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**LEBANON RECOVERY FUND**

**MPTF OFfice GENERIC ANNUAL programme[[1]](#footnote-1) NARRATIVE progress report**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 january – 31 December 2016**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Programme Title & Project Number |  | Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results[[2]](#footnote-2) |
| * Programme Title: M&E team for the LRF
* Programme Number *LRF 25*
* MPTF Office Project Reference Number:[[3]](#footnote-3)00073340
 | *Country/Region*Lebanon |
| *Priority area/ strategic results* |
| Participating Organization(s) |  | Implementing Partners |
| * Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme

*UNDP* | * National counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations

*Ministry of Economy & Trade* |
| Programme/Project Cost (US$) |  | Programme Duration |
| Total approved budget as per project document: 643,304 USD(including cost extensions)MPTF /JP Contribution[[4]](#footnote-4):  |  |  | Overall Duration *(months)* *96 months* |  |
|  |  |  | Start Date[[5]](#footnote-5) *17 Dec 2009* |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Current End date[[6]](#footnote-6)*31 Dec 2017* |  |
| TOTAL: 643,304 USD |  |  |  |  |
| Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval. |  | Report Submitted By |
| Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach* Yes No Mid-Term Evaluation Report *– if applicable please attach* Yes No  | * Name: Rony Gedeon
* Title: Planning and Coordination Specialist
* Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP / RC Office
* Email address: rony.gedeon@one.un.org
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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

# NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

# Purpose

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.

# Results

1. **Narrative reporting on results:**

 **Monitoring of LRF projects**

The M&E unit monitored the progress of the LRF ongoing projects during 2016 in relation to the planned outcomes in the projects’ documents, approved by the steering committee. The unit also ensured a close review of narrative and financial reports of ongoing projects in close cooperation with the implementing agencies, in order to highlight results and impact of the LRF activities. The final versions of the reports are uploaded on the MPTF gateway.

In addition, the M&E unit conducted field/office visits to projects’ regions and staff to better assess the projects’ progress and to obtain feedback of beneficiaries and local stakeholders where possible.

During 2016, the M&E unit also initiated the operational closure of the LRF 29 and LRF 31 projects in close collaboration with the government counterparts as well as UNDP and UNHCR as the recipient UN organizations. The two final narrative reports are posted on the MPTF gateway.

**Visibility of the LRF**

The M&E unit provided guidance and support to the ongoing projects on adhering to the visibility guidelines for LRF projects during outreach activities and public events and in the case of distribution of materials highlighting the support of the trust fund and the donors where relevant.

**Proposal submission and review:**

In result to new funds received in 2015, a call for proposal was submitted to the earmarked UN agencies. The M&E unit worked closely with UNDP and UNHCR in the submission of the project proposals and in collaboration with the relevant government counterparts. The UNHCR project was approved, funded and completed during this reporting period and the final report is posted on the MPTF gateway. For UNDP, the initial proposal was withdrawn and a new initiative is being currently finalized in consultation with relevant government counterparts, which will be submitted for review/funding during the second quarter of 2017.

**Support to the LRF resource mobilization:**

The M&E unit facilitated the execution of a new contribution from the government of India in close coordination with the chair of the LRF steering committee and the MPTF Office. The funds are transferred to the LRF account and are ready for programming by the steering committee.

**Review of the LRF:**

The M&E unit supported an internal review of the fund that was conducted in 2016 by representatives from the MoET, RCO and Embassy of Germany, upon the request of the Steering Committee. The review entailed an extensive consultation with government, UN and donor counterparts. The review aimed to draw lessons learned from the past operations, assess the fund’s relevance in the context of a prolonged Syria crisis and propose way forward based on international best practices while taking into account national circumstances. The review report has been widely disseminated to national and international partners and will be discussed at the next steering committee meeting in the first quarter of 2017.

**ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Project Outputs | Activities | Indicators |
| **Support Project Managers in achieving their pre-set deadlines in a timely manner, thus working in favor of the beneficiaries of each project** | * Monitoring of the projects’ progress conducted on continuous basis.
* Technical support to project teams with regard to the implementation challenges and corrective measures.
* Coordinating with the implementing UN agencies and government counterparts to guarantee the timely submission of LRF reports through the MPTF Gateway.
 | * Activities completed as per the projects’ set up work plans
* Revised projects and updated work plans
* Reports uploaded to the MPTF website <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/LRF00>
 |
| **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.** | * Periodic site visits to assess the progress achieved.
* Periodic updates to the LRF PAG and SC on the progress achieved and the obstacles faced.
 | Debriefing meetingsPAG and SC minutes of meeting |

**Lessons Learned:**

1. In the aftermath of the 2006 conflict, the LRF demonstrated strategic value in enabling rapid mobilization of financing for urgent reconstruction and recovery projects, as evidenced by the levels of capitalization (which were the highest during 2006-2008);
2. In the absence of a specific results framework and financing strategy, LRF capitalization remained low and only USD 7.3 million were contributed to the LRF since 2013. Lack of donor marketing and resource mobilization on ad-hoc basis also limited the capitalization of the LRF post 2008.
3. Among the two principal pooled funds in Lebanon, there is an absence of alignment between LRF and WB MDTF which has created unnecessary competition and missed opportunities to seek complementarities and synergies as evidenced from other countries where UN and WB have aligned/linked MDTFs.
4. The key lesson learned is that the LRF’s governance arrangements have been and remain largely successful and effective in a) ensuring broad representation and government ownership; b) serving as an effective and efficient mechanism for reviewing, approving and monitoring funding allocations; c) funding decisions even in the context of a difficult institutional environment and (d) providing visibility to donors’ contributions and international partners representation.
1. The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document; [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org/) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)