



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 July to 30 September 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 “Burghoz”, “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 30 Sept 2010 :	171,254
Commitments for next quarter :	150,000
Available Balance :	1,828,746

Budget and Expenditure Breakdown per LRF Category:

CATEGORY	Total Budget(USD)	Total Exp. to date (USD)
1. Personnel (Incl. staff and consultants)	232,200	107,400
2. Contracts (Incl. companies, professional services)	1,416,959	42,000
3. Training (incl. AV printing / production)	30,000	3,500
4. Transport (local)	15,000	2,700
5. Supplies and commodities (Incl. IT equipment and rental & maintenance)	100,000	750
6. Equipment (including installation)	40,000	0
7. Travel	15,000	0
8. Miscellaneous	20,000	3,700
9. Agency Management Support (7%)	130,841	11,204
TOTAL	2,000,000	171,254

III. PROGRESS

- **Acquiring Cadastral Maps**

Paper maps have been acquired for the two remaining villages of Ibl Essaki and Jdaydit Marjeyoun and will have to be scanned and digitalized in order to have the soft copy which will be needed for the upcoming phases of implementation. Concerning the three villages of Burgoz, Debbine and Blat the work has been nearly finalized. There were some problems with transferring the soft copies to GIS since there were some inaccuracies regarding the border of the landholdings. This imprecision required to be corrected manually, which was very time consuming.

- **Preparing the Draft Legislation for the WUAs**

Several meetings were held with the legislator preparing the draft law for the Water Users Associations. An international expert on the topic was also consulted and the draft law is nearly finished. The draft law once finalized will be submitted to the parliament. AFIAL is undertaking the lobbying efforts to disseminate the concept and pass the law. A contact with a member of parliament has already been established and the draft law is supported by this person.

- **Selection of Contractor for Land Classification**

Terms of reference was prepared for the recruitment of the expert to conduct the land classification for around 745 ha and a consultant was selected. The consultant shall complete the land classification exercise including the classification parameters such as geology, terrain slope, soil description, in-depth percentage of stones and gravel, percentage and nature of rocks, surface percentage of stones and gravels, etc. and perform a soil field unit (unité de terrain) classification supported by lab tests results. Ultimately, the material produced by this consultancy should be used for the development of the hydrant plans as well as the guidelines for the land reclamation works.

- **Preparing Draft ToR for the Hydrant Plans**

Terms of reference are being prepared for the recruitment of the expert to conduct the hydrant plan design. The objective of this consultancy is to develop a Hydrant Implementation Plan (HIP) in full collaboration with the targeted farmers. Ultimately the HIP should be used to construct the pre-programming hydrants. The scope of this consultancy comprises the determination of cropping patterns, water needs at on-farm level and the design of the hydrant plan. The total area is about 745 ha.

- **Project Management**

Three master students in international development and management from the University of Lund in Sweden joined the project as interns in September 2010 and will stay until the end of November. They have so far assisted in drafting the ToR for the hydrant plans, done background research, provided comments on the draft law and on the stakeholder analysis of the farmers and assisted the GIS expert.

Activity Results	Activity Actions	Progress up to 30 September 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"> ✓ Weekly meetings with the legislator drafting the WUA law ✓ Visit by an international expert for one week ✓ Workshops conducted for all five villages (around 45 farmers participated) 	<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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ An expert selected for the land classification ✓ Processed maps of 3 villages into GIS ✓ Acquired hard copies of the remaining two villages ✓ Terms of reference for hydrant plans drafted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collection and consolidation of land classification information for the region (5 villages in total) ✓ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Meeting held with Green Plan to introduce the project and get acquainted with the procedure used by GP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Three master students in international development and management from the University of Lund in Sweden joined the project as interns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Recruitment of the necessary Consultant ✓ Timely reporting on all project activities

IV. WORK PLAN PER ACTIVITY FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER IN 2010 (October - December 2010)

Key Milestones Wks	October				November				December			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1. Establishment of Water Users Associations												
1.1 Data Collection												
1.2 Implementation International Expert Visit												
1.3 Legislation Review												
1.4 Capacity building Trainings												
2. Development of Land Database & Hydrant Plans												
2.1 Development of Topo-cadastral Maps												
2.2 Finalizing Contract for Land Classification Expert												
2.3 Land Classification and Soil Field Unit												
2.4 Finalizing ToRs for the Design of the Hydrant Plans												
3. Execution of Land Reclamation Works												
3.1 Initiation of the design of the reclamation programme												
4. Project Management												
4.1 Interns in the Project												
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 and during the first phase due to unavailability and difficulty in acquiring needed data, particularly maps of the 5 villages. This has resulted in a delay in the project work plan 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 given the security situation south of the Litani.
- ➔ 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.



Workshop Held at Dana Hotel – Dibbine and Ibl Essaki



Workshop Held at the Municipality of Marjeyoun (Jdaydit Marjeyoun, Blat and Burghoz)