and attempt to mitigate the effects of the destruction caused to the lives, livelihoods, and social and physical infrastructure of the people of Lebanon by the month-long war in July/August 2006. The war, coupled with the subsequent total land, sea and air blockade imposed by Israel, resulted in a major setback to the country's encouraging economic outlook and to the reform agenda that the Government of Lebanon had elaborated. The war also resulted in a longer-term unstable socio-economic and political environment in the country, posing initial challenges to and affecting the start-up of projects approved for funding under the LRF in the initial phases of the trust fund.

The three main sectors targeted by the 25 LRF-projects funded to-date are:

- Environmental projects, including the forest fire management, the renewable energy and the mitigation of the flood effects in the rural areas (7 projects/phases; \$20,976,120 allocated with an overall delivery rate of 63.6 per cent).
- Local Socio-Economic Recovery projects, including the agro-food and industry, women empowerment and income generation activities, support of the dairy sector and establishment of public private partnerships (16 projects/phases; \$23,296,401 allocated with an overall delivery rate of 94.1 per cent).
- Coordination projects, including the coordination offices of the UN and the LRF Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (2 projects; \$1,328,012 allocated with an overall delivery rate of 89.8 per cent).

The following sections provide a detailed overview of project implementation status, including achievements and challenges, as reported by Participating Organizations. It includes only projects that were operational during the reporting period (January – December 2011). For information on projects closed prior to 2011, see the 2007-2010 LRF Annual Reports. Additional information on all projects, including photos, details on activities undertaken during the reporting period and work plans for 2011, where applicable, is included in individual project reports on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org>).

3.2.1 Community Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, CEDRO I, II, III (UNDP)

| 3.2.1 Programme Summary Box | |
|--|---|
| Programme Number and Title (Participating Organization) | LRF-1/10/16: Community Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Demonstration Project for Recovery of Lebanon – CEDRO I, II, III (UNDP) |
| Total Allocation and Financial Delivery Rate | \$9,732,240; 67.3% |
| Programme Duration (Funding) | CEDRO I: October 2007 - March 2011 (\$2,732,240) CEDRO II: January 2009 - January 2013 (\$3,500,000) CEDRO III: January 2010 - October 2013 (\$3,500,000) |
| Key Objective | To support recovery, reconstruction and reform activities through the implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy programme for public-sector buildings and facilities. |
| Key Results, Achievements and/or Development Impact | Through its activities, the programme has successfully implemented multiple energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives, and contributed to creating an enabling environment for the conversion of public-sector buildings and facilities, resulting in significant financial savings and environmental benefits. CEDRO has also assisted in the establishment of a longer-term sustainable energy strategy for Lebanon through e.g. the development of the Wind Atlas for Lebanon, potentially creating employment opportunities in the sector. |

To-date, three phases of the UNDP executed programme ‘*Community Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Demonstration Project for Recovery of Lebanon (CEDRO)*’ (LRF-1, LRF-10 and LRF-16) has been approved for a total of \$9,732,240. The three phases of the project are CEDRO I: October 2007 - March 2011 (\$2,732,240); CEDRO II: January 2009 - January 2013 (\$3,500,000); and CEDRO III: January 2010 - October 2013 (\$3,500,000). Whereas the first phase of the programme operationally closed on 31 March 2011, the second and third phases are expected to operational close by January 2013 and October 2013, respectively.

As of 31 December 2011, UNDP reported an overall financial delivery rate of 67.3 per cent (\$6,547,754.83) of total funds received under the three phases (\$9,732,240); a significant increase from 40.4 per cent reported at the end of 2010. Whereas Phase I had a delivery rate of 98.4 per cent, Phase II reported 94.6 per cent and Phase III had a delivery rate of 15.6 per cent.

The project’s main national implementing partners are the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR), the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW), and the Ministry of Finance.

Objective

With the approval of the three phases, the CEDRO initiative has become a part of a larger framework which aims not only at supporting Lebanon’s recovery activities, but also at supporting Lebanon’s recovery, reconstruction and reform activities, namely the power sector recovery, reconstruction and reform plan.

The objective of the CEDRO programme is to support recovery, reconstruction and reform activities through the implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy programme for public-sector buildings and facilities. To achieve this, the first phase of CEDRO (October 2007 – March 2011) targeted around 30 public-sector buildings and facilities in 3 recovery areas (South, Bekaa and Akkar) highly affected by the July 2006 conflict, while the second phase (January 2009 – January 2013) targets around 10 larger-scale public-sector buildings and

facilities across all Lebanon and approximately 30–40 smaller ones. The third phase (January 2010 – October 2013) further supplements the aforementioned two CEDRO objectives with a third key objective, which is the setting of an enabling environment for the development and implementation of a national sustainable energy strategy and detailed action plan. The third phase of CEDRO is the final key component to enable sustainability and a nationwide multi-sector scope.

The key outputs of the CEDRO programme include: i) Installation of energy efficiency and renewable energy equipment and systems in public-sector buildings and facilities; ii) Increased public-sector awareness and knowledge on energy efficiency and renewable energy applications; iii) Availability of validated data on reduced energy consumption and cost; and iv) Establishment of relevant policies and procedures to enable the continued implementation of sustainable energy measures in public-sector buildings and facilities.

The CEDRO programme builds on the objectives of the MoEW to meet increased national energy demand, and the objectives of the Ministry of Finance to reduce government financial burdens.

Results and Achievements

As reported in earlier LRF Annual Reports, the CEDRO programme faced some initial delays in the early phases of implementation. However, since then, progress on outputs since its inception has significantly picked up, as illustrated by the financial implementation rates referred to above, and include the following, categorized in four main areas:

1. Project Management

- Coordination and follow-up on a regular basis with all relevant project stakeholders and the technical backstopping agency, including the preparation of regular progress reports;
- Provision of technical and policy advice to decision-makers (MEW) and UNDP on renewable energy issues.

2. Implementation of End-Use Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Demonstration Projects for Public-Sector Buildings and Facilities

- 35 photovoltaic sites were implemented in 2011. These sites consist of PV modules (panels), inverters, charge controllers and data loggers, and the rest of balance of system (BoS) components. The PV system provides the institutions (mostly public schools and municipalities) with renewable electricity for their lighting and for running their computers and equipment. The PV systems have provided autonomy for the beneficiaries in that the use of expensive diesel back-up has been reduced to near zero, and only the rent value of electricity from the national grid is being paid. Furthermore, with the net metering enabled, the systems are likely to generate electricity and export to the national grid.
- 10 sites across Lebanon for wind reading measurement studies has been implemented, using anemometers (wind speed reading equipment) for some, while relying on computer modelling for others. After 10 months of wind readings, 7 of the sites have been identified with sufficient wind for the installation of microwind projects (2012). The three remaining sites will have PV systems installed.
- A ground source heat pump (GSHP) project was launched by CEDRO in Bejji municipality. GSHP systems use/extract the heat in the ground in the winter to heat the building and use the ground to dump the heat of the building in summer. The project is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2012.

- The installation of four solar hot water (SHW) systems in four Government Hospitals was completed; Qartaba (500 litres), Bsharre (1,000 litres), Dahr El Beshiq (6,000 litres) and Bent Jbeil (6,000 litres). The systems are made up of flat-plate collectors and storage tanks, and will provide 60-75 per cent of the hot water demand by these hospitals, and thereby save on the fuel consumption, fuel cost, and reduce CO² emissions. The four hospitals currently serve 264 patients, but will be serving up to 400 in the near future.
- The 12,000 litres x 2 SHW project at the Baalbeck Army Institute with PV powered water circulation has been completed. The actual energy savings of this will be recorded in due course when 1 year of operation has passed, though its expected savings are around 60 per cent of the baseline diesel use.
- The SHW project of Roumieh Prison (built to house 1,000 prisoners, yet currently housing 3,000) is almost complete with jacketing remaining. The commissioning of the site is expected in 2012. Delays were caused by the many security lapses that suspended work.
- 439 light emitting diode street lighting fixtures were installed in 2011. LED fixtures save 30-40 per cent more energy than normal street lighting fixtures. These fixtures were distributed in the following towns; Galboun, Kfour Aarbeh, Saida, Choufiet, Kfarnabrakh, Rachaya Road, Lala and Tell Znoub.

3. Setting an Enabling Environment for the Conversion of Public-Sector Buildings and Facilities into Energy-Efficient Modalities

Awareness campaigns and events are considered a key to CEDRO's objective of assisting in creating a more sustainable energy future. Such campaigns target the young generation and enable them to believe that even small changes implemented by individuals can make a difference. Furthermore, CEDRO truly believes that when the targeted young generation becomes of income-generating age, the cost of renewable energy systems will be in parity with conventional sources, and building knowledge of these pathways are important. Such campaigns and events during the reporting period included:

- CEDRO actively participated in Project Lebanon 2011, the country's leading construction exhibition (www.projectlebanon.com), as well as the Beirut Energy Forum 2011 (www.beirutenergyforum.com).
- On 25 January 2011, CEDRO launched the 'National Wind Atlas for Lebanon'³ at an event under the auspices of the Minister of Energy and Water and Spanish Ambassador to Lebanon.
- Three large events that launched the PV applications of CEDRO occurred in Kfour, the South, and repeated for Akkar and the Bekaa. The events catered for 900 school children aged 5 to 11 who attended a play on renewable energy and a workshop for building Lego houses that ran on renewable energy. CEDRO also distributed lunch boxes, hats, pencil cases and various stationaries, as well as school bags to all the students as a part of the awareness raising activities.
- A workshop for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of Wind Farms was held in end-September 2011. It is expected that Lebanon will follow international norms in licensing or permitting wind farms, with one of the most important licensing requirements being the acceptance of the environmental impact assessment. Wind energy is only 'green energy' if it has not serious negative environmental impacts, or can mitigate successfully these impacts.

³ The Wind Atlas for Lebanon: http://www.undp.org.lb/communication/publications/downloads/National_Wind_Atlas_report.pdf

Further efforts to create awareness are ensured through the CEDRO website (www.cedro-undp.org), which is continuously updated with new events, information and initiatives taken under the CEDRO programme. Also, two CEDRO Newsletters were prepared and printed in 2011, Issue 5 and Issue 6. In addition, synergies have been built with an on-going UNDP-project at the MoEW, Lebanese Centre for Energy Conservation project (LCECP), on energy audits and activities to build on the project's technical know-how, experience on the ground, and lessons learnt during the implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy activities. This entails exchange of technical data and lessons learnt as well as brainstorming session to coordinate and maximise efforts for project implementation.

4. Assisting the Establishment of a Sustainable Energy Strategy for Lebanon

The 'Wind Atlas for Lebanon'⁴ was completed and launched (see above) and is a national document that has been adopted by the MoEW. The report's results were very positive, indicating that Lebanon has a minimum of 1.5 GW of energy potential, which increases to 6.1 GW in the mean case and 12 GW in the maximum case. Also, the 'National Bioenergy Assessment Study for Lebanon' has been completed. Bioenergy is not well-understood in the Lebanon, yet is potentially a highly important energy source requiring further analysis. The study assessed all the potential of various bioenergy sources in the country, including their conversion options. The study set scenarios for bioenergy uptake into future, all under very strict sustainability criteria and with a focus on barriers in Lebanon for bioenergy uptake. Its results will be disseminated at a conference in 2012.

The Wind Atlas for Lebanon estimates that the country has up to 12 GW of wind energy potential

Challenges and Constraints (Phases II & III)

In 2011, the CEDRO programme faced the constraints related to import delays due to customs at Beirut International Airport. Controllers, used in the PV systems, remained at Customs for over a month until UNDP successfully cleared the systems. It is important to note as well that CEDRO highly encourages that all duties and customs on renewable energy systems be removed to enable a more cost-competitive environment. Furthermore, the Roumieh Prison is still facing delays due to the difficulty of access to the prison and the security situation that deteriorated on several occasion and postponed/delayed work on the prison. CEDRO hopes to finish Roumieh by second quarter of 2012.

Future Work Plan (Phases II & III)

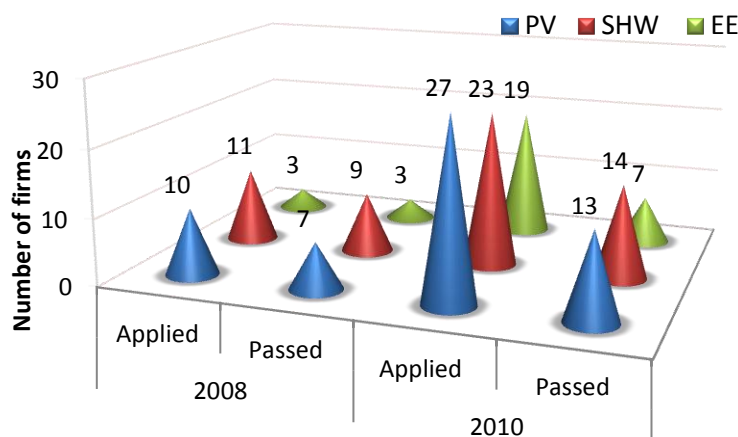
In 2012, the CEDRO programme (phases II and III) aims at further implementing demonstration projects that would benefit the various public institutions in Lebanon, introducing larger PV sites and replicating 2 SHW technologies and yet also focusing on new technologies such as microwind and pico-hydro. Secondly, to maximise the outreach of CEDRO to focus on all the work it has and is implementing and to assist in the national awareness campaigns for RE and EE applications. Thirdly, additional capacity building workshops for renewable energy professionals are planned, especially tailored to GSHP applications and microwind. Fifthly, to launch two energy manual for the Banking and hospital sectors. These would deliver a guide towards more energy efficiency in these two important sectors. Finally, CEDRO will continue with resource assessments for renewable energy with the national geothermal assessment to be launched in 2012.

⁴ ibid

Development Impact (Phase I)

CEDRO had significant secondary development impacts that went beyond the facility where the RE or EE systems were installed. These benefits are as important as directly assisting in reducing the energy bill of the beneficiaries and are the results of CEDRO's work on the Lebanese renewable energy and energy efficiency market. In brief, CEDRO is assisting in the development of the RE and EE market by providing a reliable and stable source of tendering for EE and RE projects that companies can look forward to, and those firms that win projects from CEDRO are getting an additional benefit in building knowledge, learning from CEDRO's team and its backstopping firm, TTA. CEDRO is also having an important implication on the cost or price of RE and EE sources.

The figure below shows that in 2008, ten, eleven and three companies submitted their files to be short-listed in CEDRO for the PV, SHW, and Energy Efficiency Lots, respectively, with seven, nine and three firms succeeding to bid on forthcoming projects, respectively. In 2010, however, a three-fold increase in companies submitted their files, with a slight increase in the succeeding firms. Each firm employs between 5-50 people, an implication as well for 'green jobs' creation. CEDRO does not claim to have initiated this in and by itself, as there are other initiatives such as through the LCEC and other agencies such as the German GIZ and the Italian Cooperation, and the private sectors' own opportunities (although these are limited), yet CEDRO's role is vital as it is currently the largest and most diverse (in terms of mandate) initiative in the field and has provided a lot of opportunity in various RE and EE sources, testified through discussion with companies working with CEDRO.



Company applications to CEDRO; comparing 2008 and 2010

As for impacts on price of electricity, the below table shows the costs of a 6,000 SHW system installed in a hospital in two consecutive bids 2-3 year apart, and shows the cost of a 1.8 kWp PV system (with installation) through three consecutive bids two years apart. This was possible given that the financial bids were opened in front of all bidders, whereby the lowest price set the competition stage for any forthcoming bid in the future.

| Technology | Cost per system (USD) | | | % reduction (1 st bid to last bid) |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------|--|
| | 2008-9 | 2010 | 2011 | |
| SHW 6,000 litres | 149,332 | 104,535 | 70,000 | 55% |
| PV 1.8 kWp system | 29,000 | 20,000 | 16,000 | 45% |

CEDRO impact on price of RE

Cross-Sector Impact (Phase I)

The RE systems implemented by CEDRO on public facilities are have direct benefits on poverty alleviation and the environment. The PV systems has enabled most, if not all, of the institutions to let go of their diesel self-generators, a significant impact given the increase in diesel oil prices, and some of the institutions have even reported that they only pay the registration fees for EDL, and yet hardly pay anymore for EDL electricity as they are not using EDL electricity anymore. With respect to the environment, RE systems provide a clean source of energy. Given the highly polluted content of the Lebanese grid and the diesel self-generation, these systems are significantly lowering the beneficiaries' environmental (including carbon) footprint. As for SHW systems, these are also lowering the costs and environmental footprints of public institutions, and preliminary estimations indicate to a 60-70 per cent reduction in diesel fuel bills and consequent environmental pollutant emissions, especially green-house gas emissions.

Sustainability

The project aims to achieve sustainable development goals, particularly focused on the 7th MDG. CEDRO results in a reduction in the financial bill of the institutions, disseminating through direct demonstration projects the benefits of RE and EE systems, and introducing such technologies to the public sector as an example for the private sector to follow suite. Staff of all these institutions have been given training workshops on the maintenance of the RE systems, as well as training manuals. CEDRO, through its second and third phases, is currently drafting a maintenance program post-CEDRO.

Lessons Learnt and Recommendations

Lessons learnt from CEDRO are multiple. For one, the technical know-how and understanding of RE systems has been disseminated to the CEDRO staff, to the contractors who have worked with CEDRO, and through technical capacity building workshops. Such knowledge was limited for the technologies applied by CEDRO before, yet it is safe to say that Lebanon has been better prepared on all levels (as discussed in the development impact section above). It is important to note that this was a knowledge-building exercise for all involved. This can be shown by the fact that many variation orders occurred in the implementation of the projects for items that were not considered or known when drafting the bidding documents, however with time, variation order were minimized and lessons learnt internalized.

Based on these lessons, it is recommended that the CEDRO initiative continues beyond the current LRF-funded duration of the programme. CEDRO has worked closely with the LCEC and the MoEW. However, the LCEC is focused on energy efficiency policies and measures, and therefore CEDRO had and has a significant knowledge filling role in terms of renewable energy applications of all sorts, and research and studies of all kinds (large-scale and small-scale). CEDRO's work is well aligned with national priorities, and yet often assists in setting up new priority action plans, like the 'net metering' concept (quantitative exchange between a renewable energy system and the national grid).

Additional information on CEDRO, including the 2012 annual work plans and detailed reports on 2011 activities, is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org/document/download/8323>), as well as on the dedicated CEDRO web site (www.cedro-undp.org). The completion report for Phase I of the programme is also available (<http://mptf.undp.org/document/download/7909>).

3.2.2 Support for Livelihoods and Economic Recovery (UNIDO)

| 3.2.2 Programme Summary Box | |
|--|--|
| Programme Number and Title (Participating Organization) | LRF-2/20: Support for Livelihoods and Economic Recovery in War-affected Areas of Lebanon (UNIDO) |
| Total Allocation and Financial Delivery Rate | \$4,500,000; 97.0% |
| Programme Duration (Funding) | Phase I: May 2007 – March 2010 (\$3,000,000) Phase II: April 2009 – March 2011 (\$1,500,000) |
| Key Objective | To support economic recovery and restore industrial units in war-affected areas of Lebanon, thereby generating employment and alleviating poverty in the country. |
| Key Results, Achievements and/or Development Impact | By supporting 41 enterprises, the project has restored economic activities and diversification of economic/income generating activities, and generated new employment opportunities. The project has also contributed to informing similar projects that are currently being implemented and adopting a similar form of intervention, including in Fallujah, Iraq. |

UNIDO's project 'Support for Livelihoods and Economic Recovery in War-affected Areas of Lebanon' (LRF-2, \$3,000,000) was approved for funding in May 2007, with an additional allocation for a Phase II of the project approved in April 2009 (LRF-20, \$1,500,000), bringing the total allocation to this project to \$4,500,000. Phase I of the project was operationally closed (all programme activities completed) in March 2010, whereas Phase II operationally closed in March 2011.

As of 31 December 2011, UNIDO reported an overall financial delivery rate of 97 per cent (\$4,362,900) of the total funds received for the two phases. The first phase (LRF-2) had a delivery rate of 95.1 per cent, whereas the second phase (LRF-20) reported over-expenditure and had a delivery rate of 100.7 per cent (which will be corrected in 2012 financial reporting).

The project's main national implementing partner was the Ministry of Industry.

Objective

The objective of the project was to support economic recovery and restore industrial units in war-affected areas of Lebanon, thereby generating employment and alleviating poverty in the country. Supporting this, the project's immediate objectives included: a) providing strategic support to the Ministry of Industry to monitor and implement the programme for the rehabilitation of the agro-industrial sector; and b) providing technical assistance and inputs for the rehabilitation of damaged agro-processing facilities both in rural and urban areas. The project aimed to achieve its objectives through rehabilitating a number of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) agro-enterprises in South Lebanon, the Bekaa Valley Area and the Southern Suburb of Beirut.

Development Impact

The project restored economic activities and diversification of economic/income generating activities; it has directly supported 41 enterprises all of which have had their operations restored or enhanced. Furthermore, many of the refurbished enterprises have been shown to generate new employment opportunities in their respective areas. The project also has contributed to informing similar projects that are currently being implemented and

adopting a similar form of intervention, including a UNIDO project in Fallujah, Iraq, that provides assistance to revitalize 80 small enterprises and also seeks to provide 750 household members with job opportunities.

Cross-Sector Impact

The selection of factories was based on employment generation prospects, gender equality and prevention of pollution, and potential enterprises underwent an environmental assessment and beneficiaries willing to commit to the environmentally production techniques were selected accordingly. Capacity development has been an important element of the project, and UNIDO conducted a range of training courses on workplace health and safety with linkage to the environmental aspects. The intervention behind the LAISER project was to rehabilitate war-affected enterprises, thus to restore and create jobs and to improve livelihoods and ultimately contribute to reduce poverty in rural and urban areas. This was achieved by providing direct assistance to war-damaged enterprises as well as by supporting the MoI in monitoring and implementing the project. During the capacity building activities women were encouraged to participate specifically for the food, leather and textile sectors since their presence was limited for the furniture, metal and printing sectors.

The project has supported 41 enterprises in Lebanon by restoring economic activities and diversification of economic/income generating activities, and generated new employment opportunities. In addition, it has contributed to informing a similar project in Fallujah, Iraq.

Sustainability

The quality of the machinery and civil works will continue to generate turnover and jobs in the clients' enterprises, and the impact in terms of jobs generated is already substantial and can be expected to grow further in the future. In addition to the quantitative impact, the project has also enabled the affected enterprises to stay in their locality and continue to provide local jobs, hope and perspectives for the local communities. The project's interventions played a catalytic role in inducing production and management related changes beyond the utilisation of new machinery. Finally, the success of project has been rewarded by a Phase III, funded by the Government of Italy.

Challenges and Constraints

Constraints encountered during the implementation included; i) The delay in delivering the specialized equipment was due to custom clearance complications faced by UNIDO. This was overcome by the assistance of the MoI. ii) A lack of commitment from some beneficiaries towards participating in some of the planned capacity building activities was noted. To address this, conditions should be set in terms of investments by the clients themselves and in terms of mandatory participation in training. iii) A delay in accomplishing civil works at la Martine Confectionary occurred since the owner had an old building legislation. Conditions will be set in the following bids in order to avoid such complications.

Lessons Learnt and Recommendations

Lessons learnt during the implementation include that close collaboration with relevant authorities and business associations is essential in reconstruction and recovery work. Also, the involvement of the beneficiaries in selection of forms and types of assistance, as well as that the provision of professional equipment and remedial work essential; machines should be delivered on turn-key basis; i.e. equipment delivered on-site, installed and

commissioned by the supplier including provision of adequate instruction in its proper operation and maintenance. Finally, the speed of the assistance and provision of inputs is crucial.

Based on these lessons, the following recommendations were made:

- Continuously evaluate and adapt methodologies and strategies as the project progresses;
- Continuous follow-up with the beneficiaries, i.e. broaden discussions and inputs related to e.g. SME restarting, management, production, marketing, niche production etc.
- If funds permit/additional funds are made available; expand the project, i.e. involve more beneficiaries- e.g. SME's-include other geographical areas etc.
- A possible follow-up project should be planned with a medium-term development perspective in mind.
- For construction work use contractors from the locality; this helps promote local job creation and income and helps build community coherence and relationships.

3.2.3 Local Socio-Economic Recovery (ILO)

| 3.2.3 Programme Summary Box | |
|--|---|
| Programme Number and Title (Participating Organization) | LRF-5/22: Local Socio-Economic Recovery in War-Affected Areas in South Lebanon (UNIDO) |
| Total Allocation and Financial Delivery Rate | \$2,683,108; 98.3% |
| Programme Duration (Funding) | Phase I: June 2007 – June 2009 (\$1,183,108) Phase II: April 2009 – March 2011 (\$1,500,000) |
| Key Objective | To implement local socio-economic development activities and enhancing the capacities of institutions at the community level in identifying, prioritizing, designing and implementing socio-economic activities in an autonomous manner. |
| Key Results, Achievements and/or Development Impact | The project, through creating local ownership of all its interventions and based on an organizational capacity assessment conducted during the first phase, successfully implemented a series of quick impact initiatives that resulted in improved skills of the beneficiaries, in addition to the creation of temporary and permanent jobs. |

The ILO project ‘Local Socio-economic Recovery in War-affected Areas in South Lebanon’ (LRF-5, \$1,183,108) was approved for funding in June 2007. A second phase of the project was approved in April 2009 (LRF-22, \$1,500,000) bringing the total funded amount to \$2,683,108. Whereas the first phase of the project operationally closed in 2009, the second phase operationally closed in March 2011.

As of 31 December 2011, the project reported an overall expenditure rate of 98.3 per cent (\$2,637,665) of the total funds received for the two phases. The first phase (LRF-5) reported a 97.5 per cent financial delivery rate, whereas the second phase (LRF-22) had a delivery rate of 99 per cent.

The project's main government counterpart was the Ministry of Labour. It also partnered with municipalities, local cooperatives, relevant ministries at both central and local levels, micro-credit institutions (incl. Al Majmoua, ADR), academic institutions, Social Development Centres, syndicates, and workers' and employers' organizations present in the South, as well as with international institutions (incl. the Italian ROSS programme and INTERSOS).

Objective

The project aimed at both implementing local socio-economic development activities and enhancing the capacities of institutions at the community level in identifying, prioritizing, designing and implementing socio-economic activities in an autonomous manner. Based on the work done by the local economic forums and the first phase of the LSER project, the second phase of the project aimed at building further the economic and planning capacities of local institutions and communities to play a leading role in the development of strategically planned and locally implemented livelihood projects.

Moreover, the project aimed at promoting social equity and local stakeholders' empowerment through local employment development and livelihood support in conflict-affected areas in South Lebanon. It did so through two interrelated outcomes:

1. Local institutions and major implementing partners in South Lebanon manage livelihoods projects applying acquired tools and methodologies.
2. Local institutions in South Lebanon can maintain and replicate participatory methodologies in promoting local economic development initiatives.

Results and Achievements

In relation to the first expected outcome, the project adopted a participatory approach to recovery. Its main aim was to build consensus and create local ownership of all its interventions. The additional value of this phase lies in the organizational capacity assessment which was conducted for the potential partners in the targeted sectors. It resulted into a series of trainings, tailored according to the needs, to improve the local institutions' skills in designing and managing livelihood projects. It was both efficient and effective in achieving the following:

- Public, private and civil society local stakeholders designed consensual and integrated proposals to support the economic development of the olive oil and beekeeping sectors.
- Collaborative initiatives between central authorities MOL, MoSA, municipalities, academia, local institutions including employers' associations and workers' organization were systematically promoted.
- Staff members of local institutions were certified as Local Appraisal of Competitive Advantages (LACA) co-facilitators, and skilled to identify and coordinate a Participative Value Chain Analysis.
- Exchange of information and preparation of a local forum among key stakeholders of the beekeeping sector facilitated (public, private, civil society).
- Established the basis for local governance in the Olive Oil and Beekeeping sectors through networking between the main stakeholders.

In relation to the second expected outcome, and following the completion of the first phase of the project, as well as from the lessons learnt and the evaluation of the project, ILO facilitated the implementation of the following quick impact projects that resulted in improved skills of the beneficiaries, in addition to the creation of temporary and permanent jobs:

- Oregano Plantations Rehabilitation (increased productivity and skills for 185 farmers - 2 projects)
- Training of new beekeepers (skills upgraded for 80 beekeepers – 2 project)
- Distribution of beehives for 80 beekeepers (2 projects).
- Training of trainers for cooperative extension workers (28 participants)
- Local economic development training for private, civil and public institutions (34 institutions)
- Municipality workshop (The capacities of 26 Southern municipalities were strengthened)
- People with disability training (5 SDC's and 13 institutions were trained on the techniques to integrate people with disabilities into the labour market)

To ensure the sustainability of the development methodologies it adopted during implementation, the project delivered several training of trainers, mainly on the PVCA methodology, the management of cooperatives, and the Local Economic Development, in order to enhance the local stakeholders' capacities in using these tools and applying them.

Constraints and Challenges

Some of the challenges faced, and reported on, during project implementation included:

On implementation: although the organizational capacity assessment highlighted many weaknesses in the institutional structure of assessed institutions, the resources allocated to this component limited the number of interventions and the focus. Hence, it was not possible to cater to all needs, and interventions were mainly training workshops; whereby they target many institutions at the same time, and with a reasonable amount of resources. To mitigate this, the project tried to provide trainings to cater to the most important needs, i.e. needs with high priority, and which are the most common among the majority of assessed institutions.

On stakeholders, partners & implementing agencies: institutions tend to prefer that assistance is provided in the form of grants or livelihoods interventions rather than technical training. Hence their interest and commitment to the training workshops provided by the project are not always guaranteed. To mitigate this, the project tried to involve the institutions in the capacity building process from A to Z. Thus, the organizational assessment ensured that their input of how they perceive their involvement is included in the analysis. Then, the suggested capacity building plan was validated with them in order to maximize their participation in and commitment to the training workshops.

On external factors: the severe climate had some effect on the impact of interventions, especially in the case of oregano and beekeeping. To mitigate this, the project accounted for a percentage of seeds' loss that may occur after or during the cultivation of oregano, and the suppliers of seeds were required to compensate up to 1,000 seeds per farmer. As in the case of beekeepers who lost some beehives provided by ILO due to the climate, these could be considered as potential beneficiaries for further support in future interventions of ILO in South Lebanon.

Development Impact

- During the ToT on Cooperative Management, the trainees, representing the most active cooperatives in South Lebanon and the key supporting institutions of this sector, drafted a development strategy for cooperative work in the South.
- The PVCA workshop conducted on the Dairy sector enabled the development of a sector strategy for South Lebanon, with the consensus of the key actors in south Lebanon from the public, private and civil society sectors. The other purpose of the workshop was to validate the findings of the assessment on the potential green jobs in South Lebanon, whereby the participants representing a substantial variety of institutions involved in environment and agriculture built a consensus on the sectors bearing high potential for creation of green jobs. Specific initiatives were detailed to assess the feasibility and the relevance of investments that could be made to generate green employment in South Lebanon.
- Through various livelihood interventions and with relatively limited resources the project was able, during the second phase, to target 353 households, affected by the 2006 war, and assisted them to regain their main source of income.
- The project partnered with two leading micro-finance institutions in Lebanon to target entrepreneurs who are in need of support to start or improve their business. These partnership agreements allowed the project to provide micro-credits to approximately 114 eligible beneficiaries, involved in the targeted value chains, i.e. Beekeeping, olive, fishery, oregano and livestock, to improve their business. The beneficiaries also had access Business Management Training courses.
- The capacity of both institutions were strengthened through involving their staff members in a training of trainers on the GET AHEAD tool which is a Business Management Training specifically tailored for women who intend to start or develop their own business.

Cross-Sector Impact

The project contributed to poverty reduction in the areas affected by the 2006-war in South Lebanon. That was made possible through the interventions in the conflict-affected areas which focused on upgrading skills of vulnerable groups, strengthening the capacity of local institutions, developing cooperative work, and supporting small and medium enterprises.

The project methodology promoted social dialogue, and local ownership and governance. Networks among local stakeholders who are active in the targeted sectors and who represent private, public, and civil society sectors were established to draft development strategies, and build consensus around interventions.

The project advocated for gender participation in the interventions. Gender sensitization was a key issue in the implementation process, and major efforts highly considered in the implementation. Women participation in the interventions of the first phase was limited due to cultural constraints. Further efforts are required using gender mainstreaming tools and methodologies to enhance women's share in the project activities.

Sustainability

The establishment and the capacity building of both the beekeeping and cooperatives forums aimed at sustaining the initiatives after project completion. In fact, the forums, in addition to being responsible of monitoring the progress interventions and technically supporting the beneficiaries, were also trained to design, implement and

monitor their own sector development plans. Moreover, during the second phase, the main purpose of allocating most of the project's resources to capacity building was to ensure that partner institutions (especially local ones) are well equipped to take over the initiatives and replicate them after the end of the ILO intervention.

Lessons Learnt and Recommendations

Improving the knowledge basis: The existence of a full-time monitoring and evaluation officer on the project could have ensured that adequate monitoring data is collected from the project's sites and that indicators are appropriately measured to display the sustainability and impact of initiatives. Furthermore, conducting a baseline assessment at the beginning of the phase instead of the end could have been instrumental in setting milestones for comparison when measuring impact of interventions during the final independent evaluation.

Strategies for thematic issues: The capacity building of implementing partners, prior to contracting them for the delivery of a specific service, derives higher performance; integration of the disabled offers the proof of their ability. It is the best means of raising awareness; and livelihoods support offer concrete benefits that are most appreciated by beneficiaries and institutions, but should be directly linked to technical or vocational assistance to ensure their sustainability.

Capacity building and work with ILO partners: One of the major lessons extracted from the first phase of the project was that the capacities of local institutions should be further enhanced to enable them to be more effective and efficient in implementing development initiatives. Therefore, at the beginning of the second phase, an Organizational Capacity Assessment was conducted for 19 institutions considered active partners or potential partners in the targeted sectors. A capacity building plan for each institution or group of institutions (training workshops, networking, funding) was drafted accordingly, and training workshops were conducted to cater to their needs. However, one should note that future interventions in the domain of institutional capacity development should not be limited to training workshops. More resources should be allocated to this component to allow on-the-job or in-house trainings, problem-solving trainings which would leave a higher impact on institutions and attend to their specific institutional challenges. Moreover, this type of trainings ensures the full involvement of institutions' representatives, whereby they are given the opportunity to receive training in their offices, while still attending to their daily duties.

Mainstreaming successful approaches and achieving sustainability of impact: The project aimed at the inclusion of local stakeholders in the decision making process to ensure the sustainability of interventions. Hence the participation of academics, major players, and main supporting institutions in the PVCA workshops, and in the local economic forums established by the ILO in South Lebanon was essential to guarantee the full involvement of stakeholders, and to enhance their sense of adoption toward the implemented activities. In this phase, the capacities of the most active local institutions and actors in the targeted sectors were enhanced to optimize the benefits of their involvement in the recovery/development of the sectors. Moreover, the capacity building of the local economic forums established for the Cooperatives and the Beekeeping sectors in South Lebanon ensured their high involvement in the design, implementation and monitoring of the interventions implemented by the project.

Based on these lessons, the following recommendations can be made: Based on the on-going success exhibited by the LSER project, phases 1 and 2, and the pressing need to seek sustainable development in South Lebanon, the project could propose an expansion of operations to execute activities which support environmentally sustainable economic progress and foster low-carbon, socially inclusive development in South Lebanon. Hence, it is possible to build upon existing work by offering the same main components but with a green approach. It is possible to

continue to support interventions that contribute to economic growth to alleviate poverty and to achieve social progress, but it will select, design and apply them while aiming at reducing increased environmental degradation, climate change and diminishing natural resources. Activities can be focused on key economic sectors such as energy, agriculture etc.

3.2.4 Enhancing the Performance of the Public Sector (UNDP)

| 3.2.4 Programme Summary Box | |
|--|--|
| Programme Number and Title (Participating Organization) | LRF-7: Enhance Performance of the Social Sector (UNDP) |
| Total Allocation and Financial Delivery Rate | \$270,000; 96.9% |
| Programme Duration (Funding) | October 2007 – March 2009 (\$270,000) |
| Key Objective | To support the implementation of a number of reform initiatives that was called upon in the Social Action Plan to be undertaken by the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Social Issues (IMC). |
| Key Results, Achievements and/or Development Impact | The project was the implementation tool of many of the Social Action Plan recommendations that was prepared and submitted by the Government to the Paris III donors' conference in January 2008, including elaborating a national social development policy, strategy and related implementation plan, enhancing effectiveness in social service delivery and implementation of social programs between public agencies, and enhance effectiveness in the implementation of local development initiatives. |

The UNDP executed project '*Enhance Performance of the Social Sector*' (LRF-7, \$270,000), also referred to as '*Support to the Inter Ministerial Committee on Social Issues*' was approved and funds transferred in October 2007, whereas activities were initiated in April 2008. The project operationally closed on 31 March 2011.

As of 31 December 2011, UNDP had reported an expenditure rate of 96.9 per cent (\$261,628).

The project's key implementing partners included the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) acting as secretariat to Inter-Ministerial Committee on Social Issues (IMC), which includes representatives from the Ministries of Finance, Economy & Trade, Education & Higher Education, Interior & Municipalities, Public Health and Labour, in addition to the Council for Development and Reconstruction.

Objective

The project's aim was to support the implementation of a number of reform initiatives that was called upon in the Social Action Plan to be undertaken by the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Social Issues (IMC). The project supported the Inter-Ministerial Committee to enhance the performance of the social sector in the country through increased coordination in the implementation of social programmes and provision of social services as well as in devising and building consensus around a social development strategy.

The project objectives and outcomes were to:

- Elaborate a national social development policy, strategy and related implementation plan by i) National comprehensive and integrated social strategy elaborated; ii) Implementation plan designed (including time frame, budget and performance indicators); and iii) Consensus around the plan built (Ministries)
- Enhance effectiveness in social service delivery and implementation of social programs between public agencies by i) Duplication in the delivery of social services among the social ministries reduced
- Enhance effectiveness in the implementation of local development initiatives by i) Exhaustive mapping of local development initiatives completed; ii) Framework of national needs and priorities defined; and iii) Consensus around needs and priorities built (Ministries and NGOs).

Results and Achievements

All of the project objectives outlined above were accomplished during the lifetime of the project. However, developing the action plan related to the formulation of the national social strategy was not finalized. The main reason for not having the action plan established was that the implementation of the IMC project was done in coordination with the MoSA under the direct supervision of the Minister. With the Lebanese Government only active for four months, and the project coming to an end, lead to not having the action plan in place. The political situation has now changed and a new Government is formed. Consequently, UNDP will liaise with the Minister of Social Affairs to endorse the social strategy and develop the action plan accordingly.

Development Impact

The project was the implementation tool of many of the Social Action Plan recommendations. The Social Action Plan that was prepared and submitted by the government to the Paris III donors' conference in January 2008 called for a number of initiatives to enhance the performance of the social sector. The initiatives included the elaboration of a social strategy which represents the government's vision and policy to improve the social conditions of the population and to push the social development forward. In addition to the social strategy, the Social Action Plan emphasized the need for increasing coordination and synchronization in the delivery of social services and programs and the implementation of local development initiatives; both are crucial to improve efficiency in public social spending and implementation of social interventions.

Sustainability

The ownership of the project results goes to the MoSA, and thus the sustainability of the project outcomes is guaranteed by the MoSA. On another note, it is worth mentioning that inter-ministerial committee for Social Issues and its responsibilities will remain operational even after the implementation of the aforementioned activities is completed. UNDP will continue coordination with the MoSA for other local initiatives and will ensure that the Ministry is providing sustainability of the achievements.

Constraints and Challenges

- The endorsement of the strategy faced serious delays for reasons beyond the capacity of the project. The strategy needs to be endorsed by the Council of Ministers, which is currently inactive given the political context the country is going through.
- The electronic portal faced delays in implementation due to the fact that the UNDP-MoSA Project "Capacity Building for Poverty Reduction" (which is the working body of the LRF project) closed by

end-February 2011, whereas the end date of the LRF project activities is March 2011 and require on-going follow up for maintenance and updating. To overcome this risk, the project handed over the electronic portal to another department (or project) at MoSA to follow up and maintain all portal-related activities.

- The component related to eliminating duplication in the delivery and implementation of social services was not easy to be achieved since the program team faced difficulties in obtaining relevant reliable data from concerned ministries; however, a continuous follow up with the ministries took place to get the needed info.

Lessons Learnt and Recommendations

Lessons learnt during the implementation include that political stability plays a major role in achieving the project objectives whenever the project is conducted in coordination with a public entity (Ministry), and that appropriate follow up should be done with all ministries to gather needed information. No specific recommendations were identified in the end-of-project report.

3.2.5 Flood and Water Management for Livelihood Recovery (UNDP)

| 3.2.5 Programme Summary Box | |
|--|--|
| Programme Number and Title (Participating Organization) | LRF-9/17: Flood and Water Management for Livelihood Recovery in Baalback-Hermel (UNDP) |
| Total Allocation and Financial Delivery Rate | \$6,643,880; 59.3% |
| Programme Duration (Funding) | Phase I: October 2007 – May 2011 (\$2,843,880) Phase II: September 2008 – March 2013 (\$3,800,000) |
| Key Objective | To assist the Government of Lebanon in its recovery efforts in the conflict-affected and desertification-prone region of Baalback-El Hermel through better land-management practices. |
| Key Results, Achievements and/or Development Impact | By building permanent structures, the flood risk reduction component of the project has reduced the risk of flood in the villages of Aarsal and Fakeha. The water harvesting component provides irrigation water to around 50 ha of land, lands that were previously left barren. The green cover component has led to reduced soil erosion, increased infiltration rate of rainfall and reduced overland flow and floods. |

The UNDP-executed project ‘Flood and Water Management for Livelihood Recovery in Baalback-Hermel’ (LRF-9, \$2,843,880) was approved in October 2007. In September 2008, the LRF SC approved a second phase of the project (LRF-17, \$3,800,000), bringing the total funding for the project to \$6,643,880. The first phase of the project operationally closed in May 2011, whereas the second phase is expected to close in March 2013.

As of 31 December 2011, the overall project had an expenditure rate of 59.3 per cent (\$3,937,465.25), based on the total amount funded (up from 37.6 per cent at the end of 2010). The first phase of the project had a delivery rate of 97.1 per cent, whereas the second phase had a delivery rate of 30 per cent.

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) is the main national project partner responsible for the supervision and execution of the project through the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification project already established at the Ministry, while the MoEW is the key facilitator in the execution of the excavation works. In addition, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) is involved in technical information sharing and coordination of the project, while the Arab Centre for Studies in Arid Zones and Drylands (ACSAD) has a technical backstopping role for the flood management component of the project.

Objective

The project aims at assisting the Government of Lebanon in its recovery efforts in the conflict-affected and desertification-prone region of Baalback-El Hermel through better land-management practices, namely: flood risk reduction, restoration of vegetation cover and improved availability of irrigation water needed to increase crop productivity and improve standards of living. This will be achieved through the construction of stone walls, check dams and water collection reservoirs to prevent runoff water from reaching villages and farms and through the restoration of land cover to reduce soil erosion. The objectives related to water management will be achieved through construction of several membrane-lined reservoirs to collect unused water from springs, rainfall and snow melts and through installation of water-use efficient irrigation networks and systems that will be used by local farmers to improve their crop diversity and productivity.

The project objectives will be met through the following outputs:

- Coordination and linkage with on-going projects established and strengthened.
- Risks and damages caused by floods in target area managed and reduced.
- Water for irrigation harvested, managed and made available to farmers.
- Land cover in risk areas increased and soil erosion reduced.
- Sustainability, capacity-building and public awareness.

The expected outcomes from the current project – particularly those related to water harvesting, increased vegetation cover and higher productivity – will serve the national efforts and plans aiming at combating desertification and alleviating poverty in North Bekaa. They will also serve the recovery efforts made by the Lebanese government in normalizing the living conditions of rural communities and in restoring the basic needs and infrastructure for practicing sound and profitable agriculture in the affected area.

Results and Achievements

The actual start date of the project's activities was on 1 February 2008. With the approval of the LRF SC of the second phase of the project that targets the watershed of upper Aarsal and Ras-Baalback, covering an area of approximately 250 km², a new UNDP project document was developed encompassing both phases of the project. Both phases of the flood project comprise a larger programme on Flood Management in the Bekaa region.

During the current reporting period, the activities under the first phase were completed resulting in operational closure of Phase I in May 2011. A final evaluation for Phase I was conducted (see below for its findings). For Phase II, an assessment requested by the LRF SC was completed and an extension was granted until March 2013. Bureau Hamid Kayrouz was selected to undertake all the excavation works for the reservoirs and the implementation activities of the designed flood management structures; works on site for the excavation of the reservoirs was initiated. A UNDP surveyor was selected to verify on the successful completion of excavation works executed by the contractor and to validate on site all requested data submitted by the municipality and the technical consultant ELARD. Also, an MOU was concluded with the Municipality of Ras Baalback for the

maintenance of the reservoirs, walls and the reforested area. TORs for reforestation were reviewed and related procurement activity is on-going.

Overall, the project made progress in the following five output areas:

1. Project Management and Coordination

- The contract awarded to Earth Link and Advanced Resources Development-ELARD for the modelling of the watershed and supervision in phase II, was extended until January 2013.
- The Flood Project team held meetings with the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) staff in order to plan the common activities. As a result, the flood team provided technical assistance in the following issues: 1) available data and information related to flood events in Lebanon (dates, affected regions, and damages) transferred to the DRR team. This information has been integrated into the DESINVINTAR software; 2) terms of References (ToRs) for expert on flash flood hazard mapping prepared and posted on the UNDP website; 3) CVs and technical skills of applicants evaluated and three potential candidates selected; 4) a presentation on flash flood hazards presented during a meeting held in the Grand Serail on October 28, 2011. The members of the National Committee for the preparation of Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy attended the meeting; 5) final draft of the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy reviewed and comments submitted to the DRR team.
- Two evaluations were carried out: The first evaluation was to assess activities of both phases of the project (feasibility, impact, available resources, revised work plan). The project assisted the LRF-assigned evaluator in compiling data about the project, responding to technical queries and coordinating for site visits to the project sites. Assessment completed and the extension was granted by the LRF until March 2013. The second evaluation was to assess the activities of the first phase and to prepare case studies and project proposals. The evaluation mission and the finalization of the first draft report are completed.
- A visit to the Deir El Ahmar reservoir was organized for the Steering Committee members of the Dryland Desertification Centre (DDC). The latter expressed their interest to support this component through extending the irrigated area covered by the Deir El Ahmar reservoir through the installation of the needed infrastructure for efficient irrigation. This option will be further explored in the beginning of 2012.

2. Flood Risk Management and Reduction (Phase II)

- The design of reservoirs and walls for Phase II was finalized. 13 potential sites identified and specifications were developed. Given the issue related to land ownership, all the reservoirs selected were located in the public domain such that there is no need for compensatory payments for expropriation of land. The large reservoirs were subdivided into smaller basins. This design will reduce the maintenance costs and improve the efficiency of the system. The first basin will act as a stilling basin and will take most of the sediment load without spreading it to the rest of the reservoirs. The water flowing out of the first basin will have lower solids content and will accordingly cause less blockage of the soil in the subsequent basins, thus will not reduce water infiltration.
- Assessment of the impact of the May 2011 flood in Ras Baalback and review of designs of walls and reservoirs further to the inspection of the site damages. The field investigation showed that there was

By building permanent structures, the flood risk reduction component of the project has reduced the risk of flood in the villages of Aarsal and Fakeha.

damage variability along the wadi and that in some locations, a very important soil erosion and sediment transport were observed. The check dams and gabions established by GIZ were highly damaged and spillways of some retention ponds were collapsed; nevertheless, the six retention ponds (also established by GIZ) played an important role in retaining a significant part of the run-off water, thus protecting the downstream urban settlements of Ras Baalback from flood damages. Preliminary field measures undertaken by the team revealed that the maximum discharge was around 12m³/s which means that the event is a 10-year flood. The number may be off by some margin of error; however it represents the best estimate in the existing context. As a recommendation, it appears that reservoirs and micro dams may reduce the destructive energy of floods and protect downstream localities but there is a need for additional non-structural measures like regulations and codes organizing land use, protecting flood plains. Reforestation of denuded and steep slopes contributes effectively in limiting flood intensity.

As a result of the construction of an artificial lake in Dier El Ahmar, improved irrigation will contribute to the planting of vines for wine making

- A report on the flood of September 2011 was prepared by the project further to site inspections. The results showed that the reservoirs in Aarsal collected around 30,000m³ and the walls collected water behind them leading to reduced soil erosion and overland flow. Measurements of flood stream width, water depth and extent of damage were taken. The flood was estimated to be a 10-year flood. The direct cost of a flood event in the region of Baalback – El Hermel amounts to approximately \$2.5m. The project will contribute to at least 50 per cent cost reduction for the Lebanese Government currently covered in damage costs by the Higher Relief Council
- A tractor and a wheel loader were purchased and offered to the municipality of Ras Baalback. A handover ceremony will be organized in the presence of the Minister of Agriculture, the Ambassador of Spain and concerned stakeholders. The expected event date may be associated with the World Day to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation; on 17 June 2012.

3. Water Harvesting for Extending Irrigation Periods (Phase I):

- Successful completion of the artificial lake in Deir El Ahmar with a capacity of 33,000m³. More than 300 farmers will benefit from the reservoir. The land irrigated by the reservoir will be planted mainly with vines for wine making. Vines require irrigation for the first two years of planting. The current stored volume of water can irrigate around 40ha for the first two years, and another 40ha every two years to finally cover all the available land area estimated at 200ha.
- The DDC/Finland expressed their interest to support this component through extending the irrigated area covered by the reservoir through the installation of the needed infrastructure for efficient irrigation. The activity is defined by laying 1,000m of irrigation pipes to draw water from the artificial lake for cultivation. The irrigated land surface will be increased to around 50 hectares. The sustainability of the lake and water distribution will be ensured by the Cooperative of Deir El Ahmar together with the Municipality.
- Supported local farmers to secure piping to upgrade the usage of an existing pond executed in 2003 and funded from the Sub Regional Action Programme (SRAP) to Combat Desertification. To improve its

efficiency, 300m of main pipes (5") were established to feed the lake over the year with Yammouneh water. This support helped to cultivate a one hectare with apple trees.

- To ensure the sustainability of the planting operation, a grant agreement between Aarsal municipality and UNDP was signed for the maintenance of seedlings by collecting endemic seeds and replanting of dead seedlings, using seeds at a rate of 3 seeds to replace one dead seedling, and installing an irrigation system to take care of the irrigation schedule. This activity is still on-going and supervised by the project team till the end of project's phase II duration.
- Training on water use and irrigation efficiency was undertaken by the project. The training covered the construction of the reservoir and its maintenance and efficient irrigation techniques. Around 20 farmers, owners of land that will benefit from the irrigation water, attended the meeting.
- Upon a request for a second training covering irrigation and pest management for wine making from the coop, another workshop was held in November 2011 with around 50 farmers attending.

4. Land Cover Increase and Soil Erosion Reduction (Phase II)

- Around 20,000 seeds of different kinds of forest trees and 75kg of mixed forage seeds were collected from Aarsal surrounding villages and stored in freezers. These seeds will be planted in Ras Baalback in order to increase and restore the vegetation cover, reduce soil erosion while keeping the natural ecosystem of the area. Please clarify objectives and activities
- A bid for reforestation was launched twice and cancelled further to the receipt of only one and technically non-compliant bid. The reforestation component is in the implementation phase for execution in-house by the SLM team. The area to be planted with seedlings and seeds is located in Ras Baalback village (plot No. 3385). The total surface area of the plot is approximately 5.7ha. The seedlings to be planted are estimated at 3,000 and the seeds are up to 1,800 including trees and lower strata. The plot will be divided into subplots to show the difference in survival growth using "normal irrigation and different types of solid water". It is expected to be completed by end of March 2012.
- A grant agreement with the Municipality of Ras Baalback was signed to purchase a water cistern and irrigation/spraying pump in order to maintain and protect the seedlings that will be planted by the project team. The project has funded the planting of 3,500 seedlings in the village of Ras Baalback. The planting will be done by the project and the irrigation and maintenance will be undertaken by the municipality. In order to be able to perform the irrigation and maintenance works, the municipality of Ras Baalback will be provided with funding to build a 4,000 litres water cistern and purchase an irrigation and spraying pump.
- Improving green cover is one of the tools used in reducing flood risks and consequent damages. Increasing the green cover is strongly hindered by overgrazing. Accordingly, there is a need to address the issues related to grazing prior to reforestation. Consequently, the PMU has initiated grazing related work on several fronts. It has started collaboration with the Development Studies Association (DSA) and specifically through their GEF Small Grants Fund project on promoting the concept of inter-cropping for herdsmen. Further to the presentation, work was initiated between UNDP and MoA on grazing. A joint field visit was undertaken to Ras Baalback and Aarsal in order to assess the area for a joint project on

sustainable grazing. The flood project has selected an area of land for a grazing demonstration plot in cooperation with the MoA.

5. Capacity-Building and Awareness-Raising

- A training session, introducing the works of the flood project (II), was organized in December 2011 in Ras Baalback in collaboration with the municipality. Approximately 30 local farmers participated; the objective was to explain the role of the community of Ras Baalback (municipality and residents) in preventing or mitigating the effects of flash flood hazards and how to respond properly by using their own capacities.
- A documentary film on the SLM program including flood was produced. The film shows the impact of the flood and the damages incurred in the case flood risks were not mitigated.
- Participated in the LRF donors meeting. This helped in awareness raising and building the capacity of the project team in all matters related to LRF and donors.

Constraints and Challenges

Challenges faced during the implementation of the project included:

Land ownership: Land ownership is a serious problem in North Bekaa region. Selection of land areas for planting trees was strongly affected by land ownership. The project faced the issue of identifying the land owners and getting their approval for the use of the land to construct reservoirs for flood mitigation. The process of identification of owners is very tedious since these are almost abandoned and un-delimited lands and ownership has been passed from generation to generation without clear documentation. The process of approval has also taken its toll on time. The concept of flood mitigation is new in the area. Accordingly it took a certain length of time to explain to owners the objectives of the project in order to acquire the acceptance of some of them.

Overgrazing: The selection of planting sites has been strongly influenced by the capacity of the municipality of Aarsal to protect the planted areas from grazing herds. Aarsal has the largest herd of sheep and goats in Lebanon. Overgrazing is a major problem. Plots were selected close to Ras Baalback with a possibility to be viewed from the village. Far areas could not be planted because the municipality did not have enough capacity to guard the planted trees.

Availability of Data: the design of flood risks management structure depends on the availability of weather data. The lack of weather stations in the regions of Ras Baalback and Aarsal resulted in the need to use statistical modelling to develop the data needed in flood modelling.

Capacity of Contractors: The design of the water harvesting pond in Deir El Ahmar is almost unique in Lebanon and does not follow the usual design criteria used commonly for ponds in Lebanon. The design most commonly used is a dug area of land covered with a lining membrane. The design of Deir el Ahmar is unique in the fact that the pond is located on a slope and not on flat lands and this is to ensure gravity feed for irrigation and, the specifications include drainage layers on slopes made of porous concrete and gravel. These drainage layers serve to protect the membrane and increase the time that the water is retained in the pond in case of membrane failure. The design also includes a 13m by 170m dam structure. The uniqueness of the design and the fact that it has not been done before by contractors had a major impact on the execution schedule and the need for very close supervision by the PMU and coordination between the contractor and the design consultant.

Development Impact of Phase I

The project is mainly divided into three main components: flood risk reduction, water harvesting and irrigation, increased green cover. The flood risk reduction component will reduce the risk of flood in the villages of Aarsal and Fakeha. The direct cost of a flood event as estimated in the region by the Higher Relief Commission is \$2.5m. Indirect costs have not been quantified and these are soil erosion, reduced livelihoods, loss of biodiversity and social disturbance. Flood reduction structures are permanent structures that will provide services beyond the project lifetime

The water harvesting component will provide irrigation water to around 50 ha of land. These lands were previously left barren. The lands will be mainly planted with vines for wine. Viticulture requires only two years of irrigation allowing for the plant to get established. After the first two years the irrigation system can be moved to irrigate another 50ha and consequently over the lifetime of the pipes (10 years) the system will lead to the agriculture development of 250ha and over the lifetime of the reservoir (assumed 30 years), can lead to the irrigation of 750ha.

The green cover component will lead to reduced soil erosion, increased infiltration rate of rainfall and reduced overland flow and floods. Growing trees will help in sequestering carbon and ultimately and if properly managed, can produce biomass for energy production. If left undisturbed the green cover will naturally expand due to natural propagation.

Cross-Sector Impact (Phase I)

The project will help reduce poverty through reduction of flood risk and its impact on loss of livelihoods. A flood event causes destruction of orchards and planted land, floods houses, destroys property, causes soil erosion and consequently reduces the capacity of land to be planted. The damages caused by floods have heavy setbacks on the pockets of local communities. Livelihoods take time to recover specially for those relying on agriculture for income. The irrigation component of the project will help in creating a new income stream for around 300 farmers in Deir el Ahmar. Because of the new availability of water, barren land can now become cultivated and produce income to the owners. The project is balanced in terms of the negative impact of floods and the positive impact of mitigation measures. Both genders are affected. Farms are tended for by both women and men. The costs of damage to agriculture are borne by both sexes. In terms of the impact on environment the project leads to the reduction of soil erosion, improved water recharge and storage in aquifers from the water accumulated in reservoirs after flood events increased carbon sequestration.

Sustainability (Phase I)

The main outputs of the flood project are the construction of infrastructure related to water harvesting and flood risk reduction and the increasing of green cover. The sustainability of the infrastructure depends on maintenance. For the flood reservoirs, maintenance consists of removal of sediments that might have accumulated after flood events. UNDP has provided the Municipality of Aarsal with a large size excavator to undertake the removal of the sediments. The Municipality of Aarsal has started undertaking maintenance works for the different reservoirs. As for the irrigation reservoir, the agriculture cooperative of Deir el Ahmar charges a fee for water usage. This fee will be used to undertake maintenance works as per the maintenance program developed by UNDP and the consultant responsible for the design of the reservoir.

The flood and irrigation reservoirs are vital structures that either provide protection from loss of livelihoods from floods or generate income from agriculture. It is in the best economic interest of the population to keep the

structures functional. The rationale behind the green cover is to reduce floods through the minimization of overland flow. At the present, the municipality of Aarsal is working on the maintenance of the already existing seedling stand and is convinced of the need to expand its green cover in order to stop soil erosion and increase water infiltration. The village of Aarsal will benefit from increased water availability as it is situated in an arid region with very low precipitation volumes and where every drop of water counts.

Conclusions and Recommendations (Phase I)

The lessons learnt from the project are multiple. The project has helped create flood management expertise at the level of the project staff. The PMU has become experienced in the design and construction of flood mitigation structures be they walls, reservoirs or green cover. The flood staff is also undertaking evaluation of flood impacts further to flood events. These evaluations have helped improve the design of flood structures. The PMU has also become proficient in the design and construction of water harvesting reservoirs of different sizes and construction configuration. Lessons learnt from Flood I have informed and influenced the design of structures for Flood II. The location, shape, and overall design of the reservoirs and walls have been improved based on the experience in Flood I. The experience generated in the project has been put at the disposal of the UNDP Disaster Risk Management project. The project staff have supported the development of SOPs for flood response and has participated actively in the different activities of the DRM project.

Based on these lessons, the following recommendations can be made:

- Undertake a national assessment of flood risk areas and develop a flood risk map for Lebanon covering flash and riverine floods
- Select priority watersheds and implement flood mitigation projects
- Develop a national water harvesting strategy
- Construct new water harvesting reservoirs
- Improve weather data collection in order to improve the design of flood and water harvesting structures

3.2.6 Integrated Forest Fire Management (FAO)

| 3.2.6 Programme Summary Box | |
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| Programme Number and Title (Participating Organization) | LRF-14: Forest Fires Management—Forest Fires Prevention, Forest Fires Fighting (Control) and Damaged Forests Assessment and Rehabilitation (FAO) |
| Total Allocation and Financial Delivery Rate | \$2,600,000; 89.5% |
| Programme Duration (Funding) | February 2008 – June 2011 (\$2,600,000) |
| Key Objective | To create the enabling environment for the Government of Lebanon to address issues related to forest fire management through its early recovery efforts |
| Key Results, Achievements and/or Development Impact | Project activities were successfully achieved: the procurement of forest fire tools and equipment; the development of a management plan for the forested area of Andket; a national public awareness campaign on forest fire prevention, fighting and rehabilitation; training on forest fire management; the finalization of a legal framework to review forest fires; and the establishment of a small grant programme. The number of fires in 2010 has decreased in comparison to 2007. |

The FAO-executed project 'Forest Fires Management—Forest Fires Prevention, Forest Fires Fighting (Control) and Damaged Forests Assessment and Rehabilitation' (LRF-14, \$2,600,000) was approved in November 2007, but submitted for funding in February 2008. The project was operationally closed in June 2011.

As of 31 December 2011, the project had an expenditure rate of 89.5 per cent (\$2,325,976.72).

The project's main national implementing partners are the Ministry of Environment (MoE), the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Association for Forests, Development and Conservation (AFDC).

Objective

The objective of the programme was to create the enabling environment for the Government of Lebanon to address through its early recovery efforts: i) the prevention of future forest fires through improved forest fires management; ii) the efficient fighting of fires when they occur; iii) updating the assessment of the ecological and socio-economic damage resulting from the July 2006 war as well as by the enormous fires that were erupted simultaneously and repeatedly during October 2007 in different parts of the country; and iv) the rehabilitation of forests that were damaged during the July 2006 war and recent environmental disasters to allow for re-access of rural communities to their land resources (woodlands, forests, etc.) through the alleviation of obstacles.

As a result of the project interventions, the number of fires in 2010 has decreased in comparison to 2007.

Results and Achievements

All planned project activities were completed, including activities related to the procurement and delivery of forest fire tools and equipment; the development of a management plan for the forested area of Andket; a national public awareness campaign on forest fire prevention, fighting and rehabilitation targeting the local communities at large; training on forests and the causes and management of forest fires; the finalization of a legal framework to review forest fires; and the establishment of a small grant programme. The notable exception was the activity of demining, an activity that was not implemented as per the guidance from the Inter Ministerial Committee as the project sites which FAO had its activities (Andaket and Kobayat); the forested areas had no mines to clear.

Developmental and Cross-Sector Impact

The development and economic effects of some project activities is well shown especially when the activities are undertaken in rural areas. Although the pruning and maintenance of the forest used local labour, but it also will increase its production, thus additional labours are needed to collect, decorticate and extract the pine stone. The tree nursery has also economic effect in the creation of job opportunities in the region especially for women during the preparation phase of the plantation. It has an important role in biodiversity conservation through the use and planting of different types of species. The new water reservoirs built the eco touristic tracks and all measures taken for fire prevention which aim at the protection of forests, have direct and indirect environmental and socio economic impact.

Due to various activities achieved in the project, it is complicated to define properly the project impact. However, different types of impact could be considered. The socioeconomic impact is clear at both short and long terms. The creation of temporary jobs to build the nursery, the water reservoirs, rehabilitate the infrastructure and undertake all the activities within the lifetime of the project are considered as short term socioeconomic impact,

whereas the long term socioeconomic impact is characterized by the labours which will be needed for raising the plants in the nursery in the coming years, planting, creation and maintenance of buffer zones by the municipalities. Since all the activities were implemented in rural areas where the work opportunities are limited to the agriculture sector and government or military sectors, this long term impact is considered. In addition, the plantation of 85ha in the entire country has also a long term impact since most of them are pine stone, a species which is well maintained in the rural areas and sought for its economical production and culinary use. Most of these plantations were done in coordination with the municipalities which will take over the maintenance and follow up. The involvement of municipalities can be considered as a highly appreciated impact.

On the other hand, the training activities for more than two hundreds governmental, NGOs and volunteers participants have a special impact. In fact, increasing the capacity of the forest fire fighting personnel decreases the time of intervention and thus the efforts and expenses, this fast efficient intervention causes a reduction in the burnt areas. In addition, the three trainings on Integrated Command System (ICS) with the United States Forestry Services were the first training of this type undertaken for various governmental and non-governmental participants. These training might certainly affect positively the coordination among national institutions not only in forest fire intervention but in other natural risks.

The equipment and the trucks are not the only needs of the Civil Defence, however the equipment provided by the project contribute greatly to minimize their limitations and challenges especially the first intervention trucks. For the first time, the Civil Defence received and used this type of vehicles. So, the number of interventions of Civil Defence is now higher due to the flexibility of these trucks in the field. They allowed the Civil Defence to go deeply in the forest and fight fire at the first stage without needing huge quantity of water. Such efficient vehicles were of good help to the Civil Defence to carry on quick and efficient operations with less efforts and environmental losses.

The Bambi buckets provided to the Lebanese Army are being used in aerial fire fighting; these buckets were provided just after the increase of the Lebanese Army fleet with new Sikorsky for fire fighting. Furthermore, the elaboration and implementation of pilot forest fire management plan in the region of Andaket is almost the first one of its kind. It gathers the efforts of all stakeholders present on the ground, Civil Defence, Lebanese Army, Ministry of Agriculture, volunteers and Municipality.

The rehabilitation of the forest fire prevention infrastructure urged volunteers to assure patrols, watching and surveillance. The establishment of a heliport, the management of buffer zones and the early detection of fire have decreased radically the number of fires. The impact of the project activities affected also the decision makers of the municipalities where various activities were achieved. This direct impact was clear when the municipalities increased their funds for environmental activities and fire protection measures. Through the Small Grant programs, the beneficiaries increased their participation from 30 – 60 per cent of the total budget depending on the municipalities and NGOs. Their annual work plan consists now on additional activities in this sector. Fire prevention measures are taken, ecotourism planning becomes an essential activity for some municipalities.

Besides the socioeconomic and environmental impacts, additional educational impact was observed also. The multimedia awareness campaign for two years and the awareness campaign in about 100 villages in the entire country increased the responsibility and the attentiveness of the population. The evaluation of long term activities is not an easy task, but it was noticeable that the number of fires in 2010 has decreased in comparison to 2007.

Sustainability

The project components are in line with the 5 main components of the “National Strategy for Forest Fire Management” that was approved by Lebanon’s council of ministers in May 2009. The coordination with the local municipalities and NGOs is the main asset to assure the long life effect of the project. The distribution of tools to the municipalities and the training of their staff make available the technique and the means to maintain and undertake additional buffer zone using the decreasing of vulnerable biomass approach. On the other hand, the small grant projects implemented in the regions have direct and indirect life time impact in all the areas. The municipalities and NGOs are now aware about the environmental importance of their regions, this is the reason that most of them raised the cost sharing part from 30 – 50/60 per cent of the project amount. The activities achieved through these projects aim at biodiversity conservation, forest fire prevention and improve livelihood.

Lessons Learnt and Recommendations

As different implementation mechanisms were used within the project to achieve maximum impact for the overall project, some lessons – stressing on result based management approach – learnt could be useful for the implementation of such projects. In fact, the involvement of all stakeholders was a good asset especially in the preparatory phase of technical project activities. Good preparation of the activity and sharing information with technical persons and stakeholders are two important criteria to success. The analysis of problems for the activities should take the slow administrative procedure into consideration.

Communication and frequent meetings among stakeholders and among technical people is a positive feature to achieve realistic results and avoid misunderstanding and duplication of activities.

Another good lesson to learn is to involve the municipalities and local population in the identification of needs and implementation. Through the project, this engagement stimulates the initiative of the municipality to undertake environmental and development activities. In addition, using cost sharing approach with municipalities will encourage them to develop, manage and follow similar projects. Giving responsibility to the municipalities will assure the sustainability of the projects.

For better implementation of the projects, it is extremely important to nominate officially a focal point by the hosting or governmental agency to follow up the project activities. This focal point will provide the opinion of the agency in all the project activities and should report directly to the high decision makers of this agency.

On the other hand, the implementation of projects at local or regional level will have additional impact on the development. Local project implemented with municipalities will encompass supplementary effect on the livelihood and the population

3.2.7 Recovery Coordination Support (UNDP)

| 3.2.7 Programme Summary Box | |
|--|---|
| Programme Number and Title (Participating Organization) | LRF-18: Recovery Coordination Support in Lebanon (UNDP) |
| Total Allocation and Financial Delivery Rate | \$1,128,012; 97.0% |

| | |
|--|--|
| Programme Duration (Funding) | October 2008 – December 2012 (\$1,128,012) |
| Key Objective | To strengthen the coordination capacity of the Resident Coordinator's Sub-Offices in the North and South of Lebanon to ensure a more effective and efficient delivery of recovery and development programmes in Lebanon |
| Key Results, Achievements and/or Development Impact | The RCO Sub-Offices in the South and the North have efficiently supported all coordination mechanisms promoting synergies and complementarities, as well as strengthened community outreach in the regions and acted as interlocutors with different partners and stakeholders ensuring a more effective and efficient delivery of recovery and development programmes in Lebanon. |

The UNDP-executed project 'Recovery Coordination Support in Lebanon' (LRF-18, \$747,122) was approved by the LRF SC in October 2008. The project received an additional allocation of \$380,890 in 2010, bringing the total allocated amount to \$1,128,012. The project is expected to operationally close by 31 December 2012.

UNDP reported an expenditure rate of 97 per cent (\$1,093,641) for the project as of 31 December 2011, an increase from 63.5 per cent the previous year.

The project's main national implementing partner is the Development Unit, Office of the Prime Minister.

Objective

The project aims at strengthening the coordination capacity of the Resident Coordinator's Sub-Offices in the North and South of Lebanon to ensure a more effective and efficient delivery of recovery and development programmes in Lebanon. This goal contained three key immediate objectives:

- Coordination at the field and national level through the strengthening of existing RC Sub-Offices enhanced;
- Comprehensive Information Management Unit established and products shared with stakeholders and public at large; and
- Support the coordination mechanism and visibility strategy of the Lebanon Recovery Fund (LRF).

The ultimate goal of the coordination support structure was to enhance coordination of recovery and development activities in the field towards strengthening national capacity and ownership.

Results and Achievements

During the reporting period, the RCO Sub-Offices have efficiently supported all coordination mechanisms in the North and the South promoting synergies and complementarities. They have also strengthened community outreach in the regions and acted as interlocutors with different partners and stakeholders ensuring a more effective and efficient delivery of recovery and development programmes in Lebanon.

Output 1: Enhanced coordination at the field level through strengthening of existing coordination sub-offices:

Liaise with authorities at the central, regional and local levels to ensure overall coherence of development interventions in line with Government priorities:

North Sub-Office: At the field level, the Sub-Office liaised regularly with mayors and municipal council members on issues related to other UN agencies' activities in the North. Within the context of the Syrian displacement in Akkar in 2011, the Sub-Office participated in several coordination meetings at the field and the central levels on a weekly basis. At the field level, meetings focused on coordinating Food Items/Non Food Items (FI/NFI) distribution and health assistance. At the central level, UNHCR led coordination meetings focusing on Shelter, WatSan, and Protection (including education, health, and psychosocial support). In addition, specialised Health meetings in Beirut were chaired by WHO.

South Sub-Office: The South Sub-Office liaised with central and local authorities on an information sharing basis and established stronger partnerships with the Ministry of Health (co-chairing the health sector and identifying priority areas and a joint campaign on H1N1), the Ministry of Agriculture (invited to discuss their action plan and interact with relevant stakeholders in Tyre and sector East), the Ministry of Education (partnership regarding awareness campaigns) and the MOSA centres. The Sub-Office was continuously lending support to the only coordination office created within the Union of Municipalities in the Tyre Region. At the end of 2011, a meeting was facilitated on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) with the municipality and in partnership with UNDP and UNIFIL regarding the organization of a drill involving schools in case of an earthquake. The meeting came as a follow-up to the visit of Margareta Wahlstrom, the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, to Lebanon in late October and her meeting with Hassan Diab, the Minister of the Education. During this meeting, risk reduction strategies in the public education system were discussed as earthquake drills in public schools have proven to have an impact in reducing casualties.

Liaise with civil society, national and international NGOs, donors and other multilateral partners to avoid duplications and promote synergies among the different development partners

Both Sub-Offices built up and maintained collaboration with more than 250 stakeholders from the civil society, UN Agencies, national and international NGOs and donors. This collaboration entailed organized field visits to enhance the participation of local and international NGOs in coordination efforts, cluster and working groups meetings. Sub-Offices periodically updated the mapping of all activities undertaken by NGOs, INGOs and UN agencies in the South and North. The objective of this effort was two-fold: to define who was doing what, where and when and; determine the needs and gaps to avoiding duplication.

North Sub-Office: The North Sub-Office provided liaison services to the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee as well as the Recovery and Reconstruction Cell to ensure that the field coordination efforts were in line with government priorities. The North Sub-Office also supported UNRWA through Clusters and Working Groups. As a result of an increase in focus and a modification of efforts in the areas of Education, Health, Mental Health and Psycho-Social activities, the Sub-Office adapted its working methods. Consequently, the Sub-Office initiated sub-working groups that resulted in collaboration with organisations such as Skoun, which provided training sessions on drug abuse prevention and treatment. The Sub-Office also coordinated joint activities for local NGOs operating in the North, and built and maintained links with the organisations working in Akkar on the Syrian displacement situation in late-2011. Moreover, the Sub-Office provided technical and operational support to the MDG-F Programme 'Conflict Prevention and Peace Building in North Lebanon'.

South Sub-Office: Through the project, the South Sub-Office pursued its collaboration with civil society, national and international NGOs with a focus on information sharing and establishing a network of NGOs in all development related field; agriculture, green jobs, income generating activities and vulnerable groups, namely youth, disabled, child protection and gender related issues. With less resources in 2011, the Sub-Office reduced

the frequency of its general coordination meetings. However, it established five Technical Working Sub-Groups on Education; Shelter; Health, Livelihood and recently on Gender. Each Working Group adopted TORs and started mapping and identifying priority areas for 2011-2012.

Strengthen coordination mechanisms through the establishment of interagency, general and or sector coordination platforms

North Sub-Office: The North Sub-Office arranged for bi-monthly interagency meetings, during which UN agencies working in the North shared information on their activities and discussed ways of coordination and collaboration. The Interagency meetings aimed at enhancing the information sharing within UN Agencies operating in North Lebanon on projects and activities for the purpose of identifying areas of cooperation and collaboration. Several Thematic meetings were held upon the request of UN Agencies and NGOs including one requested by FAO on the livestock sector, and another meeting requested by the American Bar Association to discuss legal aid and mediation. General Coordination meetings for Akkar were launched in early 2011. These bi-monthly meetings were organised due to a need identified with UN agencies working in the region. Participants included UN agencies, the Council for Reconstruction and Development, the Economic & Social Fund for Development, international donors, local donor foundations, and INGOs. Aiming to enhance the Sub-Office's relationship with the local civil society, and promote the Sub-Office's services, bilateral meetings were conducted with organisations in Beirut and throughout the North. In addition, cluster and working group meetings were organised tackling Education/Health/MHPS, Protection, and Shelter/Watsan. These meetings are considered to be the only platform for Palestinian organisations to share information and concerns with UNRWA.

South Sub-Office: Similarly, the South Sub-Office conducted every two months Inter-Agency (IAM) and General Coordination Meetings (GCM) in Tyre. Sector East meetings were held aiming to prevent duplication of the "Tyre GCM" and collect the needed information for the region. One major outcome that those meetings provided was space/forum for municipalities. These meetings allow the chairs of the newly established Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to provide a comprehensive update on their work, action plan and areas of cooperation. The South Sub-Office was lending active support to the UNCT and the UNDAF IWG in Beirut allowing a better implementation of the UN Country Team (UNCT) activities and International Working Group (IWG) plans in the field and in return a better feedback from the regions.

Support the implementation of joint assessments and joint programmes.

Multi-funded joint programmes were concentrated in the North and information sharing led quickly to active collaboration and partnership including Civil Military Coordination (CIMIC) training, joint events and co-chairing of working groups. The North Sub-Office also prepared analytical briefs when needed, with a special focus on the situation in Akkar in light of the Syrian influx into the region and shared them with the concerned stakeholders in 2011. The Sub-Office also assisted UNHCR, the High Relief Committee and INGOs in their relief efforts as they were setting up assistance systems in Akkar in 2011.

Support the implementation of a Contingency Planning/Response Plan at the regional level.

Since 2009, Sub-Offices were involved with the regular update of the UN Contingency Plan revised in July 2008. In light of new Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) guidelines, this plan evolved around three scenarios: natural disaster, internal strife and external threat. The South Sub Office focused its work on strengthening the linkages with UNIFIL to maximize the UN response capacity in southern Lebanon (earthquake drills were

organized in Srifa and Tyre). Similarly, the North Sub Office developed a contingency plan for the North in case of a higher influx of refugees if the situation continues to deteriorate in Syria. The RCO will continue to mainstream DRR in its activities and explore the possibility of simulation exercises to test the level of preparedness of affected stakeholders. As well, lessons and challenges will be drawn and taken into account for future revisions of UN Contingency plans.

Output 2: Comprehensive information collection system at the field level established and shared with stakeholders and the public at large.

During 2011, the Information Management Unit (IMU) - based in the Resident Coordinator's Office Beirut - provided technical support to the UNCT's monthly meetings, retreats and various events including the UN Day, the Human Rights Day and the Beirut Arab International Book Fair.

The UNCT website (www.un.org.lb) has been reconstructed and redesigned through identifying new pages (Code of Conduct, UN Resolution for Lebanon, etc.), and was continuously and regularly updated with new information. This was accomplished through close liaison and coordination with the UN Agencies and their implementing partners, Government ministries, national counterparts and civil society actors. Additionally, the IMU redesigned a page for the Lebanon Recovery Fund (LRF) on the UNCT website with new sections, updated information and new publications.

The Unit regularly updated the UN Development Group (UNDG) website (Lebanon section: <http://www.undg.org/unct.cfm>) with RCO and UNCT activities, events, staff, and RCAR (Resident coordinator annual reports).

The Unit focused on increasing the visibility of the UN through creating promotional materials, including an annual UN Brochure (briefing on the UN agencies working in Lebanon); quarterly media statistics (analysing the perception of UN); UN Fact Sheet - "The Step by Step to success stories from the field" (achievements of UN agencies in eight themes, including Gender, Environment, Partnership with the Government, Livelihood, Health, Education, Cultural Heritage, and Recovery), and UNCT quarterly newsletters (highlighting the recent work of the UN agencies activities and projects in Lebanon). The IMU prepares and provides information kits to visiting delegations and missions to Lebanon.

In the absence of UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Lebanon, the IMU provided support to the Contingency Planning Core Group through managing and editing relevant data from cluster leading agencies. Additionally, the Unit provided support to the UN Communication Group (UNCG) in the formulation of joint work plans, and participated in the UNCG meetings and retreat.

Regarding developing links with other GIS staff, the Information Management Unit held meetings with the OCHA regional Office in Cairo to jointly develop an information Management plan for contingency planning purposes that will be implemented in 2012.

The IMU is engaged in updating and mapping the contact list and activities of local and international NGOs, UN agencies, and civil society's organizations working in Lebanon. This was conducted through coordination with the involved stakeholders and covered on-going projects, focus areas, working maps. The unit was continuously updating maps related to recovery, sector interventions maps, area maps, and administrative maps in support of the activities carried out by the recovery partners.

The IMU also provided support to UNRCO-Beirut in initiating a Donor Coordination Forum (13 donors) through gathering and updating information related to Aid Development Coordination Mechanism in Lebanon. This support entailed providing the RCO with updated information regarding donors for Lebanon, their funding processes and their focus areas.

The North Sub-Office regularly uploaded documents, minutes of meetings, datasets, action plans, reports and statistics on Lebanon Support NBC website (www.lebanon-support.org/nbc) to ensure an accurate update of information on all recovery operations in the Naher El Bared Camp (NBC). This was the standard practice of the office in order to enhance efficiency and transparency of coordination efforts in the North. The Sub-Office prepared daily media reviews on issues of interest to the North and disseminated them to all relevant partners in the region and regularly circulated the UNRWA NBC Updates weekly newsletter to all stakeholders. Additionally, the Sub-Office provided support to several NGOs in the dissemination of relevant information. The RCO in North Lebanon built a network of media reporters and outlets to cover UN activities and also distributed UN publications to various stakeholders in the North, including NGOs, municipalities, unions and universities.

Output 3: Support the coordination mechanism and visibility strategy of the Lebanon Recovery Fund.

The Information Unit has also been facilitating and supporting the LRF Monitoring and Evaluation Unit in designing and updating the quarterly LRF newsletter (two issues in 2011). As well, the IMU continued to update and upload information on the LRF subpage regularly (<http://www.un.org.lb/Subpage.aspx?pageid=465>). The subpage is divided into four pages: Overview; LRF Management Structure; LRF projects; and Publications.

Future Work Plan

In August 2011, the LRF SC decided to initiate a resource mobilization process for the replenishment of the LRF. This new phase of the LRF will emphasize more on development rather than recovery to sustain the outcomes and impact achieved during the phase 1. To this end, the LRF PAG is working on developing a resource mobilization plan including the approach to be adopted with the donors. In order to implement this strategy and support the LRF in the resource mobilization process, the PAG recommended that the LRF 18 project be granted a 12 months no-cost time extension. With its expertise and previous coordination practices, the project constitutes a convenient hub to liaise with the potential donors and investigate the available opportunities for an LRF phase ii.

In this context, the project will be conducting the following activities: Undertaking research on funding modalities; Organizing high level meetings to present LRF priorities; Organizing technical level meetings; Preparing concept notes for potential projects; Designing, producing and disseminating LRF materials (incl. video, website, newsletters and brochures), to emphasize the results achieved by the projects funded by the phase I and the importance of expanding the scope of work to tackle the developmental programmes/projects that have a long term impact at the socio-economic level; LRF advocacy activities (embassies’ events, cultural events, media, etc.); and LRF advocacy at donors’ headquarters level.

3.2.8 Socio-Economic Rehabilitation in the Framework of ART GOLD Lebanon (UNDP)

| 3.2.8 Programme Summary Box | |
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| Programme Number and Title (Participating Organization) | LRF-19: Socio-Economic Rehabilitation Programme in the Framework of ART GOLD Lebanon (UNDP) |

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|--|--|
| Total Allocation and Financial Delivery Rate | \$2,391,450; 101.0% |
| Programme Duration (Funding) | March 2009 – February 2011 (\$2,391,450) |
| Key Objective | To improve the local population's living conditions through increased access to employment, income, education, health, social integration and the environment, with a special focus on the most vulnerable population. |
| Key Results, Achievements and/or Development Impact | Through its activities in the sectors of governance, local economic development, youth, health, and the environment, the project has contributed to improving the socio economic conditions of communities within the marginalized regions by ensuring the integration of sustainable infrastructures within the present government structures, such as the provision of credits for SMEs, youth and IT centres and PHCCs. |

The UNDP project ‘Socio-Economic Rehabilitation Programme in the Framework of ART GOLD Lebanon’ (LRF-19, \$2,391,450) was approved by the LRF SC in March 2009. The project was operationally closed in February 2011.

As of 31 December 2011, the project reported a financial delivery rate of 101 per cent (\$2,414,275.86).

The project’s main national implementing partner is the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR).

Objective

The ART GOLD Lebanon’s (AGL) overall objective was to support the Lebanese national government and the local communities in elaborating and implementing Strategic Development Plans within the programme’s target areas while focusing on the most disadvantaged people, towards the achievement of the MDGs.

The specific objective was to improve the local population’s living conditions through increased access to employment, income, education, health, social integration and the environment, with a special focus on the most vulnerable population. This was done through improving the functioning of local public administration, enhancing basic social services, and promoting a wide participation of local communities in development processes.

Results and Achievements

Project activities have cut across the sectors of governance, local economic development, youth, health, and the environment.

Under the *governance sector*, the initiative towards developing capacities of municipalities on Good Local Governance has started at the field level during the month of January 2011. Each workshop covers 3 main topics: 1. Good Governance and Municipal laws, 2. financial planning and Management, 3. Role of municipalities in Local Development. Twelve workshops were conducted until the end of February 2011 in Akkar, Tyre, Jezzine, Jbeil, Keserwan, Minnieh/Dinnieh and Batroun. A total of 328 municipal members participated in the workshops.

Following the municipal elections, twenty four regional working groups were established in the four areas of operation. A participatory approach was adapted, by which all the projects were identified and implemented in full coordination with these working groups. This was coupled with regular meetings and trainings held with working groups. Additionally, around 10 DC partnerships were facilitated between local authorities in Lebanon

and in Europe (Italy, Spain, Belgium). Local authorities have engaged in social, health and LED initiatives (social municipal offices, municipal primary health care centres), while some municipalities have taken rigorous steps to incorporate these established entities within their organogram for needs identification and projects implementation. ART GOLD works directly with those working groups that represent the local community to prioritize the needs and implement initiatives that meet those needs.

The **local economic development** projects targeted farmers, and women of North Lebanon and South Lebanon. In Abdeh, North Lebanon a soil and water testing laboratory facility has been established to help around 200 farmers and their families to know what to add to the soil for a better harvest. At the beginning, the local farmers didn't have the facilities that allow them to test the soil to know the time, quantity, type of pesticides usage. They used to put any types of pesticides and pay money without achieving better quality and higher quantity in the production, or they went to laboratories that incurred high costs to do the soil testing. The testing laboratory facility helped them to do the testing at any time with minimal costs. The beneficiaries were able to increase the quality and quantity of their production by better determining the nature and needs of the soil. In south Lebanon, around 11 women cooperatives were grouped into a network and provided with a quality control facility at LARI/Tyre to enable them to test their food products for quality assurance through hygienic and quality control. Moreover, four local economic development offices have been established within the local economic development sector. These offices are staffed by UNDP employees. These offices are temporary until the legal framework is resolved, whereby the agencies will be registered as NGOs. BSS obtained the official registration in December 2010 while the remaining offices are under approval. The role of these offices, is to help the SME 's to have increase access to jobs, businesses and provide advice towards productive activities using local resources in a more sustainable way.

The project supported the rehabilitation and establishment of four primary health care centres in Bekaa and North Lebanon

Under the **youth sector** targeting teenagers whose age ranges from 16 till 20 years old, AGL helped enhance the IT skills and capacities of around 200 youth through the establishment of three IT centres and two cultural centres in North Lebanon. A municipal playground and a public park in Akkarr and Minieh Dinnieh Cazas were also established targeting 350 youth and 500 children. Additionally, 36 youngsters from Tripoli received vocational training improving their skills for better integration in the job market. In Beirut Southern Suburbs, three social municipal offices were established within the «social intervention addressed to youth project» to promote cultural, recreational and artistic activities addressed to 300 youths.

Support to **primary health care** centres took place in Bekaa, North Lebanon and Beirut Southern Suburbs. The rehabilitation and establishment of four primary health care centres: one in Bekaa and three in North Lebanon have allowed availing these centres with needed equipment enabling the provision of more effective services, these needs were identified through the working groups formed within these regions along with the concerned parties at the PHCCs. In Beirut Southern Suburbs, a pilot project aimed at strengthening primary health care services has provided the centres of Haret Hreik, Ghoberity and Borj Al Barajneh with needed equipment, and trained the personnel on management issues and on the provision of better services in addition to developing and implementing community-based programmes. The equipment provided to those PHCCs varied from one place to another by which the need for updated modern equipment was common in all of them. Female health workers in BSS were trained to better address community's health issues. More than 100 girls obtained skills in general health issues to support families and communities through health awareness campaigns. Questionnaires (Annex 5) were distributed to evaluate the services provided by the PHCCs.

Environment projects included the construction of a 500 ML irrigation canal in Nahle, Bekaa allowing 80 farmers to receive irrigation water to the majority of land. ART GOLD also established two water maintenance centres in South Lebanon, which have helped respond effectively to the population's needs for timely maintenance and repairs of major leaks in water infrastructure, benefiting more than 300,000 residents. These projects helped 80 farmers and their families in Bekaa region to have their lands irrigated and thus increase their production which was minimal due to scarcity of water network. In south Lebanon, Marjeyoun and Tyre areas lacked water maintenance centres, and thus the inhabitants in those regions lacked from water deficiency due to major leaks in water infrastructure that halted access of water to their households. The established water centres, served timely maintenance for the needs of the population.

Challenges

Two hindering factors have delayed the timely delivery of projects: i) Working groups' methodology represents the cornerstone of ART GOLD work. As such, in parallel to activities implementation, several efforts were exerted to capacitate and strengthen the role of working groups in the planning process, particularly in 2009. This delayed the pace of implementation of some planned activities with local authorities resulting in shifting more than 60 per cent of project budget till 2010. ii) The municipal elections which took place in June 2010 led to a practical freeze of partnering local authorities roles for a lengthy duration of four months -preparatory work before elections and formulation of municipal councils after the elections. This caused an enormous disruption to the rhythm of ART work, further exacerbated by the changes in partner municipalities' composition, hence working groups' membership. This prolonged the completion of project implementation given the timeframe required to acquaint the new municipal members with the ART work and their roles and responsibilities.

Development Impact

The development impact of the project is to improve the socio economic conditions of communities within the marginalized regions. This is attained through the "infrastructures" which the project has established within the targeted sectors of health, economic development, social, agriculture etc. Most of these infrastructures are sustainable and have been integrated within the present government structures. Hence, the local authorities are responsible to maintain and preserve them. Examples of these infrastructures include those for the provision of credits for SMEs, which will have a longer term impact on SMEs in Lebanon. Additionally, youth and IT centers and PHCCs are other forms of sustainable infrastructures that will continue to serve the marginalized groups of youth and women. The laboratory for soil is also a structure that will contribute to serve farmers by enhancing the quality of their production.

Cross-Sector Impact

Within the identified and implemented projects, ART GOLD took into consideration the sectors of gender, environment, economic development etc. Through its implemented projects ART GOLD succeeded to achieve strategic gender needs for targeted women. Empowerment of women took place through building sustainable structures for improving their conditions and hence having impact on their long term economic development. Young females have improved their IT skills at the two cultural and three IT centres which the project established in North Lebanon. The project has also helped preserve the environment through planting 7,000 pollen trees in west Beqaa and Rachaya, increasing green spaces and establishing two water maintenance centres in Tyre and Marjeyoun in South Lebanon, benefiting more than 300,000 residents.

Most of the implemented projects have had an impact on poverty reduction whether through sustainable skills gained by the targeted population or through enhanced production quality which eventually led to sustainable

income increase. Other interventions have showed an improved provision of health services at the PHCCs. Patients' access to the centre in Haret Hreik has increased from 352 patients in 2007, to 450 in 2008, 570 in 2009 and around 730 in 2010. This could be an indication of the good quality of services provided.

Sustainability

The ART GOLD Programme through its inter communal initiatives in the most needy areas in Lebanon (North, South, Bekaa and Beirut Southern Suburbs) has worked on developing the capacities of the local authorities and key leaders at the local level to ensure projects identification, monitoring and sustainability after closing the programme. Moreover, ART GOLD is using the participatory approach for the implementation of the majority of the initiatives, i.e. the local authorities specifically the municipalities contribute a certain percentage from the municipal budget to feel the ownership of the project and to provide sustainability in the long run.

Also it is important to mention that ART GOLD implements the projects that are identified by the regional and local working groups and thus represent the urgent needs of the villages and in return these working groups play a major role in sustaining the initiatives. The local authorities in addition to the local and regional working groups are now capacitated to approach independently the donors, through submitting proposals, work plans as a result of ART GOLD intervention through several workshops and trainings that lead to this success.

Lessons Learnt and Recommendations

Lessons have been identified under each of the programme's three main components:

Participatory Approach and Working groups:

- Moving from numerous local working group towards regional working group: During its early stages, ART GOLD established local working groups to identify and prioritize needs at municipal level. As a result, 297 local or municipal working groups were established. Projects identified at that time were limited to a local or village level. However, in order to optimize the impact of projects reaching the largest possible number of beneficiaries, regional working groups were envisaged to serve this purpose whereby identified projects would benefit a cluster of villages or unions of municipalities. Hence, by activating regional working groups and consulting with them, the impact of implemented projects extended to a wider geographical range with an increased number of beneficiaries as opposed to projects identified by local working groups.
- Local ownership more obvious whenever a bottom-up approach is used

Decentralized partnerships:

- The DC Partnerships are sometimes more fruitful if the partners experience similar challenges and contexts
- Working groups' efficient and effective cooperation with decentralized cooperation partners has contributed to sustainable local development
- DC is a learning opportunity for a country such as Lebanon with a strong centralized administration, moving towards administrative decentralization

Local Economic Development:

- Until the observed constraints which delayed the legal incorporation of the LEDA are resolved, it was envisaged to set up the Local Economic Development Offices in replacement providing services to SMEs, agricultural cooperatives in addition to a wide range of other vulnerable groups.

Based on these lessons, the recommendation to be made is that linkages should be strengthened between ministries and regional/local initiatives to ensure ownership of these initiatives at national level.

3.2.9 Recovery and Rehabilitation of the Dairy Sector in Bekaa Valley and Hermel Akkar Uplands (FAO)

| 3.2.9 Programme Summary Box | |
|--|--|
| Programme Number and Title (Participating Organization) | LRF-21: Recovery and Rehabilitation of the Dairy Sector in Bekaa Valley and Hermel Akkar Uplands (ILO) |
| Total Allocation and Financial Delivery Rate | \$2,500,000; 84.5% |
| Programme Duration (Funding) | April 2009 – October 2012 (\$2,500,000) |
| Key Objective | To enable the recovery, rehabilitation and assistance to the livelihoods of vulnerable livestock keepers (almost one-third of who are female-headed families) from Central Bekâa Valley, North Akkar and Hermel-Akkar Highlands, who are currently unable to keep up with the serious competition in the sub-sector. |
| Key Results, Achievements and/or Development Impact | By providing the basic needs for livestock keepers and farmers to resume production and income-generating activities, the project has demonstrated its ability to improve the dairy sub-sector in Lebanon, with emphasis on improving poor dairy smallholders through a strategic and targeted intervention observed in the field. |

The FAO project ‘Recovery and Rehabilitation of the Dairy Sector in Bekaa Valley and Hermel Akkar Uplands’ (LRF-21, \$2,500,000) was approved by the LRF SC in April 2009. The project is expected to operationally close by October 2012.

FAO reported a financial delivery rate of 84.5 per cent (\$2,111,851) on this project as of 31 December 2011, and increase from 40.3 per cent in the previous year.

The project’s main national implementing partner is the Ministry of Agriculture.

Objective

The objective of this project is to enable the recovery, rehabilitation and assistance to the livelihoods of vulnerable livestock keepers (almost one-third of whom are female-headed families) from Central Bekâa Valley, North Akkar and Hermel-Akkar Highlands, who are currently unable to keep up with the serious competition in the sub-sector. Farmers will draw indirect benefits from the project through veterinary and artificial insemination services as well as training sessions. The project, therefore, aims to provide the basic needs for livestock keepers and farmers to resume production and income-generating activities, and through that improving the quality and hygienic standards of milk and dairy products to safeguard the Lebanese consumer and improve the milk prices.

Results and Achievements

During the reporting period, the project procured and delivered 362 milking machines, cleaning detergents and disinfectants (to 365 beneficiaries), and 1,200 stainless steel milk cans and 1,200 milk filters for to low-income and vulnerable beneficiaries who own between 2 to 10 cows. The project procured essential tools and utensils for milk testing, receiving, filtration and refrigeration such as: 51 milk cooling tanks, 25 generators, 10 milk pumps, 10 milk scales, 10 reception tanks and 20 milk analysers and 50 milk testing and analysis kits, detergents and utensils for cleaning of cooling tanks. All equipment were delivered to Dairy Coop's and are now functioning for milk collection and cooling through 18 village milk collection centre network.

The project also procured and distributed 135 mini and medium dairies with essential tools and utensils for home dairy processing to support dairy smallholders and particularly women headed households for improving and upgrading their capabilities to produce healthy dairy products while getting added value to their milk, were prepared during this reporting period and are currently under tendering. The project has also procured and distributed 65 tons of high quality seeds of fodder crops to 447 smallholder dairy producers to improve dairy cattle feeding through promoting forage cultivation. Training on improving farm management practices, milk hygiene, animal feeding, animal health, dairy processing and cultivation of fodder crops, to 2000 farmers was conducted during the reporting period as well as continued milk testing and analysis of dairy farmers to measure the quality and safety of milk at the farm level.

Over 365 low-income and vulnerable beneficiaries, each with 2-10 cows, have received milking machines, milk cans and filters

Most of the planned activities were successfully achieved or are in an advanced stage of realization. These included the selection of beneficiary farmers; the constitution of 23 dairy cooperatives; the support to improvement of milk quality standards through strengthening and setting up intermediate primary village milk collection and cooling centres network; the support to improvement of milk quality standards through strengthening milk collection centres with milk transportation trucks; support to small dairy holder for improving milk hygiene and sanitary conditions with distribution of milking machines, food grade almasilium and stainless jars; support to women-headed households with mini dairies for milk handling & processing at home level; support with forage seeds for promoting fodder crops to sustain dairy sub-sector; capacity building of farmers and MoA extension service people; events and workshops; and the procurement and delivery of project inputs. A detailed description of each of these activities is available in the project progress report (<http://mptf.undp.org/document/download/8311>).

Based on the experiences gained during project implementation, thus far, the project has demonstrated its ability to improve the dairy sub-sector in Lebanon, with emphasis on improving poor dairy smallholders through a strategic and targeted intervention observed in the field. Examples of this include: Helping the most needy and poor dairy smallholders; Supporting women headed families to improve their living conditions and income; Improving small dairy farm management practices with emphasis on cow nutrition, forage production, feeding, reproduction, and veterinary practices; Working at the farm level to improve the milk quality and milk hygiene during storage and handling and transport; Working at the farm house processing facilities to provide dairy products that are safe and nutritious to the producer's family and to the consumers; Encouraging small dairy farmers to create and participate in Village Dairy Producers Associations (Cooperatives); and Supplying the necessary equipment and utensils to establish milk cooling and testing centres in intermediate and central locations that are far away from the dairy processing plants.

Future Work Plan

The project is expected to operationally close by October 2012. By then, the following activities are planned:

- Strengthening the village dairy producers' associations to reach self-support a sustainable status
- Support the improvement of Milk Quality standards through Strengthening and Setting up Intermediate Primary Village Milk collection and Cooling Centers Network
- Capacity Building of farmers and MOA extension service people
- Support to artificial insemination services through training skilled inseminators' and provision of good quality of Semen and supplies to VDPA's
- Support to milk analysis and testing programs to insure health and safety of milk and dairy products

3.2.10 Hydro Agricultural Development for Marjayoun Area (UNDP)

| 3.2.10 Programme Summary Box | |
|--|--|
| Programme Number and Title (Participating Organization) | LRF-23: Hydro Agricultural Development for Marjayoun Area (UNDP) |
| Total Allocation and Financial Delivery Rate | \$2,000,000; 26.4% |
| Programme Duration (Funding) | May 2009 – March 2013 (\$2,000,000) |
| Key Objective | To assist local communities in Marjayoun area to benefit from a main canal supplying water to South Lebanon from West Bekaa. |
| Key Results, Achievements and/or Development Impact | By supporting the establishment of Water Users Associations, and through them introduce the advantages and efficiencies of modern irrigation techniques and new cropping patterns, the project has already contributed to having a direct impact on the livelihood of at least 1,250 households within 5 communities affected by the July 2006 conflict. |

The UNDP project 'Hydro Agricultural Development for Marjayoun Area' (LRF-23, \$2,000,000) was approved by the LRF SC in May 2009. The project was originally extended until October 2011, but a further extension has been approved until March 2013.

UNDP reported a financial delivery rate of 26.4 per cent (\$528,262) on this project as of 31 December 2011, up from 10.8 per cent the previous year.

The project's main government counterpart is the MoEW and has partnered with the Litani River Authority (LRA), an autonomous public establishment which is under the tutelage of the MoEW. The LRA covers a larger scope than just the Litani River; it includes the execution of works for irrigation, studies and construction of dams and hydroelectric power plants and the management of both surface and ground water resources.

Objective

The project aims at assisting local communities in Marjayoun area to benefit from a main canal supplying water to South Lebanon from West Bekaa. The project will show the advantages and efficiency of modern irrigation techniques, will propose the new cropping patterns in the region, and will support the establishment of very much needed Water Users Associations. The project will have a direct impact on the livelihood of at least 1,250

households within 5 communities affected by the July 2006 conflict through extending the areas suitable for agriculture, and will provide direct assistance to the farmers in the area. The project will produce topo-cadastral maps which are the bases for designing the irrigation distribution networks, will establish a land classification database as a prerequisite for the development of the hydrant implementation plans, and will execute land reclamation for an area of 522 ha setting up the infrastructure for the water distribution network.

Results and Achievements

Progress on the project outputs may be clustered as follows:

Water Users Association (WUA)

Establishment: During the first quarter of year 2011, the project team conducted a stakeholder survey for the five villages in question and completed a stakeholder analysis. Workshops were prepared for each of the five villages introducing the project and its main activities. Meetings were organized with the farmers of each of the five villages (Blat, Jdaydit Marjeyoun & Debbine, Bourghoz, and Ible Essaki) in order to discuss the draft law of the WUAs, as well as to finalize the internal bylaws of these associations. However in the beginning not much progress was reported due to the political situation in the country.

In total, four WUAs were formed and AFIAL has prepared and submitted the required registration forms with the required documents to the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities to legally establish these new WUAs. Once the registration process is finalized, all the concerned ministries and related entities will be informed of the existence of such associations. AFIAL is exercising all necessary efforts to accelerate the process in the MoEW. In the meantime, the WUA can still undertake their planned activities under the guise of agricultural coops until the water flows from the Qaraoun Lake and by then the law will be approved by the parliament. The WUAs will involve farmers in the whole process of water distribution and irrigation in Canal 800 project area. The main principles of WUA are: justice and equity in the use of water; the rational and efficient use of resources; non-discrimination between farmers; transparency while stimulating cooperation between all members; and cost-recovery and financial sustainability.

Study Tour to Bari: Subsequent to the workshop seminars conducted in each of the five villages, and as part of the second phase of implementation of the WUA and capacity building of the farmers, a study tour was organized with the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies – “Istituto Agronomico di Bari (CIHEAM - IAMB)”, involving one farmer representing each of the five villages under the project. The study tour started on the 27th of March 2011 and extended until the 2nd of April 2011 to the Agronomic Institute of Bari in Valenzano – Italy. The purpose of the trip was to build the capacity of the farmers and acquaint them with the advanced water management models. In addition to the transfer of knowledge from Bari to Lebanon, and getting the farmers to be more implicated in the hydro agricultural development projects.

Development of Land Database and Hydrant Plan

Land Classification Analysis: During the first quarter, the land classification consultant initiated the work in the project area by forming two groups on the ground, comprising each: 1 excavator, 1 pickup truck, 1 engineer and 2 labourers. In parallel, and based on the topo-cadastral maps prepared by the project, the consultant embarked on preparing the necessary maps needed to identify the spots where the inspection pits will be made, as well as the locations where the samples need to be taken from for physical and chemical laboratory analysis. These maps were firstly superimposed with the maps acquired from the LAF, in order to avoid the areas contaminated with

mines and UXOs. The land classification work was done by making an inspection pit every 0.4 hectare of land to clearly describe the soil profile as to texture, percentage of elements on the surface (rock, stone, pebble, gravel, etc.), slope, horizon A, crops, etc. Figure 2 below illustrates the form used onsite to describe the soil parameters in each parcel.

All site activities pertaining to the land classification analysis were completed and supported by physical laboratory, as well as chemical laboratory tests, in addition to infiltration rate tests. Based on the soil description parameters, the Consultant took samples every 4 hectares for physical laboratory analysis and every 40 hectares for chemical analysis. During the last quarter of the year, the land classification analysis has been completed including all assumptions, constraints and achieved results. Suitability for irrigation classes has been identified and a class assigned to each plot in the project area. Figure 5 shows the suitability for irrigation map for the project area. A field visit was organized on the 14th of November with the project team and the key personnel of the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari – CIHEAM to verify and validate the data collection and interpretation. After being checked and reviewed, all the maps were handed over to the “Integrated Hydro agricultural Development” Contractor (Bari – CIEHAM). The Contractor will be working on the land reclamation guidelines and design, hydrant plans design, hydrant plan norms methodology and irrigation system guidelines for management and maintenance. LRA will manage the database after the project closure since it is linked to the canal 800 project. A series of workshops is planned to disseminate the output of each of the studies undertaken: land classification, cropping pattern, hydrant implementation plans, land reclamation design and the WUA.

The project has had a direct impact on the livelihood of at least 1,250 households within 5 communities affected by the July 2006 conflict

Hydrant Implementation Plans: The Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari – CIHEAM signed the Contract (11/39) to provide the project with an integrated hydro agricultural development plan for the Marjeyoun area on the 31st of August 2011. The inception report was submitted on the 14th of September 2011. It described the methodological approach for plan development along with a work plan for the execution of the necessary tasks, mainly: Identification of the optimal crop type and pattern for each of the five villages; Establishment of hydrant plan norms in collaboration with the farmers and WUAs; Identification of the most suitable irrigation fee collection and monitoring system; and Assessment of the area and proposition of land reclamation designs in line with the proposed cropping patterns.

Invitation to Bid for Land Reclamation Works: The draft ITB for land reclamation was prepared based on the results of the land classification analysis. As well, it includes the design for the reclamation works that has been proposed by the Consultant executing the integrated hydro agricultural development plan. Thus, the ITB shall be launched during the first quarter of the upcoming reporting period. The land reclamation Contractor shall start the execution of the base works according to the proposed guidelines and designs for uniform geographical regions, based on parcels descriptions, and will also support the complementary works where needed.

Constraints and Challenges

During the reporting period, the project has experienced the following implementation challenges:

Political & security situation south of the blue line: Given that the project location is south of the blue line, access to the sites remains a high security risk and authorisation is required from local authorities as well as UNIFIL. Actually, many instances, access to the area was denied due to heightened security.

Presence of cluster bombs and explosive remnants of war: Marjeyoun area is still contaminated by UXOs; some zones remain unmapped and un-cleared to date; to ensure the safety and security of the project staff and consultants, the project is coordinating with the LMAC and UNMAC.

Delays in launching the project: The project experienced delays to be initiated, due to difficulties in accessing the necessary data, which in turn entailed delays on the overall progress of the project activities. The project requested a one-year no-cost time extension and worked closely with the evaluator hired to undertake an assessment of the status of the project to justify the extension request. The LRF SC approved the no-cost extension of the hydro agricultural development for Marjeyoun area project until March 2013. This approval was conditioned on a detailed month-by-month action plan with verbal reporting on the progress of works to the M&E unit within the LRF.

3.2.11 Early Recovery of Nahr el Bared Surrounding Lebanese Communities Affected by the 2006 and 2007 Conflicts (UNDP)

| 3.2.11 Programme Summary Box | |
|--|--|
| Programme Number and Title (Participating Organization) | LRF-24: Early Recovery of Nahr el Bared Surrounding Lebanese Communities Affected by 2006 and 2007 Conflicts (UNDP) |
| Total Allocation and Financial Delivery Rate | \$2,500,000; 68.1% |
| Programme Duration (Funding) | August 2009 – March 2012 (\$2,500,000) |
| Key Objective | To recover and improve the livelihoods of 1,100 fishermen, 250 farmers, 100 SME owners and 350 cooperative/association members and their families; to identify and implement sub-regional infrastructure projects connecting municipalities economic resources; and to enhance local dialogue, particularly targeting youth. |
| Key Results, Achievements and/or Development Impact | 106 SME business owners had been supported through the provision of microloans mainly to recover incomes of existing businesses, as well as to establish new businesses, helping to create 20 new jobs while sustaining 250 existing jobs. Green houses using an improved design that is more sustainable and durable and increases both crop production and quality have been introduced. 28 harvesters were provided to two cooperatives benefiting a cluster of villages with approximately 250 active farmers in the olive sector. Also, a capacity development programme for farmers was developed and an olive solid waste composting facility benefitting 8 agricultural cooperatives was provided. Support was also provided to Bebnine fishermen and women cooperatives, including the introduction of best practices and exercises to improve the health conditions of the targeted women. |

The UNDP project ‘Early Recovery of Nahr el Bared Surrounding Lebanese Communities Affected by 2006 and 2007 Conflicts’ (LRF-24, \$2,500,000) was approved by the LRF SC in August 2009. The project has been extended and is expected to end in March 2012.

UNDP reported a financial delivery rate of 68.1 per cent (\$1,703,539) on this project as of 31 December 2011, up from 26.9 per cent the previous year.

The project’s main national implementing partner is Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

Objective

The project aims to recover and enhance livelihoods of the 28 surrounding communities through an integrated approach. The specific objectives of this project are to i) recover and improve the livelihoods of 1,100 fishermen, 250 farmers, 100 SME owners and 350 cooperative/association members and their families ii) identify and implement sub-regional infrastructure projects connecting municipalities economic resources and iii) enhance local dialogue, particularly targeting youth.

Results and Achievements

Output 1: Livelihood of farmers, fishermen and SME owners improved through socio-economic interventions targeting training, technical and assets needs

This component of the project seeks to improve the livelihoods of small- and medium-sized business owners, farmers, fishermen and women working on fishing net rehabilitation through dedicated interventions.

Improvement of the livelihoods of SME owners:

Following the NBC crisis, large numbers of businesses were totally or partially destroyed, thereby severely affecting all social and economic activities. As many Lebanese businesses operating in the surrounding areas of NBC suffered from the loss of income resulting from lack of access to the main trade routes and the interruption of labor supply, the collateral damage from the crisis extended far beyond the immediate direct destruction. In response to impact of the crisis on the livelihood of the Lebanese of the camp surrounding area, UNDP in collaboration with ILO and Al Majmoua provided micro loans to small business owners affected by the crisis in an effort to recover their incomes.

At the end of April 2011, 106 SME business owners had been supported through this project, to recover businesses directly or indirectly impacted by Nahr El Bared crisis, as per the selection criteria outlined below. The loans are provided to small businesses varying from photography to farming, with the most supported businesses being grocery stores, car painting and gas stations, carpentry and fishing. The loans were provided mainly to recover incomes of existing businesses although 20 loans were also given to establish new businesses. The loans thus far have helped create 20 new jobs while sustaining 250 existing jobs. In an effort to target the most vulnerable groups, 49 per cent of the loans have been provided to youth that were negatively affected by the crisis. The selected beneficiaries were negatively affected by the 2007 conflict; 11 out of the 106 persons (10%) were displaced out of their homes; 33 of them (31%) had to close their businesses completely during the war; and 62 of them (59 per cent) incurred financial losses during the war because they were forced to partially close their businesses.

The results of the microloans were positive for 92 out of the 106 beneficiaries (87%) who used their loans in improving their working capital (such as goods or raw material), purchasing or repairing fixed assets in their business (for instance a vehicle car to work or a machine), or the renovating or upgrading their workplace. The partnership agreement signed with Almajmoua through ILO included an in-kind contribution on behalf of the micro-loan institution, in the form of revolving funds amounting to \$80,000 over the 5 years. In this respect, it is important to note that a number of beneficiaries from the first stage of support have showed interest in renewing their loans because of the positive impact of this project in improving their conditions.

Improvement of the livelihoods of farmers:

Provision of Greenhouses: The rehabilitation of the greenhouse crop production sector was identified as a priority area in the context of this intervention. To this end, UNDP will support 100 farmers in the surrounding municipalities with demonstration greenhouses. Priority for the beneficiary selection was given to farmers that have access to less than 20 wooden greenhouse structures and/or a combination of wooden and galvanized structures, with less than five galvanized greenhouses. With the technical support of FAO, an improved greenhouse design was prioritized over traditional greenhouse models. The improved greenhouses are more sustainable and durable, and will increase both crop production and quality, benefitting the farmers through higher market prices and increased incomes. They also require less use of pesticides, with the additional benefits of producing healthier food and reducing potential negative implications on food safety and human health. Furthermore, this intervention will serve as a pilot to support the Ministry of Agriculture in elaborating the national strategy on greenhouses. Currently under development, the strategy may adopt this enhanced design to take advantage of its superior ability to reduce damages from tuta absoluta and other pests affecting greenhouse crop production in the Mediterranean region.

An independent consultant undertook in June 2011 an evaluation of the greenhouse approach that was suggested by UNDP, as per the recommendations from the LRF Steering Committee to further assess the request for no-cost extension for this component. The findings of the evaluation are as follows:

- The new single span greenhouses (SSG) are highly recommended worldwide by international experts for the advantages they have in comparison to arched tunnel greenhouse. The installation of these greenhouses in Lebanon would have many benefits for the farmers.
- The environment benefits include better protection of the environment and natural resources, and safer food production as there is less need for application of pesticides and fertilizers.
- The benefits for the farmers include increased income due to better quality food production and efficiency; reduced cost; and better efficiency per unit area, on long-term basis the new greenhouses could generate an extra USD 1,200 yearly income. For the consumers the benefits include healthier food and better hygiene

Provision of Olive Harvesters: In close coordination and technical support from FAO, following an in-depth assessment of the capacity of 8 agricultural cooperatives existing in the targeted area, two olive producing agricultural cooperatives were selected (Halba and Karkaf cooperative).

In May 2011, 28 harvesters (10 electric harvesters and four pneumatic harvesters for each coop) were delivered to the two cooperatives benefiting a cluster of villages with approximately 250 active farmers in the olive sector. Technical training sessions on the use of the harvesters were provided to the Cooperatives members (May 2011) and specific tools and materials were developed with the two cooperatives to help them properly manage the harvesters and document the profit and expenses. During the harvesting period from October to December 2011, the farmers successfully used the olive harvesters and their harvesting costs have been reduced by 30-40 per cent. The approximate net profit of each cooperative was \$6,000 during this first harvesting season. It is important to note that this was the first year the farmers in the area were using mechanical harvesters and paying for this service. The net profit is estimated to reach \$10,000 per cooperative by next year when more farmers will be attracted and convinced to use these services. The cooperatives will continue managing the olive harvesters and plan to expand their services. *“When we first heard about the mechanical olive harvester we were afraid of the negative impact that it can leave on the olive tree and of the difficulty of use. After trying we discovered that it was better in terms of time, cost and efficiency in addition the branches were not broken after the harvest”* says one of the beneficiaries.

Capacity Building for farmers and FAO extension agents: With technical support from FAO, and after the consultations with the Ministry of Agriculture, a capacity development programme was elaborated and implemented during February and March 2011. The target group included the extension agents of the Ministry of Agriculture located in the North and the olive and greenhouse farmers and cooperatives who received assets in the context of this initiative. For this purpose the Ministry of Agriculture appointed a focal point in the North to coordinate the planning and implementation of these capacity development activities.

In total, 16 extension service agents from the Ministry of Agriculture participated in a Training of Trainers on integrated pest management (IPP) and sustainable soil management (SSM). The trainer's expertise in greenhouses and his wide experience in different countries enabled the participant of having a very practical and useful discussion and learning points. The participants coming from different experience and levels showed interest and implications towards the topics.

100 greenhouse farmers attended a training on IPP and SSM (4 sessions) during the month of March 2011, and additional training sessions took place in April and May 2011 for the Halba and Karkaf cooperatives as an introduction to the proper management of the Olive harvesters. The training was very well received by the cooperative members.

The project has helped create 20 new farming jobs while sustaining 250 existing jobs, and supported women in Bebnine who now report that their incomes are increasing

Construction of Olive Solid Waste Composting Facility: A comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment was undertaken to design and implement an Olive Solid Waste Composting Facility, benefiting four cooperatives in the targeted area. The identification of the four cooperatives was based on an in-depth assessment of 8 agricultural cooperatives existing in the targeted area, with technical support from FAO. The selected cooperatives and their 20 members attended the training on the production and use of the olive compost conducted in 9-10 and 16-17 November 2010. At the end of each session, evaluation was undertaken in a form of a group discussion with the farmers to get their feedback. They all mentioned their need for additional on-the job training sessions when the facility is in use. The trainees also appreciated that the trainer clarified and corrected some confusing information the trainees had acquired from previous training on olive and olive composting.

The olive compost will be sold to the farmers with a cost cheaper than the compost existing in the market. There is a high demand for such organic product in the North, and the estimated net profit per ton is \$100. The project undertook a study of the proposed composting facility which found that the project is feasible and a worthwhile investment for the region.

Improvement of the livelihoods of fishermen and women working in the fishing nets rehabilitation in Abdeh/Bebnine

Bebnine Fishermen: Within the framework of the capacity building programme initiated in 2010 by UNDP, 135 fishermen that are members in the cooperative, were trained on the cooperation definition and objectives as well as the principles and values of the cooperative enterprises. A focus was mainly on the legal process used to complain about the activities of the board of directors in case the latter did not respond to their needs. Members became aware about the roles and rights of each actor in the cooperative structure. They were able to link all actors by adopting the legal procedure. In addition based on their request we provided them a copy of the law of

cooperatives. UNDP supported the cooperative in developing a job description for the Cooperative manager which was adopted by the board of directors. Following the capacity building programme, the fishermen requested from the cooperative to open the membership, which was finally approved by the Board of Directors. These activities were closely coordinated with the Municipality of Bednine.

Bebnine Women Cooperative: The establishment of the cooperative came in response to the initial assessment estimating that, at less than 1\$/hour, the income of these women is suppressed due to the role of middlemen who offer food and clothes in lieu of higher value cash payments. Five board members and the President of the Cooperative were elected by the women at the end of 2010. In the lead-up to the establishment of the cooperative, members received capacity training on cooperative management (including preparation of the annual report to the government, accounting requirements and procedures as well as on member and volunteers mobilization). Continuous verbal feedback after each session was provided and in the beginning of each session a wrap-up session was held to confirm that the information given was well received and understood. Weekly meetings were held with women to follow-up on several issues regarding the establishment of a cooperative. The close coaching and application of the abovementioned topics at a later stage was significant and showed the evolution process of the members regarding the cooperative values and management services. All the women attended regularly the training sessions and participating seriously by asking questions and sharing challenges. Overall, these training sessions were very successful and it was clear that they were complemented with the additional job-on training sessions held.

During early 2011, the tools/instruments designed by Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG) were distributed to 150 women working on knitting. The tool was composed of an adapted lighting, seating items and customized metal stands designed for hanging the nets while knitting. Together, these ergonomic improvements significantly improve working conditions, enabling more efficient production while reducing the strain on knitters' vision and allowing better posture. Best practices and exercises to improve the health conditions of the targeted women have been introduced and monitoring and evaluation missions were undertaken by the HUG with a group of women who piloted the introduction of the new working tools and approaches. A brochure outlining best practices and exercises to improve the health conditions of the targeted women was designed and distributed during May 2011.

Bebnine Municipality was a key partner throughout the process, regular informative meetings were organized to keep the mayor updated and involved in the progress of the cooperative. At the end of 2011, the Municipality decided to appoint one focal person to follow-up and provide support to the women cooperative in addition to cover the rent fees of the cooperative office.

By the end of 2011, the women reported that their incomes were increasing, as they are now able to better manage their finances, better able to market their products, and are hence less vulnerable to middle-men activity. They also increased their client base and were better able to deal with larger orders. The equipment also improved their working conditions, which made working on knitting faster as well as more comfortable, hence reducing adverse health effects they used to suffer from.

In December 2011, the UNRCO, LRF M&E Unit and UNDP, in collaboration with LBCI, facilitated the production of a small documentary about the cooperative work to promote their work and to highlight the importance of this initiative.

Output 2: Living conditions and livelihoods of communities improved through small-scale infrastructure projects

The second component of the project aims at improving the livelihoods of communities through the completion of small scale infrastructure projects with a productive aim.

Construction of Agricultural Roads

Grant were given to five municipalities, Karkaf (\$62,000), Wadi El Jamous (\$54,000), Qobbet Bchamra (\$43,454), Hmaira (\$55,800) and Borj El Arab (\$43,360), to renovate six agricultural roads the municipalities in order to improve the farmers' access to their land and the access of the traders to the farmers. The works were completed in 2011. Farmers in these rural communities often struggle to access their own land due to the poor condition of local roads. Some land is accessible only by tractor, which many farmers do not own. The new asphalted roads enable farmers to increase their incomes as the traders will have access to their harvest. The local communities greatly appreciated the agricultural roads that now provide improved access to the agricultural fields.

Upgrade of Halba Slaughter House

A grant of \$67,000 for construction (civil works) and \$18,333 for the laboratory equipment was provided to the Municipality of Halba to upgrade the slaughterhouse which the municipality had built on its own initiative. The slaughter house that is managed by the municipality of Halba directly benefits 25 butchers in the area by improving their working conditions and increasing the value of their products. The benefits of the slaughterhouse will be far reaching, with indirect beneficiaries including all residents in the Shafat union of municipalities who will have access to better quality meat as consumers. The municipality of Halba is managing all the operations of the slaughter house, and is responsible for the use of the laboratory equipment and meat testing, as well as the treatment of the waste associated to the slaughtering process.

Previously, the slaughterhouse in Halba was in very poor shape and did not provide the local butchers with the minimum conditions to butcher meat in an efficient or hygienic manner. The slaughterhouse was built close to the meat bazaar in a strategic effort to reinforce linkages with the Akkar community of butchers (starting with 25 butchers in Halba) and to strengthen the value chain of the meat market in the region, and to provide more competitive prices to customers. Following consultations with the municipality and other key stakeholders and a series of technical assessments, it was determined that technical improvements were required to meet minimum hygiene and operational standards and to reach its full productive potential for the targeted area. Based on the existing structure of the facility, support was provided to improve the infrastructure of the slaughterhouse and to equip a laboratory for quality control. In particular, the required improvements identified for hygiene led to an agreement with the Municipality to provide laboratory equipment for medical testing of the meat, on the condition that the municipality will hire a veterinary to manage the laboratory. To this end, the municipality provided a written confirmation that the municipality will ensure that the veterinary will be placed in the laboratory.

Recently, upon the request of the municipality, UNDP also provided additional training to the municipality in order to implement ante-mortem guidelines developed by different international agencies such as FAO. These guidelines were translated into specific indicators' checklist and shared with the slaughterhouse staff for implementation. Finally, an internal management system was developed and put in place through provision of training sessions and tools. This system was designed to ensure the financial transparency in the management of the slaughter house, and the monitoring of the services. The slaughter house upgrade was finalized and is now in use by the community. Unfortunately, the municipality did not yet provide the veterinary, who according to the agreement will be in charge of the laboratory use. UNDP requested an explanation from the municipality on the

allocation of human resources to manage the laboratory, and whether there is any further support required from UNDP.

Construction of Waste Water Treatment Facility

The municipality of Bkarzala completed the sewage network works in the village. However, the municipality lacks an adequate waste water treatment method. Currently the waste water ends up in the fields of two neighboring municipalities, damaging the existing water table, releasing unbearable odors and attracting large quantities of insects. This situation is also creating tensions between the neighboring municipalities.

An independent consultant undertook in June 2011 an evaluation of the proposed waste water treatment facility, as per the recommendations from the LRF Steering Committee to further assess the request for no-cost extension for this component. The findings of the evaluation are as follows. The evaluation confirmed that this intervention is needed and will bring highly needed improvements for the health and wellbeing of the three targeted communities. The evaluation also confirmed that this project will be high impact as it will address the waste water problem, reduce conflicts among the three communities and will benefit 3,500 residents through the environmental improvements linked to the establishment of the waste water treatment facility. Lastly, the evaluation confirmed that this project is feasible, but recommended that an Environmental Impact Assessment and a detailed socio-economic feasibility study will be undertaken to further determine the next steps in the design of this initiative.

Following the evaluation, and further to the decision of the NSC at the end of August 2011, a consultancy firm was recruited by UNDP to conduct a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and a socio-economic feasibility study of the waste water treatment facility in Bkarzala. The studies showed the feasibility of the proposed project and the commitment of Bkarzala Municipality to cover all the operation and maintenance costs of the facility. The results of the study were presented to the NSC committee in November 2011. UNDP also requested the municipality to confirm their ability to obtain a permit for the facility before proceeding with the request for no-cost extension, and in December 2011 was waiting for a reply from the municipality.

Output 3: Dialogue improved through local level interventions, particularly targeting youth

Most of the activities under the youth component were finalised during 2010, except for Lebanese Palestinian youth perception survey which was completed during Quarter 1. The survey targeted the Lebanese and Palestinian youth from the NBC/Beddawi camps and the surrounding 28 municipalities. It was undertaken to provide a baseline and a future guide to design peace building interventions primarily targeting youth in the region. The survey therefore a) provides a quantitative description on intergroup perceptions and relations; b) identifies the variables that are most relevant to addressing negative intergroup perceptions; and c) identifies the variables that are most likely to improve life satisfaction in each community.

The main findings of the survey can be summarized as follows:

- Contact in all its dimensions significantly contributed to perceptions of prejudice for both Lebanese and Palestinian youth surveyed;
- Positive contact emerged as the strongest predictor of prejudice reduction in both Lebanese and Palestinian youth surveyed;

- Both Palestinian and Lebanese youth identified income satisfaction as the most prominent predictor of life satisfaction, closely followed by leisure satisfaction. None of the inter-community variables were significant, indicating that inter-community relations are not relevant to life satisfaction scores in both communities.

Constraints and Challenges

The project faced the following challenges regarding the implementation of the activities planned for 2011:

- Despite communication with the municipality of Halba regarding the laboratory equipment provided for the slaughter house, the laboratory is not being yet used in the community. UNDP requested the municipality of Halba a formal confirmation regarding the agreement to provide a full-time veterinary to operate the laboratory of the slaughter house. If the laboratory equipment will not be used, UNDP will transfer the assets to a functioning laboratory in Akkar (for example LARI in Abdeh).
- The implementation of the olive solid waste facility faced delays, due to unexpected technical issues which UNDP finally managed to solve with the cooperatives, the municipality and the contractor. The component is currently on hold pending confirmation that the cooperatives have received the required permit. The cooperatives benefiting from the Facility have confirmed that the permit can be obtained. This is also the feedback UNDP received through consulting the relevant authorities.
- Following the finalization of the feasibility plan for the waste water treatment plant, UNDP took additional steps to check with the MoEW which permits are required for the construction of the facility. The Ministry confirmed that a permit can only be obtained if the municipality is not included in the CDR national plan for waste water treatment plants, and recommended that this should be checked with the municipality. In December 2011, UNDP requested the municipality of Bkarzala to confirm whether they are able to obtain the permit as a pre-requisite to proceed with this initiative.

Future Work Plan

The project is expected to operationally close by March 2012. By then, the following activities are planned:

- Finalize the installation of the greenhouses to the 102 farmers in the North of Lebanon.
- Finalize the Olive Solid Waste Facility, following the granting of the permit by the cooperatives.
- Support the implementation of the Waste Water Facility, pending the confirmation of the municipality on the permit, and the approval of the NSC for the no-cost extension.

3.2.12 Monitoring and Evaluation Team for the LRF (UNDP)

| 3.2.12 Programme Summary Box | |
|--|---|
| Programme Number and Title (Participating Organization) | LRF-25: Monitoring and Evaluation Team for the LRF (UNDP) |
| Total Allocation and Financial Delivery Rate | \$200,000; 49,2% |
| Programme Duration (Funding) | December 2009 – December 2012 (\$200,000) |

| | |
|--|--|
| Key Objective | To generate a framework whereby the operation and delivery of current and prospective projects approved under the LRF are able to improve efficiency, recognize and prevent unnecessary expenditures and project delays that may arise over the present time frame of each individual project |
| Key Results, Achievements and/or Development Impact | Through providing advice to Participating Organizations with their LRF reporting requirements, as well as supporting with project extension requests and PAG meetings, the M&E Team has contributed to strengthening the existing LRF monitoring mechanism through improved timeliness, cost efficiency and reliability of the current LRF project activities. |

The UNDP project ‘Monitoring and Evaluation Team for the LRF’ (LRF-25, \$200,000) was approved by the LRF SC in December 2009. The project is expected to end by December 2012.

UNDP reported a financial delivery rate of 49.2 per cent (\$98,425.95) as of the end of the reporting period, 31 December 2011, up from 13.9 per cent the previous year.

The project’s main national implementing partner is the Ministry of Economy and Trade.

Objective

The development goal of the M&E Team is to generate a framework whereby the operation and delivery of current and prospective projects approved under the LRF are able to improve efficiency, recognize and prevent unnecessary expenditures and project delays that may arise over the present time frame of each individual project. The immediate objective of establishing an M&E Team is to strengthen the existing LRF monitoring mechanism by improving the timeliness, cost efficiency and reliability of the current LRF project activities. In support of this objective, the project has two main outputs:

- Support Project Managers in achieving their pre-set deadlines in a timely manner, thus working in favor of the beneficiaries of each project; and
- Revisions made in the outstanding projects - such as a no cost time extension, a budget re-evaluation or change in scope - will be effectively assessed and evaluated by the M&E team. This will improve all decision making outcomes and will ensure compliance with the above revisions.

Results and Achievements

LRF project reporting: Throughout the four quarters of 2011, the M&E unit provided strategic guidance and reviewed the progress of the LRF projects to ensure transparent and accountable reporting. The unit conducted a thorough desk review of all project documents and reports for the on-going LRF projects. This was followed by coordinated work with the projects and programs’ managers to amend and enhance the reports and to provide the needed information to the MPTF office contributing to the preparation of the LRF consolidated reports. The M&E unit conducted field visits to focus on the projects’ progress achieved, assess the feedback of the projects’ beneficiaries, promote linkage and coordination within and among LRF projects, highlight projects’ overlap and duplication, and highlight and share common challenges faced and lessons learnt.

Moreover, the M&E Unit reviewed, and analysed the on-going LRF progress reports for the first three quarters (Jan – September) of 2011, in coordination with the programs’ managers. This exercise was performed with the aim of improving the reporting quality, reflecting the results achieved by the LRF projects and their impact on the livelihood of the targeted communities. The final versions of the reports are available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY.

LRF project extension requests: In collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Trade, the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Finance and the UNRCO, the M&E supported the review and analysis process of five no-cost extension requests. Close coordination with the projects' managers has been adopted to follow up on each of the projects' components, with emphasis on the site inspection through field visits.

Supporting the PAG Meetings: PAG meetings were organized on monthly basis during 2011, where the following points were discussed with the M&E Unit for updates: progress achieved by the LRF projects in general and the extended projects in particular, the LRF reporting status, the LRF newsletters, the LRF website, the LRF documentary production, and the LRF SC's call for new proposals.

Constraints and Challenges

- Dependence on clarity of objectives and availability of indicators within the project documents
- Lack of coordination regarding communication and visibility actions
- Lack of continuous communication with some project/programme managers

Lessons Learnt

Based on the above, one key lesson learnt is that periodic meetings with project/programme managers facilitates the monitoring & evaluation of the projects and that frequent field visits greatly enhance familiarity and understanding of projects objectives and actual progress. Also, having common communication and visibility guidelines facilitates the coordination among the project/programme managers and the M&E Unit.

4 Financial Performance

This financial performance section includes key financial data on the LRF. Financial information is also available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org>). Due to rounding, totals in the tables may not add up. All amounts in the tables are in US\$.

4.1 Financial overview

Table 4-1, below, provides a financial overview of the LRF as of 31 December 2011, highlighting key figures as well as the balance available, both with the AA (MPTF Office) and with Participating Organizations. As of the end of the reporting period, 31 December 2011, the balance of funds with the AA is \$2,456,649 (5.4 per cent of total donor deposits). The unutilized balances remaining with Participating Organizations, as of 31 December 2011, was \$9,146,598 (19.7 per cent of transferred funds).

Table 4-1 Financial Overview

| | Prior Years as of 31 Dec 2010 | Current Year (2011) | TOTAL |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Sources of Funds | | | |
| Gross Donor Contributions | 45,857,496 | – | 45,857,496 |
| Fund-Earned Interest Income | 1,500,646 | 18,316 | 1,518,962 |
| Interest Income Received from Participating Orgs | 812,489 | 326,936 | 1,139,424 |
| Refunds by Administrative Agent (Interest/Others) | – | – | – |
| Other Revenue | – | – | – |
| TOTAL: Sources of Funds | 48,170,630 | 345,252 | 48,515,882 |
| Uses of Funds | | | |
| Transfers to Participating Organizations | 46,398,363 | - | 46,398,363 |
| Refunds Received from Participating Organizations | (797,830) | - | (797,830) |
| Net Funded Amount to Participating Organizations | – | - | 45,600,533 |
| Administrative Agent Fees | 458,575 | – | 458,575 |
| Direct Costs (Steering Committee Secretariat, etc.) | – | – | – |
| Bank Charges | – | 125 | 125 |
| Other Expenditures | – | – | – |
| TOTAL: Uses of Funds | 46,059,108 | 125 | 46,059,232 |
| Balance of Funds Available with Administrative Agent | 2,111,522 | 345,127 | 2,456,649 |
| Net Funded Amount to Participating Organizations | 46,000,533 | - | 45,600,533 |
| Participating Organizations' Expenditure | 28,539,762 | 7,914,173 | 36,453,935 |
| Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations | 17,060,771 | 7,914,173 | 9,146,598 |

4.2 Donor contributions

No donor contributions were made to the LRF in 2011. Cumulatively, the largest contribution to the LRF has been made by Spain (\$35,400,000; 77.2 per cent of total donor deposits), followed by Sweden (\$9,797,465) and Romania (\$659,531). Table 4-2 gives the breakdown of the total contribution received, amounting to \$45,857,496 as of the end of the reporting period, 31 December 2011.

Table 4-2 Donor Contributions

| Donors | Prior Years as of 31 Dec 2010 | Current Year (2011) | TOTAL |
|--------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Romania | 659,531 | – | 659,531 |
| Spain | 35,400,500 | – | 35,400,500 |
| Sweden | 9,797,465 | – | 9,797,465 |
| TOTAL | 45,857,496 | – | 45,857,496 |

4.3 Earned interest

As of 31 December 2011, fund- and agency-earned interest together cumulatively amounted to \$2,658,386. This amount is an additional source of income for the LRF and increases the amount of funds available for project funding. The breakdown of fund- and agency-earned interest is as follows:

- *Fund-Earned Interest:* Fund-earned interest (i.e. interest earned by the LRF Account and administered by the LRF Administrative Agent—the MPTF Office) amounted to \$18,316 in 2011, bringing the total, cumulative fund-earned interest to \$1,518,962 as of 31 December 2011.
- *Agency Interest Earned by Participating Organizations:* All interest earned by the Participating Organizations is expected to be credited to the LRF Account unless the governing bodies of the said organization has approved decisions that govern the specific use of interest earned on donor contributions. The refunded interest will be used to augment the availability of funds for project funding. In 2011, total interest reported and refunded by Participating Organizations under the LRF amounted to \$326,936. As per Table 4-3, cumulative agency-earned interest amounted to \$1,139,424 as of 31 December 2011.

Table 4-3 Received Interest at the Fund and Agency Levels

| | Prior Years as of 31 Dec 2010 | Current Year (2011) | TOTAL |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Fund-Earned Interest (Administrative Agent) | 1,500,646 | 18,316 | 1,518,962 |
| TOTAL: Fund-Earned Interest | 1,500,646 | 18,316 | 1,518,962 |
| FAO | 61,758 | – | 61,758 |
| ILO | 41,076 | – | 41,076 |
| UNDP | 461,263 | 315,879 | 777,141 |
| UNESCO | 64,128 | 853 | 64,981 |
| UNFPA | 45,905 | – | 45,905 |
| UNIDO | 138,358 | 10,204 | 148,563 |
| TOTAL: Agency-Earned Interest | 812,489 | 326,936 | 1,139,424 |
| TOTAL: Interest Earned | 2,313,134 | 345,252 | 2,658,386 |

4.4 Transfer of Approved Funding to Participating Organizations

As of 31 December 2011, the LRF had transferred funds to six Participating Organizations for approved projects for a net total of \$45,600,533. There were no new transfers, or refunds, in 2011. The distribution of net transfers, consolidated by Participating Organization, is summarized in Table 4-4, below. UNDP has received 62.7 per cent of total allocations, partly due to the large-scale programmes implemented by UNDP (e.g. CEDRO), as well as that many of UNDP's projects are implemented through national entities or NGOs.

Table 4-4 Transfer of Net-Funded Amount by Participating Organization

| Participating Organization | Prior Years as of 31 Dec 2010 | Current Year Jan–Dec 2011 | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| FAO | 8,370,670 | – | 8,370,670 |
| ILO | 2,683,108 | – | 2,683,108 |
| UNDP | 28,262,501 | – | 28,262,501 |
| UNESCO | 789,396 | – | 789,396 |
| UNFPA | 994,858 | – | 994,858 |
| UNIDO | 4,500,000 | – | 4,500,000 |
| TOTAL | 45,600,533 | – | 45,600,533 |

4.5 Expenditure

During the reporting period 1 January to 31 December 2011, a total of \$7,914,173 was reported by Participating Organizations as expenditure, bringing the total expenditure to \$36,453,935. This is the equivalent of 79.9 per cent of the net transferred to Participating Organizations as of 31 December 2011 (\$45,600,533), up from 62.6 per cent in 2010. As in previous years, all expenditure reported for the year 2011 was submitted by the Headquarters of the Participating Organizations through the MPTF Office's UNEX Financial Reporting Portal, and extracted, consolidated and analysed by the MPTF Office. The below tables provide different cuts on this expenditure data. A complete list of expenditures by project is available in Table 4-6. Additional tables on expenditure, including expenditure tables by Participating Organization with breakdowns by budget category, are available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org>).

Table 4-5 Expenditure by Participating Organization

| Participating Organization | Net-Funded Amount | Expenditure | | | Delivery Rate (%) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | Prior Years as of 31 Dec 2010 | Current Year (2011) | TOTAL | |
| FAO | 8,370,670 | 6,242,188 | 1,451,127 | 7,693,315 | 91.9 |
| ILO | 2,683,108 | 2,223,905 | 413,760 | 2,637,665 | 98.3 |
| UNDP | 28,262,501 | 14,010,385 | 5,971,082 | 19,981,466 | 70.7 |
| UNESCO | 789,396 | 781,854 | 2,263 | 784,117 | 99.3 |
| UNFPA | 994,858 | 992,615 | 1,857 | 994,472 | 100.0 |
| UNIDO | 4,500,000 | 4,288,815 | 74,085 | 4,362,900 | 97.0 |
| TOTAL | 45,600,533 | 28,539,762 | 7,914,173 | 36,453,935 | 79.9 |

Table 4-6 Expenditure by Project

| Project (Participating Organization) | Net-Funded Amount | Expenditure | | | Delivery Rate (%) |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | Prior Years as of 31 Dec 2010 | Current Year (2011) | TOTAL | |
| LRF-1: CEDRO Phase I (UNDP) | 2,732,240 | 2,521,640 | 168,172 | 2,689,812 | 98.4 |
| LRF-2: Livelihoods Phase I (UNIDO) | 3,000,000 | 2,852,618 | (75,791) | 2,852,618 | 95.1 |
| LRF-3: Horticulture (FAO) | 1,370,670 | 1,438,865 | (51,785) | 1,363,074 | 99.4 |
| LRF-4: Livestock Keepers (FAO) | 1,900,000 | 1,944,198 | - | 1,892,413 | 99.6 |
| LRF-5: Socio-Econ Rec Phase I (ILO) | 1,183,108 | 1,153,121 | - | 1,153,121 | 97.5 |
| LRF-6: HR for Digital Doc. (UNESCO) | 767,226 | 759,684 | 2,263 | 761,947 | 99.3 |
| LRF-7: Social Sector (UNDP) | 270,000 | 195,579 | 66,049 | 261,628 | 96.9 |
| LRF-8: Integration of Disabled (UNDP) | 1,400,000 | 1,403,147 | (3,148) | 1,399,999 | 100.0 |
| LRF-9: Flood Water Management (UNDP) | 2,843,880 | 2,079,981 | 680,911 | 2,760,893 | 97.1 |
| LRF-10: CEDRO Phase II (UNDP) | 3,500,000 | 1,275,093 | 2,036,197 | 3,311,289 | 94.6 |
| LRF-11: Dairy Production (UNDP) | 1,000,000 | 997,993 | 1,563 | 999,556 | 100.0 |
| LRF-12: Women Empowerment (UNFPA) | 994,858 | 992,615 | 1,857 | 994,472 | 100.0 |
| LRF-13: Socio-Econ. Recovery (UNDP) | 996,919 | 996,919 | - | 996,919 | 100.0 |
| LRF-14: Forest Fires Management (FAO) | 2,600,000 | 1,851,317 | 474,659 | 2,325,977 | 89.5 |
| LRF-15: ICT in Education (UNESCO) | 22,170 | 22,170 | - | 22,170 | 100.0 |
| LRF-16: CEDRO Phase III (UNDP) | 3,500,000 | 135,987 | 410,666 | 546,654 | 15.6 |
| LRF-17: Flood Risks Prevention (UNDP) | 3,800,000 | 416,077 | 760,495 | 1,176,573 | 31.0 |
| LRF-18: Recovery Coord. (UNDP) | 1,128,012 | 715,862 | 377,779 | 1,093,641 | 97.0 |
| LRF-19: ART GOLD Lebanon (UNDP) | 2,391,450 | 2,357,020 | 57,256 | 2,414,276 | 101.0 |
| LRF-20: Livelihoods Phase II (UNIDO) | 1,500,000 | 1,436,197 | 74,085 | 1,510,282 | 100.7 |
| LRF-21: Dairy Sector (FAO) | 2,500,000 | 1,007,808 | 1,104,044 | 2,111,851 | 84.5 |
| LRF-22: Socio-Econ Rec Phase I (ILO) | 1,500,000 | 1,070,784 | 413,760 | 1,484,544 | 99.0 |
| LRF-23: Hydro Agriculture (UNDP) | 2,000,000 | 215,958 | 312,304 | 528,262 | 26.4 |
| LRF-24: Early Recovery (UNDP) | 2,500,000 | 671,316 | 1,032,224 | 1,703,539 | 68.1 |
| LRF-25: M&E Team for the LRF (UNDP) | 200,000 | 27,811 | 70,615 | 98,426 | 49.2 |
| TOTAL | 45,600,533 | 28,539,762 | 7,914,173 | 36,453,935 | 79.9 |

Table 4-7 Expenditure by Budget Category

| Budget Category | Expenditure | | | Percentage of Total Programme Cost (%) |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Prior Years as of 31 Dec 2010 | Current Year (2011) | TOTAL | |
| Supplies, Commodities, Equipment | 8,613,300 | 2,780,102 | 11,393,403 | 33.4 |
| Personnel | 6,818,611 | 1,641,372 | 8,459,983 | 24.8 |
| Training of Counterparts | 557,434 | 29,539 | 586,973 | 1.8 |
| Contracts | 8,022,612 | 2,083,532 | 10,106,144 | 29.7 |
| Other Direct Costs | 2,705,612 | 834,869 | 3,540,481 | 10.4 |
| Total Programme Costs | 26,717,098 | 7,369,414 | 34,086,512 | 100.00 |
| Indirect Support Costs | 1,822,664 | 544,759 | 2,367,424 | 7.0 |
| TOTAL | 28,539,762 | 7,914,173 | 36,453,935 | |

4.6 Cost Recovery

The cost recovery for LRF is guided by the applicable provisions of the LRF TOR, the LOAs (now referred to as SAAs) concluded between the MPTF Office, as the AA of the LRF, with donors, and the MOU concluded between the MPTF Office and Participating Organizations.

For the reporting period, the actual costs were as follows:

- 1) The AA-fee is one per cent of donor contributions, deducted at the time of deposit. As no new donor deposits were made during the reporting period, no AA-fee was deducted in 2011. Cumulatively, for the period 2007–2011, \$458,575 has been deducted as AA-fees, charged for the entire duration of the LRF.
- 2) The cumulative average rate of indirect support costs charged by the Participating Organizations to date amounts to 6.95 per cent, which is slightly below the 7 per cent specified for indirect support costs in the LRF TOR, LOA and MOU. Some Participating Organizations may charge indirect support costs on total project budget amounts instead of on actual expenditures, as permissible by their regulations and rules, with appropriate adjustments to be made upon project completion.

5 Transparency and Accountability

A major vehicle for public transparency of operations under the LRF continues to be the MPTF Office GATEWAY. Launched in 2010, the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org>) is a knowledge platform providing real-time data from the MPTF Office accounting system on financial information on donor contributions, programme budgets and transfers to Participating Organizations. It is designed to provide transparent, accountable fund-management services to the United Nations system to enhance its coherence, effectiveness and efficiency.

Each MPTF and JP administered by the MPTF Office has its own website on the MPTF Office GATEWAY with extensive narrative and financial information on the MPTF/JP, including on its strategic framework, governance arrangements, eligibility and allocation criteria. Annual financial and narrative progress reports and quarterly/semi-annual updates on the results being achieved are also available. In addition, each programme has a website with specific facts, figures and updates on that programme.

The MPTF Office GATEWAY provides easy access to more than 8,000 reports and documents on MPTFs/JPs and individual programmes, with tools and tables displaying related financial data. By enabling users in the field with easy access to upload progress reports and related documents, it also facilitates knowledge-sharing and management among UN agencies. The MPTF Office GATEWAY is already being recognized as a ‘standard setter’ by peers and partners. All LRF Participating Organizations’ Annual or Final Reports on individual projects are available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY.

A total of 25 recovery and developmental projects covering different sectors have been funded by the LRF. These initiatives are implemented by eight UN agencies in partnership with the concerned Ministries and qualified NGOs.

In addition, under the responsibility of the LRF M&E Team (see further details under project LRF-25), the UN Country Team website (www.un.org.lb) has been reconstructed and redesigned to also include a page for the LRF, including new sections, updated information and new publications.

6 Conclusion

This Fifth Consolidated Annual Report on Activities under the LRF reports on the implementation of the 25 projects (including extensions) approved for funding as of 31 December 2011, the fifth year of operations of the LRF. The Annual Report is consolidated based on information and data contained in the individual progress reports and financial statements submitted by Participating Organizations to the MPTF Office. It is neither an evaluation of the LRF nor the MPTF Office's assessment of the performance of the Participating Organizations.

The first project under the LRF was approved in May 2007, followed by another nine the same year. In 2008, an additional eight were approved, in 2009 seven, whereas in 2010 one cost-extension was approved. In 2011, the current reporting period, no new projects or cost-extensions were approved. The total number of projects therefore stands at 25, with a net amount of \$45,600,533 transferred to six Participating Organizations.

The three main sectors targeted by these projects are:

- Environmental projects, including the forest fire management, the renewable energy and the mitigation of the flood effects in the rural areas (7 projects/phases; \$20,976,120 allocated with an overall delivery rate of 63.6 per cent).
- Local Socio-Economic Recovery projects, including the agro-food and industry, women empowerment and income generation activities, support of the dairy sector and establishment of public private partnerships (16 projects/phases; \$23,296,401 allocated with an overall delivery rate of 94.1 per cent).
- Coordination projects, including the coordination offices of the UN and the LRF Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (2 projects; \$1,328,012 allocated with an overall delivery rate of 89.8 per cent).

With 17 of the 25 projects/phases operationally closed by the end of 2011, and the majority of the remaining projects expected to be closed by the end of 2012, LRF-funded projects have largely achieved their objectives and many report on significant developmental and cross-sector impacts on the local communities targeted.

Overall financial delivery rate, across all 25 projects, is 79.9 per cent as of 31 December 2011, an increase from 62.6 per cent in 2010 (and 39.5 per cent in 2009). 20 of the 25 projects reporting a cumulative financial expenditure rate of 85 per cent or above, and 17 of these projects reporting a delivery rate of over 95 per cent, by the end of the reporting period. The high delivery rate appropriately reflects the advanced implementation stage that many of the projects are in.

Comprehensive details of these financial and programmatic achievements have been included in the report, and a noteworthy characteristic across nearly all projects is Participating Organizations' partnering with implementing partners, including national authorities, local foundations or NGOs. Across nearly all projects, Ministries, foundations, NGOs and community-based groups form a core element of the implementation of the projects.

Based on the decision of the LRF SC to explore the possibilities of a second phase of LRF funding, the MPTF Office envisages that this Fifth Consolidated Progress Report on Activities under the Lebanon Recovery Fund will provide the LRF SC the basis on which to better assess the future of the LRF, including its resource requirements, and to advocate and mobilize additional funding in support of the recovery, reconstruction, and development process in Lebanon, as required and as appropriate.

Financial Annexes

Annex 1: LRF SC Approved Projects as of 31 December 2011

| Steering Committee Approval Date | Project Number | Project Number and Title | Participating Organization | Key Government/ NGO Counterpart | Net Transfer Amount (US\$) | Implementation Status (financial delivery rate) |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| 7 May 2007 | LRF-1 | Community Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Demonstration Project for the Recovery of Lebanon (CEDRO I) | UNDP | Ministry of Energy and Water | 2,732,240 | Operationally closed (98.4%) |
| 7 May 2007 | LRF-2 | Support for Livelihoods and Economic Recovery in War-affected Areas of Lebanon | UNIDO | Ministry of Industry | 3,000,000 | Operationally closed (95.1%) |
| 12 Jun 2007 | LRF-3 | Early Recovery Assistance for the Horticulture Smallholder | FAO | Ministry of Agriculture | 1,370,670 | Operationally closed (99.4%) |
| 12 Jun 2007 | LRF-4 | Early Recovery Assistance to War-affected Resource-poor Livestock Keepers in South Lebanon | FAO | Ministry of Agriculture | 1,900,000 | Operationally closed (99.6%) |
| 12 Jun 2007 | LRF-5 | Local Socio-economic Recovery in War-affected Areas in South Lebanon | ILO | Ministry of Labour | 1,183,108 | Operationally closed (97.5%) |
| 7 May 2007 | LRF-6 | Building of Human Resources for Digital Documentation of World Heritage Sites Affected by the War | UNESCO | Ministry of Culture | 767,226 | Operationally closed (99.3%) |
| 3 Oct 2007 | LRF-7 | Enhance Performance of the Social Sector | UNDP | Ministry of Social Affairs | 270,000 | Operationally closed (96.9%) |
| 10 Oct 2007 | LRF-8 | Increased Integration of the Poor Disabled | UNDP | Ministry of Social Affairs | 1,400,000 | Operationally closed (100.0%) |
| 10 Oct 2007 | LRF-9 | Flood and Water Management for Livelihood Recovery in Baalback-Hermel | UNDP | Ministry of Energy and Water | 2,843,880 | Operationally closed (97.1%) |
| 10 Oct 2007 | LRF-10 | Country Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Demonstration Project for the Recovery of Lebanon (CEDRO II) | UNDP | Ministry of Energy and Water | 3,500,000 | On-going (94.1%) |
| 5 Nov 2007 (transfer in 2008) | LRF-11 | Strengthening the Dairy Production Channel in North Lebanon | UNDP | Renee Maawad Foundation | 1,000,000 | Operationally closed (100.0%) |
| 5 Nov 2007 (transfer in 2008) | LRF-12 | Women Empowerment: Peaceful Action for Stability and Security (WE PASS) | UNFPA | National Commission for Lebanese Women | 994,858 | Operationally closed (100.0%) |
| 5 Nov 2007 (transfer in 2008) | LRF-13 | Socio-Economic Rehabilitation and Recovery of War-affected Beirut and its Suburbs | UNDP | Hariri Foundation | 996,919 | Operationally closed (100.0%) |

| Steering Committee Approval Date | Project Number | Project Number and Title | Participating Organization | Key Government/ NGO Counterpart | Net Transfer Amount (US\$) | Implementation Status (financial delivery rate) |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| 5 Nov 2007 (transfer in 2008) | LRF-14 | Forest Fires Management—Forest Fires Prevention, Forest Fires Fighting (Control) and Damaged Forests Assessment and Rehabilitation | FAO | Ministry of Environment | 2,600,000 | Operationally closed (89.5%) |
| 21 Aug 2008 | LRF-15 | Enhancing ICT in Education | UNESCO | – | 22,170 | Terminated (100.0%) |
| 19 Sept 2008 | LRF-16 | Country Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Demonstration Project for the Development of Lebanon (CEDRO III) | UNDP | Ministry of Energy and Water | 3,500,000 | On-going (15.6%) |
| 19 Sept 2008 | LRF-17 | Flood Risks Prevention and Management in Baalbeck - Hermel | UNDP | Ministry of Energy and Water | 3,800,000 | On-going (31.0%) |
| 24 Oct 2008; 9 Dec 2010 | LRF-18 | Recovery Coordination Support in Lebanon | UNDP | Development Unit, Office of the Prime Minister | 1,128,012 | On-going (97.0%) |
| 26 Mar 2009 | LRF-19 | Socio-Economic Rehabilitation Programme in the Framework of ART GOLD Lebanon | UNDP | Council for Development and Reconstruction | 2,391,450 | Operationally closed (101.0%) |
| 1 Apr 2009 | LRF-20 | Support for Livelihoods and Economic Recovery in War-affected Areas of Lebanon (Phase II) | UNIDO | Ministry of Industry | 1,500,000 | Operationally closed (100.7%) |
| 15 Apr 2009 | LRF-21 | Recovery and Rehabilitation of Dairy Sector in Bekaa Valley and Hermel-Akkar Uplands | FAO | Ministry of Agriculture | 2,500,000 | On-going (84.5%) |
| 15 Apr 2009 | LRF-22 | Supporting Local Socio-Economic Development in War-affected Areas of South Lebanon (Phase II) | ILO | Ministry of Labour | 1,500,000 | Operationally closed (99.0%) |
| 29 May 2009 | LRF-23 | Hydro Agricultural Development for Marjayoun Area | UNDP | Ministry of Energy and Water | 2,000,000 | On-going (26.4%) |
| 13 Aug 2009 | LRF-24 | Early Recovery of Nahr el Bared Surrounding Lebanese Communities Affected by 2006 and 2007 Conflicts | UNDP | Presidency of the Council of Ministers | 2,500,000 | On-going (68.1%) |
| 15 Dec 2009 | LRF-25 | Monitoring & Evaluation Team for the LRF | UNDP | Ministry of Economy and Trade | 200,000 | On-going (49.2%) |
| TOTAL | | | | | 45,600,533 | 79.9% |