

## Mission Report

### 1. General:

<b>Name &amp; Job Title</b>	Rami El-Akhras – Executive Director Ahmad Hijazi – Operations Manager Mar Echevarria – Gender Coordinator
<b>Department</b>	MINARET Project
<b>Trip Date</b>	November 24 <sup>th</sup> – November 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2019
<b>Purpose of the Mission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meetings with Notre Grand Bleu, Voice of the Child, Blue Seeds, Birbasha (Female recyclable waste management workers), Imagine</li> <li>- Oversee water pilot action progress</li> <li>- Conduct gender capacity training</li> <li>- Conduct an access to finance meeting with the municipality and Greentech</li> </ul>
<b>Location of the Mission (city, country)</b>	Tunis, Tunisia (November 24 <sup>th</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> ) Monastir Tunisia (November 25 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>MISSION APPROVED BY:</b>	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**

**Activity 2.3** Develop and implement detailed capacity building and training & awareness plan & material relevant to planning, implementation, maintenance & monitoring of water & energy Pilot Projects and Socio-Economic Projects with the aim of introducing Job opportunities for local community specifically women & youth.

**And**

**Activity 5.4** Establish a NEXUS fund (Access to Finance) at each of the 3 project municipalities:

- Develop fund mandate, scope & criteria;
- Develop fund governance, ensuring engagement of community in the governance & management of the fund;
- Develop fund operating procedures;
- Develop fund auditing & quality assurance mechanism and procedures.

### 3. Key activities/ Results:

The Horizons team arrived on the 24<sup>th</sup> and departed on the 29<sup>th</sup>, the following work was accomplished between the 25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> of November:

#### Day 1 (Field visit with Blue Seeds and NGB and meeting with NGB):

- 1- The Horizons team met with Blue Seeds and Notre Grand Bleu in the morning and visited the *Speed Cooling* facility, where premade wooden buildings are constructed.
- 2- The team explored the option of utilizing the wooden building in the creation of the Nature Hub, as well as working with the facility to modify their designs to include more sustainable practices.
- 3- The Horizons team also met with NGB at their offices in Monastir to agree on the new plans for the Nature Hub. The new Nature Hub will be created in partnership with MAVA, pending their approval of the business plan.

#### Day 2 (Visit to VOC, Imagine, and the water pilot action worksite):

- 1- The Horizons team visited the offices of Voice of the Child in order to agree on their involvement in the MINARET project, a holistic socioeconomic Nexus approach was agreed on:
  - Voice of the Child currently spends \$21,000 a year on water and electricity bills to run their offices, child care center, and dry-cleaning service that supports local women.
  - VOC will receive a 15 kW PV system as well as renovations to their water well.
  - The savings generated from the PV system and water well will be used to support local women who work in waste sorting and recycling plastic.
- 2- The Horizons team visited Imagine's shop (an art collective organization), which sells hand-made products made with mostly recycled materials. After touring their center, the following was agreed upon:
  - Imagine will rent a portion of the showroom/shop in the Nature Hub in order to promote their sustainable products and support the Hub and Notre Grand Bleu in return.
  - Imagine will be contracted to provide furniture made with recycled materials for the Nature Hub.
- 3- Finally, the Horizons team visited the water pilot action worksite to meet with the contractor and the supervising engineer. The annexed pictures show that the excavated area being prepared for the well was filled with water from recent rains, but we were reassured by the supervising engineer that work is still on track to be completed on time.

### **Day 3 (Gender capacity training):**

- 1- Horizons' Gender Coordinator conducted the gender training that was mapped out as part of the capacity building plan.
- 2- 26 of the relevant stakeholders attended, including members of the municipality, the local CBOs we are working with (Notre Grande Bleu and Voice of the Child) as well as members of the Center of Excellence.
- 3- The full-day training covered themes ranging from the role of gender mainstreaming in the MINARET project, the connection between gender equality and climate change action, as well as detection, prevention and mitigation of gender-based violence.
- 4- The attendees of the training engaged in interactive activities and discussions and received a certificate of completion at the end of the day.

### **Day 4 (VOC – Birbasha meeting & Access to Finance):**

- 1- The Horizons team met with Voice of the Child and the Birbasha women to understand the problems they face while doing their job:
  - Many of the women consider their job in waste collection and sorting too risky, and many are facing health problems (eye problems, allergies, injury) from constant exposure to trash.
  - Issues exist due to the disorganized nature of the job; different women are offered different prices for plastic, and the women carry the trash on their backs and cannot access hotels in the touristic area due to the distance.
  - Horizons and VOC agreed that through the savings from the installed PV system and the water well, the women will be provided with: Uniforms, safety equipment (masks, gloves), vaccines, motorcycles, and will work under the umbrella of VOC which will organize their work and provide them with a single point to sell the plastic.
  - Horizons is drafting a paper to describe this intervention in detail.
- 2- A meeting was conducted with the mayor of Monastir and Greentech regarding the access to finance component, the following decisions have been made:
  - The access to finance component in Monastir will be in the form of a waste management project that will provide income to the municipality.

- The mayor and a member of the municipality will be assisted in attending an event/workshop/conference on the topic of waste management.
- A high-level event will be held in Monastir in February regarding the access to finance component that will include; members of the private sector, ministers and mayors, and department heads in the national electricity company.
- A video is being considered to describe the waste management idea in the access to finance component.

#### 4. Summary of contacts with local partners

Activity	Person(s) Involved	Contact Details
Nature Hub	Ahmed Ghedira - NGB Ahmed Souki - NGB Bakir Mustapha - NGB Irene Morell – Blue Seeds Insaf Sayadi - Imagine	<a href="mailto:notre_grand_bleu@hotmail.fr">notre_grand_bleu@hotmail.fr</a> <a href="mailto:ahmed.soukingb@gmail.com">ahmed.soukingb@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:mustaphabakir63@gmail.com">mustaphabakir63@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:irenemorell@blueseeds.org">irenemorell@blueseeds.org</a> <a href="mailto:sayadiinsaf@yahoo.fr">sayadiinsaf@yahoo.fr</a>
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Voice of the Child	Samir Boubaker - VOC	<a href="mailto:samirboubaker@gmail.com">samirboubaker@gmail.com</a>
Access to Finance	Mondhir Marzouqi – Mayor Ashraf Ayyad – Private sector Basim AlSaleh - Greentech	<a href="mailto:mondhermonmir8@gmail.com">mondhermonmir8@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:a.ayyad@sw-solution.com">a.ayyad@sw-solution.com</a> <a href="mailto:basim@greentech.ae">basim@greentech.ae</a>
Gender training	Detailed in Annex 2	

#### 5. Conclusions:

- Water pilot action will be completed on time.
- Gender capacity training was successfully completed.
- MAVA will provide their decision on the Nature Hub in the first week of December, and this will determine whether MINARET will proceed with the Hub or not.
- The VOC component has been agreed upon and will involve benefiting VOC and the Birbasha workers in a holistic approach.

#### 6. Next Steps:

- After receiving the decision from MAVA regarding the Nature Hub, proceed with signing the contracts with Notre Grand Bleu, Imagine, and VOC.
- Arrange for AtF next steps: event, mayor training, video.
- Continuously follow up on water pilot action to ensure completion on time.



**Annex 1 Mission photos:**



Day 1: Visit with Notre Grand Bleu and Blue Seeds to a facility that constructs premade wooden buildings.





Day 1 (continued): After travel from Tunis to Monastir, meeting with Notre Grand Bleu at their location regarding the new plan for the Nature Hub.





Day 2: Meeting with Voice of the Child at their offices. Top Right: Picture of a man on a motorcycle collecting plastic waste.





Day 2 (continued): Visit to the location of Imagine, and a visit to the water pilot action worksite to oversee current status of the work with the municipality.





Day 3: Full day gender capacity training in Monastir.



Day 4: Meeting at VOC with the women in Monastir who work on recycling plastic.



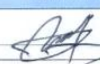



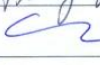



## Annex 2 Training attendance sheets:



The MENA Region Initiative as a Model of NEXUS Approach and Renewable Energy Technologies (MINARET)

Formation de Genre, 2019

Date: 27 novembre 2019

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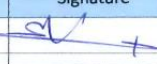
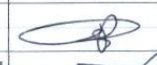









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