



**LEbanese Water
Actors Platform**

LEWAP

Newsletter - October 2022

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE NETWORK ?

UOB-LEWAP STUDENT CHAPTER FIELD VISIT: THE RIVER IS OUR ESSENCE – KADISHA RIVER CLEAN UP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SWIM INITIATIVE – AUGUST 6TH 2022

On August 6th 2022, the UoB-LEWAP student chapter organized an event within the SWIM competition "The River is our essence, when it is healed we are healed". The Red cross, in collaboration with UoB Red Cross, performed an awareness campaign about solid waste management. Also, a touristic guide from the municipality of Bcharre gave a brief overview about the history of Bcharre and Kadisha cave.

A cleanup session was done near the Mississippi Restaurant in Bsharee extended along a 1 km riverbed where volunteers were divided into groups of 2 – one for recyclables and one for non-recyclables. The event was concluded by a visit to Kadisha cave.

To know more about the event, check the [vidéo](#).

**THE RIVER IS OUR ESSENCE,
WHEN IT IS HEALED WE ARE HEALED**
UOB-LEWAP Student Chapter
presents within the SWIM competition
Kadisha River Clean-Up
Join us for an environmental
awareness session followed by a river
clean-up and Kadisha cave tour
For more info: 70-561 569
In collaboration with
Caritas Lebanon
SWIM
Sponsored by
AQUAFINA **Green Track**
LET'S HIKE
August 6th 10 AM Saint George garden, Bcharri



TRAINING ON ADVOCACY BY ACF IN COORDINATION WITH LEWAP TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS UNDER THE HAWKAMAA-EU PROJECT

On September 13th 2022, LEWAP organized an advocacy training given by ACF to students from the research grant program under the Hawkamaa-EU project. This training helped students to formulate their research recommendations and come up with advocacy points that can help

improve services and activities in the water and sanitation sector. Students were requested to submit their advocacy plan that falls under their topic of research and will include that in their final report.



LEWAP TEAM IS CHANGING !

In October 2022, Ariane Visier replaced Juliette Samman as platform coordinator of LEWAP. Ariane has worked in France and in several developing countries in the support of projects led by civil society and network animation.

You can contact her at :
ariane.visier@lewap.org.

NEWS FROM HAWKAMAA-EU PROJECT (MADAD 3)

PARTNERS' ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST THREE 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. The drilling of the well was completed in the Bekaa, and works on the other components will commence in the next period. Meanwhile works in the Southern suburb of Beirut have also started and are 25% underway. In the next period, well drilling is planned to start in Akkar and

in the South. In regards to waste water interventions, works continued in selected ITSs. ACF and SI also developed several guidance documents for the operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment systems in ITSs that were shared with the Water Sector.

In addition, 10 research grants were granted to students across Lebanon to research key wash and environmental topics. In the next period, a "Priority Workshop" focusing on Wastewater, and bringing key stakeholders of the Al Ostuan River Basin, will be organised on 24 of August. Meanwhile, the preparation of the models for the Al Assi and Al Ghadir river basins are underway, and will be followed by concrete Plan of Measures in the next period to improve resource management around the three basins. To know more about partners' activities, click [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.

LCSW members have expressed an interest in discussing alternative solutions for water storage and supply, which can be implemented by civil society actors at the local level in response to reduced public water supply. In line with this objective, two events were organized by LEWAP and LebRelief in partnership with cewas Middle-East, where information and experience on cost-efficient and sustainable solutions were shared and discussions were facilitated. The first event focused on solutions for water retention and storage that can be

implemented at community or household level; and the second one was centered on community-level water management practices. Each event provided success stories that the LCSW members could get inspired from, and gave an opportunity to discuss ways to implement such actions.

The events each lasted two hours and were in Arabic.

Event #1: Water retention and storage – June 8th 2022, 3:00 PM;

- Overview of existing technologies for water storage and retention, cewas Middle East Success story on rainwater harvesting systems for farms, ACTED Lebanon
- Questions and answers
- Interactive session on potential for implementation

Event #2: community-level water management – July 13th, 2022, 3:00PM;

- CISP MiyahCon Bint Jbeil Water Balance exercise
- GVC MiyahCon project on non-revenue water
- Questions and answers

- Interactive session on potential for implementation

Members of the LCSW expressed the need to focus on sustainability as most projects face failures once they are handed over to public institutions; discussions around decentralization and the need for a clear national plan were ongoing and these points will be addressed during future meetings

A session on waterwise trainings and capacity building to CSOs was introduced to incite members to invite other CSOs in attending these trainings as it will allow them to present to the grassroots grant. The first line of grant is open now for Al Oustouan river basin stakeholders and later on another grant will be open for Al Assi and Al Ghadir river basin stakeholder.

Contact us to join the LCSW or receive further information.

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.

The top 10 winners were announced in an event on May 13th 2022 online where representatives from MoEW and EU attended along with the leads of the technical task forces from the consortium. The winners come

from the following universities BAU, AUB, USEK, LU and USJ – they each presented briefly their proposals and were assigned to the technical task force that corresponds to their topic of choice. Technical task forces will be supporting students in conducting field work, collection of data and development of their research project.

In order to support students better phrase their recommendations and increase the impact of their researches, a training on

advocacy was conducted on September 13th 2022. They were introduced to the general principles of advocacy and how to formulate it and will be supported to develop their advocacy plan respective of their topic.

It is estimated that by the end of this year, students will present their first draft paper.

PROJECT NEWS

THE MEDPROGRAMME (2020-2024): ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY



The UN Environment Programme and the European Investment Bank have put together a new initiative to reduce pollution in the Mediterranean and the surrounding coastal environment. The Global Environment Facility Mediterranean Pollution Hot Spots Technical Assistance initiative is part of the \$4 million Hot Spots Pollution Project, which promotes adequate and sound water, wastewater, solid waste and industrial emissions management in the southern Mediterranean.

The MedProgramme is articulated around four components reflecting the priorities adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, namely:

- reduction of land-based pollution in priority coastal hotspots and measuring progress to impacts;
- enhancing Sustainability and Climate Resilience in the Coastal Zone;
- protecting Marine Biodiversity;
- knowledge Management and Programme Coordination.

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

PROJECTS RELATED TO FRENCH-LIBANESE COOPERATION

DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISTIC STRATEGY IN THE CAZA OF BCHARRÉ

Corail développement have been conducting a study on the impact of climate change on agriculture and tourism development, both depending on the availability and sustainability of water resource. The study was finalized and presented to partners in November 2021. The upcoming phase will focus on complementary resources to increase the knowledge on available resources; and on increasing cooperation and participation through the "territorial dialogue".

Partnership for a "territorial dialogue" between actors of the River Basin (currently

on the cazas of Bcharré and Zgharta-Ehden, in partnership with the North Lebanon Water Establishment) to develop knowledge on water resources and the impact of climate change (first phase). The project is implemented through:

- A piloting committee composed of municipalities involved in the cooperation between Chambéry and Bcharré, and between the Département de l'Aude and Zgharta-Ehden;
- A technical committee composed of stakeholders from the river basin and research actors, which gathers on a monthly basis.

NEW DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION ANTOURA MUNICIPALITY/HYDREAULYS WATER UNION: CREATING A DECENTRALIZED SANITATION SYSTEM

Faced with the lack of sanitation and the delay in the implementation of collective sanitation projects in the region, the municipality of Antoura wished to set up a non-collective municipal sanitation service for the improvement of the conditions of treatment of domestic wastewater produced by the housing and tertiary units of the municipality.

For this, the municipality of Antoura has approached the Hydreaulys union (and its delegate SEVESC) to establish a decentralized cooperation partnership, with the support of pS-Eau and LEWAP.

This is the reliance of an earlier project. In 2018-2019, Hydroconseil office carried out

on behalf of the municipality of Antoura an inventory and a feasibility study to analyze the needs, the opportunities, and define the framework of the intervention. As the study did not directly lead to the implementation of a project, and given the changing context of the crisis in Lebanon, the new project consists of updating its main hypotheses and conclusions (phase 1 – study).

To carry out this study, LEWAP has identified a relevant technical operator, CubeX, who will be in charge of the project management. Thus, this first phase will be supervised by the municipality of Antoura, and implemented by CubeX.

An agreement was signed at the beginning

of October between the project partners (Antoura, Hydreaulys, SEVESC, CubeX) and phase 1 should soon begin. It should lay a solid foundation for the completion of the

non-collective sanitation project in 2023, for the second phase of the project.

SOCLE PROJECT (PAYS DE LA LOIRE)

The SOCLE project (Operational Support to Lebanese Local Authorities for the Environment) is implemented by United Cities Lebanon/Technical Office of Lebanese Cities and Pays de la Loire Region in partnership with the Lebanese Committee of Mayors and the French Development Agency. It aims to strengthen the skills of Lebanese communities in environmental management and renewable energies.

12 local authorities were supported by the Pays de la Loire Region in identifying environmental projects and drafting opportunity notes.

Among the projects, some relate to the water and sanitation sector:

- Zouk Mikael: WWTP in a district not served by the WWTP CDR project, which includes

a solar energy system;

- Tripoli: purification of the Abou Ali River with the installation of purification dams;

- Hammana: solar energy system for a pumping station;

- Krayé: solar energy system for pumping station;

- Zahlé: installation of solar panels for the waste treatment plant (it is planned to use the surplus production for the surrounding facilities).

The closing seminar of SOCLE was held at the Lancaster Plaza Hotel in Beirut on Thursday, July 21, 2022. Project leaders now hope that the twelve pilot projects will attract the attention of donors for their concrete implementation.

NATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

UPDATES FROM THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND WATER

The MoEW has conducted a meeting with ambassadors from different countries where the ministry presented the current situation and challenges in the sector, the roadmap to recovery of the water sector and the need for fuel to sustain a continuous water supply and wastewater services.

The feedback was not very positive therefore, it was agreed to develop an advocacy

document showing to donors how drastic the situation will get after September 2022 when the Iraqi contract will end.

News from the Stabilization thematic group

The stabilization thematic group, coordinated by LEWAP, has been meeting at the end of every month to collect updates from partners

on their projects and discuss challenges faced. The group defined their aim and objectives and to focus on strengthening the coordination in the water sector on infrastructure and stabilization projects. The group has been working on mapping their projects on an online map accessible to partners and donors in order to improve project allocation. This map will be added

as a layer to the vulnerability map in order to identify the areas in need of intervention based on their degree of vulnerability and intervention gaps.

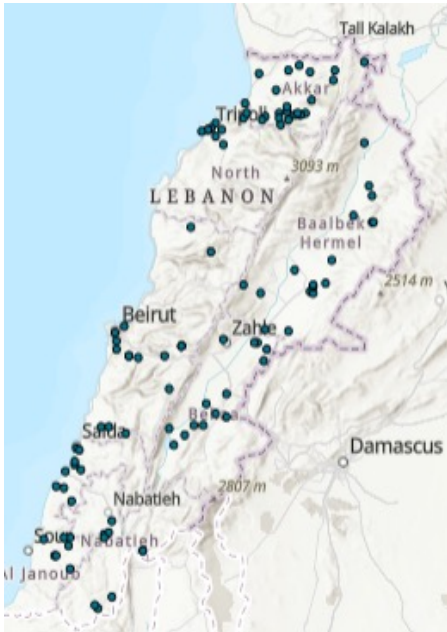
To access this map, please visit the link [here](#).

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To access this map, please visit the [link](#).



LATEST PUBLICATIONS

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

ROADMAP TO RECOVERY OF THE WATER SECTOR

With the current crisis happening in the country, water establishments are unable to be operational in terms of water and wastewater services; fuel availability, salaries of employees and the financial crisis.

Therefore, and in parallel to the national water and wastewater sector strategy, an urgent recovery plan targeting cost-recovery and key investments is an imminent need. It aims at breaking the vicious cycle of inadequate service and low collection and requires serious financial support and political commitment from the government

of Lebanon, in coordination with the international community

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



ROADMAP TO RECOVERY OF THE WATER SECTOR IN LEBANON

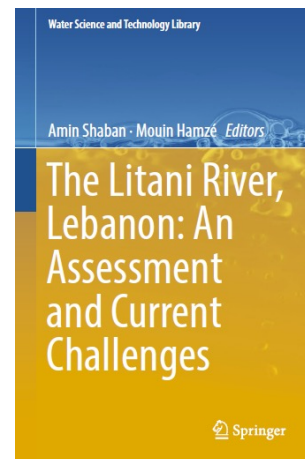
THE LITANI RIVER, LEBANON: AN ASSESSMENT AND CURRENT CHALLENGES - 2018

The book comprises 10 chapters beginning with a general introduction and the history of the river followed by an introduction to its natural and anthropogenic setting.

Subsequently, the pollution in the river watercourses and the major reservoir of Qaraaoun are discussed in detail. Thereby challenges to water resources in the Litani River Basin are diagnosed.

This is followed by a discussion of the national plan for the river's remediation and then the socioeconomic development of the river. The last chapter concludes with highlights from the previously mentioned chapters.

To access the book, check the [link](#)



WATER RESOURCES OF LEBANON - 2020

This book written by Amin Shaaban from CNRS-L describes all aspects of water

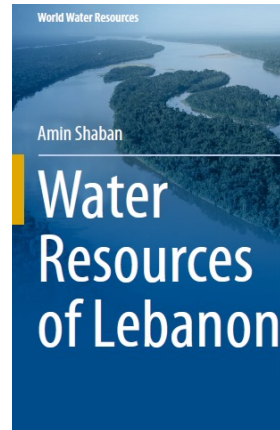
resources in Lebanon, the surface and subsurface ones, with detailed discussion

on new estimations.

This book discusses all physical and anthropogenic factors that influence water resources. It also underpins comprehensive discussion on rivers, springs, snow, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands and groundwater. It, eventually, presents the existing challenges and proposes possible solutions to overcome them.

Therefore, this book would be a helpful tool for different-level stakeholders, starting from individuals to high-level decision-makers.

To access the book, check the [link](#)



IWRM AND ITS ADAPTATION TO THE LEBANESE CONTEXT - 2022

Based on the demand of different actors in the sector, LEWAP has been working on a summary sheet on Integrated Water Resources Management. The aim of this document is to compile projects conducted in Lebanon in regards to this topic to highlight on what has been done and to support donors and organizations in the

formulation of activities and allocation of areas of intervention.

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

For any modifications, do not hesitate to contact Jasmine El Kareh on kareh@lewap.org

ARE FRESH WATER AND RECLAIMED WATER SAFE FOR VEGETABLE IRRIGATION? EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM LEBANON

This study evaluated the potential health risks of irrigating vegetables (radishes, parsley, onions, and lettuce) using three water sources (groundwater, river water, and treated wastewater) and three irrigation methods (drip, sprinkler, and surface) over two growing seasons in 2019 and 2020. Water, crop, and soil samples were analyzed for physicochemical parameters, pathogens, and metals (Cu, Cd, Ni, Cr, and Zn). In addition, the bioaccumulation factor, estimated dietary intakes, health risk index,

and target hazard quotients were calculated to assess the health risk associated with metal contamination.

These results support efforts to update the Lebanese standards for water reuse in agriculture.

This research will inform a sustainable water management policy aimed at protecting the Litani River watershed by monitoring water quality.

To access this research, check the [link](#)

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

SOLAR PUMPING ASSESMENT WITH ACTED - TBD

ACTED has conducted a Solar Impact Assessment back in September 2021 in two locations where ACTED implemented solar systems for pumping water: Douris (Baalbeck-Hermel) and Kleil (South) to measure the impact of those two systems and identify lessons learned.

A workshop is being discussed at the moment to capitalize on this project.

The assessment found that solar PV systems carry significant potential due to their scalability, current level of market readiness, and increasingly low costs. However, it also highlighted the critical need to plan for off-grid or hybrid systems, to mitigate the risk of systems not being operational, in light of the current crisis.

Invitations will be sent soon.

PUBLIC PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOP (WW-GVC AND NAHNOO) – NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2022

One of the workshops organized under Hawkamaa-EU projects should be held at the end of this year, in partnership between LEWAP, WW-GVC and Nahnoo. It will present the opportunities from signing agreements between municipalities and

water establishments to improve water and wastewater services. The audience will learn more about the benefits of this approach and discuss the pros and cons of adopting it.

ATELIER SUR LA GESTION DES BASSINS HYDROGRAPHIQUES (ACTED) – NOVEMBRE 2022

The second workshop organized under Hawkamaa-EU projects should be held in November, in partnership between LEWAP and ACTED. It will present the River Basin management approach, a tool for Integrated Water Resource Management. The audience

will be benefitting from pS-Eau's expertise and from ACTED's field experience to gain knowledge and capacities to implement this approach.

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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