



INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT

Reporting UN Organization	: United Nations Development Programme
Country	: Lebanon
Project No.	: 00059666 and 00069789
Project Title	: Flood Risk Management and Water Harvesting for Livelihood Recovery in Baalback-Hermel, phase I and II
RF Signature date	: 10 October 2007
Project Start date	: Phase I: 01 February 2008 Phase II: 20 February 2009
Project Timeframe	: Phase I: 31 May 2011 (extended) Phase II: 31 December 2011
Reporting Period	: October – December 2010

I. PURPOSE

Project Summary & Objectives

The project aims at assisting the Government of Lebanon in its recovery and reform efforts in the conflict-affected and high-poverty region of Baalback-Hermel through better land management practices, namely flood risk reduction and improved access to irrigation water and networks to achieve crop diversification and improve productivity.. This will be achieved through the construction of stone walls, check dams and water collection reservoirs to prevent runoff water from reaching villages and farms and through the restoration of land cover to reduce soil erosion. The objectives related to water management will be achieved through construction of membrane-lined reservoirs to collect unused water from springs, rainfall and snow melts and through installation of water-use efficient irrigation networks and systems that will be used by local farmers to improve their crop diversity and productivity. The project is financed by the Government of Spain through the Lebanon Recovery Fund established on the occasion of the Stockholm Conference, and is in line with the UNDP's development goal of alleviating poverty in rural drylands of the conflict-affected Baalback Hermel area.

Project Phases and Expected Outputs

FRM I 2.8 million USD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Establishment and Implementation of a flood risk management plan over an area of 94 km² in Aarsal and Fakhe region. ➔ Water harvesting in North Bekaa and installation of efficient irrigation networks. ➔ Crop diversification and improved land cover in North Bekaa. ➔ Improved public awareness on flood risks management and training of the target municipality on maintenance of flood management structures.
FRM II 3.8 million USD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Establishment and Implementation of a flood risk management plan over an area of 200 km² in Upper Aarsal and Ras Baalback ➔ Improved land cover in Ras Baalback and upper Aarsal mountains. ➔ Improved soil conservation in Ras Baalback and Aarsal. ➔ Improved public awareness on flood risks management and training of the target municipality on maintenance of flood management structures.

Project Linkages to National Priorities and Recovery

The National Action Program to Combat Desertification (NAP), which was developed in 2003 by the Ministry of Agriculture and in collaboration with UNDP and German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), classified the project's target area (Baalback-Hermel) as one of the areas prone to high risks of desertification. This is mainly due to lack of proper land and water management practices, bad rainfall distribution, overgrazing, steep mountains with shallow soil and poor vegetative cover. Moreover, summer droughts and uneven rain distribution are the main reasons for poor agricultural productivity in that area.

The effect of the July 2006 conflict on North Bekaa, particularly Baalback-Hermel area was not to be underestimated. Large scale destructions in infrastructure, biodiversity and agriculture were reported. These led to harder living conditions, more poverty and increased soil erosion threats.

The expected outcomes from the current project particularly those related to water harvesting, increased vegetation cover and higher productivity will serve very well the national efforts and plans aiming at combating desertification and alleviating poverty in North Bekaa. They will also serve the recovery efforts made by the Lebanese government in normalizing the living conditions of rural communities and in restoring the basic needs and infrastructure for practicing sound and profitable agriculture in the affected area.

Project Implementation Partners

International Partners: Spanish Agency for International Cooperation
German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)
Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)

National Partners: Ministry of Agriculture
Ministry of Water & Energy, Bekaa
Local municipalities and communities

II. RESOURCES

	Amount (USD)	
	Phase I	Phase II
Total budget approved	2,834,880	3,800,000
Total disbursements –Oct to Dec 2010	46,697.20	112,044.00
Total disbursements to date (Dec 2010)	2,079,756.85	410,705.18
Commitments for next quarter	600,000	200,000

Budget and Expenditure Breakdown per LRF Category:

CATEGORY	Phase I			Phase II		Exp to date (Dec 2010)
	Total Budget (USD)	Exp. Oct – Dec 2010	Exp to date (Dec 2010)	Total Budget (USD)	Exp. Oct – Dec 2010	
1. Personnel (Incl. staff and consultants)	200,000.00	2,450.00	308,264.94	300,000.00	57,083.93	236,369.15
2. Contracts (Incl. companies, professional services)	250,000.00	38,243.00	153,997.07	250,000.00	36,256.00	102,173.80
3. Training (incl. AV printing / production)	50,000.00	0.00	8,741.20	50,000.00	0.00	2,343.00
4. Transport (local)	20,000.00	0.00	11,791.34	30,000.00	3,784.78	11,956.33
5. Supplies and commodities (Incl. IT equipment and rental & maintenance)	50,000.00	0.00	153,828.55	40,000.00	311,81	4,676.92
6. Equipment (including installation)	2,000,000.00	2,246.04	1,289,539.16	2,800,000.00	500.00	19,240.63
7. Travel	50,000.00	0.00	1,556.00	40,000.00	0.00	2,017.30
8. Miscellaneous	37,833.00	0.00	14,032.38	24,000.00	6,777.50	10,079.51
9. Agency Management Support (7%)	186,048.00	3,054.96	135,849.31	266,000.00	7,329.98	21,848.54
TOTAL	2,834,880.00	46,697.20	2,079,756.85	3,800,000.00	112,044.00	410,705.18

III. Results: Progress per activities

Project Outputs	Activities	Progress to date	Targets for 2010
1. Project Management and Coordination	1.1 Technical, financial and operational Management. 1.2 Promote synergies with relevant on-going projects in target area. 1.3 Exchange of information and coordination meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing meetings with the project stakeholders and subcontractors: Ras baalback Municipality (2 meetings), Aarsal Municipality (5), ELARD (8), Rafik El Khoury & Farhat (7) Workshop on National Risks Assessment on November 8th 2010 with UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery at Grand Serail LRF's donors meeting at Grand Serail to present achievements and future outlook Meeting with the Minister of Energy and Water in order to cooperate and coordinate related flood risks management activities Organization of an international workshop "Water Harvesting Techniques and Practices and their Role in Enhancing Rural Livelihoods" with AARDO and Ministry of agriculture held between September 26 and October 2nd 2010 to exchange information Contract termination with ARDA and pursue coordination with the Municipality of Aarsal Extension of two sub-contracts: Rafik El Khoury and Farhat Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened coordination with project stakeholders
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with Municipality of Ras Baalback for phase II implementation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design of flood risk management structures for Phase II
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement of sub-contractors for the implementation of Phase II
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of quarterly progress reports
2. Flood Risk Management and Reduction	2.1 Data collection and identification of target area. 2.2 Modeling of target area and generation of maps. 2.3 Constructions for flood control and prevention. 2.4 Monitoring, evaluation and impacts assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designs for flood management structural measures for Phase II finalized and reviewed 13 potential sites were identified to construct the retention ponds (hafaers) Technical specs for ponds construction and maintenance developed Expression of Interest documents for implementation of the flood structures for Phase II posted and collected for evaluation Elaboration of TORs to implement the excavation of flood structures under preparation to select a contractor Reviewing and re-designing of erosion control structures for phase II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design of flood risk management structures (Phase II)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiation of excavations of flood water collection reservoirs (Phase II) Initiation of construction of FRM structures (Phase II)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a flood mgt plan for Ras Baalback (phase II)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine the number and locations of stone walls for phase II.
3. Water Harvesting and Irrigation Networks	3.1 Field surveys and assessment of water resources 3.2 Identification of water-harvesting sites. 3.3 Constructions of reservoirs and irrigation networks 3.4 Selection of beneficiaries and technical advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work in progress for the Deir El Ahmar Pond Continuous follow-up of site operations Supported local farmers to secure irrigation water in a sustainable way through establishing feeding pipes to an existing pond (SRAP project in Deir El Ahmar) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of an artificial irrigation lake in Deir Al-Ahmar (Phase I)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of irrigation networks for target beneficiaries (Phase I)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation and completion of reservoir initiated by the Army in Barka (Phase I)
4. Land Cover Increase and Soil Erosion Reduction	4.1 Identification of erosion-sensitive areas 4.2 Establishment of nurseries for seedling production 4.3 Crop diversification and increased productivity 4.4 Forestation and forage cultivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed collection finalized and stored in cold conditions to be further raised in nurseries (Phase II) • Call for proposals for Reforestation posted and only one bidder participated • TORs for bidding of reforestation activity will be amended and reposted soon as Request for proposals • Site for reforestation was identified with the collaboration of the Municipality of Ras Baalback ; the parcel belongs to the municipality and is around 10 hectares; around 5000 seedlings will be cultivated composed of 37 species of wild trees and shrubs. • On-going collaboration with the UNDP MOE reforestation project to draft technical specification for reforestation activity and to coordinate the areas to be planed • Development of a demonstration setup for reforestation in order to test and demonstrate best techniques • Collaboration with MoA on banning and/or controlling grazing: Site and partner stakeholder identified (around 2 Km² in Ras Baalback) • Agreement between UNDP and Municipality of AArsal to complete the reforestation process (phase I) is under discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestation in Ras Baalback with wild fruit trees (Phase II)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of plan to increase green cover in Ras Baalback (Phase II)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of reforestation in Aarsal (Phase I)
5. Sustainability, capacity building and awareness raising	5.1 Empowerment of target beneficiaries. 5.2 Awareness raising on flood and water management. 5.3 Capacity building through training. 5.4 Alternative livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hands on training on flood management structure needs initiated on a one-on-one basis with some municipality members • Build the capacity of the Municipality of Ras Baalback in order to maintain the prevention flood and erosion control structures through offering a tractor and wheel loader machines. • The specs for the tractor and wheel loader identified and posted. Selection of best bidder is also done. • Grant agreement between UNDP and Municipality of Ras Baalback is under preparation • Article on flood impacts published in Beyond magazine • First SLM newsletter prepared • TORS for SLM website development under preparation • Documentary on SLM and flood prepared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building the capacity of Municipality of Ras Baalback in flood management.

Implementation Constraints

The capacities of different contractors to perform has slowed down work. The project is supporting the different contractors on the field to maximise efficiency and is closely coordinating between the consultant designing the Deir El Ahmar reservoir and the contractor implementing the works on the ground.

Key Partnerships & Collaboration

The project is working closely with the Disaster Risk Management Project being implemented by the Office of the Prime Minister, managed through UNDP, which is working on disaster risk management at the institutional level.

IV. Work plan per activity for the 4th quarter in 2010 (January – March 2011).

Key Milestones Wks	Jan				Feb				March			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1. Project Management and Coordination												
1.1 Technical, Financial and operational mgt.												
1.2 Promotion of synergies with other projects												
1.3 Information exchange and coordination.												
2. Flood Risks Management and Reduction												
2.1 Data collection and identification of target area.												
2.2 Modelling of target area & generation of maps.												
2.3 Constructions for flood control and prevention.												
2.4 Monitoring, evaluation & impact assessment.												
3. Irrigation Water Harvesting and Networking												
3.1 Construction of water harvesting pond in Deir el Ahmar												
4. Land Cover Increase & Soil Erosion Reduction												
4.1 Forestation and forage cultivation												
4.2 Identification of planting areas in Ras Baalback												
5. Sustainability, Capacity Building & Awareness Raising												
5.1 Empowerment of target beneficiaries.												
5.2 Awareness raising on flood and water mgt.												
5.3 Capacity building through training.												
5.4 Alternative livelihoods												