



LRF PROGRESS REPORT

Reporting UN Organization	: United Nations Development Programme
Country	: Lebanon
Project No.	: 00073450
Project Title	: Monitoring & Evaluation Team for the LRF
LRF Signature date	: December 15, 2009
Project Start date	: December 15, 2009
Project Timeframe	: Three years until December 2012
Reporting Period	: 2012-Q1: January – March 2012

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List of acronyms

M&E: Monitoring and Evaluation
 LRF: Lebanon Recovery Fund
 UNRCO: United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office
 FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization
 UNIDO: United Nations Industrial Development Organization
 UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
 UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund
 ILO: International Labour Organization
 UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
 MPTF: Multi-Donor Trust Fund
 PAG: Project Approval Group
 SC: Steering Committee
 HQ: Head Quarters
 Q: Quarter
 MoM: Minutes of Meeting



I. PURPOSE

Project Summary:

The M&E unit was designed to enhance the LRF monitoring mechanism by incorporating the below activities into a more coherent and efficient framework and by expanding overall oversight management. The M&E unit aims at enhancing the efficiency, preventing unnecessary expenditures and avoiding project delays. This framework will consist of:

1. An increased frequency of field trips and monitoring meetings;
2. Closer and more technical follow ups on project implementation and financial activities;
3. A continuous evaluation and objective re-assessment of project achievements against pre-set targets;
4. A support system to meet timely completion with the objective of raising the effectiveness of projects and ensure cost-efficiency in their implementation, and
5. A support system to examine the final evaluation of the projects implemented under the LRF.

Effective oversight management of the LRF projects is time-enhancing and cost-efficient to both donors and beneficiaries. And since the M&E team will oversee all aspects of the project activities, Project Managers are supported in achieving their pre-set deadlines in a timely manner. This will be advantageous to the benefactors since it will prevent the postponement of the project's activities.

Furthermore, any revisions made in the outstanding projects-such as a no cost time extension, a budget reevaluation or change in scope is effectively assessed and evaluated by the M&E team and hence, improving the cost-efficiency and decision making outcomes of those projects by the PAG team and LRF Steering Committee.

Project Objectives:

The development goal of the M&E Team is to generate a framework whereby the operation and delivery of current and prospective projects approved under the LRF are able to improve efficiency, recognize and prevent unnecessary expenditures and project delays that may arise over the present time frame of each individual project.

The immediate objective of establishing an M&E Team is to strengthen the existing LRF monitoring mechanism by improving the timeliness, cost efficiency and reliability of the current LRF project activities.

Project Outputs:

Main outputs include:

1. Support Project Managers in achieving their pre-set deadlines in a timely manner, thus working in favor of the beneficiaries of each project, and



2. Revisions made in the outstanding projects - such as a no cost time extension, a budget re-evaluation or change in scope - will be effectively assessed and evaluated by the M&E team. This will improve all decision making outcomes and will ensure compliance with the above revisions.

Project Implementation Partners and roles:

- Ministry of Economy and Trade: Chair of the LRF Steering Committee
- Prime Minister's Office: member of the LRF Steering Committee
- UNRCO: member of the LRF Steering Committee
- Ministry of Finance: member of the LRF Steering Committee
- UN Agencies (UNIDO, UNDP, FAO, UNFPA, ILO, UNESCO): implement the funds

II. RESOURCES

Total budget approved USD 200,000.00

Total disbursements as of 31 March 2012 USD 105886.84

Commitments for next quarter USD 20,000.00

Available Balance USD 94113.16

CATEGORY	TOTAL BUDGET (USD)	TOTAL EXP (USD) to Date
1. Personnel (Incl. staff and consultants)	145,101.00	81,287.25
2. Contracts (Incl. companies, professional services)		
3. Training		400.00
4. Transport		
5. Supplies and commodities	5,010	1466.04
6. Equipment	9,515	19083.97
7. Travel		58.00
8. Miscellaneous	27,289	3591.58
9. Agency Management Support	13,085	
TOTAL	200,000	105886.84



III. RESULTS

Progress in Project Implementation:

(Narrative description of activities planned to be implemented during reporting period and the progress of these activities)

Reporting

The M&E Unit received and assessed the progress of the on-going LRF projects for the 4th quarter of 2011. The amended progress reports as well as the LRF 25 Q4 progress report have been uploaded on the MPTF website. Annual reports for the ongoing projects covering January – December 2011 period were submitted, reviewed and uploaded on the gateway.

The M&E Unit was keen to improve the reporting quality as per the MPTF instructions, in coordination with the program/project managers. Therefore, focus has been made on the results achieved and impact in the field rather than activity listing in the reports.

Q1 progress reports for 2012 were received, reviewed and the amended versions will be uploaded on the MPTF website by the first week of May 2012.

Completion reports of the LRF (2, 20, 14, 19, 7, 1, 9, 22, and 6) have been reviewed, amended and posted on the MPTF website.

Extended Projects

Further to the LRF SC recommendations of 9 August 2011, were LRF 17 and 23 were granted eighteen months extension and LRF 24 seven months extension to complete their pending activities, the M&E Unit undertook the following measures to closely follow up on the progress in the field.

Monthly reports are being shared with the M&E Unit on the progress achieved by activity in line with the set up work plan for projects LRF 17 and 23. Inquiries and follow up on the delays arising during the implementation are being coordinated with the projects as well as alternative solutions to ensure the completion of the projects' activities within the extended period.

In this context, the M&E Unit organized a meeting with the LRF 24 Project Team on 30 January 2012, to follow up on the delays encountered by the projects in completing the pending activities pertaining to the following project components: (a) green houses, (b) olive solid waste treatment facility in Bkarzala, and (c) waste water treatment plant in Bkarzala. The aim of the meeting was to have a clear idea on the reasons behind the delays encountered by the project and the possible alternative measures to be adopted to overcome the constraints. The M&E Unit agreed with the Project Team to visit the sites in early April 2012.



A schedule of sites visits has been set up with the projects' teams based on the initiation of each of the activities listed in the work plans.

The M&E Unit shared the projects' updates with the PAG and the LRF SC.

Extension Request for LRF 18 Project "Recovery Coordination Support in Lebanon"

The LRF 18 project has been successfully completed and operationally closed by the end of December 2011, with a remaining balance of USD 26,000. The PAG recommended having the project extended until end of 2012 to provide the resources available to implement relevant activities for the replenishment of the LRF.

Hence, the SC agreed to grant a no-cost time extension for LRF 18 Project to end on 31 December 2012 and requested the PAG to prepare a concept note, resources mobilization strategy and action plan for the replenishment of the LRF.

A draft concept note has been prepared by the RCO and shared with the M&E Unit for inputs. The M&E Unit believes that approaching the potential Donors with specific ideas and goals, very well tailored to the areas of focus would be an asset for the LRF to obtain a share from the allocated funds for Lebanon.

LRF video

The M&E Unit presented to the LRF SC the LRF documentary on 7 February 2012 for approval. The SC recommended producing a shorter version with a maximum of 8 minutes as the original versions duration is short for the video spot and lengthy for the full documentary.

Consequently, four versions of the video were produced:

- A 13 minutes version
- An 8 minutes version complying to the LRF SC recommendations
- A spot of 53 seconds
- A spot of 1.25 minutes

The 4 versions will be available on DVD. The LRF video is to be used by the Ministers and the PAG in the process of resource mobilization for the LRF phase II.

LRF newsletters and website

The M&E Unit has designed and produced the third issue of the LRF newsletter in collaboration with the Information Unit at the RCO. The newsletter is to be distributed to the partnering UN Agencies as well as the partnering Ministries and Donors.

Furthermore, the M&E Unit and the Information Unit at the RCO undertook a joint initiative to re-structure and update the LRF webpage on the UN website. The LRF webpage is to include information and materials related to the History of the fund, its objectives, managerial structure, and the funded projects by sectors, the updated financial figures, the



main publications, in addition to a photo gallery and the video documentary. The LRF webpage is expected to be available online during the second quarter of 2012 and shall be continuously updated

LRF call for proposals

A funding of USD 2.1 million available under the LRF envelope was launched in November 2011 for which eight project proposals were received and evaluated by the LRF Project Approval Group totaling USD 7.1 million. The M&E unit provided technical support to the PAG to undertake the project proposals' evaluation process.

The project proposals were initially screened by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO). and the PAG evaluated and scored the proposals

The proposals' evaluation process resulted in approving to fund the FAO project entitled: "Recovery and Rehabilitation of the Dairy Sector in Bekaa Valley and Hermel-Akkar Uplands Phase II" for a total amount of USD 1.2 million.

This project will build on the LRF-21's activities to reach a higher number of beneficiaries in the dairy sector in Lebanon. Aiming at improving the quality and hygienic standards of milk and dairy products to safeguard the Lebanese consumer and improve the milk prices. The project targets 2000 farmers, who will draw direct benefits from the project interventions (e.g. distribution of project inputs, livestock services and milk services). Additional 1000 farmers will draw indirect benefits from the project through milk collection, cooling and transport services as well as training sessions.

However, four projects accrued more than 50% of the score, hence the SC members agreed to reassess these projects recommending further improvement with regard to their situation analysis and needs assessment, design, feasibility and management arrangement. Relevant UN Agencies were requested to do the amendments and upgrading needed to the project proposals in response to the PAG and SC comments.

LRF Events

As part of the monitoring process, the M&E Unit attended the following events organized by different on-going LRF projects.

LRF 21:

The LRF 21 project (Recovery and Rehabilitation Project of the Dairy Sector in the Beqaa, and Hermel – Akkar Uplands) held a launching ceremony on 5 February 2012, at the Chamber of Economy and Trade in Beqaa to sign the contracts and announce the new milk price set at L.L. 1,025/liter instead of L.L. 800 as set formerly.

This improvement in the milk price will be supported by a moving scale that takes into consideration the unstable price of the concentrated feeds. A joint committee including the farmers, the dairy



industry owners, and the Ministry of Agriculture will set convenient prices regularly.

LRF 1-10-16:

- CEDRO Project launched a Renewable Energy Competition for the Municipalities in Lebanon. All the Municipalities were invited to submit a Renewable Energy and/or Energy Efficiency project proposal before 30 September 2011 for a chance to win one of three project grants amounting to LBP 180,000,000.
The Municipalities of Aley, Kobayat and Roumin won each a grant of LBP 60,000,000 to implement their projects in collaboration with CEDRO's Team.
Grants were distributed to the winners in a ceremony held at the UNDP HQ on 17 February 2012, in the presence of H.E. the Ambassador of Spain, Mr. Juan Carlos Gavo.
- CEDRO project launched as well A "Nature Festival" Play at the UNESCO Palace on 20 February 2012, under the patronage of H.E. the President of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Najib Mikati.
The play, jointly produced by UNDP Energy and Environment Program and Bee Event, addresses the critical environmental issues and challenges facing Lebanon, and aims at raising awareness at the primary education level in all the Lebanese Schools.
The play is produced in an accessible format designed especially for children. It tackles the issues of climate change, the benefits of energy and water conservation, and renewable energy. As well, it presents solutions and practical examples to protect the environment.
"Nature Festival" will be played in almost all the Lebanese public and private schools in many Lebanese regions.
- Under the patronage of H.E. the Minister of Energy and Water, Gebran Bassil, and the presence of H.E. the Ambassador of Spain, Juan Carlos Gavo, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Robert Watkins; CEDRO project has launched the National Bioenergy Strategy for Lebanon, on 5 March 2012 at the Habtoor Hotel. The strategy aims at mapping the biomass streams including the organic part of the municipal solid waste in each of the Lebanese area and the convenient techniques for power production.

LRF 23:

The LRF 23 project (Hydro Agriculture Development Project) held its first stakeholder meeting on 24 January 2012 at the Holiday Inn Dunes Hotel, in the presence of H.E. the Ambassador of Spain, Mr. Juan Carlos Gavo, the Country Director of UNDP, Mr. Seifeldin Abbato and representatives from the Litani River Authority, in addition to the project's Team, the concerned UN Agencies and the government counterparts.

Discussions focused on the success of the Water User Associations (WUAs) in a centralized Governmental system, the necessity for a revision of the proposed costs for water usage, the water quality problems in the Litani river basin and the Qaraoun lake, the agricultural guidance and its importance on the national level, the sustainability of the project after implementation and the project importance on the national level as a pilot.



Project Outputs	Activities	Indicators
<p>Support Project Managers in achieving their pre-set deadlines in a timely manner, thus working in favor of the beneficiaries of each project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly review of the progress reports submitted by the projects; inquiries, comments and suggestions are shared with the program managers with regard to the obstacles faced and the alternative measures to be adopted to overcome the constraints. Monthly reports coordinated between the implementing UN Agencies and the M&E Unit have resulted in pointing out the obstacles facing the projects' implementation Coordination meetings with the projects' teams to assess the progress made and the obstacles facing the implementation. 	<p>Activities completed as per the projects' set up work plans; Obstacles assessed and alternative measures coordinated with the LRF PAG and SC;</p>
<p>Revisions made in the outstanding projects - such as a no cost time extension, a budget re-evaluation or change in scope - will be effectively assessed and evaluated by the M&E team. This will improve all decision making outcomes and will ensure compliance with the above revisions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic sites visits to assess the progress achieved. Periodic updates to the LRF PAG and SC on the progress achieved and the obstacles faced. Production of a video documentary to reflect the outcomes of the LRF projects for resources mobilization purposes. Production of LRF Quarterly newsletter to disseminate the success achieved by the LRF projects. Attendance of the LRF projects' events to promote the LRF visibility as funding party. 	<p>MoM</p> <p>Video produced and finalized</p> <p>Newsletter produced and disseminated</p>

IV. Implementation Constraints and Lessons Learned:

Constraints:

- a- The progress reports still lack complete information on the progress achieved on site and the impact made by the LRF projects' interventions. This is resulting in drafting more than one version of each of the progress reports to answer the M&E inquiries which focus on the achievements and impact rather than activity listing. This is being time consuming for both the M&E Unit and the implementing UN Agencies.
- b- Bureaucratic procedures in the Ministries are resulting in delaying few activities related to the LRF visibility as well as the approval of new projects.

Lessons Learned:

- a- To overcome the time consuming issue with the LRF progress reports, the M&E Unit conducted individual meetings with the project/program managers to emphasize the required info to be included in the progress reports in addition to focus on the coordination terms between the implementing UN Agencies and the M&E Unit vis-à-vis the visibility of the LRF fund as funding party. The M&E Unit requested the implementing UN Agencies to include the LRF Logo on their individual webpages and newsletters as well as on all the publications produced by the projects.
- b- Monthly reports were requested from the implementing UN Agencies to assess the progress made vis-à-vis the set work plans.
- c- Periodic site visits were undertaken to assess the progress on site and meet with the beneficiaries for feedback on the impact.
- d- Participation in the LRF projects' major events.
- e- Close follow-up with the designated focal points at the Ministries and at the PMO.

V. FUTURE WORK PLAN

KEY MILESTONES	April-12				May-12				June-12			
	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4
Coordinate with Project/program managers												
Manage projects progress reports												
Manage annual project reports												
Develop and manage LRF 25 progress and annual reports												
Contribute to the LRF consolidated reports												
Attend project publicity events and provide guidance												
Conduct field visits to assess project progress												

Coordinate with RCO												
Coordinate with MoET												
Provide technical support to the SC												
Provide technical support to the PAG												
Manage and support the management of LRF visibility (LRF video, website, newsletter...)												
Support resource mobilization for new LRF phases												
Liaise and cultivate cooperation relationships with LRF stakeholders												
Maintains library of key assessments, evaluations, lessons learned and surveys												