



— Event Agenda —

“ The role and approach of NGOs to the water sector in Lebanon. ”

09.30 AM 10.00 AM	Welcome, and networking	Grab your morning coffee, register, and network!
10.00 AM 10.15 AM	Opening statements and national anthem	
10.15 AM 11.00 AM	The NGOs' role and approach to the water sector in Lebanon: study presentation	Presentation from 360 Consulting on the main achievements and learnings extracted from 4 MADAD Consortia. We will discuss the efficiency, impact and sustainability of NGO-led approaches in the Water Sector in Lebanon. Q&A session.
11.00 AM 11.20 AM	Coffee Break	While you grab a coffee, explore the 4 MADAD projects in our communications corner.
11.20 AM 11.50 AM	Round table: Discussions on WEs current challenges, experience working with NGOs and possible solutions	Round table with all 4 Regional WEs. 1. What are critical areas of collaboration between WEs and NGOs to improve service delivery? 2. What are key barriers and challenges to improving service delivery in your respective areas? 3. What are key areas of support and possible solutions you identify in response to these issues?
11.50 AM 12.10 PM	Presentation on challenges and key opportunities for Civil society actors in the WASH sector in Lebanon & Discussion	Presentation of key findings from survey conducted by LEWAP with CSOs on participation to water sector. Q&A session.
12.10 PM 12.40 PM	NGO-led piloting and innovation in the water sector	Presentation from ACTED on Rainwater harvesting. Presentation from WWGVC on ELSICR & subscription campaigns. Q&A session.
12.40 PM 01.40 PM	Lunch (end of the event)	Exchange thoughts and network while you grab a bite.

On November 30th 2022, LEWAP, along with the HawkaMaa-EU, MiyahCon, Sabil and H2ALL Consortia, all funded by the European Union under the MADAD fund, organized a learning and discussion workshop on the role and approach of NGOs to the water sector in Lebanon at Royal Tulip Ashrafiye

This event offered a platform for WASH actors in Lebanon, from the civil society, UN, donors, governmental and local actors, to reflect and discuss on the main achievements and lessons learned generated in the past years by NGOs working with the support of the EU MADAD funding instrument.

Attendance was varied and representative of the sector; representatives from the EU delegation Mrs. Alessia Squarcella and Mr. Michele Pierpaoli participated as well as Mrs. Suzy Hoayek from the Ministry of Energy and Water, and representatives of the 4 water establishments including the General Directors Eng Jean Gebran (EBML), Mr. Khaled Obeid (NLWE) and Dr. Wassim Daher (SLWE and acting BWE), international and local NGOs and CSOs, research and academic institutes, municipalities, media and private sector.

The event introduced findings from a study prepared by 360 Consulting and which results from the overview of the 4 Consortia achievements and learnings and interviews of over 10 large WASH NGOs, Water Establishment representatives and the Ministry of Energy and Water. In turn, the event also established debate spaces around the role and approach of NGO projects in Lebanon, as well as, with the evolution of the context, demonstrate the need for continued funding of NGO-led WASH initiatives, particularly approaches supported through the MADAD fund. The study from 360 Consulting will be revised to include recommendations that will factor in the discussions held on the day and present a list of recommendations. The report introduced 4 main components where NGO added value was more evident:

- Mission-driven approaches
- Capacity building
- Social engagement
- Adaptability and learning
- Efficiency

Notably, a round table took place with representatives from the 4 regional water establishments around the collaboration between RWEs and NGOs as well as challenges faced by the WEs. Namely, the WEs raised challenges exacerbated by the current crisis and related to staff retention (uncompetitive salaries that are paid in LBP), the collection of tariffs and the cholera outbreak. While WEs noted positive experience of working with NGOs, they also highlighted their view that it is critical to maintain a centralized approach, through the WEs to support efficient coordination and resource allocation. NGOs also shared the need for the WEs to have clear plans and keep considering medium/long term project alongside the operation and maintenance issues.

This was followed by a presentation by LEWAP on challenges and key opportunities for Civil society actors in the WASH sector in Lebanon – the information presented was collected from a survey circulated to all local water actors targeting 4 main axes:

- Sector management structure: 3 main aspects were tackled to address challenges faced at this axis:

- Challenges were raised at the level of strategy development and outreach to relevant authorities in terms of access to data, level of responsiveness, lack of interest to certain projects due to the current national crisis and politics
- Opportunities emerged at the level of the ability to influence decision makers in water and wastewater management, reforms and governance
- Challenges with consultation by institutional actors are reflected at the level of qualified staff, data availability and minimal consultation unless organizations contact the establishments
- Resources/funding: three main challenges were highlighted here:
 - Need to partner with international organizations as it is required by donors and view the years of experience of international organizations on the field and in the sector
 - Data availability reflected by the minimal availability of raw data and restrictions in sharing data and by the minimal support from municipalities in terms of data available and staff
 - Current economic crisis reflected by the raw materials prices
- Advocacy; actors were asked about the lessons learnt to public authorities and feedback showed that these authorities receive these information during project handover and conferences due to the lack of a clear coordination mechanism however some success stories were raised on the topics of subscription campaigns, solar panels and direct support to RWEs
- Partnership: questions revolved around partnership with three sectors:
 - Public sector: challenges addressed are weak staffing, weak collaboration, weak interest in projects and weak operation and maintenance for handed over projects
 - Private sector: challenges addressed revolve around the market prices (fluctuation in USD and LBP) and different procedure of work between the private sector and NGOs
 - Academic sector: challenges rise in the lack of data sharing and lack of intervention/support to the sector

From those findings, recommendations from local actors were identified to improve the situation in the WASH sector and the interaction between actors in the sector:

- Better integration of academia and civil society/NGO-led projects
- Build stronger awareness of the public for more integration of citizens – reflected at the level of addressing challenges and subscription to the network
- Holistic approach should be considered; Infrastructure projects should be developed after conducting a full holistic approach
- Coordination should always be conducted at multiple levels; at national and local levels.

The event closed with a session on NGO-led piloting and innovation in the water sector, which was identified as one of the key added value of NGOs to the Water Sector in 360 Consulting report. Notably, ACTED presented their Rainwater harvesting system, a pilot project funded by the EU and that was scaled up with the support of KfW and UNDP. Meanwhile, WWGVC presented the pilot the ELSICR, an area-based, comprehensive approach to support WEs at local branches level and which is now implemented by all 5 partners under HawkaMaa-EU.

To access the presentations please check the links for:

- [360 consulting study on Key achievements and learnings from the 4 MADAD projects](#)
- [ACTED rainwater harvesting system](#)
- [WW-GVC ELSICR approach](#)
- [Challenges and Opportunities in the WASH sector in Lebanon](#)