

November Newsletter 2025

Latest WASH news

Launch and Inception Workshop of the Project Increasing Resilience of Lebanon's Water and Food Sector – MoA/FAO 16 October 2025



The Launch and Inception Workshop of the project “Increasing Resilience of Lebanon’s Water and Food Sector” was held on 16 October 2025 at the Radisson Blu Martinez Hotel, Beirut, organized jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with financial support from the Government of Switzerland.

Over 80 participants attended the event, representing national ministries, water establishments, UN agencies, donor institutions, NGOs, universities, and the private sector.

The project aims to achieve long-term development and recovery, by strengthening the foundations of a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient water and agri-food system. The project aims to support Lebanon’s recovery by promoting the sustainable management of natural resources, strengthening agri-food value chains, and fostering collective action that enhances accountability between public service providers and the communities they serve. It will also promote decent work opportunities for seasonal agricultural workers, help prevent conflict over scarce water resources, and strengthen institutional development to improve service delivery and governance.



Participants divided into three working groups to discuss complementary themes:

1. Innovation in Water and Agriculture: identifying technological, policy, and social innovations to enhance water efficiency and encourage adoption.
2. Collective Action for Resource Governance: exploring how cooperatives and WUAs can strengthen accountability and reduce water-related disputes.
3. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion: assessing women’s roles in water management and proposing ways to increase their leadership and participation.

To know more about the outcome of the focus groups and key recommendation, check the workshop report [here](#)

Decentralized cooperation between the Grand Pic Saint-Loup Community of Municipalities (CCGPSL) and the municipality of Zahle-Maallaqa and Taanyel

HAUD project : Hydrogeologie et agroecology pour des usages durables de l'eau du Berdaouni – 10 Octobre 2025



The HAUD – Berdaouni Project works to ensure the sustainability of aquifers and surface water in the Berdaouni Watershed by enhancing water infiltration and retention through a series of targeted actions detailed below.

The project is carried out in collaboration with the Communauté de Communes du Grand Pic Saint-Loup (CCGPSL) and the Municipality of Zahle-Maallaqa & Taanyel and implemented on the ground by the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative (LRI) and ECO-MED, within the framework of a dynamic partnership that seeks to promote sustainable natural resource management.

A set of actions will be implemented throughout this project focusing on 5

aspects:

- Action 1: Local Action for Water Governance

Laying the groundwork for establishing a dedicated technical body to coordinate and provide technical support on water-related issues across the Berdaouni watershed by organizing 2-3 annual meetings of the Berdaouni Basin Forum for stakeholder engagement by monitoring and assisting technical actions to be implemented, particularly by involving together different water stakeholders when needed.



As part of this action, the first forum was held at the Municipality of Zahle on October 10, 2025. It gathered multiple stakeholders and water users from across the Berdaouni watershed. Through a lively panel discussion, participants exchanged insights on the state of water resources, existing services, needs, and challenges, followed by an interactive Q&A session with representatives of the French partners and the project team. Technical actions to be undertaken - within the present 3 years project - for water protection have then been presented as a starting point for the participant of this forum to work together on a concrete change on the field.

- Action 2: Rehabilitation of Natural Water Bodies

Identifying and restoring aquatic ecosystems in the Berdaouni watershed to enhance their ecological functions and contribute to the long-term preservation and sustainability of water resources.

- Action 3: Driving the Shift to Agroecology through Farmers

Recruiting 5-8 farmers and supporting them in designing and implementing sustainable land management models through agroecological practices.



Organizing training sessions for farmers on agroecology, soil conservation, and water conservation to build capacity and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

- Action 4: Spongy City, Greener Zahle

Implementing a pilot site – such as a rainwater storage system - based on the ‘sponge city’ concept, which aims to capture and store excess rainwater, reduce surface runoff, and enhance natural groundwater recharge. This approach will serve as a demonstration model for innovative water management practices that can be replicated in other parts of the Berdaouni watershed.

- Action 5: Assessing and Advancing Water Resource Knowledge

Enhancing data collection to ensure accurate monitoring of groundwater levels in the aquifers, thereby enabling better understanding of water availability, identifying trends over time, and supporting informed decision-making for sustainable water management.

For more details about the project in French, check the link [here](#)

Presentation of the meeting and the map of the Berdaouni watershed can be found [here](#)

Presentation of the water bodies assessment in Zahle can be found [here](#)

For a short view of the event check the reel [here](#)

Possible support from international cooperation to Lebanese municipalities

– BTVL – 16 September 2025

Jointly organized by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), United Cities Lebanon / Technical Office of Lebanese Cities (BTVL), and the Committee of Lebanese Mayors, the webinar held on September 16, 2025, was part of ongoing efforts to strengthen local governance and promote decentralized cooperation in Lebanon.

This event, marked by a sense of political and institutional renewal following the municipal elections of May 2025, brought together 148 participants representing a wide range of stakeholders: municipal officials, government representatives, international donors, and institutional partners.

The webinar took place against a particularly challenging economic and social backdrop: the collapse of municipal resources, a persistent economic crisis, and the excessive centralization of

power—all of which undermine the autonomy of municipalities and their ability to effectively meet citizens' needs.

The overarching goal was to foster direct dialogue between Lebanese municipalities and their international partners, highlight their priority needs, and identify possible avenues of support within a framework of decentralized, inclusive, and sustainable cooperation.

To know more about the discussion held, check the conference report in French [here](#)

Ecomusée de l'eau – Qadisha Durable – 4 september 2025



On September 4, 2025, as part of the Sustainable Qadisha project and in partnership with the American University of Beirut, a watermuseum event took place at the Rachiine Water Spring Complex, located in Rachiine, Zgharta District. During this meeting, a concertation was held around the preliminary project for the Water Ecomuseum.

Local residents, elected officials, partners, and water authority representatives shared their ideas following the presentation of a feasibility study by AUB. Contributions emphasized highlighting the link between water and regional heritage, ensuring water quality and accessibility, and creating an educational and participatory space. These insights will guide the next stages of content and architectural studies, with a preliminary project expected by the end of 2026.



To know more about the presentation, you can find it below in both languages :

- Arabic found [here](#)
- French found [here](#)

National Adaptation Plan (NAP) meeting – 08 September 2025

As part of Lebanon's urgent efforts to strengthen its climate resilience, the Ministry of Environment with the support of UNDP, is advancing the development of Lebanon's National Adaptation Plan (NAP). This process is a critical step to ensure that Lebanon's adaptation priorities are clearly defined, evidence-based, and responsive to the accelerating impacts of climate change.

On September 8 2025, experts in the water sector were invited to participate in a validation session dedicated to reviewing and confirming the proposed water-related activities of Lebanon's National Adaptation Plan.

The proposed key actions reflected were listed as below :

- Prioritize nature-based solutions for wastewater treatment in rural areas through updating the national water sector strategy baseline assessment of existing wastewater treatment practices and environmental impacts in targeted rural areas and identifying and evaluating feasible nature-based treatment options and piloting a selected nature based solution
- Mobilize Funding and Investment for the Phased Implementation of the NWSS by engaging with development partners and climate financing institutions to secure co-financing and investment briefs for decentralized low-cost treatment solutions in underserved areas
- Review and Implement the National Water Sector Strategy (NWSS) by conducting a regulatory review of existing wastewater reuse standards and practices in Lebanon and establishing an inter-institutional technical working group (MoEW, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, LIBNOR, academia) to oversee implementation and promote enforcement capacity.
- Rehabilitate spring catchments and outflow systems and improve river embankments to optimize water availability from springs and stormwater through reviewing and updating hydrogeological and technical assessment of existing spring catchments and installing basic water quality protection measures around catchment zones (e.g., fencing, signage, buffer zones) in line with pollution prevention and Water Safety Plans under the NWSS.

This workshop was an important milestone in ensuring that the NAP reflects locally relevant and expert-backed priorities, while also aligning with Lebanon's long-term climate adaptation needs. A roadmap was set and reviewed with the experts throughout this session and the results will be shared once published

Michel Daher Foundation – Water for the Land of Water (2024-2025)– 29 August 2025



On August 29, 2025 Michel Daher Foundation organized the closing ceremony of their project Water for the Land of Water funded by AFD and Expertise France and implemented by PRODOS Engineering and contracting. This project focused on the area of Jdita and its water sources that benefit around 700000 citizens in the area.

In order to determine the situation and the challenges in Jdita supply plant, two energy audits and two hydraulic assessments were conducted by PRODOS (before the rainy season and after). Recommendations were developed based on the reports and coordinated with the BWE – more than 90% of the recommendation actions set were implemented. Three wells were the source of water for the plant ; the first well was solarized, the second is currently being covered by UNICEF and BTM and there is still remaining intervention for the third well for power supply.



To know more about the energy audit reports and recommendations, consult the link [here](#)

National and institutional news

News from the Ministry of Energy and Water

The ministry of energy and water are currently working on the revision of the water strategy; 6 water decrees have been issued and 4 are on the way. An Organizational structure of the water establishment has been revised and it includes the coordination functions.

The ministry has received loans from the World Bank detailed as per below - there are 2 water/wastewater related loans

- LEAP (Lebanon Emergency Assistance Project) - US\$ 250.00 million (2025-2030); main component is rubbles removal, but there are water, wastewater and energy components; comprehensive restoration of public lifeline (roads, stormwater, water, wastewater, electricity, etc.); CDR implemented under the PM office/ Ministry of Public Works and Transportation; <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/document-detail/P509428?type=projects>
- GATE (Green Agri-food transformation for economic recovery) - US\$ 200.00 million (2025-2030); agriculture sector focused, but there is US\$ 20 million for wastewater <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P180334>
- In addition, there are Lebanon Renewable Energy and System Reinforcement Project - US\$ 250.00 million <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P180501> and Second Greater Beirut Water Supply Project - US\$ 258.00 million <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P504170>

The World Bank GATE project is starting; localities have not been identified yet.

News from the WaSH Sector

The WaSH Sector in Lebanon has recently developed a set of new analytical and advocacy products in response to the country's worsening drought and water-related challenges. These resources aim to strengthen evidence-based planning, coordination, and advocacy, and are proposed for wider dissemination through the Global WaSH Cluster channels. Among them, the **Composite Drought Vulnerability Index (DVI)** provides a data-driven tool to identify areas most at risk from drought; the **Waterborne Disease Risk Map 2025** integrates drought, water access, and health data to anticipate potential outbreaks such as cholera and hepatitis A; and the **Drought Influence on Tension Dynamics Risk Map** links environmental stressors with social dynamics to support conflict-sensitive programming.

In addition, the sector issued the **WaSH Sector Alert – “Water on the Edge”**, calling for urgent international support to sustain water access and enhance climate-resilient WaSH systems amid Lebanon's most severe drought on record. Alongside these analytical advancements, the sector actively participated in the **Talanoa Dialogue** in preparation for **COP30 in Brazil**, contributing Lebanon's perspective on drought.

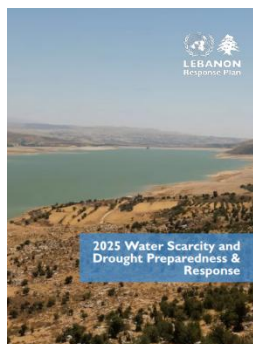
The sector also took part in a **donor meeting led by the Minister of Energy and Water**, focused on mobilizing resources for WaSH in Informal Settlements (ISs) and Collective Sites (CSs), and organized a **training on WaSH-related tension dynamics** to strengthen conflict-sensitive approaches across partners.

In parallel, the sector finalized a new **Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) pooled fund allocation of US\$ 3.5 million** to support the ongoing drought, conflict related damages, and new arrivals response.

Latest publications

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

Lebanon Response Plan: Water Scarcity and Drought Preparedness & Response Paper 2025



Lebanon is currently facing drought-like conditions not seen in recent decades, with rainfall down by more than 50 per cent and reservoirs at alarmingly low levels. More than 1.85 million people (roughly one third of the total population) live in areas highly vulnerable to drought, while 44 per cent of the population relies on unsafe and costly water trucking. Lake Qaraoun, Lebanon's largest reservoir, has received only 13 per cent of its usual inflows, crippling agriculture, hydropower, and water supply

To prepare for and respond to these impacts, the WaSH and Food Security & Agriculture sectors together estimate that approximately USD 100 million will be required.

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

Lebanon's Water Strategy: Drowning in Promises, Thirsting for Action – Lama AbdulSamad October 2 2025

Lama Abdul Samad, Global water and sanitation expert within Oxfam's Global Humanitarian Team provided her insights on the Lebanon's water sector strategy by presenting the current challenges and the propositions set in the national water sector strategy

To read the article, check the link [here](#)

The Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) 2025 – IMPACT Initiative



The Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) 2025 aims to provide a comprehensive, evidence-based understanding of the humanitarian situation across:

- 1) South, Nabatieh, Baalbeck, and Bekaa governorates for Lebanese and Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon (PRL) and Palestinian Refugee from Syria (PRS); and

2) Akkar, Baalbeck, Beirut, Bekaa, Mount Lebanon, Nabatieh, North, and South governorates for live out migrants.

The MSNA 2025 focuses on identifying the needs, vulnerabilities, and coping strategies of Lebanese nationals, live out migrants, and Palestinian refugees to support sectoral, cross-sectoral and cross-crisis analysis, inter-sectoral response prioritization, and inform People in Need (PIN) calculations. The assessment, coordinated by IMPACT in collaboration with sectors and partners, is aligned with sectoral recommendations at global level, with the JIAF 2.0 and the Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian refugees (VASyR), and incorporates statistically representative household-level data collection and disaggregated analysis to ensure inclusivity and comparability.

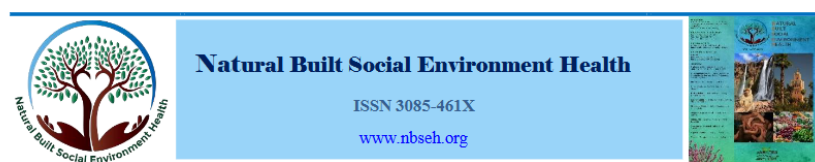
The data collection took place between 11 August 2025 and 23 September 2025. A total of 4,277 in-person, face-to-face surveys were conducted with four population groups—Lebanese; Palestinian refugees from Lebanon (PRL); Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS); and live-out migrants. Please refer to the [MSNA Terms of Reference](#) for more information

To access the published [MSNA dataset](#) and [MSNA Result Table](#) (analysis)
To access the presentation, check the link [here](#)

Hydroponics as a Sustainable Water-Efficient Agricultural Strategy for Enhancing Resilience and Food Security in the Gaza Strip - 2025

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Hydroponics as a Sustainable Water-Efficient Agricultural Strategy for Enhancing Resilience and Food Security in the Gaza Strip

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Burair Cultural center, Al Azhar University and Birzeit University in Palestine have conducted a study on hydroponics as a sustainable water efficient agricultural strategy for enhancing resilience and food security in the Gaza Strip.

The Gaza Strip, which depends solely on the Mediterranean coastal aquifer for its water supply, faces acute water scarcity because of overextraction and contamination, intensified by climatic variability and political instability. This study examines the use of hydroponics as a sustainable agricultural approach designed to maximize water efficiency and enhance crop productivity. A comparison between hydroponic and conventional cultivation shows that hydroponics can reduce irrigation water use by over 90%, depending on the crop. It also improves both the quality and quantity of yields. In addition to agronomic benefits, hydroponics presents environmental

and public health advantages, such as reduced pesticide use and lower exposure to contaminated soils impacted by military activities. Hydroponics emerges as a viable, climate-resilient solution to the severe agricultural and water challenges in Gaza.

To know more about the publication, visit the link [here](#)

Upcoming events in Lebanon – date and further information will
be sent via email

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