

MULTI PURPOSE SURVEY B r i e f i n g

الجمهورية اللبنانية
مكتب وزير الدولة لشؤون التنمية الإدارية
مركز مشاريع ودراسات القطاع العام

Republic of Lebanon

Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform
Center for Public Sector Projects and Studies
(C.P.S.P.S.)

Background

The MoSA/UNDP Project "Capacity Building for Poverty Reduction" builds on the efforts already made in the first phase of the Project titled "Improving the Living Conditions of the Poor"; whereby the Project "Improving the Living Conditions of the Poor" formed an integral part of the Poverty Strategy Initiative (PSI) for Lebanon lead by the Ministry of Social Affairs with UNDP support in 1997. The first initiative in understanding poverty was an initial assessment of basic needs deprivation in the "Mapping of Living Conditions in Lebanon" also commonly referred to as the Poverty Mapping.

In this context, the project aimed to expand on the analysis of social conditions in the country and to establish the groundwork for national household multi-purpose poverty survey. Furthermore, the project provided initial support towards the formulation of poverty reduction programme in region of Akkar/North Lebanon, which was identified as the poorest in the Mapping of Living Conditions.

The Planning, management and implementation processes of the project, which have been largely participatory, produced significant results in promoting national ownership and in mainstreaming poverty data and policy dialogue for the formulation of poverty reduction plan.

New partnerships and the spreading out of public awareness on poverty issues were the most prominent results of the project implementation process. Extended partnerships worth noting include, in addition to the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Central Administration of Statistics, the Lebanese University in the compilation of demographic data, and the Council of Development and Reconstruction in adopting ownership of preliminary recommendations for an anti-poverty programme in Akkar/North Lebanon. Collaboration and consultations with central bodies included members of Parliament, Line Ministries, the Civil Service Board, national experts, academic institutions and the media. Dynamic participation was promoted among municipalities, cooperatives, local community groups, and NGOs. The project also mainstreamed anti-poverty programme options and information among bi-lateral and multi-lateral members of the development community, as well as UN agencies. The project was also conducive for the establishment of a coordination committee in the

Ministry of Social Affairs that includes representatives of the Ministry's departments and the managers of projects supported by the UN system and the World Bank.

Rationale

Comprehensive social and economic data are vital if the country is to successfully realize national recovery and global integration. Notwithstanding the significant efforts made to collect socio-economic data in the late nineties, Lebanon continues to suffer from a shortage of national data and therefore development targets pertaining to living conditions, income, and employment. Official national accounts, trade and economic indicators are relatively absent and continue to be calculated by the private sector thus contributing to inconsistencies. Indicators that impact on the social and economic climate and adopted by the World Bank, IMF, and other international organizations are often measured through extrapolations.

Baseline social data for assessing the impact of economic policies, of essence to the Government in implementing national and sectoral plans, are increasingly based on cost-benefit analyses/forecasts and little accurate data, if available. Nevertheless, the Government formulated a five-year fiscal plan, five-year development plan, in addition to sectoral plans and intensive policy reviews to implement a privatization plan, this in the absence of reliable data needed to monitor change.

Dynamic changes in the country, notably the liberation of southern Lebanon and the economic crisis, also warrant the up-date of existing data on population, living conditions, health and social surveys that were completed by the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Central Administration of Statistics and other Line Ministries, in the nineties. Outdated data renders national socioeconomic planning and international donor targeting difficult.

Furthermore, the central data bank of the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS), as is stipulated in its mandate, continues to fall short of hosting the totality of national data. CAS can benefit from support to develop and maintain national data and to supervise and implement national surveys.

The Multi-Purpose Poverty Survey

Referring to the needs for data and socioeconomic indicators mentioned above, it is proposed to implement a Multi Purpose Household Survey that takes into consideration household incomes and expenditures and goes beyond what has already been produced by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS).

The Multi-Purpose Poverty Survey will be implemented in the context of the project "Capacity Building for Poverty Reduction" aimed to support the government of Lebanon in the formulation of national anti-poverty and development policies. The importance of the survey lies in the fact that for the first time a multi-purpose survey that covers a broad set of socioeconomic dimensions shall be implemented in Lebanon. The aim is to provide policy-makers with comprehensive data about socio-economic disparities in the Lebanese society, to facilitate their planning,

implementation and monitoring functions. Hence, it will measure social and economic indicators to assist the government in developing national targets and programmes. The survey will also serve to improving targeting of assistances and of corresponding resources. The survey will also serve to up-date existing data and contribute to the monitoring change, an additional input to development practitioners.

The project objective to collect and analyze national socio-economic data analysis is relevant and supportive of the government's efforts to formulate medium term plans, implement and monitor the implementation of the 5-year development plan of CDR and other as well as to target national expenditure and aid assistance to improving living conditions in Lebanon.

The survey is planned to start on September 2002, six years after the major surveys produced between the year 1995 and 1997. Hence, the survey lead by the Ministry of Social Affairs and implemented by the Central Administration of Statistics will contribute to ongoing activities of the MoSA, the CAS, UNDP, UNFPA, ILO, UNICEF and their counterparts.

The survey will also be implemented in partnership with the Pan Arab Project For Family Health (PAPFAM) survey. The aim of this partnership and coordination between both surveys is to reduce cost, time and effort, improve quality of data, and avoid duplication in results. Several agencies has pooled efforts and funds for the implementation of the PAPFAM survey: AGFUND, UNFPA, ESCWA, League of Arab States, OPEC Fund, etc. in 16 Arab countries. However, the League of Arab States, through a special central management unit, will handle all aspects of survey organization and implementation. The PAPFAM survey will be implemented independently from the MPS in terms of finance and management, however, CAS will provide the necessary technical follow-up and supervision.

Sample Design

The sampling structure adopted for the survey has taken into consideration a number of factors, most important of which is to ensure that the sample frame is representative at the national level and at the level of the six mohafazats in the country and partially at the kada level

- The survey will cover a sample of 20,000 households
 - 14,000 households will fill the MPS questionnaire (core questionnaire on household conditions in addition to the income and expenditure diaries) over one whole year: 8,000 households during the first 6 months and 6,000 households during the second 6 months.
 - 6,000 households will fill out the PAPFAM health questionnaires (reproductive health and elderly) in addition to the common core questionnaire on household conditions.
- The sub-sample of 8,000 households representative on the level of clusters (15 population clusters, each composed of one or more kada with an additional stratum of suburbs around Beirut) would be used for collecting income and expenditure data. This sub-sample will be covered during two periods about six months apart to cover seasonal variations.

Questionnaire

A set of two questionnaires will be used for the MPS survey in addition to the questionnaires of the PAPFAM survey:

- A core questionnaire including socio-economic indicators of households will cover the total sample of 14,000 households in addition to the 6,000 household sample for the PAPFAM Health Survey.
- A questionnaire on income, expenditures and household budget, and dairies to be filled out daily for one week will cover a total sample of 8,000 households.
- The Reproductive Health Questionnaire and the Elderly Questionnaire will be filled out for the PAPFAM health survey, covering the 6,000 households sample.

Adopting the above mentioned method is expected to yield the following results:

- UBN measurement at the national, mohafaza and kada level
- Income poverty line at the mohafaza and kada level
- Merge both UBN and PL at the national and mohafaza level.

Objectives

Survey Objectives can be summarized as the following::

- To produce comprehensive indicators on population, health, employment and other sectors while simultaneously up-dating data produced in previous surveys conducted in the mid-nineties.
- To provide for an integrated analysis of poverty through the measurement of income poverty and basic needs poverty at the national level. This entails calculation of poverty indices particularly poverty line, poverty gap and poverty severity according to international methodologies.
- To provide the data needed to conduct national accounts and construct consumer price indices for cities outside Beirut, and to be used for other socio-economic analyses for all Lebanon.
- To provide sufficient data needed to identify development target indicators in line with the International Development Targets (IDT) adopted by national and international agencies (CCA - UNDAF).
- To monitor changes in the aspects covered by the Living Standards Survey (housing, health, education, etc.). To update and monitor changes in comparison to the main surveys completed up till present.

Institutional Arrangements

The Survey will be the principal output of a joint UNDP/MoSA/CAS project, where the Ministry of Social Affairs will be the Executing Agency and the Central Administration of Statistics will be the Implementing Agency and the Council for Development and Reconstruction as the Co-operating Agency.

The UNDP as the lead agency will collaborate with constituents UN agencies,

notably The International Labor Organization (ILO), the United Population Funds (UNFPA), The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Statistics Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), to provide technical and resource mobilization support for the implementation of the Survey.

The CAS will be responsible for the completion of the survey questionnaire and sample design, technical guidelines, training and monitoring surveyors, the field survey itself, data entry and tabulation, and preliminary interpretation of survey findings and key indicators. CAS will also be responsible to publish initial findings in the context of its regular publications.

The MoSA, in collaboration with the Council for Development and Reconstruction, will lead the data analysis process that extends beyond the initial interpretations of CAS. MoSA, in consultation, with its partners on the project, will identify relevant development indicators, if other than those presented by CAS and request CAS to provide the results. MoSA will be responsible for oversight, review and/or clearance of any analysis and/or official publication resulting from the study other than that of CAS.

MoSA will lead the process of institutionalizing the findings of the survey as baseline references for national decision-making and policy-making. MoSA will also lead in mainstreaming the findings of the survey in Government, Parliament, the media and among civil society groups.

Time Frame and Budget

The survey will follow a 30-month implementation schedule of which 13 months are allocated for fieldwork itself. For the household budget survey to yield accurate results, it is important to opt for the one-year fieldwork reference in order to cover seasonal income-expenditure variations. A tentative time frame for each phase is planned as the following:

Phase I	Months 1-8
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prepare the technical file and update selected PSUs- Carry the pilot survey- Analyze the results - Modify questionnaire and train field surveyors - Announce and advertise for survey
Phase II	Months 9-22
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Implement Field Survey- Produce mid-term report- Data entry and data cleaning and processing
Phase III	Months 23-30
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Analyze data and Produce report- Produce first draft of final report- Publish final report

الجمهورية اللبنانية
مكتب وزير الدولة للتطوير الإداري
مركز مشاريع القطاع العام