

Mission Report

1. General:

NAME	Rami El-Akhras Ahmad Hijazi
DEPARTMENT	MINARET Project
JOB TITLE	Regional Community Component Manager Projects Officer – Resilience - Horizons for Green Development
Trip Date	March 24 th – March 26 th , 2019
Purpose of the Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct meetings with Arz El-Shouf, Jdaideh Municipality and Jdeideh Womens Organization - Assess the state of affairs on the value chain mapping and stakeholders' engagement activity - Check project progress and examine bottlenecks - Monitoring & evaluation - Visit project intervention locations to gather information and photos - Observe meetings with stakeholders (farmers) and experts.
Location of the Mission (city, country)	Al-Jdaideh, Lebanon
MISSION APPROVED BY:	Project Management

2. Background:

As per activity 2.2 Prepare value chain mapping for socio-economic projects resulting from Assessments, focusing on agriculture in Al-Jdaidah – 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

And

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.

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

3. Key activities/ Results:

Over the mission period of 2 intensive days, the following results are achieved:

Arz El-Shouf meeting:

- 1- Mission members briefed Arz El-Shouf on the audit requested by SIDA and its results.
- 2- Arz El-Shouf briefed on progress achieved and ongoing momentum of the project in Lebanon, also addressed the latest delays that were caused by harsh weather.
- 3- It is agreed that Arz El-Shouf will compile a presentation to brief SIDA on project outputs during their upcoming visit to Lebanon. Agenda is drafted and attached below.
- 4- Arz El-Shouf illustrated outcomes achieved in other interventions and presented some of their current work that is running in parallel with MINARET, including a book on forest and landscape restoration guidelines and a CfW project to clear farmland of shrubs and tree branches.
- 5- Arz El-Shouf expressed dissatisfaction with attendance during the first stakeholder meeting due to harsh weather conditions, it was also expressed that the local community was not pleased with the project delays. Even though attendance was low, some farmers were introduced to the concept of agritourism.
- 6- Arz El-Shouf prepared two questionnaires/surveys to gather information, one for the farmers and one for NGOs, these results are yet to be analyzed and later shared.
- 7- Progress report #2 to be completed and sent to Horizons by Sunday March 31st.
- 8- Horizons advised on the added value establishing a revolving fund managed by the women organization.
- 9- Recommendation given by Horizons? to formulate Al-Ghallel Market Committee (farmer's market committee) so that the market can transition into an efficient comprehensive entity with a shared purpose: move towards organic products, reduce plastic bag use, etc...
- 10- Mission members proceeded on a guided tour by Arz Al-Shouf to visit the current project, the farmland CfW and the compost piles created from the tree and shrub clippings.

Expert and stakeholder meeting:

- 1- Horizons attended alongside the Mayor the stakeholder meeting to observe the interaction between stakeholders and experts and to monitor how Arz El-Shouf interacts with the community.
- 2- The meeting hosted more than 10 farmers and families and experts in agro-tourism, and agriculture. Discussions included: challenges faced by farmers with regards to potential interventions, projects in the area and how to optimize MINARET's outcomes in the community through direct or indirect interventions.
- 3- ASC explained how MINARET has been instrumental in boosting other projects through studies that have been completed, and in the future the solar panels installed through MINARET will fuel other projects in the area, this will be presented by ASC to SIDA (Lina and Lara to prepare the presentation draft that will be submitted on April 4th).

- 4- Jdeideh Women Organization has grown significantly and is communicating at an expert level in terms of local development with farmers, the organization also runs a weekly farmers market. activities in the market and elsewhere will be presented to SIDA.

Meeting with the mayor:

- 1- Horizons collaborated directly with the Mayor to verify quantities and finalize the BOQ.
- 2- Dunia, focal point to prepare a contract to be signed with workers, including pay, schedule, responsibility to clean the Jazeera and valley canal as part of the Minaret project, to be signed by the Mayor.
- 3- Focal points, Dunia and Bahaa to communicate pilot action activity execution on a bi-weekly basis to Horizons.
- 4- Signed contract agreement with the municipality regarding water pilot action, work to start by the end of March/start of April 2019.
- 5- Signed conflict of interest declaration with the municipality.

Jdeideh Women Organization Meeting:

- 1- Discussed issuing the tender, to be open to Lebanese companies only.
- 2- Organization agreed to co-finance the solar farm by paying the \$2000 required to run approximately 250m of DC cables.
- 3- Agreed that the organization will establish a revolving fund to support individuals who are interested in environmentally friendly small projects.
- 4- A discussion took place where an idea was explored to transition from diesel power generators to 100% renewable energy through expanding the solar farm investing in the excess monthly amounts in the revolving fund.
- 5- Discussed a “farmers’ cooperative” that the organization could establish to create farmers linkages and exchange knowledge and collaboration.
- 6- Horizons concluded due diligence requirements from the organization.
- 7- Signed conflict of interest declaration with the organization.
- 8- Signed contract agreement with the organization regarding the solar farm installation, the DC cable co-finance, and the revolving fund.

4. Summary of contacts with local partners and activities realized

<i>Person(s) met</i>	<i>Contact Details</i>	<i>Items</i>
Hicham Fataireh	Jdaideh Municipality Mayor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalized Water pilot action BoQ - Agreed that the municipality will create a contract to be signed with workers and that all details will be sent to Horizons - Signed conflict of interest declaration - Signed pilot action contract agreement
Nizar Lina Lara Raji	Arz AlShouf Manager Community Coordinator - MORES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brief about audit on MINARET's side and delays on ASC's side. - ASC to send progress report #2 by March 31st. - After weather delays, ASC will begin work on VCM, stakeholder engagement, workshops and training.
Al-Jdaideh Women CBO Rania Fataireh Dima Fataireh	CBO Head CBO members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussed issuing the tender. - CBO agreed to co-finance DC cables for \$2000. - CBO agreed to establish a revolving fund from the savings generated through the solar farm. - CBO to establish a farmers cooperative. - Signed contract agreement. - Signed conflict of interest declaration. - Completed due diligence.

5. Conclusions:

- **Delays were caused due to harsh weather conditions, Arz El-Shouf to send progress report #2 by Sunday the 31st of March.**
- **Finalized pilot action BoQ, work to start within the first week of April 2019.**
- **Farmers' cooperative to be established.**
- **Due diligence, contract agreement, and conflict of interest declaration signed with the CBO.**
- **Contract agreement and conflict of interest declaration signed with the municipality.**

6. Recommendations for next trip:

- **Evaluate pilot action progress and explore challenges if any.**
- **Monitor progress of farmers' cooperative formation.**
- **Assess ASC's progress.**
- **Get in touch with NERC to prepare the technical dossier for the solar farm.**
- **Monitor the activities through the focal points.**

7. Next Steps:

- Prepare for SIDA's visit
- Publish tender for pilot action.
- Ensure that ASC sends progress report #2 by the agreed upon deadline.
- Monitor ASC's progress.

Annex 1 – SIDA visit agenda for April 10th, 2019:

Time	Location	Details
8:30	Departure from Beirut	
10:00 – 10:45 a.m.	Arrival at Municipality of Jdideh	- Introductions and presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project animation by PM • ASC presentation on effects and synergies of MINARET • Jdideh Women Association presentation on growth of farmers market - Discussions
11:00 a.m. – 12:30	Site-visits: Water Pilot Action	
	Solar water pump	
	Solar farm site	
12:30	Visit Arz El-Shouf cedar natural reserve	- Introductions and presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water baseline study • Stakeholder and value chain mapping • Master plan to overall area
13:30	Lunch and visit the natural reserve	
15:00	Back to Beirut	



SWEDEN

Annex 2 Mission photos:

