

Newsletter - December 2022

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE NETWORK ?

UOB-LEWAP STUDENT CHAPTER FIELD VISIT : ZAHLE WWTP

On Monday, October 24, 2022, under the UoB-LEWAP student chapter, a field visit was organized to the Zahle wastewater treatment plant in the Bekaa.

The plant has been operational since October 2017 receiving wastewater from the inhabitants of Zahle and the surrounding villages of Kaa El Rim and Hazzerta ; this plant receives the discharges of some 205,000 inhabitants equivalent to 20,000 m³ of wastewater per day. It was financed by a soft loan from the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development.

The students were able to benefit from a visit around the plant to understand its functionality and ability to treat wastewater

Another visit to LARI hydroponics systems was conducted as well for students to visualize a sustainable nature based solution.



MISSION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN REFERENTS OF PS-EAU, MÉLODIE BOISSEL AND VINCENT

From November 6th to 11th, Mélodie Boissel and Vincent Dussaux, the Mediterranean referents of pS-Eau, came to Lebanon as part of their annual mission. PS-Eau supports LEWAP in defining its global strategy, positioning and activities. During this week, they were able to meet the actors of

the water sector in Lebanon (municipalities, MoEW, Water Establishments), the actors in connection with the French decentralized and non-governmental cooperation and the French actors in Lebanon (AFD, French Embassy). The objective of the mission was to meet with key members of the LEWAP

network to discuss their perception of LEWAP and define their expectations and

needs, as well as to reflect on LEWAP's overall strategy for the year 2023.



WORKSHOP "WAYS FORWARD FOR WATER AND SANITATION ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN LEBANON", CEWAS

On October 19th, 2022, CEWAS hosted an event entitled «Ways forward for Water and Sanitation Entrepreneurship in Lebanon» at the Beirut Digital District. The goal was to meet the community in Lebanon and to jointly identify the needs and solutions in the water, sanitation and entrepreneurship sector in the coming years.

After a brief presentation of CEWAS and its activities, participants were divided into four groups to work on different themes related to the water sector: entrepreneurship in the water sector, public-private partnerships, the role of donors and the role of investors. Participants were able to provide solutions to meet the existing challenges in these sectors and reflect on the role of entrepreneurs in improving water and

sanitation services.

You can find the resume of the event [here](#).



3RF CSO RETREAT ON OCTOBER 21TH



After almost two years of working within the Reform, Relief & Reconstruction Framework (3RF), Live Love Lebanon (CSO Co-Chair of the Consultative Group) and the Lebanese Transparency Association (IOB Member) took the initiative to bring together all CSOs active in the 3RF to share their experiences, discuss their challenges and brainstorm on potential solutions.

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 focusing on a period of 18 months that will bridge the immediate humanitarian response and the medium-term recovery and reconstruction efforts to put Lebanon on a path of sustainable development.

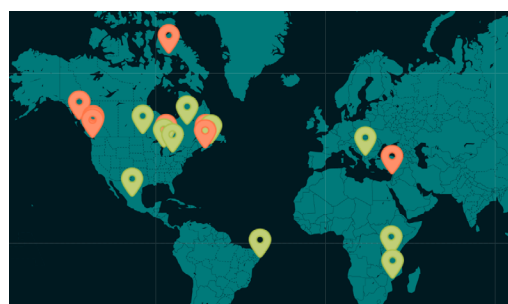
The retreat was organised in the aim of strengthening the links between 3RF CSOs and to create the space for them to express their opinions and concerns freely. The main objective was to issue a list of recommendations to the 3RF Secretariat on how to improve the structure of the 3RF and optimize it for increased CSO participation.

PROJECT NEWS

WATERLUTION INTERACTIVE MAP ON WATER

Waterlution is an international water-focused organization offering distinctive capacity building, leadership and facilitation training to spark and mentor innovators and aspiring entrepreneurs in the water and climate change space. In October, Waterlution launched a website for spreading information on water and sanitation in Canada and Lebanon: the World Water Journey. The World Water Journey is a multi-dimensional knowledge mobilization platform with local, regional and global collaboration nexus connecting

academic, industrial, policymaker and innovators across water and climate change sectors together simultaneously embedding knowledge within communities, history and culture. You can explore the website [here](#).



PROJECTS RELATED TO FRENCH-LEBANESE COOPERATION

ANNUAL WEBINAR ON FRENCH-LEBANESE DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION

On December 15, the second annual webinar organized by pS-Water and Lewap on French-Lebanese decentralized cooperation in the water and sanitation sectors took place.

The objective of the webinar is to maintain the link between the actors of this sector, to present an overview of the decentralized cooperation actions in progress, and to present the situation of the water and sanitation sector in Lebanon, so that the actors put their local actions into perspective with the global context.

An inventory was presented by three actors

from the different levels of intervention in Lebanon: Suzy Hoayek for the news of initiatives carried out or coordinated by the Ministry of Energy and Water, Antoine Zoghby for the difficulties and solutions deployed by one of the water establishments, and Ghassan Tayoun for the dynamics that can be stimulated by a municipality. In a second part of the session, feedback was offered by local authorities involved in decentralized cooperation projects: Antoura, Zahle and Zgharta-Edhen in Lebanon, Noisy le Roi and Chambéry in France.

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, Hydreaulys, SEVESC, CubeX) that took place in October,

the Funding Allocation Committee met on November 2 to mark the launch of the first phase of the project. This phase involves CubeX carrying out a study that aims to assess needs, help find manufacturers for the operational phase and present a budgeted execution plan. This first phase, lasting four months, should lay a solid foundation for the non-collective sanitation project in 2023, as part of a second phase.

COOPERATION BCHARRE AND ZGHARTA-EDHEN

Since 2020, a decentralized cooperation project aimed at developing the tourism strategy of Bcharre has been implemented between the federation of municipalities of Bcharre and the municipality of Chambéry,

with the technical support of Corail development and the financial support of AERMC. It aims to further increase the knowledge of local actors on water resources and the impact of climate change.

In order to strengthen the coherence of this initiative with the various projects underway in the territory, a grouping with other cooperations was set up in 2021, which allowed the emergence of a joint multisectoral project, co-financed by AFD's FICOL scheme. It will begin in January 2023 and will involve the Auvergne Rhône Alpes Region, the Department of Aude, the city and agglomeration of Chambéry, the cazas

of Zgharta-Edhen and Bcharre, as well as several technical partners. It will aim to create a shared governance tool between the actors of the Qadisha Valley, with the aim of creating the conditions for sustainable economic and social development, based on the structuring of the tourism and agricultural sectors, while preserving the resources and heritage of the valley.

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. Works in the Southern Suburbs of Beirut have also started and are 85% underway. Well drilling has started in Saida district. In the next period, well drilling is

planned to start in Akkar (Tleil).

In regards to waste water interventions, works continued in selected ITSs and an approximate 9 decentralized systems have been completed.

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. A workshop was conducted with Al Ostuan river basin stakeholders to present the Program of Measures; the same stakeholders also benefited from trainings on proposal writing, projects management, communication and advocacy facilitated by LebRelief and with trainings from ACTED and ACF (for the advocacy module).

ROLE OF NGOS IN THE WASH SECTOR EVENT

On November 30th 2022, LEWAP, along with the HawkaMaa-EU, MiyahCon, Sabil and H2ALL Consortia, organized a workshop on the role and approach of NGOs to the water sector in Lebanon. This event offered a platform for WASH actors in Lebanon to

reflect and discuss on the main achievements and lessons learned generated in the past years by NGOs working with the support of the EU MADAD funding instrument.

The event introduced findings from a study prepared by 360 Consulting and

which results from the overview of the 4 Consortia achievements and learnings and interviews of over 10 large WASH NGOs, Water Establishment representatives and the Ministry of Energy and Water. Then, a round table took place with representatives from the 4 regional water establishments around the collaboration between RWEs and NGOs as well as challenges faced by the WEs. This was followed by a presentation by LEWAP on challenges and key opportunities for Civil society actors in the WASH sector in Lebanon. The event closed with a session on NGO-led piloting and innovation in the water sector, which was identified as one of the key added value of NGOs to the Water

Sector in 360 Consulting report. You can find the resume of the event [here](#).



LEBANESE CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK - IWRM AND RBM WORKSHOP WITH ACTED

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. On November 14th 2022, as part of the HawkaMaa-EU project, LEWAP organized with ACTED a workshop on River Basin Management in BDD for half a day. Invitations were shared with all stakeholders in the water and sanitation sector in the country and more specifically to the network of civil society and local NGOs developed by LEWAP and LebRelief. The workshop focused on introducing the concept of integrated water resource management with focus on river basin management; the workshop mobilized LEWAP, pS-Eau and ACTED to present. LEWAP

presented the concept of IWRM and the ongoing or conducted projects in Lebanon, pS-Eau presented the IWRM in France and ACTED presented the methodology of programs of measures developed for Al Ghadir River Basin under the HawkaMaa-EU project. The project's activities revolve around three river basins; Al Oustouan (Akkar), Al Ghadir (Mount Lebanon) and Al Assi (Bekaa) – the works consist on involving all actors around those three river basins for a successful and sustainable management of water and wastewater services.

To know more about the workshop, you can find it [here](#).



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 will be presenting their

first draft before the end of this year and will be reviewed by partners in the consortium. A final event will be held in 2023 - stay tuned for details on that.

NATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

CHOLERA OUTBREAK

Lebanon has been affected by an epidemic of cholera since October 2022. The first cholera case was detected in Menieh-Doniyyeh district of the North governorate, Lebanon on October 4th, 2022. On December 14th, 658 confirmed cases have been identified throughout Lebanon, and 18 districts out of 26 are affected. The most affected areas are Akkar and northern Lebanon, and to a lesser extent the Bekaa and Balbeck.

Lebanon is considered high risk due mainly to deterioration in water and sanitation across the country and limited access to hygiene measures among the most vulnerable populations. These issues are compounded by the current energy crisis, as pumping stations for water services operate only a few hours a day. The operation of wastewater treatment plants is also impacted, leading to untreated water discharges throughout the country.

MOPH with support from WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR and partners has initiated the response to increasing readiness and containment of the cholera outbreak. A Joint National Cholera Preparedness and Response plan has been developed.

The Oral Cholera Vaccination campaign was launched on 4 November in three central prisons and on 5 November for frontline healthcare workers in hotspot areas. On November 12, a campaign for high risk areas was launched targeting Lebanese and refugees. 600,000 doses of vaccine were received by the end of October, and MoPH is completing a second application for an additional two million doses of vaccines.

UNICEF is the leading stakeholder in the WaSH actor, acting in coordination with the partners (AAH, DPNA, LebRelief, LOST, SAWA, SC, SI, WVI, OXFAM, NRC) in two main areas :

- Support to communities

UNICEF with its partners has continued the full-scale cholera WaSH response in nearly 100 informal settlements and some collective shelters with suspected or confirmed cases : water testing, water tanks cleaning, hygiene kits distribution and awareness raising, disinfection spraying, increasing the safety of water and wastewater disposal.

- Support to water and wastewater systems

Fuel is being distributed to Water establishments and wastewater treatment

plants in hot areas across Lebanon. Over 270 000 liters of fuel were distributed since October.

In certain areas, the rehabilitation of the water supply system is being done, as in Bebnine (Akkar) or Arsal, where damaged solar panels are being replaced to make the pumping station work.

the provision of safe water and sanitation services is critical to controlling the

transmission of cholera and other waterborne diseases. Prevention requires substantial investment in systems, particularly water supply, wastewater treatment and their connections to functioning electrical service lines.

NEWS FROM THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENERGY

The MoEW is currently working on several strategic and national reforms. The national water sector strategy is waiting approval of the council of ministers (which at the moment is not formed) - the ministry is currently looking for ways to facilitate the issuing without having to wait for the formation of a council of ministers.

Moreover, the MoEW is working on setting a new water tariff (increased) starting 2023 in order to improve the service delivery, a tariff restructuring study is ongoing as part of the EU-AFD technical assistance work with the aim of increasing revenues for the

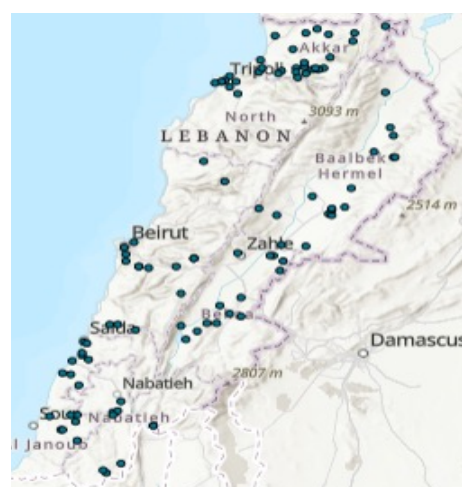
water establishments to function.

The national water council has met to discuss the water code, they will be soon informed by the sector with the strategy, the recovery plan and the new tariffication. Finally, the main challenge for the proper functionality of the water and sanitation sector is still fuel availability and electricity supply – further discussions are ongoing to alleviate this situation.

ACTUALITÉS DU GROUPE THÉMATIQUE STABILISATION

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

A map is continuously being updated and is accessible to everyone; to get more information about the latest stabilization projects please check the [link](#)



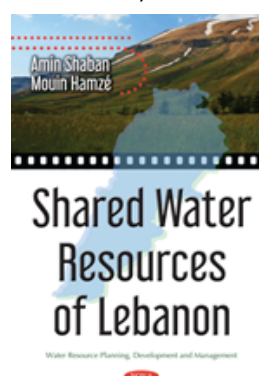
RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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

SHARED WATER RESOURCES OF LEBANON; WATER RESOURCE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT – 2017

More than 74% of Lebanon's border is shared with neighbouring countries, which makes the surface and groundwater intermingle with neighbouring regions - thus no volumetric measures are known. This book will discuss the major water-related components as prerequisite principles for the analysis of shared waters. It will be a helpful tool to further the understanding and devise solutions to conserve the Lebanese quota of shared water.

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



ANALYSIS OF WATER REUSE POTENTIAL FOR IRRIGATION IN LEBANON - IWMI

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) has been conducting a study on wastewater reuse in agriculture in Lebanon; the project was conducted in collaboration with LARI and the Ministry of Agriculture in Lebanon. On September 7th 2022, the team presented the findings to local water actors at the Ministry of Energy and Water; the aim of this report is to contribute to knowledge expansion on water reuse in Lebanon. The study assesses

the potential for water reuse at the national level, develops a technical assessment of the quantities of treated water available for safe reuse in irrigation, and identifies the wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) that have the highest potential for that purpose. The governance aspect was examined also in order to ensure implementation of these changes.

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

SUMMARY SHEET : CHALLENGES OF ENERGY SUPPLY FOR WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES IN LEBANON

LEWAP published a summary sheet on the challenges of energy supply for water and

sanitation services in Lebanon. The challenges facing Lebanon's water and sanitation sector are compounded by the financial crisis. The current situation highlights the fragility of the energy supply system for the water and sanitation sector, based on a partial public service (currently

a few hours a day) and palliative solutions provided by private operators now offering alternative electricity services from local generators. This system is currently paralyzed by the shortage of fuel oil. You can find the summary sheet [here](#).

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

OPENING OF THE CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR FRANCO-LIBANESE DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION

The Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Lebanese Ministry of the Interior, the Embassy of France in Lebanon, the Committee of Mayors of Lebanon and United Cities Lebanon/Technical Office of Lebanese Cities announce the opening of the 2nd tranche of the 2022-2024 three-year call for projects as part of the specific support mechanism for Franco-Lebanese decentralized cooperation, in order to

support projects of French and Lebanese communities aimed at strengthening capacities for territorial governance.

You will find the call for projects [here](#).

3RF WORKING GROUPS MEETINGS

As part of the 3RF scheme, the various working groups involved, including the one

on water, will meet in January to define a roadmap for 2023.

WORKSHOP ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS - MADAD 3

As part of the MADAD program, a workshop on public-private partnerships in the sector

of water will be held in January. More information will be sent by email.

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