

## WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE NETWORK?

### LEWAP HAS NOW A FACEBOOK PAGE!

LEWAP has now a Facebook page where you can check the latest news and meetings related to the water sector in Lebanon

To access the page [link](#)

### TUESDAY OF LEWAP: UNDERSTANDING GROUNDWATER FROM SOURCES TO USERS



On September 3rd 2019, a Tuesday of LEWAP on groundwater was organized with the support of the French Institute in Beirut. Four panelists presented their work to the audience and discussed their findings and recommendations. The main discussions covered the:

- importance of meteorological and geological information for assessment of groundwater recharge and replenishment;
- importance of assessing contaminant flow and transport for sustainable management of water resources;
- importance of contextualizing laws and regulations in a scientific manner while considering the Lebanese context;
- importance of climate data in assessing water quantity and quality;
- importance of assessing Snow Water Equivalent to determine groundwater quantity.

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



The 3rd seminar of the decentralized French Lebanese cooperation was held the last 19th and 20th of September of 2019 in Carcassonne, France. Hosted by the Département de l'Aude, this meeting was organised by Cités Unies France and Cités Unies Liban/BTVL with the aim of assessing decentralized cooperation, outlining the experiences and discussing shared issues. On this occasion, a Lebanese delegation with Her Excellency The Minister of the Interior and Municipalities in Lebanon, Mrs. Raya El Hassan, and Lebanese Municipalities representatives were welcomed in Carcassonne.

Local public institutions from all over France and His Excellency The Minister of the Local Public Institutions, Mr Sébastien Le Cornu went to this Third Edition to discuss and develop new partnerships with their Lebanese counterparts. Madam Raya El Hassan and Mr Sébastien Le Cornu signed an agreement that aims at strengthening the capacity of Lebanese municipalities.

Different workshops were focussing on one of the main theme of Franco-Lebanese decentralized cooperation : water and sanitation. LEWAP presented the main issues of the sector as well as the support offered by the platform to French and Lebanese local public institutions which are interested in developing partnerships. Local public institutions presented three different cooperation's projects related to water and sanitation.

One of those workshops was dedicated to local public institutions network with pS-Eau presenting the tools and the support provided for the local public institutions. The Rhone Mediterranean Corsica Agency renewed its commitment and capacity to provide financial and technical support to the local public institutions interested in implementing projects in Lebanon.

For further details, you can find the [site web](#)

## WASH STRATEGY FOR THE INTERVENTION OF LOCAL NGO

On September 12, 2019, a participatory workshop was held with local NGOs working in the water sector. This meeting was initiated by the Lebanese NGO LebRelief, with the support of LEWAP.

Sharing and analyzing their different experiences allowed local NGOs to define an intervention strategy in the water sector. This strategy was shared with the Ministry of Energy and Water to feed into the reflections for updating the national water sector strategy.

This strategy primarily targets interventions in regions historically neglected by the public authorities and experiencing high tensions.

The workshop allowed to agree on three main criteria for the choice of intervention zones:

- The existence of water, sanitation and rainwater collection networks;
- The presence of vulnerable populations estimated according to different indicators (poverty rate, number of single-parent households, housing conditions, schooling rates, early marriage);
- The existence of tensions and conflicts.

In order to ensure the sustainability of services in these marginalized areas, important social activities need to be developed alongside the construction of infrastructure. These activities should help to build confidence in public institutions, promote ownership of projects and the consent of users to subscribe to public water services.

The strategy also highlights the need to coordinate activities with local, regional and national authorities. This coordination is also an advocacy space around issues related to low collection rates, old unpaid invoices, incentive bonuses or volumetric pricing.

[Find the strategy](#) and the [criteria for the selection of intervention areas](#)

## LEWAP PARTICIPATION IN THE FIRST NATIONAL LEARNING ALLIANCE WORKSHOP OF THE REWATER MENA PROJECT

On October 3, 2019, the first workshop of the national knowledge alliance of the ReWater MENA project implemented by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) was held in Beirut.

The objective of this project is to study the potential for the reuse of treated wastewater in Lebanon, to understand the challenges and barriers for the reuse of treated wastewater and to propose solutions and recommendations to overcome these barriers.



This first workshop was specifically aimed at discussing the expected results of this project and the methodology adopted for evaluating the potential for reuse of treated wastewater in Lebanon.

This multi-stakeholder workshop was led by the French cooperative society LISODE following a participatory approach



Find more information on the [ReWater MENA project website](#)

## INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

### MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND WATER NATIONAL WATER SECTOR STRATEGY UPDATE 2019

On the occasion of the Beirut Water Day, the Ministry of Energy and Water presented the various steps followed for the update of the national water sector strategy scheduled for the end of 2019

The Ministry is relying on a consortium of consultants to revise its strategy for water, sanitation and irrigation. An important component of this national strategy is governance and management. For each component of this strategy, specific attention is given to economic and social impacts. This strategy is in line with previous intervention policies but redefines national and regional priorities in the current context.



The update of the strategy is divided into three phases:

- Data collection in coordination with the various actors of the sector (June to September 2019);
- Data processing and analysis for the definition of better management and governance (in progress);
- Data processing and analysis for infrastructure prioritization (in progress).

For infrastructure, a priority is given to the extension and improvement of supply networks, the reduction of unpaid debts, the development of resources (including dams), the protection of the Lebanese coast and the Mediterranean, the protection of storage areas and protection of major surface and underground water resources.

For the definition of a better management, a priority is given to the increase of the subscription and recovery rates, the restructuring of the tariffs, the update of the organization charts of the Ministry of Energy and Water and Regional Establishments water, the protection of water quality and its security, the revision of the water code and the publication of its application decrees and demand management with volumetric pricing.

The revision of this strategy makes it possible to identify needs for further studies on technical, legislative, management and communication aspects.

For more information regarding the updates: [NWSS 2019 updates](#)

## PROJECTS NEWS

### UNICEF'S WASH PROGRAMME: FACILITATING GOOD GOVERNANCE

UNICEF Lebanon is working with three of Lebanon's Water Establishments - North Lebanon Water Establishment, Bekaa Water Establishment and South Lebanon Water Establishment - on improving their customer service performance and on optimizing their internal resources.

The assessment for this project started in 2018 and is scheduled to finish by the end of 2020. The overall aim is to restore trust between the three water establishments and their customers by modernizing the customer services and communication through Consolidated Call Centers, Customer Registration Portals and Mobile Application.



For more details regarding this project: [UNICEF Good Governance Project](#)

## LATEST MEETINGS

### BEIRUT WATER DAY - SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

As part of the International Beirut Energy Forum 2019, the Beirut Water Day was held on September 27th 2019. Local water actors from national and regional institutions to the private sector attended the event where several themes were discussed:



- Presentation of the updated NWSS (MoEW) [link](#)
- Water Security Assessment study (IFI/USAID/LWP) [link](#)
- Private Public Participation contracts (USAID/LWP) [link](#)
- Water Demand Management (USAID/LWP) [link](#)
- Digital Technologies in the water sector (World Bank) [link](#)
- Communication and Customer DB at the Water Establishments (UNICEF) [link](#)
- Customer Database Update: MiyahCon experiences and step-by-step manual for Water Establishments (MIYAHCON/EU) [link](#)
- Water Energy Nexus study (IFI/OXFAM/EU) [link](#)
- Sludge treatment alternatives in Lebanon (World Bank) [link](#)
- Circular Economy and the Water Sector (Stantec) [link](#)

### INNOVATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION PARTNERSHIPS EVENT IN RASHIDIYE PALESTINIAN CAMP



On 24 and 25 September 2019, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) organized a two days workshop to discuss innovative solutions for environmental health.

The proposed solutions are based on a two-year feasibility study conducted in the Palestinian refugee camp Rashidieh by the UPM research bureau. This study aims to identify and analyze the main environmental challenges of the camp and its surroundings.

This work has identified nine project proposals that can address environmental issues in Tire-Rashidieh:

- Issues related to water: opportunities ([project file](#))
- Mutual benefits and economic model for waste recovery ([project file](#))
- Coastal protection and ecological restoration on the Rashidieh coast ([project sheet](#))
- Green spaces ([project sheet](#))
- Entrepreneurship and waste recovery - green economy and jobs ([project file](#))
- Promote understanding and awareness of environmental issues ([project sheet](#))
- Domestic wastewater management: innovation for fecal sludge management ([project file](#))
- Integrated management of ecological sanitation ([project sheet](#))
- Green roofs ([project sheet](#))
- Vegetated roofs ([project sheet](#))



In addition to the presentation of the study, site visits were organized in the camp, in the recycling unit, in the wastewater treatment plant, the nature reserve, the water sources and the municipal pumping station

Download the feasibility study [part 1](#) and [part 2](#)

## LATEST PUBLICATIONS

### NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDC) - GLOBAL OUTLOOK REPORT 2019 SUSTAINABLE

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have been working on supporting countries in developing their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) after the Paris Agreement in 2014.

The NDC survey conducted on 133 countries by UNDP in 2019 allowed to identify the barriers from accomplishing these contributions;

- Barriers to accelerating NDC implementation and raising ambition are access and availability of funding
- Barriers to mobilizing society are access to reliable information and data, political will, awareness raising and understanding of key stakeholders and linking NDCs targets to existing policies, strategies and budgets.



To download the paper: [Link to document](#)

### PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR UPDATING THE WATER ESTABLISHMENTS' CUSTOMER DATABASE

As part of its project financed by the MADAD Fund of the European Union, the MiyahCon consortium has published a practical guide for updating the Water Establishments' customer database.

Available in Arabic and English, this guide summarizes the process of identifying and geolocating subscribers in the field. Aimed at the staff of Water Establishments and the actors who support them, this guide presents the various steps necessary for the verification of customer information in the field. The process is divided into four stages: the preparation phase, the field phase, the data analysis and the retrocession to the Water Establishments

[Download the manual](#)

### WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ANCESTRAL IRRIGATION BASINS IN LEBANON?

This poster presents a synthesis of the research work carried out in southern Lebanon on ancestral irrigation basins. In a context of increasing water shortages, water resources management mechanisms need to be adapted.

Historically, Lebanon has rules and procedures organizing water and land management for local societies. The study and understanding of these devices makes it possible to evaluate their impact on resource management and their potential reproducibility



The author is particularly interested in pressurized irrigation using irrigation ponds (Birkets) managed collectively. The research carried out underlines the positive role played by these Birkets in reducing conflicts of use and equitable distribution of resource.

Download the poster

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN LEBANON

Tuesday of LEWAP (December 2019 - Water Quality)

cewas Middle East upcoming trainings on Sustainable Sanitation and Water Management  
Nov 7th - 12th 2019 at IFI - AUB

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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](mailto:contact@lewap.org)