



PROGRESS REPORT

Reporting UN Organization	: United Nations Development Programme
Country	: Lebanon
Project No.	: '00059955
Project Title	: YOUTH MOBILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN BEIRUT AND ITS SUBURBS
LRF Signature date	: 27 February 2008
Project Start date	: April 2008
Project Timeframe	: 12 months
Reporting Period	: January- March 2009

I. PURPOSE

Project Summary:

The project aims at both rapidly implementing socio-economic recovery activities targeting the youth, as well as enhancing the capacities of institutions (local NGOs and CSOs) at the community level of Beirut and its suburbs, in identifying, prioritizing and implementing socio-economic activities in an autonomous manner.

This target includes youths residing in the disadvantaged areas of Beirut and its suburbs, building their skills to play a leading facilitative role in the development of strategically planned, locally-driven, partnership approaches to rebuilding livelihoods.

The overall objective of the project is to promote social equity and local stakeholders' empowerment through local employment recovery and livelihood opportunities projects in Beirut and its immediate suburbs.

Project Objectives:

The project will contribute towards three main objectives:

1. To enhance implementation capacities of local stakeholders (NGOs and CSOs) in identifying and providing direct services to recover sustainable livelihoods. Local stakeholders can then select and implement community projects for recovery of livelihood.
2. To provide skills training for unemployed youth and support job creation through employment/job search centre matching demand and supply. The centre will act as the enabling structure to create, enhance and develop skills and competencies of the youths.
3. To rehabilitate (through the trained youth) 2 underserved Beirut neighborhoods with a focus on the poor and multi-cultural neighborhoods after providing the youth with the proper training on how to enhance the socio-economic capacities for local communities.

Project Outcomes:

The project outcomes consist of:

- A network of qualified youths belonging to neighborhood committees and to Greater Beirut NGOs trained to participate in local community development projects
- A training manual serving as a reference for all members of CSOs on how to design, manage and evaluate development projects and programmes along with the methods of implementation.
- A labor market study developed to decide on the skills needed in the market and help in matching labor supply and demand.
- a database for the youth unemployed and jobs needed to try to match demand and supply is formed
- An employment creation center established to help unemployed youth finding a job and meet the labor supply market, and provide them with the adequate skills and competencies when needed.
- A participatory study developed to determine the 2 areas/ neighborhoods to be upgraded
- Two underserved Beirut neighborhoods rehabilitated by the trained youth

Project Linkages to National Priorities and Reconstruction Goals:

The Project is part of the Lebanon Recovery Fund Program that is initially addressed to recover Lebanon from the aftermath of July 2006 war. Most of the recovery projects post July 2006 war concentrated on areas outside Beirut. However, this project realizes that Beirut also has been greatly affected by the recent hostilities and hence, is in need of attention from the on-going development initiatives, especially for youth employment and mobilization.

The importance of including the capital of Lebanon, Beirut, in the development programs resided in the fact that besides being the most densely populated area, it is the city that encompasses the highest levels of social and economic injustices, crimes, abuses, social gaps and disparities, illiteracy and unemployment.

Youth unemployment increased as a result of the 2006 war and its aftermath effect on tourism and economic sectors. Unlike the previous wars, the July war has severely impacted the private sector and hindered its capability to respond and contribute to the recovery, rehabilitation and revitalization of the country. In this context, the project addresses reviving the human potential, especially youth, as well as mobilizing the local non-governmental organizations.

Moreover, the events that have occurred consecutively after the war turned the country into a deep crisis. Two years after the war, Beirut is still struggling with economic stagnation, political instability, sectarian unrest, all reflected in different forms of manifestations, reaching to the dreadful outburst of the capital in May 2008, which reminded the Lebanese citizens of the dark days of the 1975-1990 civil war.

The crisis, notably the sectarian clashes that took place in May 2008 has radically increased distrust among citizens. It highlighted a number of crucial political and humanitarian themes and made a major impact on Lebanese citizens notably the youth, leading to further deprivation, immigration, unemployment, etc. Unemployment is currently estimated at 25 percent of the work force, and the inflation rate is said to have been about 225 percent in the first nine months of this year. In addition, many factories and other businesses have been destroyed in the years of factional fighting, and foreign investment has dried up.

The aforementioned incidents and the repercussions highlight the significance and urgency for carrying this project further into immediate implementation for embracing the youth and creating social safety net in a vibrant positive atmosphere that is capable of participating in the development of their communities.

Finally, the Objectives of this project are also in line with the Social Action Plan's main objectives i.e.:

- (i) alleviate poverty and improve living standards;
- (ii) improve the role of NGOs in development; and
- (iii) encourage investment and other job-creating activities in the more deprived areas.

Project Implementation Partners:

International Partners: UNDP

National Partners: Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development

II. RESOURCES

RESOURCES

AS of March 31st, 2009

Total budget approved	\$996,919.00
Disbursements	\$113,386.83
Available Balance	\$883,532.17
Commitments for next quarter	\$120,862

CATEGORY	TOTAL BUDGET (USD)	TOTAL EXP. TO DATE (USD)
Personnel	352,700.00	73,775.00
Contracts	300,000.00	0.00
Training	74,500.00	0.00
Transport	20,000.00	0.00
Supplies & Commodities	98,500.00	12,673.00
Equipment	40,000.00	12,796.00
Travel	46,000.00	5,000.00
Miscellaneous	931,700.00	1,725.00
Agency Management Support (7%)	65,219.00	7,417.83
Total	996,919.00	113,386.83

Outputs and Indicators:

OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUT	INDICATORS	Timeframe			
				Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4
Objective 1: Enhance implementation capacities of local stakeholders (NGOs and CSOs) in identifying and providing direct services to recover sustainable livelihoods. Local stakeholders can then select and implement community projects for recovery of livelihood.							
1.1 Creation of a network of qualified youths	1- Collect and analyze the pool of applications	A database of 187 youths (40 from local NGOs and 147 from local neighborhoods)	200 applicants, field visits, meetings with the concerned parties				
	2- Hold training sessions for the youth trainees to enhance their knowledge in the fields of volunteerism and community service	47 youth trained to be able to better serve their local community	Training material participants (youth and NGOs) Evaluation Forms				
	3- Build capacities of 40 NGO members	40 NGO members identified to be able to carry out community development projects					
	4- Divide the trainees into groups, who are asked to write and submit project proposals on community service.	8 groups formed to write, plan and carry out community service projects. 2 members per group were selected as "liaisons" to coordinate with the Project management team	List of the 8 groups Names of the selected coordinators/group				
	5- Begin the implementation of the 8 projects after getting the approval from the municipality and the concerned parties on the work to be done.	8 projects developed related to community service	8 projects proposals Proposal evaluation meetings On-going implementation work				
	6- Follow up with the youth on the implementation of their community service projects that were approved upon the training held by AVS expert on volunteerism and community service	8 projects implemented by the trained youth in different regions	Implementation activities Invoices and bills submitted for the work achieved				
	7- Gather the groups to present their projects, posters, and achievements, and select the best ones.	8 project reports/ presentations developed by the trainees	Reports /presentations submitted Posters developed by each group				
	8-Hold a recognition/ awards event to distribute the prizes for the best projects	Three prizes with medals designated for the best three groups/projects. Awards of excellence were also distributed for all the youth who planned and implemented community projects, adopting the values and the 14 steps acquired during the training. Prizes included trophies, medals, training workshops and a trip for all participants in the mountains of Lebanon.	Awards and prizes distributed Number of participants				
	9- Hold training sessions the youth trainees to enhance their knowledge and skills in: choice of careers, expectations at the market place, assisting with job hunting and career path consultations.	90 youth trained and oriented towards choosing their career	Training material Number of participants Evaluation Form				

1.2 Sharing Experience, needs assessment and gaps identification	10. Organize the first national workshop prior to the initiation of the manual write-up	Background information for the manual write-up, including needs assessment and identification of gaps and training needs, Networking among the participants through exchange of know-how and concerns	185 participants Evaluation forms Questionnaire Needs assessment report				
1.3 Preparation of the Training manual	11. Prepare the content of the training manual taking in consideration the outcome of the first workshop.	Topics (headings) selected for the training of all the members of CSOs and also serving as the basis for the outline of the manual	Developed topics (subject) of the Manual				
	12. Build capacities and skills of participants. This component allows trainees to provide capacity building workshops on the level of their respective communities.	Awareness & assessment sessions on monitoring and evaluation, identification of common needs, proposal writing and log frames. Participants are equipped progressively by new skills enabling them to move from charity work to a more sustainable development work.	Number of trainees Training material				
	13. Promote the training manual prepared by the capacity building unit of the Ministry of Social Affairs on "Internal Governance for NGOs" by printing it and training trainers on applying it. The manual is found out to be consistent with our field of intervention as it tackles 7 areas validated by our previous assessment.	20 trainers trained on how to use it. 2000 copies printed of the manual NGOs equipped with capacities enabling them to move from charity work to a more sustainable development work	20 trainers 2000 copies of the manual				
Objective 2: Skills training for unemployed youth and supporting job creation through employment/ job search centre matching demand and supply. The centre will act as the enabling structure to create, enhance and develop skills and competencies of the youths.							
2.1 Decide on the skills needed in the market	9. Conduct a labor market study. It will provide information on technical and vocational training opportunities that could help bridge the gap between labor supply and demand.	A questionnaire is developed addressed to the university graduates (generations of 1994-2004). Meetings with the heads of the 4 universities: Lebanese University, AUB, USJ and Arab University. An introduction developed for the study including the literature review and the previous studies done. The questionnaire is sent to the graduates via e-mail. Universities targeted include LU, AUB, USJ, BAU, USEK and Balamand.	Survey Questionnaire Draft of the introduction part of the study Letters of support addressed to the universities concerned Meetings with heads of the concerned universities				
2.2 Establish an employment creation center	10. Prepare a business plan for the employment center.	A draft proposal developed to outline the functioning and sustainability of the center	Draft proposal Meetings with the consultant company preparing the plan				
	11. Acquire the location of the center	A center is rented in Down Town area, based on a predetermined criteria (strategic location - geographical accessibility, diverse backgrounds)	Rent contract				

	12. Purchase of office equipment	Office and training equipment will be purchased for the job creation center	Number, types and bills of items purchased				
	13. Develop the TORs of the skilled personnel in charge of managing the center, and begin the process of selection and recruitment.	Personnel will include: the Center Manager, Marketing/PR officer, a Coordinator/ Receptionist)	Transparent TORs for each employee Number of CVs received Number of interviews				
	14. Network with other organizations and/or institutions working in the field	Meetings with local organizations concerned with creation jobs and/or job opportunities, also with World Bank, ILO and Canadian Aid who are conducting studies/ projects on Labor market in Lebanon	Number of meetings Minutes of meetings				
2.3 Elaborate a database for the youth unemployed and jobs needed to try to match demand and supply	15. Collect personal details (name, contact details, work experience, education history, qualifications and preferences) and preferences of applicants to initiate the recruitment process.	A database centralizing all the information will be available to all	Number of applications Data collected				
Objective 3: Rehabilitate 2 green areas of Beirut neighborhoods with a focus on the poor and multi-cultural neighborhoods after providing the youth with the proper training on how to enhance the socio-economic capacities for local communities							
3.1 Undertake a field survey to select the appropriate neighborhoods	16. Select and validate the two areas in Beirut to be rehabilitated. The selection is based on a set of criteria that includes level of poverty, multi-cultural diversity, population density, etc)	Two sets of Beirut neighborhoods identified to be rehabilitated: Tarik Jdida and Karm El Zaytoun Districts	Assessment studies of the most marginalized neighborhoods in Beirut, gathered from other sources (CDR,...) Information disseminated during meetings with NGOs and youth Follow-up meetings with the sub-contracted company				
	17. Conduct the field survey	A comprehensive field survey determining the needs assessments and priorities for the areas selected	TORs Proposals submitted Contract with the company conducting the survey				

Progress in Project Implementation:

OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUT	STATUS
Objective 1: Enhance implementation capacities of local stakeholders (NGOs and CSOs) in identifying and providing direct services to recover sustainable livelihoods. Local stakeholders can then select and implement community projects for recovery of livelihood.			
1.1 Creation of a network of qualified youths	1- Follow up with the youth on the implementation of their community service projects that were approved upon the training held by AVS expert on volunteerism and community service	8 projects implemented by the trained youth in different regions	Completed
	2. Gather the groups to present their projects, posters, and achievements, and select the best ones.	8 project reports/ presentations developed by the trainees	Completed
	3. Hold a recognition/ awards event to distribute the prizes for the best projects	Three prizes with medals designated for the best three groups/projects. Awards of excellence were also distributed for all the youth who planned and implemented community projects, adopting the values and the 14 steps acquired during the training. Prizes included trophies, medals, training workshops and a trip for all participants in the mountains of Lebanon.	Completed
	4- Hold training sessions the youth trainees to enhance their knowledge and skills in: choice of careers, expectations at the market place, assisting with job hunting and career path consultations.	A minimum of 50 youth trained to be able to better serve their local community	In progress
1.3 Preparation of the Training manual	5. Prepare the content of the training manual taking in consideration the outcome of the first workshop and the individual meetings with selective NGOs and youth associations	Topics (headings) selected for the training of all the members of CSOs and also serving as the basis for the outline of the manual	Completed
	6. Build capacities of NGO members. The content of the training will be based on the topics to be included in the manual developed by international expert, and relevant to the internal governance and structuring of the NGOs	NGO members equipped progressively by new skills and capacities enabling them to move from charity work to a more sustainable development work.	In progress
	7. Promote the training manual prepared by the capacity building unit of the Ministry of Social Affairs on "Internal Governance for NGOs" by printing it and training trainers on applying it. The manual is found out to be consistent with our field of intervention as it tackles 7 areas validated by our previous assessment.	20 trainers trained on how to use it. 2000 copies printed of the manual NGOs equipped with capacities enabling them to move from charity work to a more sustainable development work	In progress
Objective 2: Skills training for unemployed youth and supporting job creation through employment/ job search centre matching demand and supply. The centre will act as the enabling structure to create, enhance and develop skills and competencies of the youths.			
2.1 Decide on the skills needed in the market	8. Conduct a labor market study. It will provide information on technical and vocational training opportunities that could help bridge the gap between labor supply and demand.	A labor market study is developed as a guiding reference for the functioning of the job creation center.	In progress

2.2 Establish an employment creation center	9. Prepare a business plan for the employment center.	A business plan is developed to outline the functioning and sustainability of the center.	In progress
	10. Recruit skilled personnel in charge of managing the center, after a competitive selection process.	Personnel will include: the Center Manager, Marketing/PR officer, a Coordinator/ Receptionist)	In progress
2.3 Elaborate a database for the youth unemployed and jobs needed to try to match demand and supply	11. Collect personal details (name, contact details, work experience, education history, qualifications and preferences) and preferences of applicants to initiate the recruitment process.	A database centralizing all the information will be available to all	In progress
	12. Filter the database of applicants in order to start matching the needs and requirements of the private and public sectors with those of the unemployed. The website may play a pivotal role in the field.		In progress
Objective 3: Rehabilitate 2 green areas of Beirut neighborhoods with a focus on the poor and multi-cultural neighborhoods after providing the youth with the proper training on how to enhance the socio-economic capacities for local communities			
3.1 Undertake a field survey to select the appropriate neighborhoods	13. Validate the two areas in Beirut selected to be rehabilitated. The selection is based on a set of criteria that includes level of poverty, multi-cultural diversity, population density, etc)	The two sets of Beirut neighborhoods identified for rehabilitation (Tarik Jdida District and Karm El Zeytoun) will be validated by the contracted company	Completed
	14. Conduct the field survey	A comprehensive field survey determining the needs assessments and priorities for the areas selected	In progress

Implementation Constraints and Lessons Learned:

The training of the youth on volunteerism and community service proves to be a success, especially in mobilizing the Lebanese youth to contribute to their community and promote awareness among their surroundings.

After assimilating the steps and guidelines developed during the training workshop, the participants undertook several projects in different regions of Beirut. They have managed to get sponsorship and implement them by adopting the concepts learned on sustainable human development in line with the millennium development goals. Two groups from Tripoli had also joined to learn and serve as focal points and model for future intervention in Tripoli, as Hariri Foundation intends to expand and replicate the project in several urban regions in Lebanon. The 8 projects include:

1. Rehabilitation , beautification and reforestation activities at Al Sanayeh Public Garden
2. Rehabilitation, beautification and reforestation activities at Moufti Hassan Khalid Garden
3. Improving living conditions of a poor family by providing them with basic needs of sanitation and security and rehabilitating their small house in Sakiet al Janzeer
4. Cleaning and painting murals of the Public Playground in Tarik Al Jadida next to the Beirut Arab University
5. Awareness campaigns against smoking and tobacco usage in different areas in Beirut and its suburbs
6. Elderely care center at Karam Al Zaytoun
7. Cleaning and painting murals in a strategic street in Tripoli (at a crossroad in miyyeh w miyyeh street where there was a conflict
8. Rehabilitation activities in Al Ghorabaa public school for girls in Tripoli (between Bab El Tebaneh and Jabal Mohsen) along with holding an awareness session for its students on puberty

An award ceremony was held for the participants where several partners and organizations attended and showed their motivation and willingness to partner with us to expand the work of these youth and replicate it in different areas of Beirut. A full episode was also allocated to all the trainees in the talk show with Zaven "Sireh wa infatahit", whereby the groups presented their projects and shared their individual experience within the project. After the show, several viewers also decided to contribute to sustain the projects held.

Moreover, the Municipality of Beirut proposed to involve the network of youth in developing and taking care of all the public gardens of Beirut. The social Club of the Lebanese American University also showed its interest in collaborating with us by training its members on how to conduct such community service projects, and monitoring their work implementation, especially in school's rehabilitation.

As for the Labor Market study, questionnaires were sent to several universities holding the greatest number of Lebanese youth. However, HF encountered some difficulty in getting a high response rate. Also, the issue of getting an adequate database of graduates (years 1984-2004) from some of the universities selected has put some inevitable delay. In fact, the Lebanese University, which represents the biggest portion in the sample, lacks of such database which induced HF to address all LU faculties and try to collect the data needed if available.

Concerning the rehabilitation of the two sets of neighbourhoods, several meetings and field visits were made with the contracted company to set and select in detail the scope of work and intervention in the zones selected, taking into consideration the concept of sustainable human development and how to enhance the living standards of the inhabitants in a sustainable way. Some minor difficulties were also witnessed with the contracted company during their field visits and investigation, such as reluctance by some of the local inhabitants, besides the delays in getting approvals and permission from the municipality members and concerned parties. However these issues are being solved progressively.

IV. FUTURE WORK PLAN

KEY MILESTONES					Quarter 3		
OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUT	IMPACT	INDICATORS	Ap r	Ma y	Ju n
Objective 1: Enhance implementation capacities of local stakeholders (NGOs and CSOs) in identifying and providing direct services to recover sustainable livelihoods. Local stakeholders can then select and implement community projects for recovery of livelihood.							
1.1 Creation of a network of qualified youths	1- Hold training workshops for the youth on career orientation and job market expectation. This will enhance their knowledge and skills in: choice of careers, expectations at the market place, assisting with job hunting and career path consultations. The program is instrumental in helping and assisting them with planning their future and career paths	90 youth trained to be able to better plan their future and career path	youth who are better career-oriented upon their graduation, equipped with better opportunities to get into the Labor market	Contract with the consultant Training material Number of participants Evaluation Form Number of trained youth getting a job			
	2. Training workshop on leadership development for the groups who won the best community service projects	Around 25 participants skilled to manage and lead projects and /or assume personal and community based responsibilities	Motivated youth with enhanced leadership skills Increased involvement of the youth in the development of their local community	Contract with the consultant Training material Number of participants Evaluation Form			
	3. Organizing a multipurpose trip for all the youth who implemented the projects. It will include team building and entertaining activities, historical and cultural overview and site seeing of the different villages they will pass through along the trip.	64 youth enabled to further network among each other in an entertaining and informative way	Networking among youth trained Further networking between the youth and the foundation Increased motivation and competition among the youth	Contract with Lebanon Mountain Trail Trip Program			
1.3 Preparation of the Training manual	4. Work with the capacity building unit of the Ministry of Social Affairs on validating and promoting the training manual they've developed on "Internal Governance for NGOs". The manual is found to be consistent with our field of intervention as it tackles 7 areas validated by our previous assessment made by INTRAC organization during the second quarter.	Manual tested and validated between the foundation and the ministry of Social affairs to serve as an efficient guiding tool for local NGOs and CSOs working in all human and social development and fields	A reliable guide for all NGOs and stakeholders engaged in local community development	The final draft of the manual			

	5. Training of trainers on internal governance and structuring of NGOs. The content of the training will be based on the topics included in the manual as a serving tool to test the manual	Around 20 trainers from different NGOs trained on how to use the manual and eventually become trainers for other members in their organizations as well as other NGOs	NGO members equipped progressively by new skills and capacities enabling them to move from charity work to a more sustainable development work. Networking among youth and NGOS allowing them to share knowledge and experience and avoid eventual duplication of efforts	Training material Number of trainers participating Evaluation Forms			
	6. Printing the manual and distributing it to serve as a reliable guide for local NGOs	2000 copies of the manual printed	Local NGOs equipped with better internal governance skills enabling them better manage and carry out development projects	Copies printed Copies distributed			
Objective 2: Skills training for unemployed youth and supporting job creation through employment/ job search centre matching demand and supply. The centre will act as the enabling structure to create, enhance and develop skills and competencies of the youths.							
2.1 Decide on the skills needed in the market	7. Conduct a labor market study. It will provide information on technical and vocational training opportunities that could help bridge the gap between labor supply and demand.	A labor market study is developed as a guiding reference for the functioning of the job creation center.		A final draft of the study			
2.2 Establish an employment creation center	8. Prepare a business plan for the employment center.	A business plan is developed to outline the functioning and sustainability of the center.		Draft report Final Business plan			
	9. Recruit skilled personnel in charge of managing the center, after a competitive selection process.	Personnel will include: the Center Manager, Marketing/PR officer, a Coordinator/ Receptionist)		Transparent TORs- Number of CVs- Number of interviews Signed contracts			
2.3 Elaborate a database for the youth unemployed and jobs needed to try to match demand and supply	10. Collect personal details (name, contact details, work experience, education history, qualifications and preferences) and preferences of applicants to initiate the recruitment process.	A database centralizing all the information will be available to all	The database will serve as a resource for recruitment in the labor market	Number of applications			
	11. Filter the database of applicants in order to start matching the needs and requirements of the private and public sectors with those of the unemployed. The website may play a pivotal role in the field.			Data collected			

Objective 3: Rehabilitate 2 green areas of Beirut neighborhoods with a focus on the poor and multi-cultural neighborhoods after providing the youth with the proper training on how to enhance the socio-economic capacities for local communities

3.1 Undertake a field survey to select the appropriate neighborhoods	12. Conduct the field survey	A comprehensive field survey determining the needs assessments and priorities for the areas selected	Increase awareness among local inhabitants on the urgency to redress their surrounding community to be a better place for living	Draft of the assessment study		
	13. Begin the infrastructure and rehabilitation work in the neighborhoods	Well rehabilitated areas enabling inhabitants to live in a better sustainable environment taking in consideration security and sanitary conditions		Type of work conducted		
				Rehabilitation activities achieved		