



Green Jobs Kick-Off Workshop in the Arab States: Lebanon Case Study

**28-29 July 2011, UN House, Beirut
Draft Concept Note**

I. Background

The 21st century faces two defining challenges: the first is to avert dangerous climate change and a deterioration of natural resources which would seriously jeopardize the quality of life of present and future generations. The second is to deliver social development and decent work for all. The acknowledgement that these two challenges cannot be addressed separately anymore has led to an increased awareness among international agencies, governments, employers' organizations, labour unions, environmental groups, and civil society organizations that business as usual based on the strategy "grow first, clean up later" is not economically, socially, or environmentally sustainable.

Within the realm of the ILO, this increased awareness has been reflected in the conclusions of the discussions of the 96th session of the International Labour Conference of the Director General's Report on "Decent Work for Sustainable Development" and the Green Jobs Initiative, which was launched in November 2007 in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Organization of Employers, and the International Trade Union Confederation. Furthermore, in response to the financial crisis, the ILO adopted in June 2009 a Global Jobs Pact that aims at "boosting economic recovery and job creation whilst preparing for a greener, more balanced, fairer and sustainable global economy".

The ILO's Green Jobs initiative seeks to reconcile goals for poverty reduction with low greenhouse gas emissions through the creation of decent work. It constitutes a response strategy to the negative effects of climate change on employment while aiming to reduce the environmental impact of enterprises and economic sectors ultimately to levels that are sustainable or involve jobs that conserve or rehabilitate the environment. Specifically, but not exclusively, this includes jobs that protect ecosystems and biodiversity; reduce energy, materials, and water consumption through high-efficiency strategies; de-carbonise the economy; and minimise or altogether avoid generation of all forms of waste and pollution.

Currently, the Green Jobs Programme is active in several different countries and sectors in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Green Jobs interventions range from supporting green jobs in biofuels and social housing in Brazil and in sustainable agriculture and eco-tourism in Costa Rica; generating green jobs in the construction sector in South Africa and promoting green youth entrepreneurship in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda; to mapping and supporting green

jobs creation in energy, forestry, heavy industry and recycling in China and promoting local development and renewable energy in India. In addition, the ILO is undertaking a global study using a number of country case studies to assess the skills requirements for green jobs in various sectors and make policy recommendations with regards to skills development training strategies.

In support of the global initiative, the ILO Regional Office for Arab States (ILO-ROAS) has initiated a number of policy and downstream green jobs initiatives that will ultimately contribute to employment creation, environmental sustainability, and poverty reduction. In Syria, it recently joined efforts with UNDP within the framework of a joint UN Programme for *Community Development Upscaling the MDGs*, to promote green jobs in the solar energy sector through developing skills of young men from some of the country's poorest villages. In the Gaza Strip, the ILO has been working closely with UNRWA since 2009 on promoting green jobs through the construction of safe and environmentally friendly housing and livelihood opportunities to the most vulnerable populations. Finally, in Lebanon, the ILO, in collaboration with UNDP, is undertaking a study to assess the potential for green jobs in key economic sectors, namely: energy, construction, agriculture, and waste management.

Ultimately, the ILO intends to build on the knowledge that is being developed and lessons learnt through its ongoing projects in order to expand its Green Jobs programme in the pilot countries and extend it to other countries in the region.

II. The Green Jobs Initiative in Lebanon

As mentioned above, the ILO-ROAS, in collaboration with UNDP, launched a green jobs assessment for four key economic sectors in Lebanon. The sectoral assessments provide data for the current status of and potential for greening the sectors, determine the current number of existing green jobs in each sector and provide estimates of the number of potential green jobs that can be created or lost if green policies relevant to the different sectors are implemented. The assessments further evaluate the needed occupational skills and retraining needs required for the creation of green jobs or the greening of existing jobs and identify other potential gaps preventing the implementation of policies related to green job creation.

III. Rationale for the Green Jobs Workshop

A joint ILO-UNDP-ESCWA workshop on Green Jobs will be held in Beirut, Lebanon in the UN-House on July 28-29 2011. The objectives of the workshop are to introduce and raise awareness on the ILO Green Jobs Programme, validate sectoral assessments, kick-off policy discussions and identify entry-points to support youth employment in green sectors, as well as plan for follow up activities. More specifically, the workshop will seek to:

1. Introduce and raise awareness of green jobs with a focus on ILO's Green Jobs Programme and present key concepts and global and regional green jobs projects, activities and interventions;
2. Present and validate sectoral assessments on green jobs potentials on a technical level with tripartite constituents and stakeholders. Disseminate preliminary findings and discuss needs for further research;

3. Kick-off policy discussions and identify areas of collaboration with potential partners on supporting green jobs in Lebanon and in the Arab region with special emphasis on youth employment; and
4. Plan for follow-up activities, such as project proposals and other interventions in one or more of the studied sectors.

The workshop will be carried out over two days, and will involve four separate sessions, corresponding with the four objectives listed above. The first session will focus on introducing participants with the the green jobs initiative and the related concepts. It will also provide an overview of the global, regional, and country experiences with particular emphasis on success stories. A presentation during the first session will also focus on challenges and opportunities with regards to youth employment in Lebanon and the Arab region. Building on experience from other regions, the session will also demonstrate how shift to green economy can indeed create green job opportunities, particularly for young people.

The second session will constitute the core of the workshop and will be devoted to the sectoral assessments in Lebanon whereby the key findings, challenges, and recommendations will be presented. Participants will then be divided into four working groups corresponding to the four identified sectors in which they will be given the chance to discuss in more details the findings and recommendations of the assessments and provide feedback and comments. Each working group will then summarize the key discussions of its members and present the main findings and recommendations. The presentations will then be consolidated and summarized by the ILO team and presented to all participants for their final feedback and endorsement.

The third session will start with an overview of the perspectives of the employers' and workers organizations in Lebanon of the key challenges in relation to the promotion of green jobs in the country. Then it will build on the findings and experiences of earlier sessions and formulate concrete priority activities and lay the way forward for promoting green jobs in Lebanon.

IV. Participants

In order to ensure high-quality discussions and concrete outputs in the workshop national policy-level and technical experts and stakeholders from a range of different sectors with linkages to green jobs, vocational training centres and private enterprises as well as specialists from relevant UN agencies and other international and local organisations will be invited. The total estimated number of participants in the workshop is 45.

From Lebanon the participants include the Ministry of Labour (MoL), Ministry of Environment (MoE), Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy and Trade, Banque du Liban, the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) and the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR), as well as ILO's social partners, namely: the General Confederation of Lebanese Workers (CGTL) and the Association of Lebanese Industrialists (ALIND). Expert organisations, such as the Lebanon Centre for Energy Conservation (LCEC) and the Lebanese Solar Energy Society (LSES), vocational training centres, associations/NGOs as well as private sector enterprises specializing in green construction, renewable energies as well as waste

management will also be invited. Although the workshop participants will be mainly invited from Lebanon, a number of participants will also be invited from Jordan, Syria, and the occupied Palestinian territory (maximum two participants per country) so as to also present experiences from other countries.

In addition to the three key organizing UN agencies, namely: ILO, UNDP, and ESCWA, a number of UN organization will also participate in this event, including UNEP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), FAO, UN-Habitat, UNIFIL, and UNRWA. In addition, key international organizations and donors will be invited, including the World Bank, GIZ, USAID, and the Italian Development Cooperation.

The consultants who participated in the sectoral assessments will be invited to participate in the workshop and deliver presentations on the key findings and recommendations of their papers.

Budget:

The total cost of the workshop that will be borne by ILO ROAS is estimated at around 5,002.- USD.

Item	Cost (USD)
2 coffee breaks @ 5 USD *50	500.-
1 lunch break @ 21USD *50	1,050.-
Simultaneous interpretation 513* 3	1,539.-
Stationery , banner	400.-
Printing	400.-
3 nights DSA/travel for A. Abbas \$ 241 x 3 days + \$ 200	923.-
Miscellaneous	190,-
Total	5,002.-