

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Lebanon
<b>Program Title:</b>	Economic Development
<b>Pillar:</b>	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	268-001
<b>Status:</b>	Last Year of Expenditure 2006
<b>Planned FY 2006 Obligation:</b>	\$27,600,000 ESF
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$500,000 DA; \$21,220,000 ESF
<b>Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:</b>	\$0
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	2003
<b>Estimated Year of Final Obligation:</b>	2006

**Summary:** This program focuses on revitalizing Lebanon's economy with an emphasis on those communities that suffer from social disruption and economic stagnation reflected in the complex and often divisive web of political, confessional, and regional interests. USAID aims to rebuild the lives of rural Lebanese by targeting three key growth-oriented sectors that comprise 35% of Lebanon's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), specifically agro-industry, information and communication technology (ICT), and tourism. Under this program, USAID is helping Lebanon accede to the World Trade Organization to encourage globalization and broad-based reform. The program is also helping landmine survivors gain access to job opportunities and strengthen American educational institutions. Finally, it is providing small grants to local organizations to help them serve the needy and the economically disadvantaged.

### **Inputs, Outputs, Activities:**

#### **FY 2006 Program:**

Achieve Equitable Access to Quality Basic Education (\$600,000 ESF; \$600,000 ESF Prior Year Unobligated). USAID funding is being used to provide more than 400 high school students, over two years, with scholarship assistance at two American educational institutions. The International College and the American Community School is benefiting from this component.

Improve Private Sector Competitiveness (\$4,400,000 ESF; \$6,500,000 ESF Prior Year Unobligated). USAID funds are supporting innovative ideas that promote the tourism and ICT sectors with the purpose of reducing rural migration by creating job opportunities within their communities. To attract more tourists, USAID is funding the implementation of a National Road Map initiative, improving the quality of 25 cottage inns in rural areas, training 75 professionals in the tourism workforce, supporting the establishment of 15 new bed and breakfast inns, and helping 50 owners of guest houses access credit facilities. To strengthen the ICT sector, the program is promoting ICT exports, establishing three computer centers in rural areas, increasing the competitiveness of rural businesses through ICT, creating 12 wireless internet service provider (WISP) businesses, assisting 30 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), training 250 individuals, and facilitating the subscription of 1,000 individuals to WISP businesses. Principal Implementers: Stanford Research Institute (SRI) International, American Near East Refugee Aid, International Executive Service Corps, and ECODIT.

Increase Agricultural Sector Productivity (\$16,800,000 ESF; \$10,553,544 ESF Prior Year Unobligated). USAID is creating jobs and increasing incomes in rural areas by developing competitive farming systems and value-added products, and by facilitating access to niche markets. Three agro-processing pilot plants and two women-owned/managed food production centers are expected to increase export of niche Lebanese products by \$1.6 million. USAID is also establishing six rural business development centers, assisting 36 small and medium enterprises to double their income, creating 1,200 new jobs, and providing credit for more than 300 agri-businesses. USAID plans to increase sales of agricultural products by 66% in the olive, olive oil, pine nut, forage, and honey production sectors. The program is targeting 1,000 farmers per year, establishing 10 breeding and feed service centers, benefiting more than 2,000 farmers from organic agri-business development, and marketing \$600,000 of organic produce. Twenty-five olive mills are being rehabilitated, and 100 fishermen in southern Lebanon are improving their profitability. USAID is also supporting food producers and food industry syndicates to access international markets

and thus increase agricultural exports by an estimated \$2.5 million. Principal Implementers: Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance, Cooperative Housing Foundation, Mercy Corps, SRI International, and World Vision.

Increase Capacity of Higher Education to Contribute to Development (\$5,400,000 ESF; \$3,400,000 ESF Prior Year Unobligated). USAID funds are providing more than 1,700 university students with scholarship assistance over two years to attend two American educational institutions. In addition to the scholarship recipients, American University of Beirut and Lebanese American University are also benefiting from this program.

Protect and Increase the Assets and Livelihoods of the Poor (\$400,000 ESF; \$500,000 DA Prior Year Unobligated; \$166,456 ESF Prior Year Unobligated). USAID is supporting 25 local NGOs in their humanitarian assistance and development programs aimed at improving the lives of more than 6,000 people. Under the landmine/war victims' assistance program, USAID is including one additional income-generating activity (dairy production) and adding 80 new beneficiaries to the Jezzine Resource Development Cooperative. Principal Implementer: To Be Determined.

**FY 2007 Program:**

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

**Performance and Results:** Activities under this objective in agri-business, tourism, and ICT exceeded the anticipated results for this year. More than 5,000 new jobs were created in rural areas. The local production of processed goods increased by \$4.8 million. The number of tourists increased by 130,000 and the number of micro-credit loans increased by more than 4,690, injecting \$6.27 million into these communities. USAID succeeded in helping 31,230 individuals access the Internet as well as virtual markets. Growth in the GDP slowed to 2.5% as compared to 3% last year due to the political and security developments in the country. USAID assisted the American educational institutions by providing scholarships to 1,076 students in financial difficulty. USAID also helped 29 local NGOs to improve the lives of more than 14,000 disadvantaged beneficiaries. USAID's unique landmine/war victims' assistance program succeeded this year in increasing the number of landmine/war-affected beneficiaries and their dependants from 931 to 1,204 while 35 new beneficiaries joined the Jezzine Development Cooperative.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Lebanon

	DA	ESF
268-001 Economic Development		
<b>Through September 30, 2004</b>		
Obligations	850	117,565
Expenditures	550	85,865
Unliquidated	300	31,700
<b>Fiscal Year 2005</b>		
Obligations	1,019	1,448
Expenditures	0	27,928
<b>Through September 30, 2005</b>		
Obligations	1,869	119,013
Expenditures	550	113,793
Unliquidated	1,319	5,220
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>		
Obligations	500	21,220
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA</b>		
Obligations	0	27,600
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006</b>		
Obligations	500	48,820
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA</b>		
Obligations	0	0
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	2,369	167,833