

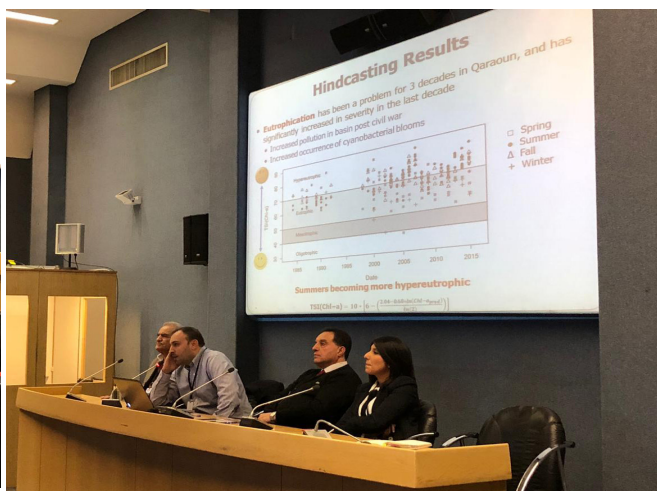
## WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE NETWORK?

### TUESDAY OF LEWAP: CHARACTERIZATION AND MONITORING OF WATER QUALITY IN LEBANON

On January 7th 2020, LEWAP organized a conference on characterization and monitoring of water quality in Lebanon where four academics presented their work. Each panelist presented their case study and the research conducted; the discussions covered Abou Ali River basin, Kadisha River and Qaraaoun lake. The main points addressed are the following:

- The water quality depends on climatic factors and anthropogenic activities
- Satellite imageries and remote sensing are emerging methodologies to monitor and assess the water quality in surface water and coastal water.
- In North Lebanon, mainly in Akkar plain, agricultural runoff is causing severe negative impacts on water resources - ranging from surface water to groundwater contamination
- Eutrophication is a phenomenon that has been emerging in contained water bodies in Lebanon and is affecting the water quality in Qaraaoun lake; it is the result of nutrient inputs of nitrogen and phosphorus coming from sewage, fertilizers and detergents. This eutrophication has been exacerbated by increased temperatures and light.
- Microbiological pollution and contamination is detected in groundwater ranging from 0 to 600m – above 600m the water quality improves gradually
- Salt water intrusion was detected in Akkar and Tripoli coastal aquifers. Test results conducted on Tripoli coastal waters showed to be heavily contaminated by hydrocarbons and contaminants from wastewater runoff sources.

For further details and for access to the speakers presentation, check [the conference report](#)





The organizations SuSanA, BORDA, cewas Middle East, Issam Fares Institute and LEWAP have conducted a sensitization workshop for journalists on the challenges in the water and sanitation sector. This initiative was supported by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ) and the Swiss Agency for the Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The workshop was attended by 17 Lebanese journalists from the National News Agency, MTV, Al Jadeed TV, Al Hurra TV, and press TV, as well as newspaper reporters such as Al Nahar, L'Orient Le Jour and News websites.

This workshop allowed journalists to strengthen their knowledge of issues related to the water and sanitation sector in Lebanon.

In order to promote more sustainable management of resources, a solution-oriented methodology was discussed between journalists and trainers. In partnership with the municipality, LEWAP organized a visit to the oldest wastewater treatment plant in the Middle East in Hammana.

For further details, you can find the [press release](#)

.....

## WORKSHOP FOR LOCAL NGOS IN THE WATER AND ENVIRONMENT SECTOR - 10 OCTOBER 2019

With the support of the European Union, LEWAP intervened organized a workshop with Lebanese environmental NGOs. Conducted in October 10, 2019, this workshop was based on exchange between the European Union and twelve NGOs on the problems encountered and the responses provided.

This workshop constitutes a first stage of consultation for the prefiguration of a support program for the environment sector by the European Union. In this regard, Lebanese NGOs were invited to share their methods of intervention, the actions implemented and the existing obstacles and levers.

These debates made it possible to question the critical scale of intervention mainly over the structuring of Lebanese NGOs in a network and the impact of the initiatives carried out.

This workshop provided an opportunity to discuss the support that could be provided to encourage the involvement of local players in the sector. The discussions brought to light the problems linked to capacity building of local NGOs, but also the difficulty of accessing funding.



## INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

### TRANSITION TO A NEW GOVERNMENT IN LEBANON

Since October 17, 2019, in a context of economic and monetary crisis strongly impacting the Lebanese population, protests emerged in Lebanon with protesters closing the streets and demanding a change in the government.



In response to these protests, the PM of Lebanon Saad El Hariri resigned. Hassan Diab succeeded him and composed on January 22, 2020 a government of 19 ministers, among whom:

- Minister of Interior and Municipalities: Mohammad Fahmy
- Minister of Environment & Administrative Reform: Demianos Kattar
- Minister of Energy and Water: Raymond Ghajar

## PROJECTS NEWS

### ACTED 10,000 RAINWATER HARVESTING SYSTEMS

Lebanon receives between 600 and 1100mm of rainwater per year with some being lost to runoff or directly to the sea.

In this context, ACTED started working on a project in 2019 aiming to promote rainwater harvesting systems in line with the Ministry of Energy and Water Guidelines. During 2019, ACTED has installed 44 rainwater harvesting systems (RWH) in residential and institutional buildings in Berqayel, Akkar; 34 systems in residential buildings benefiting 707 individuals and 8 systems in public schools benefiting 4451 students and 497 teachers.

The RWH systems consist of roof guttering, downpipes, water tank, water filtration and a water pump; the aim for 2020 is to install 10,000 RWH systems in Lebanon

- To know more about the project, find the [project factsheet](#)



### REGIONAL REFUGEE AND RESILIENCE PLAN (3RP) STRATEGIC OVERVIEW 2020/2021

The Syrian crisis remains the largest displacement of refugees in the world having more than 5.6 million refugees registered in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. As of 2018, UNHCR observed increasing returns of refugees to Syria however resettlement remained an important limited option in 2019, continuing the downward trend of previous years.

Despite the efforts of host communities to provide the basic needs for refugees, their condition remains challenging across the region. The 3RP is designed to collectively enhance the protection of vulnerable persons affected by the crisis, create the conditions and opportunities for dignified lives, build the resilience of refugees and host communities, and strengthen the capacities of national authorities and responders.

To know more about the key facts and figures of the 3RP, check the [3RP website](#)



### THE VULNERABILITY ASSESSEMENT OF SYRIAN REFUGEES (VASYR) IN LEBANON 2019

The vulnerability assessment of Syrian refugees in Lebanon analyses a representative sample of Syrian refugees families in Lebanon to provide a multi-sectoral update of the situation of this population. This assessment is conducted on a yearly basis through household questionnaires and surveys; even though the year 2019 demonstrated some improvements in specific indicators, the situation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon is still vulnerable.

Key findings for the year 2019:

- It remains challenging for refugees to update their documents for temporary stay in Lebanon
- Restrictive measures are increasing as the relationship between refugees and host communities is tensed in terms for competition for jobs and resources
- Access for health care has improved and remains on an acceptable level
- Refugees continue to live in conditions below humanitarian standards with shelter conditions not improving and with risk in danger of collapse
- Food security increased in 2019 compared to 2018
- Syrian refugees are becoming more economically vulnerable with 9 out of 10 households being in debt - an increase of 5% compared to 2018
- Only 1/3 of refugees have a regular job with highest percentage of labour force participation is in Beirut (42%), El Nabatieh, South Lebanon and Mount Lebanon (41% each)
- More households are resorting to crisis livelihood related coping strategies especially through reducing expenditure on health, education and selling productive assets

- Child labour and child marriage remain in line with previous year with children between 5 and 17 still engaged in child labour and with girls aged between 15 to 19 still getting married
- Child nutrition improved slightly with an increase of 13% of children under 6 months receiving breastmilk
- Households continue to rely on bottled drinking water with 88% of household members having access to improved drinking water source
- Gaps in school enrolment remain with the percentage of children between 3 and 5 years of age who were attending an early education programme at the time of the survey, slightly decreased from 16% in 2018 to 13% in 2019

To learn more about the VASyR 2019, check the [report](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN LEBANON

Training on Sustainable Sanitation and Water Management with special focus on faecal sludge management - conducted by cewas Middle East, LEWAP and FAFS-AUB (8-12 June 2020)

Water Trucking and Desludging Market Study Presentation - conducted by UPLOAD and Solidarité International (TBD - 2020)

Technical and Training Workshop on «Towards Integrated Local Watershed Management» - conducted by BTVL and LEWAP/pS-Eau 13-14 May 2020

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY LEWAP, CREATED UPON THE INITIATIVE OF PS-EAU, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE RHONE AND MEDITERRANEAN CORSICA AGENCY AND THE AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT.

### Contribute to LEWAP!

This newsletter has been published in order to keep you informed about the updates in the water sector. The newsletter can be enriched by your contributions... Do not hesitate to communicate to us any information which are likely to be interest to other members in the network!

[contact@lewap.org](mailto:contact@lewap.org)