

Newsletter January 2022

What is happening in the network?

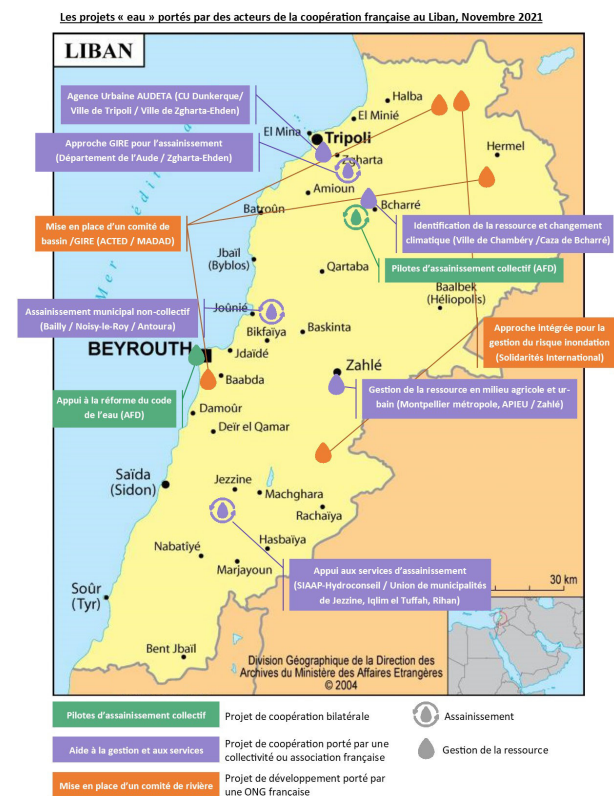
LEWAP & PS-EAU WORKSHOP ON FRENCH DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION IN LEBANON

A workshop was organized on December 10th for actors of French-Lebanese decentralized and non-governmental cooperation – French local institutions and associations who are or wish to be involved in the water and sanitation sector in Lebanon. This event, co-organized by LEWAP and pS-Eau, responded to two main objectives:

- Share information on the sectorial framework as well as on the impact of the crisis on the sector;
- Facilitate networking between actors and discuss means of intervention through sharing experience and lessons learnt.

The first part of the workshop aimed at giving an overview of the institutional and legal framework as well as challenges and current coping initiatives. Suzy Hoayek, adviser to the Minister of Energy and Water, introduced the legal framework for interventions in the water and sanitation sector and gave updates on ongoing reforms. She presented the role of each institution, which was then discussed further with the interventions of Antoine Zoghby, engineer and technical expert at Beirut-Mount Lebanon Water Establishment, and Ghassan Tayoun, deputy Mayor of Zgharta-Ehden municipality. Antoine Zoghby explained the impacts of the

crisis on Beirut-Mount Lebanon Water Establishment, and introduced the establishment's strategy to overcome it. Ghassan Tayoun showcased an example of partnership involving Zgharta-Ehden municipality to improve resource management; he insisted on the importance of such partnerships in times of crisis to facilitate short- and mid-term solutions.



Map of French-Lebanese cooperation projects on water and sanitation

In the second part, two decentralized cooperation were presented in order to showcase examples of French local institutions and associations who support the water and sanitation sector's development. Joelle Puig, project manager of APIEU, and Habib Debs, director of URBI Architects & Planners, presented the cooperation between Montpellier (APIEU) and the municipality of Zahlé. This cooperation focuses on resource protection through stakeholders' collaboration and through the design of an urban master plan which enables better recharge of groundwater resource. The second cooperation, between

Chambéry and Bcharré, was presented by Lise Andurand, project manager for Chambéry municipality, and Charbel Chidiac, project manager for Corail Development. They insisted in particular on the governance aspects, both for the diagnosis on the impact of climate change at the river basin level, and for the management of the project which aims at working with all stakeholders involved in the river basin.

You can find on the following links the [workshop report](#), as well as the [presentation](#) and [video record](#), all in French. For further information, please [contact us](#).

NEWS FROM HAWKAMAA-EU PROJECT

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 NDU, IMPACT, LCSP, Nahnoo and LEWAP.

In the past quarter, partners continued to work on the four selected water infrastructure projects to be supported in Akkar, Bekaa, Beirut and Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon. A fifth infrastructure will also be selected in Akkar. Partners will conduct extensive works including digging new wells, constructing pumping stations and installing transmission and distribution lines, to improve the quality and quantity of water provided to communities in the targeted areas.

In addition, LebRelief and ACTED jointly prepared for an upcoming priority workshop on wastewater around the Al Ostuan River Basin, which will gather national and Al Ostuan stakeholders.

ACF and SI also continued to conduct works to improve wastewater management in several selected ITS.

LEWAP has launched the research grant program to universities in Lebanon in December 2021 – students are now in the process of preparing their methodologies to be submitted by February 2022.

The Lebanese Civil Society for Water (LCSW) launched by LEWAP and LebRelief will be conducting their first effective meeting on January 26th 2022 to discuss their expectations from the network and how they want to be involved in the water sector as well as the current changes in water tariffs at a national level.

NEWS FROM THE STABILIZATION THEMATIC GROUP

LEWAP is leading the coordination of the stabilization thematic group under the WASH coordination cluster at UNICEF. The aim of this thematic group is to support partners in shifting from emergency to development projects; as such LEWAP conducted a meeting on January 14th 2022 to redefine the

objectives of this group and address the challenges faced by partners during their implementation works as a way to capitalize on projects and taking out lessons learnt for future projects. Moreover, updates from partners on their ongoing projects and solarization initiatives are continuously collected.

UOB-LEWAP STUDENT CHAPTER'S FIRST FIELD VISIT

LEWAP and Balamand's Student Chapter has started its activities in November with a first meeting with 13 students interested to be part of the chapter's activities. This chapter for water and sanitation is a technical and educational group which gives students the opportunity to develop their knowledge and interact with key stakeholders of the water and sanitation sector. They will also be concerned with the development of research activities in collaboration with local authorities, municipalities, local and international NGOs.

On November 27th, members of the Student Chapter visited several sites

in the caza of Bcharré. The program of this visit included the Reed Bed Filter sanitation plant, an example of nature-based solution for wastewater treatment which enables water reuse for the surrounding cultivated lands. Students also visited Bcharré's activated sludge treatment plant to learn more about sanitation; and the hydroelectric power plant which provides clean and sustainable power in the Qadisha Valley. They also had the opportunity to meet with employees of the municipality and of visited sites.

Next steps for the chapter include the elections of members' representatives in January and February.



Visit to the Reed Bed Filter sanitation plant, where students received explanations from Nathalie Kayrouz of Bcharré municipality, November 27th.

WATER GOVERNANCE ANALYSIS TRAINING - FAO, NOVEMBER 18TH & 19TH

On November 18th and 19th 2021, FAO, in collaboration with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), organized a National Water Auditing training under the title Water Governance Analysis. The two-day training aimed at building on the participants' prior knowledge to better understand water governance in general and in Lebanon and to identify key water-related problems that need to be solved. Thirty-five participants attended the training and were introduced to the terminology, definitions and key concepts of Water Auditing/Water Governance in addition to understanding the role and perspective of different stakeholders in supporting the Water Auditing process.

This activity was implemented under the regional project "Implementing the 2030 Agenda for water efficiency/productivity and water sustainability in NENA (Near East and North Africa) countries" directed under the Regional Water Scarcity Initiative, and funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. The overall goal of the project is to pursue water and food security for sustainable development in an environment of mounting water scarcity and climate-

related risks. It tackles more specifically the contribution to the improvement of sustainable and integrated water management practices in addition to improving water efficiency and water productivity in the agriculture sector. In Lebanon, the project activities focus on the Nahr El Kalb River Basin, Akkar governorate and the Bekaa Valley.

Water auditing, also called water governance analysis, is an approach that LEWAP supports as it enables shared knowledge between stakeholders, leading to a better identification of issues related to water resource management at different levels, as well as of capacities to address them. The discussions that emerged from the training were very rich and enabled to identify shared issues that actors are facing, especially for water resource management; one key topic of discussion was the need for shared knowledge, including raw data on the resource.

You can find further information about [the training](#) as well as [the project](#) it is part of. A methodological guide to water auditing will soon be published by FAO.

CHAMBÉRY-BCHARRÉ COOPERATION'S EVENT TO PRESENT RESULTS OF THE STUDY ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND WAY FORWARD

The steering committee for the cooperation between the municipality of Chambéry and the Région Auvergne Rhone Alpes on one hand, and the

Union of municipalities of the caza of Bcharré on the other hand, met on November 8th to present a technical and political overview of the year 2021

and discuss way forward for 2022.

This cooperation targets sustainable economic development of this area of North Lebanon. In this purpose, it looks at strengthening the “territorial dialogue” regarding the impact of climate change on economic activities, particularly agriculture and tourism. To evaluate this impact, a participatory diagnosis was conducted with scientific actors as well as local stakeholders of the catchment area of Abou Ali River, to collect data and studies on water resource sustainability. The diagnosis led to creating a scientific database which can be shared upon request, and to formulating recommendations of activities to complement the available knowledge and support future policies for resource management and sustainable development.

The water and climate change activities of this cooperation, supported by the Agence de l’eau Rhône Méditerranée Corse, proposes a River Basin approach to water resource management. As so, the diagnosis was targeting all cazas of the Abou Ali river basin. Due to the context, the study couldn’t cover them all, however a dialogue was initiated between the caza of Bcharré and the caza of Zgharta-Ehden, which will be reinforced in the project’s upcoming phases, and with the North Lebanon Water Establishment and the Ministry of Energy and Water in order to build a pilot for participatory resource management.

The presentation of the study on climate change (in French) is available through [this link](#).

DAECT CALL FOR PROPOSAL TO DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION BETWEEN FRANCE AND LEBANON

The French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the French Embassy in Lebanon, the Committee of Lebanese mayors, and Cités Unies Liban/Bureau Technique des Villes Libanaises, is launching a call for proposal for 2022-2024 targeting cooperation projects between France and Lebanon. Projects should

directly include French and Lebanese local institutions and target capacity building for territorial governance. Water and sanitation are part of the possible topics mentioned in the call for proposal – applications must be submitted before March 16th. Further information and forms (in French) are available through [this link](#).

EU/AFD's TA legal advisor to draft the Water code's executive decrees

In the last quarter, a legal advisor joined the Technical Assistance' program and started his mission by compiling all existing laws related to water in order to elaborate a real Water code; this activity, lasting until end of February 2022, includes the identification of contradictions and possible overlapping between the different governing laws. The second step in the legal advisor's mission will be the prioritization of the executive decrees, as judged important and urgent, and their drafting according to the set priorities. The decrees will be finalized in participation with a committee, appointed by the Minister of Energy and Water, gathering representatives from the concerned institutions.

Donors' Coordination meeting

A donors' meeting was organized on November 26th at the Ministry of Energy and Water. In the presence of the Minister, donors shared updates on the projects they fund and their strategies. The AFD also presented results from the TA's assessment of the 13 wastewater treatment plants managed by the CDR. This assessment focused in particular on the operation & maintenance costs, including the costs of power supply. Remaining operational wastewater treatment plants will be evaluated in the coming months. AFD team also presented the tariff model they prepared upon the request of the Ministry as a preliminary step towards a complete tariff restructuring study.

Reevaluation of water tariffs

A new tariff model was designed to

adapt to the market prices. This model evaluates the level of deficit as well as costs which should be covered by the water tariff – including power supply and transportation costs. Accordingly, a new annual tariff of 1,5 million Lebanese Pounds per household (instead of 300,000 LBP) was decided upon, and will be applied by all Water Establishments starting 2022, allowing them to align their annual budgets to the new fee.

Strategic environmental and social assessment of the water strategy

Since October 2021, and for a total duration of at least 8 months, the "strategic environmental and social assessment" of the updated national water strategy of 2020 is being conducted by ECODit, funded by the World Bank under the Lake Qaraoun Pollution Prevention project. This is a compulsory step prior to the implementation of the strategy. The assessment implies consultations with many stakeholders, including ministries, donors, NGOs and civil society actors.

Power supply for water and sanitation

World Bank's loan for energy, whose signature was expected in January, has been delayed and should be signed in March/April. Consequently, the augmentation of numbers of hours of public power supply to water and sanitation services will not occur before the beginning of the next quarter. In the meantime, services still depend upon costly fuel-powered generators. These costs have been covered by UNICEF and WFP until January, and the MoEW is looking for support to supply diesel to the WE's for the upcoming 3 months.

Latest publications

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

ASSESSMENT OF ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS FOR SOLID WASTE REMOVAL FOR IRRIGATION CANALS IN NORTH LEBANON - FAO, 2021

FAO, as part of the project “Rehabilitation and waste management of El-Bared Canal Irrigation System to reduce source-to-sea pollution and improve livelihoods in the Akkar Region of Lebanon”, has conducted a multi-criteria assessment of engineering solutions for solid waste removal from irrigation canals in order to reduce pollution discharge into the sea. The published report analyzes the vulnerability of water resources to solid waste, and identifies a strategy of intervention which includes solid waste management technologies and sediment removal technologies.

The publication is available through [this link](#). You can learn more on the project [here](#).



Upcoming events in Lebanon

NEXT LCSW MEETING - JANUARY 26TH

The Lebanese Civil Society for Water is having its first effective meeting on January 26th. During this meeting, civil society organizations will receive updates from the sector and have the opportunity to discuss strategic topics, such as the new water tariffs. They will also be informed of upcoming workshops and share their updates and expectations for the network. To join the LCSW, please [contact us](#).

WATER-ENERGY WORKSHOPS - FEBRUARY

LEWAP, in partnership with IFI and Oxfam, will organize a Water-Energy workshop, addressing the Water-Energy nexus and alternative solutions to fuel-powered water systems, with a focus on solar-powered technologies. Recommendations will be shared from IFI and Oxfam's [5-volume study](#) and from experiences of solar pumping installations. A second session will aim at collectively identifying solutions for potential sites beyond those currently targeted by projects. Information will be sent via email.

RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS - ACTED - MARCH

The first workshop organized under Hawkamaa-EU projects will be held in Mars, in partnership between LEWAP and ACTED. It will present the River Basin management approach, a tool for Integrated Water Resource Management, to increase knowledge and capacities to implement it. Information will be sent via email.

«MARDI LEWAP» ON WATER REUSE FOR AGRICULTURE - MARCH

The first Mardi LEWAP of 2022 will be organized in March, with interventions from IWMI and LARI on reuse of treated wastewater for agriculture. Results of a reuse experiment for raw crops conducted by LARI will be presented, together with an analysis of current norms and regulations. Recommendations from these results have been shared with LIBNOR in November.

Mardis LEWAP are seminars organized for field actors to present to them the latest research in the field of water and sanitation, thus building bridges between academics and operation stakeholders.

AL-OSTUAN RIVER BASIN PRIORITY WORKSHOP - ACTED & LEBRELIEF - MARCH

The Ministry of Energy and Water and the North Lebanon Water Establishment, in collaboration with the University of Balamand, NAHNOO, ACTED and LebRelief, are organizing the "Al-Ostuan River Basin Priority" workshop. The workshop aims at discussing practical steps forward to treat wastewater in the Al-Ostuan River Basin with all involved stakeholders. The Al-Ostuan River Basin study for integrated water management will also be presented. This workshop, initially planned in January, has been postponed due to COVID-19 and should be held in February or March. Information regarding the new date will be sent via email.

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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

