

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE NETWORK?

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW PLATFORM COORDINATOR

Since July 1st, the activities of LEWAP are implemented by a new platform Coordinator, Ms. Jasmine El Kareh who took over the work developed over the years by Claire Papin-Stammose.

Jasmine is an environmental scientist who has worked in the water sector in the past couple of years.

To know more about LEWAP upcoming activities, contact her on: 71/256 791 – kareh@lewap.org

TUESDAY OF LEWAP: MOUNTAIN SPRINGS, A VALUABLE RESOURCE TO UNDERSTAND AND PRESERVE IN A CONTEXT OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

On July 2nd 2019, a Tuesday of LEWAP was organized with the support of the French Institute in Beirut. Five panelists presented their work to the audience and discussed their findings and recommendations. The main discussions covered:

- the importance of data availability for analysis of current and previous stages of snow cover and provide projections for the future;
- the importance of understanding the earth's geological formations to understand water storage and provision from snow;
- the inter-annual changes in weather parameters with specific focus on temperature and precipitations.

For more info check the conference report: [English Minutes](#)



INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

SOUTH LEBANON WATER ESTABLISHMENT 2020 - 2025 STRATEGY LAUNCHING

The South Lebanon Water Establishment (SLWE), in collaboration with Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, initiated a new endeavor to secure water for everyone in the south by 2025. A first-of-its-kind that strategy will be implemented in a 5-year program and is entitled «South Lebanon Water Establishment 2020-2025».

On that occasion, a ceremony was held at the auditorium of Issam Fares Institute of the American University of Beirut (IFI-AUB), in the presence of the directors of the Water Establishments of the South, the Beqaa and North Lebanon. A number of officials attended the event, including representatives of donors and organizations, international NGOs, and a number of specialists and students interested in the water sector.

The ceremony included a presentation of the new strategy and an open discussion with the audience. Operational challenges and opportunities were also examined and discussed, which turned the conference into a knowledge-sharing platform for the audience.



For more info: [download the strategy](#)

PROJECTS NEWS

LIL MADINA: LOCAL APPROACH ON AL AMLE RIVER REHABILITATION

Lil Madina is a local initiative that started in Saida in 2013; it is formed of local activists and professionals brought together on the belief of the importance of “local knowledge” and “activism” to motivate the residents of the city in playing an important role in developing and preserving their urban and natural environment in a sustainable manner. Their work covers cultural heritage, water, environmental aspects with efforts on preserving and rehabilitating natural areas and waterways.

One of their current ongoing projects is the Amleh River that extends for 3-4 km and fed by around 7 natural springs. Lil Madina chose to start on the source of the river by considering the first 300m near the source known as Shaheen Spring as their pilot area. The aim of this project is to shed light on the problematic practices that are damaging and threatening the river and to rehabilitate the river course and turn it back again to become a public and common space for the surrounding communities.



Household Sewage Pipe



Landfill and Solid Waste

As shown in the pictures above, the river is subject to many disturbances such as landfills that are changing the river course and pollution by household sewage as well as projects to transform the river into an underground and closed concrete pipe known as a Culvert. Lil Madina is also organising local discussions with neighbouring residents to the Amleh river pilot project in order to develop the project according to their priorities and to insure their involvement in the protection of the river for years to come.

Lil Madina also works in research and in the production of various publications that aim to raise awareness on various urban planning, environmental and cultural issues in the Saida context. They also support local communities when they are threatened by problematic infrastructural and planning projects and assist in launching campaign to change or stop such projects.

- For more info on this initiative and their work: [Lil Madina News](#)

LATEST MEETINGS

2ND LEBANESE WATER FORUM

On March 20 2019, Oxfam, in partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) and in collaboration with Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI), organized the 2nd Lebanese Water Forum at IFI-AUB.

The aim of this forum is to support water governance and service provision in Lebanon through discussions on the laws, policies and investment in the water sector. The speakers were representative stakeholders who discussed their expertise in the water sector.

This forum was divided into three panels:

A. Panel 1: Operational aspects at the Regional Water Establishments (RWEs)

The directors of the four Regional Water Establishments were gathered to discuss with the audience the different operational aspects at the level of their establishments along with the different challenges encountered and existing or possible opportunities

B. Panel 2: Strategic frameworks governing Lebanon's water sector

During this panel, a review of the strategic frameworks in the water sector was conducted followed by a discussion between representatives from Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) and sector's experts and the audience on the National Water Sector Strategy (NWSS) and priorities of the RWEs and water users, cost recovery, meeting the international Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and tariffing.



C. Panel 3: Investment Planning in Lebanon

A presentation on the latest investment projects in Lebanon was done followed by a discussion on the CEDRE conference and its alignment with the national planning and the efficiency to respond to locals demand.

For more info: [minutes of the event](#)

7TH BEIRUT WATER WEEK

Organized by the Ministry of Energy and Water in collaboration with World Water Council and MEDURABLE, the 7th Beirut Water Week was held from April 8th until April 10th in Beirut. Several topics were addressed over the course of three days:

- Hydrodiplomacy as a concept for shared water management at Basin Level
- Role of governance for sustainable and integrated river basin management
- Technological tools: innovative solution for River Basin Resources
- The Water Energy Food and Ecosystem nexus in the Mediterranean and MENA Countries
- Hydraulic Structures: Monitoring and Security
- Non- Conventional Water Resources for facing unmet Demand Management
- Young PhD candidates: innovative research in the field of nexus and water management
- Water Culture and Gender mainstreaming
- The role Public Private Partnership in the water resources Management in the Mediterranean

For more info : [Videos](#)

CONSULTATION WORKSHOP WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO DEFINE INDICATIVE POLICY TARGETS AND A PROGRAMME OF MEASURES IN THE NAHR ELKELB RIVER BASIN

The EU funded project SWIM and Horizon 2020 organized a consultation meeting in Beirut on 14-15 March 2019. The workshop on the 14th was on defining policy targets and a program of measures in the Nahr ElKelb River Basin and the workshop on the 15th was on designing decentralized water management measures and policy targets at the local/ decentralized level.

Stakeholders at the governmental level participated in this workshop such as the Ministry of Energy and Water/General Directorate of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources (MoEW/ GDHER), the Ministry of Environment/ Department of Natural Resources Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Beirut Mount-Lebanon Water Establishment (BMLWE), the Council of Development and Reconstruction (CDR) along with local authorities, and NGOs. The aim of this workshop was to bring together relevant and competent stakeholders involved in water allocation, management and planning at the decentralized level and train them on designing measures and policy targets at the local level.

The participants gained an improved understanding:

- on the process of designing demand management measures and policy targets at the local/decentralized level;
- on how to conduct a relevant ex-ante evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of the measures;
- on the different water saving technologies for households and agriculture;
- on how to design a data collection on water use;
- on the importance of water budgets at the river basin scale.

For more information: on [March 14](#) and [March 15](#)

SUSTAINABLE WATER INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT AND HORIZON 2020 SUPPORT MECHANISM

The SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism, funded by the EU, finalized their regional project entitled “Working for a Sustainable Mediterranean, Caring for our Future” implemented in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. The aim of this project was to contribute to a reduced in marine pollution and a sustainable use of scarce water resources in the Mediterranean Region with emphasis on the countries listed previously.

The achievements reached in Lebanon are the following:

- Decentralized Water Management: supporting the MoEW in developing a Program of Measures (PoM) to manage unmet water demand in Nahr El Kelb River Basin; this PoM was later adopted by ACTED for their project on El Ostuan River Basin;
- Private Sector Involvement in the Water Sector: SWIM-H2020 developed a guideline on the procurement of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in the water and wastewater sector taking into account law 48 on PPP that came to force in September 2017;

- Abatement of Industrial Pollution: SWIM-H2020 provided technical assistance and capacity building to the Ministry of Environment on the abatement of industrial pollution which facilitated their work in the industrial sector;
- Cost of Environmental Degradation: this training on Cost Environmental Degradation (CoED) provided guidance for the review of environmental studies such as Environmental Impacts Assessment (EIA); consultancy firms are now better capable to assess the CoED in projects submitted to the Ministry of Environment (MoE).

• For more information: [communication closure April 2019](#)

REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE FOR THE 2019 ARAB FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (AFSD) AND HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF)

The Regional Consultation on Climate Change for the 2019 Arab Forum for Sustainable Development (AFSD) and the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) took place at the United Nations House in Beirut on 21 and 22 March 2019.

Regional Priorities for the Arab World were set by more than 120 officials from Arab States within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

- Climate Change Impacts and Implications of Response Measures for Enhancing Resilience
- Policy Interlinkages and Coherence for Climate Action
- Technological Innovation
- Climate Finance
- Capacity Building

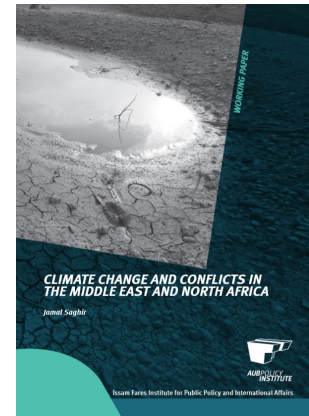
• Download the [outcome document](#)

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CONFLICTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Dr. Jamal Saghir, Affiliated Scholar at the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) American University of Beirut published on July 2019 his 50th Working paper on “Climate Change and Conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa”

Dr. Saghir explains how climate change will exacerbate already existing pressures on natural resources leading to migration and/or conflict in the Middle East and North Africa. Some case studies were analyzed to explain climate change contribution to migration and conflict.



The case of Syria: Syria is known for its agricultural fields; early agricultural policies promoted the production of staple crops that require a lot of water leading to overexploitation of groundwater resources led with outdated irrigation methods. Between 2006 and 2010, Syria was struck by a drought that was reflected by increased temperatures and reduced rainfall leading to decreased soil moisture hence affecting the agricultural lands. These events caused farmers to abandon their lands and moved to the already overpopulated city for living. The hypothesis that climate related drought was a major cause in the civil war in Syria in 2011 has been discussed in the literature but is still not consensual.

This working paper aims at showing the importance of considering climate risk in the design and implementation of infrastructures. It also highlights the importance of integrating climate considerations into development policies and plans.

To download the paper: [link](#)

UNICEF NEWSLETTER #1: UNICEF PROVIDES CLEAN WATER AND FRESH HOPE

On Thursday 25 July 2019, UNICEF Lebanon launched its first quarterly newsletter covering the latest news, projects and events supported by UNICEF in Lebanon.

In this first edition, UNICEF featured one of their ongoing projects, implemented in partnership with LebRelief, aiming at employing WASH program to improve the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable communities in Jabal Mohsen, Tripoli.

To read more about this project: [article](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS IN LEBANON

Tuesday of LEWAP (3 September 2019 – TBC)

3rd Gathering of the decentralized French-Lebanese cooperation (19 – 20 September 2019) [About the cooperation](#)

Exchange Workshops 28 – 29 October 2019: Nahr Ibrahim; Preserving a pool of life against multiple change pressures. [Presentation and program](#)

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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!

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