



PROGRESS REPORT

Reporting UN Organization	: United Nations Development Programme
Country	: Lebanon
Project No.	: LRF 13 / '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	: April 2008 – June 2010
Reporting Period	: April - Jun 2010

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

	<i>As of December 31st, 2009</i>	<i>As of June 24th, 2010</i>	<i>As of June 30th, 2010</i>
Total budget approved	\$996,919.00	\$996,919.00	\$996,919.00
Disbursements	\$537,013.74	\$862,789.15	\$862,789.15
Available Balance	\$459,905.26	\$134,129.85	\$134,129.85
Commitments for next quarter	<i>The full amount is spent by the project, but the actual expenditure is still not reflected in the system.</i>		

CATEGORY	TOTAL BUDGET (USD)	TOTAL EXP. TO DATE (USD)	TOTAL EXP. TO DATE (USD)	TOTAL EXP. TO DATE (USD)
Personnel	352,700.00	223,759.00	311,400.00	311,400.00
Contracts	300,000.00	150,880.00	326,509.00	326,509.00
Training	74,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transport	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Supplies & Commodities	98,500.00	23,556.00	25,600.00	25,600.00
Equipment	40,000.00	51,830.00	66,623.00	66,623.00
Travel	46,000.00	18,013.00	19,993.00	19,993.00
Miscellaneous	931,700.00	33,844.00	56,220.00	56,220.00
Agency Management Support (7%)	65,219.00	35,131.74	56,444.15	56,444.15
Total	996,919.00	537,013.74	862,789.15	862,789.15

III. Results

Project Outputs and Indicators

OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUT	INDICATORS	Timeframe								
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9
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.												
1.3 Preparation of the Training manual	1. Printing the manual and distributing it to serve as a reliable guide for local NGOs , along with its related materials (pamphlets, CDs and posters)	2000 copies of the manual printed	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.												
2.2 Establish an employment creation center	2. Hold a career fair as part of the training and advertising campaign for the job creation center. The fair targets mainly youth from secondary level school and first year university students. It will be held in 4 regions: Beirut, Zahle, Tripoli and Saida.	The youth are more aware of the different professions available in the Lebanese labor market. They are thus more decisive on what career and thus major they want to enroll in.	Brochures Booklets printed and distributed Press release									
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 Rehabilitate the appropriate neighborhoods	3. Undertake the infrastructure and rehabilitation work in the sites (Karm Zeytoun and sabra), under the supervision of the AUB/HF team.	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 Youth engaged in beautifying the city									

Implementation Constraints and Lessons Learned:

Although the rehabilitation work (in both neighbourhoods Sabra and Karm El Zeytoun took a lot of time, the process of implementation is done in a professional way and the youth involved (whether the AUB students or the volunteers in the projects) were gaining a lot of skills and experience on how the work should be applied, how to deal with the inhabitants, how to get information, present themselves to the different concerned parties and get their approval motivation for intervention and even involvement, etc.

As far as the project is concerned, the work has been fully achieved. However, due to the success and good impact it has made and the trust built among local inhabitants and beneficiaries, we are planning to extend our involvement and intervene through several phases. We are also seeking other partners with us, of which the UNDP who showed their interest and collaboration.

Finally, concerning the career fair, it has proved its success in all the regions in which it was organized (Beirut-Saida- Tripoli and Zahle). In this regard, the foundation is planning on making it annual and thus is working on registering it as intellectual property.

N.B: all references are available upon request.

Progress in 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.			
1.3 Preparation of the Training manual	1. Printing the manual and distributing it to serve as a reliable guide for local NGOs , along with its related materials (pamphlets, CDs and posters)	2000 copies of the manual printed	Completed
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.			
2.2 Establish an employment creation center	2. Hold a career fair as part of the training and advertising campaign for the job creation center. The fair targets mainly youth from secondary level school and first year university students. It will be held in 4 regions: Beirut, Zahle, Tripoli and Saida.	The youth are more aware of the different professions available in the Lebanese labor market. They are thus more decisive on what career and thus major they want to enroll in.	Completed
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 Rehabilitate the appropriate neighborhoods	3. Undertake the infrastructure and rehabilitation work in the sites, under the supervision of the AUB/HF team.	Well rehabilitated areas enabling inhabitants to live in a better sustainable environment taking in consideration security and sanitary conditions	Completed