

Minaret NEXUS projects in Karak, Jordan : A Value chain approach to pilot and socio-economic design and product definition.

Second Progress Report

February 10, 2019 – March 10, 2019

Date: 15 March, 2019

Prepared by: Q perspective

Submitted to: Minaret Project Team.

Overview: During the second month, the Q perspective team continued to closely work with the Minaret team on identifying and acquiring additional required information through focused field visits and stakeholder engagements, engaging existing stakeholders and potential stakeholders, and conducting intensive stakeholder engagements for the purposes of establishing the final parameters of both the pilot and the socio-economic projects and moving on with the final list of stakeholders to a process of co-design of the water pilot and socio-economic projects.

As agreed with the Minaret team, focus on Jordan was intensified during the reporting period with preparatory work for the first Tunis field visit where it was agreed that it will be conducted in the period between March 5 and March 9, 2019. The literature review for Tunisia conducted during the first reported period provided excellent information on potential final stakeholders and the concept notes for the water pilot action and for the socio-economic project in Monastir were officially agreed upon to constitute the foundational basis for both projects.

To facilitate the logical flow of this report, efforts invested towards developing the value chain designs for the socio-economic projects in Jordan and Tunisia, for the development of water pilot actions in Jordan and Tunisia, and for stakeholder engagement and capacity building are explained in section 1 below.

Chronological explanations on stakeholder engagements including meetings and site visits in Jordan and Tunisia are detailed in section 2:

Section One: Progress during reporting period:

1.1: Progress on Eco-tourism project in Wadi Al Karak.(Socio-economic project):

Main highlights and deliverables during reporting period:

1.1.1: Initial eco- and adventure tourism packages for the socio-economic project were produced in the Arabic language (Annex SEJ 1).

1.1.2: Logical framework for Mumia cooperative society eco-tourism project developed. (Annex SEJ 2).

1.1.3: Initial Value chain map for Mumia eco-tourism project developed. (Annex SEJ 3).

1.1.4: Initial description of the value chain map for Mumia eco-tourism project (Annex SEJ 4).

1.2: Progress on Water pilot action using treated water in agriculture in Lajoun, Karak:

Main highlights and deliverables during reporting period:

1.2.1: Water tests from two sites in Lajjoun lands owned by municipality of Karak. (Annex WPJ 1-1 and WPJ 1-2).

1.2.2: Soil tests from Lajjoun site. (Annex WPJ 2). Still waiting for NARC to provide but they informed us that the soil is good for the nurseries project and for the park project.

1.2.3: Topographical map of Lajjoun lands owned by the municipality where one or more water pilot projects could be physically established. (Annex WPJ 3).

1.2.4: Initial concept idea for nurseries project using treated water and high level design plot on proposed site owned by municipality and based on the land plotting provided by the municipality. (Annex WPJ 4-1 and WPJ 4-2).

Important Note: Annex WPJ 4-2 also includes proposed sites for garden/park project.

1.2.5: Initial concept idea for Garden/ park project using treated water and high level design idea for the park project. (Annex WPJ 5-1 and WPJ 5-2).

1.3: Progress on Tunisia covering Monastir Eco-tourism hub project(Socio-economic project) and the water pilot action:

Overview: As the reporting period witnessed initial work related to Tunisia, the deliverables are not disaggregated per each project. The visit to Tunisia during the reporting period will provide the necessary clarification and course of action on each project and will be reflected in the third report.

Main highlights and deliverables during reporting period:

1.3.1: Additional information including designs and concept ideas for the eco-tourism hub were received from Horizons. The use of sea shipping containers in the design process was impressive as it relates intimately to the concept. (All designs are available at Horizons alongside other related material). It provided a visual representation that will help Q perspective in designing product definitions and associated value chain mapping and design activities.

1.3.2: Documents prepared to date regarding the water pilot action were also shared with Q perspective and are available with the Minaret team. Those documents explain that the water pilot action in Tunisia focuses on establishing a water collection tank near the municipal stadium of Monastir, and Q perspective were informed that that project is a straight forward project where no or little intervention would be required.

1.3.3: Initial stakeholder identification for both projects in Tunisia was conducted based upon the literature review conducted in the first reporting period and on follow up meetings and discussions with the Horizons team during this reporting period. Annex T 1 highlights the initial high level stakeholder identification.

1.4: Progress on Stakeholder capacity building:

As a clearer understanding of the actual water pilot actions and socio-economic projects started developing during this reporting period, initial recommendations for stakeholder capacity building for both Jordan and Tunisia were developed. Annex GCB 1 includes those high level recommendations.

In the next reporting period, and through a process of identifying the required skills for the socio-economic projects in Jordan and Tunisia, detailed outlines for the capacity building requirements for socio-economic stakeholders will be proposed.

For the water pilot actions, technical capacity building will be provided through the technical stakeholders while general capacities that cross with the socio-economic project stakeholders capacity building needs can be extended to both groups of stakeholders.

Once the socio-economic projects and the pilot water actions for both countries are sufficiently developed in terms of design, a clear work statement on the capacity building that will be conducted by Q perspective for the different stakeholders needs to be agreed upon and tools and manuals for those training modules will be fully developed, while the rest of the capacity building requirements will be developed by the Minaret project.

Section 2: Stakeholder engagement:

The reporting period covers stakeholder engagements in Jordan and Tunisia and are detailed below in chronological order:

Meetings and field visits in Jordan:

2.1: Tuesday February 12, 2019: Field visit to Wadi Karak and Lajjoun: Q experts team split into two groups on the field visit conducted on Tuesday February 12, 2019. A team accompanied NARC experts to Lajjoun site where they met with representatives from the municipality of Karak, while another team headed to Mumya where they met with the Mumya cooperative society.

Main outcomes of the field visit:

Lajjoun:

Karak municipality staff explained accompanied experts from Q perspective and NARC to different areas around the water stream receiving the treated water from the treatment plan, and indicated the empty plots of lands that can be used for the Minaret pilot project.

Water samples were taken by NARC from the bottom of the stream and from the outlet of the water treatment plant at the Prince Hassan industrial area.

Two soil samples were also taken from two locations which NARC believe are the most suitable for the nurseries project.

A meeting was organized with Eng. Abeer Bashabsheh, manager of the treatment plant laboratory at the Industrial area.

Eng. Abeer answered important questions as following:

- Treatment plant produces 700 m³ of treated water every day.
- Collection pool from treatment pools has a capacity of 2000 m³.
- Overflow at 2000 m³ is directed to the water stream in the lands of the municipality.
- No pumping is done at below 2,000 m³.
- The pump available outside the fence is for the private sector farm which goes into a long pipeline leading to the farm on the western side of the industrial zone, and the whole water pipeline is outside the premises.
- A .5 cm overflow pipe from the pipeline provides over flow from the pipeline back to the water stream.
- Water tests are conducted daily in the laboratory and results of the last month were provided to Dr. Mazahreh from NARC.
- The industrial are just signed an agreement with the municipality of Karak whereby they committed to provide 200 m³ a day to the municipalities' proposed pilot project.
- The municipality needs to provide the pumping infrastructure directly from the collection pool.
- The domestic water and the industrial water are not separated within the industrial area, and daily results show that the water quality is mostly within acceptable limits. The Industrial area uses the same water (50m³) a day to irrigate olive trees. A study was conducted on site with the Mu'tah university which proved there were no significant differences in the quality of olive oil produced from trees irrigated by tap water, by a 50-50 mix of tap water and treated water, and by fully treated water.
- Sludge produced from the treatment process is moved to a dump in Irbid through tanks that make two trips a month.
- The current treatment plant is sufficient as per existing capacity of industrial facilities in the Industrial area. In case of expansion, a second (and potentially) a third stage of the treatment plant will be required to ensure the safety of the water.
- There are no chemical dyes or poisonous materials used in any of the industrial facilities in the industrial area.
- It is recommended that any project implemented in the area owned by the municipality be surrounded by a fence as sheep and goat herders don't commit to grazing schedules.

Dr. Mazahreh entered the water and soil samples into the laboratories of NARC for testing on Wednesday, February 13, 2019. He informed us that the results will be out with 7 – 10 days, and that he will be working on identifying all the requirements for establishing the nursery, the varieties that will be brought to the nursery, and also believes that a small eco-park that services the local residents is also possible on location.

Mumya: The Q experts team in Mumya met with members of the cooperative. They took a tour in Wadi Karak on foot and examined the farms at the beginning of the Wadi (before reaching the water falls). They also went to the end of the valley (after

the water falls) which is in the Aghwar area, and visited other farms in that area also owned by members of the cooperative.

Citrus fruit trees as well as stone fruit trees comprise the majority of the tree produce on the farms. Vegetables are also grown seasonally.

There is a fresh water spring inside one of the large farms (owned by cooperative president Rami Jaafreh) and it suffices most of his irrigation need. He also has a tank provided through a JOHUD project that he also fills with fresh water for the dry season.

There was no indication that grey water or treated water was being dumped into the Wadi from a nearby station. Additional information is being sought on this issue.

Cooperative members informed the team that the budget allocated to the project was supposed to cover the renovation of one unit in the old village as well as the costs of other activities alongside the Wadi such as a base camp at the end of the Wadi.

Other units were added throughout the process and as such all the funds were allocated to the renovation process.

There are no funds available to refurbish the renovated units; requirements are furniture, a kitchen, display units, water tanks and others (a full list will be prepared and shared with the team next week).

There are many promising ideas for development of the project by society members but they need to be systematically organized and prioritized.

There are women members of the cooperative but they did not attend the field visit. It is important to understand their roles in the society better as they could be included in the operations of income generating activities as part of the Minaret socio-economic project.

2.2: Thursday February 14, 2019: Value-chain learning visit to Khair Al Koura project in Koura district: Q perspective team accompanied Minaret team to a full day field visit to Khair Al Koura value-chain project in Koura district, a public-private-partnership to local sustainable development project between the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Fine Hygienic Holding Group and the Municipality Of Dier Abi Saeed. The project is managed by Q perspective since 2012.

Main outcome of the field visit:

Overview: Khair Al Koura project deploys localized value chain approaches utilizing local agricultural resources in Koura district and benefits 15 full time beneficiaries and 200 seasonal beneficiaries from the area (15 women processors and a vast number of local suppliers and service providers to its 12 production lines).

The Minaret team witnessed first-hand applied and localized value chain approaches that can be easily adapted and used for the socio-economic projects of Minaret project.

The Minaret team spent time with the 15 women full-time beneficiaries and asked several questions. They learnt about the applications of the value chain model in both the design and implementation of Khair Al Koura.

The Minaret team also got the chance to sample the wide array of locally developed and produced products which reached a high level of flavor while complying with national food safety standards. Many gourmet products developed by the local beneficiaries were sampled and were received favorably by the Minaret team.

Another value-chain based model in Karak, owned by Caritas and established by Q perspective in Karak was also discussed and the idea of linking that project to the eco-tourism socio-economic project in Mumia in Karak was discussed and was well received by the Minaret team.

It was agreed that Khair Al Koura provided a realistic, actionable and cost-effective model, and that its approaches can be easily adapted to Karak.

It was also agreed that Q perspective will contact Caritas Jordan to explore the possibility of linking their projects in Karak with Mumia project, and that a field visit to Caritas projects in Karak would be conducted (optimally involving members of the mumia cooperative society).

Q perspective also informed the Minaret team that they are also working on an upgrade to the Caritas projects in Karak (food processing facility and hand-made brass and silver jewelry facility in Smakkiyyeh and Rabba areas respectively). The upgrade focuses on rehabilitating the abandoned French Sisters Schools at the entrance to Karak city, and transforming it into an official tourism visitors center for tourists coming to Karak. The facility will receive all the tourists heading to different experiences in Karak and will include the following:

- A tourism information center.
- A hand-made artisanal ceramics facility.
- A store that will sell locally made souvenirs (ceramics and hand made jewelry from the Smakiyyeh project of Caritas).
- A deli that will sell hand-made snacks and juices.

Mr. Rami Al Akhras asked Q perspective to ask Caritas if they would be interested in the following:

- Providing space in the information center where a video and/or marketing material of the Mumia socio-economic project can be displayed to promote the project to tourists (for the obvious reason that it has been decided that the project in Mumia is an eco-tourism project).
- Linking the food processing facility as well as the hand-made jewelry project of Caritas with the Mumia project, where the Caritas projects can be local suppliers to the Mumia proposed shop which is part of the plan for the eco-tourism project in Mumia.

Inviting Mumia cooperative members to also visit Khair Al Koura was also discussed and both parties that it would be a good idea once the Mumia project gets into the implementation phase.

2.3: Monday February 18,2019: Meeting with Minaret team at Horizons office:

2.4: Tuesday February 19,2019: Field visit to Lajjoun proposed water pilot action site:

During the period from the first visit to Lajjoun on February 12,2019 to this visit, it became apparent through communication with the Municipality of Karak that the lands owned by the municipality do not fully cover all the areas to the South, South East and South West of the Prince Hassan Industrial Park's water treatment plant. As such, the second visit was arranged with the presence of the experts from the National Center for Agricultural Research and the Minaret team. The municipality team plotted the area owned by them and shared them with the team and the field visit focused on identifying actual sites where the proposed water pilot actions could be implemented. (topographical map of the municipality owned lands is annexed).

Main outcomes of the field visit:

A wider parameter was examined during the visit and discussions amongst all participants yielded the following:

- A piece of land owned that is deemed by NARC to be appropriate for the establishment of the nurseries idea was identified and verified to be owned by the municipality.
- The idea for establishing a small park on another plot that would serve the municipal staff working in the different projects in the area, as well as the nursery project, was discussed.
- It was agreed that two initial concept notes will be developed by NARC for both the nurseries idea and for the park idea, and that future stakeholder engagements and workshops will determine whether the nurseries project alone will be identified for implementation as part of MINARET or if there is a possibility for implementing the park project as well. (Initial concept notes for nurseries and for park are annexed).
- NARC experts agreed that the agreement signed between the Greater Karak Municipality and the King Hussein Industrial Park provides sufficient water resources for both projects.
- NARC also mentioned that as part of the nurseries project, fresh water will be required for the main nursery where the seeds and seedlings undergo first growth, and treated water will be used when they are moved to the other nurseries (for growth and multiplication).
- The idea of Greater Karak Municipality providing in kind contributions to the finally agreed upon water pilot action(s) in terms of land leveling, fencing, provision of fresh water tanks, and any other possible contributions that can redirect resources towards ensuring the success and sustainability of the project were discussed and the municipal staff informed the rest of the participants that that is possible and that it

needs to be discussed with the City Manager who has previously indicated that the municipality can provide such support.

- The importance of allocating dedicated municipal staff to the final agreed-upon water pilot action(s) was also discussed. Those staff would be trained on the job by NAC on the different technical and managerial skills required to operate the water pilot action after hand-over, and it is critical that dedicated staff meet the required criteria, that they are dedicated, and that they continue with the project. As such, it was agreed that on the job training would be incorporated into the design process and that it would be possible to extend it to a larger number of municipal staff than would be required to operate the water pilot action to allow for replacement, rotation, and substitution in case of staff leaving the project for whatever reason.

2.5: Thursday February 21, 2019: Mumia eco-tourism participatory design workshop at Q perspective offices: Mumia cooperative society head Mr. Rami Al Jaafreh and one member of the cooperative alongside director of JOHUD Karak Center Mr. Ali Al Soub joined the Q perspective expert team and the Minaret team in the workshop.

Main outcomes of the design workshop:

Mr. Ali Al Soub provided detailed information on Wadi Al Karak and explained that there are several offerings that extend beyond the water track. These can be summarized in the following:

- A steep cliff opposite to the Valley can be rehabilitated to be used for training adventure tourists on rappelling before they start the long route down the valley where they will need to rappel down the water falls.
- The bottom of the valley towards the street in the Ghour area is a long hiking trail and Mumia cooperative society members own lands there that can be used to set up a tent camp (and will require an outdoor toilet) where tourists can rest after the long hike down the valley, sleep (optional), use the toilet and get ready for the transport back to Amman or to the old village if they chose to sleep there.
- A 3,500 years old historical site called Um Al Dra' (أم الذراع) also lies at the bottom of the valley can be used to expand the tourism offerings to cultural and historical.
- Mr. Rami Jaafreh discussed the requirements for finalizing the project they collaborated with JOHUD and GOPA on and promised to send a bill of quantities for the required works (he did send a list of requirements and was asked to provide more extensive cost breakdown which he did not even after several follow up calls).
- An important fact that the tourism season in Wadi Karak is relatively short (May to October) due to weather. The area at the bottom of the Valley is part of the Aghwar weather system (generally warmer throughout the year) and offers an opportunity for extending the season if the right offering is developed, especially during the cold months when Jordanian (and possibly foreign residents in Jordan or even foreign tourists) might be interested in

getting out of the cold for a day or more and enjoy a warmer environment if the right offering (incentive) is designed.

It was agreed that the best entry point for initiating the design write up in a manner that encompasses the full potential of Mumia and the Wadi Karak, and to create proper value chain linkages and approaches is through designing different possible tourism packages that can be offered to tourists.

It was agreed that Q perspective will work on developing a version of the packages and share it with Mumia Cooperative Society as well as JOHUD Karak Center manager for review and development in the next stage of co-design. (Initial packages are annexed).

It was also agreed that a follow up visit to Mumia would be conducted on the following Tuesday (later postponed to Thursday based on the request of Mr. Ali Soub who had an urgent engagement on Tuesday) to physically visit the sites of the other possible offerings and to further brain storm and refine the ideas.

2.6: Sunday February 24, 2019: Tunisia field visit preparation meeting at Horizons: A meeting between Q perspective and the Minaret team was held at Horizons office to start the preparations for the first Tunisia Field visit.

Mr. Rami Al Akhras informed Q perspective team that he and his team will be traveling to Monastir, Tunisia in the period between March 3rd and March 9th, 2019. He believes that that would present an excellent opportunity for Q perspective to conduct the first field visit and informed the Q team that he will be busy with work in Tunisia on Sunday March 3 and Monday March 4, 2019. Q perspective team can conduct their stakeholder engagements in the period between Tuesday March 5th and Saturday March 9, 2019.

Main outcomes of the meetings:

- It was agreed that the first meeting needs to be held with the Municipality of Monastir as they need to be in the know about Q perspective and their work during that period, and because they are the main stakeholder in the Water pilot action and also in the proposed socio-economic action as they will be donating a piece of land to Grand Bleu to establish an eco-tourism hub. The municipality might also be a stakeholder in the operationalization of the hub through its business development unit.

- Grand Bleu was identified as the most likely primary stakeholder for the socio-economic project in light of their vast experience, mandate, capacity and credibility.

- Other main stakeholders for the socio-economic project include Voice of the Children, the business development unit at the municipality and small handicraft producers working in producing natural dyes, recycled and upcycled products and ceramics.

- Mr. Akhras also noted that there is an important informal group called “barabsheh” who work in sorting the garbage in Monastir and then selling it. They could be

important to the project in terms of providing sorted waste for recycling and up cycling.

- It was also agreed that during the first visit, a three experts team from Q perspective will join, Mohammad Abdel Rahman, the operations manager, Ahmad Deeb, the programs manager and Sadeq Khawaja, the capacity building expert. Though originally planned in the budget for two, it was deemed important to have all three present to cover the different aspects of the value chain mapping and design as well as the stakeholder engagement and capacity building requirements.

- Horizons informed Q perspective that the Royal Scientific Society is leading the work on the water pilot action implementation and promised to arrange to send all the documentation and works to Q perspective.

2.7: Monday February 25, 2019: Caritas Jordan meeting: A meeting was held between Q perspective and the Caritas Program Manager Omar Abawi was held to discuss opportunities for collaboration on the Karak Mumia socio-economic project.

Main outcome of the meeting:

- Caritas Jordan informed Q perspective that they are implementing an extension to their “Coping Strategies for Iraqi asylum seekers and Jordanian host communities in Karak governorate”. The first phase included the rehabilitation of an olive grove, the maintenance, refurbishment and operationalization of an abandoned building on the olive grove to become a food processing facility specialized in pickling and packaging and labeling in Smakiyyeh area of Karak municipality, and the establishment and operationalization of a hand-made accessories and jewelry workshop in Rabba area of Karak municipality.

- The extension involved transforming the old French Nuns School at the entrance to Karak old city to become the official tourism information center and starting point for tourists entering Karak city and its surroundings. The project will include an information center, a gift shop, a hand - made ceramics workshop, a kitchen and food serving area and they are working with the Ministry of Tourism to create a bus stop next to the old school where tourist buses would stop before entering the city of Karak.

- Caritas Jordan informed Q perspective that the assigned date for finalizing all renovation and equipment and machinery installation of the project is August 2019.

- Caritas Jordan said that in principle, and without making any formal commitment at this stage as it is too early, they are open and willing to discuss ways of collaboration with the Minaret Socio-economic project on the following:

- Supplying processed food and hand -made jewelry (and later on hand made ceramic souvenirs) to the Mumia project.

- Providing access to the socio-economic project to the tourism information center where they could place brochures and other collateral to be handed out to tourists, and possibly display a video within the information center.

-Any other ideas that both parties might brainstorm and contribute to meeting the objectives of their collective projects in Karak.

2.8: Tuesday February 26, 2019: Meeting with the Jordanian Bird Watching Association: A meeting between Q perspective and the president of the Jordanian Bird Watching Association Dr. Fares Khoury was conducted to discuss possible collaboration with the Mumia socio-economic pilot.

Main outcomes of the meeting:

- The Jordanian Bird Watching Association is the only certified and recognized body to organize bird watching trips and adventures in Jordan.
- Only three certified bird watching guides exist in Jordan and they are all members of the association.
- The Association knows Wadi Al Karak, has run trips before either as an association or through one of the three guides, and there is sufficient varieties of birds in certain seasons to justify a tour trip.
- The Association is willing, in principle, to train some of the tour guides of the Mumia cooperative society on specialized bird watching tours and relevant knowledge and skills. This will expand the pool of such guides in Jordan and they can serve as assistant tour guides to three existing guides and later on become principle bird watching tour guides specialized in Wadi Karak.
- The Association would also be interested in designing a specialized tour package for Wadi Al Karak in collaboration with the Mumia Cooperative Society and agree with them on joint way to promote and sell the tours.

2.9: Wednesday February 27, 2019: Meeting with adventure tour guide Mr. Yarob Nahhas:

Mr. Nahhas is one of the leading adventure tour guides and has previously co-founded the Stronger Team Adventure Tourism company but currently works on his own. Mr. Nahhas expressed willing to collaborate on different aspects of the project including collaborating on promoting and selling tour packages, acting as a tour guide to groups, as well as providing specialized training to members of the Mumia cooperative Society (especially those that have been previously trained on being tour guides).

Mr. Nahhas is familiar with the site and does run tours there, and as part of the discussion on training, he clearly mentioned that there are three areas the local would –be tour guides need: Safety throughout the adventure, first aid, customer service and English.

2.10: Thursday February 28,2019: Mumia follow up and verification of design workshop field visit: The Q perspective team conducted a follow up visit that covered the full periphery of Wadi Al Karak, including the area at the bottom of the valley and the proposed site of the rappelling training. They were joined by Mr. Al Soub and Mr. Rami Al Jaafreh.

Main outcomes of the visit:

It became much clearer to the Q perspective team that Eco-tourism is the value chain definition for the socio-economic project in Karak since it is wide enough to capture all the required elements for success and sustainability, which can be summarized in the following:

- Wide tourist segments can be targeted based on the wide variety of possible offerings (adventure tourism, bird watching, star gazing, team building and skill building, learning adventures and skill building adventures for school and university students from Karak as well as the rest of Jordan, and could possibly extend to scientific tours for botanists and other students and researchers in scientific disciplines).
- Linkages with local value chains (small producers and cooperative producers and service providers) are clearly possible at different stages of the value chain through possible clustering (if feasible). This could include the Karak Women's Association, the Caritas projects in Karak, home-based producers of the unique Karak dairy (jameed is well known but also white cheeses, cold dairy drink "Shaneeneh and Makhid", labneh", and others.
- Functional partnerships with local and national NGOs and tourism-related associations are possible. These include the Jordanian Bird Watching Association, the Children's Museum, the Ministry of Education, universities, the Karak Governorate and the Karak Municipality.
- Cooperative members can be plugged into the value chain quickly as fresh fruit suppliers, as food processors (especially women cooperative members), as specialized tour guides, as transportation providers and managers, as managers of social media and other forms of marketing, as staff for the different offerings included in the final design (receptionists, waiters, cooks, house-keeping..etc), as specialized trainers, as well as organizers of folklore activities that can provide tourists with authentic experiences.

In terms of verification of some points raised in the design workshop the previous week, the following were the conclusions:

- Regarding the rappelling site, and after thorough site examination, it was agreed amongst all participants that it will not be possible because there is no safe access to the top of the cliff which would mean that tourists interested in this training would have to climb up the cliff and then rappel down, which was deemed by everyone as not feasible or doable as rappelling training requires trainees to start at the top without having their energy depleted before.
- Regarding the Um Dra' (أم الذراع) archeological site at the bottom of the Wadi, and after close examination, it was agreed that the site is badly maintained and not ready to receive visitors. Proper excavation works of 3,500 old site had not been conducted to the level where they would be tourism-worthy, there are no walking trails, no informative signage and the specialized expertise and financial resources for developing the site are not available to either Mumia Cooperative Society or the Minaret project.
- The topology at the bottom of the Wadi does not provide adequate space or landscape for a camp site as most of the land is fenced out around the Karak dam (owned by the Jordan Valley Water Authority). If a camp site is to be

established ,a piece of the fenced out land needs to be dedicated to the establishment of a camp site, and Mr. Ali Soub indicated that it would be possible to agree with the Jordan Valley authority on such an arrangement, but only if there is a clear promise of dedication of resources.

Meetings and field visits in Tunisia:

During the 5-8 of March, the following meetings and field visits were made:

2.11: Tuesday March 5, 2019: Meeting with the Mayor of Monastir and relevant municipal staff at the Municipality on March the 5th. The Mayor is open to the idea of collaboration with Notre Grand Bleu Society affirming the municipality's intent to allocate the needed land for the Society to act as an eco-hub.

It was evident that coordination and collaboration with the Municipality at all levels of the suggested projects is possible and that the Municipality is an essential and prime stakeholder in both of them.

2.12: Tuesday March 5, 2019: Meeting with Notre Grand Bleu Society: Q perspective and Horizon's team held a meeting with the president of the Society, the executive director and two staff members on Tuesday the 5th of March, 2019. Purpose of the meeting was to discuss current programmes and activities as well as future plans. The team discussed with the Notre Grand Bleu Society the scope of the socio-economic and partnerships needed.

Although the Notre Grand Bleu Society was only established in 2012, it has managed to implement a number of successful programmes and activities related to awareness raising, preservation of marine life and protection of the environment. Some of their projects included:

1. Underwater diving training and awareness raising targeting school children;
2. Underwater diving training targeting handicapped children;
3. Organisation of awareness campaigns and seminars;
4. Support and implement studies on marine life in Tunis;
5. Underwater painting;
6. Placing underwater instruction signs;
7. Protecting marine life on the Island of Quria;
8. Cleaning the shore campaigns; and
9. Implement a social services programme targeting Tunisian and French juveniles.

Notre Grand Bleu members have displayed good knowledge of marine life in Tunis and have the adequate skills to implement relevant programmes; they have also displayed a positive attitude towards marine life protection. They are open to ideas of partnerships and cooperation with the Municipality, other NGOs and GOs nationally and internationally.

The assessment conducted by Q identified the following:

- Notre Grand Bleu has a great potential to expand its programmes in scope and scale but needs bigger office space;
- Staff requires capacity building related to strategic thinking and production/service planning;

- The Society needs additional office and diving equipment including bigger boats to expand current programmes; and

Suggested future steps needed include:

- Build strategic partnerships particularly with Voice of Children; and
- Capacity building.

2.13: Tuesday March 5, 2019: Fieldtrip to Quria Island was undertaken on the same day with Notre Grand Bleu staff (a 30 minutes sea trip). Quria is comprised of two islands (Greater Quria and Smaller Quira). The Greater Quria Island is occupied by the Tunisian Coast Guards (not open to visitors) while the smaller island is maintained as an ecosystem hub for marine life and marine life researchers.

The smaller island has the remains of an abandoned old tuna packing factory and a recently erected wooden shed made available for researchers' use on the island. Researchers, including staff, spend up to a week at a time on the Island to conduct their research with no electricity or clean water source on the Island.

The Island is maintained as a breeding ground for sea turtles and other marine life including the *posidonia oceanica*. It is also a home for over a 1000 seagulls and other birds. The Island represents a complete ecosystem that is kept clean from any human intervention.

The initial assessment revealed the following two points:

- They need electrical and water supply on Quria Island to support research work; and
- A wooden dock for loading and unloading research equipment.

However, based on the discussions with Notre Grand Bleu, in which they stated that they want the island to remain as is, it was agreed that an awareness raising center for the island be set up in the new location in the Falaise Park.

2.14: Wednesday March 6, 2019: A field visit to Monastir Falaise Park was undertaken on March 6th. The Park houses the 600 square meters assigned to Notre Grand Blue by the Monastir Municipality to set up their eco-hub overlooking the sea.

The assigned area is directly facing the main entrance to the Park (on the left) in clear view of visitors and adjacent to the main restaurant/cafe and shaded seating area.

The assessment conducted by Q identified the following:

- The site is suitable for implementing the socio-economic project (it is within a serviced tourist attraction area, on the sea with children playgrounds);
- The Municipality has invested in the site with the newly built land strips on the shore increasing visitors' seating areas;
- The site can easily be linked to existing infrastructure;
- Part of the site is used as a waste and garbage dump, hence needs cleaning;
- Obtaining official documents and permissions to utilise the site as promised by the Municipality;
- Finalise engineering plans;
- Finalise furnishing bill of quantities;

- Build cement bases to hold intended shipping containers;
- Build wooden pathways around the site (from wooden pallets); and
- signs directing visitors to the site.

2.15: Wednesday March 6, 2019: A field visit was also conducted on March 5th to the Olympic Stadium to assess the intended NEXUS project suggested by the Project Team's reviewed documents. The suggested project rests on building an underground rainwater collection tank that can harvest rainwater from Stadium rooftop as well as the indoor sports hall, to be pumped for irrigating the grass and surrounding green areas.

Solar energy will provide the electricity needed for pumping. However, no numbers are currently available to guide the design of the project in terms of water tank size as well as pump and solar panels specifications.

The assessment conducted by Q identified the following:

- The selected site is suitable falling in the middle between the open stadium and indoor hall;
- Engineering plans must be reviewed to ensure sufficient water is harvested, pipe fittings are suitable, solar and pump specifications are adequate;
- Ensure that water filters are in place prior to reaching the tank; and
- Ensure that maintenance policy and procedures are drafted and adopted by the Municipality to ensure sustainability.

2.16: Wednesday March 6, 2019: A meeting with Berbasha Women in Voices of Children offices was held on March 6th to assess their role in the projects and needs. These women work on sorting garbage from Municipality containers and sell them for recycling (particularly plastics).

There are some 300 Berbasha women working in Monastir under hazardous conditions threatening their health and the health of their families.

Berbasha women are willing to cooperate in any initiative that helps improve their income and working conditions, and they have good relationship with the Voices of Children Society which extends support to them whenever possible.

The assessment conducted by Q identified the following:

- Provide protective gloves and masks as well as medical inoculation to combat germs;
- Assist Berbasha women in collecting carton for recycling by providing them with trolleys and linking them with possible buyers; and
- It is possible to link the Berbasha women with the socio-economic project by providing needed material for recycling by the partners involved.

2.17: Thursday March 7, 2019: Meeting with the Voice of Children Association on March the 6th: Established in 2006, the Association voix de l'enfant Monastir provides support for children born out of wedlock and vulnerable women. In addition to the nursery for children, the association set up a number of socio-economic projects that help empower the vulnerable women they serve:

- A Plant nursery that grows most of the common plants in Monastir

- A Dry Clean service that caters to 3 hospitals and 2 hotels
- A sewing and weaving and embroidery workshop
- A food processing / country kitchen

The association is very active.

The assessment conducted by Q identified the following:

- The association is capable and willing to build strategic partnerships serving the project
- Staff require capacity building for expanding their scale and scope of work and enhance the services they provide
- The association requires technical and creative support and guidance to expand the range of potential products and align them with the project's objectives

2.18: : Thursday March 7, 2019: Meeting with Centre d'Affaires de Monastir : Being a public entity, the Centre d'Affaires de Monastir offers its wide range of supporting services to entrepreneurial individuals and entities as part of their mandate. They have demonstrated that to us by presenting their achievements and introducing us to a number of entrepreneurs and Regional Representative of the of the Crafts Bureau at the Ministry of Tourism. Both the Centre and the Representative were very helpful and enthusiastic about the project.

They also accompanied and introduced us to Imagine Espace Creatif.

The assessment conducted by Q identified the following:

- It is important to coordinate with the Centre and the Crafts Bureau as they will facilitate a lot of the work.
- Include them in the dialogue and planning of the implementation and sustainability of the project

2.19: Friday March 8, 2019: Meeting with Imagine Espace Creatif on March 8th: We met Mrs. Insaf Sayadi Bouzgarou, one of the three founders of this initiative. This initiative provides the physical space, training, and support for creativity in recycling waste material into beautiful and useful.

They are very active and open for partnerships and collaborations.

The assessment of Q identified the following:

- Imagine are extremely useful to partner with for both Voices of Children in terms of capacity building and product development and with Notre Grand Bleu in terms of beautifying the location and enriching the concept store.

2.20: Saturday March 9, 2019: Meeting with the mayor of Monistir: Two of the Q perspective team members left Tunisia on Friday March 8th,2019, and a third team member (Mohammad Abdel Rahman) remained in Tunisia to attend a meeting organized between Horizons and the municipality.