



Project Progress

Feb. 2017 - Dec. 2017

July, 2018

CONTENT



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Updated Project Components



COMPONENT ONE: Situational Analyses & Needs Assessment

Overall Goal: Identify specific political, technical and human needs and opportunities related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, safe water management and food security for each Municipality

COMPONENT TWO: Project Value Chain Mapping & Selection

Overall Goal: to prioritize and select pilot actions, socio-economic projects, and job creation opportunities in partnership with Project municipalities and key stakeholders, ensuring that each of the Projects selected covers the value chain required for its effective impact creation.

Updated Project Components



COMPONENT THREE: Capacity Enhancement & Communication

Overall Goal: Build local and inter-municipal, regional capacities in energy, water and food sustainability, especially for women, youth and other marginalized groups by providing the needed capacity building and communication opportunities & platforms to enable the planning, implementation, monitoring & scaling of NEXUS Projects & Initiatives

COMPONENT FOUR: Project Implementation

Overall Goal: to test NEXUS project implementation approaches, benefits and co-benefits, and create demonstrable NEXUS projects on a municipal level that benefit municipalities & the community and provide a replicable and/or scalable example for other municipalities within Project countries and in the region to adopt

COMPONENT FIVE: Project Scalability & Replication

ACCOMPLISHED ACTIVITIES

Launching in Amman, Jdaideh and Monastir in Feb. & Mar. 2017

The objective of the kick-off meetings was to inform stakeholders, governmental entities and partner organizations about the purpose of the MINARET project, project objectives, expected results, project components and phases of implementation.



ACCOMPLISHED ACTIVITIES

ASSESSMENTS

Assessments were conducted to know the stakeholders' capacities and needs, the current energy situation and policies in the three countries, socio-economic situation, water and agriculture situation, with consideration to gender equality, gender engagement and human rights standards; all these resulted in 23 municipality and country level reports and studies:

- 18 Studies on water & agriculture, energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy policy
- Policy assessment
- Stakeholder identification and mapping
- Gender assessment
- Socio-economic study
- An assessment of Human rights legislation in water and energy sectors

Methodology of data collection

Literature Review from online sources, governmental institutions, and previous projects,
Meetings with relative Stakeholders, Field Surveys and Questionnaires, Focus Groups
Discussions with the Community and Local NGO's, Site Observations

Challenges / Limitations

- Availability of data / deficiency of available data / old data
- Cooperation of concerned staff at the Municipality was moderate
- Resistance from Electricity Company in providing data
- Communication barriers due to language
- Access to facilities
- Viewing, design and implementation of Project from a Human Rights perspective as opposed to viewing human rights as an additional component was not fully understood by Project team.

ASSESSMENTS

STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

Stakeholders were classified as primary and secondary

To identify stakeholders and beneficiaries' needs and capacities, two types of needs assessment workshops were conducted for the respective municipalities.

- The first round of workshops aimed at assessing stakeholders' current situation, opportunities and challenges with regard to implementing NEXUS approach.
- The second round targeted the municipalities in terms of assessing their capacity needs.

Recommendations

- Stakeholders engagement must be designed and implemented based on the degree of **influence and interest** of stakeholders within the approach of the project and its key activities.
- Pilot Projects for municipalities and socio-economic projects are the activities which the remaining enabling activities can be designed around for maximizing stakeholder interest, building capacities, raising awareness and sharing knowledge.
- Capacity building, knowledge transfer and coaching must be conducted in parallel with Pilot Actions and Socio-economic Projects and continuing until the end of the Project.

ASSESSMENTS

POLICY ASSESSMENT

Objective

This study is aimed at assessing the current policies, regulatory and legal framework on renewable energy and energy efficiency, water management and food security, nexus and sustainable development, while taking into consideration climate change in the three countries as well as gender issue.

Recommendations

- Apply appropriate policy, legislative and economic tools to ensure that basic human needs for the three resources are met at a low, subsidized price, while excessive use is priced at a tariff that reflects cost.
- Mainstream the nexus mental models, concepts, and tools in policy and development plans.
- Ensuring that the environmental and social needs of future generations are reflected in current policies and practices.
- Involving the civil society in the nexus governance can be an important asset in generating better dialogues and bringing legitimacy and accountability to governing institutions.

ASSESSMENTS

RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Energy efficiency audits were conducted to: Municipality buildings, wastewater treatment plants, solid waste separation plants, water pumping stations, markets, street lighting, playgrounds, warehouses and stadiums to determine their sustainability and evaluate their usage/performance.
- The technical team from MINARET assessed the potential of utilizing renewable technologies, for example solar energy, to partially provide additional electricity for facilities throughout the municipalities, such as the main municipal buildings, water pumping stations and waste water treatment plants.



ASSESSMENTS

RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Energy efficiency audits were conducted by a technical team to the following buildings / facilities in the three countries:

	Monastir, Tunisia	Jdaideh, Lebanon	Karak, Jordan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipality Building • Mustapha Ben Jannet Monastir Stadium • Salle Olympic Mohammad Mzali Monastir • Warehouse • Central Market • Public Lighting • Monastir Municipality Pumping station • Waste Water Treatment plan (Onas frina) • Municipal Slaughter House • Lighting Retrofit • Al-Basatin School • Higher Institute Biotechnology De Monastir • Electric Vehicle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipality Building • Wastewater treatment plant • Solid waste separation plant • The upper pumping station • Street lighting • Sport stadium • Electric vehicle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Municipal Building • Health Center Building • Al-Thanya Administrative building • Zahoum Administrative building • Manshiet abo-Hammour • Ader • Al-shahabye • Rakien • Al-Ghwier • Zaid iben-harthe • Al-jdaydeh • Al-adnaniya • Wadi Al-karak • Baddan and barda • Al-marj • Al-hawieh • Workshop Buildings

WATER & AGRICULTURE

- The overall scope of the current report is to identify the baseline information on the water and agriculture situation at the municipality level in the pilot area. The analyses are targeted to identify the main needs for both sectors to support municipalities in meeting development challenges.
- Potential interventions in the field of water governance and policy dialogue are identified for the pilot area as an outcome of this study.
- A large amount of data are only available at national or regional level (governorate or delegation), and not at the communal level of the municipalities, which led to amending the initial structure of the report based on the available data.

Recommendations:

- Food must become the focus rather than merely agriculture, especially with regards to socio-economic (small initiative) projects.
- Municipalities are economically reliant on key food sectors other than agriculture; (fishery in Tunisia, and dairy in Karak as an example), and to apply NEXUS more effectively and maximize benefits, adopting the broader definition of food is essential.
- The Project team expanded the definition of food beyond agriculture, and focused the small initiatives on what is most relevant in each municipality.

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECTS

Proposed Water Projects

	Monastir, Tunisia	Jdaideh, Lebanon	Karak, Jordan
Water Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A training center to emphasis soilless culture; • Develop a greenhouse rain water catchment system; • Install rainwater harvesting tanks for use by farmers and in municipal gardens • Thermal solar systems for Greenhouses heating and agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture system using solar power for pumping of water for irrigation; • The use solar power to produce drinking water by installing additional water tanks and a transfer pump; • The use of solar hybrid equipment to provide drinking water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water treatment using a photovoltaic system for food production in agricultural lands; • Adoption of a hydroponic agricultural production technique in pilot farm; • Install water harvesting tanks at the farm level along the Ain Sara Trail, an area with an abundance of agricultural land (Around Ain Sara) • Upgrading Al-Karak Wastewater treatment plant for reuse of effluent in Forage crops production.

GENDER

Recommendations for small initiatives

- Improving access to energy has to improve women's poverty status through small initiatives in an integrated approach.
- Provide women with the skills to be influential professionally, socially and politically.
- The typical fields women invest in are food-processing, sewing, traditional jewelry (in Tunisia), soap production, traditional crafts (in Jordan and Lebanon) and most of them lack access to external markets.
- Create opportunities for women to enhance their technical competencies around energy, water and food management by conducting vocational trainings in partnership with national and local vocational centers.
- Work with organizations such as Jdaideh Women Association (in Lebanon), Grand Bleu (in Tunisia), Rakeen Women Society and Women's Cooperative Society (in Karak-Jordan) and the municipalities to promote and support income generation opportunities for small, women-owned business promoting water and energy saving technologies.

ASSESSMENTS



SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Objectives

1. Map out the demographic and socio-economic aspects of the project sites.
2. Assess the use and dependency of the communities on energy technology and efficiency, water use and management and how they correlate resource use to food security.
3. Evaluate the local knowledge, attitude and perceptions with regards to energy technology, alternative energy options, water use and management and food production and security.

Municipality Key Findings

Surveyed municipalities face several challenges in terms of unemployment, poverty rate and the availability of resources. Such challenges pose a significant burden on the municipality and government in terms of securing and ensuring access to basic needs.

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECTS

Proposed Socio-economic Projects

	Monastir, Tunisia	Jdaideh, Lebanon	Karak, Jordan
Socio-economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish two hubs (to be managed and operated by the focal point), that provide: capacity building sessions on climate change, socio-economic skills and other useful life skills; a space to conduct research and participate in the protection of the eco-system and wildlife; as well as providing vocational training for women and creating a natural “dukkana” to sell local, handmade goods, courtesy of local women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revolving Fund: The available types of initiatives are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Grey Water Recycling and Reuse; Drip Irrigation; Photovoltaic Pumping; Thermal Panels; and Water Harvesting Wells/Tanks The installation and use of a large-scale solar panel, with the Jdeideh’s Women Society overseeing its implementation and execution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate NEXUS Approach for Healthy Ecosystem Services - The project will support the rehabilitation of the existing center in Wadi Alkarak, it mainly aims at protecting the ecosystem by organizing the ecotourism, and create job opportunities. Establish eco-tourism hub to become a model for ecotourism through the use of grey water systems, solar energy and drip irrigation for agriculture, which would in turn grow food to be used within the tourist hub. Production and packaging of herbal and medicinal plants. Through a grant provided to the implementing partner, a grey water system, four greenhouses, drip irrigation system, solar panel and medicinal and herbal seedlings would be purchased.

ACCOMPLISHED ACTIVITIES

CONSULTATION MEETINGS IN OCT. & NOV. 2017

As a conclusion of the first year assessments, consultation meetings were held in Tunisia, Lebanon and Jordan respectively to present the project's first year assessments' findings and recommendations in water, energy, food sectors considering the gender and socioeconomic aspects, in addition to presenting the results of the stakeholders Identification and the set of proposed pilot projects to be implemented during the next phase.



COMMUNICATION

1. Communication and visibility plans were developed for four municipalities (Sahab, Karak, Jdaideh and Monastir), incorporating communication tools, key messages and activities.
 - **Approach:** Adopted a participatory approach, individual and group meetings with concerned staff, including the mayors.
 - **Objective:** To empower the municipalities, build the municipalities' capacities in terms of communication and visibility, promote regional and global networking.
2. Website, online platform, mobile App and social media pages were launched for sharing experiences, disseminating knowledge and discussing policies at the national and regional levels.
3. Branding toolkit to have a unified visual identity of the project was developed.
4. Videos introducing the project kickoff & progress were produced

KEY FINDINGS

As MINARET Project is the first Project attempting to work with MENA region municipalities in NEXUS, we found out the following:

- There is a clear lack of knowledge, knowhow and experience working in a bottom-up approach with municipalities in thinking about and implementing NEXUS from a municipality level.
- International experts had significant experience working in NEXUS on a national level but could not provide direction on how to conduct and tie together assessments for municipalities.
- With regards to NEXUS Model;
 - a) Since the model was still unclear, the Project was designed around enabling components and not as with a clear Theory of Change.
 - b) NEXUS is about interlinkages and coordination. This cannot be present without a clearly structured process of operation and communication, which was still unclear.
- The management and governance of water, energy and food / agriculture is not part of the core mandate or role of municipalities.
- Coordination and communication was not fully realized / optimized during the first year of the project between partners, and the importance of communication and process as a core function of NEXUS approach was not initially understood.

KEY FINDINGS

- Municipalities do not have a communication baseline, and the communication function in all three is extremely weak.
- Key stakeholders were not involved in the design, planning, management and governance of the Project.
- The assessments on water and agriculture in the project design of the original document looked only at consumption and looked only at agricultural innovations. However, it became apparent that different municipalities were economically reliant on other key food sectors like: (fishery in Tunisia, and dairy in Karak as an example), and to apply NEXUS more effectively and maximize benefits and co-benefits, adopting the broader definition of food is essential.
- Gender as a concept is not understood and it is often seen in a negative light by key Project stakeholders.
- Viewing design and implementation of Project from a Human Rights perspective as opposed to viewing human rights as an additional component was not fully understood by Project team.

LESSONS LEARNED / RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Establish a baseline prior to conducting assessments.
2. Create a unified methodology for assessments regardless of partner / consultant conducting the assessment.
3. Identify and coordinate internally for optimized communication with stakeholders during the assessment (focus groups, meetings, questionnaires / surveys)
4. Hold roundtable meetings with experts at key milestones of data gathering to monitor and adjust track.
5. Standard Operating Procedures and Decision Matrix are necessary to ensuring better coordination and management of work between implementing partners.
6. Communication is at the heart of NEXUS. NEXUS cannot be implemented without strong vertical and horizontal communication.
7. Municipalities do not prioritize communication in their daily work and planning.
8. Ensure that key stakeholders are addressed as partners in the Project to increase their level of involvement.

LESSONS LEARNED / RECOMMENDATIONS



9. Ensure the sustainability of the initiatives post-project.
10. Conduct a pre-assessment desktop review prior to conducting full-fledged assessments, and base assessment TORs and scopes on the results of the pre-assessment.
11. Capacity building on gender must be conducted with Project Team & Key stakeholders.
12. Design and implement Project with an eye for who are duty bearers and who are the right holders.

PROPOSED UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



- [WORK PLAN 2018-2020](#)
- [LOGICAL FRAMEWORK](#)
- [BUDGET 2018-2020](#)



Thank you