



Lebanon Recovery Fund

LRF Newsletter




Issue no : 1, July—September 2011

Overview

The 2006 war on Lebanon caused immeasurable destruction to the livelihoods, social and physical infrastructure 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 resulted in a major setback to the country's encouraging economic outlook and to the reform agenda that the Government of Lebanon had elaborated.

To address immediate early recovery needs, a donors' conference organized by the Swedish Government took place on August 31, 2006 in Stockholm. The conference was dedicated to the early recovery and humanitarian needs in Lebanon resulting from the July 2006 hostilities. The conference was organized in close cooperation between the Lebanese Government and the United Nations and focused on covering the immediate needs of the Lebanese people according to the government proposed strategy for a national early recovery process including initial quick-impact and sector-based initiatives developed to respond to Lebanon's most critical needs.

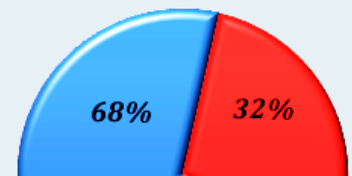
In line with the proposed strategy, the government provides overall coordination of the recovery process, ensuring that initiatives address the national priorities, and projects are implemented in close coordination with partners, including UN agencies, bilateral development agencies, and international as well as local non-governmental organizations. This coordination will ensure an overall management and harmonization of the sought international assistance and enable the government to ensure transparent fund administration and project implementation in line with its reform.

Through this conference, a number of donors pledged their support to the priorities presented by the Government of Lebanon and among them, the Governments of Spain , Romania  and Sweden  that together committed a **45,857,496 USD** constituting a Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) entitled "**The Lebanon Recovery Fund**".

The **LRF** finances priority recovery and reconstruction projects that are approved by the government and that can be executed with the support of six participating UN organizations .

The **LRF** is administered by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in accordance with its financial regulations and rules.

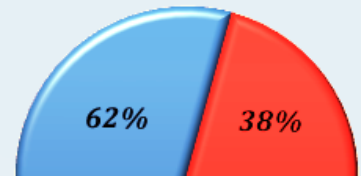
LRF Project Status



25 Projects Approved:

- 17 Completed Projects
- 8 Ongoing Projects

LRF Financial Status

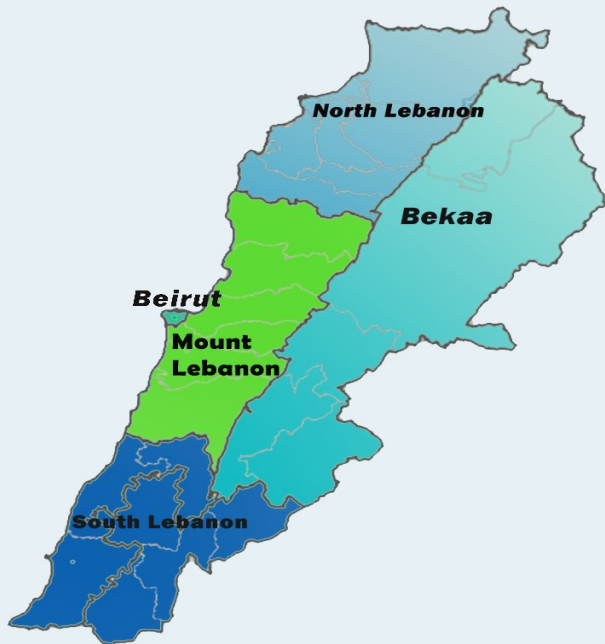


- Net Transfers to Participating UN Organizations = \$45,600,533
- Expenditures reported by Participating UN Organizations = \$28,539,762

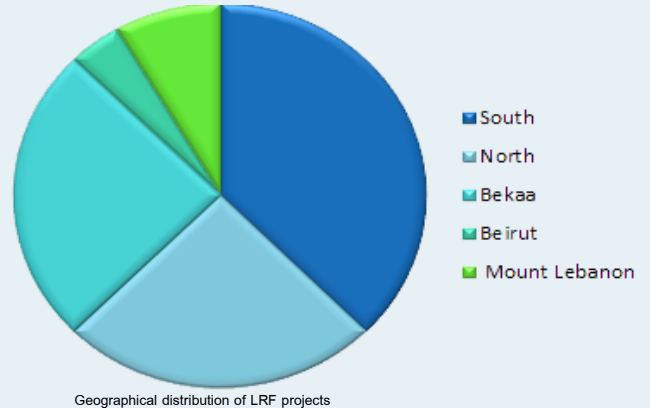
Events

UNFPA is honoring 130 women benefiting from the microloans component of the LRF12 (The Women Empowerment Project). These women were able to initiate small businesses in their villages and increase their income to support their families. The event will take place on Friday, September 30th, at the UNESCO Palace in the presence of her Excellency, the First Lady, Mrs. Wafa Suleiman, the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Robert Watkins, in addition to the LRF Representative and the Project's National Stakeholders.

LRF Geographical Focus



The **Lebanon Recovery Fund (LRF)** was established to support recovery projects in areas directly affected by 2006 war including South Lebanon, Bekaa, Beirut Suburbs and North Lebanon.



LRF Sectors

• Socio-Economic Recovery

- ⇒ 78 SMEs in Southern suburbs of Beirut, Southern Lebanon and Bekaa Valley were rehabilitated and made operational generating around 1,300 new jobs (LRF 2-20)
- ⇒ 620 farmers in Beqaa and Akkar have benefited from 2400 stainless steel jars for milk collection as well as 355 milking machines and capacity building activities on milk collection, testing and delivery through the FAO project for supporting the dairy sector in Lebanon. (LRF 21)
- ⇒ Construction of a dairy processing unit and the creation of 15 new dairy farms in North Lebanon (LRF 11)
- ⇒ Under the UNDP's ART GOLD initiative towards developing capacities of municipalities on Good Local Governance, twelve workshops were conducted to a total of 328 municipal members including municipality presidents and vice presidents. (LRF 19)
- ⇒ Oregano plantations were rehabilitated increasing the productivity of 185 farmers and beehives were distributed in support of 80 beekeepers in South Lebanon (LRF 22 - LRF5)
- ⇒ 850 job opportunities have been created through the microloans and small grants components with the aim of enhancing the livelihood conditions in Naher el Bared surroundings and Tyre areas (LRF 24, LRF 22).

• Environment

- ⇒ 33 sites (schools, hospitals, municipalities...) were installed with photovoltaic, solar hot water, and energy efficient equipment's in Akkar, Bekaa, South and Mount Lebanon regions (LRF1-10-16)
- ⇒ 45,000 trees have been planted all over Lebanon as part of the activities undertaken by the FAO Forest Fire Management project.
- ⇒ Eight reservoirs for water retaining have been finalized in Aarsal area by the UNDP Flood Management project (Phase I) as part of the project's efforts to mitigate the flood's effects on Aarsal, Fakiha and Ras Baalbeck areas
- ⇒ Customized pickup trucks with fire fighting safety clothing and tools and fire hoses were provided to the Civil Defense along with training to 200 members (LRF 14)



“Teach us how to read and write!” a group of women asked to face their real life challenges and demand change.

Yarine is a village in South Lebanon where the population depends on income from growing tobacco. In the village, women make up the bulk of the labor force in this sector, and women empowerment meant something very specific to them:

LITERACY!

Many things in life are taken for granted until people are empowered and then they themselves point out what is missing and demand change!

Through the [Lebanon Recovery Fund](#) and UNFPA, a project was developed and implemented to plan interventions according to previously conducted needs assessment following a genuinely participatory approach with the project stakeholders. However, in the case of the women committee of Yarine, it was challenging for the project to address all the urgent needs which revolved around poverty, violence, poor health, absence of participation and lack of self respect!

The answer as to which need had to be addressed as a priority came from the beneficiaries themselves: “Teach us how to read and write!”

The success of the intervention enabled 45 women from different age groups to read and write, and created job opportunities for five women from Yarine who were trained to conduct the literacy program and hence ensuring self-sustainability within their community. In addition, the success of the outcomes were attributed to the innovative teaching tools that were used in the program combining literacy with development knowledge.

As such the ladies participating in the program were sensitized on prevention of Gender Based Violence, reproductive health issues, basic economic know-how, women rights, and self empowerment. They learned the alphabet through sharing their real life stories and problems. This also created a support group among them, and opened a new horizon of dignity and hope. This success was emphasized by the words of the former ambassador of Norway who attended the graduation on March 25, 2010 “these women have guts, and they want results, they will not go back”!



WEPASS: WOMEN EMPOWERMENT
PEACEFUL ACTION FOR SECURITY AND
STABILITY (LRF# 12)



“Back to compete in the market”

Support for Livelihoods and Economic Recovery in War-Affected Areas of Lebanon (LASER)

“I wish to thank the [Lebanon Recovery Fund](#), the Ministry of Industry and UNIDO for this opportunity to recover our factory and life...” affirmed Mr. Hassan Yassine, a textile factory owner in Beirut’s suburbs.

Founded in 1986, Yassine’s bros. created the Maximum Factory for the production of shirts for Lebanon and the Middle East with an average production reaching about 150 shirts per day.

After being severely affected during the 2006 war, this factory was provided with ten Direct Drive, High Speed, 1-Needle, Lockstitch Machines and one Direct Drive, High Speed, 1-Needle, Lockstitch Machine with Automatic Thread Trimmer to reignite its production and recover from the damages incurred.

This industrial textile company had raised its economic competitiveness nationally, regionally and globally. The task force increased from 25 to 55 individuals which represents a 56% increase in employability notwithstanding a diverse task force providing equal opportunities to both women and men and the factory saw a 25% increase in quality enhanced production.

Flood Risk Management and Water Harvesting for Livelihood Recovery in Baalback-Hermel (LRF#9-17)

The steady rise in global temperatures has resulted in irregular rainfalls, which in turn have caused cases of severe flooding in the region. Intense rainfalls have become much more frequent, thus placing excessive stress on catchments and drainage basins.

Floods which used to happen every ten years have now an annual recurrence rate. Such flash floods, the most disastrous of which occurred in 2001, lead to road cuts, destruction of infrastructure, substantial damage to crops and livestock, in addition to severe soil erosion. The damage costs caused by one flood event have been assessed and paid for by the High Relief Commission and amount to around 2.5 million US dollars

Due to these destructive effects of floods UNDP, with funding from the Spanish government through the [Lebanon Recovery Fund](#) , has launched a project on flood risk management and water conservation in Baalbeck-Hermel.

The flood risk program has two main targets: building retention ponds and structures to hold flood water flows and replanting vegetation to prevent soil erosion.

Phase I of the project covered the watershed between Aarsal and Fakeha (95 km²). A total of 8 retention ponds with a capacity ranging between 30,000 and 120,000 cubic meters were built, as well as another 158 structures (check dams, stone walls, contour stone walls) in tactically selected locations, intended to minimize the effects of the floods. These structures will not just reduce water flow and soil erosion but will also increase water infiltration and significantly contribute to ground water recharge

In early 2009, the project entered its second phase, which covers the watershed of Aarsal-Ras Baalbeck (250 Km²). The goal is to reduce the effect of floods on the downstream area of Ras Baalbeck and El Assi River by building a series of retention ponds and catchment areas, as well as rehabilitate the vegetation cover.

To reduce soil erosion, a Soil Erosion Risk Map was developed, which was the basis for selecting a number of sites that were replanted with 15,000 seedlings of native wild species, such as wild prune, wild almond, and wild pear. These seedlings will help regenerate the green cover and they are expected to become a source for spreading seeds and consequently expanding cover.



Catchment area with the white lines clearly showing path of flood waters

Implementing UN Agencies



Governmental Partners

