



Newsletter - June 2023

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE NETWORK ?

LAUNCHING OF THE ENGAGE PROJECT UNDER WSC - CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Under the Water and Sanitation and Conservation project, which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the University of Balamand (UoB) in collaboration with the International Center for Water Management Services (CEWAS) and the Lebanese Water Actors Platform (LEWAP), is launching a training program targeting Lebanese CSOs who are active or interested in the topics of water and sanitation.

This training program, called Engage: Capacity Development of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to engage in Water and Sanitation, will give opportunities to Lebanese CSOs to:

- Get trained by highly experienced coaches and practitioners, to become

change-makers in the water and sanitation sector through a tailor-made training program;

- Have access to a resource library as well as to an interactive learning and peer-to-peer exchange platform;
- Being part of a network of professionals working on water and sanitation and more – networking events and field visits will happen throughout the project;
- Getting support in the writing and defining of projects that can then be submitted for funding.

Any CSO interested in benefiting from this training program can contact Ariane Visier from LEWAP at ariane.visier@lewap.org.

EVENT : DISSEMINATION OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF "UNICEF SUPPORT TO WATER ESTABLISHMENTS" INDEPENDENT EVALUATION

On May, 2nd 2023 the MoEW invited the actors of the sector to a dissemination event of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of "UNICEF Support to Water Establishments" Independent Evaluation.

This evaluation was commissioned to an

independent consultancy firm, Triangle SAL, and was implemented from August 2022 to January 2023.

The purpose of this evaluation is to provide an independent assessment of the relevance, effectiveness, coherence, and sustainability of UNICEF support to the

Water Establishments (WEs) in Lebanon during the period of the country programme 2017-2022. It serves the purposes of accountability

(internal, to government, and donors), learning and informing future programming, generating recommendations for future support to WEs.

NEWS ON THE STUDENT CHAPTERS

With the aim of improving the involvement of universities in the WASH sector, LEWAP is creating student chapters in different universities to get students involved in the latest updates of the sector and participate in activities. After developing the UoB-LEWAP student chapter in 2021, LEWAP is currently coordinating with AUB on developing a student chapter there. The launching of the student

chapter will take place in September 2023 - stay tuned for further details.

To understand more about the objectives of the student chapter, you can find a resume of the events organized in 2022 within the UoB - Lewap student chapter [here](#).



WATER PUMPING SOLARIZATION WORKSHOP - OXFAM

Oxfam conducted two training sessions on solar water pumping technology on 8, 9 and 10 March in Beirut and on 13, 14 and 15 March in Bekaa.

This initiative aimed at creating an environment of coordinated effort and consideration for the inclusion of sustainable renewable energy sources into programme design and successful implementation of such projects.

Solarization of water schemes has been identified in the WaSH sector capacity needs survey conducted in late 2022 as the top priority need. The lack of energy remains one of the main bottlenecks for the water systems' functionality across the country, thus this learning opportunity contributed well toward achieving the WaSH sector objectives for 2023. The participants were organizations who have

already been involved in solar water pumping technology, those planning to implement solar water pumping projects, and those interested in improving their knowledge in this area.

The objectives of the training were to increase the capacity of participants in the field of water pumping technology, especially : feasibility assessment of installing solar water pumping systems; knowledge on the different types of solar systems and their uses; project design/development and implementation of solar water pumping systems; existing solar water pumping systems assessment, knowledge of the risk associated with implementation and appropriate mitigation measures; design software; operation and maintenance needs for solar water pumping systems.

WORLD BANK - WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AND DEPOLLUTION OF RIVER BASINS

In the context of a study regarding environmental governance of river basins in Lebanon currently being prepared by the World Bank in close coordination with the Ministry of Environment, a brainstorming session was organized in coordination with LEWAP* on April 20, 2023. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss with prominent actors in the field regarding their activities, challenges, lessons learnt from on-going initiatives in environmental governance in

different river basins in Lebanon, as well as discuss governance models adopted for river basin management for possible upscaling. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss potential future interventions to support environmental governance in different river basins as a continuation of on-going efforts and its relevance to the economy, ecosystem services as well as food security in Lebanon.

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. Partners also conducted "water-wise" sessions across Lebanon to raise public awareness on key water issues. The construction of the potable and water

networks in Ouzaii are almost completed and an artesian well was finalized in the Saida district, works on the network and pumping station will start in the next quarter.

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.

Section profiles and network assessments were done and interventions to fix issues on the networks started in several areas.

MEETING WITH LCSW - MODALITIES OF PARTNERSHIP (PUBLIC PUBLIC AND PUBLIC PRIVATE)

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 LCSW, 3RF and Lebanon EcoMovement were mobilized to come around the table and discuss the different modalities of partnership to improve service delivery in water and wastewater (public public partnership and public private partnership) in an in-person meeting that took place in IFI-AUB on April 13, 2023.

Amanie Majed from Nahnoo presented the ongoing (to be finalized soon) study on public public partnership; the study consisted on meeting with all regional water establishments in Lebanon as well as municipalities and union of municipalities to discuss the ongoing challenges in the sector and how each are working in water and sanitation services, the means of collaboration between them and the challenges faced. To know more about the results of the study, please consult the presentation on the link [here](#).

André Sleiman from DRI presented what public private is and previous experiences that happened in the country – he explained further what this partnership entails backed up with examples from the local context. To know more about DRI work on public private, check the publication [here](#).



RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM EVENT

The research grant program final event took place on May 10 2023 at BAU (Beirut Campus) from 9:30AM till 1:00PM. The event was inaugurated by a welcoming word from the president of the university of BAU professor Amr Adawi followed by the representative from the EU Michele Pierpaoli.

This program consisted on mobilizing students from different universities in Lebanon to support members of the consortium in their research and learning outputs; it was open to Bachelor and Master students, 9 students/group of students were selected and were assigned to technical task forces based on their topic of interest. Students were also supported by their advisors in their respective universities.

Every student or group of students presented their work in 10 minutes followed by Q&A from the audience and networking with actors from the sector over coffee break.

To know more about the winners and their research projects, check the list below:

- [Lifecycle Assessment of Solar Pumping for Pumping Stations in Bekaa](#) by Dana Bakkar and Rim Saad from BAU
- [Protection of Groundwater Resources in Karst at The Source: Application of GIS and Policies Aiming for Water Sustainability](#)

[for Qachqouch Spring](#) by Lynn Tfayli and Jihad Othman from AUB

- [Assessing the effectiveness of phytoremediation and UV sterilization in the treatment of wastewater in informal settlements of Syrian refugees](#) by Farid Malaeb from BAU
- [Influence of water quality and service on water subscriptions and fee collection](#) by Elie Moussallem from USJ
- [Towards an improved integrated understanding of the threats on groundwater in karst water catchment: importance of monitoring water systems in decision making](#) by Jana Basbous from AUB
- [Potentiality of treated wastewater in Bekaa region, Lebanon, for crop Irrigation](#) by Kinda Yassine and Razan Sinno from BAU
- [Storm Water networks code in Lebanon](#) by Rana Sayed Ahmad and Houssein Swaydan from USEK
- [Predict the actual and future behavior of the water network of Bazoun, North Lebanon](#) by Dana Saab, Jawad El Khoury and Dany Chbib from USEK
- [Evaluation of the ecological quality of the Al-Ostuan River and statistical study of the socio economic status](#) by Nader Nadda from LU.



NATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENERGY

In April, the MoEW announced the creation of priority task forces in order to address the different challenges that the Water Sector in Lebanon is facing. During a meeting with the donors of the sector, a work of identification of leading agencies for each task force has been done. Most of the

groups have started meeting since April. You can find below the list of the taskforces and the leading agencies associated to each of them.

Subject	Participants	Leading Agency	WaSH Partner
Water Source Monitoring	GIZ, EUD, WASH, BGR, USAID, Difaf, SDC	AFD	ACTED
Updating Customer Database	AFD, GIZ, USAID, EUD, WASH	UNICEF (Nabil Rizk)	WW-GVC
Collaboration with Municipalities	UNOPS, GWPM, UNICEF, KFW, WASH, AFD, EUD, Difaf, SDC	USAID	UN-Habitat, LebRelief
Solarization and Energy Management	GIZ, GWPM, EIB, KFW, WASH, AFD, USAID, EUD, AICS, UNDP, EBRD, UNOPS, ICRC, SDC	AFD & WaSH	OXFAM, ACF, UN-Habitat, ACTED, WV
Water Quality	USAID, AFD, UNOPS, WASH, EUD, BGR, UNICEF, WHO	MoEW	UOB, ACTED
NRW	USAID, AFD, EUD, WASH, ICRC	GIZ	WW-GVC, ACF
Support of WE's staffing	GIZ, EUD, AFD, KFW, JICA, WASH	UNICEF (Nabil Rizk, Paul Edwards)	ACF, UN-Habitat, ACTED, WV
Wastewater	EUD, GIZ, UNDP, AICS, UNOPS, USAID, EIB, AFD, WASH, KFW, World Bank, EBRD, Difaf	UNICEF (Salam Eid)	SI, UN-Habitat, ACF, WV
Digitalization	SLWE, TBD		

NEWS FROM THE WASH SECTOR - CORE GROUP

In January 2023, the WaSH Sector renewed the members of its Core Group (CG), aimed at supporting the Sector in an advisory role. The objective of this group is to provide strategic guidance to the Sector and facilitate accountability to its partners, oversee the implementation of the Sector response plan, support the Sector functions, and advise on any needed change in the modality of service provision as appropriate. The Core Group will meet on an ad-hoc basis when deemed necessary and their recommendations will be shared with Sector

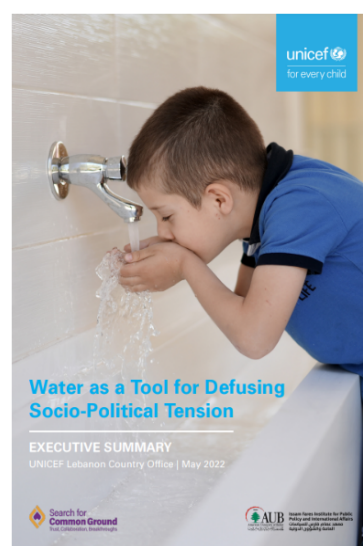
partners by the Sector Coordination Team. The CG has 4 permanent members (Sector Coordination Team & Sector Lead Agency) and 12 elected members (2 UN agencies, 5 INGOs, 4 L/NNGOs and 1 Academia). The CG has been elected in March 2023 and is composed of representative from the MoEW, UNICEF, UNHCR and UNHabitat, INGOs (ACTED, SI, Oxfam, WW-GVC, NRC), LNGOs (LebRelief, LEWAP, Tankamel Sawa, SAWA group and DPNA) and Academia (UoB and AUB).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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

WATER AS A TOOL FOR DEFUSING SOCIO-POLITICAL CONFLICTS

AUB's Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (AUB-IFI) and Search for Common Ground (Search), with support from UNICEF, sought to identify hotspots in Lebanon with high water-related stress (in terms of quality and access). Water-related conflict risk, community-level resilience factors, points of division, key influencers, possible champions, and social connectors were also identified. These sources of information were collected in order to propose and prioritize action through water and/or wastewater projects, and maximize projects' potential for peacebuilding and social impact to mitigate future risks and reduce tensions, all in the context of climate change. To know more about the research paper, visit the links for the [summary sheet](#) and the [full report](#).



WATER REUSE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA - A SOURCEBOOK

This book is based on a research project conducted under the ReWater MENA project, which is led by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The book addresses the potential and barriers to REUSE in the region and analyzes which reuse practices can be used for agricultural irrigation with reduced health risks. It will guide national institutions and potential donors in selecting wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) and associated sites where reuse systems are needed and could potentially be implemented. You can find the book [here](#).



WASH SECTOR PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

The WaSH sector published the Sector Performance Monitoring report. This report provides the findings of the Sector (Cluster) Performance Monitoring, including the feedback on good practices, constraints and action points that were identified and agreed upon by the sector during the revision of the preliminary report.

The process was completed during the WaSH Sector Participatory Workshop held in Beirut between 23 and 25 January 2023.

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

UPDATED COUNTRY SHEET ON LEBANON

The country sheet on the Water sector in Lebanon has been updated. This country sheet incorporates the [National Strategy for the Water Sector](#), which was updated in 2022 taking into consideration the changes that happened in the country. It incorporates recommendations from the Strategic Environmental and Social

Assessment process (done by ECODIT and financed through the WB loan), which you will find [here](#).

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

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

MARDI LEWAP : ASSESSING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE WATER RESSOURCE. A SHOWCASE STUDY OF THE NAHR ABOU ALI

On July 11th, LEWAP will organize a LEWAP Tuesday on the theme of water resource sustainability. Researchers from the Lebanese University and the University of Balamand will present the results of an

ongoing study on the Abou Ali River in the Qadisha Valley.

More information to come.

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