



## Newsletter December 2024

### WASH sector in Lebanon under war

#### CURRENT INSIGHTS

Amid the current ongoing war on Lebanon that started on October 2024 and escalated quickly end of September 2024, Israeli airstrikes extend far beyond the southern border with impacts on residential houses, shops and civilian infrastructure directly affecting civilian population in those areas. A large number of people were displaced from the Bekaa, South Lebanon and Beirut Southern Suburbs accounting for around 1.5 million displaced people up until October 2024.

To know more about the affected population, the partners intervening and the updates until 21 November 2024, you can check the emergency brief [found here](#).

From the LRP update December, you can find further Situation Reports & Updates

- The IOM DTM Mobility Snapshot Round 66 is available [here](#).
- The Presidency of the Council of Ministers and General Secretariat of the Supreme Defense Council Weekly Situation Report #49 is available [here](#).
- The UNHCR Lebanon Emergency Flash Update #18 is available [here](#).

- The WHO Lebanon Health Emergency Response Situation Report #11 is available [here](#).

- The UNRWA Lebanon Emergency Response Situation Report #15 is available [here](#).

- The UNICEF Lebanon Humanitarian Situation Report #9 is available [here](#).

- The WFP Lebanon Emergency Response Situation Report #10 is available [here](#).

- The IOM Emergency Response Situation Report #4 is available [here](#).

- The Food Security and Agriculture Cluster Lebanon Emergency Response Situation Report #17 is available [here](#).

On 19 November 2024, pS-Eau and LEWAP organized an online webinar, that targeted decentralized and non-governmental cooperation (NGDC) actors - local authorities, French associations, academes and companies - involved or wishing to be involved in the water and sanitation sector in Lebanon.

The webinar aims at putting in contact decentralized cooperation actors with other water/sanitation/hygiene actors or initiatives in Lebanon – namely WASH actors and civil society organizations. This webinar will focus on : Decentralized French Aid in the water/sanitation/hygiene sector and the possible contributions that the French cooperation can do with local actors (municipalities, civil society organizations) and international organizations

On the agenda :

- Introduction: Presentation of pS-Eau and LEWAP, The aim and objective of this meeting:  
Mélodie Boissel, Mediterranean Basin referent at pS-Eau,  
Jasmine EL Kareh, LEWAP coordinator  
Jérémy Guerin, responsible for the theme – link between actions and

emergency and development actors, at pS-Ea

- WASH coordination and actors involved:

Jakub Pajak, national WASH coordinator, UNICEF

- Importance of Lebanese CSOs: best practices for localized and sustainable emergency response

Lea Mascaro, ACTED

- The involvement of Lebanese municipalities in the coordination of aid in the Wash sector

Ghassan Tayoun, Deputy Mayor of the municipality of Zgharta-Ehden

- Situation and needs of displaced people, first characterization data

Aline Maalouf, REACH initiative

To know more about the webinar, check the report [here](#)

The HawkaMaa-EU project, funded by the European Union, continues its activities to enhance water governance and public water and wastewater services in Lebanon, benefiting all communities in need in Lebanon. A Consortium comprising various organizations is actively involved, with ACTED, ACF, WW-GVC, LebRelief, and Solidarités International serving as implementing partners, supported by IMPACT, LCPS, Nahnoo, and LEWAP.

Unfortunately, the effects of the conflict in Lebanon meant that many of the project's infrastructure activities could not be implemented as planned and the Convergences form had to be cancelled.

However, the Consortium partners used the time to reorient the remaining activities to respond to the emergency needs of the water establishment. These activities which will be implemented in the next quarter include assisting the North Lebanon Water Establishment (NLWE), the Bekaa Water Establishment (BWE), the South Lebanon Water Establishment (SLWE) and the Beirut and Mount Lebanon Water Establishment (EBML) with operational and maintenance support under the project's EI-SICR program. In addition,

a transformer will be installed at the Tleil (Akkar) pumping station, while in Majdal (North), a small solar system will be installed to power a booster pump at the pumping station. Finally, in Saida, Tyre and Nabatiyeh communal water points will be established.

### UPDATES FROM THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND WATER

Context had changed significantly within the past few days which requires adjustment of WaSH sector response priorities and strategy. Ongoing 60-day ceasefire. Huge population movement from collective shelters. MoEW estimates that recovery of the water sector will exceed 200M USD. The situation is still fragile. There are also new developments in Syria that may directly or indirectly impact Lebanon. Assessment of public water/wastewater systems, including distribution lines, needed first

- Bekaa WE has done an initial survey of damages and needs. Estimated budgets will follow. This is for now just for the production side – until the production side is done, we cannot know all the damages in the networks

- South – frontline villages – there are kilometres of networks and water

stations damaged. Entire systems likely need to be rebuilt.

- Dahieh – likely networks problems mainly; survey ongoing. Likely building connections will need to be redone.

Subscriptions – MoEW emphasizes the importance of clearly defining the criteria for the exemptions. Discussions are ongoing between the Ministry of Finance and MoEW to ensure mutual understanding and alignment on this matter, and if the MoF will pay back to WEs for any exemptions.

Fuel for pumping stations needed – especially in the South and Bekaa; Generators and spare parts needed for WE facilities. UNICEF delivering some. Repair of both production and distribution systems are needed

### NEWS FROM THE WASH SECTOR

In line of the ceasefire, the WaSH sector will send out soon a quick survey to map which partners are interested/committed to work in the repair of production and distribution systems

- Mapping of Available Funds and Funds that can be reallocated

- Prioritized WaSH sector activities are as follows:

1. Assessments of damaged water and sanitation infrastructure including water networks and sewers.

2. Interventions supporting the restoration of the water supply via

public systems (production and distribution), in particular in the South, Nabatiyeh, Baalbek-Hermel and southern suburbs of Beirut. Support emergency rapid rehabilitation of tertiary water and sanitation networks damaged due to hostilities.

3. Operation and maintenance support to Water Establishments to maintain water supply systems operational (fuel, generators, spare parts, chlorine, etc.).

4. Installation, or rapid repair to existing, emergency public drinking water points and/or water trucking where deemed necessary for the areas with no functional water supply systems, areas of high returns, areas hosting IDPs, etc.

5. Conditional support with water storage at the household level for the most vulnerable HHs.

6. Prepositioning of WaSH items to be used in case of emergency and sudden escalation.

7. WaSH assistance to the most

vulnerable people outside of Collective Shelters; mixed modalities, in-kind/ cash

8. Continuity of WaSH support to IDPs remaining in collective shelters (DRM and non-DRM shelters) and to NEW collective shelters opening in SaN, kits incl. hygiene and centre cleaning kits distribution, facilities maintenance, sustainable solutions for drinking and domestic water supply, sanitation, hot water, laundry spaces/ washing machines, etc.). Focus on water quality testing in collective shelters and corrective measures.

9. Maintain WaSH services provision to displaced populations in informal settlements.

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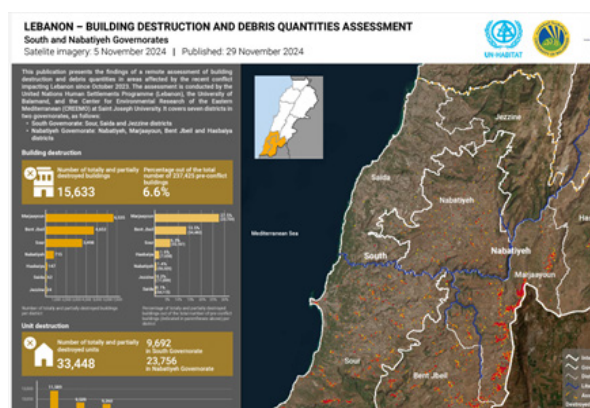
## Latest publications

More publications on LEWAP and pS-Eau [database](#). To share a publication, send it via email to [contact@lewap.org](mailto:contact@lewap.org).

### LEBANON: BUILDING DESTRUCTION AND DEBRIS QUANTITIES ASSESSMENT - SOUTH & NABATIYEH

A remote assessment by UN-Habitat Lebanon, the University of Balamand, and CREEMO (Saint Joseph University) analyzed satellite imagery to estimate building destruction and debris quantities in seven districts across South and Nabatiyeh governorates, affected by the conflict since October 2023. Using pre-conflict and recent imagery from September 2023 and 5 November 2024, respectively, the study detected areas with total and partial building destruction, calculating the number of such buildings as well as their percentages out of pre-conflict building counts. It also estimated the number of totally and partially destroyed units in these buildings and the quantity of debris generated from them. In addition, it

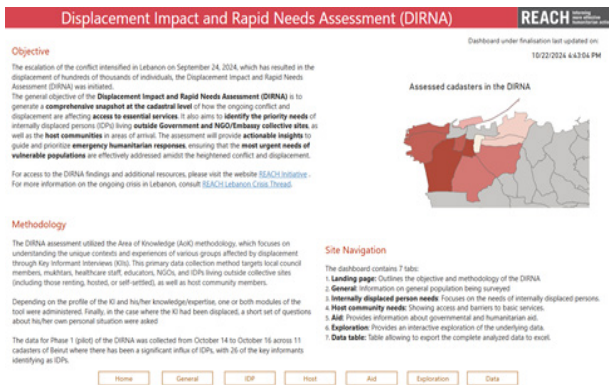
presented cadastral-level analysis for these figures. This assessment is part of similar assessments in different conflict-affected areas in Lebanon, with forthcoming assessments expected for other governorates. The Building Destruction and Debris Quantities Assessment, including its methodological details and caveats, is available [here](#).



### DIRNA - IMPACT

REACH, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), conducted the Displacement Impact and Rapid Needs Assessment (DIRNA) to provide insights into the needs and challenges faced by host communities and internally displaced persons (IDPs) living outside collective sites. This assessment focuses on areas experiencing significant displacement and influxes of populations. Following the ceasefire announced on November 27, displaced populations

have begun to return to their areas of origin. However, this assessment remains highly relevant as it offers a snapshot of ongoing needs in displacement-affected areas and highlights critical service accessibility challenges impacting both IDPs and host communities. The findings aim to support response efforts for the populations that remain and provide a clearer understanding of the most affected services.



## Key Findings from DIRNA Mount Lebanon Include:

- **Access to Services:** A significant decline in access to basic services was observed in areas with high levels of displacement, particularly in livelihoods, health, and education.
- **Education:** Nearly all assessed cadasters reported reduced access to education. The long-term disruptive impact of the conflict on education is expected to persist despite the ceasefire and the resumption of classes.
- **Healthcare:** Access to healthcare has deteriorated, with displaced populations facing greater barriers than host communities. For IDPs, the remoteness of medical facilities and limited transportation options—likely due to financial constraints—were key challenges.
- **Winterization Needs:** Winterization emerged as a critical concern, with 42 out of 75 assessed cadasters reporting urgent needs for

warm clothing and bedding.

In addition to Mount Lebanon, REACH conducted a pilot DIRNA assessment in Beirut. This pilot provided critical insights into the impact of displacement on IDPs and host communities within the capital. Findings from Beirut are available in the Beirut DIRNA Factsheet and are complemented by an interactive DIRNA dashboard for deeper data exploration.

For more information about the DIRNA methodology and approach, please refer to the [Terms of Reference \(ToR\) REACH ToR DIRNA 24102024](#).

## Published Outputs

- DIRNA Dashboard (pilot-Beirut): [Lebanon DIRNA](#)
- DIRNA FS for Beirut: [Beirut Governorate Report PDF](#)
- DIRNA Dataset: [Phase 1 Dataset \(October 2024\)](#)
- DIRNA FS for [Mount Lebanon: Mount Lebanon Report PDF](#)

Stay updated on the crisis by following the crisis thread: <https://lnkd.in/ejxTVtRw>

Under the HawkaMaa-EU project, LebRelief have been working with Information International on conducting the study related to socio economic barriers to subscription, payment and servicing in the water sector in Lebanon.

The research explores opportunities for water policies that promote inclusion of economically vulnerable populations in Lebanon. The potential outcome of the

research can form the basis for a more user-inclusive water sector. A survey of 600 households distributed over Akkar, North, Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Baalbek/Hermel, Beqaa, and South and seven focus groups were conducted in each of the governorates to gauge their opinions on the matter.

To know more about the surveys conducted and the key insights, check the [full report here](#)

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