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(C.P.S.P.S.)

LIFE-Lebanon

Small Scale Projects



Local Initiative Facility for Urban Environment
مرفق المبادرة المحلية للبيئة الحضرية



United Nations Development Programme
برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي

LIFE-Lebanon

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A. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. Council for Environmental Protection in Besharre

- **Duration of the project:** 1 year **Starting:** July 1996
- **Steering Committee (Composition: Female/Total):** 2/5
- **General Assembly (Composition Female/Total):** 6/15
- **Number of Beneficiaries:** 8,000 inhabitants of Besharre in winter and 15,000 in summer
- **Parties Concerned:** 10 local NGOs and the municipality
- **Total Project Cost:** \$ 89,300
- **LIFE grant:** \$ 25,000
- **Background:** During the war and in the absence of the town's municipal body, widespread dumping of waste especially in the Kadisha valley and the Cedars side roads plagued the area. Street collection of municipal waste was almost non existent. Waste dumps were spread sporadically in the valley, creating a detriment both environmentally and aesthetically.
In 1991 the Council for Environmental Protection in Becharre was formed. The objectives of this newly formed association were environmental conservation, reforestation, solid waste management, environmental education and awareness, encouraging the handcraft industry, folkloric activities and sports. Environmental awareness was promoted throughout the community of Becharre with the use of video-clips and pamphlets.
The council for Environmental Protection in Becharre together with the Council for Touristic Development joined efforts in planning and implementing the solid waste management project funded by LIFE.
- **Description:** Management of Solid Waste by sorting, recycling and composting as well as launching awareness campaigns.
- **Key Results:**
 - ◀ Cooperation between 10 local NGOs (networking amongst all community stakeholders).
 - ◀ The NGO that was the coordinator of the project got a legal status.
 - ◀ The municipality assumed lately the responsibility of managing the project.
 - ◀ Reduction of pollution due to indiscriminate dumping.
 - ◀ Increase of tourist activities.
 - ◀ Replication in two neighboring villages(Cedars and Ouyoun Urghush).
 - ◀ Promotion of good environmental practices (use of cloth bags).
- **Difficulties:** Transportation and selling of recyclable due to lack of recycling industries in Lebanon in addition to high transportation costs due to the long distance to be crossed to reach the industries.

- **Current Status:** Upon the election of the new municipal council the project was handed over to the municipality, since then the pace of the work slowed down.

2. Call of the Land Association in Arabsalim

- **Duration:** 2 years **Starting date:** May 1997
- **Steering Committee Composition (Female/Total):** 12/12
- **General Assembly Composition (Female/Total):** 17/22
- **Number of Beneficiaries:** 8,500 inhabitants
- **Parties Concerned:** Call of the Land Association in collaboration with the new municipality of Arabsalim
- **Total Cost:** \$ 28,500
- **LIFE grant:** \$ 25,000
- **Background:** The war that still goes on in the Southern Lebanon (due to Israel's occupation) makes Arab Salim a difficult place to live. Poor economic conditions resulting from the abandonment of agriculture and tourism along with uncontrolled spread of garbage added to the life threatening circumstances of war. Such living conditions generated concern and called for active measures. Mrs. Zeinab Mokalled took the initiative in the summer of 1995 and invited 20 women to a meeting to discuss the deteriorating conditions of Arab Salim. They wanted to find solutions to the different environmental problems their village was facing. At the end of 1995, the women formed "The Arab Salim's Women Association". The Association aims at raising environmental awareness among community members and implements a waste management sorting and collection program. In November 1998 the association became legally recognized by the Lebanese authorities, under the new legal name of "Nidaa Al-Ard Association", thereby changing its strictly female character.
- **Description:** Management of Solid Waste by sorting, recycling as well as launching awareness campaigns. Planned activities included biweekly household awareness campaigns, sorting waste at households, schools, and businesses into plastic, glass and metal, transporting recyclables to industries and promoting composting at the household level.
- **Key Results:**
 - ◁ Mobilizing the local community.
 - ◁ Promotion of good environmental habits.
 - ◁ Organizing solid waste collection.
 - ◁ Reduction of hazardous risks due to indiscriminate dumping.
 - ◁ Training the local as well as neighboring communities on waste sorting.
 - ◁ Support of the new municipal council.

- ◀ The total 8,500 inhabitants of the village benefited from this project.
- ◀ Empowerment of local women.
- ◀ Replication in two neighboring villages (Jarjou' and Saksakiyyeh).
- **Difficulties:** Transportation and selling of recycled materials
- **Current Status:** On-going and currently planning for expanding to a composting project.

3. Environment Protection Council in Nabatiyeh

- **Duration:** 2 years **Starting Date:** May 1997
- **Steering Committee Composition of the Association(Female/Total):**
(1/11)
- **Sorting Committee composition (Female/Total):** (2/8)
- **General Assembly Composition (Female/Total):** Volunteers(16/46)
- **Number of Beneficiaries:**107 households in As-Saray neighborhood, 14 public and private schools and 30 institutions involved in paper sorting, 30 restaurants and commercial shops.
- **Parties Concerned:** Sorting committee includes: Nabatiyeh Municipality, Environment Protection Council, Social Services Committee, UNESCO Club
- **Total Cost:** \$69,000
- **LIFE grant:** \$25,000
- **Background:** Nabatiyeh lies 79 Km southeast of Beirut and consists of 35,000 inhabitants. The town is severely impacted by Israel's occupation of neighboring towns. Moreover, the former municipal council was unable to perform its duties due to the civil war impact. As a result, the environment deteriorated and the solid waste spread all over the area. In 1997, the Environment Protection Council, launched the SWM project after receiving a LIFE grant. On June 7, 1998, municipal elections in the South brought new, well-educated members to the municipal council, many of whom had advocated the protection of environment in their election campaigns. Their commitment to a cleaner environment made them directly involved in the SWM project, and led to the fact that the municipality took over the project by covering the cost of most of its expenses in addition to the dumpsite provided previously.
- **Description:** Management of Solid Waste by sorting at the household level, recycling as well as launching awareness campaigns. The main objectives of the project were the prevention of pollution caused by solid waste, protection of the environment, promotion of cleanliness, and gathering primary statistical information regarding the quality and quantity of consumed waste. Starting with a pilot project zone located in the main street of the 'Commercial District' and that includes 101 restaurants and mini-markets, the project then covered banks, companies, schools and households at a later

stage. Sustainability of the project was to be provided by local communities, government and interested sponsors.

▪ **Key Results:**

- ◀ Prevention of pollution caused by indiscriminate solid waste dumping.
- ◀ Reduction of waste volume (Participation in waste sorting is estimated at around 70%)
- ◀ Dissemination of environmental awareness.
- ◀ Promotion of good environmental habits.
- ◀ Close cooperation among local NGOs, CBOs and other local stakeholders.
- ◀ Networking with national NGOs.
- ◀ Direct involvement of the newly elected municipality.
- ◀ 24 schools and 27 offices were targeted (as sorting stations).

▪ **Difficulties:**

Administrative difficulties: Managerial difficulties appeared at the launching of the project since the terms of reference of the project coordinator were not clearly defined, which created conflict with the President of the Association
Difficulties related to the program: Transporting and selling recyclable waste to industries, as well as the fact that urban environment is much more complex than rural (when it comes to implementing a program)

- **Current Status:** On-going, but facing obstacles

4. Environnement Sans Limites in Maghdousheh

- **Duration:** 1 year **Starting Date:** January 1998
- **Steering Committee Composition (Female /Total):** 2/7
- **General Assembly Composition (Female/Total):** 7/25
- **Number of Beneficiaries:** 6,000 inhabitants
- **Parties Concerned:** Environnement sans Limites, Municipality of Maghdousheh, and the town of Maghdousheh

- **Total Cost:** \$45,000
- **LIFE grant:** \$ 24,000
- **Background:** Maghdousheh is a small village located in the South of Lebanon. It was affected by the civil war since the majority of inhabitants have been displaced. However, after the implementation of the Ta'ef accord, the number of households reached 700 in summer (almost 4,000 inhabitants) and 1000 in winter. The major source of income is services (mainly teaching) whereas there are 6 schools in that village (3 public and 3 private). The second source of income is agriculture and seasonal production (mainly olive, grapes, flower water and honey). As mentioned earlier, Maghdousheh

endured like most Lebanese areas from the impact of civil war. The absence of municipal councils as well as the lack of public services (among them garbage collection) contributed to the deterioration of the environmental conditions in Maghdousheh, where solid waste were left in open air dumps as well as on the sides of roads. A group of educated people from Maghdousheh felt the need for intervention and then created "Environment Without Limit", a democratic association that aims at protecting the environment. "Environment Without Limit" is one of the very few associations that have a by-laws that does not allow the renewal of the mandate of its president (a rather uncommon practice in developing countries). The first task of this association, in the absence of an efficient municipality, was to implement a local solid waste management program by sorting at the primary source. They started with awareness campaigns supported by schoolteachers, students, environmental activists.

▪ **Description:**

Management of Solid Waste by sorting at household level, recycling and selling of waste components to recycling industries, launching awareness campaigns and reducing solid waste due to sound consumer practices. First, a dumpsite was identified in the home garden of one of the founding member Anahal Kazhayya (former president). Then, the association started launching its awareness campaigns with by mobilizing students, teachers and housewives as volunteers. Once they received a grant from LIFE program, they distributed to all households' containers for waste separation. The association was in charge of transporting recyclable to local industries.

▪ **Key Results:**

- ◁ Mobilizing the local community.
- ◁ Promotion of good environmental habits.
- ◁ Organizing solid waste collection.
- ◁ Reduction of hazardous risks due to indiscriminate dumping.
- ◁ Training the local as well as neighboring communities on waste sorting.
- ◁ Support of the new municipal council.
- ◁ The total 6,000 inhabitants of the village benefited from this project.

▪ **Difficulties:** Transportation and selling of recycled materials due to lack of recycling industries in Lebanon

▪ **Current Status:** On-going

B. ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

1- Environment Information Center (EIC)

- **Duration:** 2 year and 8 months **Starting Date:** Sept. 96
- **Steering Committee composition (Female/Total):** 6/9 (EIC Advisory Committee)
- **General Assembly composition (Female/Total):** 49/110
- **Number of Beneficiaries:**
 - Training of 20 health educators and 13 teachers
 - 500 young people(80% female) visited the center
 - 23 educational institutions were targeted
 - 35 students were trained on environmental protection
- **Parties Concerned:** SPNL with the cooperation of 14 NGOs and CBOs and the Ministry of Environment.
- **Total Cost:** \$ 132,000
- **LIFE grant:** \$25,000
- **Background:** In 1984, the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon(SPNL) was created, its objectives included: Increasing environmental awareness, protecting the environment and lobbying for laws and regulations to sustain protective measures for nature and the environment.

However, it soon became clear that environment clubs and NGOs were facing an informational void in their attempt to fulfill their objectives. Consequently, Ms. Andrea Munla and Mr. Asaad Serhal submitted a project proposal for the creation of a center for information research and education.
- **Description:**

The main objectives of the Environment Information Center "EIC" project were: Dissemination of environmental information, creation of a resource center, establishment of networks among concerned NGOs, authorities and environmental educators as well as development of educational materials.

An environmental library that includes CD-ROMs, books, magazines, articles, conference proceedings, research papers, video tapes and slides, focusing on Lebanon and environmental education was established and is now available to interested parties.
- **Key Results:**
 - ◀ Dissemination of environmental awareness.
 - ◀ Training of 20 health educators and 13 teachers.
 - ◀ Cooperation with 14 NGOs and CBOs .
 - ◀ 500 young people (80% female) visited the center.

- ◀ 23 educational institutions were targeted.
- ◀ 35 students were trained on Environmental Protection.
- ◀ Mobilization of private sector contribution.
- ◀ Cooperation with the Ministry of Environment.
- **Difficulties:** The location is not in a poor suburb, it is rather in a very chic neighborhood (City Café building), which means that poor children and students do not have easy access to information.

2. T.E.R.R.E /Environmental Visitor

- **Duration:** 8 months **Starting Date:** July 1997
- **Steering Committee (Composition F/Total):** 1/3,
- **General Assembly (Composition F/Total):** Each activity is carried out by a different group of activists. The Baabda Forest Team: 24/68
- **Number of Beneficiaries:** Around 15,300 participants from 30 schools, 8 universities, 41 youth groups and 23 villages
- **Parties Concerned:** TERRE with the cooperation of NGOs (E.I.C-S.O.S Environment...), schools, municipalities and the Ministries of Environment and Education.
- **Total Cost:** \$ 45,000
- **LIFE grant:** \$ 25,000
- **Background:** Environmental education in Lebanon was limited to some lectures and conferences about obvious environmental dangers, and such programs were provided by a selected group of schools and universities without being part of a regular curriculum. In this context, Mr. Paul Abi Rached and Ms. Maria Maad formed T.E.R.R.E. in March 1995. Later, in 1996, Mr. Wajdi Khater joined them. Their first project "Papivoire Malin"(1995) attempted to implement the simplest ecological concept of encouraging the separation and recycling of used paper in schools. Their second project "Nature at Schools"(1996) attempted to raise the level of awareness regarding nature and trees. The environmental visitor project was then designed to train more educators in environmental awareness and create environmental educational materials and activities.
- **Description:** The main objectives of the Environmental Visitor project were: raising Environmental Awareness and Education and creating networks among concerned NGOs and environmental education teachers. Thereby, T.E.R.R.E. members visited schools, clubs, villages, scouts and other interested community groups and conducted educational concerts and interactive training with visual aids and modern educational methods emphasizing the importance of paper recycling and tree planting.
- **Key Results:**
 1. Dissemination of environmental awareness.
 2. 197 visits were achieved throughout Lebanon.

3. Approximately 15,300 young men and women as well as children attended the environmentally focused and animated concerts (60% female).
4. Cooperation with NGOs and municipalities.
5. Cooperation with the Ministry of Environment.
6. Promotion of good environmental practices.
 - **Difficulties:** Visits to schools where teachers were not actively involved in the activity did not fully achieve their goals in terms of spreading environmental education among students.
 - **Current Status:** On-Going

3. Green Forum Newsletter

- **Duration:** One year **Starting Date:** Sept. 1999
- **Steering Committee (Composition F/Total):** 5/11
- **General Assembly (Composition F/Total):** 5/11
- **Number of Beneficiaries:** Students, Academics, concerned NGOs, General public, local authorities, ministries...
- **Parties Concerned:** "Green Forum" associations which are 10
- **Total Cost:** \$ 36,800
- **LIFE grant:** \$ 5,000
- **Background:** In view of the lack of environmental awareness and education in Lebanon at all levels, 10 Lebanese NGOs gathered to form the Green Forum in an attempt to create a pressure group which will work to change the current environmental status in 1996. After a while, the publication of a newsletter became a necessity as an outreach and advocacy tool. With no seed money at the beginning, the Green Forum started in 1997 to publish its newsletter without accepting any compromise from the local private sector that is contributing partly of polluting the environment. Different donors (such as Frederick Ebert Foundation) covered the printing costs of each issue.
- **Description:** The main goals of the project are:
 - ◀ To create a platform for grassroots NGO to lobby for pressing environmental issues
 - ◀ To induce policy changes
 - ◀ To advocate for a cleaner environment
 - ◀ To enhance networking amongst grassroots environmental NGOs
 - ◀ To increase environmental awareness and change the consuming behavior
 - ◀ To link the environment with other sustainable human development issues
 - ◀ To involve the private sector in promoting for a clean environment

Each issue of the newsletter tackles an important environmental file, such as the privatization of the beach, quarries, the local authorities' role in improving the environment and many others issues. The Advisory Committee holds workshops around specific issues. Moreover, the newsletter is keen to cover all innovative grassroots initiatives in improving the environment. The newsletter already achieved a good networking level among the 10 environmental NGOs that are already members in the Green Forum, since they hold regularly monthly meetings. Field visits to sites where the Lebanese environment is being abused are carried out regularly by Green Forum volunteers (to be covered later in the newsletter). In the coming months, the Green Forum volunteers are expected to carry out a marketing plan targeting the local private sector as well as individuals and other institutions to guarantee the project's sustainability. They will be targeting both clean and environment friendly industries.

- **Key Results:** The anticipated results include increasing environmental awareness, increasing community involvement in both local and national environmental issues, involvement in advocacy, networking among grassroots NGOs and involvement of private sector in environmental issues
- **Difficulties:** Sustainability
- **Current Status:** On-going (new LIFE project)

C. INCREASING GREEN SPACES

1. Aarsal Rural Development Association

- **Duration:** One Year **Starting Date:** April 1999
- **Steering Committee (Composition Female/Total):** 3/9
- **General Assembly (Composition Female/Total):** 40/65
- **Number of Beneficiaries:** The community of Aarsal(35,000 inhabitants)
- **Parties Concerned:** ARDA, Aarsal municipality as well as local NGOs
- **Total Cost:** \$59,000
- **LIFE grant:** \$20,000

- **Background:** Aarsal, one of the biggest towns of the Baalbeck District, is located at the far north east of the Bekaa. The town suffers from several problems, which include the scarcity of resources, a very low level of rainfall, a desert climate, as well as the lack of public services (such as electricity, telecommunication, public schools, public dispensaries and so forth). In terms of the environment, the town is suffering from lack of a sewage system and wastewater network, lack of any SWM or collection scheme, and widespread deforestation. Aarsal Rural Development Association started in 1986 when a

few good willed Aarsali inhabitants tried to set an agricultural cooperative up in Aarsal highlands in attempt to find new sources of income for the local community. Due to the lack of water, the project failed to achieve its initial goal and shifted its focus gradually from agriculture to broad development issues. Since then, their annual action plan targets all age and gender groups in the Aarsali women. They have vocational training courses for youth (construction skills for men and carpet weaving for women), strengthening courses for school pupils, children summer camps in addition to implementing an agricultural extension program for farmers. Environment became soon among their priorities, since they were founding members of the Grassroots Reforestation Network. They launch regularly on an annual basis reforestation campaigns, focusing on the income generating aspect of planting wild fruit trees.

- **Description:** The project goals include preventing land erosion, environmental awareness, increasing green spaces by planting income generating trees (wild fruit trees) and involving women in disseminating environmental awareness. Activities to be carried out include:
 - ◀ Awareness campaigns targeting the whole community with an emphasis of women and youth
 - ◀ Planting wild fruit trees in public spaces and home gardens
 - ◀ Create a public park
 - ◀ Training of environmental activists
- **Key Results:**
 - ◀ Prevention of land and soil erosion by increasing green spaces
 - ◀ High community involvement in environmental issues
 - ◀ Income generation for the local community
- **Difficulties:**
- **Current Status:** On-Going (new LIFE project)

D. REDUCING HEALTH HAZARDS

1. Municipality of Ghobayri

Duration: One year **Starting Date:** Sept, 1999

General Assembly Composition (Female/Total): Municipal Council (0/21)

Number of Beneficiaries: The community of Horsh El-Kateel (13,000 inhabitants)

Parties Concerned: Municipality of Ghobeiry, a local committee

Total Cost: \$ 100,000

LIFE grant: \$20,000

Background: Horsh El-Kateel is an area that suffers from the lack of basic infrastructure including lack of any secondary sewage pipes which caused serious environmental and health problems in the area. All the residents of this area are squatters coming either from Bekkaa or the South (fleeing constant Israeli raids or looking for better job opportunities). The residents of Horsh EL-Kateel live in illegally built homes suffering from dire poverty. In winter, a big swamp forms from dirty wastewater leading to flooding. During last winter, some children drowned in the swamp that called for an immediate intervention. The Council of Development and Reconstruction which is usually in charge of implementing such public works, is not involved in setting up the infrastructure of this area as Horsh El-Kateel is supposed to be vanish from the map according to the Elyssar urban plan for the Southern suburbs. The newly elected municipality which has been very active since its election, in carrying out several developmental and environmental projects in Ghobeiry, responded to this pressing problem by initiating a project for installation of secondary sewage pipes and applied for LIFE Programme for funding.

Description: The Objectives of the project include protecting the environment, creating environmental awareness, preventing pollution caused by flooding wastewater, improving the living conditions of the urban poor living in Horsh El-Kateel as well as conducting a pilot project for SWM in a small section of the "Industrial Area".

Key Results: Anticipated results include the improvement of the living conditions of the urban poor in Horsh El-Kateel and the dissemination of environmental awareness.

Difficulties: Lack of volunteers and specialists from Horsh El-Kateel itself

Current Status: The project just started (new LIFE project).