
THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC

REPORTING ON
THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE
WORLD FOOD SUMMIT
PLAN OF ACTION

BEIRUT, OCTOBER 2004

- *PREFACE*

Lebanon has participated in World Food Summit Conference of the year 1996 and signed Rome Declaration on World Food Security. It has adopted its plan of action despite the obstacles that the agricultural and food production sector is facing. Through most of its implemented programs, Lebanon followed the guidelines of this plan of action. This was either with the support of the international organizations or depending on its own resources.

On the occasion of the World Food Summit conference- Five Years Later, which was held in Rome on June 2002, the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) formed a national team of experts to prepare its national report on what has been achieved between the period 1996-2001 with respect to achieving food security, poverty alleviation and the socio-economic development. At this Summit, the Heads of State and Government and the European Community renewed the global commitments made at the World Food Summit in 1996, and resolved to accelerate the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action. They called on all parties (governments, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector) to reinforce their efforts and to promote an international alliance against hunger so that the WFS target to halve the number of undernourished by 2015 could be achieved. The *World Food Summit: five years later* also stressed that countries should continue to report to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on progress made towards implementing the seven commitments.

In the process of reviewing the reports received from its Members, the CFS noted with serious concern the lack of progress made, and many member governments expressed the view that improved country reporting could contribute to a better understanding of the factors affecting the slow rate of progress.

Subsequently, this report is presented as a review of the advancement made by Lebanon in the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action over the period extending from 2002-2004.

This report is based on a desk review and interviews with different concerned public and private institutions, universities, research centers, and the civil and scientific NGO's, on the main national achievements within the context of the World Food Summit objectives.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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SECTION II: PRIORITY FOOD SECURITY ISSUES AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT PLAN OF ACTION

The 2002 Lebanon national report underlined the importance of the development of a competitive agricultural sector in Lebanon that requires optimal use of resources (water, land, forests) in a sustainable way. It also stressed that an agricultural strategy ought to be formulated with the objective of promoting sustainable production systems.

The report highlighted the steps undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture to identify the constraints and formulate programs, including:

- The formulation of the Lebanese Strategy for Scientific Research by the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute in 1996. The strategy presented the scientific framework for directing researchers' efforts to promote agricultural development. It sets priorities for scientific agricultural research based on the current agricultural crops and possibilities for their improvement, in order to increase their competitiveness at the domestic and foreign markets.
- The preparation of the Five-Year Agricultural Development Plan for the period of 2000-2004 by the Ministry of Agriculture encompassing the different productive sectors and taking into consideration the problems and constraints faced by the agricultural sector, and envisaging means to increase the contribution of the agricultural sector in the national economy.
- The Ministry of Agriculture has finalized a five-year strategy report **Strategy for Agricultural Development**, spanning the period of 2005-2009.

The report summarized problems facing the agricultural sector as follows:

- Structural issues – on farm production process
 1. small size agricultural holdings resulting in hindrance facing the development of agriculture namely, the irrigation and mechanization;
 2. reliance on traditional crops and varieties;
 3. surplus in the production of some produce as result of unavailable information on the market demand;
 4. low extent of inter-linkages between agricultural and industrial sector manifest by the relatively primitive agro-food industry;
 5. absence of a proper market infrastructure for the agricultural products and the weakened lobbying power of the farmers;
- Lack of supportive environment
 1. weakness of the public control over the market of the agricultural inputs.
 2. lack of knowledge of these farmers to new technologies and the lack of required skills;
 3. lack of capable storage, grading, packaging, and conservation facilities;
 4. limited access to credit;

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5. regional disparities in the provision of extension services, complemented by the weakness of cooperative work and institutions;
 6. fluctuations in the national and international agricultural prices

The report noted the increased concern of the government for this sector. A Higher Consultative Committee was created in June 2001 to help in the preparation of plans and bases for a sound agricultural policy. It comprises representatives and experts of both the private and public sector. The main orientations of the government included:

- Enhancing the institutional and statistical consistency relating to agriculture
 1. Continuous development of the agricultural statistics program and study of food consumption patterns and identification of the most vulnerable areas.
 2. Capacity building of the public agricultural institutions.
- Diffusion of knowledge and best practice techniques
 1. Technical development and adoption of the recent and applied research and the provision of required human and financial resources for the scientific research.
 2. Encouraging financial contribution of the private sector to the scientific research.
 3. Support of the integrated programs of agricultural extension and technical services, training and improvement of the technical capacities of the farmers.
 4. Conduction of gender sensitive training programs for the farmers and the technical agents.
 5. Introduction of modern specialties in the university programs (marketing, organic farming, extension and integrated rural development...) and the development of the human capacities and agricultural communication in both the private and public sectors.
 6. Increasing the agricultural production through intensification and decreasing the losses and the use of new crop varieties and new animal breeds of higher productivity.
 7. The adoption of modern techniques for traditional cropping like organic farming.
 8. The adoption of IPP and safe use of pesticides and studying the pesticides residues in the agricultural products of both animal and crop origin.
 9. Disseminating the rational and sustainable use of the water and land resources according to acceptable technical, economic, and environmental criteria.
- Active support and intervention: financially, legally and other
 1. Improvement of production and productivity of strategic crops and decreasing the dependency on imported basic food commodities.
 2. Decreasing the unit cost of production and improving the quality of the produce.
 3. Promoting the Lebanese products in the internal and foreign markets.
 4. Development of the agro-food processing to increase its value added and the adoption of quality standards.

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5. The adoption of standards and formulation of standardized norms for the product quality to facilitate its export and to ensure foreign acceptance of the Lebanese products.
 6. Food safety and quality control.
 7. Improvement of the production and productivity of livestock, fisheries and forages and processing the animal and plant byproducts.
 8. Issuing of laws that organize the chain of local production (gross market and middlemen), inputs and commodities.
 9. Provision of credit, loans and agricultural banking facilities.
 10. Reconsideration of the support done on Tobacco and wheat production on objective basis and feasibility studies.
 11. Strengthening the agricultural cooperatives to be able to export high quality products.
 12. Modernization of the existing laws and execution of the decisions taken to increase the farmers' capabilities.
 13. Insuring competitive and stable prices for the agricultural products and inputs.
 14. Protecting the rights of producers' through efficient marketing channels.
 15. Establishing an integrated system for information on regional and international market needs.
 16. Inclusion of the farmers in the services of the National Social Security Fund.

- Protection of vital resources

1. Insuring balanced development and avoiding regional disparities, especially in the rural areas, in addition to zoning of the agricultural land and its protection against the anarchic urban development.
2. Conservation and development of the ecological and natural resources (land, water, forests and fisheries).
3. Establishing a system for the management of natural resources and modernization of the environmental laws.
4. Membership in the international programs that protect the agricultural production against natural disasters.

1. Access to food

- 1.1 Lebanon lacks comprehensive information on food demand and supply and the only available estimates are those of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) dating back to 1995. These figures indicate that total food supplies were in the range of 3275 kcal per capita per day for the period 1993-1995, exceeding the total energy requirements estimated at around 2300 kcal (with a protein supply of 10.2% or 83 g/day and 29.1% fat). The total food energy requirements were projected to have risen by 1.9% annually between 1993 and 2010¹.

¹ The Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture: Lebanon's Report in Follow-up to the WFS, 2002

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- 1.2 In 1993-1995, cereals contributed to around 30% of the total energy supply, vegetable oils 14.3% against 15.7% for fat, vegetables 3.5%, and animal products 12.0%. Food deficit is mostly manifested in cereals, which production satisfies only around 10% of the national need. It is expected that the demand for cereals increases from 760 thousands tons in 1993 to about 1 million ton in 2010. Based on the WFS report of 2002, Lebanon produces 15% of its sugar consumption, 15% fisheries, 20% red meat, 22% milk and dairy products, and 40% oils. The share of milk production and meat in total requirements remains low.
- 1.3 Lebanon still imports more than 80% of its total food requirements to meet the local consumption². The agricultural trade balance has indicated steady deficits in Lebanon: in 2003 the total value of imports of agricultural and animal products³ amounted to LBP 2,008,080 million compared to LBP 1,697,145 million in 2000 and LBP 1,853,081 million in 1999. The total value of exports of agricultural and animal products amounted to LBP 354,418 million in 2003 compared to LBP 201,045 million in 2000 and LBP 207,223 million in 1999. The agricultural trade deficit reached LBP 1,653,662 million in 2003, with a ratio of imports to exports registering 5.7 times⁴.
- 1.4 Lebanon imports processed food products (36% of total agricultural imports for 2003), followed by plant products (29.05%), animal products (31%). Main imports include wheat, sugar, meat, milk, cheese, and yogurt. Lebanon exports mainly processed food products (64% of total agricultural exports for 2003), followed by plant products mainly fruits, nuts, potato and some vegetables (27%), animal products (5%). Fruits, vegetables and poultry production exceed the local market consumption and could contribute substantially to increasing exports.
- 1.5 A major threat to food security arises from decreasing consumer purchasing power resulting from low incomes and increasing unemployment in particular in rural and remote areas. Recent studies indicate that 42% of Lebanese households live on less than 800,000 LBP/month. Within this subdivision are great variations by region with Nabatieh registering the highest percentage of households living below 800,000 LBP/month (66.5%) and Beirut having the lowest percentage (27.7%).⁵ This income varies with age, education, occupations and regions. It is lowest among workers in the informal sector, and in peripheral regions compared to Beirut, where average monthly per capita income reaches LBP 835 thousand, compared to LBP 546 thousand in South Lebanon, LBP 619 thousand in Bekaa, LBP 596 thousand in North Lebanon, and LBP 604 thousand in the four least privileged Cazas⁶.

² *ibid.*

³ Includes animals and animal products, plant products, animal and plant fat, food stuff, tobacco and alcoholic drinks

⁴ the Report of the Lebanese Central Bank

⁵ Choghig Kasparian *L'entrée Des Jeunes Libanais Dans La Vie Active Et Lemigration* Presses de L'universite Sain Joseph. 2001. P 59-61.

⁶ Central Administration of Statistics (CAS): *Living Conditions in Lebanon*, 1997 p 236

1.6 Absolute poverty, defined in the Lebanese context as \$1.3/day, stood at 6.3% of the population in 1997, while the population below a suggested national poverty line of \$2.2/day was estimated at 7.1% in 2002⁷. In a study conducted by the Consultation and Research Institute, it was found that the poor on average in Lebanon need 63\$/month in addition to their income in order to achieve lower poverty line.⁸ This figure differs according to region, and is indicative of the severity of poverty within the poor population in the regions.

1.7 It is worth mentioning that families working in agriculture tend to have the lowest average income among the several sectors of the Lebanese economy. Average income for individual agricultural worker in Lebanon was 503 thousand LBP a month in 1997. The Table below illustrates the difference in income averages according to sectors of activity.

Table 1: Average yearly income according to sector of activity (in thousands of LBP)

Sector	Income	Monthly income
Agriculture	6032	503
Industry	10749	896
Trade	11446	954
Service	9349	779

Source: Condition de Vie Des Menages en 1997. P 63.

As is illustrated above, the average monthly income for agriculture is close to the absolute poverty line, which is 475000 LBP/month, indicating that agriculture as a vocation is becoming less and less attractive and more risky endeavor.

1.8 The distribution of expenditures of family budget indicates that 33.9% of family expenditures are on food, followed by education (13.6%), rent and house utilities (8.9%), transport and communication (8.6%) and health (8.6%). Around 37% of households in 1997 indicated that their income was not satisfactory, while expenditures exceeded earnings for low and middle-income families and 30% of households were obliged to borrow⁹. The poor were mainly farmers and workers in the agricultural sector, operators of heavy machinery, unskilled employees, vendors, and workers in construction. In 2002, the poverty profile pronounced that agriculture constitutes a major source of income and livelihood for the poor¹⁰.

⁷ the Consultation and Research Institute for the CDR/Economic and Social Fund for Development: Short Term Mission on Social and Municipal Development, 2002

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ CAS: Living Conditions in Lebanon, 1997.

¹⁰ ESFD: Short Term Mission on Social and Municipal Development, 2002

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- 1.9 The percentage of the population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption remains low and is estimated at less than 2.5%¹¹. In addition, the prevalence of underweight children under the age of five years was estimated at 3% in 2000¹².
- 1.10 The study on living conditions conducted by the Central Administration of Statistics indicates that expenditure on food is highest among all expenditure categories (34%). This percentage increases in low-income households (43% for households of whose income does not exceed LBP 300,000/per month compared to 24.3% for households whose income exceeds LBP 5 million/month). It is clear that this situation leads to imbalance in dietary intakes particularly in deprived households and reflects on diet diversity (an essential factor for a balanced diet). Consequently their diets end up high in carbohydrates and fats on the expense of proteins, vitamins and minerals.
- 1.11 Agriculture production in Lebanon still faces a number of challenges. These include reliance on traditional crops and varieties, especially among small farmers and growers; surplus in the production of some types of produce; lack of responses to market demand; industrial constraints, including low processing capacity, unsuitable varieties, unorganized farmer-industry relationships, and lack of proper knowledge on the international standards and norms; lack of facilities for storage, grading, packaging, and conservation; lack of competitiveness of agro-food industry; fragmentation of agricultural holdings resulting in the inadequate usage of modern technology, especially irrigation and mechanization; lack of extension services; weaknesses in cooperative sector; fluctuations in the agricultural prices complemented by the weakness of the market infrastructure; absence of a proper market infrastructure; price fluctuations; and low access to financial services leading to a dependence on intermediary input companies.

2. Social/Health Status

- 2.1 Life expectancy at birth was estimated to increase from 65 years (1970-75) to 73.5 years (2000-05)¹³, which is comparable to developed country. Under five and infant mortality rates were estimated at 35/1000 and 27/1000, respectively in 2000¹⁴. Around 11.6% of the residents are illiterates, with variation between regions and age groups where illiteracy is highest in peripheral areas, women and among older age groups. Net primary enrollment is estimated at 98.3%¹⁵, and it is noted that Lebanon closed the gender gap in access to primary education.

¹¹ Government of Lebanon: Mellinuin Development Goals Report, 2003. The figure given above is an understatement since it has been originally obtained in the early 70s and has been cross-referenced to this day. Thus, it is included in this section with reservations regarding its accuracy.

¹² *ibid.*

¹³ UNDP, Human Development Report 2003

¹⁴ Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) and UNICEF: State of the Children in Lebanon, 2000

¹⁵ Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) and UNICEF: State of the Children in Lebanon, 2000

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- 2.2 Maternal mortality stood at 104/100000 live births in 1996, and the percentage of women accessing health care during pregnancy registered an increase from 87.1% in 1990, to 93.9% in 2000, but with significant regional disparities. In addition, 96% of women access birth services attended by a skilled birth attendant. Fertility rates decreased from 47 per thousand in 1990 to 30 per thousand in 1996, with a total fertility rate of 2.9 children per women¹⁶.
- 2.3 The number of reported HIV/AIDS cases is limited in Lebanon, with an estimated 700 officially reported cases in 2003, while the estimates of WHO indicate a number of unreported cases of 2500. Incidence is higher among older age groups, and most cases are found in those aged 31-50 years¹⁷.

3. Economic Status

- 3.1 Lebanon faces several economic challenges including economic stagnation, public deficit and public debt, and the need to increase the competitiveness of the Lebanese economy and foster an environment most conducive to increasing investments. Following a steady economic growth in the first half of the 1990's, the second half of the nineties witnessed steady deceleration of growth followed by economic stagnation in 1999 and 2000. However, and in line with the government commitment to fiscal consolidation, the year 2003 was marked by an increase of the primary surplus to 3.5% of GDP, compared to 1.2% on 2002. As a result of higher revenues, the total deficit (budget and treasury) declined from LBP 4,308 billion in 2002 to LBP 3,938 billion in 2003. However, public debt stood at LBP 50,193 billion in 2003, with an increase of 6% over 2002. Domestic debt constituted 54% of total debt in 2003, down from 60% in 2002¹⁸. The financial inflows of the Paris II donor conference from lender countries, coupled with financial schemes from Lebanese banks, represented an overall financial package worth US\$10.1 billion which re-profiled the equivalent of 32% of total debt. The result was the ability to maintain debt service at around 55% of expenditure despite the growth of the overall size of the debt.
- 3.2 The trade deficit marked a 5% increase totaling US\$5644 million by the end of 2003, owing to an 11% increase in imports, which outgrew the 46% increase in exports. The imports in 2003 amounted to US\$7168 million, compared to US\$6445 million in 2002. This increase reflects to a large extent the increase in fuel and oil imports. On the other hand, exports increased in 2003 to reach US\$ 1524 million in 2003¹⁹. This increase partially reflects the government's efforts to encourage exports through the "Export Plus" program which targets agricultural exports and the "One Stop Shop" program designed to facilitate investments, in addition to the Kafalat program, the subsidized loans issued by the central bank, the new agreement signed by IDAL with the IDB.

¹⁶ Government of Lebanon: Mellinim Development Goals Report, 2003

¹⁷ *ibid.*

¹⁸ Ministry of Finance: Yearly Report, Public Finance Prospects 2003

¹⁹ *ibid.*

3.3 In terms of the composition and sources of imports, mineral products continued to consume 17% of total imports, followed by 12% for machinery, 10% for chemical products, 10% for transport equipment, 7% for prepared foodstuff and 45% for all other goods. In terms of export, jewelry exports increased to reach 30% of all exports in 2003, followed by machinery and mechanical products (12%), prepared foodstuff (10%), chemical products (8%), base metals (8%), and other exports (33%). It is noteworthy that although the import of foodstuff remained stable between 2002 and 2003, the export of the food stuff recorded a 47% increase between 2002 and 2003²⁰. These are traditionally exported to the Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries.

3.4 Lebanon's main trading partners remain countries of the European Union, Arab countries, Switzerland and the USA. On the other hand, and although the EU remained the second main destination for Lebanese exports, its share of total Lebanese exports declined from 14% in 2002 to 9% in 2003, while the share of Arab countries increased.

4. Sustainability of natural resources

4.1 The proportion of land area covered by forest was estimated at 13% in 1996, while the proportion of area protected to maintain biological diversity stood at 2% in 2000. The number of protected areas reached 33 in 1999, while protected coastal areas covered 888 ha in 1999²¹.

4.2 The state of the environment and sustainable natural resources in the country leaves much to be desired. The most important challenges faced by the country in this respect include the lack of a comprehensive national strategy for the protection of resources; limited public financing allocated to environmental protection (allocations for the ministry of environment in 2004 budget are earmarked at 2.874 LBP billion, representing 0.00031% of budgetary expenditure); prevalence of unsustainable agricultural practices; pressure exerted on the environment due to power generation and distribution, and the limited use of renewable energy resources; increased urbanization; possible water shortages and pollution of water resources; inadequate waste-water and solid waste treatment; and lack of enforcement of environment laws. As a result of the poor state of the environment, continued deforestation, poor water management and the lack of enforcement mechanisms, desertification in Lebanon is on the increase. In this regard, the utilization of the major recommendations of the **“schema d’Aménagement du territoire Libanais”**, newly completed for the **CDR in 2004** will greatly enhance the potential for land management and strategy development for the Lebanese territories as a whole. The plan categorized Lebanon in terms of best use of land, according to the innate environmental characteristics of the land, taking into account, existing and desired social-economic attributes of the

²⁰ *ibid.*

²¹ Government of Lebanon: Mellinuum Development Goals Report, 2003

different regions. The plan will be submitted to the Council of Ministers for consideration later on this year.

SECTION III: RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR EACH COMMITMENT AND MEASURES TAKEN

COMMITMENT I

Policies pursued to create an enabling political, social and economic environment

- 1.1 Lebanon has taken important steps in the last few years, which have led to increased confidence of the international community in the political future of the country. In 1998, the presidential elections took place, ensuring the continuity of governance and implementation of developmental plans that have started in previous years. The latest parliamentary elections took place in 2000, with the next ones scheduled for 2005. New parliamentary committees responsible for social and economic issues and all other productive sectors were created and efficiently follow on issues of concern to the country. The responsibilities of the parliament committees were strengthened, further to the discussion of project laws, to include creation of forums on general national policies, and even the contribution to formulating general national policies for the government in all sectors. This is undertaken in coordination with line ministries and other government institutions, as well as with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and civil society organizations.
- 1.2 **Elections** at the local level were undertaken in 1998, the first since the war, and were again held in 2004. This has signaled the commitment of the Government to the local democratization process. Although still weak in some region, the locally elected municipalities have made a difference in the development of different regions of the country. New laws for decentralization, municipalities, cooperatives and elections are under discussion in the parliament. These aim at ensuring effectiveness and efficiency, as well as fair representation and equal opportunities.
- 1.3 **Administrative reform and development** continues to be a priority for the government, although progress has been slow. New organizational structures for several ministries and semi-governmental institutions such as the Council for Development and Reconstruction were adopted and are implementation. Supported by the World Bank (WB), the European Union (EU), the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) and UNDP, the Ministry of Administrative Development continued to implement several reforms in the public sector. The public sector continues to suffer from poor productivity and effectiveness, lack of modernization and weak staff capacity. Weak coordination between the different government institutions continues to hinder management and delivery of assistance.
- 1.4 The Ministry of Administrative Development, supported by UNDP, also led the design of an **e-strategy** for the country that was under discussion for adoption by the Council of Ministers. Notwithstanding the achievements of the government, administrative performance continues to be a real obstacle for increased development

outcomes. However, closing the digital divide and ensuring e-literacy and universal access, continues to be a major challenge in the country.

- 1.5 Work towards ensuring the full **return of the displaced** to their towns and dwellings continued through the Ministry of the Displaced and the Fund for the Displaced. To date, the return process was secured at rates equivalent to 96% for Baabda and Chouf areas, and 70% for Aley area. This process is an essential building block for enforcing civil peace in the country. Notwithstanding the important achievement in the displaced areas, it is important to complete this process as soon as possible.
- 1.6 The Five Year **Fiscal Adjustment Plan** (1999-2003) devised by the **Lebanese Government** attempts to address macro-economic challenges. The plan aimed a sustaining macro-economic stability and reestablishing investor's confidence, and included measures for modernization of the fiscal system, privatization, reduction of interest rates, administrative reform, increasing the productivity of the public sector and reducing unemployment at the national level. Among the initiatives undertaken by the Government for macro-economic reform, are the initiation of new laws, increasing subsidized loans in productive sectors, modernizing the tax system, undertaking revenue reforms, creating incentives to investors, implementing open sky policies, etc. In this regard, the Ministry of Finance initiated a comprehensive integrated reform program targeting six major components: tax reform, customs reform, expenditure and treasury management, debt management, cadastre and land registration reform, and public pension system reform. In terms of privatization, in 2002 the Parliament passed a law authorizing and regulating the sale of two licenses and related assets for the provision of mobile telephone services in Lebanon.
- 1.7 The **privatization** of the fixed telecommunication sector is also progressing with the legal framework and audit compilation prepared and an auction expected before the end of 2004. In 2002 also, the Parliament passed a law regulating the electricity sector to provide the establishment of an independent regulator, the separation of production and distribution, and the creation of a commercial public corporation responsible for the production and distribution activities. Finally, a draft law regulating the water sector is under preparation.
- 1.8 Notwithstanding the significant developments that have been achieved so far, the challenges of the agenda put forth by the Ministry remain numerous and require further structural reforms. These challenges include the introduction of more reforms in debt management, pension restructuring, expenditure rationalization, and income tax development.
- 1.9 In terms of **enhancing gender equality and women's empowerment**, the National Commission for Lebanese Women (**NCLW**) is the institutional framework for the advancement of women's issues at the national level. With support received from international organization, the Commission formulated and adopted a national strategy for the advancement of women issues, and implemented numerous strategic

projects, including the operationalization of a gender focal points networks in line ministries and non-governmental organizations. In parallel, civil society organizations continued to play an important role in promoting and empowering women through advocacy, lobbying and implementation of development projects.

- 1.10 Although the Lebanese law generally ensures non-discrimination between men and women, several laws were amended to reflect better gender equality. A study of comparison between the Lebanese legislation the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was finalized in order to determine pillars of intervention. Revision of several laws to ensure gender equality were enacted, especially laws related to the labor code (to reflect non-discrimination in relation to the nature of work, wage, employment, promotion, and training; and increasing the duration of maternity leave); civil servant regulation (to include equal benefits for male and female civil servants), social security code (married women right to the health services and family allowances in specific situations); penal code (those related to “crimes of honor”); and retirement regulation. Laws for ensuring equality in political and public life participation are still needed. In addition, legislation that regulates the work of women in agriculture and female workers in the informal sector are still needed. Other revisions that are still being advocated include those related to nationality laws, adultery crimes, and articles related to compulsory abortion.
- 1.11 Although women in Lebanon acquired political rights in 1953, the female participation in political life is still limited. Lebanon still does not have any female minister, and representation in the parliament is still limited to 3 deputies out of 128 total. Female representation in local governmental bodies is still below limited, although it has increased in the recent elections of 2003.
- 1.12 Gender-sensitive statistics continued to be mainstreamed in national statistics, including those implemented by the Central Administration of Statistics, and line ministries (Agricultural Census, Mapping of Living Conditions, Labor Market Survey, Multi-Purpose Survey, PAPFAM Survey, etc.).
- 1.13 Notwithstanding the achievements of the Government over the past few years, Lebanon still faces enormous challenges with respect to the creation of enabling environment for socio-economic development. The precarious economic situation in the country, coupled with the very slow progress in issues related to public administrative reform, as well as fiscal difficulties, continue to hinder the establishment of a macro-economic environment conducive to growth and development. In addition, the continued instability in the regional political context continues to exert pressure on the country in terms of overall national planning.
- 1.14 Finally, Lebanon continues to be a signatory of the major international conventions of human rights, children rights, and women rights, sometimes with limited reservations.

COMMITMENT II

Policies pursued and actions taken to eradicate poverty and inequality and to improve physical and economic access to food by all.

- 2.1 Lebanon's poverty is a matter of **impoverishment of areas and social groups**. Rural areas, especially those underserved areas in the peripheries and agricultural communities continue to be among the least privileged in the country. Poverty and unemployment continue to hinder the achievement of food security, both on the national and household level.
- 2.2 In 2000 the **Government of Lebanon** formulated a comprehensive **Five Year Development Plan** aimed at promoting competitiveness of the private sector and upgrading the provision of public facilities. The Government recognized the reduction of disparities as an important building block of any development strategy. It also recognized the important linkages of development with good governance. The agricultural sector component of this plan included programs related to policies for the sector, market adjustments, research and studies, quality assurance, agricultural education, access to financing, strengthening of agricultural institutions, developing industrial services, rural development, protection of natural resource, and strengthening agricultural infrastructure. The plan also tackled irrigation infrastructure. The resources planned for agriculture amounted to 3% of the total earmarked for the 5 year development plan, in addition to those planned for irrigation (2%), solid waste (2%), waste water (18%), and the environment.
- 2.3 **The Council for Development and Reconstruction** accepted in 2002 a grant from the EU for the establishment of the **Economic and Social Fund for Development (ESFD)**. The Fund, with a total budget of Euro 31 million, aims at poverty reduction through employment generation and reduction of regional disparities. The Fund is expected to become a semi-autonomous governmental institution that aims at enhancing socio-economic development targeting the poor in the different areas of the country, including the implementation of targeted financial lending projects for the poorest, including farmers. The Fund sub-contracted in 2003 the elaboration of a **Social Development Strategy** for the country that is currently under discussion by major stakeholders.
- 2.4 **The Ministry of Social Affairs**, in cooperation withy **CAS, UNDP** and the **WB** initiated work on the **Multi-Purpose Survey** in 2003. The survey that is expected to be finalized in 2004 will provide data for the identification of a national poverty line and a poverty profile that will be the basis for targeted poverty reduction interventions at the national level.

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- 2.5 The Ministry of **Labor**, through the **National Employment Office** (NEO), conducted studies on labor market demand and supply, established databases for job seekers, and implemented rapid skills training projects. The Government adopted a national strategy for employment and established a ministerial committee to enhance job creation.
- 2.6 Policies and targeted interventions to **generate income and employment** for the rural poor continued to be implemented by the Government and international organizations, as well as NGOs. **CDR, in cooperation with UNDP**, continued to implement **projects for socio-economic development** in rural and peripheral areas of the country, including **Mount Lebanon, South Lebanon and Akkar**. These projects aim at empowering the poor, mobilization of local communities, and strengthening of income generating activities. The strengthening and mobilization of cooperatives through training and implementation of community projects constitute a major pillar of these projects.
- 2.7 In terms of targeted interventions for **reducing regional disparities**, the **Ministry of Social Affairs** continued to implement community development projects through its network of 128 main and 244 sub Community Centers all over the country. Projects include initiatives on education, literacy, training, primary health care, agricultural roads construction, community irrigation canals, agro-processing, and handicrafts and artisan programs. These projects amounted to 236 in 2003. In addition, the number of beneficiaries from the services provided by these centers in 2003 amounted to around 200 thousand, most of whom benefited from health services (94%).
- 2.8 Also in 2002, the **CDR** signed with the **World Bank** an agreement for the establishment of the **Community Development Program (CDP)** with a total budget of \$30 million. The interventions of the **CDP** will include the implementation of targeted thematic and geographic interventions through intermediary NGOs.
- 2.9 The **First Municipal Development Fund** was completed in 2003 with financing of \$100 million provided through the **WB**. The Fund supported the reconstruction and rehabilitation of basic community infrastructure and services through municipalities in the different regions of the country, as well as institutional strengthening of municipalities.
- 2.10 Public institutions and those of the civil society continue to implement projects in peripheral regions of the country aimed at reducing regional disparities. One of the biggest programs implemented in this context is the **community development program supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**, which is executed by 5 American NGOs. The interventions within this program aim at poverty reduction in rural communities through increasing access to basic social services, enhancing employment opportunities, and increasing access to financial services.

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- 2.11 **Social safety nets** continued to be provided through the **Ministry of Social Affairs**. These programs are implemented through NGOs, and generally include interventions by the Ministry targeting specific disadvantaged groups, including the orphans, handicapped, elderly, etc. In 2003 alone, 38600 persons benefited from welfare assistance through the Ministry of Social Affairs with the following distribution: orphans (15395 persons), orphans receiving educational assistance in orphanages (7231 case), orphans receiving educational assistance at home (8544 case), infants (1250 case), elderly (555 cases), juvenile delinquents (144 case), disabled (5481 persons)²². A law for the elderly is currently being discussed by the parliament. However, the Government still has to devise a national strategy for social safety nets. In addition, there are major deficiencies in the existing social interventions, most importantly the lack of adequate targeting, large leakage rates, high budgetary costs, and high degree of interference in the process of social transfers to the poor.
- 2.12 The **Committee on the Rights of the Child**, which was institutionalized in 1992, is responsible for updating and enacting laws for the protection of children rights. The Higher Council for Children was formed in 1994 with the responsibility of following-up on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- 2.13 **Disability** became a prominent issue in Lebanon as a result of advocacy efforts by the **Ministry of Social Affairs and NGOs**. A law for the rights of the disabled was enacted, and access to health and social services increased as a result of the Ministry's program for the "disability card".
- 2.14 The **Ministry of Social Affairs**, in cooperation with the **WB** and **UNDP**, is currently modernizing the criteria for the selection of NGOs and disadvantaged groups that need social protection. A new decree on the definition of these criteria was passed in 2004.
- 2.15 In terms of **access to basic health**, the **Ministry of Health** continued to provide access to medications for chronic diseases and HIV/AIDS patients free-of charge. The program of the Ministry of Health is implemented partially through NGOs covering all areas of the country, both rural and urban²³. Primary health care continued to be provided through centers of the Ministry of Social Affairs, covering the whole of the country. The network of these centers is reinforced by the services provided by NGOs, some of which are financially supported by the Government²⁴. The Ministry of Health is currently advocating the inclusion of farmers in the National Social Security Fund (NSSF). Still, only 42% of the residents are insured, 15.2% of whom are insured with the NSSF.

²² Ministry of Social Affairs

²³ Around 13% of households are reported to have benefited from health services provided by the Ministry of Public Health (1997).

²⁴ Around 32% of households indicate that they have access to health centers (1997)

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- 2.16 Implementation of the 10-year government plan for **educational development** that was formulated in 1994 is underway. The plan, that identified a general framework and practical measures for the development of the educational sector in Lebanon, underlined the importance of providing equal opportunities for all. The plan was successfully implemented at the level of revising the educational curricula, and providing teachers' training on the new system. An evaluation of the results of this revision was undertaken in 2003 by the **Ministry of Education** with the aim of identifying gaps and devising a plan to address them. A new law on free compulsory education was enacted by the parliament in 1998. However, the full implementation of the law still leaves much to be desired. Access to educational facilities is enhanced all through the country through the establishment of schools and technical educational institutions in the different regions.
- 2.17 Notwithstanding the efforts made by the different ministries and councils for ensuring balanced regional development and poverty reduction, Lebanon still lacks a national strategy for poverty eradication. This has resulted in a multiplicity of interventions, waste of valuable scarce resources, and low impact. Given this context, CDR is taking the lead in coordinating poverty reduction interventions implemented by line ministries, donors, international organizations, and NGOs. The lack of coordination between the different players in regional development has decreased the efficiency and effectiveness of these interventions. In addition, the sustainability of implemented projects remains questionable as a result of weak institutional capacity of governmental institutions. In addition, the efforts of the government for the establishment of health centers should be reinforced through ensuring the proper administration of these centers. Some of the centers rehabilitated and equipped by the government are still not operational due to the lack of recruitment of staff.
- 2.18 A study conducted during 1998-1999 on the **nutritional food requirement and intake and food consumption patterns** among Lebanese households²⁵ indicated that obesity is observed among 47.3% of the residents (25.5% in the male population and 69.1% for the females), and that fat intake is high amounting to around 35% of the daily caloric intake. Another study on the prevalence of obesity conducted in 2003 indicated that 53% of Lebanese adults older than 20 years are overweight while 17% are obese. The same study estimated overweight and obese children at 22.5% and 7.5% for boys, respectively, and 16.1% and 3.2% in girls²⁶. Another study on food consumption patterns among the young and adult population showed a shift towards increased intake of fat, milk and animal protein (from 24%-34.3% between 1963 and 1998) and a decrease in the intake of complex carbohydrates, particularly bread and cereals (from 64.8% in 1963 to 52.9% in 1998)²⁷. Obesity was mostly observed among the lower social classes with low educational attainment. The study also showed that the daily cereals intake is decreasing and that like other Near Eastern

²⁵ AUB and WHO: Food consumption Patterns and Obesity in Lebanon, published in the International journal of Food and Sciences and Nutrition, 1998

²⁶ Sigai A., Hwalla N., Adra N., and Rahal B: Prevalence and Covariates of Obesity in Lebanon- Findings from the First Epidemiological Study, Obesity Resrarch Vol 11, November 2003

²⁷ Hwalla Baba N., Dietary Intake and Nutrition Related Disorders in Lebanon, 2000

countries, the micronutrients of Iodine, Magnesium, Zinc, and Calcium are deficient in the diet of all age population. In this context, the Government, in cooperation with NGOs, has implemented public awareness programs on issues related to obesity in the country. In addition, the **Ministry of Agriculture** conducted training initiatives in rural areas for the production of local traditional food with high nutritional value, like wheat and chickpeas and their by-products. The Ministry also produced a guide on healthy food for the public.

2.19 In terms of implementing **food for all campaigns**, the **Ministry of Social Affairs** has several interventions including a project for ensuring access of poor children in public schools to food (23 schools and around 3200 child during the first two quarters of 2004), ensuring access to food for disadvantaged social groups through welfare institutions, and through the Committee to Support the Family that support families at specific intervals while going through difficult circumstances. In addition, and under the “McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program” the “School Health and Education Program is implemented by the University of Balamand and the Ministry of Education. The program consists of providing nutritious mid-morning meals, including milk, to students in public schools in remote areas of Lebanon. The program also includes an educational component, awareness sessions targeting parents and children, and a child health component. In 2003/04 the program targeted 180 schools.

2.20 In terms of **correcting deficiencies in micronutrients**, a national study conducted in 1998 targeting females aged 15-49 years and children younger than 5 years, showed that 27% of females and 23% of children were severely affected by anemia. Another study on the “Assessment of Anemia, Iron, Folate and Vitamin B12 in Lebanese Women of Childbearing Age” in low socio-economic status carried out by the American University of Beirut in 2004 indicated that anemia was mildly prevalent among Lebanese women. The percentage of women with folate and vitamin B12 deficiency was higher in anemic women. In order to correct micronutrient deficiencies, the government, in coordination with private companies and international organizations, attempted at implementing a plan for the fortification of wheat with iron. With the support from UNICEF, two Iodine-salt production factories were established and equipped. Recent studies indicate that the usage if iodized salt reached 91.3% of households in 2000.

2.21 Controlling **food quality and safety** remains crucial in the country. The Lebanon national report of 2002 highlighted the fact that, despite the efforts done in this respect, the problem of unsafe food is still emerging both on the national and international levels, especially when it comes to the international agricultural and food trade. This is to apply measures, in conformity with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures in the context of international agreements. This entails the countries to strengthen their quality control and quarantine systems. It also urges the producers to take the required actions.

2.22 In relation to legislation concerns, the 2003 report highlighted the efforts done in trying to modernize food safety legislations and strengthening the public administrations concerned with quality control. To this effect a project supported by **FAO** prepared proposal for a general law on quality control of food (1998-2000). This law put the basics for organizing food products and their quality control to protect consumers and insure healthy practices in the commercialization of these products. In addition, a new food safety law proposed by the Ministry of Economy and Trade in 2003 is under consideration. It proposes new mechanism (Lebanese Food Safety Agency, LFSA) in order to ensure the implementation of the law.

2.23 Also in terms of legislative reinforcement, the government, in 2004, proposed a decree for the establishment of a database on industries, commodities, and importers. The decree proposes the establishment of this database in **the ministry of Economy and Trade** with input from the **Customs, and Ministries of Industry, Agriculture, Public Health, and Environment**. The database is proposed to include also the laboratory tests and regulatory reports.

The government conducted a series of field inspections for this purpose and the **Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute** conducted a series of studies on the quality of food and water to determine the rates of food poisoning and chemical residues. Also, a specialized department for dietary issues was established within the **Ministry of Public Health**. The **Lebanese Institution for Standards and Norms (Libnor)** continued to issue norms relating to food products and food safety. Between 2001 and 2003, Libnor passed 200 recommendations regarding food safety norms and standards, sixty of which became mandatory. In this regard interministerial committee was established which is currently preparing the mechanism to implement control procedure for the application of these mandatory norms and specifications. Finally, the **Ministry of Industry** established a number of specialized laboratories within the **Institute of Industrial Research**. Moreover, **the central laboratory for wheat grains, flour and bread** of the ministry was strengthened to become able to certify for food quality and provide ISO 9000 certification.

2.24 The 2002 report indicated that the **MOA** initiated the formation of an expert team for Olive Oil testing in collaboration with universities cooperating institute in Rome. In parallel, **MOA** is working on the legislations and norms required for it. It also initiated a program for “appellation d’origine” on the basis of geographic location for a number of identified products such as Olive Oil. The Ministry also takes responsibility for control over the food in the area of common animal-human and contagious diseases. This is in conformity with the European Commission decisions related to international standards on animal and animal products.

2.25 A study conducted by the **Ministry of Economy and Trade** indicated the most important problems faced in food safety, including lack of a complete legal legislative framework; weak testing and inspection capabilities; weak market surveillance system; overlap and loopholes in the responsibilities of the concerned ministries (Agriculture, Industry, Public Health, and Municipalities); and lack of safety practice

application in many factories. Other problems include lack of well-equipped laboratories; lack of accreditation for the existing laboratories; and packaging and labeling irregularities. Following this study, an action plan was recommended with short and long term actions. In the short term, it is recommended that the legal framework be put in place, an information center on quality be institutionalized, and raising public awareness.

2.26 **An EU Quality Control program with the ministry of Economy and Trade** with a total budget of Euro 15 million, was initiated to address these challenges. The objectives of the project include: (a) to create the necessary conditions (Institutions and legal framework) for the operation of a quality system; (b) to assist private enterprises in establishing compliance of their products with international standards and technical regulations; and (c) to increase awareness on the importance of quality. The project has three components, including support to legislative frameworks, institutional development (specifically for the **Lebanese Accreditation Council and the Lebanese Standards Institution**), and enterprise development.

2.27 Despite the efforts done by governmental and non-governmental organizations, problems related to the safety of food persist. The application of measures to conform to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measures in the context of international agreements, especially in relation to strengthening quality control and quarantine systems, is still mostly lacking. In this regard, the adoption of legislative measures to ensure the quality control of food is required, along with the needed strengthening of public administrations concerned with quality control, especially through programs undertaken by the Consumer Protection Department of the Ministry of Economy and Trade.

COMMITMENT III

Measures taken to pursue participatory and sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development policies and practices and to combat pests, drought and desertification.

3.1 **The Ministry of Agriculture** has finalized a **Strategy for Agricultural Development** spanning the period of 2005-2009. The strategy issued in September 2004 details proposed actions to be taken and identifies the institutions and bodies that are or will be responsible for the proposed action plan. The strategy has the following objectives

- Ensure sustainable and productive utilization of natural resources
- Ensuring food security
- Rural development and development of poverty prone zones
- Enhancing farmer's incomes and creating new job opportunities
- Improving the competitiveness of agricultural products
- Contributing to improving the balance of trade and balance of payment indicators

3.2 MOA prepared the **Five-Year Agricultural Development Plan** for the period of 2000-2004. The plan takes into consideration the problems and constraints faced by the agricultural sector, and envisages means to increase the contribution of the agricultural sector in the national economy. The importance of sound agricultural policies to prevent the degradation of natural resources and to provide resources for the sustainable development of agriculture in Lebanon has been emphasized. The objectives of the plan are to increase investment in the agricultural sector, preserve natural resources and provide adequate resources needed for sustainable agricultural development.

3.3 The main elements for a **national strategy for agricultural development** includes strengthening of statistics on agricultural production and food consumption patterns; building the capacity of different partners and stakeholders; adoption of applied research; increasing access to financial services, agricultural extension, technical assistance and marketing channels; increasing agricultural production and improving productivity of strategic crops; adoption of modern techniques, IPP and safe use of pesticides; improving the quality of the produce; developing the agro-food industry and the adoption of quality standards; enhancing food safety and quality control; strengthening agricultural cooperatives; modernization of the legislative framework; securing balanced development and reducing regional disparities; conservation and development of natural resources.

3.4 Elements of an **agricultural policy and a master plan for agricultural development** were prepared and finalized in 2003²⁸. The study has several elements and recommendations, including those related to the economic reorganization of the sector, integration of the farming systems into the market and introduction of priority interventions, acquiring and strengthening of technical skills and competencies, organizing agricultural markets, and institutional and legislative reform. In 2003, **MOA** established committee to examine the projects proposed by the agricultural policy and its recommendations in preparation for national adoption of the policy. The Committee includes representatives from private and public sectors.

3.5 Furthermore, and following a seminar on agricultural development in the **Lebanese Parliament**, **MOA** prepared in 2004 the first draft of a short terms and long terms plans of action for agricultural development. The plans were prepared based on a consultative process between the Ministry and a number of experts, syndicates, and other agencies. The plan of action concentrated on the following main axis:

- Structural changes in the **Ministry of Agriculture**;
- Laws and legislation;
- Improving agricultural production in terms of variety, quality, technology used and cost;
- Direct support;
- Agricultural trade agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;
- Support services, including research, extension, credit and marketing;
- Agricultural infrastructure and the Green Plan.

3.6 The **agricultural census** produced by the **Lebanese Government** in 2000, the first since 1970, was a commitment towards the enhancement of public intervention in the agricultural sector. This census helped in providing the needed statistical database on agriculture in Lebanon. Based on the results of this census, the Ministry decided to revise its strategy based on a situational analysis to identify weaknesses and strengths and thematic studies for specific products to determine their competitiveness and comparative advantage. In order to do so a Higher Consultative Committee was created in 2001. The Committee, comprising representatives from the private and public sector, presented recommendations for the development of the agricultural sector and at reorienting, redirecting and coordinating related ongoing studies. The census was a main input used by **MOA** for revising its strategy for the development of the agricultural sector, as well as for devising specialized studies on different agricultural outputs such as horticultural; production, organic agriculture, poultry, tobacco, wheat, etc.

3.7 More recently, the Lebanese Government, through the **Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR)**, devised a **Strategy for Rural Development** in 2003. The Strategy delineated several objectives, including (a) decreasing poverty and disparities between regions, including increased access to services and opportunities;

²⁸ Franklin-AHT Consortium: Elements of Agricultural Policy and their Master Plan, June 2003

(b) decreasing risks; and (c) sustainability of natural resources. The strategy proposes several elements, including increasing the effectiveness of government spending in rural development, increased access to social and economic infrastructure, increasing agricultural competitiveness, enacting the needed legislation for rural development, improving the administration of natural resources, increasing the role of rural women, and enhancing participation in rural development. However, after the discussion of the strategy, no practical steps were undertaken.

3.8 In terms of **agricultural production and protection**, the following can be noted:

- Reactivation of the nurseries and increasing its productive capacity and construction of a new one for the multiplication of fruit trees.
- Equipment of the forestry centers with the required personnel and equipment, in addition to distributing forestry seedlings of around one million and a half.
- Distribution of pesticides for agricultural cooperatives of around 42 tons, in addition to honeybees disease control chemicals and honeybee hives (511 hive).
- Conducting IPM campaigns (in year 1997) with the participation of cooperatives and it included the Suni Bug on olives and the Peacock eye on citrus and wheat crops.
- Training of plant quarantine personnel (in year 2000) on sampling techniques and the diseases that are to be quarantined.
- Provision of credit for honeybee keepers in South of Lebanon (of 400 thousand dollars).

3.9 **The Ministry, with FAO**, implemented several tele-food projects during 2004 detailed as follows:

- Bee-raising in Mount Lebanon;
- Fruit tree production in South Lebanon;
- Modernizing fig production in North Lebanon;
- Raising Shami goats in North Lebanon;
- Starting a food processing unit in the Bekaa;
- Starting a unit for the production, packing and marketing of honey in South Lebanon.

3.10 In terms of **animal production and quarantine**, several laws and ministerial decisions have been issued for the organization of imports and exports of live animals and animal product and forages and its related health and safety measures. It also included the health and safety measures of importing liquid, concentrated and powdered milk, and conditions for frozen cold stored meat, in addition to specification of the conditions on imports and exports from Belgium and Europe as a result of Dioxin residue in animal products. The **MOA** issued health certificates including the standards and norms of safety measures for all exported and imported animal products. These certificate forms were distributed for all regional divisions in the ministry. Certain standards were put mainly to dairy products (skimmed and sterilized, concentrated, and powdered milk, cheddar cheeses, etc). A number of forms have been produced and published relating to the following on food safety: Sampling of food for testing, an Identification Form for control on the food products

in the supermarkets and groceries for the application of the safety and health measures imposed by the **MOA**. The **MOA** also issued a decree (number 1/379) relating to issuing an Identification Card for farmers in the aim identifying the farmers and their businesses to the private and official references. A number of curative and preventive animal health control campaigns have been conducted, like vaccination (amounting to 193449 vaccination), and Artificial Insemination (3340 AI operation). The **Directorate of Animal Resources within MOA** has succeeded in obtaining Australian classification of Lebanon as a country free of “BSE” disease, commonly known as mad cow disease, thereby allowing livestock exports from Lebanon to Australia. In addition, it signed numerous agreements with neighboring countries to allow the export of dairy and meat products. In addition, the directorate established a cell specialized in following and dealing with “bird Influenza” cases. The directorate also undertook a vaccination campaign targeting domestic pets, in addition to vaccinating stray animals against rabies and other diseases.

- 3.11 In terms of **fishery production**, a production center in Anjar has been rehabilitated in year 1996, comprising the rehabilitation of egg production rooms for Truite production. By year 1997, around 1600 thousand eggs have been produced and distributed to farmers, in addition to a yearly production of around 600 Truite egg. Also, in 1998, a fish production station has been constructed in Mount-Lebanon. In year 2000, a pilot fish production station was constructed in Batroun for marine fishes and crustaceous production (North-Lebanon). A station in Hermel was established in 2003. In addition, the department of fisheries and hunting is in the process of discussing with FAO the possibility for conducting a fishing vessels survey.
- 3.12 In addition, the **National Council for Scientific Research (NCRS)** and the **IRAL** conduct several **research projects** on agriculture, fisheries and forestry in cooperation with the national and international research organizations. In this regard, a protocol of cooperation was established with 3 Franco-phone universities that result in DEA diplomas with the IRAL and the INRA in France and INAPG in Paris.
- 3.13 **MOA’s** extension directorate continued to provide extension services and demonstration exercises through its centers, although much constrained by the lack of workers. However, a strategy for the work in agricultural extension was prepared in 2004. **MOA** continued to provide seedlings and new varieties to farmers, as well as distribute pesticides and insecticides for different diseases.
- 3.14 In terms of **water and irrigation**, the **Ministry of Hydraulic and Water Resources** formulated a plan to increase water availability and conservation as a **10-years-plan** that stipulates for increasing water harvesting capacity through the construction of dams, conservation of surface water and protection of stored quantities and studying increasing the storage capacities, and considering the possibilities of water storage at the rivers and the construction of a number of dams. The plan also included several items relating to public awareness on water use

efficiency and improving the means of water use through modernization of irrigation schemes so as to decrease water losses and evaporation and increase water distribution to include larger numbers of beneficiaries, water use Conservation through the provision of schemes that allow the use of modern irrigation techniques, and conducting new irrigation scheme projects that have higher efficiency in water use and availability.

- 3.15 On the legislation level, a restructuring of the public water services in Lebanon is under consideration, where a law (in 2000) has been issued. The law considers decentralization issue and giving higher autonomy for the regional water services to increase its efficiency and improve its performance. The total budget allocated for the implementation of the new irrigation projects suggested in the 10-year plan amounted to US\$174 million.
- 3.16 The **Modernization of Irrigation Infrastructure Project** supported by the **WB** and **IFAD**, and implemented by the **Ministries of Water and Electrical Resources** and **Agriculture**, was completed in 2003, with a total budget of \$85.7 million. The project aimed at increasing the percentage of irrigated land, enhancing income and employment in the agricultural sector, and enhancing the sustainability of natural resources.
- 3.17 The **Project on the Development of Basic Agricultural Infrastructure**, supported by the **World Bank and IFAD** with a total budget of \$97.7 million, aimed at development of land and water resources for increased farmer income and environmental protection, the construction of agricultural roads, institutional strengthening of the Green Plan, finalizing an agricultural census, and devising a national strategy for agricultural development. Following a very slow start and weak delivery, the project was revised in 2000 with a reduction in the total amount of the loan. The project will be finalized in 2004.
- 3.18 An **Integrated Development Project for the Development of Baalbeck/Hermel** was implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture and CDR**, with financial support from **UNDP** and other donors. The project was closed in 2001 with modest achievements, but was able to devise a comprehensive strategy for the development of the region that was under discussion by the Government.
- 3.19 A project for **livestock rehabilitation for small holders**, supported by the **WB, IFAD and OPEC**, with a budget of \$21.9 million was completed in 2003. The project aimed at rehabilitation of the animal husbandry sector and implementing income generating activities in this sector. The project conducted several studies, provided loans for animal production for individuals and cooperatives. In addition, the project completed the construction and equipment of laboratories, milk collection and processing industries, and established centers for technical assistance.

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- 3.20 The **Lebanese-American Cooperation project** for livestock, with a total budget of \$6 million, was completed in 2003. The project provided in-kind loans to farmers, and provided training for farmers.
- 3.21 The implementation of the **national plan for food and nutrition** formulated by the **Ministry of Agriculture** is on going in collaboration with different private and public partners. The plan aims at assessing, monitoring and analyzing the nutritional situation in the country; integration of the nutrition objectives into development policies and programs; ensuring food safety and quality, protection against micro-elements deficiency; and socio-economic care and nutritional adequacy for the vulnerable groups; protection from and control of contagious diseases; encouraging safe food systems and healthy life patterns; and achieving household food security.
- 3.22 In terms of **combating desertification**, Lebanon ratified the international convention to combat desertification in 1995 and designed a five-year plan for reforestation to be implemented by the **Ministry of Environment**. Several laws and decrees for forests protection were enacted, and a national plan for the fight against desertification was published in 2003. The plan defined priority actions under two categories: (a) national framework (institutional framework, legislative framework, land use planning and socio-economic conditions), and (b) natural resources (water, forests, sustainable agriculture, rangeland management, soil conversation, and protected areas). The first phase of the project was finalized 2003, with the planting of 300 he, while phase 2 was approved by the Council of Ministers for 2004. However, deterioration in the green cover, coupled with the lack of reinforcement of laws on forests protection, continue to make deforestation a major challenge in the Lebanese context.
- 3.23 The code for the **protection of the environment**, which constitutes a comprehensive legal framework for action, was enacted in 2002. It stresses the need for basic prevention measures and lays down the necessity for an assessment of projects prior to granting licenses.
- 3.24 A number of environmental laws have been issued concerning the establishment of **protected areas** (since 1996 – to date) like “Shouf Cedar Area” (law number 532 dated 1996), “Tyre Coast” in South-Lebanon (Law number 708 dated 1998), Cedars of Tannourine (Law number 9 dated 1999), Yammouneh Area (Law number 10 dated 1999), and Bantaal (Law number 11 dated 1999). In 1999, a law was suggested concerning the conservation of marine water. This law aims at the banning of marine fishing with the dynamite and enforcing penalties.
- 3.25 Lebanon also continued to implement projects for the **preservation of the ozone layer**. Lebanon succeeded in decreasing the consumption of CFC’s product from

1000 Ton in 1993 to around 500 Tons in 2000. This is due to the implementation of the national program for Ozone protection. The total technical assistance amounted to US\$11.28 million.

- 3.26 Lebanon signed the convention on **climate change** in 1994. As a result, the MOE conducted a project funded by GEF and UNDP (1997-1999), where the national report on climate change was prepared and submitted to the secretariat of the convention in 1999.
- 3.27 Following the ratification of the international convention for **biodiversity**, Lebanon finalized a national strategy and an action plan for the preservation of biodiversity, and enacted laws specific to the protection of national reserves. In addition, and within the context of preservation of natural resources, Lebanon issued a law to regulate and reorganize the water supply authorities, designed a national master plan for sewage disposal, and implemented a program to monitor pollution along the coastal area. The Government also developed technical guidelines for sound environmental management related to toxic wastes and elaborated a national plan for chemical safety. In addition, a national strategy for solid waste management was completed by the Ministry of Environment in 2002.
- 3.28 In terms of **land-use planning and urban development**, a project for the preparation of a National Land Use Plan “**schema d’Amenagement du territoire Libanais**”, is under consideration by **CDR** and the **Directorate General of Urban Planning**. The Plan is expected to be the basis for future land use policy in the country.
- 3.29 **MOA** amended the decree number 13528 (1998) related to import, export, preparation, and production and use of pesticides, that is now more compatible with the actual technological progress.
- 3.30 In terms of **research and technological transfer**, many research activities were conducted by the **IRAL**, including in plant protection (bacteria and disease resistance, diagnosis and control of diseases, IPM, and solar soil sterilization and the use of green manures), natural resources- water and soil (substituting the use of chemicals with organic or biological practices), plant breeding, veterinary services, chemical residues (heavy metal pollution of agricultural produce, antibiotic residues in chicken meat and dairy products), and biodiversity and natural resource conservation. **MOA** continued collaborating with **FAO** to implement a number of studies in 2002 and 2003, including studies on production cost, statistical survey on olive and olive oil production, forestry, etc.
- 3.31 In February of 2004, Lebanon adhered to the “international treaty on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture”(Law no. 559 dated 11 February 2004) sponsored by the **FAO**. The treaty main objective is the “conservation and sustainable use of

plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use”.²⁹

²⁹ FAO booklet “A global treaty for food security and sustainable agriculture”. United nations.

COMMITMENT IV

Measures taken at national level to ensure that food and agricultural trade and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security

- 4.1 Lebanon is working on reviving and modernizing its economy to integrate in the global economy. It is as well working on facilitating and encouraging international trade, updating legal and institutional framework and opening up of new markets, all of which help in promoting socio-economic growth. Lebanon is a signatory of a number of bi-lateral and multi-lateral trade agreements, which will eventually lead to trade liberalization. This will result, in the long run, in increasing exports and particularly agricultural exports, and thus improving natural resource use and promoting economic growth and thus increasing food security.
- 4.2 Lebanon became observer at the WTO as of April 1999. A national committee responsible for the preparation of Lebanon accession to WTO was formed. A memorandum on foreign trade regime including all information related to trade policies, laws and regulations was prepared. An accession master plan was formulated; it sets a timetable for policy changes, amendment of existing laws, and any additional WTO requirements. The accession process requires coordination and cooperation amongst various ministries and institutions, as well as financial and technical support from international organizations in order to face the challenges that may arise from accession. Many structural adjustments were undertaken in order to comply with the WTO regulations, including enacting of new laws, amendment or canceling of other laws (those that do not comply with WTO regulations), in addition to modifying sanitary and phytosanitary regulations. Other legislations relating to biodiversity, agriculture, sanitary and phytosanitary, food control and standards and norms are being reviewed.
- 4.3 The Lebanese Government signed the **Euro-Mediterranean agreement** that is expected to increase the export of agricultural produce from the country. The agreement stipulates that all agricultural and processed foodstuff exports, with the exception of 25 types, will benefit from tariff exemptions or decreases, and/or export quotas. Conversely, gradual decrease in tariff on agricultural imports will be introduced 5 years after the signature of the agreement, while Lebanon retained tariff on olive oil. The MEDA program will provide technical and financial support for the partners in the trade agreements, and Lebanon benefited from grants amounting to Euro 166 million from this program between 1995-2000. The first protocol of the agreement organizes agricultural exports to countries of the EU, and effects the export of around 25 agricultural product, while the second agreement governs agricultural import to Lebanon and the third covers imports and exports of processed foodstuff and is in the final stages for accession to the World Trade Organization.

4.4 It is imperative that Lebanon ensures that the agreement and treaties being signed do not hurt the food security situation of the country, or adversely impact farmers and the environment of the country as a whole.

4.5 "**Export plus**" was introduced by the **Investment Development Authority of Lebanon** in 2001 to order to facilitate the export of high quality agricultural products. The program is an export subsidy one with a ceiling of LBP 50 million for quality agricultural produce. This has resulted in a yearly increase of 21% in supported agricultural exports spanning the period of 2001 until the end of 2003. The main exported items included potatoes, citrus fruits, apples, and grapes, and the target beneficiaries include farmers, cooperatives and exporters. The products that undergo scrutinizing by three international companies are mostly exported to Gulf countries. By July 2004, the program was able to increase exports by 63% compared to the same period in 2003 with an increase in exported goods from 130,426 tons in July 2003 to 212,811 tons in July 2004. Other positive effects of the program include upgrading the quality of agricultural products, the introduction of Lebanese exports to new markets (Eastern Europe, India, Belgium, Sweden, and Eastern Asia), and improving packaging services. Other indirect positive effects of the program include increased returns to agricultural-related sectors, increased income for farmers, and the introduction of new employment opportunities. In addition, increasing exports through this program also has a spin-off effect on the transport industry. In July 2004 alone, 1957 transport trucks were used to ferry Lebanese exports to neighboring countries, with Lebanese plated trucks accounting for 66% of this total. In 2004, IDAL is embarking on new ventures with the aim of increasing export opportunities to Lebanese exporters. One of the more prominent schemes is the intended signing of the cooperation protocol Agro Market Access Program (AGROMAP) with the Syndicate of Lebanese Food industries to promote and market agro food products at home and abroad. Moreover, IDAL is in the process of concluding an Export Financing Scheme facility with the Islamic Development Bank to finance export of Lebanese goods. IDAL maintains that 12 new markets for agro products were developed since 2001 (France, UK, Belgium, Sweden, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Moldavia, Lithuania, India, Ivory Coast and Malaysia). In addition, it is hoping that the Investor Matching data base will facilitate the joining of local entrepreneurs and local or international investors.

4.6 In addition, Lebanon entered into several **trade agreements** that affect the export/import of plant and food processed products, including with Syria (to reduce tariffs by 25% yearly for industrial goods and 10% for agricultural goods, to ultimately become free of charge); Kuwait (reduction of tariffs starting from 1999); Egypt (according to an agricultural calendar) and other countries such as China, Chile, Azerbaijan, Australia, Cuba, Greece, Iran, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Spain, Indonesia, Iraq, Uruguay, Gabon, Slovakia, EFTA (2003), Gulf Cooperation Countries (2004), and the GAFTA agreement on the free Arab Trade zone. . Furthermore, Lebanon signed the agreement for the facilitation of trade between Arab countries that stipulates the establishment of a free trade zone for Arab countries within 11 years starting from 1998.

4.7 As has been mentioned, a project for supporting and developing quality for exports is under implementation by the **Ministry of Economy and Trade**, with a total budget of Euro 15 million granted by the European Commission. The aim of the project is to assist the Lebanese Government to conform to international quality standards in order to facilitate exports. The project has several components, including strengthening policies and institutions (analysis of bottlenecks, capacity building of relevant public institutions, etc.); and different project implementation (rehabilitation of technical laboratories, establishment of national criteria, etc.).

COMMITMENT V

Measures taken to prevent and to be prepared for natural and man-made disasters.

- 4.1 Although around 20% of the residents still reside in rural areas, around 40% of them continue to depend directly or indirectly on agriculture as a main source of income and livelihood. However, agricultural production faces natural risks, including changes in weather conditions.
- 4.2 The main natural disasters in the Lebanese context include flooding and soil slippage. The Government has since several years implemented measures to avoid these disasters, including cleaning water canals and river basins, and is planning to build water dams and supporting walls.
- 4.3 In addition, the Lebanese Government took many measures, namely the creation of many institutions and or commissions that intervene in the emergency or disaster periods as quickly as possible and prepare prevention and preparedness strategies. In this regard, the Government made huge efforts to lessen the impact of and to be able to confront natural calamities and disasters through its various existing bodies or its newly established ones. Furthermore, the Government considered the participation of local people and institutions in all its development and relief efforts.
- 4.4 There is no national strategy for **integrated watershed management**, however, some projects are planned for implementation on the Litani and Assi rivers.
- 4.5 The **High Relief Committee (HRC)**, presided by the Prime Minister, is entrusted with general direction, management and coordination of the emergency relief effort and with ensuring monitoring and financial control of the relief operations. It is as well responsible for the post-conflict reconstruction, e.g. in making funds for repairs available. The Administration Board of the HRC includes representatives of government institutions and agencies concerned with humanitarian needs, including the Council of the South. In case of an emergency situation, the HRC can decide to associate the Lebanese Army to the planning and implementation of relief operations.
- 4.6 **The Lebanese Army** has for instance conducted a comprehensive assessment of the damages caused to housing and economic activities following the April 1996 military attacks.
- 4.7 Support is provided through **the Ministry of Social Affairs** and the local social development centers in a complementary manner, to individual and community initiatives. **The Ministry of Public Health** manages medical assistance through the network of regional hospitals and of public and NGO dispensaries. **The Ministry of Hydraulic and Electric Resources** ensures supply of water to towns and villages in need.

4.8 The reconstruction of damaged infrastructure is subcontracted through **the Council of the South** in coordination with line ministries. About USD 50 million have been disbursed yearly through the Council of the South. In years 2000 and 2001 the tasks of this commission were revised to include affairs that requires special response mechanism like the support of the South-Lebanon farmers, or the issues the concerned public body cannot handle and that requires higher efficient execution. This commission is supported by line ministries when needed. Consequently, this commission has the following responsibilities:

- Management of the disasters and calamities
- All the issues that has the emergency factor
- All the cases that are delegated to by the Council of Ministers
- Works and efforts that requires speed in execution and that considers the public safety and urged needs
- Accepting and distributing the grants given to the Lebanese government for relieve purposes

4.9 **The Ministry of the Displaced** contributes in helping the displaced as a result of war and armed conflict in returning to their villages and towns. This is through enabling them to return to their villages and providing them with some financial resources.

4.10 In 1999, and after the Israeli aggression and destruction of the infrastructure, a mutual aid was created to help reconstruct what was destroyed. Most of the local communities, private companies and authorities participated in contributing to it through an account in the **Central Bank of Lebanon**.

4.11 In year 2000, the commission prepared a national plan for the management of disasters. This plan aimed at confronting the disasters when the other concerned public institutions are unable to cope with the situation and when it requires the overall efforts of all the ministries and the local organizations. The commission takes the role of the coordinator and the manager as it has a higher autonomy, flexibility and decision making privileges. And this is through an operation unit and specialized committees that would be formed in early warning and during a disaster as well as post-disaster.

4.12 In addition, many **nongovernmental organizations** made and still making efforts in this regard namely, in credit provision for reconstruction purposes given to the displaced and poor families, in addition to supporting the inhabitants to sustain and survive.

4.13 The **Lebanese National Demining Office** continued to implement projects for humanitarian demining, mine awareness, and mine victims assistance with the support of the international community. USA assists in the provision of the logistics needed for the demining activities and training of the personnel, while the European Commission assisted in the mine clearance operations in South Lebanon. The project of the United Arab Emirates (Operations Emirates Solidarity) provided US\$ 50

million for the clearance of areas in the former occupied region in South Lebanon. The UN established the Mine Action Coordination Cell in South Lebanon to provide the necessary consultations and technical and financial expertise according to the international standards. **UNDP** has a project for technical assistance and linkages between socio-economic development and mine action housed in the NDO.

4.14 In 1997, in order to strengthen linkages between relief operations and development programs, along with demining activities and to support and facilitate the transition from relief to development, The **HRC** with the support of **UNDP** and several consultation institutions formulated a plan for the socioeconomic rehabilitation of the South of Lebanon and West Bekaa. This plan was prepared as a scientific document helping the Lebanese Government in a resource mobilization campaign to finance the rehabilitation of this region. The plan adopted a long-term approach for the cazas that are mostly affected by the Israeli occupation (Tyre, Bint-Jbeil, Jezzine, Marjayoun and Hasbaya). The plan is considering a sustainable development through the local participation, local resources mobilization, the development of woman situation, improvement of standards of living and the conservation of natural resources.

COMMITMENT VI

Measures taken to promote optimal allocation and use of public and private investments to foster human resources, sustainable food, agriculture, fishery and forestry systems.

- 6.1 The Lebanese Government undertook some measures to create an enabling environment to stimulate investment and economic growth. It supports a mixture of self-financed and donor financed projects for enhancing rural development and protecting the natural resource base.
- 6.2 KAFALAT was established in 1999 to support the access of small and medium enterprises to financial resources. Through this program, the government provides guarantees to encourage commercial banks to provide credit to enterprises in a number of sectors, including agriculture, industry, tourism, information, technology and handicrafts. As of August 2004, 47.2% of the loans were provided for agricultural enterprises.

Table 2 number of guarantees given according to sector of activity as of the August 2004

Sector of activity	Number of loan Guarantees	Percentage
Industry	1172	36.9
Agriculture	1496	47.2
Tourism	313	9.9
Artisan	89	2.8
Other specialties	102	3.2
Total	3172	100

Source: Lebanese banker's association: monthly bulletin, August - September 2004. p 11.

By August 2004, KAFALAT disbursed a total of 363.2 Billion LBP (\$242.13 million).

- 6.3 In addition, **the Central Bank** established a subsidized interest long term lending facility to promote private investment and exports in agriculture and industry.
- 6.4 However, the debt in Lebanon remains problematic in its consumption of government resources, and its impact on interest rates. Total debt in Lebanon reached 48703.28 Billion LBP, or almost 32.5 Billion USD. Total debt service by August 2004 reached 1.67 Billion USD while total debt service for last year amounted to 3.25 billion USD. Budget deficit reached 29.41% of total budget expenditure, with debt service claiming 78% of total budget revenues for the year 2003.³⁰ In addition, the high percentage of debt has kept interest rates high. In fact, inter-bank lending rates have

³⁰ Central Bank Of Lebanon.

been increasing following the slight decrease observed following Paris II influx of capital into Lebanon.

Table 3 Inter-bank lending rates

	December 2003	May 2004	June 2004
Weighted average Inter-bank lending rate	3.67	3.58	5.43

Source: Lebanese Banker's Association Monthly bulletin: July 2004. P 40

6.5 The above table indicates that while inter-bank interest rates fell slightly in May of this year, they witnessed a sharp increase by June. Continuing high interest rates, along with a high budget deficit, serve to disrupt efforts to allocate resources and investments in order to achieve the goals outlined in this commitment.

6.6 **The Investment Development Authority of Lebanon** was established in 2001 as an autonomous agency for the promotion of investment. It provides tax incentives in productive sectors, including industry, agriculture, agro-industry, tourism, information technology, and communication. It serves as a one-stop agency for granting investment permits and licenses in conformity with applicable laws, and serves as an incubator for upstart firms.

COMMITMENT VII

Steps taken to facilitate the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action

- 7.1 Lebanon participated in the World Food Summit of year 1996 and ratified Rome Declaration on Food Security and its Plan of Action, in its efforts to reaffirm the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, as stated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Despite the constraints facing the agricultural and food sector, the MOA is seeking to cooperate with the different public, private, civil and international organization, in order to take the necessary measures and create mechanisms that help in implementing the commitments of this conference.
- 7.2 **In the framework of reviewing and revising the national plans, programs and strategies:** Due to the fact that the agricultural sector in Lebanon is often marginalized, a review to its national agricultural strategies to boost and rehabilitate the sector and increase efforts to develop it, was put in place. This is in accordance with the government call to integrate all the productive sectors within an integrated plan that increase its productivity and competitiveness, within the aim of achieving food security in compliance with the World Food Summit commitments.
- 7.3 In 1997 and in line with monitoring, in a coordinated manner, the implementation of relevant recommendations of all UN conferences, a **National Committee** headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and represented by the different public and private bodies, agencies and institutions, was formulated. This committee reports periodically on the executive phases of the plans of action of all international conferences. It meets twice annually to discuss issues and events related to the affairs of all represented ministries and bodies.
- 7.4 After the World Food Summit of 1997 and in the framework of strengthening coordination and linking programs with the international organizations, the **MOA** formed a **thematic group for food security and rural development** headed by **FAO** mainstreamed by the ACC network of the UN organizations. This network will help to support the Lebanese government in the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action and food programs and in the collaboration of national efforts in poverty and rural development issues.
- 7.5 In addition, in 2004, the **Minister of Agriculture** established a **Coordination Committee** for following up issues related to agriculture with the **FAO** and other international organizations. The Committee is chaired by the **Minister of Agriculture** and includes representatives from the different departments in the Ministry, **CDR, Ministry of Hydraulic and Water Resources, and the Ministry of Environment**. The Committee is tasked with coordination between the MOA, specialized international agencies and FAO, as well as with supervision of the

implementation of all joint projects between MOA and the said partners, and follow-up of conferences and workshops. In this regard we indicate that the request of MOA to participate in ‘Special Program for Food Security’ was accepted on 23/1/2004 and outline of this program was prepared and submitted to FAO.

7.6 With respect to the regular reporting on implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, Lebanon submitted regular reports on the main activities and achievements in 1998, 1999 and 2002, respectively.

SECTION IV: LESSONS LEARNED

A REVIEW OF BEST PRACTICES OR CONSTRAINTS ENCOUNTERED IN REDUCING HUNGER

Perhaps the most important lesson learned in the implementation of follow-up to the WFS or other summits is that political will is key for the implementation of international commitments.

It is also crucial that a national vision for development for the country as a whole is put in place and adopted by all stakeholders. In a country like Lebanon, where the private and non-governmental sectors are very active, the participation of these sectors in the development of such a strategy becomes a prerequisite for its success.

Duplication of efforts between all actors, public and non-governmental should be lessened in order to make better use of scarce resources. This problem is aggravated by the minimum existence of donor coordination- a role that should be more pro-actively played by the government.

Decentralization and the enforcement of the role of local actors will remain a key element in the success of socio-economic development in Lebanon.

ANNEX 1- LIST OF BASIC INDICATORS

INDICATORS	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Source
I. Food security indicators									
· Availability									
Average per person dietary energy supply (kcal)	3128.1	3198.3	3172.6	3163.6	3151.2	3184.4			FAOSTAT
Food production index	108.2	97	91.3	88.3	91.9	84.4	88.7	87.7	FAOSTAT
Food self-sufficiency ratio									
Cereal supply per person	133.4	134	134	133	130.9	129.9			FAOSTAT
Animal protein supply per person	23.4	28.3	28.8	27	28.8	29.1			FAOSTAT
Value of food imports/export earnings	0.77	1.49	1.38	1.33	1.21	1.04	0.78		FAOSTAT
Debt service ratio	9.71	25.12				40.51			Banque mondiale (2003). Indicateurs mondiaux de développement (WDI)
Value of gross investment in agriculture (in USD)									
· Stability									
Food price index (1995=100)	9.2%	9.6%	7.0%	3.0%	1.1%	-0.5%	1.6%	0.0%	CRI
Index of variability of food production	0.47%	0.74%	1.04%	1.07%	0.33%	0.41%			FAOSTAT
Ratio of national food reserves to domestic food consumption									
Export earnings instability	16.7%	17.8%	21.3%	3.2%	3.1%	14.9%	18.8%		FAOSTAT
· Access									
Rate of growth in real GDP per person/per year (%)	4	3.999996	3.000004	1	0	1.3			WDI
Gini index of income distribution		0.435							1997: Living conditions-CAS
Percentage of population living below national poverty line (%)					7.25%		7%		2000: Lebanon Poverty review-CRI & WB 2002: Poverty Analysis and targeting mechanism for the ESFD project
Percentage of population living on less than \$ 1 a day (%)									
Percentage of income spent on food (%)		33.90%							1997: Living conditions-CAS

INDICATORS	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Source
Consumer price index (1995=1)	1.09	1.17	1.23	1.23	1.23	1.22	1.24	1.26	CRI
Estimated number of undernourished people	100,000				100,000				FAO (2003). L'insécurité alimentaire dans le monde 2003
Percentage of population undernourished (%)	3%				3%				
Percentage of children under 5 that are underweight (%)	3%								WDI
Percentage of children under 5 that are stunted (%)	12.20%								WDI
Percentage of children under 5 that are wasted (%)	2.90%								papchild-MOH
2. Social indicators									
Life expectancy at birth (age)		69.86			70.4	70.58	73.5	73.5	WDI- HDI
Under-5 mortality rate (%)	3.2				3.5		3.2		MDGR Lebanon, 2003 and HDR,2004
Net school enrolment in primary education of children aged 5-12 (%)	76.1	91.4	73.2	71.5	74.2				WDI
Ratio of girls to boys in primary education		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0		0.99		WDI 2002: statistical bulletin-CRDP
Adult literacy rate (%)	89.0%	88.4%			90.40%		92%		1996: MOSA- Database of household & Housing survey 1997: Living conditions-CAS 2000: Unicef+CAS Children in lebanon 2002: USJ l'entrée des jeunes libanais dans la vie active et l'emigration
Total number of doctors, nurses and other health personnel per 100 000 people		310						274	1997: OMS (2003). Système d'informations statistiques 2002: HDR
Infant mortality rate (%)	2.8	2.92			2.7	2.8	2.8		WDI-HDR
Maternal mortality rate (%)	0.104					0.13	0.15		MDGR Lebanon, 2003 and HDR,2004
Adult morbidity rate (%)	1.712			2					1996: papchild-MOH 1999: National household health expenditures and utilization survey-MOH
Adult male mortality rate (%)		19.7			19.2				1996: MOSA- Database of household & Housing survey

INDICATORS	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Source
Adult female mortality rate (%)		14.0			13.6				1996:MOSA- Database of household & Housing survey
3. Infectious diseases and HIV/AIDS indicators									
Death rate from infectious diseases (%)	0.2								1996:MOSA- Database of household & Housing survey
Death rate from HIV/AIDS (%)									
Percentage of population orphaned (%)									
Percentage of child-headed households (%)(<15)	0.0045								MOSA- Database of household & Housing survey
Average age of household head (age)	49.7								MOSA- Database of household & Housing survey
Rate of population with HIV/AIDS infection (%)				0.09				0.1	1999: WDI (for adults) 2003: HDR (for the population aged 15-49)
4. Economic and Trade									
Proportion of total imports by value, excluding arms, from developing countries and from LDCs admitted free of duties ^{/a}									
Average tariffs imposed on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries ^{/a}									
Agricultural support estimate as percentage of GDP ^{/a}		6%							Comptabilite nationale-1997
Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity ^{/a}									
Share of primary exports (value) of total exports earnings ^{/b}	0.11	0.18	0.20	0.21	0.19	0.19	0.16		FAOSTAT
Share of manufactured exports (value) of total exports earnings ^{/b}		70.17	68.68	67.66	70.74	68.61			WDI
Terms of trade ^{/b}	116.65	118.24	122.43	115.73	112.45				WDI
External agricultural income terms of trade	0.62	0.65	0.73	0.90	0.95	1.44	1.40		FAOSTAT
5. Sustainability of natural resources									
Proportion of land area under forest cover (%)					0.04				FAO (2001). Evaluation mondiale des ressources forestières 2000

Proportion of area protected to maintain biological diversity (%)						0.5		WDI
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ANNEX 2- COUNTRY CONTEXT

The Lebanese population was estimated at 4 million persons in 1997, with a population density of 400 persons per km². A third of the inhabitants are concentrated in Beirut and its Suburbs (32.5%) of whom 10% are concentrated in Beirut. On the mohafazat level, Mount Lebanon encompasses 37.6% of inhabitants, followed by North Lebanon (20.1%), Bekaa (13.6%), South Lebanon (13.6%) and Nabatiyeh (6.9%)³¹.

The average household size in 2000 was estimated at 4.7 persons, with considerable regional disparities, where the average family size in North Lebanon and the Bekaa are estimated at 5.5 persons and 5.2 persons, respectively³². Lebanon continues to have a high percentage of large families (where 11.1% of total households have more than 8 persons)³³.

Lebanon is characterized by a youthful population structure where 38.7% of the population is aged less than 19 years, of whom 18.1% are below the age of 9 years. This exerts a pressure as a result of high dependency ratio on the economically active population that is estimated at 51.2% of the total population. The elderly, however, are estimated at 10.1% of the total³⁴. As is the case for other indicators, regional variations in the age structure of the population are apparent, with the poorest peripheries having a more youthful age structure compared to the center.

1.2 Socio-economic characteristics

The total labor force³⁵ was estimated in 2000 at 51.4% of total population in the 15-64 year age group and 34.3% of the residents. Gender disparities are evident in economic activity where 78.1% of the economically active are males while 21.9% are females. Most of the economically inactive are women and retired persons, as well as students who are not employed³⁶.

Most of the workers are employed by the private sector (61.44%), and commerce remains the highest absorbing sector of the work force encompassing 23.3% of the labor force in Lebanon, followed by industry and construction with 12% each, public administration (9.7%), and education (8.9%)³⁷.

Only 7.24% of the labor force is employed in agriculture, with only 5.7% and 7.65% of females and males, respectively. This is concentrated in peripheral areas of the country where agriculture constitutes 10.8% of workers in North Lebanon, 19.3% in Bekaa, 12.7% in South Lebanon, and 22.3% in the peripheral Cazas of Baalbeck, Hermel,

³¹ Central Administration of Statistics (CAS): Living Conditions in Lebanon, 1997

³² Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) and UNICEF: State of the Children in Lebanon, 2000

³³ Central Administration of Statistics (CAS): Living Conditions in Lebanon, 1997

³⁴ Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) and UNICEF: State of the Children in Lebanon, 2000

³⁵ including those who work as well as those who are job seekers

³⁶ Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) and UNICEF: State of the Children in Lebanon, 2000

³⁷ *ibid.*

Akkar, Minieh and Dinnieh. Furthermore, 36% of illiterates and 26% of those who only read and write are workers in the agricultural sector³⁸.

Female employment is concentrated in certain sectors, notable health and social work (63.3% of workers in this sector), education (62.2% of workers in sector), and non-governmental organizations (46.7% of workers in the sector)³⁹.

Unemployment is estimated at 9.9%, and is highest for the 15-19 year age group (27.5%). It is also higher in Mount Lebanon and Beirut (12% and 10.3%, respectively) compared to other regions of the country (Northern peripheries, including Baalbeck, Hermel, Akkar, Minieh and Dinieh- 8.2%)⁴⁰.

The average monthly per capita income was estimated at LBP 742 thousand in 2000, with an increase of 29.8% for males. This income varies with age, education, occupations and regions. It is lowest among workers in the informal sector, and in peripheral regions compared to Beirut, where average monthly per capita income reaches LBP 887 thousand, compared to LBP 633 thousand in South Lebanon, LBP 691 thousand in Bekaa, LBP 590 thousand in North Lebanon, and LBP 604 thousand in the four least privileged Cazas⁴¹.

³⁸ *ibid.*

³⁹ *ibid.*

⁴⁰ *ibid.*

⁴¹ *ibid.*