



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE ARAB STATES

PROGRESS REPORT

Reporting UN Organization	: International Labour Organization
Country	: Lebanon
Project No.	: LEB/09/01M/UND (LRF-22)
Project Title	: Local Socio-Economic Development in War Affected-Areas of South Lebanon
Project Start date	: 1 June 2009
Reporting Period	: October - December 2010
Budget	: US\$ 1,500,000

I. PURPOSE

Through its participatory approach, the project is implementing socio-economic development activities in war-affected areas of South Lebanon. It is working with and supporting efforts of governmental bodies, local institutions, employers' and workers' organizations and civil society groups present in South Lebanon, for the development of strategically planned, locally-driven and locally implemented livelihoods recovery projects that would generate permanent and temporary employment. The project takes into consideration socio-economic assessments and recovery initiatives adopted by the Government of Lebanon, its partners, the UN Country Team, and non-governmental organizations, in addition to addressing key components of the Social Action Plan "Towards Strengthening Social Safety Nets and Access to Basic Social Services".

It is primarily working towards:

1. Enhancing the implementation capacities of local institutions and major implementing partners in South Lebanon in managing livelihood projects through application of acquired tools and methodologies.
2. Strengthening the capacities of local institutions in South Lebanon, so they can maintain and replicate participatory methodologies in promoting local economic development initiatives.

The project is continuing to work in partnership with municipalities, local cooperatives, relevant ministries at both central and local levels, micro-credit institutions (e.g. Al Majmoua, ADR), academic institutions, Social Development Centres, syndicates, workers' and employers' organizations present in the South. It also established strategic partnerships with international institutions, including the Italian ROSS programme and INTERSOS.

II. RESOURCES (as at 31 December 2010)

Category	Budget (US\$)	Expenditures (US\$)	Commitment balance (US\$)	Allocation balance (US\$)
1. Personnel (Project staff and consultants)	704,680	618,046.65	83,040.00	3,593.35
2. Contracts	295,830	138,415.55	19,999.00	137,415.45
3. Training	147,563	108,502.77	9,600.00	29,460.23
4. Transport	1,123	622.20	0.00	500.80
5. Equipment	29,262	28,262.00	0.00	1,000.00
6. Travel	1,800	1,799.75	0	0.25
7. Evaluation	25,000	0	0	25,000.00
8. Miscellaneous	24,882	20,224.73	0.00	4,657.27
9. Agency Management Support	269,860	152,242.06	87,712.00	29,905.94
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	1,500,000	1,068,115.71	200,351.00	231,533.29

II. RESULTS

Progress made during the period under review:

Capacity building:

- As a follow-up of the Organizational Capacity Assessment conducted for the 19 potential partner institutions, a capacity building plan was drafted to tailor to the needs of the partners. Various training institutions were requested to provide proposals for training. Workshops were identified to cater to the principle needs highlighted in the assessment; one workshop tackling Local Economic Development Techniques and another workshop on the techniques of integrating people with disabilities in the job market.
- The International Management and Training Institute (IMTI) was selected to provide the LED training. The material was developed with the support of a pool of specialized trainers in the fields of strategic planning, proposal writing, and monitoring and evaluation. The workshop will be held in the second half of January 2011, over a two-week period, including the 19 assessed institutions (list included in Annex II).
- The Socio-Economic Research Center (CSE) and the Lebanese Physically Handicapped Union (LPHU) were selected to provide the training on the integration of people with disabilities in the job market. The trainers from both organizations prepared the material. While CSE will mainly contribute to the theoretical part of the training along with some real life case studies on disabled people who are successfully surviving the increasing competitiveness of the job market, LPHU will contribute to the practical part where it will help the institutions to build and maintain a database about the skills supplied by the disabled people versus the skills demanded by the market in South Lebanon. In addition to the five Social Development Centers, Intersos and LPHU that were already included in the Assessment, other active local NGOs working with disabled people in the South will be targeted during the workshop to be held during the first 3 weeks of February 2011.

Micro-finance and small enterprise development:

- Utilizing the new funds allocated for micro-finance, Al Majmoua and the Association for the Development of Rural Capacities (ADR) reached a total of 33 people in the period under review (the classification of beneficiaries for each institution is illustrated in the table under output 1.3).

Project Outcomes	Indicators	Performance Indicators Phase I & II	Performance Indicators Period under review (Oct-Dec 2010)
1. Local institutions and major implementing partners in South Lebanon manage livelihoods projects applying acquired tools and methodologies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of entrepreneurial activities supported with recovered livelihoods • Number of vulnerable households regained their main source of income • % increased margin of profit of the direct beneficiaries of the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 515 entrepreneurial activities. • 446 vulnerable households regained their main source of income. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 entrepreneurial activities. • 21
2. Local institutions and major implementing partners in South Lebanon manage livelihoods projects applying acquired tools and methodologies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % stakeholders replicating same/improved learned methodologies • % of new contacts established by local institutions, & increased relation with donors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.19% (1 institution - Beekeeping Value Chain Analysis in Akkar) • Zero 	
Project Output	Indicators		
1.1 Local institutions in targeted economic sectors demonstrate enhanced managerial skills so as to effectively plan, design and implement socio-economic projects	Number of local (public, Private and civil society) institutions trained in Local Socio-Economic recovery Methodology	84 local institutions trained (7 public, 43 private and 34 civil society institutions)	
	% knowledge acquired through management training of the municipalities' representatives	Training of trainer module developed	
	% improved management practices		
1.2 Beneficiaries in the targeted economic sector in South Lebanon demonstrate enhanced technical capacities in order to improve businesses	Number of socio-economic projects funded and facilitated by ILO with the support and supervision of local stakeholders	38 projects implemented	
	Number of Sectoral Local Economic Recovery Strategies developed	2 strategies developed (Beekeeping, and Cooperatives)	
	Number of grants allocated to local entrepreneurs	8	
	Number of local micro-finance institutions supported by the project	3 MF institutions supported (ADR, Al Majmoua and Ameen)	
	Number of municipal sub-projects approved	2	
1.3 Local institutions, entrepreneurs, and marginalized groups in the targeted economic sectors in South Lebanon are supported through provision of financial services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of beneficiaries who accessed loans and grants • % of women who accessed loan and grants • % farmers who accessed loans and grants • % disabled who accessed loans and grants • % of loans and grants allocated per sector • % of loans and grants allocated per caza 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 515 beneficiary accessed loans, and 8 accessed grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 beneficiary accessed loans • 9.09% women accessed loans • 24.24% of beneficiaries who accessed loans are farmers. • No disabled people accessed loans. • Sectoral Distribution of beneficiaries who accessed loans: 18.18% fisheries, 51.51% livestock, 12.12% general agriculture, 6.07% Beekeeping, 12.12% olive. • Geographical distribution (caza) of beneficiaries who accessed loans: 3.03% from Hasbaya, 33.33% from Tyre, 6.06% from Sidon, 9.1% from Marjeyoun, 30.3% from Nabathieh, and 18.18% from Bint Jbeil.
2.1 Capacity of local stakeholders in exchanging practices is enhanced via establishing/strengthening existent fora related to the selected socio-economic sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Local Economic forums established • Improves in the financial resources and management capacity of the fora created 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Economic fora established one for Honey production and one for the cooperatives 	
Local stakeholders capacities are enhanced to replicate, plan and coordinate socio economic initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of sectoral plans developed by local stakeholders • Number of stakeholders attending sustainability workshop • Number of stakeholders using the replication guidelines in planning their socio-economic activities • %of women participating in the fora created • %of disabled participating in the fora created 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 PVCA (olive oil, beekeeping & Dairy) • 29 • Zero • 7% • Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • 7% •

Main activities undertaken and achievements:

Project Output and Activities	Work Done (October – December 2010)
Output 1.1: Local institutions in targeted economic sectors demonstrate enhanced managerial capacities so as to effectively plan design and implement socio-economic projects	<p>The Socio Economic Research Center and the Lebanese Physically handicapped Union were selected to provide the training of Integration of People with Disabilities in the Job Market. The material of the training was prepared.</p> <p>A mapping of the 10 most active NGOs working with PWDs in South Lebanon was made to target them in the training along with the 5 Social Development Centers that were included in the Organizational Capacity Assessment.</p>
Output 1.2: Beneficiaries in the targeted economic sector in South Lebanon demonstrate enhanced technical capacities in order to improve businesses	<p>A detailed project document was drafted, with the assistance of a national specialist, as a result of the assessment of the economic sectors with potentials for greening in South Lebanon, and the stakeholders' workshop which validated the assessment findings and extracted other ideas for green interventions.</p> <p>The proposal tackled an intervention that was proven, by the assessment and the stakeholders, to carry an environmental value and a relatively high employability rate.</p> <p>As a follow-up on the capacity building that was provided to the 24 cooperatives that were assessed and trained by the project extension workers, three cooperatives (Al Kfeir, Al Fardis and Al Hibbariyeh) which manifested high commitment were selected by the project to be further supported.</p> <p>Hence, 21 members of these cooperatives were provided with a training of new beekeepers. The beneficiaries will be also provided with three beehives which will allow them to start an income generating activity.</p>
Output 2.1: Capacities of local stakeholders in exchanging practices is enhanced via establishing/strengthening existent fora related to the selected socio-economic sectors.	<p>Intensive meetings were held with the members of South Lebanon Beekeepers Forum for Development and South Lebanon Cooperatives Forum for Development to validate that the material of the LED training caters to their needs.</p> <p>Moreover, both fora are preparing a one-day workshop to assess and re-shape, with key sectoral stakeholders, the strategy that each of them will draft during the LED training workshop. This one-day workshop will also grant them the opportunity to lay the final touches on the proposal of the green project that they will also develop during the LED training, so they are ready to start seeking funds.</p>
Output 2.2: Local stakeholders capacities are enhanced to replicate, plan and coordinate socio economic initiatives.	<p>A training institution was selected to provide the LED training. The material to be delivered was prepared to cater to needs highlighted by the local institutions during the Organizational Capacity Assessment, specifically in the domain of socio-economic planning and implementing.</p>

Impact assessment:

Depending on the nature of the activity, the impact of the project interventions can be determined through the performance indicators (examples: % increase in knowledge in Management skills, % participation of women...) or through the accomplishment of the milestones set in the logical framework (examples: establishment of a local forum, drafting of a sectoral strategy...).

Visibility and outreach:

- In view of its gained expertise in the area of cooperatives, the project supported the ILO Regional Office of the Arab States to organize the ILO Sub-Regional Workshop on Cooperatives which was held in Beirut, 23-26 November 2010. Its major contribution included the active participation of five extension workers who previously received a Training of Trainers from the project. Moreover, two major cooperatives from South Lebanon, which were assessed and underwent capacity building by the extension workers, also participated. The cooperatives and the extension workers were hence provided with the opportunity to network with cooperatives from the region, to study common threats and opportunities, and to present the capacity building package that was provided by the LSER project as a pilot case for potential replication in other contexts.

Challenges faced:

- Concerning the support to be provided by the project to the Social Development Centres, there was an incompatibility between the needs and demands raised by the Ministry of Social Affairs and the support that can be provided by the project. While the Ministry requested the ILO to finance the procurement of equipment for the networking of one Social Development Centre in the South to the Ministry of Social Affairs in Beirut, the project proposed the provision of soft assistance whereby officials from selected Social Development Centres were identified to participate in capacity building workshops for the integration of PWDs in the job market. This type of assistance ensured the added value of ILO's intervention.
- The lack of statistical data in Lebanon makes it hard to measure the impact of the project interventions when it comes to the change of household or individual income, to number of people involved in the sectoral activities, etc...

Lessons learned:

- Major efforts are to be made to maintain a healthy relationship with counterparts such as ministries and governmental departments, and continuous communication is required to achieve consensus and compromises on interventions and best practices.

Work plan:

LSEER WORK PLAN 2011

ACTIVITY	Duration	Jan	Feb	Mar
Output 1.1: Local institutions in targeted economic sectors demonstrate enhanced managerial capacities so as to effectively plan design and implement socio-economic projects				
Activity 1.1.1: Capacity building of local institutions through trainings tailored to address the gaps identified through the institutional capacities' assessment. (Training on Integration of People with Disabilities in the Job Market)	1 month			
Output 1.3 Local institutions, entrepreneurs, and marginalized groups in the targeted economic sectors in South Lebanon are supported through provision of financial services.				
Activity 1.3.1 Provision of funds to local implementing partners to implement sectoral economic activities (as prioritized by the PVCA workshops). Green Jobs' Projects implementation	3 months			
Activity 1.3.4: Provision of micro loans to micro entrepreneurs and members of cooperatives	3 months			
Output 2.2: : Local stakeholders capacities are enhanced to replicate, plan and coordinate socio economic initiatives				
Activity 2.2.1: Mapping and documentation of successful local integrated projects and preparation of replication guidelines for the second phase of the project	2 Months			
Activity 2.2.2: Conducting a sustainability workshop to ensure handover of the project achievements to the local stakeholders,	1 week			
Activity 2.2.3: Delivery of training to national stakeholders on designing LER/LED plans.	1 month			

Annex I: Project initiatives

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Organization	International Labour Organization
Project Title	Cooperative Development in South Lebanon
Sector	Cooperatives
Needs to be addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of extension workers skilled in providing adequate cooperatives' managerial and technical support. ▪ Lack of management and cooperative understanding. ▪ Lack of marketing strategies and channels. ▪ Lack of clear work plans for cooperative work in South Lebanon
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The cooperative extension workers, will deliver necessary support services to promote and develop local cooperatives, improve their management performance, increase volume of business and number of members, using participatory approaches and training methods.
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5 to 7 cooperatives improved their managerial and technical skills ▪ Participants in the training, are evaluated to test the level of knowledge acquired through the trainings
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessment and analyses ▪ Conducting trainings ▪ Conducting meetings with Board Of Directors ▪ Conducting trainings for the Board Of Directors
Duration	6 months
Cost	USD\$ 24,300
Local partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agricultural Cooperative of Bint Jbeil ▪ Regional Cooperative Union in South Lebanon ▪ Cooperative Union for Development in the South (ARD) ▪ Cooperative of Agriculture and Beekeeping in Maroun Ar-Ras ▪ Cooperative of Tobacco Planting and its Productivity Enhancement in the South ▪ Rmeich Cooperative for Agricultural and Livestock Development ▪ Cooperative Association for Jabal Amel Beekeepers ▪ Cooperative Association for Agriculture of Mahrouna ▪ Cooperative Association of Production and Processing of Agricultural Products/ Deir Kanoun Ras El Ein ▪ Cooperative Association for Agricultural and Livestock Development/ Haloussieh ▪ The Agricultural Cooperative of Ain Tenta
Funding Source	Lebanon Recovery Fund

ONGOING PROJECTS

Organization	International Labour Organization
Project Title	Support to Alternative Agriculture: Oregano – South Lebanon
Sector	Beekeeping
Needs to be addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A high concentration of beekeepers on little pastures. ▪ Deterioration of forestation in Lebanon generally, and in South Lebanon specifically. ▪ Lack of irrigation systems in the oregano agriculture. ▪ Low oregano supply when compared to demand. ▪ Decrease of wild oregano quantities caused by early harvesting. ▪ Lack of natural treatment for bees' diseases (oregano's oil has proved to be an efficient natural treatment for Varroa).
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generate sustainable local income and create local employment opportunities in South Lebanon through pursuing the production of thyme and its bi-products.
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A total of 115 donoms planted with oregano. ▪ A total of 115 farmers trained on efficient oregano farming techniques.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Selecting 28 villages to be targeted by the project. ▪ Selecting 115 beneficiaries in all the 28 villages. ▪ Plantation of 115 donoms with 5000 thyme plants each.
Duration	4 months
Cost	USD\$ 127,290
Local partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Syndicate of Agricultural Laborers in South Lebanon ▪ Labour Union for the Syndicates of the Employees and Laborers of the South ▪ Cooperative Union for Development in the South ▪ Cooperative of Tobacco Planting and its Productivity Enhancement in the South ▪ Jihad Al Binaa Development Association ▪ The Association of Environment Friends ▪ Cooperative Association for Agriculture of Mahrouna ▪ Cooperative Association of Production and Processing of Agricultural Products/ Deir Kanoun Ras El Ein ▪ Cooperative Association for Agricultural and Livestock Development/ Haloussieh ▪ The Agricultural Cooperative of Ein Tenta
Funding Source	Lebanon Recovery Fund

ONGOING PROJECTS

Organization	International Labour Organization
Project Title	Business Management Training and Micro Finance for Small and Medium entrepreneurs in South Lebanon
Sector	Small Enterprise Development and Micro Finance
Needs being addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Urgent need for a prompt basic economic recovery and supporting the strategic economic activities in a sustainable manner. ▪ Lack of practical business management tools ▪ Lack of skilled facilitators for BMT. ▪ Small Enterprises not able to access micro-finance.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The local beneficiaries (most vulnerable population, micro and enterprises, women business associations, people with disability) will receive through Local stakeholders (Al Majmoua, ADR) concrete business management skills and financial support through micro credits to recover economic activity.
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approximately 110 micro, small and medium enterprises receive micro-credit and business management training through Al Majmoua and ADR in South Lebanon to enable them to start or improve their businesses.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Selection of Micro-finance institutions and facilitators to participate in training ▪ Organization of focus groups to discover areas of focus for the BMT ▪ Organization of the Training course on Making Micro-Finance Work
Duration	8 months
Cost	USD\$ 150,000
Local partner	Al Majmoua, ADR
Funding source	LRF Funds
Status	approved

ONGOING PROJECTS

Organization	International Labour Organization
Project Title	Capacity Building of Potential Partner Institutions
Sector	NA
Needs being addressed	Lack of basic capacities among the majority of partner institutions in the following aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Governance ▪ HR Management ▪ Financial Management and Budgeting ▪ Small Enterprises not able to access micro-finance.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhancing the implementation capacities of local institutions and major implementing partners in South Lebanon in managing livelihood projects through application of acquired tools and methodologies
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Targeted institutions participated in the organized training workshops. ▪ Capacities of targeted institutions enhanced in the tackled domains.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Train partners on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a- Adopting a Mission, a Vision, and Values, and b- Strategically planning to serve these MVVs. c- Writing proposals that help them in mobilizing funds for their strategic activities d- Writing progress reports e- Strengthening computing skills f- Strengthening accountancy and budgeting g- Integrating People with Disabilities in the job market ▪ Equip partner institutions to target PWDs.
Duration	6 months
Cost	USD\$ 37,500
Local partner	NA
Funding source	LRF Funds
Status	approved

Annex II: List of assessed Institutions

- 1 Syndicate of the Fishermen of the South
- 2 Union of Municipalities of Tyre
- 3 Caritas
- 4 ADR
- 5 Intersos
- 6 Ricerca e Cooperazione
- 7 Cedar Environmental
- 8 JBDA
- 9 Nature Sport
- 10 LPHU
- 11 SDC - Hasbayya
- 12 SDC – Ayta Ac-Chaab
- 13 SDC - Ansar
- 14 SDC - Tyre
- 15 SDC – Bint Jbeil
- 16 Al Majmoua
- 17 Al Kard Al Hasan
- 18 South Lebanon Beekeeping Forum for Development
- 19 General Confederation Lebanese Workers (CGTL)