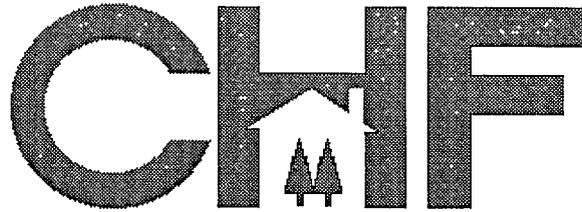


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**LEBANON RURAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
(REDI)**

**SEMI-ANNUAL PERFORMANCE
REPORT**

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

October 1, 2000 - March 31, 2001

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

**CHF - REDI
IMPACT SUMMARY @ 3/31/01**

	<u>This Period 9/00 to 3/01</u>	<u>Project Total 10/97 to 3/01</u>
Projects approved/started to date:	11	73
Projects completed/on-going to date:	11	62
New/ total villages revitalized/impacted:	6	55
# of new/ total targeted beneficiaries reached:	9,100	269,224
CHF commitments for approved projects:	\$128,041	\$1,870,806*
Amount leveraged/mobilized:		
Project Specific, In-Cash	\$51,450	\$1,235,907*
Project Specific, In-Kind	\$55,350	\$1,801,477*
<u>Other Program Contributions</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$ 596,523</u>
<i>Total Match</i>	<i>\$106,800</i>	<i>\$3,633,907</i>
USAID 1.1.1 – Hectares cultivated, irrigated, improved or accessed:	0	3,957
USAID 1.1.2 – Families accessing new or improved social infrastructure:	1,138	33,371
USAID 1.1.3 – Clients accessing expanded economic opportunity:	40	2,582*
USAID 5.2 – Villages implementing environment management plans:	0	41
CHF 1 – Number of major community disputes resolved successfully:	1	12
CHF 2 – Number of PM in local employment generated:	106	586*

* Changes occurred in projects started or completed prior this reporting period.

Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF)
Semi-Annual Contractor Report to USAID
Covering Oct. 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001
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 one in Southern Lebanon (Tibnine) and one in Mount Lebanon (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 supports 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 around \$3.2 million in grants for projects;
- Impact 78 villages with 72,432 families and 434,592 individuals;
- Create access to formal sources of credit for both

- individuals and communities in cooperation with the Lebanese banking sector (shifted to AMEEN Program);
- 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: (October 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001)

During the reporting period, CHF started 11 additional projects and completed 11 projects. The CHF/USAID financial commitment for projects started was \$128,041 less \$54 resulting from changes in CHF share in already started projects, prior the reporting period, totaling **\$127,987**. Additionally, CHF leveraged/ mobilized a matching contribution of \$51,450 in-cash and \$55,350 in-kind contributions, from both the local communities and other contributors in direct contributions for projects started during this reporting period, less \$10,380 in-cash and an addition of \$20,700 in-kind for projects started prior this reporting period. Thus, CHF leveraged/ mobilized a matching contribution of **\$41,070** in-cash and **\$76,050** in-kind contributions. These efforts allowed CHF to reach an additional 6 villages within this period and impact the lives of an additional 1,517 families (or 9,100 residents).

Cumulative Activity Summary for the Entire Program: (October 1, 1997 to March 31, 2001)

CHF has cumulatively approved and implemented 73 projects impacting each of the 7 clusters out of the 8 CHF Clusters and affecting a total of 55 villages, from the 78 villages. The total CHF/USAID financial commitment for projects started since program inception is **\$1,870,806**. Additionally, CHF leveraged/ mobilized a matching contribution of **\$3,037,384** 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 **\$3,633,907**. This has resulted in a \$1 to \$3 contribution ratio of USAID funds toward the projects. CHF estimates that over 44,871 families (or 269,224 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 works started and are in progress. This medical center will provide the necessary health care services for 3,500 families living in Wadi Khaled. CHF will construct the medical center and helped in providing additional funds in order to properly equip the center. The local committee and Cooperation for Development were able to leverage additional funds, around \$142,000 from the 'Office of Defense Cooperation', which will be added to CHF/USAID share into the project, but not included as contribution. The local committee got a written commitment from the Ministry of Health to operate the facility and pay for all operating expenses as soon as it is completely constructed and equipped.

Rojm Khalaf (Equipping Rojm Khalaf Nursery School) - The project started and was completed during the reporting period. As most public schools in Lebanon, the Rojm Khalaf Nursery Public School was not properly equipped. CHF provided the school with outdoor and educational games and equipment. Thus, current 60 enrolled students in the nursery classes will access new and proper equipment for educational and recreational purposes.

Wadi Khaled (Equipping Wadi Khaled Nursery School) - The project started and was completed during the reporting period. As most public schools in Lebanon, the Wadi Khaled Nursery Public School was not properly equipped. CHF provided the school with outdoor and educational games and equipment. Thus, current 141 enrolled students in the nursery classes will access new and proper equipment for educational and recreational purposes.

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. The sale will allow sustaining the project. Additionally, RMF will supply CHF with around 90,000 trees and plants (free of charge) over 3 years, starting next December, 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 and was completed in November 2000, will allow the processing of 2,000 additional liters of milk, hence more dairy farmers benefit from the factory; consequently, more farmers will be able to sell their products at better prices. USAID also contributed towards this project, however its contribution was not considered as leveraged contribution since it is federal money.

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, CHF equipped the water well and provided 800 meters pipeline to transfer the water from the well to the village reservoir. The village now has sufficient potable water supply.

Deir Nbouh (New School Construction) - The contract was signed in September 2000 and works started later due to delays in providing needed legal documents. The school will accommodate 350 students, who currently have no 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 of a fence to protect the students and school 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 Inc 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. Due to financial constraints, UNDP was not able to complete its

share until now, and probably it will not be able to complete later. Thus, CHF and Creative Associates Inc may have to join in again and complete the project.

Arsal (Public School Construction) - CHF started constructing a much-needed school in Arsal in August/September 1999, 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 a school for 500+ students. The village committee, 2 local schools and the municipality of Arsal contributed in this project. Completion was delayed due to weather conditions as well as UNDP's shortage of funds (problem now resolved). However, the school opened its doors in October 2000 and was able to accommodate 432 students for the academic year 2000-2001.

Arsal (Equipping the Arsal Nursery School) - The project was completed in October 2000. 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 a newly established school that is not properly equipped. CHF and the Ministry of Vocational and Training Education established a new car mechanics division. CHF will provide the proper educational and training equipment for this division, in addition to equipment for the nursing division. Delays in completing the project were due to complications in importing some of the equipment.

Harbata (Public School Expansion) - The project started in late August 1999 and was completed in October 2000. Delays in completions were mainly due to weather conditions. The school could previously serve only 100 students. Approximately 30 were turned away due to lack of space. Thus, CHF/USAID expanded the school and built additional rooms to 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 1999) was implemented to decrease the environmental hazard of untreated sewage. The plant treats the waste of a 600 students orphanage. Waste used to flow, untreated, into the local river. The plant was constructed and 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 and were completed in December 2000. This collected water will be used for irrigation. The project is not considered as completed since CHF is still in the process of finalizing issues concerning the maintenance contract for the plant.

Labweh - (Expansion of Labweh Secondary School) - Due to bad economic conditions and high expenses of private schools, there was a very high demand for public school registration for academic year 2000-2001. Thus, CHF/ USAID purchased 3 pre-fabricated steel classrooms to accommodate 90 additional students in the Labweh School. Within 10 days, the classrooms were installed in the playground of the school and students were enrolled.

Labweh - (Internal Potable Water Network in Labweh) - CHF/USAID worked in collaboration with the Labweh municipality to replace the 40-year-old internal potable water network with a new one. CHF provided 4,000 meters of pipeline and the municipality excavated and installed the pipeline. Works started in November 2000 and were completed in March 2001. Now, 2,000 families have access to a proper potable water network.

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 is in the process of equipping the slaughterhouse and constructing a treatment unit for the generated liquid waste.

Hermel (Equipping the Tuberculosis Center) - The contract was signed in September 2000. CHF will provide an X-Ray machine and a film developer, as well as a photocopier and chairs needed for the operation of the center. The project completion date was delayed, resulting from delays in providing, installing and testing the equipment.

N. Hermel Cluster

El-Qasr (Expanding El-Qasr Public School) - The contract was signed in December 2000. Works started and are in progress. CHF/USAID will expand the existing school and will built 4 additional classrooms with a laboratory and a teacher's room, as well as a kitchenette and a toilet.

Tibnine Cluster

Beit Yahoune (Rehabilitating and Constructing Internal Roads) - Beit Yahoune was liberated in May 2000 with most of its infrastructure destroyed and thousands of land mines planted all over the village. CHF/USAID rehabilitated and constructed a total of 9,200 m² of internal roads, in collaboration with the Council of the South. The contract was signed in November 2000. Works

were completed in January 2001. Villagers now have access to proper internal roads.

Bra'achit (Equipping Laboratory of Bra'achit School) - Bra'achit public school laboratory lacks all proper educational equipment. CHF/USAID will provide the school with the needed equipment. Thus, the 210 currently enrolled students will benefit from the improved educational services.

Saddikkine (Driving of Potable Water from 3 Springs) - Potable water sources are very scarce in Saddikkine. Thus, CHF/USAID rehabilitated 3 water springs in the village (that were improperly managed) and provided 240 meters of pipes to drive the water from the springs to the reservoir. Works started in January 2001 and were completed in February.

Aita El-Jabal (Rehabilitate, Protect and Equip Ain Al-Titeh) - The village's water spring, Ain Al-Titeh, was open with no protection from contamination. Thus, CHF/ USAID rehabilitated the spring and is constructing a steel structure to protect it from contamination. In addition, CHF will equip the spring with a water pump to pump the water to the reservoir. The contract was signed in January 2001.

Saddikkine (Honey Production) - The contract was signed at the end of March 2001. CHF/USAID will provide the COOP with proper equipment for training beekeepers and operating a small honey production center. These activities will generate income to the COOP to be used for the provision of additional services for the COOP members.

Haddata (Glazing for Haddata Public School) - The Haddata public school was severely destroyed in 1973. The council of the South only repaired the settlement and reinforced concrete in the early 1980's. The windows needed to be replaced. The contract was signed in March 2001.

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. 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:

- REDI Expansion was approved by USAID and the Cooperative Agreement was modified in October 2000. \$1.225 million was added to the agreement, as well as 21 new villages were 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 occupation in Southern Lebanon.

- CHF/ Lebanon launched the USDA 416(b) Program in South Lebanon. The program started in January 2001 and will be over a 16-month period. It included 12 villages divided into 2 Clusters. Work is in progress. To-date 2 contracts were signed and work is in progress.
- 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 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 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 continue to work on forming village committees to enhance cluster wide impact. Presently, we have impacted 55 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 23 additional villages by the end of next year with rural infrastructure, economic, environment and civic participation activities.

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