

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Lebanon
Program Title:	Improved Environmental Policies and Practices
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	268-005
Status:	Last Year of Expenditure 2006
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$5,000,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$3,500,000 ESF
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	1998
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: This program aims to change the behavior and thinking of the Lebanese towards the environment by advocating policy reform and demonstrating environmentally-sound and appropriate solutions to environmental problems at the national and local levels. The program provides cost effective, environmentally-sound solutions to solid waste and wastewater disposal problems facing rural communities. Activities focus on improving the management and quality of water resources through strengthening of water establishments, promoting private sector participation, improving health and sanitation conditions in rural areas, and improving the quality of streams and rivers by reducing pollution in the waterways. These activities build on achievements in water-pricing policies and tariff strategies previously developed under the water policy program. USAID is filling critical gaps in these areas that neither the Government of Lebanon (GOL) nor other donors are addressing. Specifically, this program is helping rural communities create healthier, environmentally friendly living conditions, and aiding the private sector and the GOL in efficiently assessing and managing water resources.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Improve Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity (\$900,000 ESF). Funds are being used to expand activities under the Lebanon Water Policy Program for an additional year with specific focus on two targeted water establishments: South Lebanon Water Establishment (SLWE) and Beirut and Mount Lebanon Water Establishment (BMLWE). The program is starting to implement the different tariff scenarios developed for South Lebanon by selecting a pilot area for the installation of water consumption meters. This activity is accompanied by extensive training of water establishment staff on tariff monitoring and bill collection. USAID is introducing awareness campaigns on the new concept of water meters. The program is continuing to assist the SLWE staff on a daily basis to ensure proper use of the newly installed Financial and Accounting System (FAS). Also, the program plans to develop a new FAS for the BMLWE. By the end of the program, the goal is to have reformed two water establishments to become independent financial entities, able to attract the private sector, and create a clear vision of Public Private Partnerships (PPP) among decision makers to support the adoption of the proposed tariff strategy and tariff structures. This will lead to an increase in the collection rate and cost recovery from 68% in 2003 to 87% in 2006 and a drop in the amounts of unaccounted water from 52% in 2003 to 45% in 2006. Principal Implementers: To Be Determined.

Reduce, Prevent and Mitigate Pollution (\$4,100,000 ESF; \$3,500,000 ESF Prior Year Unobligated). USAID is continuing the existing waste management program in Lebanon's rural communities by conducting an assessment of a proposed Operation and Management Plan (OandM). Wastewater treatment plants that were previously constructed and facing operational difficulties are benefiting from the OandM and helping to ensure their sustainability. Seven municipalities will be able to properly operate their wastewater treatment facilities, creating seven long-term jobs. Two wastewater treatment plants are being built at the upper Litani River Basin to benefit 32,000 people and treat 7,000 cubic meters of water per day. These plants are among the seven wastewater treatment systems designed for treating 22,000 cubic meters of domestic wastewater at the upper Litani River Basin that serves approximately 101,000 people, 29% of the upper Litani population. The plants are also contributing to the improved quality of around 5,800 hectares of land in the area.

USAID is undertaking activities to strengthen the management capabilities of the two targeted municipalities and raise general awareness on proper waste disposal methods. Operation and maintenance programs are being initiated, targeting 50 municipal staff and community leaders. Principal Implementer: Camp, Dresser, and McKee.

FY 2007 Program:

This objective will close in FY 2006. Funds and activities from this objective are notified under Strategic Objective 268-ZZZ as part of the new strategy for FY 2007-2009.

Performance and Results: In its third year of operation, the Lebanon Water Policy Program (LWPP) was able to score significant achievements in the water management sector both at the planning and operational levels. The unprecedented institutional strengthening activities conducted in SLWE were replicated in BMLWE. In parallel, USAID's assistance helped develop management and analytical tools to enable SLWE identify its needs and prioritize its actions in order to attract private sector investments. As a result, the level of unaccounted for water decreased from 50% in 2003 to 46.6% in 2004. The collection rate and cost recovery increased from 68% in 2003 to 74% in 2004. Data for the new tariff strategy was collected and compiled into a Tariff Decision Support Tool for water establishments that will be used to propose the new tariff scenarios. However, due to the deteriorating political situation in the country, the LWPP team could not break grounds at the level of PPP initiatives. In response, USAID decided to suspend PPP activities until a degree of political will is sensed. Therefore, only 25 consultations on PPP and tariff restructuring were held with different stakeholders.

At the end of the program, the goal is to reform two water establishments to be able to operate as independent financial entities able to attract the private sector. This will lead to an increase in the collection rate and cost recovery from 68% in 2003 to 87% in 2006, and a drop in the unaccounted for water from 52% in 2003 to 45% in 2006. Under the Litani River Basin Management activity, USAID developed six investment options for water quality management and pollution remediation, a Decision Support System for prioritization of wastewater treatment plants and a ground-water mapping tool, accompanied by training of six Litani River Authority (LRA) staff. Of the algae that blocked irrigation systems on the Litani River, 80% was removed. To ensure sustainability, the first Litani National Working Group was established to follow up on program implementation in collaboration with the LRA. Under the pollution mitigation program, the results achieved are satisfactory with some targets less than what was planned due to the deteriorating political situation in the country. This prevailing situation led to the drop of some projects and delays in others. Eight wastewater treatment facilities were completed, while the 11 other targeted facilities are currently in the last stages of construction and will be operational by the second quarter of 2006. More than 2,800 people received awareness sessions on proper management of their environment. Seven wastewater systems on the upper Litani Basin were identified and designed to treat 22,000 cubic meters per day of domestic wastewater, thus reducing the river's pollution by 15%, and improving the health condition of 101,000 individuals, constituting 29% of the upper Litani basin population. USAID launched the construction stage, starting with two wastewater systems that will benefit six communities (32,000 people) and contribute to the reduction in pollution of the river by an estimate of 7%.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Lebanon

268-005 Improved Environmental Policies and Practices	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	3,172	28,697
Expenditures	2,529	14,769
Unliquidated	643	13,928
Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	0	10,856
Expenditures	199	7,798
Through September 30, 2005		
Obligations	3,172	39,553
Expenditures	2,728	22,567
Unliquidated	444	16,986
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	3,500
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	0	5,000
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006		
Obligations	0	8,500
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA		
Obligations	0	0
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	3,172	48,053