



Food Security Sector Working Group Meeting

***MoA –Bir Hassan
10/10/2017***

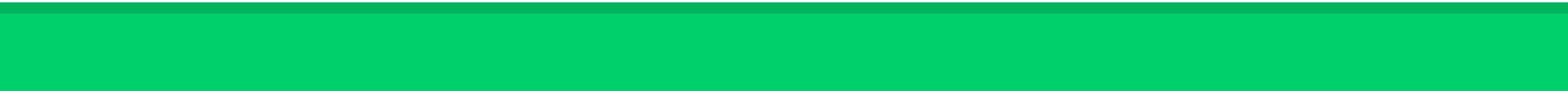


Agenda



1. Agriculture- livelihoods:
 1. Reporting guidelines
 2. Exercise conducted results
 2. Updating the LCRP 2018
 3. ACTED presentation
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Agriculture Livelihood achievements in the FS sector





Agriculture Livelihood achievements in the FS sector

ACF

ACF	Appeal	Achieved
FS: OUTPUT 1.2: Target (# of farmers with enhanced farming production and adoption of climate smart technologies)	700	
FS: OUTPUT 1.3: Target (# of farmers/producers supported for access to markets)	700	
FS: OUTPUT 2.2: Target (# local agricultural associations supported/created eg: cooperatives, farmers groups...)	40	
FS: OUTPUT 2.3: Target (# of farmers supported financially and technically for private agriculture investment)	60	
FS: OUTPUT 2.4: Target (# of LEB SUPPORTED FOR EMPLOYMENT in the agriculture sector-education)	600	
FS: OUTPUT 2.4: Target (# of SYR SUPPORTED FOR EMPLOYMENT in the agriculture sector-education)	600	
FS: OUTPUT 2.5: Target (# of farmers benefiting from improvement agricultural productive infrastructure and/or communal assets)	700	
FS: OUTPUT 2.5: Target (# of LEB employed in the agriculture sector)	3,400	2,505
FS: OUTPUT 2.5: Target (# of SYR employed in the agriculture sector)	400	
FS: OUTPUT 3.1: Target (# of LEB for improved nutritional practices)	600	
FS: OUTPUT 3.2: Target (# of LEB trained/awareness of food safety related issues)	600	
FS: OUTPUT 3.2: Target (# of SYR trained/awareness of food safety related issues)	3,000	
FS: OUTPUT 4.1: Target (# of Food Security Assessments conducted)	6	
FS: OUTPUT 4.2: Target (# of Institutions/Facilities supported)	30	
FS: OUTPUT 4.2: Target (# of National Staff Trained)	20	
Total	11,456	2,505



Agriculture Livelihood achievements in the FS sector

ACTED

ACTED	Appeal	Achieved
FS: OUTPUT 1.2: Target (# of farmers with enhanced farming production and adoption of climate smart technologies)	620	1,244
FS: OUTPUT 1.4: Target (# of LEB assisted to reduce food wastage and losses)		615
FS: OUTPUT 2.2: Target (# local agricultural associations supported/created eg: cooperatives, farmers groups...)	50	
FS: OUTPUT 2.2: Target (# of national agricultural institutional sites: MoA offices/centers/schools supported)	6	
FS: OUTPUT 2.4: Target (# of LEB SUPPORTED FOR EMPLOYMENT in the agriculture sector-education)	7,974	
FS: OUTPUT 2.4: Target (# of SYR SUPPORTED FOR EMPLOYMENT in the agriculture sector-education)	7,974	
FS: OUTPUT 2.5: Target (# of LEB employed in the agriculture sector)		2,095
FS: OUTPUT 3.1: Target (# of LEB for improved nutritional practices)		5,245
FS: OUTPUT 4.1: Target (# of Food Security Assessments conducted)	1	
Total	16,625	9,199



Agriculture Livelihood achievements in the FS sector

CONCERN

CONCERN	Appeal	Achieved
FS: OUTPUT 1.2: Target (# of farmers with enhanced farming production and adoption of climate smart technologies)	250	
FS: OUTPUT 1.3: Target (# of farmers/producers supported for access to markets)	250	
FS: OUTPUT 2.3: Target (# of farmers supported financially and technically for private agriculture investment)	250	
FS: OUTPUT 2.4: Target (# of SYR SUPPORTED FOR EMPLOYMENT in the agriculture sector-education)	1,500	
FS: OUTPUT 2.5: Target (# of farmers benefiting from improvement agricultural productive infrastructure and/or commun	250	
FS: OUTPUT 2.5: Target (# of SYR employed in the agriculture sector)	1,500	
Total	4,000	0



Agriculture Livelihood achievements in the FS sector

DORCAS

Dorcas	Appeal	Achieved
FS: OUTPUT 3.2: Target (# of PRL trained/awareness of food safety related issues)	5	
FS: OUTPUT 3.2: Target (# of SYR trained/awareness of food safety related issues)	20	
FS: OUTPUT 4.2: Target (# of National Staff Trained)		10
Total	25	10



Agriculture Livelihood achievements in the FS sector

FAO

FAO	Appeal	Achieved
FS: OUTPUT 1.2: Target (# of farmers with enhanced farming production and adoption of climate smart technologies)	395	311
FS: OUTPUT 1.4: Target (# of LEB assisted to reduce food wastage and losses)	210	51
FS: OUTPUT 1.5: Target (# of farmers benefiting from control of trans-boundary animal and plant diseases)	140	158
FS: OUTPUT 2.2: Target (# local agricultural associations supported/created eg: cooperatives, farmers groups...)	98	112
FS: OUTPUT 2.2: Target (# of national agricultural institutional sites: MoA offices/centers/schools supported)	46	31
FS: OUTPUT 2.3: Target (# of farmers supported financially and technically for private agriculture investment)	1,225	
FS: OUTPUT 2.4: Target (# of LEB SUPPORTED FOR EMPLOYMENT in the agriculture sector-education)	693	136
FS: OUTPUT 2.4: Target (# of OTH SUPPORTED FOR EMPLOYMENT in the agriculture sector-education)		2
FS: OUTPUT 2.4: Target (# of SYR SUPPORTED FOR EMPLOYMENT in the agriculture sector-education)	462	20
FS: OUTPUT 2.5: Target (# of farmers benefiting from improvement agricultural productive infrastructure and/or communal assets)	1,225	
FS: OUTPUT 2.5: Target (# of LEB employed in the agriculture sector)	490	
FS: OUTPUT 2.5: Target (# of SYR employed in the agriculture sector)	2,450	
FS: OUTPUT 3.2: Target (# of LEB trained/awareness of food safety related issues)	100	128
FS: OUTPUT 4.1: Target (# of Food Security Assessments conducted)	3	
FS: OUTPUT 4.2: Target (# of Institutions/Facilities supported)	3	
FS: OUTPUT 4.2: Target (# of National Staff Trained)	450	42
Total	7,990	991



Agriculture Livelihood achievements in the FS sector Himaya Dae Aataa (HDA)

Himaya Dae Aataa (HDA)	Appeal	Achieved
FS: OUTPUT 2.2: Target (# of national agricultural institutional sites: MoA offices/centers/schools supported)	31	
FS: OUTPUT 2.4: Target (# of LEB SUPPORTED FOR EMPLOYMENT in the agriculture sector-education)	270	
FS: OUTPUT 2.4: Target (# of SYR SUPPORTED FOR EMPLOYMENT in the agriculture sector-education)	480	
FS: OUTPUT 2.5: Target (# of farmers benefiting from improvement agricultural productive infrastructure and/or communal assets)	285	
FS: OUTPUT 2.5: Target (# of LEB employed in the agriculture sector)	1,500	
FS: OUTPUT 2.5: Target (# of SYR employed in the agriculture sector)	652	
FS: OUTPUT 3.1: Target (# of LEB for improved nutritional practices)	370	
FS: OUTPUT 3.1: Target (# of PRL for improved nutritional practices)	150	
FS: OUTPUT 3.1: Target (# of PRS for improved nutritional practices)	145	
FS: OUTPUT 3.2: Target (# of LEB trained/awareness of food safety related issues)	1,700	
FS: OUTPUT 3.2: Target (# of SYR trained/awareness of food safety related issues)	4,100	
FS: OUTPUT 4.2: Target (# of Institutions/Facilities supported)	46	
FS: OUTPUT 4.2: Target (# of National Staff Trained)	170	
Total	9,899	0



Agriculture Livelihood achievements in the FS sector

IOCC

IOCC	Appeal	Achieved
FS: OUTPUT 1.3: Target (# of farmers/producers supported for access to markets)	4	
FS: OUTPUT 2.2: Target (# local agricultural associations supported/created eg: cooperatives, farmers groups...)	4	
FS: OUTPUT 2.4: Target (# of LEB SUPPORTED FOR EMPLOYMENT in the agriculture sector-education)	70	
FS: OUTPUT 2.4: Target (# of SYR SUPPORTED FOR EMPLOYMENT in the agriculture sector-education)	70	
FS: OUTPUT 2.5: Target (# of LEB employed in the agriculture sector)	3,550	
FS: OUTPUT 3.1: Target (# of LEB for improved nutritional practices)	1,700	
FS: OUTPUT 3.2: Target (# of LEB trained/awareness of food safety related issues)	1,700	
FS: OUTPUT 3.2: Target (# of SYR trained/awareness of food safety related issues)	3,550	
FS: OUTPUT 4.1: Target (# of Food Security Assessments conducted)	1,300	
FS: OUTPUT 4.2: Target (# of Institutions/Facilities supported)	4	
Total	11,952	0



Agriculture Livelihood achievements in the FS sector

LSESD

LSESD	Appeal	Achieved
FS: OUTPUT 4.1: Target (# of Food Security Assessments conducted)	2,418	131
FS: OUTPUT 4.2: Target (# of National Staff Trained)	33	
FS: OUTPUT 4.2: Target (# of Institutions/Facilities supported)	24	
Total	2,475	131



Agriculture Livelihood achievements in the FS sector

Save the Children

SCI	Appeal	Achieved
FS: OUTPUT 1.3: Target (# of farmers/producers supported for access to markets)	30	
FS: OUTPUT 2.3: Target (# of farmers supported financially and technically for private agriculture investment)	30	
FS: OUTPUT 2.4: Target (# of SYR SUPPORTED FOR EMPLOYMENT in the agriculture sector-education)	300	
FS: OUTPUT 2.5: Target (# of farmers benefiting from improvement agricultural productive infrastructure and/or communal assets)	30	
FS: OUTPUT 2.5: Target (# of SYR employed in the agriculture sector)	300	
FS: OUTPUT 4.1: Target (# of Food Security Assessments conducted)	7	
FS: OUTPUT 4.2: Target (# of National Staff Trained)	25	
Total	722	0



Agriculture Livelihood achievements in the FS sector

SIF

SIF	Appeal	Achieved
FS: OUTPUT 1.2: Target (# of farmers with enhanced farming production and adoption of climate smart technologies)	8	
FS: OUTPUT 1.3: Target (# of farmers/producers supported for access to markets)	8	
FS: OUTPUT 1.5: Target (# of farmers benefiting from control of trans-boundary animal and plant diseases)	8	
FS: OUTPUT 2.2: Target (# local agricultural associations supported/created eg: cooperatives, farmers groups...)	1	
FS: OUTPUT 2.2: Target (# of national agricultural institutional sites: MoA offices/centers/schools supported)	1	
FS: OUTPUT 2.5: Target (# of farmers benefiting from improvement agricultural productive infrastructure and/or communal assets)	8	
FS: OUTPUT 3.2: Target (# of SYR trained/awareness of food safety related issues)	150	
Total	184	0



Agriculture Livelihood achievements in the FS sector

IR

IR	Appeal	Achieved
FS: OUTPUT 2.5: Target (# of LEB employed in the agriculture sector)	220	
FS: OUTPUT 3.1: Target (# of PRS for improved nutritional practices)	221	
FS: OUTPUT 3.1: Target (# of PRL for improved nutritional practices)	60	
FS: OUTPUT 3.1: Target (# of LEB for improved nutritional practices)	70	
FS: OUTPUT 3.2: Target (# of SYR trained/awareness of food safety related issues)	90	
FS: OUTPUT 3.2: Target (# of PRS trained/awareness of food safety related issues)	72	
FS: OUTPUT 3.2: Target (# of PRL trained/awareness of food safety related issues)	63	
FS: OUTPUT 3.2: Target (# of LEB trained/awareness of food safety related issues)	40	
Total	836	0



Agriculture Livelihood achievements in the FS sector

UNICEF

UNICEF	Appeal	Achieved
FS: OUTPUT 2.2: Target (# of national agricultural institutional sites: MoA offices/centers/schools supported)	7	
FS: OUTPUT 2.4: Target (# of LEB SUPPORTED FOR EMPLOYMENT in the agriculture sector-education)	440	365
FS: OUTPUT 2.4: Target (# of OTH SUPPORTED FOR EMPLOYMENT in the agriculture sector-education)		13
FS: OUTPUT 2.4: Target (# of SYR SUPPORTED FOR EMPLOYMENT in the agriculture sector-education)	1,510	785
FS: OUTPUT 2.5: Target (# of SYR employed in the agriculture sector)	210	
Total	2,167	1,163



Agriculture Livelihood achievements in the FS sector

Reason behind the lack of achievements:

- No funds/ limited partial funds
- Some proposed projects were not approved
- Late start of the project
- Reporting in another sector
- Not reporting in AI
- Projects started in 2017 and they are 3 years projects

KEY MESSAGES RELATED TO FSS on AGRICULTURE:

1. MoA and the FSS request to partners to appeal under the food security cluster for agriculture livelihood related activities
2. Old projects (if activities have already started) can continue to be reported under the livelihood sector
3. Monthly info reconciliation to be conducted among the 2 sectors so that the right info can be provided to both Ministries
4. Livelihoods partners to present at the monthly FSS meeting their projects for MoA technical feedback

Updating LCRP 2018



- Needs
- Strategy outlines
- Proposed Target Approach
- Budgets



2017-2020 LCRP APPROACH:

- Needs based approach –VaSyr 2017
- MoA strategy 2015-2019
- Timeframe (4 years planning)
- Targets and budget 2018 (more if available)

NEEDS ANALYSIS



- During the past seven years, the cumulative effects of the protracted Syrian crisis have severely impacted food security in Lebanon.
- Vulnerable populations including Lebanese, displaced Syrians and Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS), has seen their level of food security significantly worsened since 2013.



DISPLACED SYRIANS:

- 91 percent of Syrian refugees present some level of food insecurity.
- 38 percent presents severe or moderate level of food insecurity representing a 2% increase in these categories
- Data analysis reveals the vulnerability of households headed by women, and an increase in this vulnerability when compared with 2016.
- Food insecurity in 2017 is mainly associated with high economic vulnerability and limited income earning opportunities.
 - 58 percent of households were unable to cover their survival minimum expenditure per month (US\$ 87 per person/month),
 - while 76 percent (fell below the poverty line (\$115.2 per person/month), compared to 71 percent in 2016
- At governorate level, Akkar, Baalbek-Hermel, Bekaa and have the highest proportion of food-insecure households.
- At the district level, the highest proportions of moderate and severe food insecure displaced Syrian households are found in Akkar, Jbeil, Jezzine, Hermel, Aley, Baadba.



PRS:

- 94.5 percent of PRS total population are food insecure (63.2 percent severely food insecure and 31.3 percent moderately food insecure).
- This reflects an increase of food insecurity by 3.5 percent from the vulnerability assessment conducted in 2014.
- PRS vulnerabilities as a result of protracted displacement are not anticipated to improve, and there is a concern that the uncertainty PRS face as a result of their lack of legal status and limited access to employment

PRL:

- 24% severely food insecure



VULNERABLE LEBANESE:

- After November 2014, when the food voucher component of NPTP was introduced, the Social Development Centers (SDCs) affiliated with the MoSA witnessed a huge increase in the number of applications to the NPTP programme as the food voucher was well received by the host community.
- NPTP is looking at increasing those benefitting from the food assistance within the next three years up to 25,000 HHS. Planning figures for 2018 amount at 15,000 hhs
- Based on the FSLA 2015, 10% of Lebanese households are vulnerable to food insecurity
- Total farming community is 170,000, of which 70.2% are small scale farmers (less than 10du)
- In 2015, 73% of Lebanese household's whose income is from agriculture reported need for support
- The sector is characterized by its informal nature, with no formal registration with the National Social Security System (NSSF) and no social security system attached
- The agriculture labour market employs mainly Syrians (75%) and only 7.5% Lebanese

Strategy outline



Key aspect - ***a dual-track approach*** to respond within the current context designed to:

- Continue the provision of life-saving food assistance
- Enhance efforts to develop durable solutions through human capital/livelihood support to vulnerable refugees and host community members and other vulnerable groups.

Sector partners will better address root causes of vulnerability, increase self-reliance, and help reduce the need for international assistance over time.



FSS will continue to play its humanitarian role to ensure availability and access to food for the most vulnerable through the provision of cash-based transfers or in-kind assistance

The 4 years is allowing the sector to expand its role to contribute to the stabilization of the country

HOW? By taking into consideration all food security aspects according to the standard four pillars: availability, access, utilization and stabilization.

- Income generating activities to enhance food access,
- Support the agricultural labour market,
- supporting sustainable food production and marketing,
- supporting agriculture value chains,
- promoting agriculture investment,
- enhancing Lebanese social safety net systems and social protection to farmers,
- supporting national institutions and other actors capacity in the field of food security

Key approach will be through the whole food value chain to increase productivity, food safety, quality, linkages and competitiveness of the Lebanese agricultural products from plant or animal origin in support of the agricultural sector , farming communities and sustainable management of natural resources.



Results Framework

Outcome 1 - FOOD AVAILABILITY: Food availability is improved through in-kind food assistance and the development of sustainable food value chains.

- **Output 1.1 - In kind food assistance is provided to the most vulnerable** through distribution of food parcels, community kitchens and school feeding
- **Output 1.2 - Lebanese small-scale and family-farming production and the adoption of climate-smart technologies are enhanced** through the promotion of sustainable agricultural and livestock production, water use efficiency and conservation, and energy saving farming practices.
- **Output 1.3 - Marketing of small-scale and family farms is improved** through the promotion of food transformation and preservation, the creation and reinforcement of linkages between small-scale producers and local markets, the distribution of unsold/un-marketed quality food from producer/retailer to local markets and market-based diversification/contract farming.
- **Output 1.4 - Food wastage and losses is reduced** by improving post-harvest management and working on valorisation of organic waste and least valued products (e.g. composting, awareness).
- **Output 1.5 - Trans-boundary animal and plant diseases are controlled** through support to the monitoring and early warning systems for plants and animal diseases awareness, capacity building and interventions to control the spread of transboundary diseases during emergencies.

Outcome 1 is directly linked to MoA strategy Course of Actions 2: Increase productivity and competitiveness of the Lebanese agricultural products; 3: Improve the good governance and sustainable use of natural resources, and; 8: Responding to climate change impacts.



Outcome 2 - FOOD ACCESS: Food accessibility is improved through cash-based food assistance and agricultural livelihoods.

- **Output 2.1 - Highly vulnerable populations, including displaced Syrians, Palestine Refugees from Syria and vulnerable Lebanese have direct access to food** through cash-based transfers for food such as e-cards and food vouchers.
- **Output 2.2 - Agricultural institutions to improve agriculture sector livelihoods**, with farmers' associations, agricultural cooperatives, markets and government institutions supported.
- **Output 2.3 - Small farmer/private investments in agriculture are supported** through financial and technical support (e.g. land reclamation, irrigation/water management), and promotion of innovative credit/loan schemes for Lebanese, and/or agricultural inputs such as seeds, livestock and equipment when more appropriate are provided.
- **Output 2.4 - Agricultural labour market is strengthened by supporting the Lebanese small-scale agriculture businesses and improving the employability of individuals especially women in agriculture** through improved technical education programmes and trainings in agriculture and support for enrolments in agricultural technical schools.
- **Output 2.5 - Rehabilitation and building of agricultural productive infrastructure and communal assets** such as agriculture roads, irrigation networks, forests, wind breaks, hill lakes, water reservoirs, etc. creating better access to farmers to services which will assist production and reduce costs at the same time increase opportunities for most vulnerable individuals in accessing temporary seasonal and casual labour opportunities in agriculture and related sectors.

Outcome 3 - FOOD UTILIZATION: Food safety and nutrition practices are improved through the promotion of consumption of diversified and quality food.



- **Output 3.1 - Nutrition-related behaviour and practices as well as food diversity are improved** for households vulnerable to food insecurity specifically targeting female-headed households and households with pregnant and lactating women and children under five, through the promotion of small-scale production of diversified nutritious food for vulnerable households. Interventions include trainings, awareness and behaviour change activities, school, backyard and roof micro-gardens and promotion of food preservation/transformation technologies at the household level.
- **Output 3.2 - Food safety measures and policies towards a balanced, safe and nutritious diet are enhanced** by assisting the Government in improving the food inspection and safety measures, promoting Integrated Pest Management and Good Agriculture Practices and Standards, conducting value chains in regard to food safety and promoting policies supporting the local production of high value nutritious foods.

Outcome 3 is directly linked to MoA strategy Course of Actions 1: Improve food safety and quality of locally produced and imported products, and; 5: Strengthening agricultural research and laboratories.

Outcome 4 - STABILIZATION: Stabilization is promoted through enhanced information on food security, coordination of agriculture activities and support of national institutions.



Output 4.1 - Sex-disaggregated data on food security are collected and analysed. Information to monitor and report on the situation of food security in Lebanon is disseminated for preparedness and long-term stabilization, including assessments with specific focus on vulnerable farmers, women and agricultural livelihoods.

Output 4.2 - National institutions and actors involved in food security supported through development national capacity in the areas of safety nets, integration of social protection systems for farmers, contribution to the development of disaster and crisis management, support national policies and strategies related to food security, coordination and technical support to all agriculture and food security actors and promotion involvement of the private sector.

Outcome 4 is directly linked to MoA strategy Course of Actions 3: Improve the good governance and sustainable use of natural resources; 5: Strengthening agricultural research and laboratories; 6: Development of the cooperative sector and mutual funds; 7: Development of the Ministry of Agriculture's capacities, and; 8: Responding to climate change impacts.



2018 Sector Priorities:

Based on the current food security situation sector priorities will be:

1. Continue the provision of direct and critical food assistance (through cash-based transfers for food and also in-kind assistance where appropriate) in support for highly vulnerable groups among the large population of displaced Syrians, Lebanese and PRS
2. Promote agricultural investment first to improved agricultural opportunities for Lebanese small-scale farmers to protect their assets, stabilize their livelihood opportunities and enhance long term competitiveness and second to create adequate job opportunities
3. Support national and local food security systems, including social safety nets capacity building and social protection to promote stabilization

LCRP proposed food assistance targets approached for 2018



- The overall aim is: assist the most vulnerable ones
- Planning figures for displaced Syrians will be based on the VASyR 2017 results
- Planning figures for PRS and PRL will be based on UNRWA needs assessments
- Planning figures for Vulnerable Lebanese will be done in collaboration with the NPTP and MoA

FOOD ASSISTANCE - People in Need and Targets



SYRIANS:

People in need (PIN) : 91% (this reflects all of those presenting some level of food insecurity based on the VaSyr 2017 results)

Targets: the sector will be targeting the most vulnerable ones: severe – moderate food insecure and a portion of the mild below SMEB.

The identification of the households eligible for direct assistance will be done by applying the ranking of vulnerability that captures households who are vulnerable according to the VASyR food insecurity categories

PRS: based on the UNRWA assessment

PIN: 34,000

Target: (TBC)

Vulnerable Lebanese: based on NPTP eligibility criteria

PIN: (TBC)

Target: up to 15,000 HHS

Budget Calculation (not final)

Type of Assistance	Unit cost	Comments
In kind- food Assistance	38\$	The high unit costs for in kind assistance allows the necessary flexibility for the sector to reflect and accommodate the increased needs during winter and Ramadan.
Cash based food assistance	32\$	The budgets for Cash Based Transfers reflects the upper ceiling of projected sector requirements. These are therefore not a direct reflection of the actual amounts that partners - for example WFP or UNWRA - will appeal for under LCRP 2018 but rather the combined upper ceiling of projected requirements under each modality based on an average per capita cost which allows the sector a flexible budget.

Agricultural Livelihoods - People in Need and Targets



People in need: To be updated by MoA

Lessons Learned and Key Findings on Urban Agriculture Project



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Project Background

WHO?

- 1- Vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian households in Lower Metn and Southern Suburbs of Beirut;
- 2- Community spaces at Municipalities of lower Metn and Southern suburbs of Beirut.

WHAT?

- 1- At Household Level: Distribution of agriculture kits and installation of rain water harvesting systems;
- 2- At Municipal Level: Establishment of community gardens.

ACCOMPLISHED

- 1- Distribution of agriculture kits to 224 households (including designs, soil, seeds/small plants);
- 2- Installation of 14 water harvesting units;
- 3- Established 8 community gardens in public institutions.



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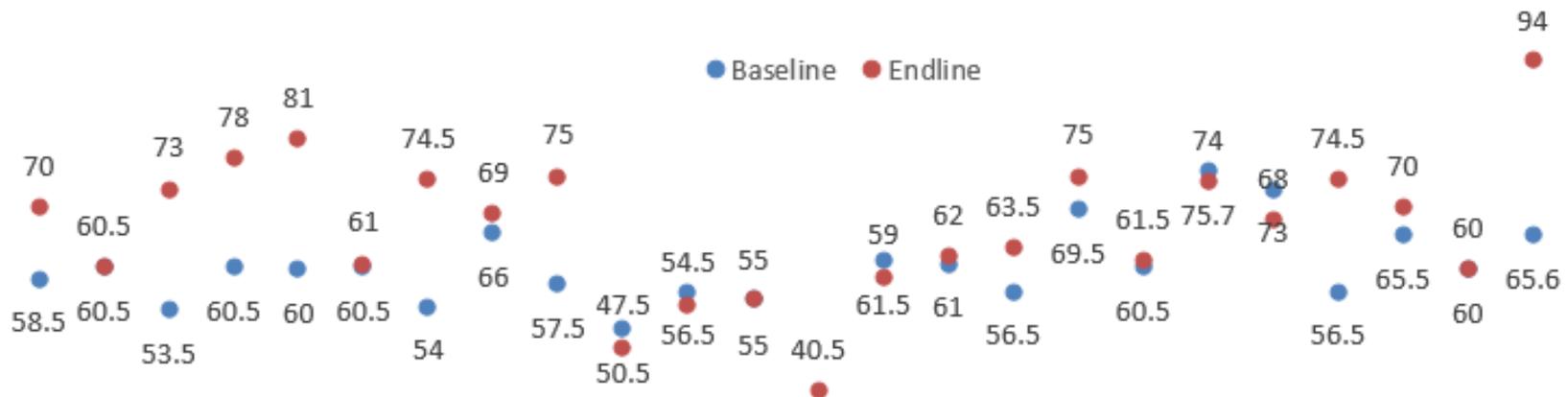
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Household Level

Selection of beneficiaries was based on an assessment including Food Consumption Score

While the project aimed to favor vulnerable households, it was challenging to identify households who had space for the installation of kits, access to clear water and the time and capacity to grow food crops. Therefore, the FCS results show that the majority of the beneficiaries fall under “acceptable” category at both baseline and endline stages.

Figure 1 – FCS evolution for 24 beneficiaries interviewed both at baseline and endline stages



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13.5

Household Level

The end of project assessment found that Lebanese households benefitted more from the household level kits as they had a better relationship with their landlords, had more space for the kits, and were able to water continuously without concern.

Challenges in following up with beneficiaries:

This project's success is based on the beneficiaries' effort and engagement and the results are not directly observable, therefore households with high food insecurity needed more immediate food assistance than the project could provide.

Lack of awareness and education among vulnerable communities to understand the long-term gains of a development project, as opposed to emergency projects.

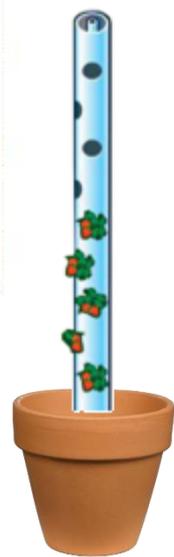


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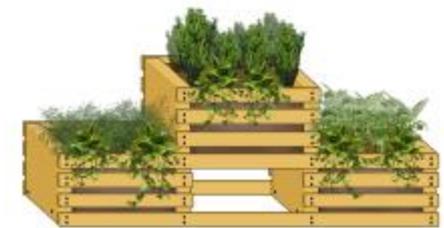


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Designs Implemented

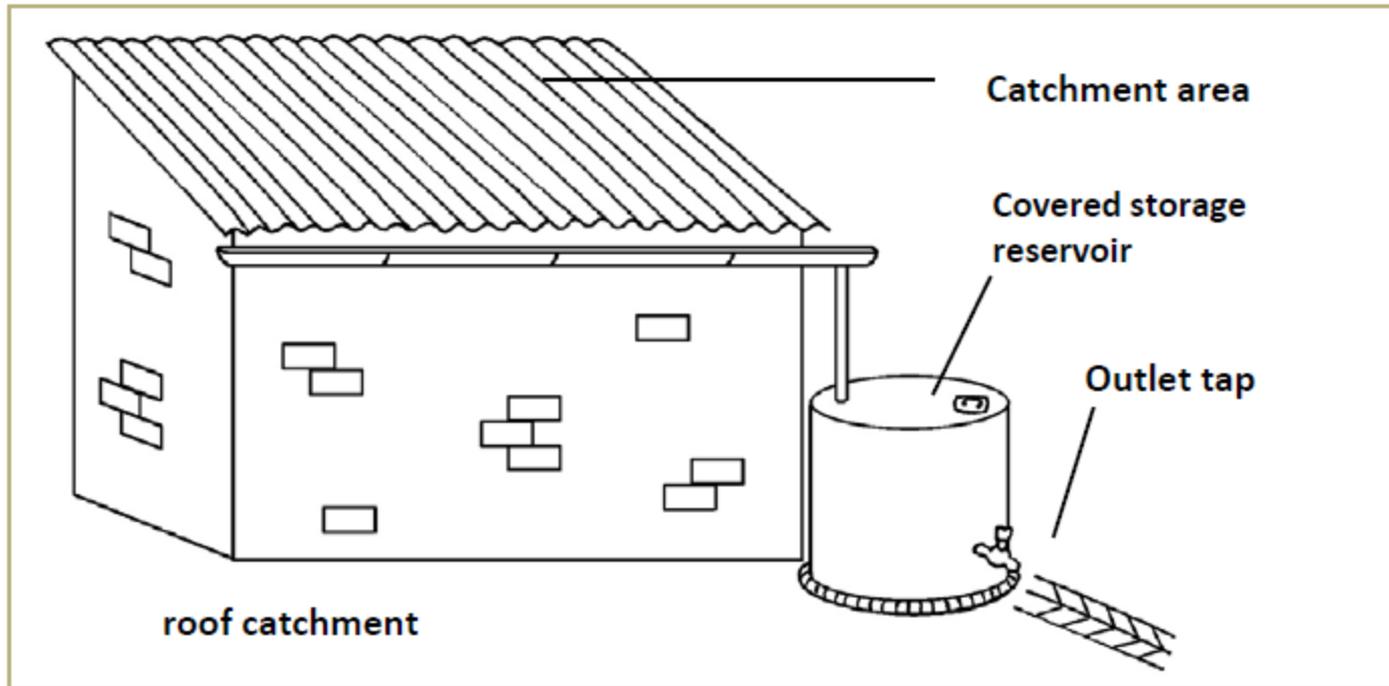


Using PVC pipes



Using Wood

Rain Water Collection Units



Pipes are connected to gutters of the building to collect the rain water from the roof.

- Challenge in finding locations for the tank
- Not effective in areas chosen as the shortage of water is in summer not in rainy seasons.



Community Level

Selection of beneficiaries

- After multiple meetings with municipalities in Urban Areas of Lower Metn and Southern suburbs of Beirut, the project was moved to institutions due to the lack of public spaces and the challenge in municipal follow up for crop growing. (Municipalities do not consider this as a priority for their areas. They are not ready to provide water, oversee the work by the committee or ensure the sustainability of the project.)
- 8 institutions were chosen including public schools, health centers and an elderly house.
- Management Committees
- Implementation and Sustainability



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OUTCOME, SAFETY, AND ACCEPTABILITY OF URBAN AGRICULTURE IN SELECTED AREAS OF SOUTHERN SUBURBS OF BEIRUT AND LOWER METN AREA

The main objective of this study was to highlight the importance and benefits of urban gardening. To this end, MEFOSA was contracted as a consultant to conduct a study to check the outcome, safety and acceptability of urban gardening in the areas of implementation.

The consultants sampled and tested plants grown at household vertical gardens and community gardens established by the beneficiaries.



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Sampling for Pesticide, Heavy Metals and Microbiological test

Samples were taken from household level and the local market (the primary market for the community to purchase fresh foods)



At household level



Test Analysis – Microbiological Content

- Household/Market feedback:
 - ***S.aureus*, Anaerobic Sulfite/Reducing Bacteria, *Clostridium perfringens*, *Listeria monocytogens* and *Salmonella*** were tested and found to be within the accepted level for conformity.
 - ***Enterobacteriaceae*** in Zucchini and Parsley from the market and mint and Chickory from households exceeded their allowable limit of 104.
- Market Feedback: ***E.coli*** in tomatoes from the market exceeded their allowable limit.



Test Analysis – Pesticides Residue Content

Pesticide residue was detected in two samples: Tomato and wild cucumber from the market.

The tomato crops from the market results showed that one out of 3 pesticides detected had their MRL (maximum residue level) value above the acceptable limit i.e did not comply with the standards of LIBNOR which are also EU standards, while the wild cucumber contained a fungicide detected with an MRL level within the range allowed by Libnor standard thus does not raise a major concern.

For pesticide residue, it was highlighted as good practice to use natural pesticides in household level production (as was done in the present project). Further studies need to be done to verify the origin of supply of tomatoes in the local market to suggest mitigation measures to correct these pesticide levels.



Test Analysis – Heavy Metals

- There were traces of heavy metals detected in both market and household produce samples; however, none of them exceeded the allowed limits according to Libnor standards.
- Heavy metal contamination may occur due to irrigation with contaminated water, the addition of fertilizers/metal based pesticides, industrial emissions, transportation, and/or the harvesting process.



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Feasibility Study

If the feasibility study is based on simple calculation, it appears that planting at home is cheaper than buying vegetables from the local market.

Notably, if factors such as the amount and variety of crops needed by the household, consistency in production, lack of knowledge about how to use fertilizers and to treat diseases, and lack of time management, are taken into account, the consultant conclude that in order to count on urban gardening as a sustainable solution in eradicating hunger, these elements highlight the importance of sustainable, motivational and mentoring trainings, as well as access to adequate resources to allow for expanded production (in terms of planting space and water availability) so that in the long term, urban agriculture becomes economically feasible for vulnerable households.



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Recommendations

Household level

- Develop selection criteria that weighs heavily the commitment and willingness as well as the suitability of living conditions for crop growth, notably at a higher weight than the household's vulnerability.
- In order to ensure a cost-effective investment, use roof tops only for crop growing: if all households within the building approve this intervention, then a garden can be created at the roof top making use of larger spaces more suitable for plantations.
- Complement the project with direct assistance for food security as this program is not alone sufficient to ensure adequate dietary needs.
- Design unique designs for each household – the material and amounts to be planned based on the preference of the household and the space available. Previously designed options are not applicable to all households and the intervention is new to people, their inputs would increase their involvement and motivation.



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Recommendations

Community level

- Both municipal spaces and institutional spaces provide pros and cons for community level gardens. While municipalities can ensure sustainability by integrating the running costs of such spaces in their annual budget, the institutions have an existing management structure in place which can improve follow-up on space maintenance.
- Combining both approaches, ornamental plants and food crop production, could allow for greater acceptance by local authorities.
- Specialize production of one specific crop and assist the committee in creating a marketing plan to generate an income to ensure the sustainability of the established garden and possibly assist vulnerable households.

