

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Reconstructing livelihoods in Lebanon

Context

A large part of the civilian infrastructure and industry of Lebanon was destroyed during the 2006 war. While most of the country was affected, specially the southern suburbs of Beirut, the Bekaa Valley and some other Northern areas, paid the highest price in lost lives and ruined livelihoods. Overall, the country has relied so far on imports to cover its food needs.

Strategy

At the request of the Government of Lebanon, UNIDO launched a project in 2007 to help rebuild Lebanon's agro-industries, and thus restore livelihoods. The project aimed at rehabilitating war-affected enterprises, which in turn would create jobs. Direct technical assistance was provided to war- damaged Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the southern suburbs of Beirut, the Bekaa Valley and in particular other rural areas of southern Lebanon.

In its initial phase, 103 enterprises received assistance. Assistance included restoration work, new machinery and technical/managerial training. The new machinery provided owners a renewed sense of pride in their profession, and has led them to adopt new production techniques for better quality products. Some enterprises have also introduced new office and human resource management techniques as well as safety-related improvements to increase health at the workplace.

UNIDO's capacity-building, which targeted entrepreneurs, government counterparts, representatives of business associations and university students, included also direct training in the use of UNIDO's Computer Model for Feasibility Analysis and Reporting (COMFAR), business counselling, business management, good manufacturing practices and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points.

Current Status

- an estimated total of 103 agro-enterprises fully restored and operational;
- around 1300 new jobs created; and
- improved food security and health in households.

Impact / Outlook

Today, the enterprises have been able to resume production, re-employ staff and generate new jobs. The livelihoods of the employees and their families, including extended family members, have been restored and food security is no longer a major concern. Thus, UNIDO has achieved its main objective to restore war-damaged enterprises from five agro-industrial sectors in the most war-affected regions of Lebanon. In 2009, the project's evaluation concluded on an exceptional performance that provided tangible and visible support. A second phase is now being implemented to further strengthen the capacities of the beneficiaries and to ensure sustainability.

At a glance

OVERALL GOALS:	Increased market access for Lebanese products
ARAB COUNTRIES:	Lebanon
MDGs:	Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
THEMATIC AREA:	Poverty Reduction through Productive Activities
DONOR:	Lebanon Recovery Fund (LRF)
PARTNERS:	Government of Lebanon relevant ministries