

To: Mr. Robert Watkins
UN Resident Coordinator
Lebanon

Date: 12th December 2011

From: Ms. Sophie de Caen
Director
MDG-F Secretariat



Subject: No-cost extension request: MDGF-1976 – *“Conflict prevention and peace building in North Lebanon”*
Conflict Prevention and Peace Building - Thematic Window

I. Approval Status

We are pleased to inform you that, as per your request, the MDG-F Secretariat has granted the Joint Programme *“Conflict prevention and peace building in north Lebanon”* a no cost extension of six (6) months. Thus, the new end date of the Joint Programme is 31 August 2012. Please note that this is a one-time only amendment intended to allow the Joint Programme to complete its activities and achieve its expected results. At this end date, the programme should be operationally closed, so that no new financial commitments are made, only outstanding payments. Any unspent funds within the agreed timeframe (31 August 2012) will have to be disbursed to the MDG-F.

II. Recommendations

It is recommended that the following aspects are taken into account:

- **The team should ensure that the coordination amongst partners continues to take place during the extension period to avoid further fragmentation of the intervention.** Evidence coming from 128 JPs clearly shows that the success of the programmes is closely linked to the existence of a JP coordinator that can ensure the coherence among the various components. In the case of this JP, even though the initial design did not foresee such role, this aspect was improved during the implementation phase and the team was able to undertake key joint exercises such as the strategic revision of the intervention, the midterm evaluation and a subsequent improvement phase and the development of the exit strategy and sustainability plan. We welcome the fact that the RCO will be allocating its own resources to support the coordination role during this period although we strongly recommend that the team makes sure that these are enough to cover all the crucial tasks during this final phase, including:
 - ✓ Systematization of lessons learned and participation in the ongoing knowledge management thematic initiative;
 - ✓ Follow up to key actions required to ensure sustainability (signature of MOUs, institutionalization of local consultative mechanisms, etc.);
 - ✓ Bi-annual and final reporting and;
 - ✓ Support to the final evaluation among others.
- **The improvement plan should be implemented and updated until fully completed.** Some of the actions proposed still require some explanation on their current status, for instance:

- ✓ 1.5 Have the RWGs in NBC/BC been reactivated?
 - ✓ 6.1 Has the implementation of the activity on labor rights started as agreed in the September meeting? If not, what is the alternative? The work plan for the extension period does not include this activity; is this because the campaign will be implemented before March 2012?
 - ✓ 7.3 has the report on gender based needs been disseminated and, most importantly, has it been used to adjust certain aspects of the overall joint programme implementation so that gender approach is included?
- **The exit and sustainability strategy should guide the implementation from now until the end of the implementation.** This aspect should be closely monitored in particular regarding the socio-economic initiatives in the Akkar area.

III. Monitoring and Reporting

Quarterly color-coded annual work plans, and biannual monitoring reports should continue to be prepared and submitted to the MDG-F Secretariat. Please be reminded that each Joint Programme is responsible for conducting its final evaluation prior to the closure of the programme and sharing the final report with the MDG-F Secretariat.

We would highly appreciate it if you could forward this memo to all participating UN agencies to the joint programme, and each participating UN agency should forward the memo to their corresponding HQs. Further information on the closure of programmes is available on the revised "MDG-F Joint Implementation Guidelines" uploaded on the MDG-F website (www.mdgfund.org).

With best wishes.

cc.:

Mr. Bisrat Aklilu, Executive Coordinator, Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office
Ms. Amat Al Aleem Alsoswa, Assistant Administrator and Director Bureau for Arab States, UNDP, New York
Ms. Sigrid Kaag, Assistant Secretary-General and Assistant Administrator of the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, UNDP, New York
Ms. Deborah Landey, Director, United Nations Development Operations Coordinator Office (DOCO)
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