



## PROGRESS REPORT

<b>Reporting UN Organization</b>	: <b>United Nations Development Programme</b>
<b>Country</b>	: <b>Lebanon</b>
<b>Project No.</b>	: 00072768
<b>Project Title</b>	: <b><u>Recovery of Nahr El Bared Surrounding Lebanese Communities Affected by the 2006 and 2007 conflicts</u></b>
<b>LRF Signature date</b>	: May 29, 2009
<b>Project Start date</b>	: August 2009*
<b>Project Timeframe</b>	: <b>18 months</b>
<b>Reporting Period</b>	: <b>01 October – 31 December 2010</b>

\*Please note that, while the funds were released in August 2009, the Lebanon Country Office only received them by October 2009. Implementation only started from October 2009 onwards. The project document was revised and signed. Accordingly the end date is 28 February 2011.

### I. PURPOSE

#### Project Summary:

The main objective of the project is to promote the social cohesion through restoring and improving livelihoods, capacity building and local level dialogue. The project is designed to restore livelihoods of 2,000 vulnerable households (13,400 individuals) in 28 communities of North Lebanon who have sustained significant direct or indirect losses related to the Nahr el Bared conflict in 2007. Additionally, the project aims to provide a solid platform for development efforts in the area, by increasing local capacities of participatory planning, management and implementation of development programmes, as well as, promoting local level dialogue.

#### Project Objective:

#### Project Outputs:

1. Livelihoods of farmers, fishermen and SME owners improved through socio-economic interventions targeting training, technical and asset needs
2. Living conditions and livelihoods of communities improved through small scale infrastructure projects
3. Dialogue improved through local level interventions, particularly targeting youth

#### Project Linkages to National Priorities and Reconstruction Goals:

The project links into the national priority “*National capacities of crisis prevention and recovery enhanced, including disaster management, mine action, youth and reconciliation and Lebanese-Palestinian dialogue*” of the UNDP Country Programme Document 2010-2014, specifically under

Outcome 2 of the priority “Living conditions and trust in Palestinian and Lebanese surrounding communities improved”.

**Project Implementation Partners:**

FAO, ILO

**II. RESOURCES**

**Total budget approved** : 2,500,000 USD

**Total disbursements as for 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2010** : 688,038.89 USD

**Commitments for next quarter** : 1,812,000 USD

**Available Balance** : 1,084,802 USD

661 333.36

CATEGORY	TOTAL BUDGET (USD)	TOTAL EXP (USD) to Date
1. Personnel (Incl. staff and consultants)	235,400 USD	184,904
2. Contracts (Incl. companies, professional services)	1,530,000 USD	379,824
3. Training	285,000 USD	
4. Transport	4,000 USD	2,802.03
5. Supplies and commodities	2,000 USD	22,074
6. Equipment	80,000 USD	26,717.33
7. Travel	80,000 USD	
8. Miscellaneous	120,000 USD	26,705.53
9. Agency Management Support	163,548 USD	45,012
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,500.000 USD</b>	<b>688,038.89</b>

**III. RESULTS**

**Progress in Project Implementation:**

Based on the results of the agricultural assessment conducted, an action plan for the whole intervention targeting green houses and olive sector was elaborated and agreed upon with the Ministry of Agriculture, with support from FAO. The project will be a pilot to inform the elaboration of the national strategy on greenhouses being currently drafted by the Ministry of Agriculture;

Following an expert mission from FAO HQ, technical specifications were prepared for green houses as well as olive harvesters. The identification of the farmers who will benefit from assets provided by the project was a time consuming process due to the lack of information on farmers at national as well as local levels;

The identification of the agricultural cooperatives receiving the olive harvesters was finalized and the procurement for the harvesters is underway. A total of 28 harvesters will be provided for 2 cooperatives benefiting a cluster of villages with at least 120 active farmers;

A comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment was undertaken to inform the implementation of an Olive Solid Waste Composting Facility, benefiting four cooperatives. Procurement for the facility has been done and the contractor has signed the contract. The contractor is currently finalizing the implementation methodology and the works will start on 24th January and will last for 8 weeks as per

the contract;

A consultant is working with the 4 cooperatives benefiting from the Olive Solid Waste Composting Facility and 2 cooperatives receiving the olive harvesters to strengthen their skills in managing the cooperatives, including in financial management and how to better provide services.

A cooperative for women working in the nets knitting and rehabilitation was set-up and is now a legal entity. Five board members and the President of the Cooperative were elected by the women at the end of the year.

The women received training on cooperative's management including the preparation of the annual report to the government, the accounting requirements and procedures as well as on members and volunteers mobilization. Hands-on training on the elaboration of a marketing plan for the cooperative is now being implemented, in order to identify possible clients in various areas on the coast of Lebanon.

With technical assistance being provided by Hopitaux Universitaires de Geneve, the women working on the net rehabilitation identified options to make their work more efficient and would reduce adverse health effects resulting from bad working conditions. Procurement is now underway for better lighting, seating and the design of a specific device to improve the women's working conditions. 130 women are direct beneficiaries of this initiative. Best practices and exercises to improve the health conditions of the targeted women have been introduced and monitoring is being conducted through a group of women who piloted the introduction of new working tools and approaches.

A local NGO, Al Majmoua has provided 75 loans to -date to micro and small enterprises in North Lebanon, affected by the crisis in NBC. This activity has experienced some difficulties given the limited capacity of Al Majmoua, competition from other micro finance institutions in the area, and some reluctance on the part of business owners to look into micro credit options, after benefiting from grants in the aftermath of the NBC crisis. UNDP is working closely with ILO and Al Majmoua in order to identify possible beneficiaries in the context of its work with farmers and fishermen, and through the mobilization of the communities and municipalities in the targeted areas. For example, some of the women engaged in net rehabilitation showed interest in this type of support, possibly through pooled loans.

Grants were given to five municipalities, Karkaf, Wadi El Jamous, Qobbet Bchamra, Hmaira and Borj El Arab, to renovate agricultural roads in order to improve the farmers' access to the markets. The works have been started in all municipalities and Karkaf municipality has already finalized all works. All the roads will be finalized before the end of January.

Training of trainers is currently on-going to support the 20 members of the cine club. The cine club includes 20 Lebanese and Palestinian youth from the targeted area. UNDP is currently in a process of providing training of trainers to the members in how to run a cine club. These youth will then work in their communities to spread peace building messages through the cinema.

A youth perception survey targeting Lebanese and Palestinian youth from the NBC/Beddawi camps and the surrounding 28 municipalities was initiated in order to provide a baseline assessment and a future guide to design peace building interventions in the region. The methodology was finalized and the questionnaire targeting 800 Palestinian and 800 Lebanese youth is underway. The survey is expected to be finalized by January 2011.

"Sports for Peace camp" gathering 75 Lebanese and Palestinians was conducted in September 2010. The youth were provided technical skills in sports whilst organizing the activities in a way of introducing conflict prevention messages. The youth were divided in mixed teams and were provided fun activities as well as informal discussion sessions to introduce conflict resolution messages.

Project Outputs	Activities	Status
<b>Output 1:</b> Livelihoods of farmers, fishermen and SME owners improved through socio-economic interventions targeting training, technical and asset needs	1.1 Designing and conducting assessments focusing on fishing and agriculture sectors	Achieved
	1.2 Building capacities of fishing and agriculture cooperatives and enhancing their productivity	On track Delays
	1.3 Training cooperative members and management on organisational, managerial, finance skills and assets	Delays
	1.4 Providing assets to fishermen and farmers and building their managerial and technical capacities	Achieved
	1.5 Conducting in-depth assessments of competitiveness in the agriculture and fishing sectors	On track On track
	1.6 Coordinating with other livelihood actors on the field with the aim to harmonise interventions	On track
	1.7 Providing business management training to SME's	On track
	1.8 Establishing a Women's Committee for the catchment area	
	1.9 Distribution microfinance loans through a local partner	
<b>Output 2:</b> Living conditions and livelihoods of communities improved through small scale infrastructure projects	2.1 Planning and implementing infrastructure projects with Municipalities through a participatory approach.	On track
	2.2 Training municipalities on infrastructure maintenance and financing of maintenance	On track
	2.3 Constructing and completing planned infrastructure projects	On track
<b>Output 3:</b> Dialogue improved through local level interventions, particularly targeting youth	3.1 Conducting youth dialogue sessions	On track
	3.2. Identifying target groups	Achieved
	3.3 Planning and completing 5 small scale youth projects in a participatory manner (including both hardware and software initiatives)	On track
	3.4 Organizing youth camps	Achieved

#### Implementation Constraints and Lessons Learned:

Joint work with other UN agencies has led to some delays. UNDP has been working with FAO for the component aimed to support the recovery of livelihoods of farmers affected by the Nahr El Bared crisis. It was agreed through consultations and the field assessment conducted that the farmers would be provided with greenhouses to support vegetable production. After the FAO Headquarters in Rome approved the original approach developed for targeting the farmers, a change in approach was requested by an expert a mission at the end of November 2010. This required a completion of a complicated and time consuming process at a late stage of the project to identify the beneficiaries for the project. The whole UNDP team and consultants were mobilized to support the process of identifying the farmers based on the set criteria. The beneficiaries have now been identified and UNDP is waiting for FAO to produce the required technical specifications to start the procurement. Finalizing the work under this component will require some more time than originally planned.

#### Key Partnerships & Collaboration

- Letter of Agreement FAO was signed.
- 6 Grant agreement contracts with Municipalities of Halba, Wadi El Jamous, Karkaf, Deir Amar, Hmaira, Borj El Arab signed
- Collaboration with MoA formalized through exchange of letters.

#### IV. FUTURE WORK PLAN

KEY MILESTONES	January				February				March			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
<b>Output 1: Livelihoods of farmers, fishermen and SME owners improved through socio-economic interventions targeting training, technical and asset needs</b>												
Activity 1.1 Designing and conducting assessments focusing on fishing and agriculture sectors												
Activity 1.2 Building capacities of fishing and agriculture cooperatives and enhancing their productivity	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Activity 1.3 Training cooperative members and management on organizational, managerial, finance skills and assets	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Activity 1.4 Providing assets to fishermen and farmers and building their managerial and technical capacities	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Activity 1.5 Conducting in-depth assessments of competitiveness in the agriculture and fishing sectors												
Activity 1.6 Coordinating with other livelihood actors on the field with the aim to harmonize interventions	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Activity 1.7 Providing business management training to SME's	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Activity 1.8 Establishing a Women's Committee for the catchment area	X	X	X	X								
Activity 1.9 Distribution microfinance loans through a local partner	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
<b>Output 2: Living conditions and livelihoods of communities improved through small scale infrastructure projects</b>												
Activity 2.1 Planning and implementing infrastructure projects with Municipalities through a participatory approach.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Activity 2.2 Training municipalities on infrastructure maintenance and financing of maintenance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Activity 2.3 Constructing and completing planned infrastructure projects	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
<b>Output 3: Dialogue improved through local</b>												

<b>level interventions, particularly targeting youth</b>												
Activity 3.1 Conducting youth dialogue sessions				X			X	X				
Activity 3.2. Identifying target groups												
Activity 3.3 Planning and completing 5 small scale youth projects in a participatory manner (including both hardware and software initiatives)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Activity 3.4 Organizing youth camps												

**Adjustments to strategies, outcomes or outputs:**

N/A
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