



PROJECT FACTS – LEBANON

Flood Risk Management and Soil Conservation for Livelihood Recovery in Baalbek-Hermel, Phase I and II

Total Budget:	USD 2,834,880 (Phase I) USD 3,800,000 (Phase II)
Donor:	Lebanon Recovery Fund (administered by Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office, UNDP)
Project ID:	00069789, 00059666
Period:	2008-2011 (4 years)
Partners:	Ministry of Agriculture

Background

The 2006 Lebanon war particularly affected the Baalbek-Hermel area on the eastern mountain chain. It exacerbated the numerous existing socio-economic and environmental issues facing this area. Baalbek-Hermel in North Bekaa suffers from drought, poor agricultural productivity, loss of biodiversity, and poverty (66 percent poverty in Hermel and 49 percent in Baalbek). Approximately 50 percent of the population of this area is thought to be unemployed. Furthermore, the area is increasingly affected by floods caused by surface run-off water due to torrential rains, poor soil infiltration and deteriorated vegetation cover.

Water harvesting has been used for thousands of years to supplement scarce water resources in arid and semi-arid regions of the world. Water harvesting accompanied by installation of water-use efficient irrigation networks has the potential to increase agricultural productivity and farm income in the Baalbek-Hermel region.

Project Summary

The project aims to support early recovery efforts in the conflict-affected Baalbek-Hermel region through the implementation of a flood risk management and water harvesting programme. This is achieved through constructing stone walls, check dams and water collection reservoirs to prevent run-off water from reaching villages and farms and through the restoration of land cover to reduce soil erosion. With regard to water management, the project aims to construct several membrane-lined reservoirs to collect wasted water and snow melts and to install water-use efficient irrigation networks and systems that will be used by local farmers to increase their agricultural productivity and diversify their crops.

Activities

- Promote synergies with relevant ongoing projects in the target area;
- Exchange information and coordinate meetings;
- Collect data and identify target areas;
- Model the target area and generate maps;
- Establish constructions and collection lakes;
- Monitor, evaluate and assess the impact;
- Identify sensitive areas subject to soil erosion;
- Establish nurseries for seeds and seedlings production;

Key Objective

- ◆ To assist the Government of Lebanon in its recovery efforts in Baalbek-Hermel through better land management practices.

Expected Results

- ◆ Coordination and linkages with ongoing projects established and strengthened.
- ◆ Risks and damage caused by floods in target area managed and reduced.
- ◆ Land cover in risk areas increased and soil erosion reduced.
- ◆ Sustainability ensured. Capacities and public awareness increased.

- Ensure crop diversification and increased farm productivity;
- Support forestation and cultivation of forage in vulnerable areas;
- Empower beneficiaries in the target area;
- Raise public awareness on flood prevention and water management;
- Build capacities through training of target communities; and
- Establish alternative sources of income and new livelihoods.

Achievements to date

Flood risk management

- Design of flood risk management plan over an area of 290 km² in Upper Aarsal and Ras Baalback completed.
- Implementation of flood risk management plan over an area of 94 km² in Aarsal and Fakhe region completed.
- Construction of 161 flood management structures in the region completed.

Capacities development and public awareness

- Public awareness on flood risks management improved through training of the target municipality on maintenance of flood management structures.

Water management

- One water reservoir in Deir El Ahmar with a capacity of 30,000m³ constructed.

Income generation

- Twenty thousand wild fruit tree saplings to be planted at the end of 2010, in collaboration with local NGO.

Coordination with local partners

- Ongoing coordination with local municipalities in the region established.

Contact information:

UNDP Country Office Lebanon
 Website: <http://www.undp.org.lb/>

For further information:

Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) Progress Monitor
 Website: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/progress/reports/?pid:222&pil:1>