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MIDTERM PROGRESS REPORT

Submitted to the Government of Germany

Improving Living Conditions in Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities

A UNDP project in partnership with UN-HABITAT and the Lebanese – Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC)

December 30, 2013

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List of Abbreviations

UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
LPDC	Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee
PM	Prime Minister
PMO	Prime Minister Office
CoM	Council of Ministers
CDR	Council for Development and Reconstruction
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Agency For Human Settlements
MOIM	Ministry of Interior and Municipalities
DGP	Directorate-General of Political Affairs and Refugees of the
MOIM	Ministry of Interior and Municipalities
DGGS	Directorate-General of General Security of the MOIM
GoL	Government of Lebanon
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOL	Ministry of Labor
MOSA	Ministry of Social Affairs
MPs	Members of Parliament
NGO	Non-governmental organizations
TSM	Temporary Special Measures
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
PC's	Popular Committee
LAF	Lebanese Armed Forces
ISF	Internal Security Forces

MIDTERM PROGRESS REPORT

Project Title: Improving Living Conditions in Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities

Project Duration: September 2013 – December 2014

Donor: The Government of Germany

Period covered: September 2013 – December 2013

Budget covered: 2 M Euros (USD \$ 2,649,007)

1. Background

This is a project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project, implemented in partnership with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the Lebanese – Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC). It aims at improving living conditions in the Palestinian Gatherings and their Lebanese host communities, which are increasingly called upon to host both Palestinian and Syrian refugees from Syria in addition to the original resident population. The project proposed falls under the UNDP *Lebanon Stabilization and Recovery Program – Supporting Resilience in a Time of Crisis*, designed to help stabilize and develop the resilience of the communities who are hosting refugees as a result of the Syrian crisis. The project is further aligned with the UN Regional Response Plan 5, specifically the following sector objectives:

- Shelter: adequate shelter solutions are available for refugees from Syria;
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: reduce WASH related mortality and morbidity through provision of and access to water, sanitation and hygiene promotion;
- Social Cohesion and Livelihoods: social cohesion in affected communities supported.

Falling outside the geographic mandate of UNRWA in terms of basic urban services provision and left unattended to by local authorities, the 42 Palestinian refugee gatherings in Lebanon are considered to be among the most vulnerable (for a map of Palestinian gatherings, refer to Annex 1). The ongoing influx of Palestinian and Syrian refugees coming from Syria to these gatherings has only amplified a sore situation putting more pressure on an already weak infrastructure and contributing to increased tensions between Palestinian gatherings host communities and neighboring Lebanese communities. Table 1 below shows the increase of population in the gatherings, as per a Rapid Needs Assessment carried out jointly by UNDP and UN-HABITAT prior to the project implementation in April 2013.

Table 1: Population in Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon before and after the Syrian Crisis

Region	Number of Gatherings	Number of Concerned Municipalities	Estimated Number of Original Dwellers	Estimated Number of PRS	Estimated Number of SRS	Estimated Total Population
Beirut	4	3	4,500	2,500	1,000	8,000
Saida	15	5	20,500	14,000	1,000	35,500
Tyr	12	7	13,500	4,000	2,500	20,000
North	7	5	28,500	5,000	500	34,000
Bekaa	4	5	8,000	4,500	500	13,000
Total	42	25	75,000	30,000	5,500	110,500

Building on the existing collaboration between the UNDP and UN-HABITAT and support by LPDC and UNRWA to enhance living conditions in Palestinian gatherings, the project seeks to strengthen the resilience of the Palestinian gatherings host communities by enhancing access to sufficient basic urban services and improving shelter conditions in order to reduce tensions and ensure sustainability of services. Project interventions are implemented using a participatory bottom-up approach bringing together local actors, surrounding municipalities, and NGOs to agree on priorities and initiate discussion around maintaining services. At the national level, the project supports the Lebanese – Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC) in responding to the Government of Lebanon request to develop a strategy for improving living conditions of Palestinian refugees in the country.

In this context, the Government of Germany has contributed a total of two million Euros (USD \$ 2,649,007) of the total USD 4.5 million project budget. While the contribution will cover the project's activities in 2013 (September – December 2013), the project will continue till the end of 2014. This Midterm Progress Report will detail the progress, against set targets and indicators, of project activities funded by the Government of Germany and implemented before the end of December 2013. .

2. Project Outcome

Outcome: Living conditions in the Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon, that host Palestinian and Syrian refugees from Syria, improved through better access to basic urban services and shelter conditions.

Objectives: The project has the following specific projects:

- Improving living conditions of the inhabitants of the Palestinian gatherings, both original dwellers and refugees from Syria, through enhancing access to sufficient basic urban services and adequate shelter conditions;
- Promoting enhanced coordination between local actors in the gatherings and the concerned municipalities to face common challenges;
- Reducing conflicts and tensions by ensuring equal response in the gatherings hosting refugees from Syria as that in the camps and Lebanese hosting communities.

Beneficiaries: By the end of the project (December 2014), the following will be achieved:

- 40,000 original dwellers and 30,000 refugees from Syria will have access to improved basic urban services;
- 275 refugee households approximately (estimated 2,000 refugees) in the most vulnerable gatherings will benefit from enhanced shelter conditions;
- 20,000 Lebanese inhabitants in the surroundings of the gatherings will benefit from enhanced access to basic urban services.

2.1 Update on Project Outcome

In a first step towards the realization of the project outcome, the project has gained the **national endorsement** of the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) as the national coordinating authority. CDR is a governmental organization that was established to plan and supervise the reconstruction of the damaged infrastructure of the country following the civil war (1975 – 1990). Also on the national level, the Lebanese – Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC) represents the implementing partner of the project on behalf of the Government of Lebanon. LPDC, through its role as a consultative inter-ministerial committee that gathers official representatives from ministries and decision-makers at the national level, represents the optimal platform to advocate for change and raise awareness on living conditions of Palestinian refugees in the country. Such political commitment represents a significant approach undertaken by the Government of Lebanon to enhance relationships with the Palestinian refugee communities and improve their living conditions. This could contribute to dissolving some of the fears from the permanent resettlement of Palestinian refugees (*tawtin*) associated in political discourse with the improvement of living conditions of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

In this context, LPDC has been hosting, since October 2013, **the National Observatory for Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon** established by UNDP and UN-HABITAT as a knowledge generation and planning tool. Knowledge and data generated by the National Observatory will be used by LPDC, through and beyond the life span of the project, to advocate for policies that would enable the improvement of living conditions of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. Such initiative would serve to establish well informed policy discussions at the national level, based on accurate data and indicators rather than assumptions and misconceptions. In this context, the project has been supporting LPDC respond to the request of the Government of Lebanon to assist in developing a strategy for improving the living conditions of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon. LPDC expects the National Observatory to “improve and strengthen the central government interaction with the Palestinian communities and to critically enhance the state of planning of future interventions”.

The project has also gained the **endorsement of the Local Partner Appraisal Committee (LPAC)**, which represents the project board and includes representatives from the Council of Development and Reconstruction (CDR), the Lebanese – Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC), UN-HABITAT and UNRWA. In this context, UNRWA has expressed its commitment to collaborating with the project, in order to enhance living conditions of refugees living in Palestinian Gatherings. UNRWA has been involved in the planning of project’s activities, coordinating infrastructure activities especially in the case of camps’ Adjacent Areas, and providing the technical expertise of its staff. For the same purpose, the project has been coordinating its activities with the Department of Palestinian Refugee Affairs (DPRA), which represents the umbrella under which Popular and Local Committees in the Gatherings organize themselves and work. The DPRA has been cooperating with the project to build the capacities of popular and local committees for better managing and sustaining basic urban services and share information and data.

Activities at the local level:

- **55** urgent basic urban service projects implemented in the sectors of water, sewage, road networks, storm water drainage, solid waste management, electricity.
- Access to basic urban services enhanced in **22** host gatherings and **7** surrounding localities.
- **5** municipalities engaged in projects in Palestinian gatherings.
- Environmental shelter conditions improved for **300** refugee families displaced from Syria.

At the more local level, the project is contributing to improving living condition in the gatherings through the implementation of small scale infrastructure projects and shelter rehabilitation and equipping works, which respond to urgent needs in these host communities. The project uses a participatory bottom-up

approach in the planning and implementation of activities, **bringing the various stakeholders and actors together**. These include the popular and local committees in the Gatherings, concerned municipalities, public service agencies such as EDL and local NGOs. In addition to improving the living environment in Gatherings, this approach contributes to enhancing coordination between local actors in the gatherings and the concerned local authorities to face common challenges. This has been translated by the engagement of five municipalities so far in directly implementing infrastructure projects and service interventions targeting both Lebanese and Palestinian communities, including Palestinian Gatherings located within their municipal domain. These municipal initiatives, supported through grants from the project, represent a unique step towards enhancing relationships and creating coordination channels between local communities in the Gatherings and local authorities.

These environment improvement activities are also seen to have an impact on **reducing the levels of inter and intra-communal tensions** in the Gatherings and their surroundings. The dramatic increase in population caused by the influx of Palestinian as well as Syrian refugees from Syria, doubling the population inside some gatherings, has its implications. These include the additional pressure on the already deteriorated services, the competition on resources and on aid, and the lack of sufficient jobs. All these factors are contributing to increasing tensions inside the Gatherings, overwhelming both the host communities and the refugees displaced from Syria. Through implementing infrastructure projects and enhancing shelter conditions of displaced refugees, the project aims at lifting the weight from the host communities as well as providing urgent needs to arriving refugee families. In addition, these projects are providing job opportunities to daily workers from local communities. Furthermore, the project aims at improving access to basic urban services in the Gatherings, taking into consideration the impact on surrounding networks and areas. The ad-hoc connections and disposals to surrounding areas constitute another factor increasing intra-communal tensions between the Gatherings and their surroundings. In this context, the project extends its interventions to include Lebanese communities who have been affected by the Syrian influx.

In terms of direct beneficiaries, the project has set the below mentioned targets for the two years of implementation (2013 – 2014), as mentioned in the Project Document. The following shows the progress achieved so far in terms of targeted population:

- Out of the 40,000 original dwellers and 30,000 refugees from Syria targeted to have access to improved basic urban services (BUS) over the lifespan of the project:
 - ✓ In 2013, the project would have improved BUS access to around 18,000 original dwellers and 16,000 refugees from Syria in the gatherings.
- Out of the 275 refugee households (estimated 2,000 refugees) targeted to benefit from enhanced shelter conditions over the lifespan of the project:
 - ✓ In 2013, the shelter conditions would be enhanced for some 300 refugee households living in the Gatherings, exceeding the target for both years.
- Out of the 20,000 Lebanese inhabitants targeted to benefit from infrastructure projects in the surroundings of the Gatherings over the lifespan of the project:
 - ✓ In 2013, the project would enhance access to basic urban services in surrounding areas accommodating for around 7,500 inhabitants.

In addition, the project has been targeting groups of indirect beneficiaries through capacity building and financial support such as municipalities, local NGOs, the Department of Palestinian Refugee Affairs, and the popular and local committees in the gathering, as will be detailed throughout the progress report.

3. Project Outputs 2013 – 2014

Output 1: Access to basic urban services improved in host gatherings through the implementation of infrastructure projects and service interventions, taking into account the impact on and connections with surrounding networks.

Output 1 aims at improving access to basic urban services in the gatherings through the implementation of upgrading projects, service delivery interventions and rehabilitation of infrastructure networks. Of particular interest are projects that address service gaps and problems in the gatherings as well as their surrounding Lebanese host areas. This shall be achieved through providing support to municipalities, local committees and NGOs to benefit some 40,000 dwellers in the gatherings, 30,000 refugees from Syria and 20,000 dwellers in the surroundings. In addition, the interventions shall promote enhanced communication and coordination between Palestinian refugee communities in the gatherings and the Lebanese local authorities. Municipalities will be encouraged to implement projects through grants that benefit both Palestinian and Lebanese dwellers living within their domains.

Activities under this output include:

- Undertake mapping and analysis in consultation with local communities in hosting Palestinian Gatherings to identify urgent upgrading needs and collect information on available services (completed);
- Develop feasibility and engineering studies of final projects in selected Gatherings (completed);
- Implement infrastructure projects and basic urban services interventions identified and agreed on by the community as priority covering the sectors of water, sewage, electricity, solid waste management, and roads and urban infrastructure (on-going);
- Build the capacities of local committees within hosting Palestinian Gatherings to monitor implementation of interventions (on-going);
- Strengthen mechanisms for communication and coordination among Palestinian gathering communities and concerned municipal authorities (on-going);
- Build the capacity of local committees in the Gatherings and concerned municipal authorities to enhance access to basic urban services and maintain implemented projects (on-going);
- Carry out hygiene awareness campaigns in the 42 Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon (on-going).

Output 2: Environmental conditions of shelter units housing Palestinian and Syrian refugees from Syria enhanced in the host gatherings.

Output 2 aims at improving internal housing conditions of shelters currently housing Palestinian as well as Syrian refugees from Syria in the gatherings, using community-based interventions. Improving housing conditions of some 275 refugee households (estimated 2,000 refugees) Palestinian and Syrian refugees from Syria; this output will also benefit the host communities through investing in improving their housing units for future use.

Activities under this output include:

- Undertake mapping through consultation with local communities to identify most vulnerable shelter units within Gatherings (completed);
- Develop required feasibility and engineering studies (completed);
- Implement shelter rehabilitation and maintenance works to ensure weather proofing and winterization (external doors and windows, glazing and partitioning), and installation of toilets and proper sanitation and electricity (on-going);
- Connect shelter units to infrastructure networks (in terms of water, sewage, and electricity) (on-going).

Output 3: National database on living conditions in Palestinian gatherings developed and maintained through support to the Lebanese – Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC).

Output 3 will build on the available structure of the National Observatory for Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon, already established by UNDP and UN-HABITAT to be hosted by LPDC. It aims at generating accurate information and value-based data to monitor living conditions in the gatherings, prioritize needs and interventions, and facilitate coordination among involved actors and implementing agencies.

Activities under this output will mainly include:

- Provide technical support to LPDC to operate the National Observatory for Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon (on-going);
- Collect secondary and primary data on Palestinian Gatherings (completed);
- Consolidate findings and indicators and transfer findings into a GIS database (on-going);
- Disseminate data to national actors and organizations active in the Gatherings (on-going);
- Facilitate the development of a national responsive strategy with action plans for interventions in the host Palestinian Gatherings (on-going);
- Link the data to key national actors (including ministries and other governmental institutions) through establishing a website.

4. Update on Project Outputs

Output 1: Access to BUS improved in host gatherings through the implementation of infrastructure projects and service interventions

4.1.1 54 urgent small-scale infrastructure projects implemented in the gatherings

Based on the results of the Rapid Needs Assessment undertaken mid 2013 by UNDP and UN-HABITAT in Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon, the project has conducted in September 2013 a participatory mapping of most pressing needs and priorities in order to identify a list of urgent infrastructure projects in each gathering (for summary of results, refer to Annex 2). The exercise consisted of conducting field visits and two consultative meetings with the local / popular committee and another local group (women, youth, CBO) in each gathering. In addition, NGOs working in the gatherings as well as UNRWA area offices were consulted to assess the needs and the feasibility of the projects. The list of final projects in each gathering was selected in participation of the local committees in these areas (for a summary of projects implemented in the gatherings refer to Annex 3). In addition, the project addressed the impact of basic urban services in the gatherings on their surroundings and assured the efficiency and continuity of implemented infrastructure networks. For this purpose, the project team conducted meetings with the concerned municipalities in order to identify the extension of projects to the surrounding areas attended to by the municipalities. These areas are also suffering the increased pressure on infrastructure networks caused by the influx of Palestinian as well as Syrian refugees displaced from Syria.

Projects in the gatherings:

- 6 water projects in Tyr, Saida & Beirut
- 16 sewage projects in Tyr, Saida, North & Beqaa
- 9 road projects in Tyr, Saida & North
- 5 storm water projects in Tyr & North
- 6 solid waste management projects in Tyr, Saida & North
- 1 electricity project in North

Projects in surrounding towns:

- 5 sewage projects in Tyr, Saida & Beqaa
- 3 roads projects in Saida & North
- 3 storm water projects in Saida & North



The project contracted three civil engineers (South; North; Beirut and Beqaa) to develop feasibility studies, detailed engineering studies, BOQs and maps for each project (see Annex 4). In November 2013, implementation started for 55 small-scale infrastructure projects in the 22 most vulnerable Palestinian Gatherings and 7 surrounding localities (see Table 2 hereafter). The projects are categorized as follows:

- 6 projects in the **water** sector, including installation of water pumps, renewal and upgrading of networks;
- 22 projects in the **sewage** sector, including installations of new networks in areas using pits, upgrading of networks, connections to public networks;
- 12 projects in the **road networks** sector, including road rehabilitation, asphaltting, construction of retaining walls, building passage bridge over rivers, upgrading of public spaces;
- 5 projects in the **storm water** sector, including rehabilitation of storm water drainage networks and construction of channels;
- 8 projects in the sector of **solid waste management**, including rehabilitation of solid waste collection points, provision of solid waste containers and 2 collection trucks;
- 1 project in the **electricity** sector, including the construction of electricity transformer room.

In addition, technical studies were prepared to enhance electricity supply in the gatherings of South Lebanon. These studies were

developed in collaboration with the *Electricite du Liban* (EDL) offices in Tyr and Saida and targeted a total of 25 gatherings. The studies will be used to guide project activities in the electricity sector in 2014. In addition to improving access to electricity in the gatherings, this initiative would mitigate the load on the surrounding areas causing insufficient supply and regular cut-offs.

The project contracted local Palestinian companies as well as local contractors to implement the infrastructure works in the gatherings (for project TORs, refer to Annex 5). This strategy was proven not only to reduce time, costs and potential conflicts, but also to generate jobs for local dwellers living in the gatherings. In addition, five municipalities took the lead, through grants provided by the project, to implement infrastructure projects in the gatherings as well as in the mixed inhabited areas that fall within their domain, as the case in Tyr (Kharayeb, Baysarieh) and Saida (Darb el Sim, Mieh Mieh, Sibline) (For grants, refer to Annex 6).

Sewage renewal project in Saida



Sewage renewal project in Tyr



Water upgrading project in Beirut

In an attempt to support local NGOs operating and maintaining basic urban services in the gathering, the project provided a grant to a local NGO active in Palestinian gatherings in Tyr, Saida and Beirut areas. The grant to the Popular Aid for Relief and Development (PARAD) will assist the NGO purchase and utilize chlorine and chlorination pumps, sanitation maintenance tools, insecticides and rodenticides in those gatherings. This intervention would enhance access to water and sewerage and improve hygiene conditions in 16 gatherings in Tyr, Saida and Beirut.

Sewage and storm water renewal in North

Results and Targets

These project activities would contribute to achieving the following results and targets in 2013:

- Enhance access to basic urban services to some 18,000 original dwellers and 16,000 refugees from Syria living in the gatherings as well as around 7,500 inhabitants in the surrounding areas;
- Support local NGOs carry out basic urban services provision and hygiene maintenance in 16 gatherings;
- Promote the engagement of 5 municipalities in improving Road rehabilitation and asphaltting in Saida access to basic urban services in 9 gatherings that fall within their municipal domains;
- Improve communication and coordination between the municipalities and local communities in the gatherings.



Retaining wall and road rehabilitation around the Hamshari gathering in Saida before and after works

Table 2: List of project per location and sector - 2013

Area	Water	Sewage	Storm Water	Road Network	Solid Waste Management	Electricity
Tyr Gatherings		Baysarieh	Baysarieh	Baysarieh	Baysarieh	
	Burghlieh	Burghlieh		Burghlieh		
	Chabriha	Chabriha				
	Itanieh			Itanieh		
				Jim Jim		
		Kfarbadda			Kfarbadda	
		Qasmieh		Qasmieh		
	Maachouk				Maachouk	
				Wasta		
Tyr towns		Burj Rahhal				
		Kharayeb				
Saida Gatherings		Baraksat				
		Bustan el Kods				
		Hamchari				
		Hay Sohoun		Hay Sohoun		
		Jabal Halib				
		Seerob				Seerob

		Sekke				
	Tawari	Tawari				
		Wadi Zeineh		Wadi Zeineh		
Saida towns		Mieh Mieh	Mieh Mieh	Mieh Mieh	Mieh Mieh	
			Darb el Sim	Darb el Sim		
North Gatherings			Beddawi AA		Beddawi AA	Beddawi AA
		NBC AA		NBC AA	NBC AA	
North towns		Beddawi	Beddawi	Beddawi		
Beqaa Gatherings		Goureaud				
Beqaa towns		Baalback				
		Taalabaya			Taalabaya	
Beirut Gatherings	Gaza Bldgs.					

4.1.2 Awareness raising campaign planned for the 42 Palestinian Gatherings

In order to promote hygiene awareness and viable approaches on utilizing environmental resources, the project has developed a strategy for a WASH and hygiene awareness raising campaign in the 42 Gatherings (refer to Annex 7). The campaign would primarily target children, youth and women as well as active local actors in these gatherings. The purpose of this strategy is articulated in the following advocacy and communication objectives:

- Promoting change in hygiene behavior in the communities;
- Raising awareness on viable methods to access and use available and implemented basic urban services and environmental resources;
- Ensuring the support of local committees and municipalities of WASH sustainable solutions;
- Encouraging public participation, through WASH interventions, bringing together original dwellers and refugees from Syria on one hand, and local leaders and municipalities on the other hand;
- Advocating for the right of Palestinian gatherings to healthy environments.

In the context of the WASH and hygiene awareness raising campaign, the project has finalized the selection of a winning vendor and list of items to purchase and distribute 3,800 hygiene kits in the gatherings of Tyr, Saida, North, Beirut and the Beqaa. The hygiene kits will be distributed in each area in collaboration with active local NGOs and in parallel with awareness promotion activities.

Results and Targets

These project activities would contribute to achieving the following results and targets in 2013:

- Increase awareness raising on WASH and hygiene of local communities in the 42 Palestinian Gatherings;
- Enhance hygiene conditions through distribution of hygiene kits to 3,800 dwellers in the Gatherings including Palestinian and Syrian refugees from Syria and original dwellers;
- Support local NGOs in their hygiene promotion activities in the 42 Gatherings

4.1.3 Capacities of local committees in the 42 gatherings enhanced to maintain basic urban services

In order to enhance the technical resource of local and popular committees in the gatherings to better manage and maintain basic urban services, the project has signed in November 2013 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Palestinian Department of Palestinian Refugee Affairs (DPRA) (refer to Annex 8). The DPRA is the national umbrella under which popular and local committees in the gatherings organize themselves and operate. These committees assume the role of regulating, operating and maintaining basic urban services in the gatherings. Under the agreement, the project will provide a set of maintenance tools to each committee to be used for the maintenance of water, sewage and electricity networks (for the list of tools, refer to Annex 9). In addition, the project will provide computer equipments and software to the DPRA to better manage available and collected data on Palestinian Gatherings. The DPRA has been sharing these data and information with the project in the course of the implementation of its activities. In addition, the department has participated in the field visits and consultative meetings in the gatherings that aimed at identifying urgent needs and priorities in these areas, facilitating communication with the local and popular committees.

Results and Targets

These project activities would contribute to achieving the following results and targets in 2013:

- Enhance maintenance of infrastructure networks in the 42 Gatherings;
- Improve the technical capacities of local and popular committees to carry out their role in maintaining basic urban services in the 42 Gatherings;
- Support the Palestinian Department of Palestinian Refugee Affairs implement its tasks

Output 2: Environmental conditions of shelter units housing Palestinian and Syrian refugees from Syria enhanced in the host gatherings

4.2.1 Shelter needs mapped in the 42 Palestinian Gatherings

Through field visits and local consultative meetings, the project team has developed a preliminary list of shelter numbers in need of rehabilitation and equipping in the 42 Gatherings. The activity primarily targeted Palestinian as well as Syrian refugees displaced from Syria, in addition to some original dwellers in urgent need. In order to provide equal relief, the project targets the Palestinian Gatherings as well their surrounding areas where Palestinian and Syrian refugees from Syria are living. The preliminary assessment was carried out in participation of the Department of Palestinian Refugee Affairs (DPRA) and local committees and communities in the Gatherings. The list resulted in the identification of the most vulnerable host Gatherings in terms of shelter needs. In October 2013, the project has started in partnership with the local NGO the Development for People and Nature Association (DPNA) a mapping of shelter needs in the most vulnerable host Gatherings in Lebanon and their surroundings (for the mapping sample sheet refer to Annex 10). Civil engineers hired in each area of implementation developed the feasibility and technical studies and BOQs of shelter works. The results of the mapping revealed the following distribution of shelter units in urgent need of works in different areas in Lebanon (Table 3):

Table 3: Distribution of shelter units

Region	Gathering/ Area	No. of units	Total
Tyr	Maachouk	23	84
	Chabriha	21	
	Qasmieh	24	
	Kfarbadda	4	
	Loubieh	6	

	Sarafand, Adloun, Baysareyyeh	6	
Beqaa	Wavel Camp surrounding	36	57
	Bar Elias	15	
	Taalabaya & Saadnayel	6	
North	Bedawi Camp & AA	40	45
	NBC AA	5	
Beirut	Daouk, Sabra, Zaroub Eldik,	30	30
	Ghawash		
Saida	Baraksat	15	84
	Bustan Abu Jamil	7	
	Bustan El kods	4	
	Tawari	9	
	Sekke	9	
	Fadlo Wakim	4	
	Saida	11	
	Seerob	8	
	Wadi El Zayneh	17	
Total			300

Results and Targets

This project activity would contribute to achieving the following results and targets in 2013:

- Develop a comprehensive mapping of shelter needs in the gatherings
- Provide data on the component of targeted Palestinian and Syrian refugee households

4.2.2 Environmental conditions of 300 shelters enhanced in the host gatherings and their surrounding

In November 2013, works started in the Gatherings in Tyr, Saida, North, Beiurt and Beqaa to rehabilitate and equip a total of 300 shelters in 19 gatherings and 9 surrounding localities. Most works covered the following needs: sanitary works, winterization through installation of doors and windows, internal wood works (mainly to create separators), and floor and wall rehabilitation works. Partnering with a local NGO allowed for the recruitment of local engineers and skilled labor and workers, creating jobs in the Gatherings (for the Agreement of Cooperation with DPNA, refer to Annex 11). The following activities have taken place:

- Second detailed assessment carried out with technical supervisors in each area;
- Vendors identified for material supply in each area;
- Goods and material procured;
- Agreements signed with shelter owners, dwellers, and popular / local committee in each area;
- Implementation of rehabilitation works started in Tyr, Saida, Beqaa and the North.

Results and Targets

These project activities would contribute to achieving the following results and targets in 2013:

- Enhance environmental conditions of 300 shelters primarily housing Palestinian as well as Syrian refugees from Syria in the gatherings and their surrounding;
- Create jobs in 19 gatherings and 9 surrounding localities.



4.2.3 Twenty-five Palestinian refugee families displaced from Syria relocated from tents to rehabilitated collective center

More than 70 Palestinian refugee families who have escaped Syria to Lebanon were found to be living in tents built of left-over sheets in Sekke Gathering, an Adjacent Area to Ain el Helwe Camp in Saida. These families live with no proper protection from natural elements. Due to inadequate shelter from sun and heat, two children have died due to dehydration. With the beginning of winter, most of these tents were carried away by floods of rain water, leaving refugee households without shelter. Due to the lack of adequate shelter conditions and connections to sanitation networks, environmental and health risks have spread not only in the tented settlement in Sekke but also in the surrounding areas of the Gathering.

While different initiatives by NGOs and UNRWA have been taken to relocate most of the families in nearby areas, 25 refugee families remain with no alternative shelter accommodation. In order to provide adequate shelter to these families, the project has undertaken an initiative in partnership with the local NGO PARD to rehabilitate and equip rooms in a collective center in Sekke. Works has started in November 2013 with the aim of relocating the refugee households to these rooms by the end of the year. Works include the provision of bathrooms and collective kitchen, with assuring all necessary connections to the service networks in Sekke.



Living Environment of displaced Palestinian refugee households in the tented settlement of Sekke, Saida

Results and Targets

This project activity would contribute to achieving the following results and targets in 2013:

- Provide adequate shelter to 25 Palestinian refugee families displaced from Syria and living in tented settlement in Sekke;
- Eliminate the adverse environmental impact of the tented settlement on Sekke gathering.

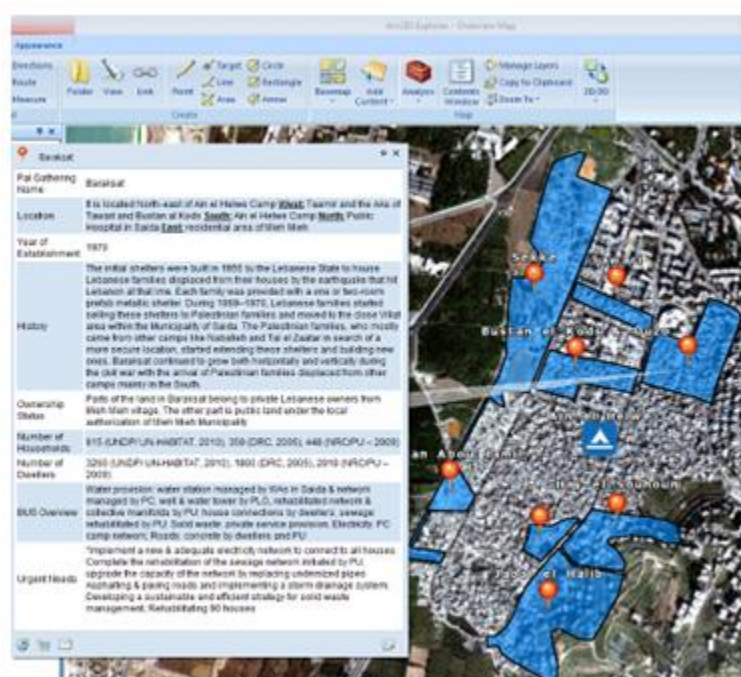
4.3 Output 3: National database on living conditions in Palestinian gatherings developed and maintained through support to the Lebanese – Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC).

4.3.1 The National Observatory for Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon hosted by the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC)

Through their joint efforts to build a database on Palestinian gatherings, UNDP and UN-HABITAT have established the *National Observatory for Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon*. The National Observatory holds the structure of a geographic database (using GIS) that allows for locating the gatherings and developing indicators for monitoring living conditions in these areas. Data collected on the gatherings from primary and secondary sources was categorized along the following themes:

- Profile and overview;
- Key needs and priorities;
- Finished, on-going and planned projects and interventions by NGOs.

In October 2013, the National Observatory was hosted by the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC). The project handed over the created database to LPDC along with the necessary computer equipment and GIS software, and trained one staff member of LPDC on using the data. The observatory will operate not only as a data generating and sharing tool but also as a planning tool for guiding policies and interventions. Knowledge and data generated by the National Observatory will be used by LPDC to guide national dialogue and advocate for policies that would enable the improvement of living conditions of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. The National Observatory had gained the endorsement of active international and local NGOs in the camps and gatherings.



Sample of the GIS database of Palestinian Gatherings

Results and Targets

These project activities would contribute to achieving the following results and targets in 2013:

- Provide a sustainable institutional set-up of the operation of the National Observatory for Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon;
- Support LPDC to develop a geographic database (using GIS) and sets of indicators on Palestinian gatherings.

4.3.2 Support LPDC in developing a strategy to enhance the living conditions of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon

In order to respond to the request of the Government of Lebanon for assistance in developing a strategy to enhance the living conditions of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon, the project is supporting the Lebanese

– Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC) to develop a capacity assessment of the “Directorate of Refugee Affairs” at the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities.

The objective of the assessment is to analyze the current capacity of the Directorate of Refugee Affairs (DRA) at the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities to deliver its mandate outlined in the existing decree number (4082/2000). The results of the assessment will offer a platform for dialogue among stakeholders and provide a starting point for formulating a capacity development response. The assessment results will assist the Directorate of Refugee Affairs map its existing capacities and identify the gaps between its available capacities and those needed to meet its goals. The capacity assessment will look at the DRA capacities to fulfill its mandate in light of recent and emerging changes. It will provide an analysis of the broader environment in which the department operates. The assessment will also look at types of capacity development support needed for the department to become more efficient and effective. It will assess the location and premise’s suitability in terms of space, location, access and tools. A draft TOR developed by LPDC for the consultancy of the capacity assessment exercise is attached in Annex 12.

4.3.3 Results of the Rapid Needs Assessment in the gatherings analyzed and published

In September 2013, data collected by UNDP and UN-HABITAT through the Rapid Needs Assessment were sorted and entered by the project team. The data was categorized along the following sectors:

- Gathering Profile
- Palestinian and Syrian Refugees from Syria
- Governance Structures (including internal and relationships with local actors)
- Existing facilities and Institutions (education, health, social services)
- Access to Basic Urban Services
- Main needs and issues in the Gathering

In November 2013, the project hired a consultant to update the assessment and produce a report that would also include recommendations on future directions and roles of stakeholders (for the Table of Contents of the report, refer to Annex 13). The report will be launched in a national conference that will aim at developing a comprehensive response strategy in the Gatherings as vulnerable host communities, together with concerned stakeholders.

Results and Targets

This project activity would contribute to achieving the following results and targets in 2013:

- Enhance information on living conditions following the Syrian crisis in Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon
- Map current and future needs and priorities in the gatherings to guide future interventions and better coordination among actors.

5. Challenges and Risks

At the Political Level:

In Lebanon, initiatives that aim at improving living conditions of Palestinian refugees and providing them with an enhanced livable environment could be associated in political discourse with the fear of their permanent resettlement in the country ‘*tawtin*’.

At the national level, the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC), which is a project partner, has shown commitment towards the objectives and activities implemented within the context of this project. LPDC, through its role as a consultative inter-ministerial committee that gathers official representatives at the national level, represents the optimal platform to advocate for improving living conditions of Palestinian refugees in the country, especially after the arrival of Palestinian refugees displaced from Syria. This could contribute to dissolving some of the fears from *tawtin* at a higher political level. This initiative will be also supported by UNRWA, who has expressed its commitment to the project’s objectives.

At the Institutional Level:

At the local level, the weak capacities of municipalities and local Palestinian committees represent an obstacle towards the successful implementation of the more localized project components. Similarly, the lack of communication and coordination between the two entities, as well as the unequal interest of municipalities to intervene in the gatherings, compromise consensus building about the nature of common initiatives and the sustainability of implemented projects.

The project has built on existing good practices of municipalities intervening in the Gatherings, facilitated by UNDP and UN-HABITAT, and building a sustainable relationship with the local Palestinian communities. The capacities of the municipalities are strengthened through grants to support them carry out works in the Gatherings. Local and popular committees in the gatherings have been involved in an efficient manner in the prioritization of needs and identification of responsive projects in the gatherings, as well as the provision of tools to carry out their basic urban service interventions.

At the Implementation Level:

Challenges related to difficulty in implementing the infrastructure and shelter projects are due to worsened security situation in the areas of implementation and extreme weather conditions in winter. The security challenges are particularly relevant in the case of camps’ Adjacent Areas, which have been witnessing some conflicts and security incidents, as well as to Gatherings in North Lebanon.

In order to mitigate security risks, close and continuous coordination with the popular and local committees in the gatherings is ensured to avoid any risky situations. In addition, working with the municipalities and local companies and contractors in areas of implementation mitigate delays related to security situations that might impede access of workers and material.

6. Lessons Learned

Working in particular contexts such as Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon demand a certain level of commitment and ownership from the part of local communities. For this purpose, the project implements a participatory bottom-up approach that involves local community-based organizations and groups, local and popular committees, and local NGOs in the gatherings, in addition to the concerned municipalities. Projects implemented were guaranteed to respond to the urgent needs provided by the field through the active engagement of local actors. Similarly, projects are implemented by local contractors and small companies that possess knowledge and experience in working in Palestinian Gatherings and camps. This has mitigated potential conflicts and risks at implementation.

Further to the project interventions in the Gatherings, a major issue is revealed of particular impact on the living conditions of dwellers in these areas. This is mainly related to the lack of responsible institutions to cater for the needs of refugees in the Gatherings. Experience has shown that communication and coordination among key actors, mainly local committees, municipalities, the Department of Palestinian Refugee Affairs and UNRWA, has a critically positive effect on improving the environment and access to services in these areas. As such, an added value of the project would be to devise a sustainable and institutionalized coordination mechanism to better manage aspects of the living environment in Palestinian Gatherings.

7. Indicator Based Performance Assessment – 2013

Expected results (outputs and targets)	Accomplished Activities	Achieved Indicator Targets	Means of verification
<p>Output 1: Access to basic urban services improved in host gatherings through the implementation of infrastructure projects and service interventions, taking into account the impact on and connections with surrounding networks.</p> <p>Targets 2013-2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 30 water and sanitation projects delivered in the gatherings and their surroundings to benefit 90,000 • Up to 20 electrical rehabilitation projects completed in the gatherings to benefit 50,000 • Up to 20 solid waste management interventions completed in the gatherings in the gatherings to benefit 50,000 • Active organizations (NGOs and CBOs) supported in up to 20 gatherings to maintain and operate basic urban services and implemented interventions to benefit 60,000 • Up to 10 municipalities supported to implement infrastructure that benefit Palestinian and Lebanese communities living within their domains • Coordination mechanisms for improved service delivery in the gatherings set up with up to 10 municipalities • Capacities of up to 10 municipalities and 20 local committees in the gatherings built to enhance management of basic urban services • Hygiene awareness raising campaigns carried out in all 42 gatherings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake mapping and analysis in Palestinian gatherings to identify urgent upgrading needs. • Develop feasibility and engineering studies of final projects in the selected gatherings; • Implement infrastructure projects and basic urban services interventions identified and agreed on by the community • Strengthen mechanisms for communication and coordination among Palestinian gathering communities and 5 municipal authorities; • Build the capacity of local committees in the gatherings and concerned municipal authorities to enhance access to basic urban services and maintain implemented projects; • Design hygiene awareness campaigns in the 42 Palestinian gatherings in Lebanon. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 water and sanitation projects implemented in the gatherings and their surroundings to benefit 30,000 • 1 electrical rehabilitation project implemented in the gatherings to benefit 2,000 and technical electricity studies issued to benefit 40,000 in the South • 8 solid waste management interventions implemented in the gatherings in the gatherings to benefit 50,000 • 12 road networks projects implemented to benefit 15,000 • Local NGO operating in 16 gatherings to maintain and operate basic urban services and implemented interventions to benefit 40,000 • 5 municipalities supported to implement infrastructure projects that benefit Palestinian and Lebanese communities living within their domains • Coordination mechanisms for improved service delivery in the gatherings set up with 5 municipalities • Capacities of 5 municipalities and 42 local committees in the gatherings built to enhance management of basic urban services • Hygiene awareness raising campaigns designed for 42 gatherings 	<p>Mapping of needs</p> <p>Engineering studies / BOQs</p> <p>Infrastructure contracts / TORs</p> <p>Grants to municipalities</p> <p>Grants to NGOs</p> <p>MoU with DPRA</p> <p>Hygiene awareness raising strategy</p> <p>List of tools for capacity building of local committees</p>

<p>Output 2: Environmental conditions of shelter units housing Palestinian and Syrian refugees from Syria enhanced in the host gatherings.</p> <p>Targets 2013-2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 275 refugee households benefitting from shelter rehabilitation and internal works in the 42 gatherings • Up to 275 refugee households benefitting from weatherproofing and winterization works in the 42 gatherings • Up to 275 refugee households connected to infrastructure networks in the 42 gatherings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake mapping through consultation with local communities to identify most vulnerable shelter units within gatherings; • Develop required feasibility and engineering studies; • Implement shelter rehabilitation and maintenance works to ensure weather proofing and winterization (external doors, windows and glazing, partitioning), proper sanitation installments and toilets, • Connect shelter units to infrastructure networks (in terms of water, sewage, and electricity). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300 refugee households benefitting from shelter rehabilitation and internal works in the 42 gatherings • 300 refugee households benefitting from weatherproofing and winterization works in the 42 gatherings • 300 refugee households connected to infrastructure networks in the 42 gatherings 	<p>Mapping of needs</p> <p>Shelter rehabilitation and maintenance contract / TOR</p>
<p>Output 3: National database on living conditions in Palestinian gatherings developed and maintained through support to the Lebanese – Palestinian Dialogue Committee.</p> <p>Targets 2013-2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Observatory for Palestinian Gatherings, hosted by LPDC is active and operational • Indicators for monitoring living conditions in the Palestinian gatherings developed and updated • GIS database developed showing population figures, key needs and projects in gatherings • On-line accessible system developed for sharing of data • Responsive strategy for Palestinian gatherings with action plans developed by national actors and organizations active in the gatherings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical support to LPDC to operate the National Observatory for Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon; • Collect secondary and primary data on Palestinian gatherings; • Consolidate findings and indicators and transfer findings into a GIS database; • Disseminate data to actors and organizations active in the gatherings through publication; • Support LPDC develop a strategy to enhance the living conditions of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Observatory for Palestinian Gatherings is hosted by LPDC • The base for indicators for monitoring living conditions in the Palestinian gatherings developed • The structure of GIS database developed and handed over to LPDC • LPDC is supported to develop a strategy to enhance the living conditions of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon 	<p>TOC of Rapid Needs Assessment Report</p> <p>GIS database</p> <p>Draft TOR for capacity assessment of the “Directorate of Refugee Affairs” at the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities</p>

