

Newsletter June 2025

Latest WASH news

LEWAP COLLABORATION ON SANIHUB

LEWAP worked over the course of 2 months in supporting the collection of sanitation documents in the humanitarian context to be inputted in SANIHUB platform. Currently, LEWAP has done collecting these information

from several partners in Lebanon, the link to the SANIHUB platform will be shared once the data are consolidated and uploaded online. Stay tuned for the link !

LEWAP STUDENT CHAPTERS

CREATION OF STUDENT CHAPTER WITH THE LEBANESE UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF AGRONOMY – 19 MARCH 2025

The Lebanese University's Faculty of Agronomy recently hosted a significant event on March 19, 2025, emphasizing the critical importance of water, particularly in innovative agriculture and related fields. The day began with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Faculty's Dean, Professor Nadine Nassif in the presence of several faculty members. Following the signing, an insightful presentation was held in the faculty's library for the students, where Dean Nassif underscored the value of this collaboration for students and faculty alike.



LEWAP then introduced the LU-LEWAP student chapter, highlighting its role in granting students access to essential water-related resources, connecting them with various water-focused institutes and entities, and providing specialized training and expert support for student research projects. Additionally, before the open discussion, a student joined online to share experiences from previous student chapter events organized by LEWAP. The event concluded with an open discussion involving professors and students, resulting in valuable suggestions that will be integrated into future initiatives and student research theses.



UOB WATER WARRIORS COMPETITION – 23 MAY 2025

Under the UoB-LEWAP student chapter, The Faculty of Engineering at the University of Balamand organized a Water Warriors Competition on the 23rd of May on the occasion of the World Water Day 2025, which will take place at the University of Balamand, Koura Campus.

The Water Warriors Competition is a unique opportunity for schools to promote environmental awareness and teamwork among students. Organized by the University of Balamand (UOB), this challenge is part of UOB's wider commitment to water conservation and the global UN mission to educate 1 million young individuals on water issues by 2030.



What's it all about?

This competition invites students to test their knowledge in a fun and challenging Multiple-Choice Quiz (MCQ) focused on water sustainability, conservation, and environmental responsibility.

Three schools took part of the competition : Lady of Balamand High School, Azm and Tripoli Evangelical School (TES). TES won the first prize followed by Lady of Balamand High School who came second. Certificates and trophies were awarded to the students in the presence of the dean of the faculty Dr Ramy Abboud.

This event will be repeated every year and expanded to a larger network of high schools to increase water awareness at the level of the youth



TECHNICAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP FOR THE PROJECT TITLED "REHABILITATION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT OF EL-BARED CANAL IRRIGATION SYSTEM – 6 MAY 2025

On 6 May 2025, FAO organized a Technical Stakeholders Workshop as part of the ongoing project "Rehabilitation and Waste Management of El-Bared Canal Irrigation System."

The workshop convened a diverse group of experts and stakeholders from public institutions, academia, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations. It served as a dynamic platform to showcase the project's achievements, share technical insights, and discuss innovative interventions implemented in the El-Bared basin. Participants engaged in technical presentations about successful field interventions. Highlights included case studies on the rehabilitation of the irrigation canal, solid waste reduction, nature-based wastewater treatment, and the piloting of a mobile solar-powered irrigation pump.

This workshop enhanced knowledge exchange among key technical actors,

generating constructive feedback on the project's interventions and reinforcing partnerships aimed at improving irrigation infrastructure and environmental sustainability in the region.



About the Project

The project “Rehabilitation and Waste Management of El-Bared Canal Irrigation System”, funded by the Government of Norway, aims to reduce the discharge of waste from the El-Bared system into the Mediterranean Sea. It contributes directly to improving local livelihoods through solid waste disposal, canal rehabilitation, increased agricultural productivity and job creation.

Operating for over five years, the project addresses the deteriorated condition of

the irrigation network in the El-Bared basin. Through a series of assessment studies and field investigations, FAO and its partners have developed and implemented targeted measures to mitigate pollution from solid waste and untreated wastewater. Beyond infrastructure improvements, the project also emphasizes community engagement by employing local labor and conducting awareness-raising campaigns.

6TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS IN MENA CONFERENCE, RETHINKING JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSITION DURING TIMES OF CONFLICT AND CRISIS – 12&13 MAY 2025



Over the years, the Annual Conference on Environmental Politics has facilitated meaningful exchanges among diverse stakeholders, creating opportunities for in-depth discussions on environmental governance, equitable resource management, policy reforms and grassroots mobilization: the inaugural conference in 2021 laid the foundation for the approach we have taken since, and in subsequent conferences (in 2022, in January 2023, in May 2023, and March 2024) we further explored how concepts and notions of just environmental transition resonated in

our particular contexts and societies. The 2025 edition will focus in particular on food and water justice, two of the most critical challenges influencing sustainability and equity in the MENA region. This year’s discussions will bridge perspectives from North African countries which are navigating complex transitions in water governance, food sovereignty and agricultural sustainability, with other parts of the region that are reeling from the impact of years of conflict, economic crisis, occupation and instability.

By placing food and water justice at the core of this conference, the discussions will highlight policy frameworks, governance models, and grassroots initiatives that can drive a just environmental transition in a range of challenging contexts. The goal is to ensure that sustainability strategies are not only environmentally sound but also socially just, particularly for communities most affected by resource

inequalities and climate impacts

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

French decentralized cooperation projects

LEWAP/pS-Eau supports decentralized and non-governmental cooperation on the themes of water, sanitation and water resource management, both on the side of French communities and Lebanese municipalities. In particular, LEWAP/pS-Eau can facilitate connections with various Lebanese actors who are useful for your projects (institutions, NGOs, local civil society organizations, consultancy firms and experts, research organizations, etc.) To know more about some of these projects, check the [link here](#)



UPDATES FROM THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND WATER

It is predicted that Lebanon will witness severe drought season this summer ; this is not necessarily a trend of the weather but rather an exceptional year. One of the main signs of drought is the drop in the Qaraoun Lake Reservoir: expected by March 31st ~217 million m³, actual: 65 million m³ (25–30% of the capacity). Max capacity: 220 million m³ (reached last year). This shortfall will affect hydropower generation (only backup capacity this year), irrigation, and agricultural output.

To overcome this challenge, each water establishment has prepared an emergency plan. Key actions include:

1. Increasing Water Sources

- Equip already drilled but unequipped wells.
- Use private wells (especially in conflict-affected South).
- Allocate irrigation water to potable water use where feasible.

2. Resource Prioritization

- Potable water takes precedence over irrigation.
- Encourage crop shifts: from high-consumption crops (e.g., avocados) to lower-demand ones (e.g., potatoes).

3. Efficiency and Monitoring

- Install household and local-level meters and floats in reservoirs to reduce overflow and wastage.
- Emphasize real-time monitoring of water production and consumption (SCADA systems and smart tools mentioned).

4. Illegal Connections

- Major offenders (e.g., resorts, hotels, car washes).

- Establishments will remove illegal connections, not NGOs or community groups.

In order to reach out to the citizens and the public in Lebanon, an awareness campaign is currently being prepared - MoEW is working on the nationwide campaign with the support of GIZ and AFD. This campaign emphasizes on:

- Reducing non-essential use (e.g., washing roads, cars).
- Changing irrigation practices.
- General water conservation behaviors.

On another note, support is needed at the level of the energy sector and infrastructure such as :

- Solar panels and renewable energy to support pumping.
- Fuel and generators, especially in South Lebanon.
- Targeted repair of pipelines and infrastructure leaks—public encouraged to report.

Coordination with the agricultural sector is essential in this situation: Farmers are already adjusting their agricultural practices due to awareness of the drought.

Ministry of Agriculture should promote:

- Drop irrigation (not necessarily high-tech “smart” methods).
- Crop rotation and less water-intensive crops.

A prioritization exercise was conducted to classify all WASH sector activities based on urgency and relevance, considering various emergency contexts and population groups.

Activities were categorized under three main themes: Hygiene, Water, and Sanitation.

Each activity was rated as High, Medium, Least Priority, Not Applicable, or Not Recommended.

- o Population Groups Considered:

- IDPs and Returnees (inside and outside collective shelters)
- New Arrivals (inside and outside collective shelters)
- Syrian Refugees (pre-existing)
- Lebanese (non-war affected)
- Palestinian Refugees (PRL, PRS)
- Migrants

- o Emergency Contexts Considered:

- Lebanon War
- Syrian Crisis (post-2011 influx)
- Fall of the Regime in Syria
- Non-emergency (developmental/ongoing activities)

- o Methodology:

- Input was gathered from both national and subnational WaSH sector members.
- Activities were rated regionally (Beirut/Mount Lebanon, South/Nabatiyeh, Bekaa/Baalbek-Hermel,

North/Akkar), with higher weight given to subnational feedback.

- Core and subnational groups were invited to suggest additional activities.

- o Key Findings:

Priorities vary by population and context. For example:

- High Priority: Distribution of hygiene kits for new Syrian arrivals in collective shelters, water trucking inside shelters, water quality monitoring.

- Least Priority: Same hygiene kit distribution for returnees and IDPs in shelters due to existing capacity.

- The same activity may vary in priority based on population group or emergency scenario.

- o Next Steps: Conduct a gap analysis focusing on high-priority activities to determine:

- Current resources
- Needs and existing gaps
- Required funding

- o Results will inform funding proposals, also under the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF). This current exercise covers the broader sector and may differ from LHF selections due to further consultation. To access the results check the [link here](#)

2025 LHF 1st standard allocation

o Pillar 1 (War-related humanitarian interventions) and Pillar 2 (New Arrivals):

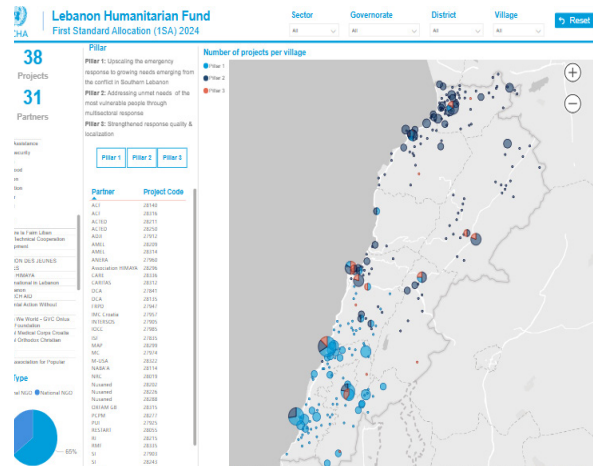
- Pillar 1: Mainly for South (S), Baalbek-Hermel, and parts of Beirut.
- Pillar 2: Focus on new arrivals in North, Akkar, Baalbek-Hermel and the Bekaa region.
- Pillar 3: Potential involvement of local NGOs receiving funds for similar activities under dedicated local funding pools.

o 2024 LHF Annual Report has been published. Key highlights:

- Total allocations to the WaSH sector in 2024: ~\$10 million USD (1st standard allocation, 1 and 2 reserve allocations)
- People reached: ~166,000 people
- Sectoral funding: LHF represented ~10% of the total humanitarian funds (\$100M total) available to the WaSH sector in 2024.
- Reserve allocations: Focused on escalation-related emergencies and post-war response.
- Standard allocation: Also included support to informal settlements.

To know more about the report check the resources

- [LHF annual report 2024](#)
- [Dashboard](#)



Latest publications

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

THE ROLE OF GROUNDWATER DEPLETION IN LOCAL AND GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE – PUBLICATION FROM IHAB JOMAA LARI

Groundwater depletion is emerging as one of the most pressing environmental and socio-economic issues of the 21st century, driven by rapid population growth and increasing demand for freshwater. Groundwater supplies about 30% of the world's freshwater, but in many regions, it is being extracted faster than it can naturally replenish.

This research highlights the need for a more integrated approach that includes sustainable groundwater management, accurate climate monitoring, and a broader understanding of the complex relationship between water resources and climate. Groundwater depletion is not only a water crisis but also a climate crisis that demands immediate and comprehensive attention.

To access the report, check the [link here](#)

GABY NASR ON THE WATER SECTOR IN LEBANON: PERSPECTIVES ON THE ROLE OF MUNICIPALITIES IN SECTOR GOVERNANCE

As part of the research conducted by the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies on Lebanon's water sector, journalist Ralph Beidoun interviews the technical director of the North Lebanon Water Establishment, engineer Gaby Nasr, to discuss the role of municipalities in the governance of the sector.

Lebanon's water sector operates within a dual system that combines formal governance with traditional

practices. Management responsibilities are divided among the Ministry of Energy and Water, regional water establishments, and municipalities. However, weak coordination among these entities results in overlapping roles and challenges in effectively meeting water needs.

Today, Water Law No. 192 (2020) aims to improve coordination and clarify responsibilities among the various stakeholders. In this interview, we highlight the challenges facing the sector and explore potential avenues

for collaboration, with an emphasis on the importance of involving the private sector and NGOs to enhance the efficiency of water management. To access the interview, check the [link here](#)

Upcoming event

3 June 2025 : 10AM till 1PM in BDD 1280– Impact of climate change on water resources in Lebanon
17 June 2025 : 10AM till 1PM in Institut Français Sodeco – Renewable energy in the water sector

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