

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 : vacant at the moment

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 / Chambery and Zgharta-Eden / Aude Department

Within the decentralized cooperations between Bcharré and Chambery 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.

CONTACTS

LEWAP

Jasmine El Kareh

kareh@lewap.org

LEWAP

Ariane Visier

ariane.visier@lewap.org

pS-Eau

Mélodie Boissel

melodie.boissel@pseau.org

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 Crisis Response Plan](#) (LCRP) 2022-2023.

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

AFD (French cooperation) dedicates 25% of its financial assistance to the water sector in Lebanon since 1999. Its programs focus on the improvement of potable water services, sanitation, and structural sector reforms (Water law).

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. EU is currently funding a 5-year Technical Assistance implemented by AFD (EU-AFD TA) that is aimed at ensuring major structural reforms for both the water and wastewater sectors. Since 2020, the EU's strategy has adopted a crisis response modality that ensures support to Water Establishments in operation and maintenance until the end of the Sector Recovery Plan (2026).

USAID (USA cooperation) implements the Water Sanitation and Conservation program (WSC). This four-year project (2021-2024) aims to assist the country's water utilities in coping with Lebanon's current financial crisis and promotes the conservation and protection of water resources.

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

GIZ (German cooperation) with its project «Enhancing Water Resources Management» (WAMA), aims to improve framework conditions for wastewater management in Lebanon.

KfW (German cooperation) is supporting the Lebanese public institutions in the construction, rehabilitation and the expansion of the water supply and sanitation systems.

