

Newsletter - March 2023

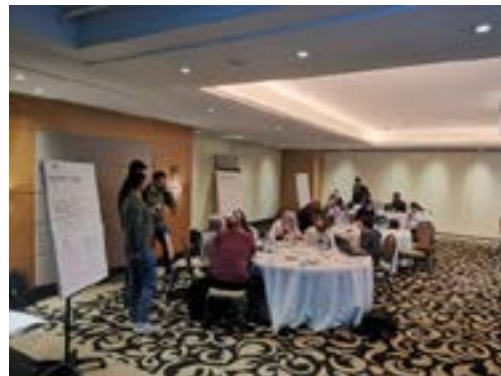
WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE NETWORK ?

PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP : "COORDINATION NEEDS BETTER" - LEBANON WASH CLUSTER

From January 21st to January 23rd, 2023, Lebanon WASH cluster organised a participatory workshop on coordination mechanisms in the water sector.

The objective was to reflect on progress to date, current situation and future outlook and to agree on key strategic recommendations particularly regarding coordination, communication and advocacy to ensure that WASH needs are met in the most cost-effective way in line with sector objectives.

Considering the update of LCRP, ERP and national water sector strategy, the stakeholders of the WASH sector shared challenges, bottlenecks, gaps, coping mechanisms and cross-sectoral implications; and tried to agree on recommendations in structuring the water sector coordination mechanism for the coming year.



WORKSHOP "TOWARDS STRUCTURAL REFORMS" - WATER REFORM PROGRAMME

Under the patronage of the Ministry of Energy and Water and the 4 Regional Water Establishments, the Water Reform Programme, funded by the European Union

and implemented by the Agence Française de Développement organized a first WATER TALK entitled "Towards structural reforms" on January 20th 2023.

This first Water Talk was designed as a space of fact checking aiming at providing a deep resonant understanding of how to recover the water sector through structural changes while using the findings to date of the Water Reform Programme. This event brought together over 100 participants, including key stakeholders in the water sector to discuss important topics related to the future of water management in Lebanon.

The national workshop tackled different subjects such as the water establishments' technical, financial and organizational diagnosis, tariff restructuring, the water sector legislation, key performance indicators, digital transformation and sector coordination.

Six sessions were organized:

- The first session covered the technical and financial diagnosis of the four Water Establishments. The TA Team presented a comprehensive overview of the challenges and perspectives faced by the WEs, the main recommendations for improving the services management and the related on-

going or planned action implementing by the Water Reform Programme ;

- The second session delved into the on-going organizational diagnosis and action plan for the four Water Establishments ;

- The third session focused on the sector key data presented by the TA Team and highlighted the needs in terms of master planning for water and wastewater, metering and monitoring of water production and distribution and performance monitoring ;

- The fourth session discussed water sector legislation, including a legal analysis and foreseen drafting modalities of the Water Law implementing decrees and decisions ;

- The fifth session was dedicated to the tariff study and restructuring methodology, including tariff simulations, tariff restructuring alternatives, and possible outcomes ;

- The final session covered sector coordination and the way forward.

You can find the sessions presentations [here](#).



Photo credit : [Livelove](#)

FAO/WORKSHOP/INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY IN WATER MANAGEMENT/28 FEBRUARY 2023

A Workshop on Innovation and Technology was organized by FAO on Tuesday, February 28, 2022. This workshop was attended by a number of technical personnel from regional establishments, governmental entities, engineers and experts from various research institutes and organizations involved in water resources management. The purpose of the "Innovation and Technologies in Water Management" workshop was to showcase adopted project innovations and technologies highlighting their benefits. The importance of integrating technology into practice was presented,

whereas an overview on the vital role of innovation in water management was highlighted. The main techniques adopted in project implementation were also presented in-depth along with their purpose of use.

Video recording of the session

Link: [Accessed here](#)

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Publications & Guides

Below is a list of publication from two projects:

SWISS PROJECT		
Title	Publication	CARD
Improved Water Resources Monitoring System / Integrated Water Resources Management at regional level in Lebanon	www.fao.org/3/cb1438en/cb1438en.pdf	http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb1438en
Real time monitoring at key locations	www.fao.org/3/cb2678en/cb2678en.pdf	http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb2678en
Water quality monitoring at key locations within a pilot watershed	http://www.fao.org/3/cb3454en/cb3454en.pdf	http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb3454en
Water Establishment/Watershed Prototype Monitoring System	http://www.fao.org/3/cb3453en/cb3453en.pdf	http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb3453en
Water Accounting tool	http://www.fao.org/3/cb3332en/cb3332en.pdf	http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb3332en
Informed decisions transferred to end-users to improve capacity for enhanced crop water productivity	http://www.fao.org/3/cb4240en/cb4240en.pdf	http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb4240en
Asset management system in peri-urban irrigation scheme	http://www.fao.org/3/cb3953en/cb3953en.pdf	http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb3953en
Field guide to monitor irrigation water quality in Lebanon	https://www.fao.org/3/cb8721en/cb8721en.pdf	https://www.fao.org/publications/card/fr/c/CB8721EN/

NORWAY PROJECT		
Title	Publication	CARD
A review of the potential and limitations of dredged sediment application in agriculture	https://www.fao.org/3/cc0095en/cc0095en.pdf	https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CC0095EN/
Assessment of engineering solutions for solid waste removal from irrigation canals in North Lebanon	https://www.fao.org/3/cb3181en/cb3181en.pdf	https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb3181en
Rehabilitation and waste management of El Bared canal irrigation system to reduce source-to-sea pollution and improve livelihoods in the Akkar region of Lebnaon	http://www.fao.org/3/cb5930en/cb5930en.pdf	http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb5930en
Image-based analysis for damage assessment of irrigation canal lining	http://www.fao.org/3/cb8228en/cb8228en.pdf	http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb8228en

PROJECTS RELATED TO FRENCH-LEBANESE COOPERATION

RESEARCH OF A DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION PARTNER IN AAMMIQ, SHOUF

In December 2022, the municipal team of the village of Aammiq solicited the French association [Experts Solidaires](#) to help them set up a decentralized cooperation project on the theme of sanitation. The village of Aammiq is located in Shouf, about fifty kilometers from Beirut. Marked by the rural exodus, Aammiq welcomes 100 inhabitants on weekdays and up to 400 on weekends and summer. The sanitation situation is currently unsatisfactory: residents use individual lost wells to evacuate their wastewater, and upwelling has become problematic and odorous. The municipal team of Aammiq is looking to set up a cooperation project to find a solution to this problem. In order

to evaluate different options for a more efficient sanitation system and start the search for French partners, the president of the association Experts Solidaires, Jean-Pierre Mahé, did a field mission in Aammiq in December 2022, following which he got in contact with French university AgroParisTech. A study mission with some of the students of AgroParisTech is planned in the coming weeks, in order to analyse needs and technical possibilities and lay the foundation for a future decentralised cooperation project.

The municipality of Aammiq is now looking for partners to set up a cooperation project. If you are interested, please [contact us](#).

COOPERATION IN ANTOURA

The decentralized cooperation project in Antoura focuses on the implementation of a non-collective municipal sanitation service for the improvement of the treatment conditions of domestic wastewater produced by the housing and tertiary units of the municipality. Following the signing of the agreement bringing together the project partners (Antoura, Hydreauly, SEVESC, CubeX) that took place in October, the first phase of the project has started,

which involves carrying out a study by CubeX that aims to assess needs, help find manufacturers for the operational phase and propose a budgeted execution plan. CubeX is currently in the evaluation phase of the data collected from the inhabitants, also evaluating in the field the sanitation systems already installed, and collecting samples for analysis in the laboratory. Stay tune for the next steps of the project !

NEWS FROM HAWKAMAA-EU (MADAD 3)

PARTNERS' ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST MONTHS

The HawkaMaa-EU project aims to provide WASH assistance to support water governance and public water and wastewater services in Lebanon for host and refugee communities. A consortium formed of different organizations is at work; the implementing partners of the project are ACTED, ACF, WW-GVC, LebRelief and Solidarités International with the support of IMPACT, LCPS, Nahnoo and LEWAP. In the past quarter, partners continued to work on the 5 selected water infrastructure projects to be supported in Akkar, Bekaa, Beirut and Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon. ACTED and WWGVC organized two consultation workshops, respectively with Al Ghadir and Al Assi river basin stakeholders, to identify priority measures for the basins. In parallel, the partners are developing a water balance models for each basin – which will inform concrete action plans. The models, along with the baseline assessment, scenarios and programme of measures will be presented in the next

quarter. To support the implementation of the measures, grassroots grants will also be launched and open to CSOs working in the water sector around Al Assi, Al Ghadir and Al Ostuan basins. Meanwhile, ACTED and LebRelief provided technical trainings to 30 Ouzaii residents, who are now supporting the works in the area. The construction of the potable and water networks in Ouzaii are almost completed. ACF and SI also continued to implement and monitor decentralized wastewater systems in ITS in Akkar and West Bekaa. ACF, SI, ACTED and WWGVC also continued to support 6 water establishments local sections across Lebanon, to improve service delivery through seconding Hydraulic Engineers, conducting ground truthing and network calibration activities. Lastly, waterwise sessions, to raise awareness of the public on water use and conservation were done in the Bekaa and the South and will continue in other regions in the next quarter.

WORKSHOP ON PUBLIC PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS

Under the #HawkaMaa_EU project, Lebanese Water Actors Platform - LEWAP, in collaboration with NAHNOO and WeWorld Onlus GVC, hosted a workshop on Public-Private Partnership on February 7, 2023. Representatives from the Lebanese water establishments, municipalities, and other sector actors attended the session. Nahnoo presented the Public-Private Partnership study they are working on and the MoU they developed as a tool for this



partnership.

The Zgharta Ehdn Union of Municipalities and the West Baalback Union of Municipalities shared their success stories of working with their regional water facilities. Representatives from North Lebanon Water Establishment and Beirut and Mount Lebanon Water Establishment also presented their testimonials.

For more information check the conference report [here](#).



LEBANESE CIVIL SOCIETY FOR WATER

The Lebanese Civil Society for Water (LCSW), implemented by LEWAP and LebRelief as part of the HawkaMaa-EU project is a network of Lebanese NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) active in the water and environment sector, who are willing to increase their knowledge and intervention capacities for water and wastewater. The LCSW meets regularly on a monthly basis to discuss updates from the sector as well as strategic topics, and receives capacity building trainings provided by the project's partners.

Members of the network along with the 3RF members (the Lebanon Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) is part of a comprehensive response to the massive explosion on the Port of Beirut on August 4, 2020. It is a people-centered recovery and reconstruction framework) will be attending a session on Private Public Partnership that will take place in person with the aim of collecting feedback from them on possible means of collaboration between private and public institutions for improved service delivery.

RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

As part of the Hawkamaa-EU project, and in line with LEWAP's activities of bridging the gap between academics and other actors in the sector, LEWAP is working on providing research grants to future water professionals being university students in Lebanon. Students have presented their

final drafts which are being reviewed by partners in the consortium. A final event will be held in April - stay tuned for details on that.

NATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

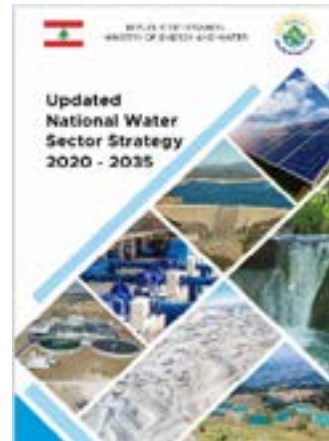
CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN LEBANON

The cholera epidemic that started in October 2022 in Lebanon seems now under control. However, the government as well as the humanitarians call for vigilance.

You can have access to the data on cholera [here](#).

NEWS FROM THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENERGY

The Ministry of Energy and Water has officially issued the NWSS for the years 2020-2025; the strategy was updated after 2020 taking into consideration the changes that happened in the country. The updated strategy incorporates many of the comments made during the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment process (done by ECODIT and financed through the WB loan), and includes a summary of the [SESA](#). The strategy was issued in English and Arabic; to access the document check the [link](#).



ACTUALITÉS DU GROUPE THÉMATIQUE STABILISATION

Under Lebanon WASH Cluster, LEWAP leading on the stabilization thematic group is meeting on a monthly basis with stabilization partners.

The group is formed from UN agencies, international and local organizations and donors and the aim is to collect information regarding infrastructure projects targeting Lebanese communities in the water and wastewater sector. To make sure everyone has one library with all needed information in one place, meetings took place with the MoEW and the Technical Assistance of EU-AFD and it was agreed that Activity Info will remain the platform for collecting project data and updates.

Please check the [link](#).



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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

SUMMARY SHEET : CHOLERA IN LEBANON



LEWAP published a summary sheet on cholera in Lebanon. The objective of this work is to draw the situation of the epidemic in Lebanon, as well as to show how this crisis highlights the difficulties of the water and sanitation sector.

You can find the summary sheet [here](#).

RIVERS OF LEBANON: SIGNIFICANT WATER RESOURCES UNDER THREATS

Lebanon is rich in water resources, and the considerable number of rivers (i.e. 14 rivers) reflects this.

However, it is estimated that more than 75% of river water is untapped and flows mainly into the sea.

This chapter aims at introducing a discussion

on the existing challenges on the Lebanese rivers and give suggestions to improve their management.

To know more about this chapter, check the [link](#).

WHEN WATER BECOMES A PRIVILEGE: THE CONSEQUENCES OF SHUTTING DOWN THE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM IN LEBANON



This report analyzes the situation of the water and sanitation sector in Lebanon, addressing successively the socio-economic situation of the country, the weakness of Water Establishments, access to water and energy for the inhabitants, the role of municipalities to provide water and sanitation services and the costly and unsafe private alternatives. The note highlights the issue of water costs, which have become unsustainable for households, as well as water quality, which could decrease further given the increasing intermittency of public water supply and water treatment operational challenges. Based on these findings, Lebanon WASH Cluster makes recommendations addressed to the various actors involved in the sector: the Lebanese government, WaSH sector partners, water institutions and donors. Check the report [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS IN LEBANON – DATE AND FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE SEND VIA EMAIL

PRIVATE PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP WITH LCSW - MARCH

A workshop will be hold at the end of this month on private public partnership - stay tuned for more information soon.

EXPERT CONSULTATION MEETING ON THE IMPACT OF WASTEWATER ON THE ENVIRONMENT -

A workshop will be hold at the end of this month on the impact of wastewater on the environment - stay tuned for more information soon.

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

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THIS NEWSLETTER HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN ORDER TO KEEP YOU INFORMED ABOUT THE UPDATES IN THE WATER SECTOR AND 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