



Newsletter October 2021

What is happening in the network?

PS-EAU MISSION TO BEIRUT

Mélodie Boissel from the pS-Eau visited LEWAP for a week at the end of September. This visit, which happened in a context of crisis, was an opportunity to meet members of the network in order to strengthen the relations and understanding of current stakes. Meetings were held with institutions (MoEW, EBML), actors of the French-Lebanese cooperation (AFD, Embassy, BTVL), International NGOs (SI, ACTED), and consultants and research

organisms (UPLoAD, IWMI).

During the visit, pS-Eau and LEWAP teams focused particularly on stakeholders and projects which look at the Integrated Water Resource Management approach, in preparation of a note on IWRM in Lebanon which should be published in the next quarter. The upcoming work on water and energy was also presented during the visit (see upcoming events p.9.)

NEWS FROM MADAD-HAWKAMAA' 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.

The project focuses on 3 main objectives:

- Strengthening the capacity of Water Establishments (WEs) to provide water and wastewater services;

- Increasing the participation of civil society and local authorities in the water sector governance;
- Improving refugee protection space.

The areas of intervention are in the South, Bekaa, North and Beirut and Mount Lebanon. Implementing partners established contacts in their respective areas and signed MoUs with the respective WEs; they are in the phase of site study and design of works, construction works will follow. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be prepared before every work for environmental preservation and conservation.

LEWAP is acting as the deputy consortium coordinator and will be benefiting from this project to expand the local WASH network. LEWAP will supporting the consortium throughout all their activities and will be mainly working on:

- Creating a sub-network, the Lebanese Civil Society for Water (LCSW - see paragraph below);

- Facilitating workshops and field visits targeting the activities implemented by the partners in the consortium to come up with lessons learnt;

- Leading on the research grant program that involves university students through research in supporting implementing partners during their activities.

Stay tuned for the upcoming events!

LAUNCHING OF THE LEBANESE CIVIL SOCIETY FOR WATER (LCSW)

As part of HawkaMaa-EU project, LEWAP and Lebreliief are inviting local NGOs and civil society organizations to a sub-network, the Lebanese Civil Society for Water.

LCSW members will have the opportunity to participate in workshops and trainings to reinforce their capacities for the implementation of water-related initiatives. They will also have a role of intermediate between civil society and the water sector, to share information and recommendations on water-related policies and projects. LCSW will meet on a quarterly basis to exchange updates, added to trainings and thematic workshops.

A launching event took place on October 13th, but the network is still open to membership. To join the LCSW, please contact LEWAP.



LEBANESE CIVIL SOCIETY FOR WATER - LCSW

The Lebanese Civil Society for Water is a **network of local organisations engaged in water and sanitation activities in Lebanon**, who want to develop their expertise and operational capacities.

It is integrated into the Lebanese Water Actors Platform (LEWAP), which groups all stakeholders working in the water and sanitation sector in Lebanon, to ensure the dissemination of information, facilitate multi-stakeholder exchanges, and strengthen the capacity of local and international actors to set up projects.

Early information on news and actions taking place in the water sector

Spaces of discussion for members to share their perspectives

Trainings and capacity-building sessions to become experts of the sector

Representation to the water sector through LEWAP



LCSW member will be invited to :

- Share their experience and knowledge of existing needs
- Give insights on the water sector's overall strategy
- Mobilize their network for collective initiatives
- Share information to their network to increase public knowledge on water in Lebanon

To join the network, contact LEWAP (contact@lewap.org) to indicate your interest and participate to a launching meeting on **Wednesday, October 13h at 2:00 PM**



CEWAS-LEWAP VISIT TO GHADIR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

On September 23rd, cewas and LEWAP organized a visit to Ghadir Wastewater Treatment Plant, initially targeting journalists but opened to experts

from the water sector. This visit was part of the Blue Peace Media Lab, a project of cewas and MiCT which aims at increasing the capacity of media

professionals to report on water-related issues in the Middle East.

Ghadir was chosen because of its specific profile as the only large-scale wastewater treatment plant currently operational in Beirut area. It provides only preliminary treatment that consists

of grinding and screening as well as a grit chamber. The participants, journalists, researchers, NGO professionals and technicians from private groups, visited the different parts of the plant, with the explanations of Ghadir engineer on the used technologies and sanitation phases.



RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT IN AL-OSTUAN - ACTED

As part of MADAD programs, ACTED has been implementing a River Basin approach to Water Resource management in Al-Ostuan (Akkar), a pilot project in a context where governance at the river basin level is being discussed both on the field (several projects are considering this approach) and at the institutional level with the preparation of Water Code executive decrees.

In 2021, results from the study which had been conducted by LDK and the University of Balamand in 2019 (see [baseline report](#) and [report on future scenarios](#)) were discussed with

Water Establishment, municipalities, local NGOs, industries, farmers, and representatives of the communities – forming the premises of a river basin committee. Through the study and concertation, a program of measures has been defined, and municipal wastewater discharge in the river was identified as the number one priority by all stakeholders (see [policy brief](#)). This program of measures will be translated into priority actions through the upcoming vision and action plan workshops, whose aim will be to define roles and implementation with all responsible stakeholders.

Integrated Water Resource Management, facilitated through river basin committee, is an approach which the pS-Eau and LEWAP can accompany. In the case of Lebanon, the approach is growing with several projects being implemented, and a will to clarify governance models at the national level. A note about IWRM in Lebanon is being prepared by LEWAP and will be disseminated in our next newsletter.

VISIT FROM THE DÉPARTEMENT DE L'AUDE TO ZGHARTA-EHDEN

In September, the Département de l'Aude organized a visit to Zgharta-Ehden in the context of decentralized cooperation between the two collectivities. Hélène Sangragné, the new President of the Département, and Valérie Dumontet, Vice-President, met Zgharta-Ehden municipal council as well as local actors, and visited sites where the cooperation intervenes.

This cooperation supports water quality with a focus on Rachiine basin (part of Abou Ali river basin); it has resulted in a

diagnosis as well as technical support. Three flow meters were provided to respond to the lack of data on the resource including a portative one which was delivered during the visit.



NEWS FROM THE PROJECT «SOCLE» - BTVL

The United Cities Lebanon/Technical Office of Lebanese Municipalities, in partnership with the Lebanese Mayor's Committee, the Region des Pays de la Loire (France) and the French Agency for Development (AFD), and with the support of the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, has been implementing the Operational Support Project to Lebanese Municipalities in the Environment (SOCLE) 2019-2021 which aims at reinforcing municipalities' capacities in the field of environment and renewable energies.

40 municipalities and unions of municipalities across Lebanon have followed a complete training program for local representatives, municipal agents and municipal police on environmental management and renewable energy during the year 2020. They also participated in seminars to share experience with public and private stakeholders from the Région des Pays de la Loire on

various themes like waste management, water and wastewater management or mutualization of resources to develop environmental projects.

Among them, 12 municipalities and unions of municipalities particularly involved were further accompanied to identify one pilot project per collectivity to be implemented locally. Two have focused on water-related projects:

- Installation of a sanitation station in Zouk Mikhael for the neighborhood of Chwar El Wadi (not covered by CDR's wastewater management strategy);
- Depollution of part of the Abou Ali river in Tripoli through the installation of a purification tank at the entrance of the river in Tripoli and the rebuilding of the soils in the watershed of the river.

Pre-feasibility studies are currently being conducted and should be finalized by December 2022. The actors involved will then start identifying financial and technical partners to complete the studies and to implement the projects.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO IRRIGATION WATER IN LEBANON – UNDP

Since 2019, UNDP has been implementing a WASH project focusing on irrigation for agriculture across the country, with funds from Germany through KfW Development Bank. In total, 280 km of irrigation canals and 78 000 m³ of hill lakes were rehabilitated.

The project benefitted 350 000 farmers and seasonal workers, a significant impact – both for livelihoods and for the water sector, with a better resource management which increased water

conservation while improving access to irrigation. UNDP has released an [animated presentation](#) introducing the project and the stakes it aims at addressing



NATIONAL UPDATES BY THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND WATER

The water sector has been strongly affected by the financial and power crises severely experienced during summer and which resulted in:

- very limited power supply due to low supply hours of EDL (national network) and high cost and low availability of fuel for fuel-powered generators;
- unavailability of funding to ensure maintenance of water facilities, access to spare parts and purchase of consumables necessary for a good water quality.

A call for donors was published, resulting in emergency support for maintenance as well as for power supply. In September, it was announced that WFP, in coordination with UNICEF

and the WASH sector, would provide fuel to the water sector for the next three to four months, responding to the most urgent issue of fuel provision for pumping stations and water treatment plants.

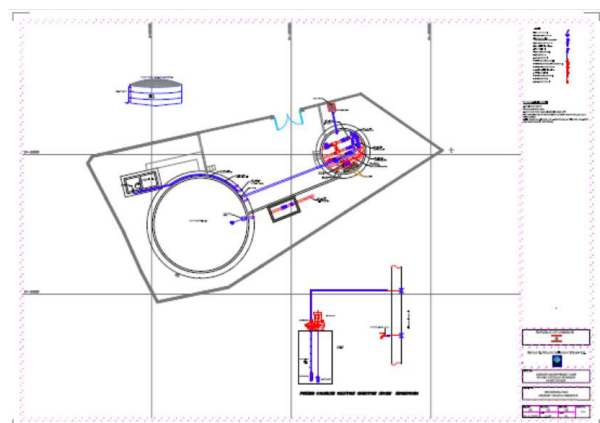
MoEW and the Government of Lebanon are currently working to restoring 12 hours per day of electricity supply in the country by January 2022, which will have a positive impact on the power supply to pumping stations and treatment plants. This would result in an increase in the amount of water provided through public networks, hoping that the need for fuel-powered generators will decrease significantly.

STUDY FOR SOLAR-POWERED CHLORINATION STATION IN MAZRAET YACHOUGH – BEIRUT – MOUNT LEBANON WATER ESTABLISHMENT

Beirut-Mount Lebanon Water Establishment, in order to respond to the power supply crisis, has conducted a study with WET Lebanon for Solar-powered chlorination station in Mazraet Yachough. The objective is to have an immediate response at the local level by equipping a small station with autonomous power production in order to ensure continuous disinfection by chlorination.

With this installation, Mazraet Yachough station would be able to treat 2000 cubic meters per day, benefiting over 9000 people for an estimated cost of 1800 USD. BMLWE is currently looking

for financial partnership in order to enable the implementation. Technical information is provided in [the study](#). For further information, you can contact Antoine Zoghby [via email](#) or by phone: 00961 3 658 636.



Latest publications

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

DRYING UP - UNICEF, JULY 2021

The advocacy process coordinated by UNICEF in June 2021, after the Ministry of Energy and Water alerted on the risk of collapse of Water Establishments (see Institutional News - National updates by MoEW), led to this short report summarizing the critical situation of water sector in Lebanon.

This report was based on data collected by Water Establishments in May and June, and a UNICEF-supported

assessment. Through key data and clear facts, it measures the impact of the crisis on services – treatment, pumping and distribution of water – and on operation and maintenance. The report establishes most urgent needs and call for action to enable continuity of access to safe water for the population.

Publication accessible through [this link](#).

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN – UNOCHA, SEPTEMBER 2021

In response to the acute crisis Lebanon is facing, the UN and NGOs have developed a 12-month multi-sectoral Emergency Response Plan (ERP) complementing for 2021-2022 the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (which addresses needs of refugee communities for 2017-2021). On Water, the ERP aims at providing short-term support to communities to access safe water through provision of fuel or alternative energies to pumping stations.

While the ERP is an emergency intervention program, the WASH strategy integrates possible linkages with non-humanitarian National Water Sector Strategy (NWSS) and other development programs, through:

- Support to off-grid energy solutions for pumping stations, including solarization;

- Coordination with other WASH assessments to create an integrated WASH vulnerability monitoring tool for Lebanon;
- Coordination with local authorities to handover infrastructures, such as public water points.

Actors involved in the ERP WASH intervention are: ACTED, Action Against Hunger, LebRelief, Norwegian Refugee Council, Solidarités International, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, WeWorld-GVC, World Vision.

The ERP is accessible through [this link](#).

**EMERGENCY
RESPONSE PLAN
LEBANON**

2021 - 2022
Revision 1.0 - September 2021



OCCURRENCE AND ECOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS IN THE KADISHA RIVER IN LEBANON – MERHABI F., GOMEZ E., ARIZA CASTRO N., AMINE H., ROSAIN D., HALWANI J., FENET H., OCTOBER 2021

This paper, published in October 2021, showcases the results of sample analysis from the Qadisha river, collected in the last quarter of 2017, to assess occurrence and ecological risk of the presence of pharmaceuticals and their metabolites. Samples were collected from twelve sites impacted by urban, rural and mixed land uses in the river basin.

The paper highlights the need to collect and treat wastewater in this

watershed to improve the situation for health and the environment. It also suggests to have monitoring programs on pharmaceutical compounds in Lebanese river waters to better understand the pollution situation and make future public policies on water quality in Lebanon.

The publication is available through [this link](#).

Upcoming events in Lebanon

WATER-ENERGY WORKSHOPS

The crisis of the energy sector and its severe impact on water and sanitation services has highlighted the need for a renewed power supply strategy of water and wastewater sectors, in order to reduce their energetic dependency. LEWAP is launching a program of workshops “developing alternatives for power supply of water and wastewater services”.

The objective of this program is to share information and collectively discuss the issue of power supply of water and wastewater services, in order to nourish strategies at several scales (nationally, regionally, and locally) and to facilitate the identification of feasible actions towards continuous and affordable power supply.

This collective work will capitalize on previous studies (including OXFAM and IFI’s water-energy nexus), as well as experience and contribution from members of LEWAP network interested to be involved in the process. Discussion will include:

- Situation overview: existing projects and needs identification
- Institutional framework and levers
- Lessons learned, opportunities and challenges from previous experiences
- Possible intervention framework, donors, and cooperation

The definition of this program is a work in progress and we invite all interested actors to contact us in order to express your interest to take part in the preparation and/or the workshops.

LAUNCHING OF THE STUDENT CHAPTER

The LEWAP/UoB Student chapter will be activated in November 2021. It consists in an educational group giving the opportunity to interested students to interact with key stakeholders about water and sanitation issues in Lebanon. The students will be exposed to the research grant program under the HawkaMaa-EU project where they can apply and participate in supporting members of the consortium in implementing their activities across different regions in Lebanon.

UPLOAD-LEWAP WORKSHOP ON WATER TRUCKING AND DESLUDGING

UPLoAD and LEWAP are preparing a workshop on water and sanitation in Syrian camps, with a focus on water trucking and desludging – this workshop will build upon a study completed by UPLoAD and SI in 2019 on the topic. More information will be disseminated soon.

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Contribute to LEWAP newsletter!

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

