
### PROGRESS REPORT

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| **Reporting UN Organization** | **:** | **United Nations Development Programme** |
| **Country** | **:** | **Lebanon** |
| **Project No.** | : | '00059955 |
| **Project Title** | : | YOUTH MOBILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN BEIRUT AND ITS SUBURBS |
| **LRF Signature date** | : | 27 February 2008 |
| **Project Start date**  | : | April 2008 |
| **Project Timeframe** | : | 12 months |
| **Reporting Period** | **:** | Apr- Jun 2009 |

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| I. PURPOSE |

**Project Summary:**

The project aims at both rapidly implementing socio-economic recovery activities targeting the youth, as well as enhancing the capacities of institutions (local NGOs and CSOs) at the community level of Beirut and its suburbs, in identifying, prioritizing and implementing socio-economic activities in an autonomous manner.

This target includes youths residing in the disadvantaged areas of Beirut and its suburbs, building their skills to play a leading facilitative role in the development of strategically planned, locally-driven, partnership approaches to rebuilding livelihoods.

The overall objective of the project is to promote social equity and local stakeholders’ empowerment through local employment recovery and livelihood opportunities projects in Beirut and its immediate suburbs.

**Project Objectives:**

The project will contribute towards three main objectives:

1. To enhance implementation capacities of local stakeholders (NGOs and CSOs) in identifying and providing direct services to recover sustainable livelihoods. Local stakeholders can then select and implement community projects for recovery of livelihood.
2. To provide skills training for unemployed youth and support job creation through employment/ job search centre matching demand and supply. The centre will act as the enabling structure to create, enhance and develop skills and competencies of the youths.
3. To rehabilitate (through the trained youth) 2 underserved Beirut neighborhoods with a focus on the poor and multi-cultural neighborhoods after providing the youth with the proper training on how to enhance the socio-economic capacities for local communities.

**Project Outcomes:**

The project outcomes consist of:

* A network of qualified youths belonging to neighborhood committees and to Greater Beirut NGOs trained to participate in local community development projects
* A training manual developed serving as a reference for all members of CSOs on how to design, manage and evaluate development projects and programmes along with the methods of implementation.
* A labor market study developed to decide on the skills needed in the market and help in matching labor supply and demand.
* A database developed for the unemployed youth and jobs needed to try to match demand and supply.
* An employment creation center established to help unemployed youth finding a job and meet the labor supply market, and provide them with the adequate skills and competencies when needed.
* A participatory study developed to determine the 2 areas/ neighborhoods to be upgraded
* Two underserved Beirut neighborhoods rehabilitated by the trained youth

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

The Project is part of the Lebanon Recovery Fund Program that is initially addressed to recover Lebanon from the aftermath of July 2006 war. Most of the recovery projects post July 2006 war concentrated on areas outside Beirut. However, this project realizes that Beirut also has been greatly affected by the recent hostilities and hence, is in need of attention from the on-going development initiatives, especially for youth employment and mobilization.

The importance of including the capital of Lebanon, Beirut, in the development programs resided in the fact that besides being the most densely populated area, it is the city that encompasses high levels of social and economic injustices, crimes, abuses, social gaps and disparities, illiteracy and unemployment.

Youth unemployment increased as a result of the 2006 war and its aftermath effect on tourism and economic sectors. Unlike the previous wars, the July war has severely impacted the private sector and hindered its capability to respond and contribute to the recovery, rehabilitation and revitalization of the country. In this context, the project addresses reviving the human potential, especially youth, as well as mobilizing the local non-governmental organizations.

Moreover, the events that have occurred consecutively after the war turned the country into a deep crisis. Two years after the war, Beirut is still struggling with economic stagnation, political instability, sectarian unrest, all reflected in different forms of manifestations, reaching to the dreadful outburst of the capital in May 2008, which reminded the Lebanese citizens of the dark days of the 1975-1990 civil war.

The crisis, notably the sectarian clashes that took place in May 2008 has radically increased distrust among citizens. It highlighted a number of crucial political and humanitarian themes and made a major impact on Lebanese citizens notably the youth, leading to further deprivation, immigration, unemployment, etc. Unemployment is currently estimated at 25 percent of the work force, and the inflation rate is said to have been about 225 percent in the first nine months of this year. In addition, many factories and other businesses have been destroyed in the years of factional fighting, and foreign investment has dried up.

The aforementioned incidents and the repercussions highlight the significance and urgency for carrying this project further into immediate implementation for embracing the youth and creating social safety net in a vibrant positive atmosphere that is capable of participating in the development of their communities.

Finally, the Objectives of this project are also in line with the Social Action Plan’s main objectives i.e.:

(i) alleviate poverty and improve living standards;

(ii) improve the role of NGOs in development; and

(iii) encourage investment and other job-creating activities in the more deprived areas.

**Project Implementation Partners:**

International Partners: UNDP

National Partners: Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development

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| II. RESOURCES |

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|  | ***As of December 31st, 2008*** | ***As of March 31st, 2009*** | ***As of June 30th, 2009*** |
| **Total budget approved** | $996,919.00 | $996,919.00 | $996,919.00 |
| **Disbursements**  | $113,386.83 | $113,386.83 | $0.00 |
| **Available Balance**  | $883,532.17 | $883,532.17 | $996,919.00 |
| **Commitments for next quarter** | ***USD 124,911*** |
|  |  |  |   |   |
| **CATEGORY** | **TOTAL BUDGET (USD)** | **TOTAL EXP. TO DATE (USD)** | **TOTAL EXP. TO DATE (USD)** | **TOTAL EXP. TO DATE (USD)** |
| Personnel | 352,700.00 | 73,775.00 | 73,775.00 | 158,475.00 |
| Contracts | 300,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 144,320.00 |
| Training  | 74,500.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Transport | 20,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Supplies & Commodities | 98,500.00 | 12,673.00 | 12,673.00 | 35,278.00 |
| Equipment | 40,000.00 | 12,796.00 | 12,796.00 | 20,754.00 |
| Travel | 46,000.00 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 | 15,013.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 931,700.00 | 1,725.00 | 1,725.00 | 18,721.00 |
| Agency Management Support (7%) | 65,219.00 | 7,417.83 | 7,417.83 | 27,479.27 |
| **Total** | **996,919.00** | **113,386.83** | **113,386.83** | **420,040.27** |

**Project Outputs and Indicators**:

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| **OBJECTIVE** | **ACTIVITIES** | **OUTPUT** | **INDICATORS**  | **Timeframe** |
| **Q1** | **Q2** | **Q3** | **Q4** | **Q5** |
| **Objective 1: Enhance implementation capacities of local stakeholders (NGOs and CSOs) in identifying and providing direct services to recover sustainable livelihoods. Local stakeholders can then select and implement community projects for recovery of livelihood.** |
| 1.1 Creation of a network of qualified youths | 1- Hold a workshop for the youth (1st year university students) on career orientation and job market expectation.. It focused on choice of career, exposure to the different types of demanded professions and the Lebanese system of higher education (competitive specialties).  | 30 youth oriented to be able to better choose their specialty, and plan their future and career path | Contract with the consultantTraining materialNumber of participantsEvaluation FormNumber of trained youth getting a jobCertificates distributed to the participants |    |    |   |   |  |
| 2- Hold a training workshop for the graduating university students and/or unemployed graduates, on expectations of and by the market place. The program was instrumental in helping and assisting them with planning their future and career paths. It also coaches and directs them on how to prepare a CV, write a cover letter and get ready for a job interview.  | 40 youth able to present themselves to the labor market in a professional way.  |   |   |    |    |  |
| 3- Hold a series of interviews with the trainees, conducted by our consultant (Management Plus Recruiters) as a follow-up to the training workshop, guiding them on job opportunities in light of the psychometric test.  | 46 youth able to identify their career goals  | Number of interviews heldNumber of CVs applied |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4- Hold a 3 days Training workshop on leadership development for the groups who won the best community service projects | 25 participants skilled to manage and lead projects and /or assume personal and community based responsibilities  | Contract with the consultantTraining materialNumber of participantsEvaluation FormCertificates distributed to the participants |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5- Organize a multipurpose trip for all the youth who implemented the projects. It included team building and entertaining activities, historical and cultural overview and site seeing of the different villages they passed through along the trip to Baskinta. | 40 youth enabled to further network among each other in an entertaining and informative way | Contract with Lebanon Mountain TrailTrip ProgramPictures takenNb. of participants |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1.3 Preparation of the Training manual | 6. Work with the capacity building unit of the Ministry of Social Affairs on validating and promoting the training manual they've developed on "Internal Governance for NGOs". The manual is found to be consistent with our field of intervention as it tackles 7 areas validated by our previous assessment made by INTRAC organization during the second quarter. | Manual tested and validated between the foundation and the ministry of Social affairs to serve as an efficient guiding tool for local NGOs and CSOs working in all human and social development and fields | The final draft of the manual |   |   |  |  |  |
| 7. Prepare for the Training of trainers on internal governance and structuring of NGOs. The content of the training is based on the topics included in the manual as a serving tool to test the manual. Participants are selected based on a pre-set of criteria. Training is to be held on July 21st for 8 days, after which participants are asked to train selected local NGOs within a period of 3 months. They will be evaluated accordingly. | Around 25 trainers from different NGOs trained on how to use the manual and eventually become trainers for other members in their organizations as well as other NGOs | Training materialNumber of trainers participatingFilled application forms Evaluation FormProgram schedule  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 8. Select the designing and printing agency that will print the manual  | 2000 copies of the manual printed  | Copies printed Copies distributed |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Objective 2: Skills training for unemployed youth and supporting job creation through employment/ job search centre matching demand and supply. The centre will act as the enabling structure to create, enhance and develop skills and competencies of the youths.** |
| 2.1 Decide on the skills needed in the market  | 9. Conduct a labor market study. It will provide information on technical and vocational training opportunities that could help bridge the gap between labor supply and demand.  | A labor market study is developed as a guiding reference for the functioning of the job creation center. | A final draft of the study |   |   |   |  |  |
| 2.2 Establish an employment creation center  | 10. Prepare a business plan for the employment center.  | A business plan is developed to outline the functioning and sustainability of the center. | Draft reportFinal Business plan |   |   |    |   |  |
| 2.3 Elaborate a database for the youth unemployed and jobs needed to try to match demand and supply | 11. Collect personal details (name, contact details, work experience, education history, qualifications and preferences) and preferences of applicants to initiate the recruitment process.  | A database centralizing all the information will be available to all | Number of applicationsData collected |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12. Filter the database of applicants in order to start matching the needs and requirements of the private and public sectors with those of the unemployed. The website may play a pivotal role in the field. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Objective 3: Rehabilitate 2 green areas of Beirut neighborhoods with a focus on the poor and multi-cultural neighborhoods after providing the youth with the proper training on how to enhance the socio-economic capacities for local communities** |
| 3.1 Undertake a field survey to select the appropriate neighborhoods | 13. Conduct the field survey | A comprehensive field survey determining the needs assessments and priorities for the areas selected |  Draft of the assessment study |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14. Prepare for the infrastructure and rehabilitation work in the neighborhoods. Equipments are being purchased. Meeting with the concerned parties were held to get the approval for work, including municipalities of Beirut and Ghobeiry, along with some of the inhabitants surrounding the selected areas  | Well rehabilitated areas enabling inhabitants to live in a better sustainable environment taking in consideration security and sanitary conditions  | Type of work conductedRehabilitation activities achieved  |   |   |   |  |  |

**Progress in Project Implementation:**

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| **OBJECTIVE** | **ACTIVITIES** | **OUTPUT** | **STATUS** |
| **Objective 1: Enhance implementation capacities of local stakeholders (NGOs and CSOs) in identifying and providing direct services to recover sustainable livelihoods. Local stakeholders can then select and implement community projects for recovery of livelihood.** |
| 1.1 Creation of a network of qualified youths | 1- Hold training workshops for the youth on career orientation and job market expectation. This will enhance their knowledge and skills in: choice of careers, expectations at the market place, assisting with job hunting and career path consultations. The program is instrumental in helping and assisting them with planning their future and career paths. | 90 youth trained to be able to better plan their future and career path | completed |
| 2. Training workshop on leadership development for the groups who won the best community service projects | Around 25 participants skilled to manage and lead projects and /or assume personal and community based responsibilities  | completed |
| 3. Organizing a multipurpose trip for all the youth who implemented the projects. It will include team building and entertaining activities, historical and cultural overview and site seeing of the different villages they will pass through along the trip. | 64 youth enabled to further network among each other in an entertaining and informative way.  | completed |
| 1.3 Preparation of the Training manual | 4. Work with the capacity building unit of the Ministry of Social Affairs on validating and promoting the training manual they've developed on "Internal Governance for NGOs". The manual is found to be consistent with our field of intervention as it tackles 7 areas validated by our previous assessment made by INTRAC organization during the second quarter. | Manual tested and validated between the foundation and the ministry of Social affairs to serve as an efficient guiding tool for local NGOs and CSOs working in all human and social development and fields | In progress |
| 5. Training of trainers on internal governance and structuring of NGOs. The content of the training will be based on the topics included in the manual as a serving tool to test the manual | Around 20 trainers from different NGOs trained on how to use the manual and eventually become trainers for other members in their organizations as well as other NGOs | In progress |
|  6. Printing the manual and distributing it to serve as a reliable guide for local NGOs |  2000 copies of the manual printed  | In progress |
| **Objective 2: Skills training for unemployed youth and supporting job creation through employment/ job search centre matching demand and supply. The centre will act as the enabling structure to create, enhance and develop skills and competencies of the youths.** |
| 2.1 Decide on the skills needed in the market  | 7. Conduct a labor market study. It will provide information on technical and vocational training opportunities that could help bridge the gap between labor supply and demand. | A labor market study is developed as a guiding reference for the functioning of the job creation center. | completed |
| 2.2 Establish an employment creation center  | 8. Prepare a business plan for the employment center. | A business plan is developed to outline the functioning and sustainability of the center. | In progress |
| 9. Recruit skilled personnel in charge of managing the center, after a competitive selection process. | Personnel will include: the Center Manager, Marketing/PR officer, a Coordinator/ Receptionist) | In progress |
| 2.3 Elaborate a database for the youth unemployed and jobs needed to try to match demand and supply | 10. Collect personal details (name, contact details, work experience, education history, qualifications and preferences) and preferences of applicants to initiate the recruitment process. | A database centralizing all the information will be available to all | In progress |
| 11. Filter the database of applicants in order to start matching the needs and requirements of the private and public sectors with those of the unemployed. The website may play a pivotal role in the field. | In progress |
| **Objective 3: Rehabilitate 2 green areas of Beirut neighborhoods with a focus on the poor and multi-cultural neighborhoods after providing the youth with the proper training on how to enhance the socio-economic capacities for local communities** |
| 3.1 Undertake a field survey to select the appropriate neighborhoods | 12. Conduct the field survey | A comprehensive field survey determining the needs assessments and priorities for the areas selected | completed |
| 13. Begin the infrastructure and rehabilitation work in the neighborhoods | Well rehabilitated areas enabling inhabitants to live in a better sustainable environment taking in consideration security and sanitary conditions  | In progress |

**Implementation Constraints and Lessons Learned:**

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| The workshops held on career orientation attracted a new pool of youth who showed their concern about how to set their career path in a way that matches their ambitions and capabilities.The leadership development training and the trip held to the youth network revealed their growing interest and bond to further work with us on community development, especially after they acquired networking and leader’s skills. They all express their commitment, willingness and motivation to work for the best of their community.As for the training manual, we are finalizing our negotiation to print the manual, which is expected next month. Furthermore, the Labor Market study is being finalized. A launching ceremony is suggested to be held to show the emanating results. Several local and international institutions showed their interest to know more about the study and collaborate with us to expand it further. Concerning the rehabilitation of the two sets of neighbourhoods, several meetings and field visits were made with the contracted company to set and select in detail the scope of work and intervention in the zones selected, taking into consideration the concept of sustainable human development and how to enhance the living standards of the inhabitants in a sustainable way. Some minor difficulties were also witnessed with the contracted company during their field visits and investigation, such as reluctance by some of the local inhabitants, besides the delays in getting approvals and permission from the municipality members and concerned parties. However these issues are being solved progressively.   |

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| IV. FUTURE WORK PLAN |

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| **KEY MILESTONES** | **Quarter 5** |
| **OBJECTIVE** | **ACTIVITIES** | **OUTPUT** | **IMPACT** | **INDICATORS**  | **Jul** | **Aug** | **Sep** |
| **Objective 1: Enhance implementation capacities of local stakeholders (NGOs and CSOs) in identifying and providing direct services to recover sustainable livelihoods. Local stakeholders can then select and implement community projects for recovery of livelihood.** |
| 1.3 Preparation of the Training manual | 1. Work with the capacity building unit of the Ministry of Social Affairs on validating and promoting the training manual they've developed on "Internal Governance for NGOs". The manual is found to be consistent with our field of intervention as it tackles 7 areas validated by our previous assessment made by INTRAC organization during the second quarter. | Manual tested and validated between the foundation and the ministry of Social affairs to serve as an efficient guiding tool for local NGOs and CSOs working in all human and social development and fields | A reliable guide for all NGOs and stakeholders engaged in local community development | The final draft of the manual |   |   |   |
| 2. Training of trainers on internal governance and structuring of NGOs. The content of the training will be based on the topics included in the manual as a serving tool to test the manual | Around 25 trainers from different NGOs trained on how to use the manual and eventually become trainers for other members in their organizations as well as other NGOs | NGO members equipped progressively by new skills and capacities enabling them to move from charity work to a more sustainable development work. Networking among youth and NGOS allowing them to share knowledge and experience and avoid eventual duplication of efforts  | Training materialNumber of trainers participatingFilled application forms Evaluation FormProgram schedule |  |  |  |
| 3. Organize a series of training for local NGOs, to be conducted by the trainers after they have accomplished the TOT.  | Around 60 Local NGOs acquiring progressively new skills and capacities enabling them to better manage their organization, moving from charity work to a more sustainable development work.  | An active civil society that is able to address community development in an effective and sustainable way.  | Number of trainings held by each trainerNumber of NGOs benefiting  |  |  |  |
| 4. Printing the manual and distributing it to serve as a reliable guide for local NGOs  | 2000 copies of the manual printed  | Local NGOs equipped with better internal governance skills enabling them better manage and carry out development projects  | Copies printed Copies distributed |   |   |   |
| **Objective 2: Skills training for unemployed youth and supporting job creation through employment/ job search centre matching demand and supply. The centre will act as the enabling structure to create, enhance and develop skills and competencies of the youths.** |
| 2.1 Decide on the skills needed in the market  | 5. Finalize and launch the labor market study. It provides recommendations and information on opportunities that could help bridge the gap between labor supply and demand.  | A labor market study is developed as a guiding reference for the functioning of the job creation center. |  | A final draft of the study |   |   |   |
| 2.2 Establish an employment creation center  | 6. Finalize the business plan for the employment center.  | A business plan is developed to outline the functioning and sustainability of the center.  |    | Draft reportFinal Business plan |    |    |    |
| 7. Recruit skilled personnel in charge of managing the center, after a competitive selection process.  | Personnel will include: the Center Manager, Marketing/PR officer, a Coordinator/ Receptionist) |   | Transparent TORs- Number of CVs- Number of interviews Signed contracts  |   |   |   |
| 2.3 Elaborate a database for the youth unemployed and jobs needed to try to match demand and supply | 8. Collect personal details (name, contact details, work experience, education history, qualifications and preferences) and preferences of applicants to initiate the recruitment process.  | A database centralizing all the information will be available to all | The database will serve as a resource for recruitment in the labor market | Number of applicationsData collected |  |  |  |
| 9. Filter the database of applicants in order to start matching the needs and requirements of the private and public sectors with those of the unemployed. The website may play a pivotal role in the field. |  |  |  |
| **Objective 3: Rehabilitate 2 green areas of Beirut neighborhoods with a focus on the poor and multi-cultural neighborhoods after providing the youth with the proper training on how to enhance the socio-economic capacities for local communities** |
| 3.1 Undertake a field survey to select the appropriate neighborhoods | 10. Prepare for the infrastructure and rehabilitation work in the neighborhoods. Equipments are being purchased. Meeting with the concerned parties were held to get the approval for work, including municipalities of Beirut and Ghobeiry, along with some of the inhabitants surrounding the selected areas | Well rehabilitated areas enabling inhabitants to live in a better sustainable environment taking in consideration security and sanitary conditions  | Increase awareness among local inhabitants on the urgency to redress their surrounding community to be a better place for living | Type of work conductedRehabilitation activities achieved |  |  |  |
| 11. Meeting with the municipality of Beirut to work with them on rehabilitating Beirut public gardens and other potential community development projects, led by the project's youth network. Also, there is the possibility of partnering with them and UNDP on their project "Beautiful Beirut"  | More green and rehabilitated areas that could be of benefit to the community, A network of youth that is able to act and respond to the needs of their surrounding s and the community |  Agreement with the municipalityYouth engaged in the beautification process of the city |   |   |   |