



COOPERATIVE HOUSING FOUNDATION
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**LEBANON RURAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
(REDI)**

**SEMI-ANNUAL PERFORMANCE
REPORT**

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT#: HNE-A-97-00061-00

April 2000 - September 2000

DRAFT SENT TO HQ

**SUBMITTED TO:
UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

**CHF - REDI
IMPACT SUMMARY @ 9/30/00**

	<u>This Period 4/00 to 9/00</u>	<u>Project Total 10/97 to 9/00</u>
Projects approved/started to date:	9	62
Projects completed/on-going to date:	7	51
New/ total villages revitalized/impacted:	11	49
# of new/ total targeted beneficiaries reached:	9,600	260,124
CHF commitments for approved projects:	\$487,554	\$1,742,819
Amount leveraged/mobilized:		
Project Specific, In-Cash	\$101,013	\$1,194,837
Project Specific, In-Kind	\$514,989	\$1,725,427
<u>Other Program Contributions</u>	<u>\$59,961</u>	<u>\$596,523</u>
<i>Total Match</i>	<i>\$675,963</i>	<i>\$3,516,787</i>
USAID 1.1.1 - Hectares cultivated, irrigated, improved or accessed:	81	3,957
USAID 1.1.2 - Families accessing new or improved social infrastructure:	11,120	28,943
USAID 1.1.3 – Clients accessing expanded economic opportunity:	25	2,413
USAID 1.1.4 – Villages implementing environment management plans:	2	41
CHF 1 – Number of major community disputes resolved successfully:	2	11
CHF 2 – Number of PM in local employment generated:	138	479

Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF)
Semi-Annual Contractor Report to USAID
Covering Apr. 1, 2000 to Sept. 30, 2000
Cooperative Agreement Number: HNE-A-97-00061-00

Element #1 Background/Program Overview

The national economy of Lebanon still staggers from the ravages of a long civil war. Especially in Northern Lebanon and Northern Bekaa, tens of thousands of families remain isolated from both basic economic infrastructure and adequate environmental management services. Additionally, Southern Lebanon lacks various forms of infrastructure and environmental management services. To address this, CHF has selected 78 villages (out of which 21 villages were newly selected as part of the REDI Expansion to the South) and organized them into 8 working groups called clusters. Three of the clusters are located in Northern Lebanon (Beino, Qobayat & Zgharta), three are in Northern Bekaa Valley (Fakiha, S. Hermel & N. Hermel) and two in Southern Lebanon (Tibnine & Chhim). These village clusters were selected because of their significant needs, their remote access to local municipal services and a strong desire of community residents to improve their own socio-economic and environmental surroundings.

CHF establishes and works with village committees, consisting of formal and informal village leaders, men and women who fully participate in all aspects of project identification, design, implementation and evaluation. During the process, CHF provides technical assistance to the committee and, after a degree of trust is established, small, medium and large-size grants. The size and type of grants generally depend on the committee's ability to oversee the work and the type of project. CHF/USAID typically support projects that fall within four main sectors: 1) expanded economic opportunity; 2) improved environmental management, (including water management); 3) basic infrastructure development; and 4) civic participation (including community dispute resolution).

Element #2 Expected Results

Specific workplan targets for each year and the program as a whole can be viewed in *Attachment #1, Selected Reports: "Planned Project Outputs and Impact Reached to Date."* Below is a summary list of overall impact that CHF originally proposed:

- Disburse \$2,545,000 in grants and loans for projects;
- Impact 54 villages with 42,865 families and 257,19 individuals;
- Create access to *formal* sources of credit for both individuals and communities in cooperation with the Lebanese banking sector;
- Provide full participation of community members in project design and implementation;
- Provide open economic leadership opportunities for women;

- Build the capacity of the local NGO partner, Cooperation for Development (CD).

Element #3 Current Core Activities

Activity Summary for This Reporting Period: (April 1, 2000 to September 30, 2000)

During the reporting period, CHF started 9 additional projects and completed 7 projects. The CHF/USAID financial commitment for projects started was \$476,103 in addition to \$11,451 resulting from changes in CHF share in already started projects, prior the reporting period, totaling **\$487,554**. Additionally, CHF leveraged/ mobilized a matching contribution of \$100,226 in-cash and \$326,689 in-kind contributions, from both the local communities and other contributors in direct contributions for projects started during this reporting period, as well as \$787 in-cash and \$188,300 in-kind for projects started prior this reporting period. Thus, CHF leveraged/ mobilized a matching contribution of **\$101,013** in-cash and **\$514,989** in-kind contributions. CHF also matched USAID grants indirectly (Other Program Contributions: studies, HQ staff time, forgone overhead, according to the original proposal, etc.) in the amount of **\$59,961**. These efforts allowed CHF to reach an additional 11 villages within the period and impact the lives of an additional 1,600 families (or 9,600 residents).

Cumulative Activity Summary for the Entire Program: (October 1, 1997 to September 30, 2000)

CHF has cumulatively approved and implemented 62 projects impacting each of the 6 clusters and affecting a total of 49 villages. The total CHF/USAID financial commitment for projects started since program inception is **\$1,742,819**. Additionally, CHF leveraged/ mobilized a matching contribution of \$2,920,264 from both the local communities and other contributors; in addition to **\$596,523** that CHF indirectly matched (Other Programs Contribution) with a total match of **\$3,516,787**. This has resulted in a \$1 to \$3 contribution ratio of USAID funds toward the projects. CHF estimates that over 43,354 families (or 260,124 individuals) have benefited from these projects.

CHF invites USAID to review the two MIS documents attached to this report, entitled: *Selected Reports and Projects to Date*. They provide detailed information and pictures concerning all aspects of both the program's development and each specific project. If desired, all information and reports found in these booklets can be provided on an easy to use compact disk for overhead and visual presentations. Reports generated from this project-tracking database can be viewed for the project as a whole and/or broken down within specific reporting periods. Any and all comments regarding the attachments or how they could be improved, (i.e. more user friendly), is appreciated.

Detailed Description of Period Specific Activity:

Period specific activity that focuses on work either started, completed or in-progress within this report's time frame is described below. It is presented by **REGION** (bold and capitalized), **Cluster Name** (bold), *village name* (italicized) and project title (in parentheses).

Projects that were both started *and* completed in prior reporting periods are not discussed in this section. However, detailed descriptions can be found in *Projects Approved To-Date*

NORTHERN LEBANON

Qobayat Cluster

Cluster Wide Qobayat (Construction of the Wadi Khaled Medical Center) – The contract was signed in August 2000 and works started. This medical center will provide the necessary health care services for 3,500 families living in Wadi Khaled. CHF will construct the facility. The local committee with a local NGO, Fares Foundation, will provide the needed equipment. The Ministry of Health will operate the facility and pay for all operating expenses.

Kfarnoun (1,200 meters Feeder Road Construction) – The project started in May 2000 and was completed in July 2000. The road accesses approximately 80 hectares of land that was previously uncultivated. The road also allows the access to a nearby forest that could not be reached previously in case of fire. In addition to constructing 1,200 meters of feeder road, the project includes the construction of 120 meters of irrigation canals on the sides, and 240 meters of retaining walls.

Beino Cluster

No new Activity.

Zgharta Cluster

Cluster Wide (Plant and Tree Nursery) – As part of its environmental component, CHF started this project in April/May 1999, with the Rene Mouawad Foundation (RMF). RMF developed a tree nursery that enables the distribution and cultivation of approximately 200,000 plants, trees and shrubs. RMF will sell the crops at reduced prices for farmers in order to promote crop diversification. This will hopefully reduce oversupply and increase prices of crops. The sale will allow sustainability of the project. Additionally, RMF will supply CHF with around 30,000 trees and plants per year over 3 years, starting this year, to be used in reforestation campaigns in villages within CHF Clusters.

Cluster Wide (Expansion of the Dairy Products Factory) – This project is based on the success of the first phase of the Dairy Products Factory. The expansion, which started in September 2000, will allow additional dairy farmers to benefit from the factory; hence more farmers will be able to sell their products at reasonable/ fair prices.

Deir Nbouh (Equipping Water Well) - This village depends on water springs for potable uses. However, due to the scarcity of water, the spring dried out and the village has no water sources. The municipality dug a well but could not equip it due to lack of funds. Thus, in September 2000, CHF equipped the water well and provided 800 meters pipeline that are being installed to transfer the water from the well to the village reservoir.

Deir Nbouh (New School Construction) – The contract was signed in September 2000 and works started. The school will accommodate 350 students, which currently have no place to go for school. The school includes 3 nursery and 6 elementary classrooms, in addition to 2

administrative rooms, 1 outdoor and 1 indoor playground. The project also includes the construction a fence to protect the students and premises.

NORTHERN BEKAA VALLEY

Fakiha Cluster

Cluster Wide (Potable Water Network Construction) – CHF, the Ministry of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources (MOHRE), UNDP and Creative Associates joined forces to coordinate the construction of a potable water network that will connect four separate villages to clean drinking water. This big project started in August 1999. CHF portion was completed in August 2000. Creative Associates also completed their share of the project. However, UNDP's share is delayed due to shortage of funds.

Arsal (Public School Construction) – CHF started constructing a much-needed school in Arsal in August/September, with the collaboration of UNDP. Arsal is one of the poorest villages in the country, has an illiteracy rate above 40% and an average family size exceeding 6 people. The village previously started the school, but ran out of funds. CHF/UNDP/USAID has taken over and worked with the village to construct space for 500+ students. The village committee, 2 local schools and the municipality of Arsal contributed in this project.

Arsal (Equipping the Arsal Nursery School) – As most public schools in Lebanon, the Arsal Nursery Public School is not properly equipped. Thus, CHF provided the school with audiovisuals and outdoor games for the nursery students, creating a model for other public schools to follow in equipping their nursery sections.

Arsal (Equipping the Arsal Vocational School) – This is newly established school that is not properly equipped. CHF and the Ministry of Vocational and Training Education established a car mechanics division. CHF will provide the proper educational and training equipment for this division, in addition to equipment for the nursing division.

Baalbeck (Homepage for Tourists) – The project started in May 1999 in order to increase tourism. The office of a local NGO was renovated (complete) to act as a tourist information office. A web page was developed by the same NGO, with the help of SUNY. The web page was launched at the following address: www.Baalback.com. It will promote the city, advertise local businesses and link to other regional commercial sites.

Harbata (Public School Expansion) – The project started in late August 1999. The school could previously serve 100 students. Approximately 30 were turned away due to lack of space this past year. The additional rooms built by CHF/USAID will accommodate approximately 100 extra students in a region where illiteracy exceeds 25%.

Jabouleh – (Wastewater Treatment Plant) – As part of the environment component granted to CHF, this project (started in August) will treat the waste of a 500-member orphanage. Waste used to flow, untreated, into the local river. The plant was completed constructed and was tested for few months under the supervision of the sub-contractor. Upon the approval of CHF's consultant on the efficiency of the plant operation, works on constructing reservoirs to collect the treated effluent water started. This collected water will be used for irrigation.

Labweh – (Equipping Labweh Dispensary run by MOSA) – CHF and UNDP equipped the Labweh Dispensary run by MOSA. CHF provided a dental clinic, and Electro-Cardio Graphic unit (ECG) and other general medical equipment. UNDP provided furniture, medications and equipment for the Gynecology unit. MOSA will be responsible for the operation of the dispensary.

S. Hermel Cluster

Cluster Wide South Hermel (Slaughterhouse Construction) – This contract was signed in September 1999. Three municipalities have agreed to cease open air slaughtering of animals on the side of the road. The facility will move the slaughtering into a cleaner area and provide a variety of quality control, including animal and food/meat testing. The construction works are almost completed. The municipality of Hermel will equip the slaughterhouse and construct a treatment unit for the generated liquid waste.

Cluster Wide South Hermel (Equipping Hermel Vocational Center) – CHF equipped the newly established division for car mechanics with proper educational and training materials, as well as the already existing nursing division. 110 students will benefit from the improved divisions every year.

Hermel (Equipping the Tuberculosis Center) – The contract was signed in September 2000. CHF will provide an X-Ray machine and ENT set for proper TB examination, as well as a photocopier and chairs needed for the operation of the center

N. Hermel Cluster

Hmaire (Potable Water Line and Network) - Work was completed in May 2000. The network connects a newly constructed reservoir to five villages, including the Ez-Zekbi villages (the project is complementary to the EZ-Zekbi water project), and thousands of residents via 15+ KM of pipes. Delays in completion were due to disputes among the villages on the water distribution.

NATION WIDE

Multi-Cluster

Multi-cluster (Municipal Budgeting and Training) – CHF signed a contract to work with the USAID sponsored Municipal Budgeting Program, organized/ implemented by SUNY. CHF purchased financial software and equipment for 14 of 18 municipalities in which we work (SUNY purchased for 4 municipalities within CHF Clusters). Municipal members/ staff were trained on the computer uses, some of which were trained by the mobile computer center, provided by CHF to a local NGO. CHF and SUNY followed-up with training in finance and administration to help streamline nationwide budgeting and fiscal management.

Element #4 Performance

Please review *Attachment 1, Selected Report – “Planned Project Outputs and Impact Reached to Date”* for a detailed summary of USAID/L approved workplan targets vs. actual CHF accomplishments to date. As you will see, CHF has met all and surpassed most of its

impact targets to date. In addition to this project specific activity, CHF obtained the following significant logistical accomplishments for the program as a whole during this reporting period:

- CHF's Project Tracking Database System, under the direction of the USAID Mission Director, was sold to each of the organizations working under the USAID Rural Development Umbrella. The system is a highly effective management tool that significantly increases the quality and reduces staff time needed for both financial and administrative reporting. The attachments to this report are just a few examples of what the system can generate. Each NGO will be able to report electronically to USAID who can load the information into its web page— currently being developed by SUNY;
- Although CHF projects during this reporting period are not numerous, they are of large benefit satisfying many needs. Designs and maps are being thoroughly revised before the initiation of the projects. In addition, progress of work was attentively supervised by CHF staff &/ or consultants.
- CHF successfully completed a variety of projects (particularly water projects) which utilizes various conflict resolution techniques in some of the most remote, politically contentious areas in the region;
- CHF attended various meetings with national and international delegations and officials concerning the overall development plans for Lebanon;
- Positive working relations with a variety of Ministries, including the Ministry of Hydraulics and Electric Resources (MOHER), Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), Ministry of Education and Ministry of Vocational and Technical Education (MVTE);
- CHF organized and facilitated numerous trips on behalf of a variety of senior US and USAID officials;
- Worked with nearly 100 different organizations in the private, public and non-profit sectors, including (but not limited to): local NGOs, parliament members, local businesses, village committees, international development organizations, governmental ministries, municipal leaders and others; *Please note*, a breakdown of CHF Partners that have contributed to the USAID program is enclosed in Attachment 1, Selected Reports;
- CHF continued to receive a variety of positive national media coverage.
- CHF committees and partners are evaluating the projects where CHF/USAID contributed, as a self-evaluation process conducted by CHF annually. Results show that the methodology applied by CHF was highly appreciated because of its transparency and efficiency.

Element #5 Statement of Future Work

#1 - CHF will expand its REDI program to the South of Lebanon. The expansion was approved by USAID and the Cooperative Agreement was modified. \$1.225 million was added to the agreement, as well as 21 new villages would be included within the REDI program, increasing the CHF Cluster to 8 Cluster including 78 villages. Most of these new villages were mostly destroyed and affected by the 25 year Israeli occupation in Southern Lebanon. They are part of the area, which was known as the Red Line, between Israeli occupation areas, and Lebanese areas.

#2 - CHF has committed to deliver \$200,000 in micro-credit loans under the REDI umbrella. Upon USAID approval, CHF shifted it to its Access to Microfinance and Enhanced Enterprise Niches (AMEEN) program, which will manage this task within CHF/L/REDI clusters.

#3 - CHF will continue to work on forming village committees to enhance cluster wide impact. Presently, we have impacted 49 of the 78 proposed villages (57 originally proposed and 21 villages newly added as part of the REDI expansion). As stated on the workplan, we expect to impact 21 additional villages by the end of next year with rural infrastructure, economic, environment and civic participation activities.

#4 - CHF will continue identifying high quality projects that bring a variety of groups together.

#5 - CHF expects the USDA 416b program to be launched in February 2001.