



PROGRESS REPORT

Reporting UN Organization	: United Nations Development Programme
Country	: Lebanon
Award ID	: 00057771
Project ID	: 00071490
Award Title	: Hydro Agricultural Development for Marjeyoun Area (Litani)
Award Timeframe	: Oct 2009– Oct 2011
Reporting Period	: 1 Jan 2010 to 31 Mar 2010

I. PURPOSE

Project Summary:

The project will assist local communities in Marjeyoun 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 a very much needed Water Users Association. 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.

Project Objective:

The objective of this proposed pilot project is to prepare the infrastructure and to facilitate the implementation of the irrigation distribution network in the “Marjeyoun” North Perimeter through a participatory approach involving the farmers to ensure proper management of water use.

Project Linkages to National Priorities and Reconstruction Goals:

This project will be a model for the other areas which will benefit from Canal 800. It will set the infrastructure for the distribution network, will show the advantages and efficiency of modern irrigation techniques, will propose the new cropping patterns in the region with their socio-economic impact, and will support the establishment of a very much needed Water Users Association. The project will have a direct impact on the livelihood of the local communities affected by the July 2006 conflict through extending the areas suitable for agriculture and will provide direct assistance to the farmers through providing them with wheat seeds to be cultivated on their lands for two consecutive years (other field crops will be considered as well), awaiting the supply of irrigation water from the main canal.

The project is in line with the Millennium Development Goals, namely goal 7 - Ensure Environmental Sustainability. It works towards the target of proportioning total water resources used in each country. It further meets national priorities on water resource management of the Ministry of Energy and Water and is in line with the water reform programme set by the Lebanese Government.

Project Implementation Partners:

- Litani River Authority
- Council for Development and Reconstruction
- Communities of “Burghos”, “Blat”, “Dibbine”, “Ibl Essaki”, and “Jdaydit Marjeyoun”.
- Association of the Friends of Ibrahim Abd El Al (AFIAL)

Key Coordination:

- Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) – Green Plan (GP)
- Ministry of Energy and Water (MoE&W)
- Ministry of the Environment (MoE)

Acronyms:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| - Litani River Authority | ≡ LRA |
| - Council for Development and Reconstruction | ≡ CDR |
| - Association of the Friends of Ibrahim Abd El Al | ≡ AFIAL |
| - Ministry of Agriculture | ≡ MoA |
| - Green Plan | ≡ GP |
| - Ministry of Energy and Water | ≡ MoE&W |
| - Ministry of the Environment | ≡ MoE |
| - Lebanon Mine Action Center | ≡ LMAC |
| - United Nations Mine Action Center | ≡ UNMAC |

II. RESOURCES

		Amount (USD)
Total budget approved	:	2,000,000
Total disbursements as for 31 Mar 2009	:	42,165
Commitments for next quarter	:	100,000
Available Balance	:	2,000,000

Budget and Expenditure Breakdown per LRF Category:

CATEGORY	Total Budget (USD)	Total Exp. to date (USD)
1. Personnel (Incl. staff and consultants)	232,200	17,665
2. Contracts (Incl. companies, professional services)	1,416,959	24,500
3. Training (incl. AV printing / production)	30,000	0
4. Transport (local)	15,000	0
5. Supplies and commodities (Incl. IT equipment and rental & maintenance)	100,000	0
6. Equipment (including installation)	40,000	0
7. Travel	15,000	0
8. Miscellaneous	20,000	0
9. Agency Management Support (7%)	130,841	0
TOTAL	2,000,000	42,165

III. PROGRESS

- **Launching of the Project:**

The official launching of the project took place on Wednesday the 17th of March 2010 in the Ibrahim Abdel Al Conference room at the Litani River Authority premises in Beirut, in the presence of the Spanish Ambassador in Lebanon, the UNDP Resident Representative, the President of the Association of Friends of Ibrahim Abdel Al and the Chairman of the Board of the Litani River Authority, in addition to the representative of the Minister of Energy and Water. The event enjoyed wide media coverage.

- **Memorandum of Understanding AFIAL – UNDP:**

On the 17th of March 2010 the UNDP signed the MoU with the Association of Friends of Ibrahim Abdel Al, who will be responsible for the implementation of the outputs related to the establishment of the Water Users Association and will have an advisory role at the project board level. AFIAL will conduct a series of workshops to discuss the concept and prepare the draft legislation necessary to establish the WUAs, and undertake the lobbying efforts to disseminate the concept and pass the concerned laws.

- **Establishment of PMU:**

An office has been established within the Litani River Authority at Jnah in Beirut, another office will be established in the south, Nabatiyeh.

- **Recruitment of Project Personnel:**

The project manager has been recruited, a project clerk/driver has also been recruited and the recruitment of the site coordinator and administrative assistant are at the interviewing phase.

Activity Results	Activity Actions	Progress up to 31 Mar 2010	Targets for 2010
1 Establishment of Water Users Association (WUA)	1.1 Draft the required legislation to establish the WUA Financial Management; 1.2 Lobby with policy makers to pass the required legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Two coordination meetings were held with the Association of Friends of Ibrahim Abdel Al; ✓ MoU signed 17 Mar 2010 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Capacity building trainings; ✓ Review of existing legislation related to WUA

2 Development of land database and hydrant plans	2.1 Processing of topo-cadastral maps, using GIS; 2.2 Conduct physical & chemical laboratory analysis for soil and infiltration measurements (every 4 ha); 2.3 Obtain data on the geology, slopes, percentage and nature of rocks, stones and gravel on surface, and current land use for the project area; 2.4 Determine cropping pattern and water needs at farm level; 2.5 Finalise the hydrant plans	✓ Collection of necessary information has started	✓ Collection and consolidation of land classification information for the region; ✓ Development of the topo-cadastral maps;
3 Execution of land reclamation works	3.1 Develop guideline basis for land reclamation works; 3.2 Prepare land reclamation designs for uniform geographical region 3.3 Execution of the base works; 3.4 Support complementary works (Terraces, walls, stone and gravel removal) to be done by farmers; 3.5 Provide the farmers with wheat seeds for cultivating their land	✓ This activity has not been initiated yet	✓ Initiation of the design of the reclamation programme; ✓ Selection of contractor for execution of land reclamation
4 Project Management	4.1 Establish PMU; 4.2 Establish coordination and linkages between all project partners; 4.3 Ensure timely implementation and reporting on project activities	✓ UNDP project document drafted and signed; ✓ Project manager has been recruited; ✓ Project offices within the Litani River Authority identified and set-up; ✓ TORs for project team developed and recruitment process initiated; ✓ Local Project Appraisal Committee meeting held ✓ Official media launch of the project in the presence of LRA and donor held ✓ Interviews in media held with project manager	✓ Recruitment of the remaining team members; ✓ Timely reporting on all project activities

IV. Work plan per activity for the second quarter in 2010 (April-June 2010).

Key Milestones Wks	April				May				June			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1. Establishment of Water Users Associations												
1.1 Data Collection												
1.2 Identification of Stakeholders												
1.3 Legislation Review												
1.4 Capacity building Trainings												
2. Development of Land Database & Hydrant Plans												
2.1 Collection and consolidation of land classification information for the region												
2.2 Finalizing ToRs for the Production of topo-cadastral maps												
3. Execution of Land Reclamation Works												
3.1 Initiation of the design of the reclamation programme;												
4. Project Management												
4.1 Recruitment of the remaining team members (administrative assistant and site engineer)												
4.2 Technical, Financial and operational mgt.												
4.3 Promotion of synergies with other projects												
4.4 Information exchange and coordination												

Implementation Constraints and Lessons Learnt during this Quarter:

- ➔ The project experienced some delays to be initiated which may result in the need to extend the project end date. Should this be necessary, an official request for extension will be formally submitted to the LRF Steering Committee
- ➔ Political and security situation south of the *Blue Line*: The project is relying more on national rather than international staff.
- ➔ Presence of cluster bombs and explosive remnants of war: The project is coordinating with the Lebanon Mine Action Center (LMAC) and the United Nations Mine Action Center (UNMAC) in that regard.



Launching of the Hydro Agricultural Development Project for Marjeyoun Area



Signature of UNDP – AFIAL MoU