

COUNTRY SHEET

LEBANON

OVERALL CONTEXT



Currency : Lebanese pound pegged to the US dollar (fluctuating daily)

HDI : 0.763 ranked 76 out of 187 (UNDP 2016)

Population :

5,850,000 inhabitants including:

465,000 Palestinian refugees

1,017,000 refugees from Syria (UNHCR estimation Dec. 2016)

Proportion of rural population :

12.2 % (World Bank 2015)

Political framework :

Parliamentary Republic

President of the Republic : Michel Aoun, elected on 31 October 2016 for six years

Territorial organisation: Mohafazat (governorates), Caza (districts), Municipalités

KEY ISSUES OF WATER AND SANITATION

Main issues :

- **Energy crisis** : low provision of electricity services.
- **Sanitation** : low access rate to wastewater services, only 8% of waste water is treated.
- **Drinkable water** : intermittent supply, quality below international standards and important number of leaks due to dilapidated infrastructure.
- **Tarification** : pricing system does not cover cost of the service. Absence of volumetric pricing which does not favor water savings.
- **Pollution** : important surface and groundwater quality problems with significant impact on human health and the environment.
- **Influx of refugees** : increased pressure on water and sanitation services.
- **Financial crisis**: the increased fluctuation between USD and LBP affecting employees and services provision especially in governmental institutions.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Legal Framework

[Updated National Water Sector Strategy 2020](#)

[Roadmap to Recovery of the Water Sector in Lebanon 2022-2027](#)

[Municipal act, Decree-law No. 118 dated June 30, 1977](#)

[Law 221 dated May 29, 2000, and its amendements, organising the water and sanitation sector](#)

[National Strategy for the Waste Water Sector \(Resolution No. 35, dated October 17, 2012\).](#)

Key institutional actors

Five main structures are at the center of the legal system:

Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) : defines the political and strategic framework of the sector;

Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) : is the contracting authority of water, sanitation and irrigation infrastructure projects financed by the Lebanese State and, if required, supported by international donors;

Water Establishments : are in charge of planning, constructing and operating water, sanitation and irrigation infrastructures under supervision of the MoEW. The four WE are : Bekaa WE, Beirut-Mount-Lebanon WE, North-Lebanon WE and South-Lebanon WE;

Litani River Authority : manages and operates irrigation in South Bekaa and South Lebanon;

Municipalities : are given legal legitimacy by the municipal act to operate the sanitation facilities that they have built.

DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION PROJECTS

Map of the decentralized cooperations in Lebanon

www.pseau.org/actions

Bcharré / Chambéry and Zgharta-Eden / Aude Department

Within the decentralized cooperations between Bcharré and Chambéry and Zgharta-Ehden and Département de l'Aude, the impact of climate change on water resources is being studied, under the prism of agriculture and tourism development. The project focuses on a "territorial dialogue" approach between the stakeholders of the Qaadisha Valley: Bcharré and Zgharta-Ehden cazas and North Lebanon Water Establishment.

Antoura / Hydreaulys Water Union

The municipality of Antoura and the sanitation union Hydreaulys established a decentralized cooperation partnership in order to implement a non-collective sanitation system in Antoura. The delegate of Hydreaulys, SEVESC, and the Lebanese social enterprise CubeX are also supporting the partnership.

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The main public service management structure

- **Drinkable water and household water** : water management is delegated by the State to the four Water Establishments. In several municipalities, local water committees are still managing the water service. Those committees are unwilling to concede management of the service to the Water Establishments in accordance with the law No. 221, applied in 2005.
- **Collective sanitation** : despite substantial investments done, the level of services remains weak. Water Establishments are, by law, in charge of managing the service. In practice, several municipalities continue operating waste water networks. Generally, water treatment plants' operations are delegated by the CDR or Water Establishments to private companies. However, some water treatment plants are directly managed by municipalities.
- **Individual sanitation** : the investments, and costs of operating and maintaining household-level sanitation equipments are at the expense of users.
- **Access to services for refugees** : as 80% of refugees live in host community, Lebanese public institutions are meeting their needs. Regarding the population taking refuge in informal settlements, their needs of water and sanitation are mainly provided by the UN and NGOs

DONORS AND INTERNATIONAL NGOS

Faced with the humanitarian emergency that Lebanon is experiencing today, international NGOs and donors play a crucial role in the territory.

UNICEF coordinates, with the MoEW, the response provided to meet water and sanitation needs of vulnerable populations (refugees and host communities). Its strategy is defined in the Lebanese Response Crisis Plan (2017-2020).

UNOCHA started the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) in 2014. The Fund's activities are aligned with coordinated in-country humanitarian response planning, including the [Lebanon Crisis Response Plan](#) (LCRP), allowing the fund to be a predictable and complementary source of humanitarian financing, making timely and flexible funding available for life-saving humanitarian activities.

AFD (French cooperation) dedicates 44.5% of its financial assistance to the water sector in Lebanon since 1999. Its programs focus on the rehabilitation and construction of water networks, improvement of sanitation services and water sector reform (Water Code).

European Union, through the ECHO program (European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations), it provides emergency aid to meet the needs of vulnerable populations in term of water and sanitation. Development aid is provided by Europeaid. It is accomplished by the construction and rehabilitation of water and sanitation infrastructures for the refugees and host communities. Part of the MADAD fund is dedicated to support neighbouring countries of Syria regarding water management and capacity building of institutional actors.

USAID (USA cooperation) implements the Lebanese Water Project (LWP). This five-year project (2021-2026) engages citizens and the private sector to enhance their water stewardship, increase efficiency in the protection of water resources, and improve water and wastewater services to around 600,000 people by expanding the capacity of public water utilities and local governments to treat wastewater.

SDC (Swiss cooperation) intervenes with the Bekaa Water Establishment to improve water and sanitation services for host and refugee populations.

GIZ (German cooperation) implements projects in order to improve access to sanitation. It promotes integrated water resources management and the involvement of the private sector.

