



PROGRESS REPORT

Reporting UN Organization	: United Nations Development Programme
Country	: Lebanon
Project No.	: <u>RF7-00058325</u>
Project Title	: <u>Enhance Performance of the Social Sector</u>
LRF Signature date	: November 2007
Project Start date	: November 2007
Project Timeframe	: One year (Nov. 07 – Nov. 08)
Reporting Period	: July - Sept 2009

I. PURPOSE

Project Summary:

The Project “Enhance the Performance of the Social Sector” aims at supporting the implementation of a number of reform initiatives that were called upon in the Social Action Plan to be undertaken by the inter-ministerial committee for Social Issues. The Project calls for supporting the Inter-Ministerial Committee to enhance the performance of the Social Sector in the country through increased coordination in the implementation of social programs and provision of social services as well as in devising and building consensus around a social development strategy.

Project Objectives and outcomes:

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

Project Linkages to National Priorities and Reconstruction Goals:

The Project is actually the implementation tool of many of the Social Action Plan recommendations. The Social Action Plan that was prepared submitted by the government to the Paris III donors' conference back in January 2008 called for a number of initiatives to enhance the performance of the social sector. The initiatives include 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.

Project Implementation Partners:

International Partners: United Nations Development Program
National Partners: Ministry of Social Affairs and the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Social Issues

II. RESOURCES

	<i>As of December 31st, 2008</i>	<i>As of March 31st, 2009</i>	<i>As of June 30th, 2009</i>	<i>As of September 30th, 2009</i>
Total budget approved	\$270,000.00	\$270,000.00	\$270,000.00	\$270,000.00
Disbursements	\$39,595.25	\$39,595.25	\$39,595.25	\$66,077.75
Available Balance	\$230,404.75	\$230,404.75	\$230,404.75	\$203,922.25
Commitments for next quarter	USD 46,048			

CATEGORY	TOTAL BUDGET (USD)	TOTAL EXP. TO DATE (USD)	TOTAL EXP. TO DATE (USD)	TOTAL EXP. TO DATE (USD)	TOTAL EXP. TO DATE (USD)
Personnel	180,000.00	37,004.91	37,004.91	37,004.91	61,754.91
Training	35,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	36,100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Agency Management Support (7%)	18,900.00	2,590.34	2,590.34	2,590.34	4,322.84
Total	270,000.00	39,595.25	39,595.25	39,595.25	66,077.75

III. RESULTS

Progress in Project Implementation:

Project Outputs	Activities	Status
Output 1: A national social strategy and related work plan developed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the social strategy – conduct desk review and situational analysis 	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaborate vision statement, pillars and elements of social strategy and share with technical team 	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with stakeholders including government officials, international organizations, experts, and CSOs on elements, priorities and activities for social strategy 	Initiated
Output 2: Provision of Social Services and implementation of programs coordinated between MoSA, MoPH and MEHE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify duplicated programs between ministries of Social Affairs, Public Health, and Education and Higher Education 	Almost completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize/coordinate working sessions/ meetings to discuss and reach consensus on actions to reduce duplication 	On going
Output 3: Implementation of local development initiatives better coordinated and synchronized with needs and priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate/support the establishment of national database of local development initiatives 	Completed / Under final revision
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaborate a framework of needs and priorities / regional profiles – Contract website/portal developing company 	Initiated – TORs developed to be posted for bidding process

Implementation Constraints and Lessons Learned:

Implementation Constraints:

- The Difficulty in obtaining detailed data from several concerned ministries like the ministries of Social Affairs, Public Health, and Education and Higher Education is causing delay in the implementation of the **“Eliminating Duplication in the Delivery and Social Services and Programs”** Component.
- Delay in the Lebanese Government Formation is hindering the progress in the elaboration of the **“Social Strategy”** due to the fact that several tasks cannot be done before having the Government’s consensus and approval.

IV. FUTURE WORK PLAN

Future work-plan for the last quarter of 2009 includes:

1. Social Strategy:
 - a. Complete consultation with stakeholders – phase II
 - b. Develop first draft of social strategy
 - c. Discuss first draft with major players and stakeholders in the social field
 - d. Modify draft based on feedback
2. Duplication:
 - a. Finalize data collection on potential duplicated programs from MEHE and MoPH
 - b. Organize at least one or two bilateral meetings to discuss practical suggestions for reducing duplication
3. Framework of development needs and priorities
 - a. Recruit web developing company
 - b. Initiate process of creating website and establishing a database/portal of available data and documentation on developmental needs, indicators, information, etc., active organizations and projects under implementation.

Adjustments to strategies, outcomes or outputs:

No adjustments have taken place