

Abstract:

Rural community development project in Jabal al Hoss, is a joint project between the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform in the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The project was ratified at the end of 1998 and the actual implementation began in September 2000.

Project works to instill the system of national economic microfinance through establishing of the so-called "Village Fund for Rural Development".

Village Fund is a sustainable Microfinance Institution for small-scale projects, taking into account prevailing societal values and international standards and best practices as a means to help combat poverty and improve family income and achieve sustainable human development.

Partnership was heading in finding sources of funding for the project where UNDP has contributed and the Syrian government in securing funding sources appropriate for the work of the project.

This paper reviews the strategy of the "Village Fund" as a rural financial institution, and as a model of partnership between the private and public sectors, and also deal with examples of ways in which the "Village Fund" succeed in establishing partnership relations with different institutions to enable targeted groups to overcome poverty.