



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 October to 31 December 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 (LRA)
- Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR)
- 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:

- Association of the Friends of Ibrahim Abd El Al	≡ AFIAL
- Council for Development and Reconstruction	≡ CDR
- Green Plan	≡ GP
- Lebanese Armed Forces	≡ LAF
- Lebanon Mine Action Center	≡ LMAC
- Litani River Authority	≡ LRA
- Ministry of Agriculture	≡ MoA
- Ministry of Energy and Water	≡ MoE&W
- Ministry of the Environment	≡ MoE
- Terms of Reference	≡ ToR
- United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon	≡ UNIFIL
- United Nations Mine Action Center	≡ UNMAC
- Water Users Association	≡ WUA

II. RESOURCES

	Amount (USD)
Total budget approved :	2,000,000
Total disbursements until 31 Dec 2010 :	257,977
Commitments for next quarter :	80,000
Available Balance :	1,742,023

Budget and Expenditure Breakdown per LRF Category:

CATEGORY	Total Budget(USD)	Total Exp. to date (USD)
1. Personnel (Incl. staff and consultants)	232,200	137,400
2. Contracts (Incl. companies, professional services)	1,416,959	91,000
3. Training (incl. AV printing / production)	30,000	3,500
4. Transport (local)	15,000	4,500
5. Supplies and commodities (Incl. IT equipment and rental & maintenance)	100,000	1,000
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	16,877
TOTAL	2,000,000	257,977

III. PROGRESS

▪ Cadastral Maps

The cadastral maps were prepared and digitized for all 5 villages targeted under the project. These maps were handed over to the consultant performing the land classification analysis. The digital copies are essential for the upcoming phases of implementation; such maps form the means for the consultant to identify the agricultural area as well as the sizes and distribution of the plots. They can be superimposed with the land use map to identify the type of agriculture in each plot.

▪ The Draft Legislation for the WUAs

The draft law for the Water Users Association was finalized after consulting with an international expert on the topic. AFIAL started undertaking the lobbying efforts to disseminate the law. The creation of these WUAs is in line with the National Water Strategy that has been developed by the MoE&W, whereby the ministry will be identifying new laws or regulations that need to be changed or promulgated to support the implementation of proposed initiatives, and recommend required changes, including but not limited to, creation of Water Users Associations, water, wastewater and irrigation tariff restructuring, protection and management of groundwater resources.

▪ Launching the Land Classification Analysis

The land classification analysis was launched for an area of 745ha which will cover classification parameters such as geology, terrain slope, soil description, in-depth percentage of stones and gravel, percentage and nature of rocks, etc. and perform a soil field unit classification supported by lab tests. Terms of reference for this technical study were elaborated in consultation with the LRA and after researching the needs of the project. Offers were received, the most competitive was selected and a contract was signed. The project contacted the concerned authorities in order to facilitate the access of the consultant to the project area. In fact letters were sent to each of the LAF and UNIFIL, approval was granted and contacts were assigned in the project area where the consultant can coordinate with on a day-to-day basis.

▪ ToR for the Hydrant Plans

ToRs were prepared for the recruitment of the expert to conduct the hydrant plan design during last quarter, and this is pending the results of the land classification analysis to be finalized.

▪ Project Management

The UNV recruited for the preparation of the stakeholder analysis, finalized a complete report including statistics and figures and is currently monitoring the works performed by AFIAL on the creation and implementation of the WUAs.

ToRs were drafted for the recruitment of two UNV site engineers in order to undertake the supervision of the land classification works on the ground, and to follow up on the land reclamation works at a later stage. Each of the site engineers will be responsible for different villages, i.e., one will be monitoring the works in Ible Essaki, Debbine and Burghoz, while the other will take care of Blat and Marjeyoun.

Activity Results	Activity Actions	Progress up to 31 December 2010	Targets for 2011
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"> ✓ Finalized the draft law ✓ Initiated the lobbying efforts ✓ Fine tuning stakeholder analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Capacity building trainings ✓ Review of existing legislation related to WUA ✓ Implementation of WUA on the ground
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 ✓ Finalized the production of topo-cadastral maps and handed over to land classification consultant ✓ Terms of reference for hydrant plans drafted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Complete land classification analysis including laboratory physical and chemical tests ✓ Launch the hydrant plan design including determination of cropping patterns and water needs at farm level
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"> ✓ Drafting the ToR for the land reclamation works, pending the results of the land classification analysis to be finalized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Launching the bids for the consultant to propose the guideline basis for land reclamation ✓ Drafting the ToR for the contractor(s) to perform the land reclamation works
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 completed their internship from September until November 2010 ✓ TORs of site engineers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Recruitment of the necessary Consultants ✓ Timely reporting on all project activities ✓ Recruitment of site engineers

IV. WORK PLAN PER ACTIVITY FOR THE FIRST QUARTER IN 2011 (January - March 2011)

Key Milestones Wks	January				February				March			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1. Establishment of Water Users Associations												
1.1 Lobbying Efforts to Disseminate the Law												
1.2 Legislation Review												
1.3 Capacity building Trainings												
1.4 WUA Implementation												
2. Development of Land Database & Hydrant Plans												
2.1 Land Classification Analysis and Soil Field Unit												
2.2 Supervision of Land Classification Works												
2.3 Drafting ToR for International Irrigation Expert												
2.4 Finalizing ToRs for the Design of the Hydrant Plans												
3. Execution of Land Reclamation Works												
3.1 Drafting ToR for Land Reclamation Guidelines												
3.2 Drafting the ToR for the Land Reclamation Contractor(s)												
3.3 Initiation of the design of the reclamation programme												
4. Project Management												
4.1 Technical, Financial and operational mgt.												
4.2 Promotion of synergies with other projects												
4.3 Information exchange and coordination												

Implementation Constraints and Lessons Learnt during this Quarter:

- ➔ The project experienced 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 in turn entailed the need to extend the project end date.
- ➔ Acquiring permits to access the project area. The project contacted the concerned authorities in order to facilitate the access of the consultants to the project area. In fact letters were sent to each of the LAF and UNIFIL, approval was granted and contacts were assigned in the project area where the consultants can coordinate with on a day-to-day basis.
- ➔ Weather conditions: some activities cannot be performed during the rainy season and hence will be resumed after the end of rain.
- ➔ 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. Maps were received from the LMAC showing the mines contaminated areas within the 5 villages under study. These maps were superimposed on the topo-cadastral maps prepared by the project and the contaminated areas highlighted as danger zones.