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**Presentation
on
Rural Development
Policies – Strategies - Institutions**

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Lebanon

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT

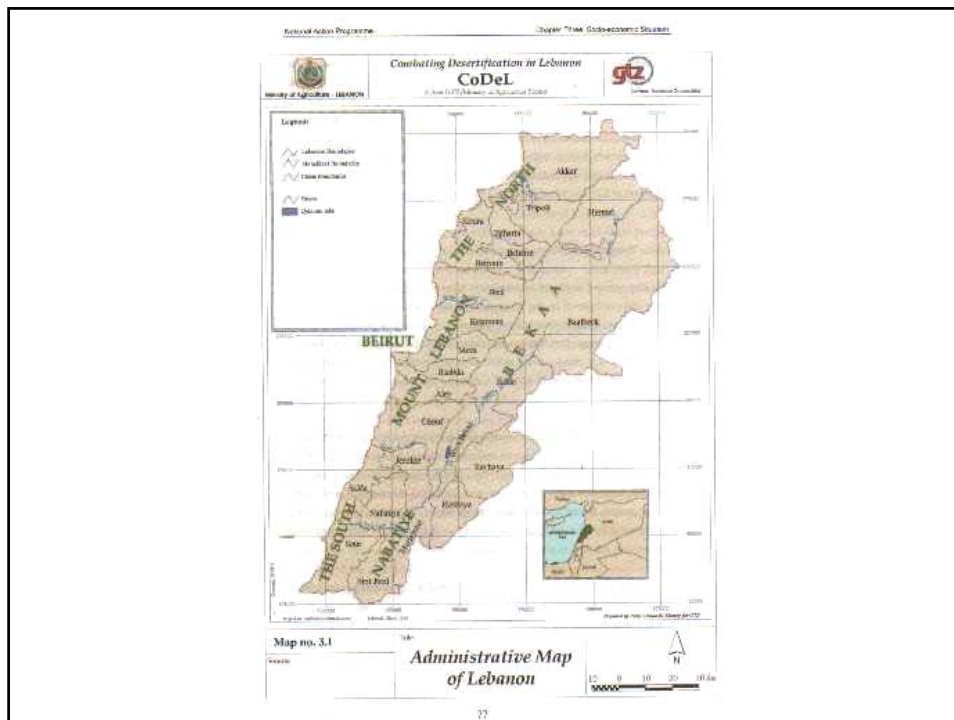
Policies

Strategies

Institutions

Population Distribution and Density

- Population ranging from 3,112,000 (MoSA) to 4,005,000(CAS) inhabitants.
- Population growth is less than 2% for the next twenty years.(UNDP)
- Population density is 400 person/km²(CAS)



RURAL vs URBAN SETTLEMENTS

- 88% of population live in urban areas.
- Population growth rate is negative for rural areas and positive and increasing for urban areas.
- Urbanization level increased:
 - 79.4% in 1985
 - 89.7% in 2000
 - 93.5% in 2015

Rural Areas in Lebanon

Rural space can be divided into two regions:

1. Rural areas that are closer to the cities and more developed in terms of access to basic infrastructure and services,
2. Remote rural areas in the periphery that suffer from an array of social economic problems and constraints acting against their development.

Common features that shape the rural space in Lebanon

- absence of well-developed infrastructure and public services,
- A fragile production base,
- Limited employment and economic opportunities,
- Low income levels (agriculture being the main profession)
- Social structure and demographic characteristics,
- High migration, mostly among the young in quest of education and employment opportunities.

Policies of the Rural Development in Lebanon

- Reducing poverty and Regional Income Disparities,
- Improving Access to social and Economic Infrastructure,
- Reducing Vulnerability and risk,
- Sustainability of Natural Resources,
- Ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women

Strategic actions for a National Action Plan(NAP)

Priority actions were defined under two categories as follows:

Category A: national framework (enabling Environment)

1. Institutional framework for NAP,
2. Legislative framework
3. Land use planning
4. Socio-economic frame conditions

- Category B: Natural Resources
 5. Water management
 6. Forest management
 7. Sustainable agriculture
 8. Rangeland management
 9. Soil conservation
 10. Protected areas

Institutions involved in Rural Development

1. The establishment of Kafalat cooperation,
2. A new investment law that establish the autonomous Investment Development Authority of Lebanon (IDAL)
3. The provision of subsidized credit through a central bank facility.
4. Signing trade agreements to expand and liberalize trade with Lebanon's partners.

Ministry of Agriculture

- Rational use of irrigation water
- Sustainable land use
- Adopting efficient, modern techniques
- Developing agricultural industry
- Preparing legislations related to biodiversity and intellectual property tools (trademarks, geographical indicators, patents)
- Developing an efficient decentralized approach. Activating extension and research institutes and programs

Ministry of Social Affairs

- Programs have potentially significant impact on poverty alleviation & rural development.
- Establishment of SDC under MoSA, to serve as focal points of local development and coordination among local development agencies.
- By 2002, 130 SDCs were established most of which located in rural areas and Beirut suburbs.

Ministry of Health (Health care service)

- Provides safety net for uninsured individuals, however primary & preventive health care services remain weak, especially in rural areas, and their financing is very limited.
- Despite high cost of health service(10-12% of GDP), 53% of the population not covered by health insurance.
- Lowest coverage rates are in rural areas, in particular in Bekaa and Nabatieh.
- Many Public and new hospitals & health centers in rural areas not operational or poorly managed.

Ministry of Education

- In 1998, a law was issued that oblige free primary education, however, this law still lacks proper financial resources to be applied,
- Considers establishing and developing the educational infrastructure in rural areas.
- Executing a project for new school establishments in collaboration with CDR.
- Educational Center for Research and Dev. conducting teachers training, preparing personnel for public schools in different fields and specializations.

Government Programs in Rural Development

- Council for the South: for reconstruction of former occupied zones in South, has two types of programs: social and infrastructure.
- Ministry of Displaced and Central Fund for Displaced: established in 1993, with two main objectives of reconstruction and reconciliation.