



PROGRESS REPORT

Reporting UN Organization	:	United Nations Development Programme
Country	:	Lebanon
Project No.	:	00073450
Project Title	:	<u>Monitoring & Evaluation Team for the LRF</u>
LRF Signature date	:	December 15, 2009
Project Start date	:	December 15, 2009
Reporting Period	:	April 1– June 30, 2010

I. PURPOSE

Project Summary:

The proposal to establish an M&E Team was made on the basis of enhancing efficiency, preventing unnecessary expenditures and avoiding project delays. It is expected to address these issues by expanding overall oversight management.

Specifically, it is expected to enhance the LRF monitoring mechanism, currently being carried out by the Project Approval Group (PAG) representatives and UNRCO, by incorporating the aforementioned activities into a more coherent and efficient framework. This framework will consist of:

1. An increased frequency of field trips and monitoring meetings;
2. Closer and more technical follow ups on project implementation and financial activities;
3. A continuous evaluation and objective re-assessment of project achievements against pre-set targets;
4. A support system to meet timely completion with the objective of raising the effectiveness of projects and ensure cost-efficiency in their implementation, and
5. A support system to examine the final evaluation of the projects implemented under the LRF.

Effective oversight of a project is time-enhancing and cost-efficient to both donors and beneficiaries. Hence the expected benefits of employing an M&E team will be extensive, reaching across all parties engaged with the LRF projects.

Since the M&E team will oversee all aspects of the project activities, Project Managers are supported in achieving their pre-set deadlines in a timely manner. This will be advantageous to the benefactors since it will assist the prevention of the postponement of the project's objectives. Furthermore, any revisions made in the outstanding projects such as a no-cost time extension, a budget re-evaluation or change in scope will be effectively assessed and evaluated by the M&E team and hence, improve the cost-efficiency and decision making outcomes of those projects by the PAG team and LRF committee.

Project Objective:

To extend the provision of timely, cost efficient and reliable M&E activities through an expansion in overall oversight management.

Project Outputs:

- Support Project Managers in achieving their pre-set deadlines in a timely manner, thus working in favor of the beneficiaries of each project, and
- Revisions made in the outstanding projects - such as a no-cost time extension, a budget re-evaluation or change in scope - will be effectively assessed and evaluated by the M&E team. This will improve all decision making outcomes and will ensure compliance with the above revisions.

Project Linkages to National Priorities and Reconstruction Goals:

Until now, representatives from the Project Approval Group (PAG) and the UNRCO have been carrying out all aspects of the M&E framework under LRF. This includes follow up of the submission of quarterly reports by UN participating agencies, the conduct of field visits and the regular scheduling of monitoring meetings. In addition, since projects are required to provide final narratives and financial reports upon completion in accordance with the MOU for provisions related to M&E of the LRF, the representatives of the PAG and UNRCO have also been overseeing the evaluation of these reports and ensuring their posting to the LRF website.

Within the framework of the Lebanon Recovery Fund (LRF), the PAG recommends the formation of a Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Team, to further strengthen the existing LRF M&E mechanism by improving compliance with timeliness, cost efficiency and reliability of the current LRF project activities.

Project Implementation Partners:

Ministry of Economy and Trade
UN Agencies (UNIDO, UNDP, FAO, UNFPA, ILO, UNESCO)
Prime Minister's Office
UNRCO
Ministry of Finance

II. RESOURCES

Total budget approved : USD 200,000

Total disbursements as for 30 June 2010 : USD 3,914.46

Commitments for next quarter : USD 18,000

Available Balance : USD 196,085.54

CATEGORY	TOTAL BUDGET (USD)	TOTAL EXP (USD) April -June 2010	TOTAL EXP (USD) as of June 2010
1. Personnel (Incl. staff and consultants)	USD 145,101	USD 0	-
2. Contracts (Incl. companies, professional services)	USD	USD 0	-
3. Training	-	-	-
4. Transport	USD	USD 0	-
5. Supplies and commodities	USD 5,010	USD 0	USD 665.7
6. Equipment	USD 9,515	USD 0	USD 2,966
7. Travel	-	-	-
8. Miscellaneous	USD 27,289	USD 0	USD 26.67
9. Agency Management Support	USD 13,085	USD 0	USD 256.09
TOTAL	USD 200,000	USD 0	USD 3,914.46

III. RESULTS

Progress in Project Implementation:

The selection process of the M&E Officer was finalised. M&E Admin and Finance Clerk selection process is still ongoing due to the difficulties involved in recruiting a part-time candidate of sufficient experience and expertise. A third round of interviews is expected to be finalised by the end of July 2010.

Project Outputs & Activities	Status
<p>Output 1: Support Project Managers in achieving their pre-set deadlines in a timely manner, thus working in favour of the beneficiaries of each project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UNRCO has been supporting the quarterly reporting process for 2010, guaranteeing on time submission through the MDTF Gateway. Q1 (January- March) Reports were uploaded successfully in April 2010. • Project documents, progress reports and relevant documentation of the 25 projects were updated on the MDTF Gateway. • Eight Quarterly Monitoring Meetings held with Project Managers of the following LRF projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEDRO (LRF-1 Phase 1), (LRF-10 Phase II) and (LRF-16 Phase III) • Flood Risk Management (LRF- 9) • Digital documentation of world heritage sites (LRF-6) • Flood Risks Prevention and Management in Baalbeck – Hermel (LRF-17) • ART GOLD Lebanon (LRF-19) • Support for Livelihoods and Economic Recovery in War-Affected Areas of Lebanon (LRF-20) • Project Recovery and Rehabilitation of Dairy Sector in Bekaa Valley and Hermel-Akkar Uplands (LRF-21) • Early Recovery of Nahr el Bared Surrounding Lebanese Communities (LRF-24) • One Monitoring Field Visit to the LRF-21 Project <i>Recovery and Rehabilitation of Dairy Sector in Bekaa Valley and Hermel-Akkar Uplands</i> undertaken with the participation of representatives from the Ministry of Economy and Trade, UNRCO and UNDP's Expert.

<p>Output 2: Revisions made in the outstanding projects such as a no- cost time extension, a budget re-evaluation or change in scope - will be effectively assessed and evaluated by the M&E team. This will improve all decision making outcomes and will ensure compliance with the above revisions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Economy and Trade, Prime Minister’s Office, the Ministry of Finance and the UNRCO have supported during the second quarter the review and approval process for no-cost time extension of the following projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LRF-7 “Enhance Performance of the Social Sector” (UNDP-MoSA) LRF-1, LRF-10, LRF-16 CEDRO LRF-9 Flood Risk Management Two PAG Meetings were held in the reporting period (1st and 30th June 2010) in order to discuss the above project extensions. One National Steering Committee Meeting was held in June. Third Consolidated Annual Report for 2009 shared with Participating UN Organisations and Donors.
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Implementation Constraints

The set up of the M&E Team has been delayed. It has been very difficult to recruit a qualified Admin and Finance Clerk candidate due to the fact that this vacancy is a part time position. The LRF M&E Admin and Finance Clerk post was advertised twice, unfortunately, each of the selected candidates rejected the job offers.

Key Partnerships & Collaboration

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IV. FUTURE WORK PLAN

KEY MILESTONES	July				August				September			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Output 1 Support Project Managers in achieving their pre-set deadlines in a timely manner, thus working in favour of the beneficiaries of each project.												
Increased frequency of field trips and monitoring meetings												
Closer and more technical follow ups on project implementation and financial activities												
A continuous evaluation and an objective re-assessment of project achievements against pre-set targets												
Support to meet timely completion with the objective of raising the effectiveness of projects and ensure cost-efficiency in their implementation, and												
Support to examine the final evaluation of the projects implemented under the LRF.												
Output 2 Revisions made in the outstanding projects - such as a no cost time extension, a												

budget re-evaluation or change in scope - will be effectively assessed and evaluated by the M&E team. This will improve all decision making outcomes and will ensure compliance with the above revisions.													
Closer and more technical follow ups on project implementation and financial activities													
Support to meet timely completion with the objective of raising the effectiveness of projects and ensure cost-efficiency in their implementation, and													
Support to examine the final evaluation of the projects implemented under the LRF.													

Adjustments to strategies, outcomes or outputs:

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