

## Newsletter - December 2023

### WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE NETWORK ?

#### ENGAGE PROGRAM - CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

The program Engage: Capacity Development of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to engage in Water and Sanitation, was launched in June 2023 by the University of Balamand (UoB) in collaboration with the International Center for Water Management Services (cewas) and the LEbanese Water Actors Platform (LEWAP) under the Water and Sanitation and Conservation (WSC) project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The primary objective of this training is to enhance the role and impact of CSOs in driving positive change in the water and sanitation domain.

In November, an eight-module training cohort was held in Beirut. The following topics

were covered by experienced coaches and practitioners: general introduction to water and sanitation, sanitation management and wastewater reuse, irrigation, non-revenue water, advocacy, civic engagement and behavioral change, fundraising and financial management. A field visit was also organized to a conventional Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and a natural one in Bcharre, allowing trainees to gain practical insights and knowledge about wastewater treatment processes.

More than 30 beneficiaries from more than 20 different CSOs attended the training.

As part of the Engage program, two other training cohorts will be organized in early 2024 (dates to be determined).



## EU STRUCTURED DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING WATER SCARCITY

On September 12, Transparency Lebanon International organized an event on behalf of the European Delegation in Beirut for the launch of the «EU Structured Dialogue with Civil Society Organizations» as part of their Building Integrity and National Accountability (BINA) project. This pivotal event was titled «Strengthening Civil Society Organizations: A Dialogue with the EU.» and was structured around the EU's Multi-annual Indicative Program (MIP) review for 2021, with a focus on

the following three key priorities:

- Enhancing Good Governance and Supporting Reforms;
  - Strengthening an Inclusive and Resilient Economy;
  - Promoting a Green and Sustainable Recovery.
- The objective of the event was to gather CSOs' insights and input regarding these priorities, addressing challenges, and envisioning future interventions, for which CSOs were invited to formulate recommendations.

## ROUNDTABLE : ASSESSING THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE 3RF IN LEBANON

On November 14, the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies, Transparency International and Transparency International Lebanon - No Corruption in cooperation with the European Union Delegation to Lebanon organized a closed roundtable entitled: Assessing the Way Forward for the 3RF in Lebanon.

The 3RF was created shortly after the Beirut port blast to organize the recovery, reform, and reconstruction processes. It represents a joint effort between the United Nations, the European Union, the World Bank, the Lebanese government, and civil society organizations. Through the BINA' project, the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies in partnership with Transparency International and Transparency International Lebanon - No Corruption have conducted a nationwide public opinion survey showcasing the responses of 1200 individuals

as well as 18 focus groups comprising a total of 111 participants from civil society organizations across the different Lebanese governorates regarding the Beirut port blast and various aspects of the 3RF to date.

This closed roundtable aimed to present the findings of the research conducted recently. It brought together 3RF stakeholders, including the consultative group, the working groups, and civil society organizations that are part of the 3RF, to examine the inclusiveness, transparency, and effectiveness of the 3RF, along with its visibility, communication, and outreach. Recommendations for optimizing the framework in these areas were explored during the roundtable.

## 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.

Under the Consortium, LebRelief, Acted and WWGVC launched their Civil Society Strengthening Programme to improve Integrated Resources Management across the Al Ostuan, Al Ghadir and Al Assi river basins. CSOs, along with municipality staff, received trainings on project development and management and were coached to apply to the Grassroots Grants programme. As a result, 11 projects, which aim to improve the water and environmental

situation around the 3 basins were selected and will be ongoing in the next period. In parallel, partners also continued their support to improve water public services in Lebanon, through progresses made on 5 large infrastructure projects and continued technical and material support to WEs. In the next period, a study on Socio Economic Barrier to Subscription and Servicing will also be launched by LebRelief, to further support water reforms and public services.

### LEBANESE CIVIL SOCIETY FOR WATER (LSCW) - LEBANON ECO MOVEMENT (LEM) AND LCSW EVENT - WATER RESOURCES AND CITIZENS RESPONSIBILITY



Under the framework of the project «Promoting Citizen Engagement in Sound Environmental Policies» funded by National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Lebanon Eco Movement and in collaboration with LEWAP, organized a focused training workshop around water, entitled «Water: A Valuable Resource and Shared Responsibility» This workshop is part of the ongoing efforts of the movement to raise awareness and expand knowledge about the current state of water in Lebanon. Twenty-five participants with diverse institutional and academic backgrounds attended the workshop, held in Beirut on September 11. Participants were actively interacting among each other during the workshop, which provided them an opportunity to understand well the current

state of the water sector in Lebanon, explore the challenges and identify opportunities to contribute to preserving this vital sector. The first session was presented by Mr. Jawad Taha and entitled «Economics of potable water's services in Lebanon» The session addressed the reasons for the failure of public institutions to secure water and who benefits from the weakness of public services. The session concluded with a discussion on the tragedy of the commons versus the tragedy of privatization. The second session was presented by Dr. Kamal Salim on the «Current state of the Upper Litani River Basin» The session addressed water pollution, the effectiveness of current purification stations, and the impact of environmental degradation on the communities. The updates on the Qaraoun

Dam situation were presented, along with an overview of the polluting waste water to the villages southern of Qaraoun's lake.

The third session was presented by Dr. Yasmin Jabbli on the «State of water in the Context of waste water treatment plants» This session provided a detailed analysis of the current state of waste water treatment plants in the midst of the current crisis and their impact on water. The current state and quality of water were also presented, in the context of pollution, lack of monitoring, and accountability.

The fourth session, presented by Dr. Faraj Al-Awar, focused on the «Governance of the Water Sector in Lebanon». During

the session, the legislative framework of this sector over the years was outlined, while highlighting the challenges it goes through. Additionally, discussions went over the possibility for the local authorities to participate in managing the water sector, from a legal and regulatory perspective.

This workshop is considered a step forward in enhancing interaction and communication around water in Lebanon, and encouraging participants to take responsibility for preserving this vital natural resource.

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#### MEETING WITH LCSW - MODALITIES OF PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY

On September 28, a meeting was organized on the modalities of partnership to improve service delivery. A Public Private Partnership case study between the North-Lebanon Water Establishment (NLWE) and ONDEO was studied with Mr Jamal Krayem from NLWE.

Mr Jamal Krayem talked about his personal experience during the NLWE-ONDEO service contract in water supply; he started off

by explaining the process of signing and preparing for this partnership, the parties involved and the objectives of this service contract. He continued by highlighting the bottlenecks that made this contract unsuccessful which was mainly lack of constructive coordination between the parties involved which led to the failure of improving water services.

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### NATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

#### NEWS FROM THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENERGY

Since April, priority task forces created by the MoEW have been meeting in order to address the different challenges that the Water Sector in Lebanon is facing.

You can find below the list of the task forces: Water Source Monitoring, Collaboration

with Municipalities, Updating Customer Database, Wastewater, Solarization and Energy management, Non-Revenue Water, Support of WE's staffing, Digital Transformation.

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## NEWS FROM THE WASH SECTOR - CORE GROUP

The WaSH sector announced on October 18 the election of World Vision Lebanon as a new WaSH Sector NGO co-lead agency for 2024-2025. Congratulations! 19 NGOs

participated in the election process. World Vision received the largest number of votes (13).

## NATIONAL EMERGENCY GROUP 2023

In light of the current conflict happening south of Lebanon, the government of Lebanon sat down with the Disaster Risk Reduction Unit at UNDP to develop a National Emergency Plan covering measures

of preparedness and response for all sectors in the country.

The National Emergency Plan tackling the water sector can be found [here](#).

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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

## GUIDE: INVENTORY AND CRISIS RESOLUTION TOOLS - BTVL

The guide "Inventory and tools for exiting the crisis" was developed by Cités Unies Liban/Technical Bureau of Lebanese Cities as part of the implementation of the project to strengthen cooperation between French and Lebanese communities with the financial support from the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE)/French Embassy in Lebanon.

This guide provides proposals and tools to Lebanese local authorities in order to support them in the context of the current crisis and to French territorial authorities interested in supporting Local Lebanese

authorities.

This guide aims to:

- Present the institutional framework in Lebanon and the functioning of Lebanese local authorities,
- Highlight the impact of the multi-sectoral crisis on Lebanese local communities,
- Identify the needs of Lebanese local authorities in this context of crisis,
- Propose technical and financial tools to support Lebanese local authorities to emerge from the current crisis.

The guide is available in [French](#) with a short brief in [Arabic](#).



## 8 YEARS WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE LEBANON'S WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS 2016 – 2023



This is a book showcasing the projects executed between 2016-2023 through the collaboration between UNICEF, KfW, and the Ministry of Energy and Water in Lebanon.

You can find the book [here](#).

## NOTE : WATER-RELATED TENSIONS IN LEBANON

This briefing note has been developed by UNDP's Tension Monitoring System in collaboration with the Water Sector and UNHCR. The brief aims to support Water Sector partners to prioritize interventions that can mitigate, and diffuse tensions related to water quality, access, and scarcity and ensure more conflict sensitive interventions in a context of increasing constraints. The analysis is based on data from the UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey (data collected in March 2023), as well as the regular tensions incident and field monitoring. The note complements the "[When water becomes a privilege: the consequences of shutting down the public water system in Lebanon](#)" paper published by the Water Sector in October 2022.

You can find the note [here](#).

### Water-related Tensions in Lebanon

#### Tensions Monitoring System Briefing Note - May 2023

**Background:** This briefing note has been developed to support Water Sector partners to prioritize interventions that can mitigate, and diffuse tensions related to water quality, access, and scarcity and ensure more conflict sensitive interventions in a context of increasing constraints. The analysis is based on data from the UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey (data collected in March 2023) and incident and field monitoring as of May 2023. The note complements the "[When water becomes a privilege: the consequences of shutting down the public water system in Lebanon](#)" paper published by the Water Sector in October 2022.

**Summary Findings** suggest that the compounded crisis, in particular the socioeconomic and electricity crisis, have had a significant impact on people's perceptions on the quality and accessibility of water, which in turn have manifested in tensions and incidents between and within communities. Exogenous factors such as geographic disparities in service provision, disparities in electricity outages, population pressure, preexisting tensions and negative relations, and lack of trust in institutions may influence the nature of these tensions and incidents across different localities: inter- vs. intra- communal, and vertical vs. horizontal. Mitigating factors included interventions by UN and NGOs, diaspora, local authorities and political and private actors.

#### Increasing gaps in the provision of water services amidst the compounded crisis

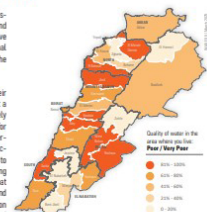
Lebanon has abundant water resources, but faces a water crisis due to poor governance, inadequate infrastructure, inefficient use, pollution, climate change, and population pressure. The public water supply is unreliable and intermittent, forcing many households to rely on private water trucking, wells, or bottled water.

The multi-layered crisis compromises both institutional capacities to supply services and household purchasing power, and has affected the availability and affordability of water. The electricity crisis, in particular, is having adverse effects on the water sector, with inoperable water supply systems and wastewater treatment plants due to a lack of electricity and unaffordability of fuel for generators. As the majority of water pumps are operated on public electricity, primarily state electricity, municipality- or Water Establishment-owned generators, access to water has been hindered by authorities' inability to provide electricity or purchase fuel. Those who can afford have resorted to private trucking water for domestic use.

#### Deteriorating perceptions of access to and quality of water services

With deteriorating services, all populations face challenges in accessing safe and sufficient water for drinking, domestic hygiene and sanitation. Perceptions around access to, and quality of, water have deteriorated. Negative perceptions are partially driven by seasonal effects and periods with increased electricity gaps, such as in the summers of 2021 and 2022 where perceptions have deteriorated.

In March 2023, 51% of respondents rated the quality of water in their area as poor or worse, an increase from 25% in February 2018 but a decline from August 2022 (64%). The recent improvement was likely partially attributable to seasonal effects, with increased demand for water during summer seasons, compared to the late-summer observation. However, even after accounting for seasonal effects, satisfaction with water services improved. This may be attributable to increased interventions from December 2021 to April 2022 including fuel support to over 250 water facilities and the response to combat the spread of cholera in late-2022/23, which included repair and maintenance for over 80 water pumping stations and 59 chlorination systems. Also, since February 2023 public electricity supply increased significantly.



## AL ASSI AND AL GHADIR RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANS FINAL REPORTS - NOVEMBER 2023

Under the Hawkamaa-EU project, funded by the European Union, Acted, We-World GVC and BTd, developed water balance models for the Al Assi (Bekaa) and Al Ghadir (BML) river basins. The CNRS-L also provided technical support and oversight in the development of the models. Another partner was Notre Dame University who conducted water quality testing campaigns to assess key water pollutants of the basins. The models informed the development of a Programme of measures for each basin, which were presented to national and local stakeholders in the aim to promote integrated approaches to water management and ultimately improve water availability and use around the two basins. The Programme of Measures includes budgeted actions that can be undertaken to achieve this goal.

You can find here the published reports:

- Al Ghadir RBM Plan:  
Factsheet: [ENG](#) and [AR](#)  
[Baseline Report 2023](#)  
[Final Report 2023](#)

- Al Assi RBM Plan:  
Factsheet: [ENG](#) and [AR](#)  
[Baseline Report 2023](#)  
[Final Report 2023](#)

The next phase of the project will consist in giving grants to local CSOs to implement grassroots projects, to address some of the Programme of Measures priorities across the basin.

For more information, please contact Lea Mascaro, Hawkamaa-EU Consortium Coordinator, [lea.mascaro@acted.org](mailto:lea.mascaro@acted.org)

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

### WEBINAR ON FRANCO-LEBANESE DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION

December 19 - Webinar on Franco-Lebanese decentralized and non-governmental cooperation actions in the water and

sanitation sector and integrated water resource management.

### LSCW REACTIVATION WORKSHOP

December 2023 - More information to come.

### ENGAGE PROGRAM TRAINING SESSIONS

January and February 2024 - More information to come.

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