



**Seventh Steering Committee Meeting**  
**LEBANON RECOVERY FUND**

**Monday, 5 November 2007**

*Grand Sérail – Al Diwanieh*

**Present at the Meeting:**

- **Chairman: Minister of Economy and Trade;**  
*H.E. Minister Sami Haddad*
- **Members:**
  - **Minister of Finance;**  
*H.E. Minister Jihad Azour<sup>1</sup>*
  - **Representative of the EU delegation;**  
*Mr. Jussi Narvi, Adviser.*
  - **Representative of Kuwait:**  
*Mr. Mohammad Al-Mutairi*
  - **United Nations Resident Coordinator;**  
*Mrs. Marta Ruedas*
  - **Head of the Recovery and Reconstruction Cell- Prime Minister's Office;**  
*Mr. Ghassan Taher, Advisor to Prime Minister*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Proposed Agenda:**

1. LRF financial status update & reporting
2. Projects review

\*\*\*\*\*

---

<sup>1</sup> Represented at the meeting by Ms. Huda Sayegh

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

### **1) LRF Financial Status: update**

The Chairman of the Steering Committee (SC) opened the meeting by welcoming all participants and reviewing the LRF financial status update (see table attached).

During the ensuing discussion, the following points were discussed:

- The LRF Steering Committee should issue a circular stating very clearly the reporting obligations vis-à-vis the LRF, including the periodicity.
- Aside from the reporting obligations mandated by the LRF rules and procedures, the LRF SC expressed its wish to also receive quarterly reports which would include the amount of money spent for each project and a brief description of progress thus far. This should also be included in the circular.
- As a matter of policy, the LRF SC also agreed that agencies with on-going projects failing to submit the requested reports will not get additional funding from the LRF until they are up to date on reporting obligations (“no reporting, no funding”).

### **2) Projects review:**

#### **a. UNFPA Project: Women Empowerment: Peaceful Action for Stability and Security**

The SC reviewed the project in the presence of Ms. Asma Kurdahi, UNFPA Assistant Representative, who provided the project background and rationale. In her presentation, Ms. Kurdahi emphasized the concrete results achieved thus far as well as the elements ensuring the sustainability of the project interventions.

#### **Summary of the main comments:**

- Since the project is the continuation of an on-going intervention, it would be good to produce a matrix indicating which villages are being covered through what funding. It was suggested to specify the selection criteria of villages and to include a timeline of when works will start in the selected villages / to check the overlap between the 2nd phase and the one expected to be funded.
- The project includes a training and a micro credit components that seem reasonable. NGOs and individual women may benefit from this financial scheme. While considering the micro-credit component appropriate, the LRF SC indicated they would require more detailed information from UNFPA regarding the managing of the micro-credit component (e.g. selecting beneficiaries, operational cost of managing the fund and clarifications regarding interest rates).
- There needs to be more specification for the monitoring and evaluation component.

#### **Recommendation:**

- The SC approved the project for a total amount of:

- ✓ Women empowerment: peaceful action for security and stability: US\$ 935,608

**b. UNDP Project: Strengthening the Dairy Production Channel in North Lebanon**

The SC reviewed the project in the presence of Ms. Delphine Compain, Representative of the RMF, and Mr. Nick Hartmann, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, who provided the project background and rationale.

**Summary of the main comments:**

- Questions were raised regarding the sustainability of the project. Does Lebanon have a comparative advantage in producing fresh milk? It might be better for large scale producers to do so. We should be looking at cost (e.g. is the Lebanese consumer willing to pay a premium for fresh local milk while competition is available?)
- In the project budget, it is stated that 70% is allocated for the rehabilitation of one of the major production units. How can we guarantee the quality of the product after collection? The Representative from the RMF indicated that there will be training activities, plus a 24h a day technical assistance offered to breeders.

**Recommendation:**

- The SC approved the project for a total amount of:
  - ✓ Emergency Assistance for the Recovery of Small holder Horticulture: US\$ 1,000,000

**c. UNDP Project: Socio-economic rehabilitation and recovery of war affected Beirut**

The SC reviewed the project in the presence of Ms. Dima El-Hassan, Representative of the HF, and Mr. Nick Hartmann, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, who provided the project background and rationale.

**Summary of the main comments:**

- A question was raised concerning the coordination with the National Employment Office in Lebanon. Shouldn't the money go to reinforce the NEO instead? How the project does intend to cooperate / liaise with it? HF indicated that a previous experience in Saida has proved to be successful.
- What about the exit strategy or handover to public entities?
- Regarding the previous comments, the LRF SC requested the project to do the following:
  - Develop a hand-over component to the NEO.
  - Inform the LRF SC of the chosen geographical locations in the first quarterly report.

**Recommendation:**

- The SC approved the project for a total amount of:

- ✓ Socio-economic rehabilitation and recovery of war affected Beirut: US\$ US\$ 1,000,000

**d. FAO Project: Supporting early recovery and alleviating poverty through restoration and conservation of forest and their associated benefits to environment and rural communities**

The SC reviewed the project in the presence of Mr Ali Moumem, Representative of the local NGO AFDC, and Mr. Ramy Samain FAO Representative, who provided the project background and rationale.

**Summary of the main comments:**

- A question was raised regarding the maintenance cost of the planted trees. It was replied that it is the responsibility of the 2 ministries (MoA, MoE). Also, reforestation needs lots of preparation **prior** to planting and not afterwards.
- Another question was raised concerning the entity in charge of the early warning. It was replied that AFDC will provide the technical assistance; the MOA will coordinate with the forest guard centers and the civil defense for data collection and warnings through sensors and TV monitors.
- It was suggested that this project is a perfect example of private public participation, having in this case a specialized NGO as the pillar. The project includes public awareness, prevention, reforestation, and support for livelihoods.

**Recommendation:**

- The SC approved the project for a total amount of:
  - ✓ Supporting early recovery and alleviating poverty through restoration and conservation of forest and their associated benefits to environment and rural communities: US \$ 2,600,000

\*\*\*\*\*