



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE NETWORK?

LEWAP'S TEAM NEWS

LEWAP is expanding with the arrival of a second platform coordinator starting from June 2021. Juliette Samman will support Jasmine el-Kareh in order to develop LEWAP's activities. She is specialized in partnerships and program development and has previously worked in France and in several countries in the MENA region.

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MADAD NEWS

The EU-MADAD program has been launched in the beginning of 2021, for which LEWAP will provide technical support as WASH communication and advocacy platform. Coordination of partners is ongoing in order to start the activities of capacity-building of Water Establishment, local authorities and civil society. Stay tuned for the upcoming updates shared in our newsletter.

CEWAS - LEWAS SITE VISITS «WATER IN THE CITY»

On June 17th, the "Water in the city" event was organized by cewas in coordination with LEWAP, in order to showcase different aspects of the role of water in urban life through site visits. This event was part of the Blue Peace Media Lab, implemented by cewas and MiCT, a project which aims at strengthening media professionals' capabilities to cover and promote water cooperation and management in the Middle-East, with an overall objective to influence policy dialogue on water-related issues.

"Water in the city" introduced a group of seven Lebanon-based media professionals to two projects tackling water topics in Beirut through site visits:

- Live Love Recycle, which collects and sorts recyclable through a mobile app; since it started, the project saved more than six thousand tons of recyclables from polluting Lebanon landfills and the Mediterranean Sea.
- Zico house, a cultural center which also houses Akleh community kitchen as well as an urban gardening project; the project contributes to a sustainable, circular economic model with water saving at its core.

A third site visit, to Ghadir Wastewater treatment plant, was postponed and will be organized soon.



Live Love Recycle Warehouse, Mansouriyeh, June 17th 2021 (Source cewas)



Urban gardening at Zico House, Hamra, June 17th 2021 (Source cewas)

CEWAS SSWM TRAINING - SUSTAINABLE SANITATION AND WATER MANAGEMENT WITH FOCUS ON FAECAL SLUDGE - THIRD CASE STUDY

Following CEWAS and LEWAP's six-day online training course on SSWM – Sustainable Sanitation and Water Management with focus on faecal sludge management solutions, implemented in November 2020 (see our April Newsletter), a series of three webinars was organized to continue exchanging ideas and examples of implemented case studies. First 2 webinars happened in January and March.

After the 2 webinars of January and March, the third case study focusing on Lessons learnt from a Nature Based Wastewater Treatment at informal settlements in Maalaga was organized on June 7th. A pilot project for on-site WWT systems, led by Solidarités International with technologies developed by Mrüna, was presented to conclude the SSWM case studies series.

Yann Pastel, WASH coordinator at Solidarités International, presented the constraints and challenges of Wastewater Treatment in informal tented settlements, context in which the project was implemented. Ziad Hussami, CEO and Co-founder at Mrüna then presented the innovative, nature-based solution they designed, the TreeWell WWT system.



To watch the 3rd case study, check the [Youtube link](#).

IWMI SECOND NATIONAL LEARNING ALLIANCE IN LEBANON

On June 14th, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI)- through its MENA regional office, organized the 2nd National Learning Alliance (NLA) Online meeting under Rewater MENA project to present and discuss the main findings of the study “Analysis of Water Reuse Potential for Irrigation in Lebanon”, launched in the first NLA. This study is one of the main outputs of ReWater MENA project in Lebanon.

The main objective of this study is to assess the irrigation reuse potential of the (104) existing wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) in Lebanon by assigning a potential reuse area and a reuse potential score to each, taking into consideration the WWTP’s treatment capacity and water quality parameters, surrounding land use and existing irrigation systems among other parameters. It also discusses the governance problems of the wastewater sector in Lebanon and anticipates the impact of the current financial crisis, underlining the main administrative, financial, technical and socio-political obstacles that hinder the materialization of the technical reuse potential.

The NLA meeting brought diverse and a large scope of key stakeholders together to nourish the results of this study with their feedback and input, and engage them in a dialogue around the next steps needed to enhance the possibility of materializing the water reuse potential. The invited stakeholders were representatives from concerned Lebanese governmental authorities, universities, NGOs and private consultancy firms active in the sector. Furthermore, stakeholders provided substantial output to the study by contributing to developing a GIS data base, validating data and responding to Key Informant questionnaires.

The main findings of the study were presented by Dr. Karim Eid Sabbagh, researcher in charge of the study, followed by group sessions to 1) Identify and discuss the challenges and share experiences about the main governance problems of the wastewater and reuse sectors that were found in the study, 2) Suggest the possible solutions or arrangements to these identified challenges, 3) Identify, mobilize, and pool stakeholders' capacities and leadership for the implementation of the needed next steps for improving wastewater treatment and expanding water reuse, 4) Identify potential activities that could possibly be implemented by researchers, NGOs and donors to support national stakeholders in their effort of improving wastewater treatment and water reuse potential in Lebanon. Discussions took place within four different working groups, each led by a facilitator. In the first brainstorming session, participants discussed the appropriate instruments needed to enhance the capacities of the Regional Water Establishments to operate WWTPs in Lebanon. The second session reflected on the different problems that stand in the way of a more participatory management of the water sector and what can be done to improve participation. The third session discussed the different possible institutional arrangements that can be used in Lebanon for managing a reuse system. While the last session discussed the risks related to water quality issues and how to reduce them and ensure water quality is up to standards. The Participants came up with different solutions and recommendations to tackle the challenges they identified in each theme. Then, each group presented a brief summary of their sessions in a plenary session to share the main findings and way forward.

The National Learning Alliance (NLA) is part of ReWater MENA Project which uses this participatory approach to ensure effective participation of concerned stakeholders in decision making process, facilitate the exchange, co-creation, uptake and scaling-up of validated innovations and promising solutions on water reuse. The project aims to expand the safe use of treated wastewater in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region by addressing barriers to water reuse in the region and identifying validated reuse models.

ReWater MENA project is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), and led by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), in partnership with many entities and organizations at the local, regional and international levels.

The final study and findings will be shared in the upcoming newsletter.



INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

DONORS WORKSHOP WITH MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND WATER (MOEW) AND WATER ESTABLISHMENTS

On June 2nd, 2021, the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW), in collaboration with UNICEF, held a Donors' coordination workshop to showcase and discuss challenges and constraints faced by the Water Sector in Lebanon services in light of the dire economic and financial crises the country is witnessing, as well as opportunities to support the sector for the period 2021-2025. The objective of this workshop, besides presenting the current status of the water and wastewater sectors, was to put a focus on Water Establishments' needs and to identify solutions to maintain.

The discussions enabled to emphasize the emergency of needs of Water Establishments currently at risk of collapsing due to the context of economic, health and financial crisis. Following this workshop, the Water Sector coordination team put together an advocacy document to be used by the MoEW for fundraising and for initiating a discussion with partners to support Water Establishments. Updates will be shared by through the Water Sector Newsletter.

WATER CODE TRANSLATED BY ACTED AS PART OF THE EU SABIL CONSORTIUM, TO SUPPORT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WATERWISE WORKSHOPS

The new Water Code, adopted by the Parliament in October 2020, has been translated to English by ACTED to support in the development of the waterwise workshops which are part of the EU SABIL Consortium. This version is available on our database and accessible through [this link](#).

The Water Code clarifies and enhances the 2018 law on water. Among its major inputs, it defines access to water as a right for citizens – thus aiming at regulating sewage network, wastewater treatment, wells usage, agricultural irrigation, as well as combatting pollution by applying the “polluter pays” principles. Prerogatives of the different institutions and stakeholders are clarified to facilitate the management and protection of water. In particular, the Water Code establishes a National Committee for Water, and opens doors to public-private partnerships. Executive decrees have yet to be issued, information will be shared through this newsletter.

OXFAM-SECONDWORKSHOPANDRESEARCHPROJECTREPORT «FOUNDATIONFORRESTRUCTURINGWATER WASTEWATER TARIFFS»

Oxfam presented during an online session on June 9th the findings from the research “Foundation for Restructuring Water Wastewater Tariffs/Introduction of Consumption Based Water-Wastewater Tariffs in Lebanon – Learning, Strategies for Acceptance” (Oxfam). This research was conducted under the H2ALL consortium project funded by the European Union and aims to “provide a critical foundation from which to build future work on developing an overall strategy for water-wastewater restructuring/introduction of a consumption-based water-waste water tariff”.

During the session, EDESSA (Engineering, Design and Environmental Services) and ECA (Economic Consulting Associates, UK) presented the findings from the research on community perceptions and water-wastewater tariff restructuring options. This led to proposed recommendations in terms of actions, community and stakeholders’ engagement, and changes within the Legal and Regulatory Framework.

Three reports were published based on this research:

- Survey [report](#)
- Strategy and Recommendation [report](#)
- Final Summary [report](#)



THREE-ROUND WORKSHOP FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGENCY FOR URBAN PLANNING AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE ABOU ALI RIVER BASIN (AUDETA - NORTH LEBANON)

Between 2019 and 2021, the “Projet de creation d’une agence urbaine et de développement territorial dans le Nord Liban” aimed at leading studies prior to the establishment of an Agency for Urban Planning and Territorial Development in North Lebanon. It resulted from a partnership between the Communauté Urbaine de Dunkerque (CUD), the Municipality of Zgharta/Ehden, and the Municipality of Tripoli, in cooperation with Cités Unies Liban/Bureau Technique des Villes Libanaises (BTVL), the Fédération Nationale des Agences d’Urbanisme (FNAU) and the Agence d’urbanisme Flandre-Dunkerque (AGUR), with the support of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE).

In this context, 3 online workshops were organized in May and June 2021 with French and Lebanese partners as well as local stakeholders, to define status, objectives and orientations of the future Agency AUDETA.

The two first workshops, respectively on May 10th and May 27th, enabled to identify the needs of Lebanese public bodies and priorities for the Agency. Results from these workshops led to creating a preliminary road map concerning three themes:

- Environment, with a priority on sanitation at the catchment scale of the river About Ali
- Economic development, including tourism and cultural heritage
- Transport and mobility

During the third workshop, on June 10th, these results were discussed in order to formalize the Agency's road map for the next 3 years, and to organize the work in regard with the "eco-systemic approach" developed by the Agence d'Urbanisme Flandre-Dunkerque.

Read the Minutes from the last workshop [here](#).



LATEST PUBLICATIONS

GEORGESGHARIOS,NADIMFARAJALLAANDRANAELHAJJ:CHALLENGESOFPOST-WARPOLICYREFORMSIN LEBANON'S WATER SECTOR – LESSONS LEARNED

This paper, published as part of the Climate Change and Environment Program of Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at American University of Beirut, analyzes the situation in Lebanon 30 years after the end of the war and in regard to the new water laws. It also interrogates the potential of the Lebanese case as an example to learn from for other countries of the region.

Abstract: Lebanon has not been able to properly develop and benefit from its water sources. A confessional system of governance has hindered development of the sector. Laws and regulations have been developed erratically with many superseding others without the superseded laws being erased from the registry. This created a chaotic regulatory and legal environment with overlapping jurisdictions and no clear accountability mechanisms. The period before the onset of the civil war in 1975 witnessed significant progress of both infrastructure and laws and regulations related to the management of the water sector. The civil war destroyed the water sector infrastructure and emptied all regulatory control of the resources. The period of reconstruction between 1990 and 1999 witnessed the promulgation of ambitious reconstruction plans for the water sector with funding reliant on borrowing from local and external debtors. Post 1999, government reforms started creeping into the system but were often donor driven and still suffered from the same mistakes of laws overlain on top of existing laws without erasing the older material. Critically, the management of the sector is not inclusive and the beneficiaries of water services are often not heard and ignored.

To read the full paper, check [the link](#).



JONB.ALTERMAN,NATASHAHALLANDWILLTODMAN:SUSTAINABLESTATES:ENVIRONMENT,GOVERNANCE, AND THE FUTURE OF THE MIDDLE EAST

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a bipartisan, nonprofit policy research organization dedicated to advancing practical ideas to address concrete challenges, published through its Middle East Program a new report, "Sustainable States: Environment, Governance, and the Future of the Middle East".

The report explores environmental and sustainable approaches for the provision of power, water and sanitation, and waste management in Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia. It argues that besides building more reliable services, there should be a contribution to the diffusion of useful technical skills, working on redressing the over-centralization of power in capital cities, and address the trust gap between many Middle Eastern populations and their governments. The study benefited from the insights of a distinguished advisory board of senior officials and experts as well as a working group of practitioners.

To read the full paper, check [the link](#).



The Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) at the American University of Beirut (AUB), in collaboration with Oxfam, published a series of reports under the “Water-Energy Nexus of Water and Wastewater Services in Lebanon” project. This project hopes to develop a comprehensive understanding of the links between water and energy within the current Lebanese legal and operational framework, to assess barriers and opportunities for better integrated policies, management strategies, and solutions.

The project examines the role of energy, particularly electricity, in Lebanon’s water and wastewater service provision. This includes an investigation and analysis of associated legal, social, environmental, and economic aspects along with existing legal, policy, and institutional frameworks pertaining to the water, wastewater, and energy sectors. The potential of and obstacles to mainstreaming energy efficiency, particularly renewable energy, in the water and wastewater sectors are also addressed along with a quantification of social, environmental, and economic impacts of energy-use and efficiency of both the individual (homeowner) and water establishment. Finally, a national roadmap for improved energy efficiency in the water and wastewater sector is proposed and evidence is provided on the potential deployment of renewable energy in water services.

Research Reports:

- Volume 1: [Executive Summary](#)
- Volume 2: [Social Network Analysis](#)
- Volume 3: [Energy Audit of the Water and Wastewater Sectors](#)
- Volume 4: [Renewable Energy Potential and Market Assessment](#)
- Volume 5: [Socio-Economic Assessment of the Water-Energy nexus](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS IN LEBANON

EU-SABIL CONSORTIUM WATERWISE WORKSHOPS - JULY 2021 SCHEDULE

With funding from EU MADAD, SABIL Consortium partners are raising awareness on water management and Lebanese legal water framework in Beirut and Mount Lebanon through a cycle of 4 workshops which repeats monthly until the end of the year:

1st Workshop: Climate Change and Water – next session on July 6th

2nd Workshop: Protecting Water Sources – next session on July 13th

3rd Workshop: Sustainable Water Use – next session on July 20th

4th Workshop: Urban Storm Water Management – next session on July 27th

The workshops are free, available for any organization, municipality and person who wants to learn more about Water Management in Lebanon. No prior knowledge necessary, the workshops are in particular designed to raise awareness for the general public.

You can register online through [this link](#).

MARDI LEWAP SUMMER 2021 - DATE TO BE DEFINED SOON, STAY TUNED!

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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!

contact@lewap.org

