

Mission Report

1. General:

NAME	Ahmad Hijazi
DEPARTMENT	MINARET Project
JOB TITLE	Operations Manager - Horizons for Green Development
Trip Date	August 18 th – August 20 th , 2019
Purpose of the Mission	- Meet with the mayor of Jdeideh to discuss project progress and next steps. - Conduct a field visit with the mayor and members of the municipality to the water pilot project site to verify the delivery and installation of the items supplied by the contractor Forge S.A.R.L. - Meet with Arz El-Shouf (ASC) to discuss gaps in the value chain mapping report in order to finalize the activity by the end of August. - Receive original copies of all required documentation from the municipality and ASC.
Location of the Mission (city, country)	Al-Jdeideh, Lebanon
MISSION APPROVED BY:	Project Management

2. Background:

Activity 4.1 and 4.2 Implement pilot projects for renewable energy & energy efficiency and water savings in the three selected Municipalities.

In addition to: Support small initiatives for Community Based Organizations & NGOs, with particular attention to women, that enable them to better use/optimize natural resources to generate economic, social and environmental benefits and in the process, enhance women's role in sustainable development.

And

As per activity 2.2 Prepare value chain mapping for socio-economic projects resulting from Assessments, focusing on agriculture in Jdeideh – Lebanon, dairy & animal produce in Karak – Jordan, and Fishery / seawater preservation in Monastir – Tunisia and prepare Project Plans & Expand on the Stakeholder Engagement Assessment conducted during Year 1 for the purpose of detailing capacities and needs relevant to planning, implementation & monitoring of Pilot Project, Socio-Economic Project & Job Creation Project Components, and present projects to municipalities and key partners

The mission evaluated progress achieved of the implementation phase during this field visit and means to mitigate challenges.

3. Key activities/ Results:

The trip involved arriving on the night of the 18th and departing on the morning of the 20th, the following work was accomplished on the 19th of August:

Municipality meeting:

- 1- Mayor inquired about the GIS offers sent to the MINARET team.
- 2- Discussions were held regarding the modification of the BOQ to include items that were not accounted for in initial planning, the municipality provided the modified BOQ and all original documents. The total amount for the new equipment is less than the original amount, this difference will help cover the increase in cost of labor that was required to conduct work on difficult areas of the farmland. Any extra funds needed will be covered by the municipality.
- 3- Mayor commented on the annual event regarding 2 days being held in Beirut and that this will cause some difficulty regarding the travel from Jdeideh to Beirut for 2 days. The mayor is in the process of preparing for the one day visit to Jdeideh during the event.
- 4- The topic of establishing the farmers coop was discussed. The municipality is currently in the process of evaluating two options; (1) creating a farmers cooperative that would follow coop rules as set by the ministry of agriculture or (2) to create a local committee that would encourage the cooperation of farmers on a local level.
 - a. Option 1 provides the benefit of being a legal entity that is nationally recognized, but the downside is that the MINARET team cannot create its own bylaw for the coop as the coop must follow national regulations and laws.
 - b. Option 2 provides more freedom in terms of establishing a bylaw for the committee that represents the farmers as a coop, however the committee will only be a local entity that is not recognized as a coop nationally.
- 5- Mayor commented on visible improvement in terms of farming land being cleared of debris and some farmers already getting access to water through gravity even before the pumps are installed, this has resulted in increase in morale and excitement for the future of the project.

Field visit to farmland:

- 1- After the meeting in the municipality, a committee made up of **Ahmad Hijazi** from Horizons for Green Development (MINARET), Mayor **Hisham Fatayri**, Municipality member **Ziyad Ghaith**, and **Ghazi Jayer** from Jdeideh Water visited the farmland to verify the completion of Forge's work.



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- 2- Of the 25 tanks to be delivered and installed, all were delivered but only 20 were installed, 5 tanks remain placed next to the farms awaiting the clearing of the land by the farmers and the setting of foundations to hold the tanks. Once the foundations are ready, the tanks will be installed and connected to the water grid.
- 3- All equipment related to moving the water from the river to the farms, aside from the water pumps which are part of a separate tender, has been installed. Farms now have access to a grid that will provide full access to water and allow them to utilize drip irrigation when it is installed in their respective farms.
- 4- During the field visit, it was pointed out that the planned location for the water pump (at the river) had been changed due to the fact that after installation the municipality discovered that gravity by itself can push the water to a significant altitude. Therefore, a new location for the pump was selected that will bring the water up a cliff further away from the river, this will allow the tanks to be filled much more efficiently.
- 5- The mayor pointed out that after the completion of work the farmland was part of a successful hike in the area that involved over 2000 participants, which is a promising indicator for the future of the project in terms of eco-tourism in Jdeideh.

Meeting with ASC:

- 1- The main reason behind the meeting was to discuss the gaps present in the VCM report and to check the progress of the report after ASC was told of these gaps. The main issue according to ASC is that the VCM report is missing the socioeconomic element because they did not receive enough information about the SE activity and assumed that the Lebanon component of the project only involved the water pilot action, which is the narrative submitted in their proposal to MINARET. This is in direct contradiction to the TOR and the contract that specifically asked for VCM for pilot projects AND socioeconomic projects.
- 2- ASC provided 4 pages of amended information to be added to the VCM report and were asked to continue working on developing the socioeconomic element of the VCM and capacity building report.
- 3- ASC provided official signed and stamped copies of all required documentation including payment receipts for experts, and receipts for hospitality and meetings, etc... As well as originals of payment requests.

4. Summary of contacts with local partners and activities realized

Activity	Person(s) Involved	Contact Details	Items
Municipality Meeting	Hisham Fatayri	Jdeideh Municipality Mayor	- Received final BOQ for the water pilot action as well as required documents. - Water pilot action and Farmers Coop options and progress discussed in detail. - Annual event and GIS system discussed briefly. - Tangible changes in the community were discussed.
Field Visit	Hisham Fatayri Ziyad Ghaith Ghazi Jayar	Mayor Municipality Member Jdeideh Water	- Field visit to ensure delivery and installation of Forge's supplies for the water pilot action. - Verification of the status of the farms and current status of farmers in terms of access to water.
ASC Meeting	Lara Kanso Salam Nassar	ASC MORES	- Discussed VCM gaps and provided recommendations and next steps. - Received all required official original documents and copies.

5. Conclusions:

- All work on the ground in terms of Forge's supplies has been delivered, and all has been installed except for 5 tanks.
- Hold Forge's payments until the municipality guarantees the installation of the remaining tanks in order to prevent any delays to the project.
- Results on the ground are tangible even before the pumps are installed.
- The municipality is in the process of evaluating the options for establishing the farmers cooperative.
- The VCM covers the pilot action properly but gaps remain in terms of the socioeconomic, the gaps were communicated to ASC and their reply was that they did not receive enough information about the actual activity to be implemented for the SE element.
- ASC will continue to develop the VCM report in preparation for the next step in the project.
- All required original documents and official copies have been received from the Jdeideh Municipality and ASC.

6. Next Steps:

- Prepare for the annual event
- Stress the importance of installing the remaining tanks to the municipality.
- Ensure finalization of VCM and CB report.
- Finalize the water pilot action by installing the water pump and solar panels.
- Finalize the socioeconomic element by installing the solar farm and establishing the revolving fund.
- Finalize the capacity building plan and start the training activities.
- Develop the gender mainstreaming action plan.

Annex 1 Mission photos:



Images 1-3: Left: One of 20 installed tanks filled with water from the river without the use of a pump. Right: Other installed and functional tanks.



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Image 4-6: Left: 5 uninstalled tanks placed next to the farms awaiting foundations to be set by farmers. Right: Installed drip irrigation foundations at one of the farms. Bottom: New location for the water pump.