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**Lebanon Recovery Fund**

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

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 january – 31 December 2013**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Programme Title & Project Number | |  | Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results[[2]](#footnote-2) | |
| * Programme Title: Reviving Farmers’ Livelihood in South Lebanon * Programme Number: LRF 28 * MPTF Office Project Reference Number:[[3]](#footnote-3)00086602 | | *Lebanon / Nabatieh - South Region* | |
| *Local governance structures in target under-served regions strengthened for better representation, participation, and basic local services delivery.* | |
| Participating Organization(s) | |  | Implementing Partners | |
| * UNDP | | National counterparts:   * Ministry of Agriculture * Municipality of Nabatieh | |
| Programme/Project Cost (US$) | |  | Programme Duration | |
| Total approved budget as per project document: USD 700,000  MPTF /JP Contribution[[4]](#footnote-4):   * *USD 700,000* |  |  | Overall Duration *(19 months)* |  |
| Agency Contribution   * *UNDP: USD 69,300 in-kind* |  |  | Start Date[[5]](#footnote-5) *(01.05.2013)* |  |
| Government Contribution   * *Ministry of Agriculture: USD 111,000 in-kind* * *Municipality of Nabatieh:*   *USD 600,000 Cash*  *USD 83,000 In-kind* |  |  | Original End Date*[[6]](#footnote-6)* *(31.12.2014)* |  |
|  |  |  | Current End date[[7]](#footnote-7)*(31.12.2014)* |  |
| TOTAL: USD 1,563,300 |  |  |  |  |
| Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval. | |  | Report Submitted By | |
| Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*  Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*  Mid-Term Evaluation Report *– if applicable please attach*  Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy* | | * Name: Hussein Nasrallah * Title: Project Manager * Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP * Email address: [hussein.nasrallah@undp-lebprojects.org](mailto:hussein.nasrallah@undp-lebprojects.org) | |

### List of Acronyms

BOQ: Bill of Quantities

CDR: Council of Development and Reconstruction

MoA: Ministry of Agriculture

MoN: Municipality of Nababtieh

TOR: Terms of Reference

UNDP: United Nations Development Program

# NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

* The Municipality of Nabatieh and the Ministry of Agriculture have conducted a preliminary needs assessment of the site. Engineers developed the architectural, structural, electronic and mechanical executive maps before the preparation of the BOQ of quantities and price. Accordingly, TOR was prepared and shared with UNDP HQ for approval. The MoA focal point met with the MoN and agreed on the structure of the agricultural extension services that the Market will provide.

# Purpose

**Intended Outcome as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resource Framework:** Local governance structures in target under-served regions strengthened for better representation, participation, and basic local services delivery.

**Output indicators as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resources Framework:** Capacities of institutions and community groups strengthened for effective formulation and implementation of decentralized policies and regional and local development plans including women and youth.

The overall aim of the project is to sustain and strengthen the agricultural sector and support rural development in South Lebanon, specifically Nabatieh Muhafazat. The project will contribute to expand livelihood opportunities for vegetable farmers in South Lebanon through the establishment of a market place. This will contribute to reducing transaction costs and strengthen access to extension services to improve post-production stages which are at the heart of sector’s vulnerability. The project will benefit 426,000 Lebanese residents, including 8,000 fruit and vegetable producers[[8]](#footnote-8), and will serve as a pilot model to be replicated in other rural areas in Lebanon.

The project aims at reducing farmer poverty and vulnerability in South Lebanon, focusing on Nabatieh as a pilot area. The immediate overall objective of the project is to promote rural development and alleviate poverty through overcoming agricultural constraints and assisting the small and poor farmers in reducing the production costs, increasing its quality and overcoming post-harvesting barriers. The integrated intervention will serve a double purpose:

* The establishment of a wholesale vegetable and fruit farmers’ market in Nabatieh city granting a safe and regulated place for the direct sale by the farmers,
* The provision of essential extension services to improve post-production stages.

# Results

**Expected Result 1: A farmers’ market in Nabatieh city is established.**

* Preparation of technical feasibility study for the market site

The Municipality of Nabatieh and the Ministry of Agriculture have conducted a preliminary needs assessment of the site. The wholesale vegetable and fruit market requires the following elements: a cement wholesale building, a cement administrative building, a corridor tent, a hangar, asphalting for car and truck paths, a fence, a herbs garden and accessible footpaths, in addition to the extension services.

A comprehensive study is required prior to proceeding with the contracting process. Engineers will develop the architectural, structural, electronic and mechanical executive maps before the preparation of the BOQ of quantities and price.

* Initiation of procurement process

Contractors will be invited to bid according to the specifications set out in the tender. This process will be fair and competitive guaranteeing best value for money, according to UNDP rules and regulations.

* Establishment of market management structure

While the Municipality of Nabatieh will be responsible for the overall management and maintenance of the market upon project completion, a cost-recovery mechanism will be in place to safeguard the financial sustainability of the market. The system will be based on fee-for-service which will enable the Municipality to hedge itself against foreseen and unforeseen maintenance costs. This will also incentivize the farmers to access the market and related extension facilities as professional services.

The project also seeks to establish transparent mechanisms promoting inclusion and accountability. Hence, a “market managerial board” will be created and will include the Municipality of Nabatieh, the Ministry of Agriculture, farmer representatives and others as necessary based on a series of consultations at the local level with stakeholders. Based upon UNDP’s expertise in developing national capacities to fulfill development aspirations and goals, the UN programme will provide technical assistance enabling the managerial board members to be operational, autonomous and sustainable beyond the project life cycle.

* Monitoring and evaluation

Continuous monitoring and evaluation will occur during the project, with the UNDP project team directly based in Tyre near the project site, with easy access to Nabatieh. Field visits will be regular and thoroughly documented. A post-implementation evaluation survey will be conducted to ensure the project objectives vis-à-vis usage.

**Expected Result 2: Access to agricultural extension services is improved**

* Establishment of information centre in the market

In order to promote the Nabatieh market place as a one-stop information centre where farmers can go to sell their products in addition to finding a wide range of accessible extension services[[9]](#footnote-9), a small information area will be created. This space will require furnishing, and will contain information products such as thematic brochures, leaflets and contact books of agricultural professional services, for the farmers to freely consult. As exposed earlier, the Ministry of Agriculture will be responsible for running this centre.

* Establishment of storage and refrigerating facility

Equipment towards establishing a storage and cooling room in the market will also be purchased. Storage limits waste and is thus paramount, particularly for farmers coming from remote locations. Access to refrigeration is not widespread in rural areas of Lebanon but is nonetheless important to extend the life of fragile products such as vegetables and to increase their selling value. This will be an in-kind contribution from the Ministry of Agriculture.

* Thematic and technical trainings for farmers and cooperatives

Thematic and technical trainings for farmers and cooperatives of the region will be organized by the Ministry of Agriculture to enhance linkages. These will be arranged with a variety of partners based upon their area of expertise. Topics to be identified could include marketing, handling and transportation, food quality, water management, credit schemes, cash crops, organic market, linkages with agro-food processing industry and export avenues amongst others.

1. **Narrative reporting on results:**

MoN and MoA have conducted a preliminary needs assessment of the site. The wholesale vegetable and fruit market requires the following elements: a cement wholesale building, a cement administrative building, a corridor tent, a hangar, asphalting for car and truck paths, a fence, herbs garden, and accessible footpaths, in addition to the extension services.

A comprehensive study was undertaken. Engineers developed the architectural, structural, electronic and mechanical executive maps before the preparation of the BOQ of quantities and price.

On August 19, 2013, a Local Project Appraisal Committee meeting took place. Representatives from UNDP, CDR, MoA, and MoN attended the meeting. UNDP highlighted that the project aims to contribute to the promotion of rural development and poverty alleviation, through overcoming agricultural constraints and assisting the small farmers in reducing the production costs, increasing quality of produce, and overcoming post-harvesting barriers. This will mainly be conducted through establishing a wholesale fruit and vegetable farmers’ market in the Muhafazat of Nabatieh which badly needs such market place and vital extension services as a direct response to identified livelihood enhancement obstacles in the region. Moreover, MoN stressed that they will be covering the running costs of the Market, thus ensuring its sustainability and the extension office of the MoA, located in the market, will be responsible in providing training services to enable the farmers overcome their problems.

On September 6, 2013, UNDP and MoN met the Minister of Agriculture to brief him on the project progress and next steps regarding the market. Arsh Consulting, the company working on the technical maps of the market, presented the preliminary maps. The Minister’s feedback and comments were taken into consideration. Below are main points addressed by the Minister:

* MoN should ensure that the farmers are benefiting the most;
* MoN to ensure that the parking and cleaning services are addressed properly;
* Identify a name for the market;
* MoN to ensure that the market can retail daily products and fresh sea food;
* A well-equipped control room should be established.

Arsh consulting finalized the mapping context of the project, and the feasibility study of the market. Consumer needs were thoroughly observed along with examining the needs of the farmers. Furthermore, considering seasonal changes that effect the different distribution of fruits and vegetables in the south, a meticulous study was undertook to carefully examine how the market will operate and how goods will be sold and offered. Accordingly, the TOR was prepared and shared with UNDP HQ for approval.

The MoN guaranteed the sustainable quality control of crops to ensure that both the consumer and supplier are getting the maximum benefit. Considering the establishment of a services office that will provide verbal and technical assistance to farmers, a site examination was done to foresee future complications that might take place and premeditate possible solutions.

* **Describe any delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned & best practices:** The process was delayed due to following factors:
  + Administrative procedures that require prolonged time as the TOR and technical maps are still pending UNDP HQ approval.

**ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:**

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document** **/ AWP** - provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the o

utput and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Achieved Indicator Targets** | **Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)** | **Source of Verification** |
| **Outcome 1** | Local governance structures in target under-served regions strengthened for better representation, participation, and basic local services delivery | | |
| **Output 1.1** Capacities of institutions, local authorities and community groups strengthened for effective formulation and implementation of social, environment and economic development plans in South Lebanon  **Indicator 1.1.1**  **Baseline:**  No farmers’ market is available in the region  **Planned Target:**  - Establishment of a wholesale vegetable and fruit farmers’ market in Nabatieh.  - At least 175 farmers will benefit from the market.  - Extension services accessible to farmers.  - At least 4 thematic and technical trainings will be conducted. | ***Activity 1: A farmers’ market in Nabatieh is established***   * + A preliminary needs assessment of the site.   + Arsh Consulting developed the architectural, structural, electronic and mechanical executive maps before the preparation of the BOQ.   + A Local Project Appraisal Committee meeting took place. Representatives from UNDP, CDR, MoA, and MoN attended the meeting.   + UNDP and MoN met the Minister of Agriculture to brief him on the progress and next steps.   + TOR are developed and sent to UNDP HQ for clearance and approval. | * + Maps were changed based on the request of the Minister of Agriculture;   + The BOQs were changed based on the available budget for constructing the market;   + TOR and technical maps are still pending UNDP HQ approval. |  |
| ***Activity 2: Access to agricultural extension services is improved***   * + MoA focal point met with MoN and agreed on the structure of the agricultural extension services that the Market will provide.   + Representatives from MoA visited the site and gave their comments to Arsh Consulting regarding the space occupation of the MoA in the Market. |  |  |

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. As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. 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-7)
8. Figures from the Agricultural Census 2011, Ministry of Agriculture and FAO [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. The extension service centre informs farmers about good agricultural practices such as how to improve the quality of crops, the control of pest and diseases, packaging, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)