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Badia Ecosystem and Livelihoods Project (BELP)

The Socio-Economic Assessment and Process Framework

March 2012

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HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN BADIA ECOSYSTEM AND LIVELIHOODS PROJECT (BELP) مشروع النظم الايكولوجية وسبل كسب العيش في البادية الأردنية

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT (SEA) AND PROCESS FRAMEWORK

الدراسة الاقتصادية الاجتماعية

Prepared
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
A (CKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
AF	BBREVIATIONS	6
EX	KECUTIVE SUMMARYملخص الدراسة RABIC EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	7
AF	ملخص الدراسة RABIC EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	13
1	INTRODUCTION	19
1.1	Background on Jordan's Economy	20
1.2	Project's area economy and settings	21
1.3	Methodology of the study	22
	1.3.1 Focus Groups Discussions	23
	1 3 2 Organization of the Focus Groups:	24
	1.3.3 Interviews with Key local government officials	25
2	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	25
<u>-</u> 3	LOCATION AND CLIMATIC CONDITIONS OF BELP SITES	26
4	SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE BELP COMPONENTS	
-		
4.1		
	4.1.1 Water harvesting sites (hafir and cisterns) and rangeland management activi	
9	Southern Badia	
4	4.1.2 Eco-tourism activities in Northern Badia	28
5	EXISTING SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSETS	32
5 1	Human Assets	32
J.1	5.1.1 Population and Demographics	32
	5.1.2 Education;	
	5.1.3 Health Services;	54 24
,	PRINCIPAL LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES.	34
0	PRINCIPAL LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES.	35
6.1	L Economic activities (Non-agricultural)	35
6.2	2 Agricultural economic activities	26
	6.2.1 Livestock activities	
	6.2.2 Plant Production activities	
	6.2.3 Rangelands activities	38
(
	6.2.4.1 Surface Water	
_	6.2.4.2 Groundwater	
7	FOCUS GROUPS (RESPONSES, COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	S)41
7.1	Men Focus groups in Al-Husseinieh	42
	- ······· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
7.2	2 Women Focus groups in Al Husseinieh	44
	.	

7.3	Men focus groups in Al Jafr	. 45
7.4	Women focus groups in Al Jafr	. 47
7.5 8 9	Men focus groups in Ar Ruwaished COMPLIANCE WITH WORLD BANK OPERATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT PROCESS FRAMEWORK (SOCIOECONOMIC STUDY INPUT IN BELP'S	` 49
9.1	Introduction	. 52
9.2 resc	Description of project and components that might involve some restriction on naturource use	
9.3 adv	Potentially affected persons/households by the project and identification of possible rerse impacts	
9.4	Possible measures that might be used to assist affected persons	. 62
9.5	Grievance and Conflict Resolution Procedure for the BELP	. 63
	Monitoring Arrangements FERENCESNEXES	.67
Ann	nex 1: Names and contact information of interviewed individuals	. 69
Ann	nex 2: Lists of names and contact information of participants in different Focus groups	. 70
Ann	nex 3: Lists of names of CBOs in the proposed BELP's sites	. 78
Ann	nex 4: Assessments forms used during the focus groups sessions	. 80

ABBREVIATIONS

BELP Badia Ecosystem and Livelihoods Project

CBO Community-Based Organizations

CBJ Central Bank of Jordan DOS Department of Statistics

ESA Environmental and Social Assessment

GDP Gross Domestic Product
GEF Global Environment Facility
GOJ Government of Jordan

HFDJB Hashemite Fund for the Development of Jordan Badia

JOHUD Jordan Hashemite Fund for Development

MENA-DELP MENA Desert Ecosystems and Livelihoods Program

MOA Ministry of Agriculture

MOPIC Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

MOTA Ministry of Tourism and Antiques

MP Management Plan

MWI Ministry of Water and Irrigation

NCARE National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension

NGO Non-Governmental Organization

PA Protected Area

PDO Project Development Objective

PF Process Framework

PMU Project Management Unit
PRA Participatory Rural Appraisal
OP World Bank Operational Policies

RSCN Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature

SA Social Assessment
TFR Total Fertility Rate
UOJ University of Jordan

USAID United States Agency for International Development

WUA Water Users Association

CURRENCY AND MEASURES EQUIVALENT

US\$ = 0.708 Jordanian Dinar

Dunum = 0.1 Hectare

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Introduction

This socioeconomic study is commenced to provide input for preparing the Process Framework (PF) for the Badia Ecosystem and Livelihoods Project (BELP). The PF is a formal project document which spells out clearly the steps needed to implement the project. The purpose of this framework is to institute genuine involvement and consultation, through which members of potentially affected communities would participate in designing the project's components. The PF should lay the grounds for a better resource management plan, which can be improved overtime through a process of jointly identifying those activities that would ensure the sustainably of the project and generate income to the targeted communities. In other words, the purpose of the framework is to describe the process by which potentially affected communities will participate in planning.

The BELP is one of four projects under the regional MENA Desert Ecosystems and Livelihoods Program (MENA-DELP), currently under development as a Global Environment Facility (GEF) and World Bank partnership. The goal of the program is to capture and harness the value of desert ecosystems in order to optimize the flow of goods and services for environmentally and socially sound development of deserts. BELP will be implemented in the two governorates of Ma'an and Mafraq.

1.2 Project's settings

The BELP will be composed of three components, focusing on three of poverty pockets in the Jordan Badia, namely Ar Ruwaished in Mafraq (Northern Badia), and Al Jafr and Al Husseinieh in Ma'an (Southern Badia) during the years 2012-2016. The project's three components are:

Component 1: will be implemented in Ar Ruwaished poverty pocket. This component will focus on expanding eco-tourism into the northeast Badia by using the RSCN- managed Al Azraq and Shaumari reserves and attached facilities as a starting point, from which a 250 km eco-tourism corridor will be developed. The corridor will be developed around a concept of "low volume, high value" community-centered eco-tourism.

Component 2: will be implemented in Al Husseinieh and Al Jafr poverty pockets. Under this component, the project will support the development of a more sustainable natural resource base for local communities mainly through the establishment of water harvesting systems (hafir),

¹ Michael M. Cernea, 2006, "Re-examining "Displacement": A Redefinition of Concepts in Development and Conservation Policies", Social Change, March 2006, Vol 36, nr. 1, pp. 8-35. New Delhi, India

establishment/rehabilitation and management of two rangeland reserves managed by the communities, and capacity building for livelihood support and maintenance; **Component 3**: an effective Project Management Unit (PMU), capable of directing and supporting project implementation will be established in the National Center for Agriculture Research and Extension (NCARE - the project Implementing Agency).

1.3 Methodology of the study

This Socio-economic Assessment was conducted using three methods: 1) a desk-review; 2) focus groups; and 3) in-depth interviews. A desk review consisted of an examination of available bibliographies, reports, official and legal documentation, and other existing information. Much of the quantitative data used in this report was obtained from the most recent socioeconomic research conducted in late 2010 and 2011 by the "Empowerment Program for Regions with Poverty Pocket" implemented by the Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation.

This study also relied heavily on "Focus Groups" for practical and methodological reasons. In full collaboration with the project's partners: 1) National Center of Agricultural Research and Extension (NCARE); 2) the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature (RSCN); and 3) the Hashemite Fund for the Development of Jordan Badia (HFDJB); and the local administrations in the governorates of Ma'an and Mafraq, the consultant formed several focus groups. The focus groups in each region were constituted of women, men and youth. Each of the focus group included members of the implementing agencies NCARE and RSCN in addition to members of extension services in the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) directorates in the two governorates.

The researcher also held in-depth interviews with the key members of the implementing agencies (NCARE, RSCN and HFDJB) and other selected key experts/officials from the concerned government institutions in the three regions.

The researcher also relied on secondary data sources published by the DOS, MOA, and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC). The maps of the proposed implementation sites were obtained from NCARE, RSCN and from Google Earth®.

1.4 Process Framework

Several safeguard policies have been established by the World Bank that should be adopted for any development projects funded or assisted by the Bank. The safeguard policy on involuntary resettlement (OP/BP 4.12) is initiated before the project implementation as part of this SE study because there is some, albeit small, possibility that access to natural resources might be restricted due to the proposed establishment of community managed rangeland restoration areas and water harvesting facilities as part of the BELP.

 the potentially affected individuals, communities and institutions, developing a participatory planning approach to identify the potential positive and negative impacts of the project and to propose remediation measures in case of negative impacts.

Consultations with local communities and concerned stakeholders in the three targeted project's sites were held through forming several focus groups, face to face interviews and field visits. As indicated in the previous sections, 5 focus groups were formed which consisted of men, women, youth and officials in the three sites of the project. The participants of the different focus groups were selected, based on the advice of the NCARE, RSCN and HFDJB staff and key community leaders. The decision to use focus groups was based on the fact that the local community should be able to determine if the BELP activities would cause any negative impacts on individuals or households of the local communities. Participating members of the different focus groups had a clear purpose for the group discussion, based on the following few key topics (questions):

- Who would be positively and negatively affected by the different project's activities?
- Approximate numbers of affected individuals/households;
- What are the potential mechanisms for collaboration with the implementing agencies?; and
- What sort of Grievance Redress Mechanism would work well so that community members are able to lodge concerns and/or complaints relating to project activities, and how should this Mechanism be structured?

1.5 The main findings of the consultations with the local communities in the three targets project's site

- There was a clear consensus among the members of the five focus groups on that the proposed BELP activities will not have any negative impacts on the individuals or the household in their communities. They believe the BELP components will positively affect the whole community. The members of the groups recommended to form a consultative committee from the participants representing the local community (who are also members in the different CBOs) to work with the BELP partners on issues related to selection of the hafir site in their community, selection of the sites for the proposed cisterns, rangeland reserve and the grants to be awarded through the HFDJB;
- The group recommended using the harvested water in the hafir for agricultural production in addition to watering livestock. They proposed to form a Water Users Association (WUA) on the public lands surrounding the proposed hafir to fairly distribute the harvested water among the members of WUA similar to what is currently going on at the CBO managing the Bayir project in eastern region.
- The members recommended that if hafirs were to be constructed on public lands, then the members of the proposed WUA should be given the rights (by the government) to utilize the lands in the vicinity of the hafir for farming, otherwise the harvested water will not be utilized;

- The technology of constructing the water harvesting facilities is very important to keep collected waters for longer periods of time. They added that NCARE should learn from previous unsuccessful large-scale hafirs in their regions.
- All proposed grants should be awarded after consultations with the local community. The group insisted on having a transparent process. They claimed that the majority of the grants previously awarded by other sources of funding" were not useful and didn't serve the community needs.
- The majority of the focus group participants said that they are somewhat reluctant to work with the HFDJB on this project because of their unsatisfied past experience in working with the Fund on other projects.
- The group asked to be represented in the BELP's PMU or in the steering committee.
- Women of the local community asked to get involved in the decisions related to the grants that will be awarded to CBOs. They suggested the following ideas/options to efficiently utilize the proposed grants:
 - More training is still needed on farming at home gardens, dairy processing, food processing (jams and vinegar from low grades apples produced in Shoubbak), tomatoes drying and processing, and medicinal herbs drying.
 - Their past experience in working with local CBOs proved to be ineffective. They asked to work directly with NCARE in a simple and direct ways. They believe that NGOs & CBOs waste their funds in unnecessary administrative procedures. Another alternative they suggested is to work with women committees at the JOHUD center directly.
 - O Use grants money as a revolving fund for distributing 2-3 milking owes and 10 laying hens to families. This will help in food security, improve children's health, reduce family's expenditure on food items and utilize food wastes generated at home and gardens
 - o A machine for oil extracting of medicinal plants cultivated at the home gardens and a small packaging machine for dried medicinal plants like "tea bags".
 - O Distributing simple home drip irrigation networks for efficient use of water at homes. Each network costs about 10-15 JD.
 - o Training on sewing and needlework training.
 - O Support marketing through participating in food fairs and festivals around Jordan.

1.6 Possible measures that might be used to assist affected persons

In reference to the conditions of the World Bank Safeguard policy (OP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement), the proposed BELP's activities are NOT expected to cause:

- ➤ Involuntary taking of land
- Relocation or loss of shelter;
- Loss of assets or access to assets;
- Loss of income sources or means of livelihood

However, as stated above, the proposed activities to improve rangelands reserves management and establishing water harvesting facilities may involve putting limited and short-term restrictions on access to the proposed Badia community-managed rehabilitation areas and in the vicinity of the water harvesting facilities. These restrictions, if it will take place, it will be in full agreement with the local communities for supporting their livelihoods through improving the range and fodder production services in the southern Badia target areas.

1.7 Grievance and Conflict Resolution Procedure for the BELP

To minimize any future conflicts, a comprehensive process of stakeholder consultation should be continued and deepened to lead up the declaration of the BELP. Launching such a process at the kick-off of the project should help in establishing an accepted legally atmosphere at the targeted regions. Such a procedure will minimize the threatening of the livelihoods of individuals and households inhibiting in or around the project's sites.

The consulted parties agreed on that if anyone feels aggrieved by the declaration, regulations and implementation of the Badia Ecosystem and Livelihood Project (BELP) the following "3-Level" procedures should be followed to deal with such conflicts:

Level 1: The first workplace to be contacted should be the BELP's field office or representative. NCARE, as the leading partner has regional offices in most of the governorates in Jordan. If there is no representation of BELP, then the applicant should contact the PMU or the steering committee located at NCARE headquarters

Level 2: If the field office was not able to resolve the problem, then the grievance note should be transferred to BELP's steering committee at NCARE. The steering committee promises to consider the issue and take the necessary action to resolve the conflict. If the issue is resolved, then it will be communicated to the affected individual/group through the BELP field office or representative

Level 3: Should the conflict is not resolved through the steering committee or the affected petitioners on justifiable and reasonable arguments in law be unsatisfied with feedback received from the steering committee, then the petitioners should be directed to the governor or to the district manager at the project's location. If the governor or his representative is not able to resolve the conflict/problem, then he'll write an official letter to transfer the case to the specialized court or the office of arbitration.

1.8 Monitoring Arrangements

The socioeconomic data needed for establishing the monitoring system of the BELP should be collected through Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs) conducted at the initial stages of implementation. Any other secondary data could be collected from published statistics by the Department of Statistics or obtained directly from the MOA offices in the targeted regions. Other rounds of data collection through PRAs and secondary data should be performed at the mid-term review and at the end of the project for the purpose of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation and impacts of the BLEP targeted communities.

The M&E expert should work in close consultation and collaboration with the targeted communities and BELP partners on preparing the M&E report for submission to the steering committee. The report should be prepared at least once a year. The report should comprise of quantitative and qualitative description of the amount of achievement made by the different activities and the number and types of impacted individuals/households in the targeted communities.

It is crucial to select specific and representative performance indicators for the purposes of monitoring and evaluating process. Based on the project's document and consultations with the different stakeholders, the SE consultant suggests the following indictors to be monitored over the life span of the project:

- No. of individuals/ households participating in BELP's activities
- No. Livestock (sheep & goats) owned by participating communities
- No. of employed individuals from local communities in new alternative activities funded or operated by BELP
- Cultivated area in forage crops and other horticultural crops
- No. of women participating in BELP activities
- No. of awarded grants to local CBOs
- No. of eco-tourists touring the eco-corridor
- No. of people adversely affected by the project, if any.
- No. of training workshops designed for BELP beneficiaries
- No. of participants in training workshops categorized by men, youth and women
- No. of claims/petitions submitted to BELP steering committee

المقدمة

اعدت هذه الدراسة الاجتماعية الاقتصادية لتوفير المعلومات اللازمة للمساهمة في عملية إعداد إطار (هيكل) مشروع النظم الإيكولوجية وسبل كسب العيش في البادية الأردنية (BELP). وتعتبر عملية اعداد اطار او هيكل المشروع الجزء الرئيسي والرسمي في وثيقة مشروع والذي يحدد بوضوح الخطوات اللازمة لتنفيذ المشروع. والغرض من هذا الإطار هو ايجاد مشاركة حقيقية ليتمكن من خلالها أفراد المجتمعات المحلية التي يحتمل تأثرها بنشاطات المشروع بالمشاركة في تصميم مكونات المشروع المختلفة. وعلية يجب عند البدء في عملية اعداد الاطار وضع الأسس لخطة إدارة مثلى للموارد، والتي يمكن تحسينها مع مرور الوقت لضمان استدامة المشروع، وتوليد الدخل للمجتمعات المحلية المستهدفة. وبعبارة أخرى، فإن الغرض من وضع هذا الإطار هو وصف العملية التي من خلالها تتمكن المجتمعات المحلية التي يحتمل أن تأثر من المشاركة في عملية تخطيط المشروع.

ان مشروع النظم الإيكولوجية وسبل كسب العيش في البادية الأردنية هو واحد من أربعة مشاريع في إطار مشروع اقليمي للنظم البيئية وسبل العيش في مناطق صحراء الشرق الاوسط (MENA-DELP)، التي يجري تطوير ها حاليا باعتبار ها شراكة بين مرفق البيئة العالمي (GEF) والبنك الدولي. الهدف من هذا البرنامج هو لالتقاط وتسخير قيمة النظم البيئية الصحراوية من أجل تحسين تدفق السلع والخدمات للوصول للتنمية السليمة بيئيا واجتماعيا في منطقة الصحارى. وسيتم تنفيذ مشروع النظم الإيكولوجية وسبل كسب العيش في البادية الأردنية في محافظات معان والمفرق.

مكونات المشروع

يتركز نشاط المشروع في ثلاثة من جيوب الفقر في البادية الأردنية: الرويشد في محافظة المفرق (البادية الشمالية)، و في الجفر والحسينية في محافظة معان (جنوب البادية) الرويشد. على أن يتم تنفيذ المشروع خلال السنوات 2012-2016. ويتكون المشروع من ثلاثة عناصر رئيسية تشمل ثلاثة مكونات هي:

المكون الاول: وسينفذ في جيب الفقر في الرويشد حيث يشمل هذا المكون التركيز على توسيع السياحة البيئية في البادية الشمالية الشرقية بأستحدات "ممر سياحي بيئي" وادارتة من قبل الجمعية الملكية لحماية الطبيعة RSCNباستخدام الاسلوب المتبع حاليا في ادارة محميات الأزرق والشومري والمرافق التابعة لها كنقطة انطلاق. وسيتم تحديد ممر السياحة البيئية لمسافة 250 كلم في البادية الشمالية الشرقية على أن يتم تطوير الممر حول مفهوم "حجم منخفض، وقيم مرتفعة".

المكون الثاني: وسينفذ في جيبي الفقر في بلدة الحسينية وفي الجفر في محافظة معان (البادية الجنوبية) وذلك الإنشاء / إعادة تأهيل وإدارة المراعي الطبيعية. وفي هذا الإطار سيدعم المشروع تطوير قاعدة الموارد الطبيعية لتصبح أكثر استدامة للمجتمعات المحلية بشكل رئيسي من خلال إنشاء نظم حصاد المياه (حفائر)، وأبار جمع مياه. اضافة لبناء قدرات المجتمعات المحلية، لدعم سبل كسب العيش والحفاظ على قاعدة الموراد الطبيعية

المكون الثالث:ويشمل تشكيل وحدة إدارة المشروع (PMU)، بحيث تكون فاعلة وقادرة على توجيه ودعم تنفيذ المشروع والتي سيكون مركزها في المركز الوطني للبحث والإرشاد الزراعي (NCARE) وهو احد الجهات المنفذه للمشروع.

منهجية الدراسة

اعد هذا التقييم الاجتماعي والاقتصادي باستخدام ثلاثة طرق: 1) مكتبي من خلال استعراض الدراسات والمراجع المتاحة، والتقارير، والوثائق الرسمية والقانونية، والمعلومات الأخرى المتوفرة، 2) مجموعات التركيز، 3) المقابلات الشخصية المتعمقة. ويجدر الاشارة هنا الى ان الباحث قدحصل على الكثير من البيانات الكمية المستخدمة في هذا التقرير من الأبحاث الاجتماعية والاقتصادية الأخيرة التي أجريت في أواخر عام 2010 وعام 2011 من قبل وزارة التخطيط والتعاون الدولي "مسح الواقع الاقتصادي والاجتماعي والخدمي لمناطق جيوب الفقر".

واعتمدت هذه الدراسة ايضا اعتمادا كبيرا على "مجموعات التركيز" لأسباب عملية ومنهجية وذلك بالتعاون الكامل مع الشركاء في المشروع وهم: 1) المركز الوطني للبحث والإرشاد الزراعي(NCARE) ؛ 2) الجمعية الملكية لحماية الطبيعة (RSCN) ، و 3) الصندوق الهاشمي لتنمية البادية الأردنية (HFDJB) ؛ بالاضافة للإدارات المحلية في محافظات معان والمفرق. وتم تشكيل العديد من مجموعات التركيز في مناطق المشروع وتكونت من الرجال والنساء والشباب. وشملت كل من مجموعة ايضا أعضاءمن الجهات المنفذة (المركز الوطني للبحث والاشاد الزراعي والجمعية الملكية لحماية الطبيعة) بالإضافة إلى أعضاء من العاملين في خدمات الإرشاد الزراعي في مديريات وزارة الزراعة في المحافظتين.

كذلك عقد الباحث مقابلات متعمقة مع أعضاء بارزين من الجهات المنفذة الثلاثة (NCARE)، وHFDJB و HFDJB و HFDJB و RSCN) و غير ها من الخبراء و المسؤولين البازين في المؤسسات الحكومية المعنية في المناطق الثلاث.

واعتمد الباحث أيضا على مصادر البيانات الثانوية التي تنشرتها دائرة الاحصاءات العامة ، وزارة الزراعة، ووزارة التخطيط والتعاون الدولي و تم الحصول على خرائط لمواقع التنفيذ المقترحة من المركز الوطني والجمعية الملكية و من برنامج @Google Earth.

عملية إعداد إطار (هيكل) المشروع

لقد وضع البنك الدولي العديد من السياسات الحمائية التي ينبغي اعتمادها لأية مشاريع تنموية ممولة أو بمساعدة من البنك. أن عملية تطبيق السياسة الوقائية في إعادة التوطين القسري لهذا المشروع OP / BP)

(4.12 تبدأ قبل تنفيذ المشروع كجزء من هذه الدراسة وذلك بسبب احتمال تقييد وصول افراد المجتمعات المحلية الى الموارد الطبيعية حيث يشتمل المشروع اقتراح إنشاء محميات مراعي محمية ومرافق لتجميع المياه كجزء هام من المشروع.

وتدعو عملية وضع اطار المشروع لمشاركة الأفراد/الأسر الذين يمكن أن يتأثروا في أنشطة المشاريع وذلك من اجل التأكد من التدابير اللازمة لتحقيق أية أهداف لسياسة إعادة التوطين. ولقد ساهم هذا التقرير في وضع اطار المشروع من خلال تحديد الأفراد المتضررين والمؤسسات المعنية ، ووضع نهج التخطيط القائم على المشاركة لتحديد الأثار الإيجابية والسلبية المحتملة للمشروع واقتراح تدابير علاجية في حالة وقوع آثار سلبية.

وأجريت مشاورات مع المجتمعات المحلية وأصحاب المصلحة المعنيين في المواقع الثلاثة المستهدفة في المشروع من خلال تشكيل مجموعات تركيز عدة، واجراء العديد من المقابلات وجها لوجه والقيام بالزيارات الميدانية لمواقع المشروع والجهات المعنية. حيث تم تشكيل خمس مجموعات تركيز التي تكونت من الرجال والنساء والشباب والمسؤولين في المواقع الثلاثة للمشروع. وقد تم اختيار المشاركين في مجموعات التركيز المختلفة، بناء على مشورة العاملين في الجهات الثلاثة المنفذة للمشروع وقادة المجتمعات المحلية الرئيسية. واستند قرار استخدام مجموعات التركيز على حقيقة أن المجتمع المحلي ينبغي أن يكون قادرا على تحديد ما إذا كانت أنشطة المشروع قد تتسبب بأية آثار سلبية على الأفراد أو الأسر في المجتمعات المحلية. وتم تحديد هدف واضح لمناقشة ألاعضاء المشاركين في مجموعات النقاش المختلفة وذلك على أساس الموضوعات الرئيسية التالية (ألاسئلة الموضوعة من قبل الباحث):

- من سيتأثر سلبا وإيجابامن أنشطة المشروع المختلفة ؟
- ما هي الاعداد التقريبية للأفرادوالأشر التي يمكن ان تتضرر؟
 - ما هي الآليات المحتملة للتعاون مع الجهات المنفذة؟؟
 - ما هي التدابير اللازمة للمظالم المحتملة والية التظلم؟

النتائج الرئيسية للمشاورات مع المجتمعات المحلية في موقع المشروع الثلاثة

- هناك توافق واضح بين أعضاء مجموعات التركيز الخمسة على أن الأنشطة المقترحة لن يكون لها أي آثار سلبية على الافراد او الأسر في مجتمعاتهم المحلية. كذلك خنالك اعتقاد راسخ بأن مكونات المشروع سوف تؤثر ايجابا على المجتمع بأسره. وأوصت أعضاء المجموعات بتشكيل لجنة استشارية من المشاركين الذين يمثلون المجتمع المحلي (والذين هم أيضا أعضاء في منظمات المجتمع المدني المختلفة) للعمل مع شركاء المشروع بشأن القضايا المتعلقة باختيار موقع الحفائر في مجتمعهم، واختيار مواقع ابار جمع المياه المقترحة، ومناطق تأهيل المراعي والمنح التي ستمنح من خلال الصندوق الهاشمي.
- كذلك أوصى أعضاء المجموعات باستخدام المياه التي تجمع بالحفائر للإنتاج الزراعي، بالإضافة الى سقي المواشي. واقترحوا تشكيل جمعية مستخدمي المياه (WUA) على الأراضي العامة المملوكة للخزينة و المحيطة بالحفائر المقترحة من اجل التوزيع العادل للمياه بين أعضاء الجعية المقترحة على غرار ما يحدث حاليا في الجمعية القائمة على إدارة مشروع باير في المنطقة الشرقية.

- وأوصى الأعضاء بأن يتم بناء الحفائر على الأراضي العامة، ومن ثم ينبغي أن تعطى الحكومة حقوق الاستفادة من الأراضي في المنطقة المجاورة للحفائر لأعضاء الجمعية المقترحة من اجل الزراعة وإلا فأنة لا يمكن الاستفادة من المياه التي تم حصادها.
- التركيز على أهمية التكنولوجيا المستخدمة في بناء مر آفق تجميع المياه وذلك للحفاظ على المياه التي تجمع لفترات أطول من الوقت. وأضافوا أن على المركز الوطني أن يستفيد من التجارب السابقة في تنفيذ الحفائر الغير ناجحة في مناطقهم
- ينبغي اعطاء كل المنح المقترحة بعد مشاورات مع المجتمع المحلي. وأصر المشاركون على توفر الشفافة في قرارات المنح. حيث زعموا بأن الغالبية العظمى من المنح المقدمة في السابق من قبل مصادر أخرى للتمويل "ليست مفيدة و لا تخدم احتياجات المجتمع"
 - كذلك افاد غالبية المشاركين في مجموعة التركيز في بلدة الحسينية بأنهم يترددون الى حد ما للعمل مع الصندوق الهاشمي في هذا المشروع نظرا لخبرتهم السابقة في العمل مع الصندوق في مشاريع أخرى
 - طلبت المجموعات امختلفة في أن تكون ممثلة في وحدة إدارة المشروع أو في اللجنة التوجيهية
- طالبت النساء المشاركات في مجموعات التركيز بزيادة دور المرأة في المجتمع المحلي في المشاركة
 في القرارات المتعلقة بالمنح التي سيتم منحها لمنظمات المجتمع المحلي. واقترحوا الأفكار /
 الخيارات التالية للاستفادة بكفاءة من المنح المقترحة:
 - لا تزال هناك حاجة للتدريب على زراعة الحدائق المنزلية، وتصنيع منتجات الألبان والتصنيع الغذائي مثل المربى والخل المنتج من التفاح من مزارع الشوبك وتجفيف البندورة، وتجفيف الأعشاب الطبية.
- اثبتت تجربتهم السابقة في العمل مع المنظمات الأهلية المحلية بأنها غير فعالة. وعلية طالبوا بالعمل مباشرة مع المركز الوطني للبحث الزراعي لسهولة التعامل مع العاملين فية ولقناعتهم بان المنظمات غير الحكومية ومنظمات المجتمع المحلي تضيع أموالها في الإجراءات الإدارية غير الضرورية. كذلك تم اقتراح بديل آخر وهو لجان المرأة في مركز الصندوق الهاشمي للتنيمة البشرية
 - استخدام بعض المنح من اجل تأسيس "صندوق دوار او متجدد" لتوزيع عدد 2-3 اغنام حلابة وعدد 10 من الدجاج البياض للأسر في المناطق المستهدفة. ويتوقع أن يساهم هذا المقترح في تحقيق الأمن الغذائي، وتحسين صحة الأطفال، والحد من نفقات الأسرة على المواد الغذائية والاستفادة من فضلات المواد الغذائية المنزلية في تغذية الحيوانات والطيور الموزعة على الاسر.
 - تمويل شراء جهاز الاستخراج الزيوت من النباتات الطبية المزروعة في الحدائق المنزلية
 وآلة تعبئة وتغليف صغيرة للنباتات الطبية المجففة مثل "أكياس الشاي."
 - توزيع شبكات بسيطة للري بالتنقيط للاستخدام الفعال للمياه في المنازل. كل شبكة تكلف حوالي 10-15 دينار.
 - التدریب علی الخیاطة والتطریز.
 - تسويق المنتجات المحلية من خلال دعم المشاركة في معارض ومهرجانات الغذاء في مناطق الأردن المختلفة

التدابير المحتملة لمساعدة المتضررين من المشروع

بالرجوع الى شروط البنك الدولي بخصوص مراجعة السياسة الوقائية OP 4.12 بخصوص إعادة التوطين القسري فأن نتائج هذه الدراسة تؤكد على أن أنشطة المشروع المقترح لن تتسبب في الامور التي ركزت عليها السياسة الوقائية والتي تشمل:

- الاستملاك القسرى للأراضى
 - نقل أو فقدان المأوى؛
- فقدان الأصول المملوكة للفرد أو الوصول اليها؛
- فقدان مصادر الدخل أو أي وسيلة لكسب الرزق

ومع ذلك، فمن المتوقع ان تنطوي بعض الأنشطة المقترحة لتحسين إدارة المراعي وإنشاء مرافق تجميع المياه على وضع قيود محدودة ولفترات زمنية قصيرة على مربي الاغنام في الوصول إلى المناطق المحمية المقترحة والمناطق القريبة من منشآت حصاد المياه. وعلية يجب التشاور والتنسيق مع المجتمعات المحلية المستهدفة عند بدأ المشروع على أليات التنفيذ وأدارة المحميات المقترحة علما بأن المشروع سيعتمد مبدئ الأدارة التشاركية بحيث يشارك المجتمع المحلي والمستقدين من المشروع في جميع القرارات المتعلقة بالنشاطات التي ستنفذ في مناطقهم.

الية التظلم والشكوى وفض النزاعات الناجمة عن المشروع

للحد من أي نزاعات مستقبلية في مناطق المشروع المستهدفة فأنة ينبغي إجراء عملية شاملة من التشاور مع أصحاب المصلحة، تسبق الإعلان عن المشروع. وينبغي إطلاق مثل هذه العملية عند البدء بتنفيذ المشروع من اجل خلق مناخ مقبول من الناحية القانونية في المناطق المستهدفة. ومثل هذا الإجراء سيحد من تهديد سبل عيش الأفراد والأسر مواقع المشروع.

واتفقت الاطرف التي تم التشاور معها خلال فترة اعداد الدراسة بأن على الشخص الشاعر بالظلم من إعلان لوائح ونظام تنفيذ المشروع اتباع الإجراءات التالية للتعامل مع مثل هذه النزاعات والتي تتكون من ثلاثة مستويات:

- المستوى 1: على الشخص (الفردي او المعنوي) المتظلم او المشتكي بأن يبدأ الأجراءات في موقع عمل المشروع الأولي بحيث يتم الاتصال مع مكتب او ممثل المشروع في الميدان أو مندوب المركز الوطني بوصفة الشريك الرئيس في المشروع ولتواجد مكاتب إقليمية لة في معظم المحافظات في الأردن. اما إذا لم يكن هناك تمثيل للمشروع فعلى مقدم الطلب الاتصال بوحدة إدارة المشروع أو الجنة التوجيهيه في مقر المركز الوطني بالبقعة.
 - المستوى 2: إذا لم يكن المكتب الميداني قادرا على حل المشكلة، فيجب نقل مذكرة الشكوى إلى اللجنة التوجيهية في المركز الوطني مع اعطاء وعد بالنظر في القضية واتخاذ الإجراءات اللازمة لتسوية النزاع.
- المستوى 3: أذا لم تتمكن اللجنة التوجيهيه من حل النزاع أو عدم قناعة المتظلم بقرار اللجنة بحل النزاع فينبغي بعد ذلك أن توجه الملتمسين إلى المحافظ أو مدير المنطقة في موقع المشروع. وإذا لم يستطع المحافظ او الحاكم الأداري أو من ينوب عنه على حل النزاع / المشكلة، تنقل القضية إلى المحكمة المختصة أو مكتب التحكيم في المنطقة ان وجد.

متابعة (رصد) المشروع

ينبغي جمع البيانات الاجتماعية والاقتصادية اللازمة لإنشاء نظام متابعة وتقييم لنشاطات المشروع من خلال التقييمات الريفية التشاركية التي أجريت في المراحل الأولى من التنفيذ. ويمكن جمع أي بيانات أخرى ثانوية من الإحصاءات المنشورة من قبل دائرة الإحصاءات العامة أو الحصول عليها مباشرة من مكاتب وزارة الزراعة في المناطق المستهدفة. كذلك يجب تنفيذ جولات أخرى لجمع البيانات من خلال القيام بالتقييمات الريفية التشاركية وجمع البيانات الثانويةفي منتصف مدة المشورع وعند نهايته لغرض متابعة وتقييم التنفيذ والأثار المترتبة على المجتمعات المستهدفة في مناطق المشروع.

وينبغي لخبير التقييم والمتابعة العمل بالتشاور والتعاون الوثيق مع المجتمعات المحلية المستهدفة وشركاء المشروع في العمل على إعداد تقارير المتابعة والتقييم لعرضها على اللجنة التوجيهية. وينبغي إعداد هذه التقارير على الأقل مرة في السنة. وينبغي للتقارير ان تشكل وصف كمي ونوعي لحجم الإنجاز الذي تحقق من خلال الأنشطة المختلفة، وعدد وأنواع الأفراد/ الأسر المستفيدة في المجتمعات المحلية المستهدفة.

ومن الأهمية بمكان تحديد مؤشرات أداء محددة وممثلة لأغراض عملية المتابعة والتقييم. وبالرجوع الى وثيقة المشروع وعلى إجراء مشاورات مع مختلف أصحاب العلاقة، فأن مستشار الدراسة يقترح المؤشرات التالية ليتم رصدها على مدى العمر الافتراضى للمشروع:

- عدد الأفراد / الأسر المشاركة في أنشطة المشروع المختلفة
- اعداد الثروة الحيوانية (الأغنام والماعز) في كل منطقة منفذ بها أنشطة
- عدد الأفراد العاملين من المجتمعات المحلية في أنشطة دخل بديلة جديدة ممولة من المشروع
 - المساحة المزروعة في المحاصيل العلفية وغيرها من المحاصيل البستانية
 - عدد النساء المشاركات في الأنشطة
 - عدد المنح المقدمة لمنظمات المجتمع المدنى المحلية
 - عدد السياح البيئيين المشاركين في جولات في ممر البيئة المقترح
 - عدد الأشخاص المتضررين من المشروع، إنّ وجد
 - عدد حلقات العمل التدريبية المصممة للمستفيدين من المشروع
- عدد المشاركين في حلقات العمل التدريبية مصنفة حسب المشاركيين من الرجال والشباب والنساء
 - عدد المطالبات / الالتماسات/الشكاوي المقدمة إلى اللجنة التوجيهية للمشروع

1 INTRODUCTION

Socioeconomic studies are crucial tools that can be used at the different implementation stages to assess the social and economic consequences of development projects. Rehabilitation and conservation projects of rangelands are not exception. In conservation projects, socioeconomics studies would provide enough information about the society insights that should help in assuring the sustainability of the project at the long-run. The participation of the targeted communities in the assessment process is important for integrating available social and economic opportunities. It is also essential to provide the targeted communities with available information about the intended project, implementing partners, counseling on integration of potential opportunities, and offering assistance to groups negatively affected by the activities of the project.

The process framework is a formal project document which spells out clearly the steps needed to implement the project. The purpose of this framework is to institute genuine involvement and consultation, through which members of potentially affected communities would participate in designing the project's components. The PF should lay the grounds for a better resource management plan, which can be improved overtime through a process of jointly identifying those activities that would ensure the sustainably of the project and generate income to the targeted communities.2 In other words, the purpose of the framework is to describe the process by which potentially affected communities will participate in planning. In these projects, the participation of the affected population in designing the restrictions, as well as in proposing the mitigation measures, is critical for success.

In the case of conservation projects, socioeconomic studies provide important inputs to the Process Framework (PF) in occasions of negative social and economic impacts associated with restricting access to legally designated protected areas. The World Bank has established many safeguard policies that should be applied for any new development project funded or assisted by the Bank. This requirement stems from the Bank's accumulated experience that shows involuntary resettlement under development projects, if unmitigated, often gives rise to severe economic, social, and environmental risks. The consequences of involuntary resettlement may cause both short and long term severs hardships to individuals, households, communities and environment.

The involuntary resettlement Policy (PO 4.12)3 covers direct economic and social impacts that both result from Bank's assisted investment projects and are caused by the following:

- The involuntary taking of land which may result in:
 - o Relocation or loss of shelter;
 - o Loss of assets or access to assets: or

² Ihic

³ World Bank operational manual, OP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement, December 2001

- Loss of income sources or means of livelihood, whether or not the affected persons must move to another location;
- Or the involuntary restriction of access to legally designated parks and protected areas resulting in adverse impacts on the livelihoods of the displaced persons.

This policy applies to all components of the project that result in involuntary resettlement, regardless of the source of financing. It also applies to other activities resulting in involuntary resettlement, which in the judgment of the Bank, are:

- Directly and significantly related to the Bank-assisted project,
- Necessary to achieve its objectives as set forth in the project documents; and carried out, or planned to be carried out, contemporaneously with the project.
- Requests for guidance on the application and scope of this policy should be addressed to the Resettlement Committee (see BP 4.12, para. 7)

1.1 Background on Jordan's Economy

Jordan is a multi-cultural Arab country, located in a strategic position connecting Asia, Africa and Europe. With a total land area of 89 thousand square km, Jordan is considered a relatively small country compared to its' neighboring countries from the north, east and south. The country is also characterized with limited natural resources base, especially water, and a semi-arid climate.

Jordan is classified as an upper–middle income country whose economy is constrained by limited arable land and scarce water, mineral and energy resources. In 2010, the total population was estimated at 6,113,000 distributed over 12 governorates (Department of Statistics (DOS), 2011)4. Amman, Irbid and Zarqa are the major populated centers of Jordan where 39%, 18% and 15% of the total population resides, respectively. At a population growth rate of 2.2, the Jordanian population is expected to double within 32 years which will put more intense pressure on the county's limited resources of water and energy; and on providing more job opportunities needed for the economic and social development. The ratio of population less than 15 years of age was estimated at 37%, which characterizes Jordan as a "young community". Another alarming indicator is the Total Fertility Rate TFR (women 15-49 years) of 3.8, which is a direct measure of the level of fertility than the birth rate. Jordan's high TFR is another indicator that shows how the demand on the limited natural resources will escalate in the coming few years.

The most recent national accounts figures published by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) show that the nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at market prices for the year 2010 amounted to 18,762 (JD Million) and the per capita GDP was 3,069 JD5. According to the DOS figures of 2010, the inflation rate amounted to 5% and the growth in GDP at constant prices reached 3.2%.

The Gross Domestic Debt of Central Government in 2011 amounted to a record figure of 9,561 million JD while the External Public Debt Outstanding reached 4,517 million JD. The deficit,

⁵ CBJ, Monthly Statistical Bulletin, 2011 www.CBJ.gov.jo

20 | Page

⁴ DOS, statistical year book, 2011, www.dos.gov.jo

which is expected to continue rising is a result of the increasing oil costs, growing debt service payment, reduction in foreign aid and an anticipated lower GDP growth. The recent unprecedented political changes across the Arab region added more challenges to the difficulties facing the Jordanian economy. All of these factors are expected to escalate the pressure on the livelihood of the Jordanian population, especially the poor who live in many of the poverty pockets scattered all over Jordan, including the three targeted poverty pockets by this project in Ar Ruwaished, Al Husseinieh and Al Jafr.

1.2 Project's area economy and settings

The BELP is one of four projects under the regional MENA Desert Ecosystems and Livelihoods Program (MENA-DELP), currently under development as a Global Environment Facility (GEF) and World Bank partnership. The goal of the program is to capture and harness the value of desert ecosystems in order to optimize the flow of goods and services for environmentally and socially sound development of deserts. BELP will be implemented in the two governorates of Ma'an and Mafraq.

The area of rangelands or what is called "Marginal Lands" consists of about 72,660 k 2 of the total country's area. According to Al-Oun⁶, "It is a fact that Bedouins claim land rights over this vast area. Their claims have been based on either tribe or clan forces. At the same time, governmental decisions have threatened tribal territory and hence their rights over any claimed land. Conflicts regarding such decisions increased when it gave neither recognition nor advice as to how this very serious issue could be resolved. Definitely, there was no recognition of the rights of the already established and settled local tribal populations involved in agricultural or other sedentary activities.

Law number 20 of 1973: it recognized the state as the owner of the rangelands and it gave the authority of managing the land to the Ministry of Agriculture. Implementing the law by the Ministry was based on the importance of the protection of rangelands from tree cutting, overgrazing, and inappropriate plowing (Al-Sirhan, 1998). Accordingly, the vast area of the Badia land belonged to the state and was treated as rangelands, whereas Bedouins consider land as a private property, based on tribal claims or proprietorship under a legal title of land that has been given to them by the state since 1940s. What made the conflict worse is that desert land reclaimed or cultivated for some time, or used for settlement was deducted from rangelands and was given to Badia people.

Bedouins distinguish between two types of lands: the first one is a tenure, a tribal land that belongs to one tribe that is generally respected by other tribes. The other type is a privately owned land that is registered and documented for individuals. However, in reality land ownership can be categorized as the following: a) Land that is privately owned and called (Miri and Mulk), which is land owned by individuals. b) Tribal land (Wajehat El Ashayeria), which is claimed by the tribe and historically distributed by the sheikhs. c) The last category is the state

21 | Page

⁶ Al-Oun, S. (2009). Land Tenure and Tribal Identity in the Badia of Jordan: Reality and Projections. In Community-Based Optimization of the Management of Scare Water Resources in Agriculture in West Asia and North Africa, Badia Benchmark Site - Jordan, ICARDA.

land (free access to all resources), which is the land owned by the state and at the same time claimed by tribes, although it is not divided among the tribe members.

Ma'an governorate is located in the south of Jordan with a total area representing 38 percent of the total area of the country and with a population of 116,200 representing 1.9 percent of total population of Jordan. Mafraq governorate is located in the east and north of Jordan with total population of 287,300 representing 4.7 percent of Jordan's population".

As indicated later in this report, the recommended sites by the consulted local communities for establishing the proposed reserve and the water harvesting infrastructure are located on lands owned by the treasury. This means that the complicated land tenure issues reported by Al Oun above are not expected to adversely affect the implementation of the BELP. In addition, the government has indicated that it is willing to informally assign greater management rights over the community-managed reserve areas to the communities.

The BELP will be composed of three components, focusing on three of poverty pockets in the Jordan Badia, namely Ar Ruwaished in Mafraq (Northern Badia), and Al Jafr and Al Husseinieh in Ma'an (Southern Badia) during the years 2012-2016. The project's three components are:

- Component 1: will be implemented in Ar Ruwaished poverty pocket. This component will focus on expanding eco-tourism into the northeast Badia by using the RSCN-managed Al Azraq and Shaumari reserves and attached facilities as a starting point, from which a 250 km eco-tourism corridor will be developed. The corridor will be developed around a concept of "low volume, high value" community-centered eco-tourism.
- Component 2: will be implemented in Al Husseinieh and Al Jafr poverty pockets. Under this component, the project will support the development of a more sustainable natural resource base for local communities mainly through the establishment of water harvesting systems (hafir), establishment/rehabilitation and management of two rangeland reserves managed by the communities, and capacity building for livelihood support and maintenance;
- Component 3: an effective Project Management Unit (PMU), capable of directing and supporting project implementation will be established in the National Center for Agriculture Research and Extension (NCARE the project Implementing Agency).

1.3 Methodology of the study

This Socio-economic Assessment relies heavily on the engagement of the local communities in the assessment process. The participation of the local community forms the basis of this study that contributes to the Process Framework. The study's approach utilizes also all available sociological, economic, environmental and sustainable development planning studies in Jordan and internationally.

In Social Assessments, a variety of methods are used including desk-reviews, focus groups, and in-depth interviews. In this study, a desk review consisted of an examination of available bibliographies, reports, official and legal documentation, and other existing information. Much of the quantitative data used in this report was obtained from the most recent socioeconomic research conducted in late 2010 and 2011 by the "Empowerment Program for Regions with Poverty Pocket" implemented by the Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation. These detailed socioeconomic studies were conducted using the participatory approach in which the targeted stakeholders in these communities participated in this research including government bodies such as the districts, municipalities, directorates of local development, directorates of education, directorates of agriculture and the directorates of agriculture. In addition, members of the local Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and None Government Organizations (NGOs) participated as representatives of the private sector and the civil society.

This study also relied heavily on "Focus Groups" for practical and methodological reasons. In full collaboration with the project's partners: 1) National Center of Agricultural Research and Extension (NCARE); 2) the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature (RSCN); and 3) the Hashemite Fund for the Development of Jordan Badia (HFDJB); and the local administrations in the governorates of Ma'an and Mafraq, the consultant formed several focus groups. The focus groups in each region were constituted of women, men and youth. Each of the focus group included members of the implementing agencies NCARE and RSCN in addition to members of extension services in the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) directorates in the two governorates.

The researcher also held in-depth interviews with the key members of the implementing agencies (NCARE, RSCN and HFDJB) and other selected key experts/officials from the concerned government institutions in the three regions (see the list of interviewed officials in the annexes.

The researcher also relied on secondary data sources published by the DOS, MOA, and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC). The maps of the proposed implementation sites were obtained from NCARE, RSCN and from Google Earth®.

1.3.1 Focus Groups Discussions

In general, focus group discussions are facilitated discussions held with a group of people who share common concerns of the subject matter (World Bank, 1998)⁷. The discussions of the held focus groups in the three project's sites lasted around two hours on average. They served as a forum for addressing a particular issue, in which case a series of focus groups with different interest groups can help highlight their various concerns, any conflicting interests, and potential common ground among the groups. Focus groups can also provide an opportunity to cross-check information that has been collected using other techniques, and can be used to obtain a variety of reactions to hypothetical or planned interventions⁸.

Discussions of the focus groups were guided by the consultant as the facilitator to ensure that all the participants can speak openly and to direct their discussion to the relevant topic. In addition to the facilitator, the NCARE representatives were present in the focus groups held in Al

23 | Page

⁷ World Bank, PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES", Publication No. 17796, 1998 - pages 270-272 (Focus Groups)

⁸ IFC, Handbook for Preparing a Resettlement Action Plan, 2002

Husseinieh and Al Jafr to take notes on the discussion and to provide some of specific site-related technical information. Also, the representative of the RSCN attended the focus group that was held in Al Ruwaished.

As indicated above, the participants of the different focus groups were selected, based on advice of the NCARE, RSCN and HFDJB staff and with the direct engagement of key community leaders. The decision to use focus groups was based on the fact that the local community should be able to determine if the BELP activities would cause any negative impacts on individuals or households of the local communities.

1.3.2 Organization of the Focus Groups:

Participating members of the different focus groups had a clear purpose for the group discussion, based on the following few key topics (questions):

- Who would be positively and negatively affected by the different project's activities?
- Approximate numbers of affected individuals/households;
- What are the potential mechanisms for collaboration with the implementing agencies?; and
- What structures and approaches should be followed in setting up a sound Grievance Redress Mechanism for community members who have concerns or issues about project design and activities?

The meetings were held at the youth centers and agricultural centers to avoid any tribal sensitivities or biases and to ensure a comfortable and pleasant atmosphere. The consultant started the discussion with a brief introduction on the BLEP and explaining the purpose of the meeting. He facilitated the discussions and kept the meeting on track and asked all attendees to participate in the discussions. The discussions focused first on the issues of general concern such as poverty and climate change and then the specific issues of the project on their livelihood. The facilitator avoided as possible controversial and personal issues rose by some of the members. In addition, he did his best, to make sure NOT to raise the expectations of the community.







Focus group participants in Al Jafr (men)



Focus group participants in Al Jafr (men)



Focus grou participants in Ar Ruwaished



Focus grou participants in Ar Ruwaished

1.3.3 Interviews with Key local government officials

In each of the three different selected project's sites, the consultant met with the key government representative officials and local leaders (list of the names of all interviewed persons and participants in focus groups session in annex A). These meetings took place before holding the focus groups sessions to brief the officials about the project's details and why the meetings are necessary. In addition, they were asked about the current grievance mechanisms in case of conflicts between the potential beneficiaries of the project or the negatively affected individuals or households.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As stated in the project's document, the (BELP) is one of four projects under the regional MENA Desert Ecosystems and Livelihoods Program (MENA-DELP), currently under development as a GEF and World Bank partnership. The goal of the program is to capture and harness the value of desert ecosystems in order to optimize the flow of goods and services for environmentally and socially sound development of deserts. The project is expected to enable the four participating countries to operationalize their existing or planned investments in desert

ecosystems. Country projects in Algeria, Jordan, Egypt and Morocco, are all focusing on investments to optimize the provision of desert goods and services for enhanced livelihoods. The focus of these projects will be on different production sectors, from eco-tourism to agriculture to livestock management, and on improving the sustainability of these investments through an integrated ecosystem management approach. Emphasis will also be placed on participatory approaches, capacity building and on harnessing valuable local knowledge.

The proposed Project Development Objective (PDO) is to sustain livelihoods of the targeted communities in the three poverty pockets of Al Husseinieh and Al Jafr in southern Badia and Ar Ruwaished in northern Badia. The project development objective will be achieved through the following outcomes:

- Enhancing ecosystem services in three poverty pockets of the Jordan Badia through:
 - Introducing new sustainable eco-tourism related jobs along the Al Azraq/Shaumari-Burqu' corridor;
 - o Piloting rangelands management by communities in a sustainable manner in Al Jafir and Al Husseinieh through improved hafirs and range reserves; and
 - More men and women benefitting from project capacity building in Ar Ruwaished, Al Jafir and Al Husseinieh poverty pockets

3 LOCATION AND CLIMATIC CONDITIONS OF BELP SITES

The total area of Al Jafr is 28,174km², constituting (85%) of the Governorate of Ma'an. While the area of Al Husseinieh province is 9,306 km² distributed which includes Al Husseinieh, Al Hashimieh, Prince Hashim Park, Prince Raghd Park, Al Fajij, Hadira, and Aniza). Ma'an is the largest governorate in Jordan. Table 1 lists the three targeted areas in the governorates of Ma'an and Mafraq. This region is considered as one of the driest areas of Jordan, as temperature exceeds (42) ° C in summer and rainfall around 17mm per year (table 2). These harsh climatic conditions provide little opportunities for short-term grazing, except where groundwater is available, which helps in the occurrence of pockets of irrigated agriculture.

Ar Rwaished possesses almost the same climatic characteristics of the other two project's sites in Ma'an governorate. It is located at an elevation of 683 meters above sea level. It is a very dry ecosystem and the average rainfall is around 86 mm (table 2).

Table 1 Area in Km2 of BELP targeted areas

BELP Implementation	Governorate	Area (Km2)	Location
(Province/ jurisdiction)			
Al Husseinieh	Ma'an	9,306	50 km north to the center of the Ma'an Governorate
Al jafr	Ma'an	28174	60 km East to the center of the Ma'an Governorate
Ar-Ruwaished	Mafraq	21,000	200 Km to the East of the center of Mafraq governorate

Weather 2010 2011 **Total** Station Sept Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar May Rain-Apr fall Ar 0 0 0 33.4 29.1 1 21.7 0 86.4 1.2 Ruwaished Mafraq 15.1 20.2 51.9 10.7 0.9 102.8 Ma'an 0 0 1.2 3 1.1 1.8 0.3 0.2 8 15.6 Al Jafr 0 1.4 2.8 4.4 9.2 0 0 0 17.8

Table 2 Distribution of rainfall in BELP targeted areas in 2010/2011 (in mm)

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Annual Report 2011

4 SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE BELP COMPONENTS

4.1 Proposed sites in study Area

As mentioned above, the project will be composed of *three components*. Two of the components will focus on three poverty pockets in the Jordan Badia, namely Ar Ruwaished (Northern Badia), and Al Jafr and Al Husseinieh (Southern Badia) during the years 2012-2016.

The project site of component 1 will be implemented (Ar Ruwaished poverty pocket), the project will expand eco-tourism into the northeast Badia by using the RSCN- managed Al Azraq and Shaumari reserves and attached facilities as a starting point, from which a 250 km eco-tourism corridor will be developed. The corridor will be developed around a concept of "low volume, high value" community-centered eco-tourism.

Under **component 2** (Al Husseinieh and Al Jafr poverty pockets), the project will support the development of a more sustainable natural resource base for local communities through the establishment of improved water harvesting systems, establishment/rehabilitation and management of two rangeland reserves managed by the communities, and capacity building for livelihood support and maintenance.

Under **component 3**, an effective Project Management Unit (PMU), capable of directing and supporting project implementation will be established in the National Center for Agriculture Research and Extension (NCARE - the project Implementing Agency).

4.1.1 Water harvesting sites (hafir and cisterns) and rangeland management activities in Southern Badia

In addition to identifying the negatively affected individuals/households, one of the purposes for forming the focus groups was to consult with the local communities on the most appropriate locations of the proposed BELP activities. Deliberations among the participants at the formed focus group in Al Husseinieh revealed that the most suitable location for the proposed hafir and the rangeland reserve is the eastern part of the district as marked in red in

the figure 1. The reason behind this selection is that the land in the eastern part lacks water harvesting projects and it is a treasury land, which means no tribal sensitivities.

The group also recommended giving the priority for rehabilitating the old cisterns at "Alfjaij" in the western region prior to constructing new ones. The old cisterns that need rehabilitation are used by farmers during summer to water their livestock.

The focus group in Al Jafr, stated that Qaa' al-Jafr receives lots of water from different places (Saudi Arabia, Al- Sharah' mountains...etc.) which would help in efficient harvesting of wadies waters. They added the Qaa' is the lowest point in the region and it is the gathering point for all storm water coming from the different places. The group concluded that any water harvesting activities (hafir) and rangelands rehabilitation should be implemented in Qaa' Al-Jafr in the area marked in blue in figure 1. There was no preference on the location of the proposed cisterns. The group stated that there are no existing cisterns in Al- Jafr.

The final selection of the locations of water harvesting and rangelands rehabilitation activities should be determined in full consultation with the local communities. Within a general area selected by the community, should NCARE identify more than one technically sound alternative, the most appropriate would be selected by the community.



Figure 1: Proposed locations for hafir and rangelands activities in Al Husseinieh and Al Jafr

4.1.2 Eco-tourism activities in Northern Badia

Ar Ruwaished, located in the Northern Badia, is one of the targeted poverty pockets by the BELP. The RSCN is the implementing agency of project's component 1 in Ar Ruwaished site. The proposed activities will focus on expanding eco-tourism into the northeast Badia by building on the RSCN's accumulated experience in managing other similar eco facilities across Jordan. The proposed activities will be centred on establishing a 250 km long eco-tourism corridor that starts around Al Azraq and Shaumari reserves and extends to Burqu' reserve. The corridor will be developed around the concept of "low volume, high value" community-centred eco-tourism. The corridor is expected to utilize the current facilities already established in Al Azraq and Shaumari reserves.

The map in figure 3 shows the proposed route of the corridor (marked in dark blue dashed line) as recommended by the RSCN. The SE consultant toured part of this route with the RSCN experts. The SE consultant's field observations and discussions with the local communities and the RSCN team revealed the following:

- The consultant and the RSCN team could meet only three families during the whole first day of the route. It should be stated here that at this time of the year (winter-spring) many Bedouins should be touring these areas in search for good rangeland and water;
- RSCN will undertake an ecotourism development plan and a socio-economic analysis as immediate activities during YR1. The route will be determined by the ETDP, which will, among other aspects, also look at the optimum route with a maximum number of beneficiaries (also considering natural assets along the route, etc.).;
- Based on the results of YR1 studies mentioned above, RSCN is planning to establish an eco-lodge, two permanent camps site and one or two remote camp sites. These camp sites can serve several Bedouin families on the route while the permanent sites can serve the communities already exist around the site or those who would move to the sites;
- RSCN will determine soon the exact locations of the focal areas on the route during the
 different seasons of the year. Summer in these areas is very hot, especially the months of
 June-September. Also, winter in desert area is severally cold in the months of December
 through March. Weather considerations might limit operating the proposed activities
 year-round. RSCN should take this issue in consideration while designing the facilities
 and the proposed eco-touristic programs.
- It should be stated here that the purpose of the BELP is to establish the corridor as a means to enhance communities' livelihoods. Therefore the project should make every effort to target as many individuals/households as possible to benefit directly and/or indirectly from the BELP's investments in the north
- The location of the eco-lodge is not intended to serve the surrounding community. The eco-lodge is considered as one way to serve the customers (eco-tourists) needs and, accordingly, it should be designed to serve their needs;

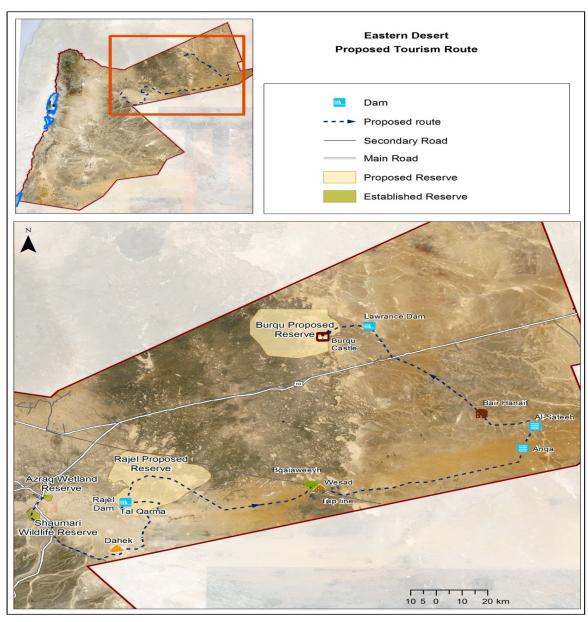


Figure 3: Proposed route for the eco-tourism corridor as suggested by RSCN team

- Part of the RSCN internal socioeconomic work will focus on identifying potential benefit-sharing mechanisms of the proposed activities with the local communities. RSCN will build on their experience in Dana and Feynan reserves. There are different models that can be established for the benefit sharing mechanisms including forming a cooperative to use the collected revenues in providing services to targeted communities. The collected revenues will come from entrance fees or/and imposing a per-head surcharge on services provided to customers.
- Once the sites on the eco corridor are established, RSCN will work on specifying the locations of the remote Bedouins communities during the year. This would be used to plan moving the remote activities such as camps to these communities during the year

- divided between summer and winter activities, providing there is acceptance of this by the participating communities;
- RSCN will also work on determining the exact numbers of population during the year along the corridor. This should help in deciding the exact locations of the two permanent camps. The camps do not need to be on the exact route and it could be established in communities close to the route, providing there is acceptance of this by the participating communities;
- People most benefiting from the route will be receiving the direct benefits of the project which will be specified once the route is determined. RSCN needs to explore the local communities' decision making mechanisms in distributing the expected revenues to be sure that there are clear and transparent mechanisms. For instance, in Dana reserve, the local communities share 50-70% of the entrance fees which go to local operators.
- RSCN need to develop different plans to keep the tourists for longer periods through showing them different landscapes and providing them with new different experiences such as Barqa' castle, the sandy areas, Dahek limestone formation, and other remote special areas. The diversity of the location should encourage the tourists to stay for a quite long time which should generate more income to the area and the county as whole.
- RSCN packages will be designed to keep the tourists for a minimum of 2 nights, depending on the design of the package and the involved activities;
- Different packages should be designed to target different groups exploring the beauty of
 the corridor. These packages could start from a half day excursion up to four-day and
 should be marketed in that way. The main challenges to RSCN would be to find
 mechanisms to extend the experience of the tourists on the corridor to enable them to
 upgrade along the route and how to build a special relationship between the customer and
 the route so they would upgrade their experience according to how it is designed;
- The concept of "Small-volume- high value" packages is not expected to benefit large numbers of the communities. In addition, it might take some time to pick up as in the case of Dana which took about 7 years until it became a recognized event on the tourism map in the region. In other words, expectations should not be raised too high from the beginning. Supply chain of services along the route also dictates the number of tourists
- RSCN is intending to construct a small eco-lodge of 10-12 rooms to cope with the limited funding, taking into consideration potential future expansion. Nevertheless, past experience shows that the optimal size of an eco-lodge is 20 rooms because RSCN need to concentrate on providing good services to customers;
- Private management of the eco-lodge in Feynan has proven to be efficient in particular for generating revenues. The manager of the facility is creating more and more activities to keep the tourists for longer periods and this is what RSCN should think about in the implementations plans at a reasonable cost per night (high rates of 80-90\$/night might negatively affect the duration of the tourist's stay).
- The local community should be educated on the potentials of involving the private sector from day one and what are the benefits that can be obtained. Experience of RSCN in Dana and Feynan should be shared with the local community. They might be quite receptive to a private sector management, similar to Feynan eco-lodge. Their involvement in the decision making will be assured from day-one, from project design through implementation. For instance, staff members at Feynan eco-lodge are happy

- because they got a good deal while the outside community is demanding more and more thinking that lots of money are being made by the investor.
- Promoting private sector management may encourage pulling other investments to the region in this sector or in supportive services.
- RSCN should help in exploring other sources of support and/or funding to build on the proposed BELP activities. Ministry of Tourism and Antiques (MoTA) should be contacted to explore the potentiality of rehabilitating the Burqa' castle.
- If the MoTA is not able to provide support to restore the castle in Burqa', then RSCN and the local community should look at getting resources from other institutes and donor agencies such as the Archaeological institute, USAID Syiaha, French embassy, and Jordanian universities.

5 EXISTING SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSETS

The existing socioeconomic assets include the main human resources as well as economic, physical, social and natural asses in the studied community. In the following sections the consultant review in brief the assets found in the three targeted communities based on the very recent socioeconomic surveys conducted by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation as part of the "Empowerment Program for Regions with Poverty Pockets". The three targeted communities are considered as regions of poverty pockets.

5.1 Human Assets

Human assets are part of the social assets of the community which covers education, knowledge, skills, and talents. Human assets provide the networks of trust and mutual benefits that fasten communities together. In the following section we shed the light on the main human assets found in the three project's sites in terms of distribution of population and their demographics, available skills, education, health services and economic services.

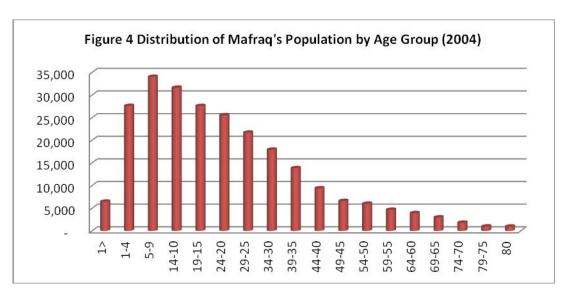
5.1.1 Population and Demographics

Figures 4 and 5 show the distribution of population in the governorates of Ma'an and Mafraq, where the three selected project sites are located. The figures indicate that the average family size of these communities is 7.7, which is higher than the national family size of 5.4 persons.

Table 3 includes the distribution of the population by males and females in three communities targeted by BELP. It is very clear that the average size of the family in the three communities is higher than that of the Jordan.

32 | Page Jordan BELP: THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT (SEA)

⁹ Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation, Empowerment Program for Regions with Poverty Pocket Studies: in Al Jafr, Ar Ruwaished, and Al Husseinieh, 2010.



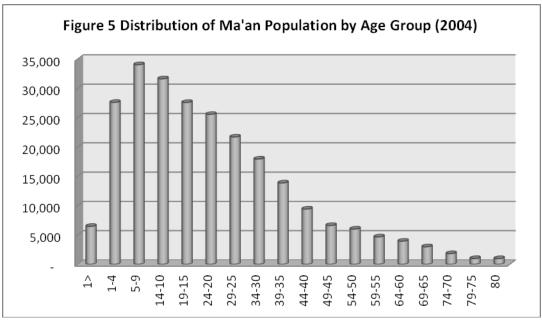


Table 3 Population in the targeted areas distributed by sex

BELP			Populat	ion		
Implementation (Province/	Governorate	Males	Females	Total	Average family size	
jurisdiction)						
Al Husseinieh	Ma'an	5,330	5,955	11,285	6.04 persons	
Aljafr	Ma'an	3,236	3,083	8,180	7.70 persons	
Ar Ruwished	Mafraq			5,692	7.06 persons	

Source: MOPIC, Empowerment Program for Regions with Poverty Pocket Studies: in Al Jafr, Ar Ruwaished, and Al Husseinieh, 2010

5.1.2 Education;

Education services in the three targeted project sites are acceptable to some extent. However, the education sector faces a number of challenges and the most important of which is, the high illiteracy rate of the area reaching about 30% of the total population, which is considered high compared to the Kingdom average of 7.5%. As indicated in the MOPIC studies, the high illiteracy rate blocks development efforts, particularly, in the areas of education and training for the development of capacities and skills in different fields, and also the instability of the teaching cadre. Another problem facing the education sector in these areas is the student with learning difficulties, who also need special care and support.

Table 4 Education infrastructure, students and teachers in BELP sites

BELP Implementation	No. of		Studer	nts		
(Province/ jurisdiction)	Schools	Males	Females	Total	No. of teacher	
Al Husseinieh	11	1802	1600	3402	261	
Al Jafr	8	1218	1157	2375	178	
Ar Rewashed	12			1618	148	

Source: MOPIC, Empowerment Program for Regions with Poverty Pocket Studies: in Al Jafr, Ar Ruwaished, and Al Husseinieh, 2010

5.1.3 Health Services;

Health services in the three communities are poor and face a number of challenges such as the shortage of health staff working in the different health areas and the poor geographical cover, given the huge land area of the two governorates, especially in the remote areas of Bedouins scattered communities in various parts. Health statistics show that the most common diseases in Al Jafr are anaemia and malnutrition while most frequent diseases in the Al Husseinieh are "Thalassemia", deposit in the urinary tract and kidney stones, and seasonal diseases.

Table 5 Health infrastructure and services in BELP sites

BELP Implementation	No. of	No. of	Health staff serving the centres					
(Province/ jurisdiction)	Health Canters	Health Hospitals	physicians	Specialized doctors	Nurses	assistant pharmacists	Part-time dentists	
Al Husseinieh	3	0	2	2	7	2	2	
Al Jafr	2	0	7	-	7	2	2	
Al-Ruweished	2	1	8	16	6	1	1	

Source: MOPIC, Empowerment Program for Regions with Poverty Pocket Studies: in Al Jafr, Ar Ruwaished, and Al Husseinieh, 2010

5.1.4 Skills and Labour market;

Table 6 shows the official figure of unemployment at the national level as well as in the governorates of Ma'an and Mafraq. The published official national unemployment rate by DOS in 2010 was estimated at 11.89% while unofficial estimates put the overall jobless rate at 30

percent. Even at an official rate of 15 percent, Ma'an is the leading government in unemployment. Mafraq's rate is close to the national official rate of unemployment. The recently conducted socioeconomic assessment by MOPIC showed that the category that is searching for jobs in the two governorates is the non-educated one and which does not have any kind of qualifications or vocational training. The study found that the majority of the population relies on governmental jobs, trade, simple car maintenance and herding sheep. The study states that the unemployment rate in Al-Ruwaished is 25% compared to 11.8% at the Kingdom level and 11.9% at the governorate level. The study concludes that the reluctance of national labor to hold certain jobs is due to several reasons, the most important of which is the culture of shame, lack of training and qualifications, and the fact that these job are limited to persons who came from other parts of the Kingdom.

Table 6 Jordanian Population Age 15+ Years by Activity Status, Urban-Rural, Governorate & Sex (Percentage Distribution)

			Economically Active					
Grand Total Total	Total	Percent	Total Employed Unemployed		Not Economically activite rate	Refined Economic activity rate	Unemployment rate	
JORDAN - Total	35920	100	39	34.4	4.6	61	39	11.8
Male	18141	100	63.2	56.9	6.3	36.8	63.2	10
Female	17779	100	14.3	11.4	2.9	85.7	14.3	20.1
Mafraq								
Total	1595	100	36.4	32.3	4.1	63.6	36.4	11.4
Male	802	100	60.8	54.6	6.2	39.2	60.8	10.2
Female	793	100	11.7	9.7	2	88.3	11.7	17.2
Maan								
Total	662	100	43.7	36.9	6.8	56.3	43.7	15.6
Male	343	100	67.3	58	9.3	32.7	67.3	13.9
Female	319	100	18.2	14.1	4.1	81.8	18.2	22.4

Source: DOS, Statistical year book 2010

6 PRINCIPAL LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

6.1 Economic activities (Non-agricultural)

Economic development at the macro or the micro level is highly correlated with the level of services provided by the government institutions and other associated organizations to its residents and businesses. These provided economic development services should be aiming at creating prosperity through increasing business activities, employment, attracting investments and connecting the local communities with others through a responsible planning vision. An important part of these services is also considered a Human Asset.

The three targeted communities, as poverty pockets, lack much of economic development services aiming at providing the enabling environment to attract businesses and investments. The most recent socioeconomic surveys conducted in the three communities showed that all economic activities are centered on employment provided by the government and military institutions. This fact affected the economic vision of these communities and made them

believe that jobs provided by civil and military institutions are the only guaranteed and successful investment in their areas and there is no point in engaging in any other activity. Much of the limited economic development services are provided by the municipalities in terms of licensing grocery stores, machine shops, restaurants, telecommunications services, barber shops, bakeries, ironsmith and computer centers. The modest trade activities of these communities usually rely on trade with their governorates centers in Ma'an and Mafraq.

6.2 Agricultural economic activities

There is a Directorate of Agriculture in Ar Ruwaished under the name of the Development Directorate of Northern-Eastern Badia. The directorate provides many services to agricultural operators in the region that includes: providing veterinary services to livestock owners, operating and maintaining the ten artesian wells used mainly to water sheep and goats herders for free, monitoring the earth dams and hafir in the region and maintaining the different rangeland reserves through monitoring and seeding.

In the southern Badia, there is a liaison office under Al sharah agricultural region. There are two active NCARE offices in Al Husseinieh and in Al Jafr. The offices offer agricultural advice, irrigation (chemical spraying) services for farmers and animal care. There is also a special center to distribute feeds and there is also a veterinary clinic attended by Dr. Veterinarian twice a week.

6.2.1 Livestock activities

The three communities, especially Ar Ruwaished, rely on their livelihood on livestock production as the main economic activity. As indicated in table 7 the governorate of Mafraq holds 25% and 10% of the total number of sheep and goat, respectively. The governorate of Ma'an holds 11% and 7% of the total sheep and goat number in Jordan, respectively. These numbers justify the intension of the project in protecting the rangelands and constructing water harvesting facilities to improve the livelihood of the targeted communities.

Collected livestock statistics from agricultural offices during the field visits indicates that in Ar Ruwaished the numbers of camels, sheep and goats are 110, 83615 and 7318 heads, respectively. While in Al Jafr, the total number of camels is 2500 heads and the sum of sheep and goat is around 25,000 heads.

Table 7 Number of Sheep, Goats and Cattle by Governorates as on 1/11/2010

Governorate			Number on 1/11/20	10		
Governorate	Sheep	%	Goats	%	Cattle	%
Total	2,175,680	100%	751,730	100%	65,390	100%
Amman	400,590	18%	103,600	14%	6,730	10%
Balga	148,370	7%	82,310	11%	3,040	5%
Zarqa	129,770	6%	41,790	6%	25,180	39%
Madaba	145,120	7%	53,440	7%	630	1%
Irbid	192,480	9%	48,940	7%	15,080	23%
Mafraq	543,260	25%	80,240	11%	11,810	18%
Jarash	5,360	0%	20,650	3%	1,650	3%
Ailoun	20,440	1%	49,820	7%	660	1%
Karak	333,830	15%	116,840	16%	360	1%
Tafilah	91,060	4%	36,210	5%	180	0%
Ma'an	152,540	7%	77,550	10%	60	0%
Agaba	12,870	1%	40,340	5%	10	0%

Source: DOS, Statistical year book, 2011

6.2.2 Plant Production activities

Recent figures obtained from MOA annual statistical book indicate to the following:

Al Husseinieh:

- 935 dunum of irrigated olive trees produced a sum of 198 tons of olive fruits. The fruits produced a sum of 26 tons of olive oil.
- 12,477 dunum cultivated in cereal grain of which 3,370 under irrigation and the remaining 9,107 under rainfed conditions. Production from the cultivated area resulted in 3,488 tons
- 50 dunum of table grapes, mainly under irrigation, produced a sum of 15 tons of fresh grapes
- 400 dunum of irrigated vegetables (cultivated all in tomatoes) produced a sum of 125 tons
- No plastic houses in the province

Al Jafr:

The most recent data obtained from Ma'an directorate of agriculture shows that the total cultivated area for the year 2008 was 50,650 dunum distributed as follows:

- 1740 dunum of irrigated winter cereals
- 5725 dunum of irrigated clover
- 23630 dunum of irrigated summer vegetable crops
- 12879 dunum of irrigated winter vegetable crops
- 2450 dunum of irrigated olive trees
- 542 dunum of irrigated grape trees
- 3684 dunum of irrigated different types of trees

To the south of Al Husseihieh, the HFDJB has recently established a forage production project in Al-Mohammadiah under full irrigation (using center pivot system) consisted of the following ¹⁰:

- 50 thousand dunum of treasury land
- 20 center pivot systems
- 1000 dunum cultivated with olive trees

¹⁰ HFDJB website: http://www.badiafund.gov.jo/node/71

- 25 artesian wells and 15 ponds
- "State of art" Silage production facilities
- Tractors and other farm equipment

In 2010 the project's achievements included:

- Producing 700 tons of barley grains
- Producing 20 tons of wheat grains (as trial)
- Producing 30,000 of hay (straw) bales
- Producing 660 of silage bales (each weighs 1 ton)
- Cultivating 600 dunum in clover, 500 dunum in Rhodes grass, and 500 dunum in maize
- Reclaiming and equipping 300 dunum for distribution on the local community through local cooperatives
- Constructing and equipping hanger (prefabricated sheds) for livestock development in the region
- Purchasing 1000 heads of Awasi sheep breed.
- Rehabilitation and purchasing new dairy processing equipment for Qareen processing plant in Ma'an governorate.

6.2.3 Rangelands activities

The directorate of forestry and rangelands at the MoA established several rangelands reserves as part of the national plan to protect, rehabilitate and establish new rangelands reserves in Jordan. Tables 8 and 9 show the existing rangelands reserves in Ma'an governorate and in Ar Ruwaished district in Mafraq. The shaded rows in table 8 show the closest reserves to the targeted communities by BELP.

Table 8 Area and year of establishment of the rangeland reserves in Ma'an governorate

Reserve's name	Year of establishment	Total Area (dunum)
Al-Fjaj	1958	10000
Al-Manshiah	1968	3000
Al-Aeshyia	1981	10000
Raas Al Naqab	1986	12000
Al - Mudawara	1992	20000
Al Huessienieh	2003	15000
Al-Hashmieh	2003	15000
Total (dunum)		85,000

Table 9 shows that the total area of reserves in Ar Ruwaished is 300 thousand dunum distributed over 5 reserves. The largest is Al-Ruggban reserve. The local community relies on these reserves and on the subsidized animal feed provided by the government.

Table 9 Area and year of establishment of the rangeland reserves in Ar Ruwished

Reserve's name	Year of establishment	Total Area (dunum)		
Al-Bustaneh	1996	15000		
Al-Kassab	1996	15000		
Al-Ruggban	1997	200000		
Al-Gayath Manshiat	1999	50000		
Hadallat	2007	20000		
Total		300000		

6.2.4 Natural Assets in Targeted Communities

6.2.4.1 Surface Water

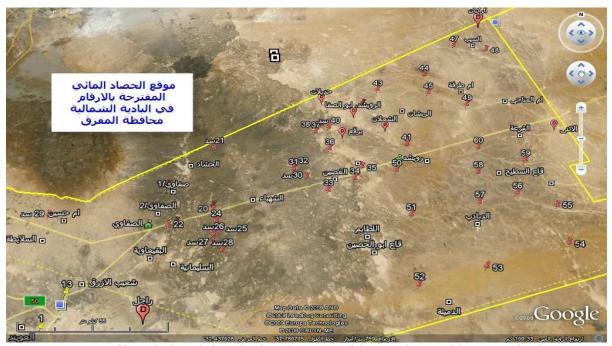
Surface water is referred to water bodies such as lakes, wetlands, ponds, Hafir, rivers, streams, and infiltration trenches. The project's targeted areas in both Northern and Southern Badia lack much of surface water resources mentioned above, except for some Hafir already constructed by the MWI and MoA

(a) Surface Water in Al Husseinieh and Al Jafr

In 2008, the MoA constructed 3 hafirs in Al-Hashmia with a total capacity of 430 thousand cubic meters and one in Bayer area of a holding capacity of 50 thousand cm. As indicated in figure 6, the MWI included in their comprehensive water harvesting plan for the whole Kingdom constructing a sum of 25 hafirs and one soil dam in the southern Badia (Ma'an and Aqaba governorates). The total capacity of the intended investment would reach a sum of 3.5 million cm. As indicated in the map for the proposed water harvesting activities in southern Badia, none of the proposed hafirs is within the borders of Al Husseinieh or Al-Jafr, which justifies the intended investment by BELP. However, NCARE water harvesting specialists should consult with the MWI water harvesting directorate before presenting the proposed locations to local communities of Al – Husseinieh and Al-Jafr

(a) Surface Water in Ar Ruwaished

As in the case of southern Badia, the only surface water resources in this area are the hafirs. According to the MoA directorate of Northern East Badia, there are 27 hafirs in Ar Ruwaished Lewaa' of a total capacity of 13.7 million cm. The capacity of the hafirs ranges between: 5,000 to 225,000 cm. As indicated in figure 7, the MWI included in their comprehensive national water harvesting plan constructing a sum of 34 hafirs and 10 soil dam in Al Safawi and Ar Ruwashid. The total capacity of the intended investment would reach a sum of 3.82 million cm. Some of the planned water harvesting facilities will be located close to the eco-tourism corridor. This would



support RSCN efforts in involving the local communities on the corridor route in the proposed activities.

Figure~7~Proposed~format~locations~for~water~harvesting~(earth~dams~and~hafir)~in~northern~Badia~as~part~of~the~national~water~harvesting~plan



Figure 6 Proposed locations of water harvesting (earth dams and hafir) in southern Badia as part of the national water harvesting plan

6.2.4.2 Groundwater

The main source of water in all of the targeted areas in northern and southern area is ground water. Ground water is used for all purposes including municipal, agricultural, commercial and industrial

(a) Ground Water in Al Husseinieh and Al Jafr

There are 12 artesian wells in Al Husseinieh province. The water is pumped through two pumping stations: Alanize pumping station which also provides water to Al Hashimiah village and Alfajij pumping station which provides water to Al Husseiniyya village. There is only one treatment plant located at Alanize well and the water is checked periodically. Tap water network covers 99% of the population. It should be mentioned here that all assests are well far away from the targeted communities by BELP.

The region lacks water reservoirs and the low pumping capacity of the existing wells. The province does not have sewerage system and it relies on cesspits.

The municipal water network in Al Jafr covers 100% of the population and the houses are connected with water continuously and around the clock. There is no sewerage system in the village and the population relies on Cesspits. The village has a dirt dam called Alayriya, which is about 10 km far from the village center. The village has also two water wells for drinking water and a water pumping station. There are several illegal dug wells used for agricultural production.

(b) 3.4.1 Ground Water in Ar Ruwaished (Northern Badia)

There are 10 functioning artesian wells in Ruwaished distributed all over the province as follows: 2 in the north, 3 in the west, 3 in the south, and 2 in the east. The pumping capacity of the wells ranges between 25 to 40 cm/hr. The wells are used for municipal and agricultural activities. Some of these wells are operated by solar energy especially the ones located in remote areas. During the focus group discussions, the participants complained from the high salinity of tap water.

7 FOCUS GROUPS (RESPONSES, COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS)

The focus groups were formed in full collaboration with the BELP partners in the south and the north Badia. It was made clear to participating members of the different focus groups that the purpose for the group discussion was to provide answers to the following key questions:

- Who would be positively and negatively affected by the different project's activities?
- What are the approximate numbers of potentially negatively affected individuals/households by the proposed project activities in their district?
- What are the potential mechanisms for collaboration with the implementing agencies?
- What are the potential measures for Grievances?

7.1 Men Focus groups in Al-Husseinieh

The men's focus group was held on Sunday Feb 12, 2012 at Al-Husseinieh Youth Center. The group consisted of 12 men (including 4 youth), 2 women, the director of NCARE extension in Ma'an governorate and the NCARE extension agent in Al-Husseinieh office.

The SE consultant gave a brief presentation on the different activities of the project, the participating partners (NCARE, HFDJB & RSCN) and the formation of the PMU at NCARE. The intention of the brief presentation was NOT to raise the expectations of the community. Each participant was given the chance to comment and to participate on the four different questions stated above. The following is a synthesis of the responses on the questions, comments and recommendations of the focus group participants:

- Community members highly appreciated consulting them regarding this project at this early stage;
- There was a clear consensus among the group on that the proposed BELP <u>activities will</u> not have any negative impacts on the individuals or the household in their communities. They believe the BELP components will positively affect the whole community. The group recommended to form a consultative committee from the participants representing the local community (who are also members in the different CBOs) to work with the BELP partners on issues related to selection of the hafir site in their community, selection of the sites for the proposed cisterns, rangeland reserve and the grants to be awarded through the HFDJB;
- The group talked about the successes and failures of water harvesting projects previously implemented in their region. The main reason for the failures of previously implemented hafir was the erroneous selection of the site.
- The group recommended using the harvested water in the hafir for agricultural production in addition to watering livestock. They proposed to form a Water Users Association (WUA) on the public lands surrounding the proposed hafir to fairly distribute the harvested water among the members of WUA similar to what is currently going on at the CBO managing the Bayir project in eastern region.
- Much of the currently harvested water by the different hafirs in the region is not used for any kind of production, except for watering livestock. Attendees said that since the hafirs are constructed on treasury lands, then farmers cannot use the surrounding lands for agricultural production such as forages production or even planting treas. They added, if hafirs were to be constructed on public lands, then the members of the proposed WUA

- should be given the rights (by the government) to utilize the lands in the vicinity of the hafir for farming, otherwise the harvested water will not be utilized;
- The technology of constructing the water harvesting facilities is very important. They gave examples of unsuccessful large-scale hafir that do not hold any water because of the wrong design and another example of successful small-scale hafir of 5000 m² that holds great amount of water for longer periods of time.
- They requested to allow them to utilize the artesian wells in the eastern side of the district that were dug and then closed by the government for farming.
- All proposed grants should be awarded after consultations with the local community. The
 group insisted on having a transparent process. They claimed that the majority of the
 grants previously awarded by other sources of funding" were not useful and didn't serve
 the community needs.
- The majority of the focus group participants said that they are somewhat reluctant to work with the HFDJB on this project because of their unsatisfied past experience in working with the Fund on other projects.
- Previous experience in rangelands especially to the east of Husseinieh and Hashemieh failed. One of the members of the focus group mentioned that he was invited by NCARE to "Salem village" to see a success model of establishing a rangeland reservation on similar conditions of Al Husseinieh. He praised NCARE efforts in that village and added: we need something similar on our lands.
- The group rejected the idea of rehabilitating the "Al Fajaij reservation". They said it is managed as a government department and they're afraid they'll not be able to utilize it in the future. They recommended rehabilitating efficiently the reserve to the east of Al Husseinieh and Al Hashmieh in full consultation with local community.
- The group was in agreement that the priority should be given to rehabilitate the cisterns at "Alfajaj" in the western region instead of constructing new cisterns. The old cisterns are frequently used by farmers during summer to water their livestock.
- Previous studies are available and should be utilized in selecting the locations of the hafir, the cisterns and the rangelands. The group believes that a hafir of 50,000 CM should support 20-30 households. The benefits can only be reaped if the government allows the local community to use the public lands surrounding the hafir for cultivation.
- The group asked to be represented in the BELP's PMU. The selected member would participate in the decision making process and act as a liaison person between the PMU and the community in Al Husseinieh. They believe such an action would strengthen the sense of ownership and the sustainability of the project in the long-run.
- The group concluded that the most appropriate grievances system for this project is of three levels. **Level 1:** start resolving the conflict within the project management (field office). If not resolved, then move to **Level 2:** the PMU at NCARE. If not resolved, then

move to **Level 3:** the governor (or district manager) where he would deal with parties and try to resolve the issue through arbitration, if it is not resolved, the he will write an official memo to upper level and it may go to courts after that.

7.2 Women Focus groups in Al Husseinieh

The women's focus group was held on Tuesday Feb 14, 2012 at Al-Husseinieh Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD) center. The meeting was organized by the NCARE extension director in Ma'an. The group consisted of 20 women (including 10 youth), the director of NCARE extension in Ma'an governorate, the NCARE extension agent in Al-Husseinieh office and the manager of the Youth Center.

As in the case of the men's focus group, the SE consultant gave a brief presentation about the different activities of the project, the participating partners (NCARE, HFDJB & RSCN) and the expected role of women in the project's activities. Each participant was given the chance to comment and to participate on the four different questions stated above. The following is a synthesis of the responses on the questions, comments and recommendations of the focus group participants:

- Most of the participating women in the focus group were either members of women associations or members of committees at the JOHUD.
- Participating women highly appreciated this initiative for consulting them about their role in the project at this early stage;
- There was a full agreement among the group on that the proposed BELP activities will
 not have any negative impacts on the individuals or the household in their communities.
 They believe that the BELP components will positively affect the whole community, if
 the activities are planned well in full participation with all stakeholders including the
 women community.
- The majority of the women participated in previous activities organized by JOHUD and NCARE extension department in Ma'an. NCARE awarded them certificates of participation in home-gardens farming, medicinal plants production, food processing, climate changes impacts on their surrounding environment, and trees' pruning. The JOHUD worked with many of the women in Al Husseinieh on developing their home gardens with the support of NCARE (10-15 women trained by an extensionist from NCARE). NCARE provided some inputs such as seedlings, seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and guidance on how to manage their gardens. Few of the well-trained women became trainers of trainers in the local community.
- There is a dairy processing unit at the JOHOD but it is not functioning since it needs rehabilitating the old utensils.
- A training program was delivered by University of Jordan (UOJ) last year. UOJ team used to come every Saturday to provide training, some inputs and supervise the women work at their home gardens. Home gardens production was used for home consumption

such as tomatoes, eggplants, olive (fruits & oil), Safflower, Roca, Fenugreek, Nigella sativa, sage, mint, and thyme. The production helped in reducing family expenditure on food and in securing healthy and fresh produce most of the year. They even gave some to their neighbors and other family members. Some of the women said they sold some of their produce such as Roca and mint at the market. One of the ladies said that when vegetable prices soared last year, her family didn't feel the burden since much of these products were available at their backyard.

- Women of the local community asked to get involved in the decisions related to the grants that will be awarded to CBOs. They suggested the following ideas/options to efficiently utilize the proposed grants:
 - More training is still needed on farming at home gardens, dairy processing, food processing (jams and vinegar from low grades apples produced in Shoubbak), tomatoes drying and processing, and medicinal herbs drying.
 - Their past experience in working with local CBOs proved to be ineffective. They asked to work directly with NCARE in a simple and direct ways. They believe that NGOs & CBOs waste their funds in unnecessary administrative procedures. Another alternative they suggested is to work with women committees at the JOHUD center directly.
 - ➤ Use grants money as a revolving fund for distributing 2-3 milking owes and 10 laying hens to families. This will help in food security, improve children's health, reduce family's expenditure on food items and utilize food wastes generated at home and gardens. This option is highly justified since food prices are so high now, for instance, an egg costs 0.25 JOD which is too expensive.
 - A machine for oil extracting of medicinal plants cultivated at the home gardens and a small packaging machine for dried medicinal plants like "tea bags".
 - ➤ Distributing simple home drip irrigation networks for efficient use of water at homes. Each network costs about 10-15 JD.
 - > Training on sewing and needlework.
 - > Support marketing through participating in food fairs and festivals around Jordan.

7.3 Men focus groups in Al Jafr

The second men's focus group in southern Badia was held on Monday Feb 13, 2012 at Al-Jafr agricultural services center. The group consisted of 15 men (including 5 youth), 2 representatives from the governor's office, the director of NCARE extension in Ma'an governorate and the NCARE extension agent in Al-Jafr office.

As in the case of the other focus groups, the SE consultant gave a brief presentation on the different activities of the project, the participating partners (NCARE, HFDJB & RSCN) and the formation of the PMU at NCARE. Each participant was given the chance to comment and to

participate on the four different questions stated above. The following is a synthesis of the responses on the questions, comments and recommendations of the focus group participants:

- Focus group's participants highly appreciated this initiative for consulting them about their role in the project at this early stage;
- The participants were in "full agreement" on that the proposed BELP activities will not have any negative impacts on the individuals or the household in their communities. They believe that the BELP components will positively affect the whole community, if the activities are planned well in full participation with all stakeholders.
- Proper selection of the locations of the proposed activities is so crucial issue in the success of the project. There are several hafir that were constructed by MOWI and MOA but didn't harvest any water since construction. They added, this is a waste of resources. The location should be accessible to herders and other users. The local community needs a consultation session with the technical team from NCARE to convince them with the feasibility of the new design of the hafir, since they've seen many of these hafirs are empty of water in their region. They provided examples of successful and failed water harvesting activities implemented in their region. They concluded that the main reason for the failure of previously implemented hafir was the mistaken selection of the site.
- The group asked for forming a consultative committee from the participants to represent the local community (who are members in the different CBOs) to work with the BELP partners on issues related to selection of the hafir site in their community, selection of the sites of the proposed cisterns, rangeland reservation and grants to be awarded by HFDJB.
- The harvested water by the hafir should be utilized for agricultural production not only for watering livestock. They proposed forming a Water Users Association (WUA) / or livestock association for managing water distribution, maintenance, and even forage production on the public lands surrounding the hafir to fairly distribute the harvested water among the members of WUA.
- Much of the harvested water by the different existing hafirs is not used for any kind of
 production, except for watering livestock. Attendees said that since the hafirs are
 constructed on the treasury lands, then they cannot use the surrounding lands for
 agricultural production such as forages production or even planting treas. They added, if
 hafirs were to be constructed on public lands, then the members of the formed WUA
 should be given the rights to utilize the lands in the vicinity of the hafir for farming,
 otherwise the harvested water will not be fully utilized;
- All proposed grants should be awarded after consultations with the local community. They insisted on having a transparent process. They claimed that the majority of the grants previously awarded by Nour Al-Hussein fund were not useful and didn't serve the community needs. The purposes of the grants should be clear and they should have the capacity in implementing the proposed activities.

- The proposed 12 cisterns to be dug should target poor households in the district, although it might not be feasible since the level of rainfall is very low in Al Jafr.
- Qaa' Al Jafr receives lots of water from different places (Saudi Arabia, Al-Sharah mountains...etc.). These waters should be harvested efficiently since it is the lowest point in the region and the gathering point for all storm water coming from the different places.
- There is a negative experience with rangelands rehabilitation (Atriplix didn't work) and the project failed. The community does not want to repeat the same failure. The Marrab would be good for water harvesting and forage production.
- They talked about a previous incidence on one of the investor who cultivated 50 dunum in tomatoes in Qaa' Al Jafr as a trial which didn't work. They're urging NCARE to be careful in planting Al Qaa' with forage crops.
- Instead of the cisterns, they recommended to invest in renewable energy such as windmills and solar panels. They added, Al- Jafr is rich in wind and abundance of sunshine almost all year-round.
- The group requested to have a representation in the project's PMU as in the case of similar projects in the Northern Badia. One representative should be from Al Jafr and another from Al Husseinieh.
- As in the case of Al Husseinieh, the group concluded that the most appropriate grievances system for this project is of three levels. **Level 1:** start resolving the conflict within the project management (field office). If not resolved, then move to **Level 2:** the PMU at NCARE. If not resolved, then move to **Level 3:** the governor (or district manager) where he would deal with parties and try to resolve the issue through arbitration, if it is not resolved, the he will write an official memo to upper level and it may go to courts after that.

7.4 Women focus groups in Al Jafr

The women's focus group in Al Jafr district was held on Monday Feb 13, 2012 at Al Jafr Female Youth Center. The meeting was organized by the NCARE extension director in Ma'an. The group consisted of 15 women (including 8 youth), the director of NCARE extension in Ma'an governorate and the NCARE extension agent in Al-Jafr office.

The same procedure was followed as in the other focus groups. The SE consultant gave a brief presentation about the different activities of the project, the participating partners (NCARE, HFDJB & RSCN) and the expected role of women in the project's activities. Each participant was given the chance to comment and to participate on the four different questions stated above. The following is a synthesis of the responses on the questions, comments and recommendations of the focus group participants:

• The group was in "full agreement" that the project will have positive impacts on all the community, including women either directly or indirectly.

- Women's concerns regarding working with CBOs and NGOs are the same of the men.
 They believe NOGs and CBOs don't provide significant support to the community
 despite the continuous promises they receive whenever a new project is proposed or
 implemented.
- They insisted to have the HFDJB getting in touch with them to negotiate and agree on the activities and mechanisms for awarding the grants prior the design and implementation phases. The group suggested the following activities to meet the project's objectives:
 - ➤ Distributing (2-3) heads of high productive sheep on women as a part of revolving fund that would benefit large numbers of women in the long-run;
 - ➤ Providing financial support for establishing dairy processing facilities;
 - ➤ Providing support for producing medicinal and ornament plants on their home gardens such as mint, oregano, sage...etc. The home gardens would also help housewives to produce their own families' needs as part of securing their food
 - Providing training and support for sewing and needlework activities;
 - Providing training and support for home food processing such as tomatoes drying, especially the surpluses;
 - > Providing sweets production training and establish a women's store in Al Jafr;
 - Establishing a traditional dresses store specialized in locally produced traditional garments, men and women scarves, dresses...etc. They said that there are no specialized stores in Ma'an or Al-Jafr producing traditional costumes.
- The project should team-up with NCARE to establish capacity building and training sessions to support the up mentioned activities.
- The group talked about previous failures in CBOs work in Al Jafr. They gave examples of Al-Ruwad association and the ostrich production associations. They insisted to adapt the learnt lessons from the previous failures to assure success of the new activities. One of these lessons is to have a clear action plan for implementing the activities in full cooperation with the community. They suggested channeling some of the activities through the "Al Jafr Female Youth center".

7.5 Men focus groups in Ar Ruwaished

The men's focus group was held on Tuesday Feb 28, 2012 at Ar Ruwaished Youth Center. The group consisted of eight men (including 2 youth), the acting director of Northern East Badia Development Directorate and a representative of the RSCN.

The SE consultant gave a brief presentation about the different activities of the project in both the northern and southern Badia, the participating partners (NCARE, HFDJB & RSCN) and the formation of the PMU at NCARE. As in the other focus groups, each participant was given the chance to comment and to participate on the four different questions stated earlier. The

following is a synthesis of the responses on the questions, comments and recommendations of the focus group participants:

- Community members highly appreciated consulting them regarding this project at this early stage;
- There was a clear consensus among the group on that the proposed BELP activities will not have any negative impacts on the individuals or the household in their communities. They believe that the BELP components will positively affect the whole community.
- It was made clear to the group that this project has nothing to do with the United Nations Compensation Committee (UNCC) project.
- The RSCN representative briefed the group about the RSCN experience in other location in Jordan such as Dana, Feynan, Azraq and Al Shaumari. He gave examples on the type s of benefits that the community would reap from implementing the project.
- The group concluded that the number of direct beneficiaries of this project will not exceed 10-15 individuals since the touristic attractions in their region are few. The alternatives of the project to benefit more people were to consider investing in forage production and livestock activities. This can be achieved through operating the artesian wells that were dug by the MOWI in Ar Ruwaished.
- Poverty is a serious issue in the district. The livestock herders cannot feed their herds because of the destruction of the rangelands after the Gulf War. The poor community in Ar Ruwaished did not receive any payments from the UNCC compensation, except for some barley. Much of the support goes to rich livestock herders.

8 COMPLIANCE WITH WORLD BANK OPERATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT

The World Bank has established many safeguard policies that should be applied for any new development project funded or assisted by the Bank. This requirement stems from the Bank's accumulated experience that shows involuntary resettlement under development projects, if unmitigated, often gives rise to severe economic, social, and environmental risks. The consequences of involuntary resettlement may cause both short and long term severs hardships to individuals, households, communities and environment.

The involuntary resettlement Policy (PO 4.12)¹¹ covers direct economic and social impacts that both result from Bank's assisted investment projects and are caused by the following:

- The involuntary taking of land which may result in:
 - o Relocation or loss of shelter;
 - o Loss of assets or access to assets; or

World Bank operational manual, OP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement, December 2001

49 | Page Jordan BELP: THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT (SEA)

- o Loss of income sources or means of livelihood, whether or not the affected persons must move to another location;
- Or the involuntary restriction of access to legally designated parks and protected areas resulting in adverse impacts on the livelihoods of the displaced persons.

This policy applies to all components of the project that result in involuntary resettlement, regardless of the source of financing. It also applies to other activities resulting in involuntary resettlement, which in the judgment of the Bank, are:

- Directly and significantly related to the Bank-assisted project,
- Necessary to achieve its objectives as set forth in the project documents; and carried out, or planned to be carried out, contemporaneously with the project.
- Requests for guidance on the application and scope of this policy should be addressed to the Resettlement Committee (see BP 4.12, para. 7)

As indicated in the findings and conclusions of the focus groups and consultation with other stakeholders, the local communities are in agreement that none of the proposed activities by the three components result in negative impacts on the communities including the issue of resettlement. The suggested locations of the hafirs, the cisterns, the rangelands reserves and the eco-tourism corridor are all on public lands and away from any type of tribal disputes.

HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN BADIA ECOSYSTEM AND LIVELIHOODS PROJECT (BELP) مشروع النظم الايكولوجية وسبل كسب العيش في البادية الأردنية

PROCESS FRAMEWORK عملية إعداد إطار (هيكل) المشروع

Prepared
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9 PROCESS FRAMEWORK

9.1 Introduction

The World Bank has established many safeguard policies that should be adopted for any development projects funded or assisted by the Bank. The safeguard policy on involuntary resettlement (OP/BP 4.12) is initiated before the project implementation as part of this SE study because of the possibility of restricting access to natural resources due to the proposed creation of protected rangelands reserves and water harvesting facilities as part of the BELP. Accordingly, the Bank requested the NCARE to prepare a SE study that should provide input to the Process Framework (PF). This requirement stems from the Bank's accumulated experience that shows involuntary resettlement under development projects, if unmitigated, often gives rise to severe economic, social, and environmental risks. The consequences of involuntary resettlement may cause both short and long term severs hardships to individuals, households, communities and environment

The Process Framework calls for the participation of the potentially affected individuals/households in the project activities and to verify measures necessary to achieve any resettlement policy objectives. The input of the SE report in the PF process involved identifying the affected individuals and institutions, developing a participatory planning approach to identify the potential positive and negative impacts of the project and to propose remediation measures in case of negative impacts.

9.2 Description of project and components that might involve some restriction on natural resource use

The proposed Project Development Objective (PDO) is to sustain livelihoods of the targeted communities in the three poverty pockets of Al Husseinieh and Al Jafr in southern Badia and Ar Ruwaished in northern Badia. The project development objective is expected to be achieved through the following outcomes:

- Enhancing ecosystem services in three poverty pockets of the Jordan Badia through:
 - Introducing new sustainable eco-tourism related jobs along the Al Azraq/Shaumari-Burqu' corridor;
 - Piloting rangelands management by communities in a sustainable manner in Al
 Jafir and Al Husseinieh through improved hafirs and range reserves; and
 - More men and women benefitting from project capacity building in Ar Ruwaished, Al Jafir and Al Husseinieh poverty pockets

The Project's three components for sustaining livelihoods of the targeted communities in the three poverty pockets are:

Component 1: expanding eco-tourism into the northeast Badia by using the RSCN-managed Al Azraq and Shaumari reserves and attached facilities as a starting point, from which a 250 km eco-tourism corridor will be developed.

Component 2: supporting the development of a more sustainable natural resource base for local communities through the establishment of improved water harvesting systems, establishment/rehabilitation and management of two rangeland reserves managed by the communities, and capacity building for livelihood support and maintenance.

Component 3: establishing an effective Project Management Unit (PMU), capable of directing and supporting project implementation will be established in the National Center for Agriculture Research and Extension (NCARE - the project Implementing Agency).

As mentioned previously, Components 1 and 2 are not expected to have any adverse impacts on the targeted communities. However, the proposed activities to improve rangelands reserves management and establishing water harvesting facilities may involve putting limited and short-term restrictions on access to the proposed Badia community-managed rehabilitation areas and in the vicinity of the water harvesting facilities. These restrictions, if it will take place, it will be in full agreement with the local communities for supporting their livelihoods through improving the range and fodder production services.

Consultations with local communities and concerned stakeholders in the three targeted project's sites were held through forming several focus groups, face to face interviews and field visits. As indicated in the previous sections, 5 focus groups were formed which consisted of men, women, youth and officials in the three sites of the project. The participants of the different focus groups were selected, based on the advice of the NCARE, RSCN and HFDJB staff and key community leaders. The decision to use focus groups was based on the fact that the local community should be able to determine if the BELP activities would cause any negative impacts on individuals or households of the local communities. Participating members of the different focus groups had a clear purpose for the group discussion, based on the following few key topics (questions):

- Who would be positively and negatively affected by the different project's activities?
- Approximate numbers of affected individuals/households;
- What are the potential mechanisms for collaboration with the implementing agencies?; and
- What structures and mechanisms should be put in place to ensure that a sound Grievance Redress Mechanism is established through which community members can lodge concerns and issues during project design and implementation?

The main findings of the consultations with the local communities in the three targets project's site include:

There was a clear consensus among the members of the five focus groups on that the
proposed BELP activities will not have any negative impacts on the individuals or the
household in their communities. They believe the BELP components will positively

affect the whole community. The members of the groups recommended to form a consultative committee from the participants representing the local community (who are also members in the different CBOs) to work with the BELP partners on issues related to selection of the hafir site in their community, selection of the sites for the proposed cisterns, rangeland reserve and the grants to be awarded through the HFDJB;

- The main reason for the failures of previously implemented hafirs in their regions was the erroneous selection of the site.
- The group recommended using the harvested water in the hafir for agricultural production in addition to watering livestock. They proposed to form a Water Users Association (WUA) on the public lands surrounding the proposed hafir to fairly distribute the harvested water among the members of WUA similar to what is currently going on at the CBO managing the Bayir project in eastern region.
- Much of the currently harvested water by the different hafirs in the region is not used for any kind of production, except for watering livestock.
- The members recommended that if hafirs were to be constructed on public lands, then the members of the proposed WUA should be given the rights (by the government) to utilize the lands in the vicinity of the hafir for farming, otherwise the harvested water will not be utilized;
- The technology of constructing the water harvesting facilities is very important to keep collected waters for longer periods of time. They added that NCARE should learn from previous unsuccessful large-scale hafirs in their regions.
- They requested to allow them to utilize the artesian wells in the eastern side of the district that were dug and then closed by the government for farming.
- All proposed grants should be awarded after consultations with the local community. The group insisted on having a transparent process. They claimed that the majority of the grants previously awarded by other sources of funding" were not useful and didn't serve the community needs.
- The majority of the focus group participants said that they are somewhat reluctant to
 work with the HFDJB on this project because of their unsatisfied past experience in
 working with the Fund on other projects.
- The group asked to be represented in the BELP's PMU or in the steering committee. The selected member would participate in the decision making process and act as a liaison person between the PMU/steering committee and the participating communities. They believe such an action would strengthen the sense of ownership and the sustainability of the project in the long-run.
- The different groups concluded that the most appropriate grievances system for this project is of three levels. Level 1: start resolving the conflict within the project management (field office). If not resolved, then move to Level 2: the PMU at NCARE. If not resolved, then move to Level 3: the governor (or district manager) where he would

deal with parties and try to resolve the issue through arbitration, if it is not resolved, the he will write an official memo to upper level and it may go to courts after that.

- Women of the local community asked to get involved in the decisions related to the grants that will be awarded to CBOs. They suggested the following ideas/options to efficiently utilize the proposed grants:
 - More training is still needed on farming at home gardens, dairy processing, food processing (jams and vinegar from low grades apples produced in Shoubbak), tomatoes drying and processing, and medicinal herbs drying.
 - Their past experience in working with local CBOs proved to be ineffective. They asked to work directly with NCARE in a simple and direct ways. They believe that NGOs & CBOs waste their funds in unnecessary administrative procedures. Another alternative they suggested is to work with women committees at the JOHUD center directly.
 - ➤ Use grants money as a revolving fund for distributing 2-3 milking owes and 10 laying hens to families. This will help in food security, improve children's health, reduce family's expenditure on food items and utilize food wastes generated at home and gardens. This option is highly justified since food prices are so high now, for instance, an egg costs 0.25 JOD which is too expensive.
 - A machine for oil extracting of medicinal plants cultivated at the home gardens and a small packaging machine for dried medicinal plants like "tea bags".
 - ➤ Distributing simple home drip irrigation networks for efficient use of water at homes. Each network costs about 10-15 JD.
 - > Training on sewing and needlework training.
 - > Support marketing through participating in food fairs and festivals around Jordan.

9.3 Potentially affected persons/households by the project and identification of possible adverse impacts

The current principal livelihood sources in the three targeted communities could be summarized as follows:

- 1) Animal production (dairy, wool & meat);
- 2) Limited plant and horticultural production;
- 3) Forage production;
- 4) Government and army employment;
- 5) Grocery shops & restaurants, especially on the desert highway;

- 6) Bottled water plant;
- 7) Olive oil mill;
- 8) Poultry slaughterhouse;
- 9) Social development payments for poor families.

A three steps approach was followed to identify the individuals/households that may potentially adversely affected by the project:

- 1) In full collaboration with the project's partners, a list of all involved stakeholders during the BELP consultative process was used as the basis for identifying affected stakeholders;
- 2) Consultations with local communities, government officials, CBOs and others in the three targeted communities were used to identify additional persons who might be involved in the affected areas. Interviewees during the fieldwork were asked to name other parties or individuals active in the area who were still not involved in the consultative process;
- 3) Reviewing all available published reports related to BELP especially those published by MOPIC, NCARE, RSCN and HFDJB during the last two years.

The potential affected parties/households/individuals were categorized into 'Main Activities' based on the nature of their businesses or/and livelihood operations they manage, as indicated in Table 10. It should be noted that almost all of the parties/households/individuals included in Table 10 are likely to be positively affected by project activities by way of new or increased income generating activities.

Table 10: Individuals and parties that run businesses or livelihood activities in the project's sites classified by the main proposed activities

Main activities	Parties involved
Water harvesting (Hafirs in Al Husseinieh and in Al Jafr)	General Al Husseinieh and Al Jafr communities;
	Specifically, herders, livestock owners, and forage producers
	Dairy processing plants
	Tankers (transporting water from proposed Hafirs to Bedouins)
	Owners of trucks and heavy machines (during the construction of the Hafirs)
	Local laborers (involved in the construction of water harvesting

Main activities	Parties involved
	facilities)
Special events and functions related to ECO tourism (Eco-lodge, camps, antiques shopsetc.)	Local restaurants or local CBOs for food catering to the eco-lodge and the camps Local antiques stores
	Local antiques stores
Promoting the Eco-tourism activities such as (Filming, media and other marketing activities)	 Jordanian Film making companies Jordanian/ international TV stations invited to promote the proposed corridor
Desert ecology, history and archaeology tours	Jordan Tourism Board
tours	Ministry of Tourism
	Universities
	USAID Siyah (tourism) project
	French embassy
Camel riding tours	Owners of camels in Al Azraq and Ar Ruwaished region
Training and capacity building	Civil Society in three proposed locations:
	Ar Ruwaished women society
	Ar Ruwaished cooperative union (a federation of 5 charity cooperatives)
	Ar Ruwaished Local Development center (a major implementer of MOPIC projects in Ar Ruwaished)
	• 9 cooperatives of total 567 members and 7 charity organizations of 53 members in Al-Husseinieh
	• 5 cooperatives of total 157 members in Al-Jafr
	The Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD) in Al-

Main activities	Parties involved
	Husseinieh
	• Al Jafr Female Youth Center (Ministry of Youth)

In addition to the above, there are other organizations and groups involved and/or affected by the proposed activities in the three regions as indicated in Table 11. These institutions will not have their livelihoods put at risk by the proposed BELP, but will be involved to varying degrees in its formulation and implementation, and their activities are therefore impacted.

Table 11: Other stakeholder institutions involved in the main proposed activities of BELP

Involved Institutional Group	Individual institutions	Expected Role
Local Authorities (Municipalities and districts)	 Husseinieh Municipality Hashemieh Municipality Al Jafr Municipality Ar Ruwaished Municipality 	Help in providing licenses of construction, share responsibility with RSCN for open-space cleaning and public facilities maintenance, and have lawenforcement personnel
Regional Authorities	Ma'an GovernorateMafraq Governorate	Involved in planning for regions
	Ministry of Agriculture	Implementing ministry – through NCARE
Government Ministries	Ministry of Water and Irrigation	Involved in water-harvesting activities (site selection) & Involved in water infrastructure developments
	Ministry of Environment	Involved in environmental issues such as EIA
	Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities	Touristic activities - might get involved in rehabilitating Burqa' castle and help in promoting the eco-tourism corridor

Involved Institutional Group	Individual institutions	Expected Role
	Ministry of Interior	Security aspects since parts of the sites are located close to the borders of Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Syria
	Department of Lands and Survey	Involved in land-use planning and the selection of the project sites
	Ministry of Municipalities	Involved in planning for regions and municipal service provision
	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources	Involved in mining-related developments and renewal energy activities

The process used for assessing the individuals/households at risk was undertaken using a participatory process. During the months of February and March 2012, the SE consultant organized several focus groups sessions in the three project's areas in full collaboration and coordination with BELP partners (NCARE, RSCN and HFDJB). In addition, he interviewed many of the identified stakeholders using face-to-face approach.

As indicated above, the focus groups meetings with the stakeholder focused on particular issues. The questions addressed to all focus groups members and individuals were centered on three issues of which:

- Who would be positively and negatively affected by the different project's activities?
- Approximate numbers of affected individuals/households;
- What are the potential mechanisms for collaboration with the implementing agencies?; and
- What are the potential measures for Grievances?

Responses from the potentially impacted groups and individuals were reported during the interviews. The issues raised are grouped together for each theme group as a whole in Table 12. The interviewee's names and details of the contact are provided in Appendix A of the original Process Framework.

Table 12: Livelihood, commercial activities and the concerns rose during interviews by the three targeted communities

Main Activity	Issues raised, comments and suggestions made
Water harvesting (Hafirs in Al Husseinieh and in Al Jafr)	 Failures of previously implemented hafir due to the erroneous selection of the site. A suggestion was made to consult the local communities in selecting the locations of the water harvesting activities and to learn the lessons from previous water harvesting projects in the region and across Jordan. The optimal use of collected waters in the proposed Hafirs. The different groups recommended using the harvested water in the hafirs for agricultural production in addition to watering livestock. They proposed to form a Water Users Association (WUA) on the public lands surrounding the proposed hafir to fairly distribute the harvested water among the members of WUA similar to what is currently going on at other CBOs functioning in the eastern regions and the Jordan Valley; Land ownership around the intended Hafirs. The communities members stated that if hafirs were to be constructed on public lands, then the members of the proposed WUA should be given the rights (by the government) to utilize the lands in the vicinity of the hafir for farming, otherwise the harvested water will not be utilized;
	 Constructing cisterns in the south Badia. The group was in agreement that the priority should be given to rehabilitate the cisterns at "Al-Fajaj" in the western region instead of constructing new cisterns. The old cisterns are frequently used by farmers during summer to water their livestock. Establishing the hafir for water harvesting will result also in restricting the access of herders into the catchment areas and nearby the body of the hafir.
Special events and functions related to ECO tourism corridor (Ecolodge, camps, antiques shopsetc.)	 Reaching out the potential beneficiaries of the eco-tourism corridor. RSCN will undertake an ecotourism development plan and a socio-economic analysis as immediate activities during YR1. The route will be determined by the ETDP, which will, among other aspects, also look at the optimum route with a maximum number of beneficiaries (also considering natural assets along the route, etc.) Fair distribution of the eco-tourism benefits. People most benefiting from the route will be receiving the direct benefits of the project which will be specified once the route is determined. RSCN needs to explore the local communities' decision making mechanisms in distributing the expected revenues to be sure that there are clear and

Main Activity	Issues raised, comments and suggestions made		
	transparent mechanisms. For instance, in Dana reserve, the local communities share 50-70% of the entrance fees which go to local operators.		
Camel riding tours	Statistics of the MOA show that there are more than 120 camels in Ar Ruwaished region. Since camel riding tours could be part of the entertainment activities offered to tourists, RSCN should consider providing special training sessions to potential camel operators. Lessons should be learned from the experiences of other regions in Jordan such as Petra and Wadi Rum.		
Training and capacity building	 The reluctance of national labor in the targeted communities to hold certain jobs is due to several reasons, the most important of which is the culture of shame, lack of training and qualifications, and the fact that these job are limited to persons who came from other parts of the Kingdom. Consultations with local communities revealed that training is needed in the following fields: Farming at home gardens, dairy processing, food processing (jams and vinegar from low grades apples produced in Shoubbak), tomatoes drying and processing, and medicinal herbs drying. Sewing and needlework 		
	c. Home food processing such as tomatoes drying, especially the surpluses;		
	d. Commercial sweets production and marketing		
	e. Drip irrigation and trees pruning		
	f. Organic farming		
	g. Eco-tourism guiding practices;		
	h. Hotel management		
	i. Rangelands reserves management;		
Involvement of Local Authorities and local NGOs	 Once the BELP is in action, a clear definition of responsibilities will be required in the three targeted areas. For instance, cleaning of litter along the eco-tourism corridor, security issues at the areas close to borders, providing basic services such as electricity and water, work permits, traffic issuesetc. As in the case of Azraq eco-lodge, local CBOs should be 		

Main Activity	Issues raised, comments and suggestions made
	involved in providing services such as food catering and other supportive services.

Even though, Table 12 focuses on some of the difficulties, it is should be stated here that most the interviewed stakeholders, operators and public bodies were entirely supportive of proposed activities by BELP. Community members highly appreciated consulting them regarding this project at this early stage. There was a clear consensus among the group on that the proposed BELP activities will not have any significant negative impacts on the individuals or the household in their communities. They believe the BELP components will positively affect the whole community. The group recommended to form a consultative committee from the participants representing the local community (who are also members in the different CBOs) to work with the BELP partners on issues related to selection of the hafir site in their community, selection of the sites for the proposed cisterns, rangeland reserve and the grants to be awarded through the HFDJB.

9.4 Possible measures that might be used to assist affected persons

In reference to the conditions of the World Bank Safeguard policy (OP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement), the proposed BELP's activities are NOT expected to cause:

- Involuntary taking of land
- Relocation or loss of shelter;
- Loss of assets or access to assets;
- Loss of income sources or means of livelihood

However, the proposed actions and activities should nonetheless be discussed with affected individuals/households through public participation and consultation. The participatory process should also cover other issues related to planning, decisions making, implementation of policies on the protection and restoration of Badia rangeland and identifying means of strengthening their engagement under the BELP project. Currently, the level of participation of the local communities in actions affecting them and their livelihoods has been very limited; they have generally not been consulted. To increase their participation and engagement:

- They should be engaged in the selection of the exact locations of the activities;
- Designing and implementing the proposed grant activities;
- Representation in the project's steering committee or PMU; and

• Working with male and female youth center to reach and empower more members of the targeted communities

9.5 Grievance Redress Mechanism for the BELP

Worldwide attention is rising on how projects, institutions and companies respond to community conflicts and grievances. The SE consultant worked with the potentially involved parties in this project to develop a guidance that deals with the handling and resolution of issues of concern that may arise with the local communities and other operators during the design and the implementation of the activities in the three targeted communities by the BELP. The consulted stakeholders included: 1)Governors' representatives in the targeted communities; 2) Public officials working with NCARE and MOA; 3) Participating members of the focus groups representing CBOs and local communities; 4) Community leaders; and 4) Members of the BELP implementing partners.

As per the World Bank requirements, if any individual/household from the targeted communities be affected by the declaration of Badia Ecosystem and Livelihood Project (BELP), there should be a clear system and process put in place, by which affected individuals/communities can lodge grievances and the response process to these grievances. The process could play a significant role from a socio-economic viewpoint.

The Jordanian legal system provides satisfactory ways in this regard, coherent with internationally recognized legal frameworks. Jordan legal system provides many laws, policies, protocols, regulations, conventions and legal agreements founding part of the applicable legal framework. Some of the highly related legal frameworks include:

- Ministry of Agriculture Law No. 44 of the year 2002;
- Municipalities' Law No. 29 for the year 1955 and its amendments;
- Underground Water by Law No. 85 of the year 2002;
- Lands and Buildings Taxes Law Inside Municipalities areas No. 11 of the year 1954 and its amendments;
- Appropriation Law No. 12 of the year 1987 and its amendments;
- Rural Services and Constructions Law No. 27 of the year 1970;
- Joint Services Councils Regulation No. 17 of the year 1983;
- Municipal Requisites and Works Regulation No. 55 of the year 1989;
- Buildings and Planning for Cities and Villages Regulation No. 19 of the year 1985 and its amendments.
- Groundwater Control Regulation No. 85 of the year 2002, Issued pursuant to articles 6 and 32 of Water Authority law No.18 of year 1988.
- Instructions for Disposal of Industrial and Commercial Wastewater into the Sewage Network, Issued in accordance with the Water Authority Law No.23 of the Sewage System Law No.66 of year 1994.
- Convention on the Protection of African- EuroAsian Migratory water flows.

- Regulations and Conditions for using Treated Waste Water No. Z4/2004
- Cities, villages and buildings organizing law number 79 for the year 1966 and its amendments;
- Division Law within Municipalities Areas No. 11 of the year 1968 and its amendments;
- Profession License Law No.28 of the year 1999 and its amendments;
- Convention on the Protection of World Cultural Heritage and Natural Heritage
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Cartagena Protocol
- Convention to Combat Desertification
- Convention on Protection of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

To minimize any future conflicts, a comprehensive process of stakeholder consultation should be conducted to lead up the declaration of the BELP. Launching such a process at the kick-off of the project should help in establishing an accepted legally atmosphere at the targeted regions. Such a procedure will minimize the threatening of the livelihoods of individuals and households inhibiting in or around the project's sites.

The consulted parties agreed on that if anyone feels aggrieved by the declaration, regulations and implementation of the Badia Ecosystem and Livelihood Project (BELP) the following "3-Level" procedures should be followed to deal with such conflicts:

Level 1: The first workplace to be contacted should be the BELP's field office or representative. NCARE, as the leading partner has regional offices in most of the governorates in Jordan. If there is no representation of BELP, then the applicant should contact the PMU or the steering committee located at NCARE headquarters. The grievance note should be put in writing and should include the following facts:

- 1. The time and date of a specific occurrence of the problem;
- 2. A description of the event and how the individual/the household/the group is/are negatively affected by the incidence;
- 3. Names of the BELP officials or community members who can give details on the incident or support to the grievance note;
- 4. Proposed remedial or compensatory measures that might assist in resolving the conflict/problem.

Level 2: If the field office was not able to resolve the problem, then the grievance note should be transferred to BELP's steering committee at NCARE. The steering committee promises to consider the issue and take the necessary action to resolve the conflict. If the issue is resolved, then it will be communicated to the affected individual/group through the BELP field office or representative

Level 3: Should the conflict is not resolved through the steering committee or the affected petitioners on justifiable and reasonable arguments in law be unsatisfied with feedback received from the steering committee, then the petitioners should be directed to the governor or to the district manager at the project's location. If the governor or his representative is not able to

resolve the conflict/problem, then he'll write an official letter to transfer the case to the specialized court or the office of arbitration.

9.6 Monitoring Arrangements

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is an important management tool to track and evaluate the achievements of any project. The M&E plan is an integral part of the PF that should provide the mechanism to track the progress made in implementing the different components of the BELP in the three targeted poverty pockets. The M&E process should start prior to the implementation of the planned activities. Having said that, a baseline data on the socio-economic conditions at the local community level should be established. The baseline should particularly focus on the potential livelihood impacts of the proposed activities and on any imposition of restrictions on the use of resources in and around protected areas, especially if any of the project's activities results in involuntary resettlement. A Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) should be prepared and approved by the different concerned governmental institutions and the World Bank, before the project or the activity can be implemented, if the project or the implemented activities requires an involuntary settlement.

Based on the primary consultations with the local communities and the concerned stakeholders, it is apparent that the BELP activities would not result in any sort of involuntary resettlement since the proposed initial project's sites for water harvesting activities and the rangelands reserves are located on an uninhabited areas. However, the only restriction that might be applied is on the routes of the herders during the grazing season. Field observations showed clearly that whenever a rangeland reserve or a water harvesting infrastructure is established, herders are obligated to change their routes to bypass the newly established locations. This puts additional burdens on herders which might be mitigated through establishing corridors within the newly developed reserves to allow easy movements of the sheep and goats herds.

The socioeconomic data needed for establishing the monitoring system of the BELP should be collected through Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs) conducted at the initial stages of implementation. Any other secondary data could be collected from published statistics by the Department of Statistics or obtained directly from the MOA offices in the targeted regions. These collected data will help in establishing the basis for deciding the entitlement of targeted local communities/households/individuals for assistance under the process framework. The collected data should also be used to layout the measures for assisting the influenced individuals/households in their endeavors to improve their livelihoods.

Other rounds of data collection through PRAs and secondary data should be performed at the mid-term review and at the end of the project for the purpose of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation and impacts of the BLEP targeted communities. The PMU should assign the responsibility of preparing the M&E report to a trained professional. The M&E expert should work in close consultation and collaboration with the targeted communities and BELP partners on preparing the M&E report for submission to the steering committee. The report should be prepared at least once a year. The report should comprise of quantitative and qualitative

description of the amount of achievement made by the different activities and the number and types of impacted individuals/households in the targeted communities.

It is crucial to select specific and representative performance indicators for the purposes of monitoring and evaluating process. Based on the project's document and consultations with the different stakeholders, the SE consultant suggests the listed indictors in table 13.

Table 13: Suggested indicators for monitoring BELP's performance

Indicators	Baseline	2013	2014	2015	2016
No. of individuals/ households					
participating in BELP's activities					
No. Livestock (sheep & goats)					
No. of employed individuals from					
local communities in new					
alternative activities funded or operated by BELP					
Cultivated area in forage crops and other horticultural crops					
No. of women participating in BELP activities					
No. of awarded grants to local CBOs					
No. of eco-tourists touring the eco-corridor					
No. of people adversely affected by the project, if any.					
No. of training workshops designed for BELP beneficiaries					
No. of participants in training workshops categorized by men, youth and women					
No. of claims/petitions submitted to BELP steering committee					

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ANNEXES

Annex 1: Names and contact information of interviewed individuals

List of persons met:

RSCN: P.O. Box 1215, Jubeiha 11941, Jordan, Telephone: (+962 6) 5337931/2)

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Mr. Abdel Azziz Thyabbat, Head of Al-Rayaa Cooperative in Al-Husseinieh, +779616263

Annex 2: Lists of names and contact information of participants in different Focus groups

الدراسة الاقتصادية الاجتماعية لمشروع النظم الايكولوجية وسبل كسب العيش في البادية الأردنية قضاء الجفر – محافظة معان المجموعة:

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الدراسة الاقتصادية الاجتماعية لمشروع النظم الايكولوجية وسبل كسب العيش في البادية الأردنية قضاء الجفر – محافظة معان المجموعة:

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الدراسة الاقتصادية الاجتماعية لمشروع النظم الايكولوجية وسبل كسب العيش في البادية الأردنية قضاء الجفر – محافظة معان المجموعة:

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الدراسة الاقتصادية الاجتماعية لمشروع النظم الايكولوجية وسبل كسب العيش في البادية الأردنية لواء الحسينية – محافظة معان المجموعة:

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Note: Phone numbers of participating women in focus groups are shaded.

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الدراسة الاقتصادية الاجتماعية لمشروع النظم الايكولوجية وسبل كسب العيش في البادية الأردنية لواء الحسينية – محافظة معان

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الدراسة الاقتصادية الاجتماعية لمشروع النظم الايكولوجية وسبل كسب العيش في البادية الأردنية لواء الحسينية – محافظة معان المجموعة:

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Annex 3: Lists of names of CBOs in the proposed BELP's sites

أولا: الجمعيات التعاونية:

1			220
2			54
3			36
4			33
5			17
6		-	55
7			24
8			82
9			46

• العدد الإجمالي لأعضاء الجمعيات التعاونية في لواء الحسينية: (567) عضو.

ثانياً: الجمعيات الخيرية:

1		7
2		9
3		9
4		7
5		7
6		7
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• العدد الإجمالي لأعضاء الجمعيات الخيرية في لواء الحسينية: (53) عضو.

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أولا: الجمعيات التعاونية:

1		17
2		31
3		11
4		15
5		25

• العدد الإجمالي لأعضاء الجمعيات التعاونية في قضاء الجفر : (157) عضو .

الدراسة الاقتصادية الاجتماعية لمشروع النظم الايكولوجية وسبل كسب العيش في البادية الأردنية لواء الحسينية – محافظة معان (المجموعه_____)

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