Support to Host Communities in the WASH Sector
Project 00088194

General Information

Short Title: Access to Potable Water
UNDP Programme/Portfolio: Environment & Energy
Geographic Coverage: North
Project Status: Ongoing
Start Date: 01 January 2014
Expected End Date: 31 December 2023
Implementing Agency: UNDP (Direct Execution) (UNDP)
Last Updated: 04 March 2020

Classification

MDG Goal: 7. Access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy

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Donors & Budget

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Target Groups /Beneficiaries

- Lebanese Citizens
- Rural local communities

Project Details

Background

The massive influx of refugees has stretched the capacity to address the increased demand for services and resources, exacerbating social tensions between refugees and host communities. It has been indicated that local competition over livelihood and economic activities is causing the escalation of Syrian-Lebanese tension, which reflects the limited job and economic opportunities locally and nationally for all. To alleviate social tensions, it is recommended to invest in interventions for the economic infrastructure and job creation as well as local level employment-generating projects particularly those encouraging Syrian-Lebanese cooperation.

The agricultural sector is one of the most important sectors due to its contribution to the local economy, food security, natural resource management, and its capacity to create new jobs, especially for labour from displace people, and alleviating social tensions. However, the agricultural sector is facing severe water scarcity because the demand for irrigation water resources for irrigation purposes has rapidly increased to meet the higher food demand, mainly caused by the influx of refugees. The depletion of water resource is exacerbated by the use of old earthen irrigation canals and highly inefficient irrigation techniques, and decreased precipitation caused by climate change.

To this end, the project is undertaking following activities: construction or rehabilitation of water collection cisterns, irrigation infrastructure, and rainwater harvesting such mountain lakes and on-farm improved irrigation systems. These projects create both short-term job opportunities for vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian labourers during the construction or implementation of the works themselves while also increasing longer-term employment potential through the expansion of agricultural lands and increasing production.
Achievements:
- The progress of the construction of the Concrete Irrigation Canals and Networks is as follows: Anjar 100% complete and handed over, Khirbet Qanafar 70% complete, Chaat 50% complete, Younine 90% complete, and Ainata contact awarded and works will start soon. Agricultural lands covered are around 1,600 ha, benefiting 4,600 Lebanese farmers and 6,039 Syrian refugees.
- The construction of Concrete Irrigation Canals and Networks in in Hissa Samounié and Dahr Qonbar is completed. Agricultural lands covered are around 230 ha, benefiting 700 Lebanese and 5200 Syrian
- The rehabilitation of irrigation canal and capacity building for on-farm irrigation and agricultural practices in Qab Elias.
- The progress of the labour intensive construction of the Irrigation network is as follows: Nahr Ibrahim 40% complete. 4,200 workperson days and 79 jobs created to date.
- Khreybet Al Jundi (akkar Governorate), Khyem, and Hasbaya (Nabatiyeh Governorate): procurement process completed.
- Design for an irrigation pond in Jezzine is underway.
- Sir Al Denniyyeh/ Beqaa Sifirine bid launched (for the construction of irrigation canals)
- Identification of additional potential sites is ongoing.

Expected Results:
- Completion and commissioning of water irrigation networks in Chaat, Khirbet Qanafar and Anjar, in the Bekaa region and initiation of the construction of new canals and networks in Younin and Aynata, also in the Bekaa region.
- Completion of the site implementation in Tel Maayan and Sammouniye in Sahel Akkar;
- The comprehensive agricultural support in Qab Elias in partnership with ICARDA;
- Rehabilitation of 5 canals in the various regions and identification/design for 2 hill lakes in a labour intensive approach

Issues & Difficulties
- Political instability and security situation in the country
- Lengthy process for licensing for works
- Site conditions do not match initial ESFD assessment