



**LEBANON RECOVERY FUND
PROJECT DOCUMENT COVER SHEET**

Participating UN Organisation: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Sector: Livelihoods – Agriculture
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Programme/Project Title: Early recovery assistance for the horticulture smallholder Programme/Project Number: OSRO/LEB/701/UNJ	Programme/Project Location: The South and Nabatiyeh governorates.
Programme/Project Description: A twelve-month project that aims to strengthen the national horticulture sector in Lebanon and, more specifically, to restore the small-scale farmers' capability to produce high-quality and safe vegetables.	Total Programme/Project Cost: US \$ 1 370 670 LRF: US \$ 1 370 670 Government Input: Other: Total: US \$ 1 370 670
	Programme/Project Duration: 12 months
Development Goal and Key Immediate Objectives: The development goal of the project is to improve horticulture practices in Lebanon (by use of improved varieties, planting densities, greenhouse structure, GAP, water-use efficiency, rational use of fertilizers and pesticides and production of safe vegetables). The key immediate objective of the project is to provide assistance to the lives and livelihoods of 1 600 resource-poor and vulnerable horticulture war-affected farmers – with critical crop harvest losses – from the severely war-affected areas of Lebanon – the South and Nabatiyeh governorates (as a first phase, while the second phase of the project shall include assistance to the rest of the war-affected farmers in Lebanon).	
Outputs: The main outputs of this 12-month project will be: (i) horticultural activities rehabilitated and resumed in the war-affected areas through provision of improved seeds and other inputs distribution for early recover of the vegetable crops production; (ii) water- and fertilizer-use efficiency improved through rational use of water using localized/adapted drip irrigation systems; and (iii) green house design improved for higher yields.	
Sector Review Date: _____ Sector Working Group Review Date: _____ Steering Committee Approval Date: _____	

On behalf of:

FAO

Chair, LRF SC

2. Logical Framework

Objectives	Measurable indicators	Means of verification	Important assumptions
<p>Development Objective: Improve horticulture practices in Lebanon (improved varieties, improved planting densities, improved greenhouse structure, GAP, water-use efficiency, rational use of fertilizers and pesticides and production of safe vegetables).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased cost effectiveness. - Increased yielding and income of farmers. - GAP applied for better production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government statistics and reports. - Project monitoring reports. 	<p>The security situation in the country improves or remains stable allowing project activities to be implemented as scheduled.</p>
<p>Immediate Objectives: Sustain the early rehabilitation and recovery of small farm holders vegetables growers in South and Nabatiyeh governorates and to ensure resumption of agricultural activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vegetable crops production restored - Irrigations systems improved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project final, monitoring and evaluation reports will compare the results achieved by the project against the baseline information gathered by the damage and needs assessments carried out jointly by FAO, MoA after hostilities 	<p>Stable security situation and accessibility of the project area.</p>
<p>Outputs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Small-scale farmers enabled to resume crop production activities, and technical improvement of the production systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 600 small scale farms would have benefited from the project - 11 200 beneficiaries (including farmers and family members). - 3 000 indirect beneficiaries (including farm workers). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project technical reports. - Beneficiary certifications of inputs received. - Certification of attendance of beneficiaries to capacity building sessions/workshops. - Certification of completed works. 	<p>Availability of input from potential suppliers (quantity, quality, timeliness and location) as required for smooth implementation of project activities.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Water- and fertilizer-use efficiency improved through rational use of water using localized/adapted drip irrigation systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vegetable production plots equipped with modern localized irrigation systems - Greenhouses equipped with modern localized irrigation systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring/evaluation reports. - Inventory of equipment and supplies effectively distributed. - Group interviews of beneficiaries. 	<p>Availability of input from potential suppliers (quantity, quality, timeliness and location) as required for smooth implementation of project activities.</p>

<p>3. Capacity of farmers and stakeholders built on the needs and means to rehabilitate the horticulture sector</p>	<p>- 1 500 farmers trained in managing crops using GAP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project technical reports. - Certification of attendance of beneficiaries to capacity building sessions/workshops. - Certification of completed works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Easy movement of trainees to the training locations inside and outside the country.
<p>4. Green house design improved for higher yields.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved design with lateral ventilation openings - Controlled plant growth conditions inside the greenhouse - Off-season production and benefit of longer production period - Less pests and diseases incidence - Production of safe vegetables for consumer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring/evaluation reports. - Inventory of equipment and supplies effectively distributed. - Group interviews of beneficiaries. 	<p>Availability of input from potential suppliers (quantity, quality, timeliness and location) as required for smooth implementation of project activities.</p>

Activities	Inputs	Means of verification	Important assumptions																										
<p><u>Activities related to output 1:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a preliminary assessment to identify project beneficiaries. 2. Prepare an inception report in conjunction with partners to provide a detailed project work plan including project monitoring tools. 3. Elaborate detailed strategy guidelines for implementing each planned activity. 4. Procurement of adapted varieties of vegetable seeds and other agricultural inputs and undertake intensive vegetable production. <p><u>Activities related to output 2:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide localized/adapted irrigation equipment for open-fields vegetable production. 2. Provide drip irrigation for greenhouse vegetable production. <p><u>Activities related to output 3:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extension agents trained in applying the Farmers' Field School (FFS) extension methodology to disseminate information regarding GAP. 2. Hold one national workshop to provide training to beneficiaries regarding Good Agricultural Practices in open-field crops and greenhouse crops (planting material quality, adequate planting density, adequate cultural practices, rational use of fertilizers and pesticides and group marketing). 3. Training to small- and medium-size entrepreneurs on technical know-how through demonstrations in private farms. 4. Capacity building for the project counterpart staff to follow up on the technology demonstrated and the methodology developed by the project at the pilot sites. 	<p>Through the <u>UNDG</u>:</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>Item</th> <th>USD</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Personnel:</td> <td>137 500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Contracts:</td> <td>504 500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Travel</td> <td>50 000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Transport</td> <td>72 000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Supplies & Commodities</td> <td>40 000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. Equipment</td> <td>402 000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7. Travel</td> <td>25 000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8. Miscellaneous</td> <td>50 000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Project sub-total</td> <td>1 281 000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agency support cost, 7%</td> <td>89 670</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Project Budget</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>1 370 670</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Through the <u>Government and beneficiaries:</u></p> <p>It is envisaged the provision of personnel to be released for the project activities.</p>	Item	USD	1. Personnel:	137 500	2. Contracts:	504 500	3. Travel	50 000	4. Transport	72 000	5. Supplies & Commodities	40 000	6. Equipment	402 000	7. Travel	25 000	8. Miscellaneous	50 000	Project sub-total	1 281 000	Agency support cost, 7%	89 670	Project Budget		Total	1 370 670	<p>Financial reports</p>	<p>The security situation in the country improves or remains stable allowing project activities to be implemented as scheduled</p>
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<p><u>Activities related to output 4:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provision of (80-120 sq m) improved greenhouse (plastic tunnel) design that is available in the country that would allow the farmers for the intensive cultivation with higher yields. The greenhouse production will be integrated with IPM practice of pests management and minimum use of chemical use. About 50% of the total beneficiary farmers would be provided with the tunnels for vegetables production. 			
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3. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

3.1 Background

Between 12 July and 14 August 2006, large-scale hostilities broke out in southern Lebanon. On the Lebanese side the conflict resulted in more than 1 187 deaths, 4 398 injuries and large-scale destruction of infrastructure, disruption of essential services and displacement of people. It was estimated that over one million people were displaced during the period of the conflict. In the wake of UN Resolution 1701, a ceasefire came into effect on 14 August 2006, allowing for the return home of a large majority of the displaced persons. The rural and agricultural setting was one of the hardest-hit by the war.

The major damage was caused as a result of the impossible access to the fields during the 33 days of bombing as farmers fled their villages and left the *crops unattended*. The interruption in the care of crops was responsible for a large portion of the income/production losses. Most of the agricultural workforce, including foreign rural labourers fled the country and are just now returning gradually. Those who remained were unable to work as mobility was restricted. Furthermore, the war took place at the peak time for the harvest of crops destined for export (mainly stone fruits and potatoes), but much of this year's *harvest perished* on the ground, as bombing forced farmers to abandon their lands, while transport to market became impossible. It was reported that trucks attempting to transport agricultural products to market were hit several times by air raids; restrictions on movement reduced the flow of fruit and vegetables to Lebanese consumers by three-quarters and *reduced expected annual exports* by some 15-20 percent (around US\$20-25 million).

With the loss of income from harvests, many farmers have become *heavily indebted* as they usually repay their debts during the harvest period (May to October) to secure credit for the following planting season. This year, their ability to repay these debts has been reduced to the minimum making it impossible to start the new cropping cycle due to the *lack of working capital*. There is much concern that this will lead to a *downward spiral of debt and poverty* for Lebanese farmers.

The estimate of the total financial loss to the agricultural sector throughout Lebanon, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) of Lebanon, amounts to US\$235 million, of which 44 percent is related to fruit tree production, 30 percent to field crops, 19 percent to nurseries and flower production and the rest to greenhouse crops and farm machinery and equipment.

From a socio-economic point of view, the hostilities have had a devastating impact and hardship on the horticulture sub-sector throughout Lebanon. Beyond the direct physical losses, there is immediate impact on employment and the revenue-generation capacity for several thousands of households in all of Lebanon. Furthermore, the indirect impact on perennial crops would resonate for months to come, similarly affecting the farmers' capacity to recover. Unless action is taken to help the most vulnerable farming populations, there will be a lack of confidence to confine investment and entrepreneurial activities to the agricultural sector. In this respect, the increasing level of rural unemployment in the country affects mainly the young population – this matter is subject of great concern to the government authorities as it may lead to social unrest. The development of the labour-intensive horticulture sector is expected to contribute to the creation of job opportunities and adequate income for the small farmers. It is anticipated that each farmer and his family could gain sufficient income from areas of 2 000-5 000 m².

However, due to the unavailability of working capital and the accumulated debt burden (lost harvest/income); many of the affected families who live exclusively from agriculture find themselves unable to resume their agricultural activities in order to satisfy their daily needs. Providing farmers with minimum agricultural inputs (seed and seedlings, fertilizers, pesticides, small irrigation

equipments, etc.) will help them resume their agricultural activities and encourage them to remain in rural areas rather than becoming another burden on the suburbs of towns.

3.2 Project rationale

The project is designed to provide assistance to vulnerable horticulture farmers in the Southern and Nabatiyeh governorates of Lebanon who have sustained significant losses related to the war-conflict. Priority will be given to the resource-poor and vulnerable farmers in these severely affected areas. The interventions will have a quick impact on early recovery and will contribute to restore some form of normalcy to the lives of war-affected resource-poor and low-income households. The project's main objective is to provide 1 600 farmers (11 200 beneficiaries, taking an average of 7 members per household) with sufficient inputs to cultivate 0.05-1 ha of land each, depending on the type of crops (greenhouse, perennial or seasonal).

In order to sustain activities and particularly to make good use of the proposed interventions and considering the limited skills of farmers as well as the shortage of extension service in the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), top priorities will be given to strengthening the capacity of the project beneficiaries, including rural youth and women. The on-farm demonstrations must start before, as well as side by side, the interventions; the impact of the project will be increased by focusing on key farmers and farmer associations who are likely to become major agents for growth and change in crop production development. The interventions will address crop management and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). The project will place emphasis on strengthening the capacity of the extension service of MoA to sustain and complete the process beyond the lifetime of the project, then the initial foundations laid by the project should provide the basis for successful follow-up. By the end of the project, cooperating farmers will be in a position to independently implement the technologies promoted by the project.

The small-scale horticulture sector has remained very traditional and has not benefited from the latest technological developments. However, in Lebanon, there is an increasing awareness and demand for high-quality and safe fruits and vegetables, which unfortunately are, under the present conditions, difficult to satisfy from local production. The government wishes to rapidly reverse the unfavourable situation of the horticulture sector by initiating a rehabilitation programme for the production of high-quality and safe fruits and vegetables in Lebanon. The immediate target is to restore the national capability to produce high-quality fruits and vegetables which can compete not only with imported products but which would also be suitable for export. Before the war, Lebanon was a renowned and traditional exporter of fresh vegetables of high quality to the Gulf States and wishes to recapture its share of the market.

In this context, the Government of Lebanon has requested FAO's assistance to reverse the current situation and to set the norms and standards for adequate technological developments. It is expected that, with the assistance of FAO, the horticulture sector rehabilitation programme can be launched based on up-to-date technical guidelines. The proposed project would lay the basis for such a horticulture rehabilitation programme, which will be pursued by the national institutions in Lebanon. Priority will be given to establishing the guidelines and production protocols for the growing of high-quality and safe vegetables for the national and international markets. On-farm demonstrations would focus on integrated production and protection (IPP) management, including Integrated Pest Management (IPM), GAP and improved irrigation management. The demonstration of the advanced and adapted horticulture management techniques will rapidly increase the quantity and improve the quality of yield produced and help to restore the competitiveness of the Lebanese horticulture crop sector. It is expected that this project will act as a catalyst and that, with the active participation of the extension service, most farmers will implement GAP for their economic advantages and sustainability.

3.3 Reasons for FAO Technical Assistance

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has a world-wide experience and comparative advantage in the horticulture sector, including in Lebanon. This proposal is based on the post-war Damage and Early Recovery Needs Assessment conducted by FAO at the request of and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).

The Ministry of Agriculture of Lebanon officially requested the assistance of the FAO to conduct a damage assessment in the agriculture and fisheries sectors, considering this activity a priority exercise for all the subsequent sector-related recovery and rehabilitation activities to be initiated.

FAO responded to the MoA request and conducted a Damage and Early Recovery Needs Assessment right after war (September 2006). After an intense series of field visits to the affected areas, including interviews with farmers and fishers, a substantial number of documents and reports were reviewed and working sessions and meetings held with government entities, UN agencies, bilateral cooperation and donor agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society representatives and organizations and the private sector. The assessment was concluded in November 2006 and covered all the agricultural sub-sectors at the war-affected areas.

The project falls among the set of priority interventions recommended by the Early Recovery Needs Assessment conducted by FAO in close collaboration with the MoA and reflects the priorities of the MoA for the early recovery of the sector.

3.4 Project approach, Activities and Linkages

The project is designed to provide assistance to vulnerable horticulture farmers in the governorates of the South and Nabatiyeh who have sustained significant losses related to war-conflict. The major interventions would have quick impact on early recovery and will contribute to restore some form of normalcy to the lives of war-affected resource-poor and low-income households. The project's main objective is to provide 1 600 farmers (11 200 beneficiaries) with sufficient inputs to cultivate 0.05-1 ha of land each, depending on the type of crops (greenhouse, perennial or seasonal).

The project responds to the risk that farmers will be unable to pre-finance the 2007 crop because of cash-flow shortfalls due to 2006 hostilities-related losses (the project will not target the government-subsidized crops). Consequently, the aim is to address the critical situation of accumulated debt amongst farming communities through appropriate supply of indispensable farm inputs and implements –working capital in kind- crucial to kick-start the revitalization of the sub-sectors.

The project will support the resumption of the horticultural activities with the following achievements:

- Procurement of high yielding adapted varieties of vegetable seeds and other agricultural inputs and undertake intensive vegetable production.
- using an improved greenhouse design that is available in the country resulting in the production of higher yields of vegetables with minimum use of pesticides; and
- water- and fertilizer-use efficiency improved through rational use of water using localized/adapted drip irrigation systems.

Furthermore, the project will assist in producing the following indirect outputs:

- public and private awareness fostered on the needs and means to rehabilitate the horticulture sector in Lebanon through workshops concentrating on the quality criteria of vegetables and the requirements for the reduction in the use of pesticides;
- small- and medium-size entrepreneurs will gain technical know-how through demonstrations in private farms in the major horticulture production areas; and

- guidelines developed for improved crop management in line with the IPP approach for the production of high-quality and healthy vegetables (including recommendations on irrigation management, cultural techniques, crop pollination as well as IPM).

The project will contribute to attaining the following:

- IPM principles will be widely implemented by farmers as a more sustainable, healthy, cost-effective and environmentally friendly vegetable production system;
- environmental pollution will be reduced through rational chemical control and alternative management strategies for pest control;
- the safe use of pesticides will be widespread and exposure of farmers and consumers to potential contamination by pesticides will be reduced significantly;
- the path will be set for the production and distribution of labelled products, and the market will be increasingly supplied with high-quality, safe and certified vegetables from local origin;
- the competitiveness of the small-scale sector in Lebanon will be improved by: lowering the production cost through proper management, increasing vegetable yields and product quality and improving the product quality and safety;
- the net income of the farmers will be raised through better and sustainable crop management;
- employment opportunities in the horticulture sector will be saved and created, particularly for young entrepreneurs; and
- the overall food security in Lebanon will be improved and the foreign exchange bill for vegetables will be reduced.

For the rehabilitation to be effective, the project will adopt a concerted approach that draws on domestic resources, international assistance and private sector resources. An international donor working in partnership with FAO will provide the financial resources to acquire essential inputs and provide for the necessary technical assistance.

In terms of Project linkages to previous FAO projects can be established as follows:

- The experience compiled during the previous IPM/Greenhouses project (ended in 2005) as well as the manual prepared within the project will be used to quickly kick off the activities and ensure an adequate and sustainable improvement in the quality and quantity of the production. Environmental and public health concerns were taken into consideration, since the main objective of the improved greenhouse structure is to reduce the use of pesticides.
- A linkage will be established between the project and the ongoing regional IPM project financed by the Italian as well as all the Italian assistance already ongoing in the country mainly in the field of crop production. This link will harmonize and ensure a homogeneous overall assistance in this field and provide the necessary lessons learnt from the Field Farmers School component of the regional project (for different crops in several regions of Lebanon over two years).
- Since all FAO projects were and are implemented through the Ministry of Agriculture, the experience and competencies gained through the years and the projects by its staff will be fully used in the project in order to save time and money.

3.5 Project sites and targeted beneficiaries

The project area covers governorates of South (municipalities of Tyre, Jezzine and Saida) and Nabatiyeh (municipalities of Nabatiyeh, Marjayoun, Hasbaya, Bint Jbail). The project will give particular attention to the villages under the mentioned municipalities that sustained heavy losses during the war and represent the most vulnerable households in these areas with highest levels of

deprivation (mainly Kleila, Marwahine Seddikine, Srifa, Kana, El Bazouria, Yareen, El Hinniyeh, Halloosiyeh, Hanawai, Abassia, Zawtar, Adsheet, Jibsheets, Qaiet El Jiser, Ansar, Al Shargiyeh, Jarjooa, Jbaa, Shokeen, Al Dwair, Maroun Erras, Ainata, Aytaroun, Aita Chaab, Aya, Safad Ilbattekh, Haddatha, Kham, Majda Silem, Al Mary, Hoola, Markaba, Sarada, Antara, Ilwaizeh, Mleekh, Aramta, Khamlet Khazen and Sujod).

The project beneficiaries will be defined on the basis of the priority needs of poor rural households that have incurred significant harvest losses related to the hostilities. In order to cover a maximum number of affected farmers, the project is not intending to go for full coverage of financial losses, but it will apply a partial early recovery strategy, allowing for livelihoods and thus the standards of living to gradually increase. Additionally the mechanism for the selection of the beneficiaries will include clear-cut basis; i.e. small horticulture vulnerable farmers (directly affected due to the conflict), all-year-round residence in the targeted villages, dependency of household income on agriculture, family dependence more than 5 and women headed households (mainly as a consequence to the hostilities).

Direct beneficiaries:

The direct beneficiaries are:

- 800 families from South; and
- 800 families from Nabatiyeh.

In this way, the project targets 1 600 of the most vulnerable farmers in Lebanon and will provide benefits to some 11 200 beneficiaries, considering an average number of household members of seven people. The beneficiaries will be supported to grow fresh vegetables in an area approximately 0.4 to 0.5 ha per family with the provision of improved seeds and other agricultural inputs.

The targeted beneficiaries for execution of different activities are as follows:

- Approx. 800 families for intensive vegetable production in the garden. The inputs will comprise of vegetable seeds both open-pollinated and hybrid about 1 kg; fertilizers (about 50 kg each of N, NP and K fertilizers as required) and garden tools;
- Approx. 800 families will be beneficiaries of greenhouse vegetable production. The inputs will comprise of vegetable seeds both open-pollinated and hybrid; fertilizers and garden tools. In addition the green house will composed of plastic tunnel with area of 80 to 120 sq m.;

As per the findings of the Damage and Early Recovery Needs Assessment conducted by FAO and the MoA, the targeted beneficiaries of this project are estimated to be around 55 % of the total resource poor and vulnerable horticulture farmers with critical crop harvest losses who were severely hit by the July/August 2006 hostilities. However, other less severely affected farmers will be considered depending on funds availability.

Indirect beneficiaries:

About 3 000 farm workers (two workers per farm) will indirectly benefit from the project activities. In addition to family members and farm workers, this project will also benefit extension agents from MoA, NGOs and private companies through capacity building.

3.6 Beneficiary Selection Criteria

The Project Management Unit will carefully supervise distribution of inputs to the selected beneficiaries. Municipalities with good leadership, commitment to development, good transparency and progressive community organization will be extensively involved. Only war-affected farmers residing at farm sites, who live exclusively from agriculture, will be considered.

In order to ensure that farmers are legitimately and correctly identified to receive project inputs, committees will be established in consultation with all partners involved, to select beneficiaries and to

supervise the distribution of inputs – with the involvement of NGOs as cooperating partners. The selection committee will comprise mainly of the FAO, cooperating partner and the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The following criteria will be followed in selection of beneficiaries for inputs distribution.

Intensive Vegetable Production:

- Vegetable farmer whose crop was damaged;
- Willing to take part in the FAO project as beneficiary;
- Progressive farmer willing to use the inputs and adopt the technology provided;
- Has suitable land for vegetable cultivation with minimum area of 0.05 ha;
- Preferable trained farmer in vegetable production;
- Has source of water for irrigating the vegetable garden;
- Accessible and close to market to sell the surplus produce.

Greenhouse Vegetable Production:

- Vegetable farmer whose crop was damaged;
- Willing to take part in the FAO project as beneficiary;
- Progressive farmer willing to use the inputs and adopt the technology provided;
- Has land for vegetable cultivation in greenhouse measuring 80 to 120 sq m minimum;
- Preferable trained farmer in greenhouse vegetable production;
- Has source of water for irrigating the greenhouse vegetable garden;
- Accessible and close to market to sell the surplus produce.

3.7 Mechanism of Inputs Distribution

Procurement of all the required inputs for distribution to the beneficiaries will be done by FAO following the standard procurement procedures. The seeds of vegetables will meet the minimum quality standard as per the seed legislation of the country. These inputs may either be purchased locally or imported from outside however with utmost care to avoid entry of any disease causing organisms from outside. Prior to procurement process is initiated the technical specification of the inputs will be technically cleared by the Technical Divisions at the FAO headquarters Rome.

The inputs to the beneficiaries selected by the committee comprised of representatives of FAO, the cooperating partner and the Ministry of Agriculture will be distributed free of cost. The beneficiary will be responsible for proper utilization of the received inputs, provide required feedback on project activities monitoring and evaluation and will not sell either to the other farmer or in the open market.

The FAO will arrange transitory warehouse required for inputs and it would be the responsibility of the beneficiaries to transport the goods up to the site of their use.

3.8 Expected outcomes

The project is designed to provide assistance to vulnerable horticulture farmers in the South and Nabatiyeh governorates of Lebanon who have sustained significant losses related to war-conflict.

Criteria will be developed in consultation with all partners involved, and village committees will be established to select beneficiaries and to supervise the distribution of inputs – with the involvement of NGOs as cooperating partners.

Women will benefit through the enhanced income generated by this project. The project will support women farmers on a priority basis. In implementation, the project will take into account the role of women and accord priority to women headed households. They will receive farm inputs on priority basis when beneficiaries are selected.

The project will introduce and promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices and/or biological control. This will reduce the use of chemical inputs thus contributing to more environmentally sound agricultural practices.

With the participating in the project activities of the Ministry of Agriculture technical staff, it is envisaged that the technical capacity of the Ministry would be strengthened and the capacity of the crop production services of the MoA built so as to continue and complete the recovery process beyond the life of the project.

3.9 Contribution towards the attainment of the MDGs

The project will have a direct contribution to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, and in particular to goal 1 “*Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger*” and to goal 3 “*Promote gender equality and empower women*”. This will be achieved through its activities as it assists in the early recovery of the livelihoods of vulnerable horticulture holders in the south of Lebanon and by paying special emphasis on women-headed households.

Indirectly, the project will make a contribution to goal 4 “*Reduce child mortality*”, goal 5 “*Improve maternal health*” and goal 7 “*Ensure environmental sustainability*”.

3.10 Timeline of the activities

The project implementation period is of 12 months. An indicative work plan for the project is attached in Annex 1, detailing when activities will be implemented, and divided on a monthly basis.

A detailed work plan will be produced in the first month of project implementation.

4. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Implementation modalities

The project activities (which are designed to be implemented within 12 months) will be implemented under the supervision of a Project Management Unit (PMU) that will oversee the overall implementation of the proposed project interventions. This will be headed by an FAO International Coordinator/Consultant who will be recruited for 6 months for the duration of the project implementation period. MOA will nominate a National Coordinator who will be the counterpart of the International Coordinator, on a full-time basis.

The contribution of the MoA to the project will be in-kind. The Ministry of Agriculture will be the government counterpart agency responsible for the project and will assist all consultants and experts in the performance of their assigned tasks. The government will provide office accommodation and will facilitate access by the project personnel to official documents and meetings with government officials, the private sector and academia, as required. Duty-free procurement will be facilitated in a timely manner.

There will be provision for recruitment of a national irrigation consultant and a national greenhouse consultant for a period of four and three months respectively, on staggering basis.

The nature of the designed project activities will ensure sustainability after the lifespan of the project and will not generate any financial liability on the MoA. The 12 months time frame will put in place all the proper measures required for a comprehensive implementation of the activities. Furthermore, involvement of the MOA in the implementation of the project activities as the counterpart will ensure the continuation of managing the distributed inputs and installed greenhouses and irrigation systems. The technical skill of key farmers and farmer associations would improve who are likely to become major agents for growth and crop production development as well as ensuring the sustainability of the activities without any added burden on the MoA budget and staff.

The activities are designed in a manner not to incur any current nor future financial liability to the MoA budget even after the lifespan of the project. On the contrary, the project will bring some financial benefits to the MoA where the ownership of all the non-expendable equipment utilized for operating the project's activities will be transferred to the MoA at the end of the programme.

Considering the urgency of the situation faced by small farmers in Lebanon, the project will be implemented over a 12-month period covering: project coordination, procurement of agricultural inputs, distribution, technical assistance, monitoring, and implementation of project activities, impact assessment and reporting.

4.2 Monitoring and evaluation

Close monitoring and evaluation of project activities, including implementation progress and expenditure, are essential, given the nature of the project. In conjunction with the National Coordinator and the national and international consultants, the FAO Coordinator/International Consultant will be responsible for monitoring and follow-up of project activities.

Given the nature of the project, close and frequent supervision, especially during the initial stage of implementation, will be required. The monitoring and evaluation will be coordinated by the Coordination/Project Management Unit and undertaken at villages on a regular and continuous basis. Relevant information on the project's activities and achievements will be collected, processed and disseminated to all key stakeholders of the project.

5. ANALYSIS OF RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

A deterioration in the political and security situation in the country would negatively on the project implementation.

Apart from the political and security situation, no other critical factors are foreseen to negatively impact the project since the project was developed in close consultation with the authorities and development partners. Furthermore, representatives of beneficiaries will be involved in all decision-making processes at each stage of the implementation. These measures will minimize project risk and help to enhance ownership, trust, and sustainability.

6. PRIOR OBLIGATIONS AND PRE-REQUISITE

It is envisaged the provision of personnel to be released for the project activities.

7. LEGAL CONTEXT

The proposed project will be implemented in line with the standing arrangements between FAO and the Government of Lebanon.

8. PROJECT BUDGET

The budget follows the Standard Format agreed by UNDG Financial Policies Working Group, and summarizes in the tables below the budget per category of expenditure and per output.

Table 1: Project budget per category of expenditure

CATEGORY	ITEM	UNIT COST	NUMBER OF UNITS	TOTAL USD	TOTAL COST USD
1. Personnel	- International Consultant	15 000	6 mos.	90 000	137 500
	- Consultant – National Project Coordinator	2500	12 mos.	30 000	
	- Consultant – National (Irrigation)	2500	4 mos.	10 000	
	- Consultant – National (Greenhouse)	2500	3 mos	7 500	
2. Contracts	- Greenhouse		LS	LS	504 500
	- Drip Irrigation		LS		
	- Locally Recruited Labor		LS		
3. Training				LS	50 000
4. Transport	- Duty travel others				72 000
	- Consultants – International				
	- Consultants – National				
	- Travel ATS				
	- Travel STS				
5. Supplies + commodities	Two 4-WD pickups	20 000	2	40 000	40 000
6. Equipment	- Hybrid seeds			LS	402 000
	- Fertilizers N				
	- Fertilizers NP				
	- Fertilizers K				
	- Farm tools and equipments				
	- Plant protection products (traps, pheromones, natural enemies, bio- and chemical pesticides, etc.)				
7. Travel	- Backstopping missions			10 000	25 000
	- Evaluation			10 000	
	- Report costs			5 000	
8. Miscellaneous	- General Operating Expenses Budget				50 000
Project sub-total					1 281 000
Agency support cost, 7%					89 670
Project Budget Total UNDG-ITF					1 370 670

* The rate will be within the UNDG agreed range of 5% to 9%, with overall expected average of 7%, of the total of categories 1-7. To the maximum extent possible such costs should be integrated into categories 1-7 if appropriately determined as “direct costs attributable to the programme/project” thereby reducing the overall indirect cost rates.

Table 2: Project budget per output

No	DESCRIPTION OF OUTPUT	USD
1	Small-scale farmers enabled to resume crop production activities, and technical improvement of the production systems.	502 750
2	Water- and fertilizer-use efficiency improved through rational use of water using localized/adapted drip irrigation systems.	395 875
3	Capacity of farmers and stakeholders built on the needs and means to rehabilitate the horticulture sector	80 000
4	Green house design improved for higher yields.	302 375
Project budget excluding administrative support cost		1 281 000
Administrative support cost, 7%		89 670
Project Total Cost		1 370 670

Annex 1: WORK PLAN

Considering the severe situation faced by small farmers in Lebanon, the project will be implemented over a 12-month period covering: project coordination, procurement of agricultural inputs, distribution, technical assistance, monitoring, and implementation of project activities, impact assessment and reporting. To achieve the outputs listed above, the project activities will be organized in the following three phases:

Phase 1: Appraisal and Planning (months 1 to 2)

- Fielding of the International Consultant to:
 - a) oversee recruitment of National Staff and set-up the Project Management Unit;
 - b) prepare inception report and work plan,
 - c) identify beneficiaries, order equipment and supplies; and
- Evaluate the proposed project sites.
- Formation of beneficiary selection committee and finalization of the beneficiary selection criteria
- Determine the technical specifications of greenhouse structure, irrigation systems and all equipment and supplies to be purchased in the context of the project.
- Organize the first project workshop in order to discuss the outcome of the field review, and finalize a detailed project work plan and time frame for implementation. This will be an opportunity to analyse and discuss the constraints identified and give the farmers and other stakeholders the opportunity to participate in the preparation of the project work plan.
- Submit a detailed work plan and timetable for the project duration by the nominated project coordinator, based on the outcome of the survey.

Phase 2: Field implementation (months 3 to 10)

- Identification of the cooperating partners for implementation of the project activities;
- Signing of letter of agreement with the cooperating partners;
- Selection of the beneficiaries for distribution of the different inputs
- Procurement of the vegetable seeds, fertilizers, and other equipment;
- Construct the improved greenhouses and drip irrigation system.
- Install the irrigation system for vegetable production.
- Inputs distribution to the selected beneficiaries
- Plant crops following a calendar based on crop types and geographical location.
- Vegetable production in the field and greenhouse.
- Follow-up the crop management at the project sites.

Phase 3: Consolidation and end-of-project appraisal (months 11 to 12)

- Continue project implementation activities.
- Select two project pilot sites per governorate as permanent demonstration centres for extension agents and farmers in horticultural crops production technology.
- Train farmer groups in line with the Farmers' Field School
- Prepare and publish a technical booklet on "Good Agricultural Practices in Lebanon" to provide up-to-date information on vegetable production technologies.
- End-of-project workshop, to be held during project month 12 with the objective of analysing the results obtained by the project and to suggest project follow-up phase and future development strategies at the national level.

While an outline of the activities to be undertaken and the likely time frame are presented here, a more detailed work plan will be drawn up at the start of the project.

Activity/ Month	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9	Month 10	Month 11	Month 12
Recruitment International Consultant, National Staff & set-up the Project Management Unit												
Preparation, identification of beneficiaries, ordering equipment and inputs												
Distribution agricultural inputs												
Greenhouse construction												
Vegetable production in garden and greenhouse												
Training sessions organised and implemented												
Mission of the international consultant												
Mission of the national irrigation consultant												
Mission of national greenhouse consultant												
Backstopping mission												
Mission of the National Project Coordinator												
Monitoring												
Evaluation												
Reporting												