



**Lebanese Water
Actors Platform**

Newsletter - September 2023

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE NETWORK ?

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

Under the Water Sanitation and Conservation (WSC) 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 project, called Engage: Capacity Development of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to engage in Water and Sanitation, gives opportunities to Lebanese CSOs to get trained and become experts in the water sector, to be part of a network

of professionals working on water and sanitation, and to get support in the writing and defining of a project that can then be submitted for funding.

66 organizations attended one of the two virtual sessions of information conducted in July. CSOs that will benefit from this project are now under selection. Training sessions will start in November, and will cover the following topics : general introduction to water and sanitation, wastewater management and wastewater reuse, irrigation, non revenue water, advocacy, civic engagement and behavioral change, fundraising and financial management.

«MARDI OF LEWAP»: “ASSESSING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE WATER RESOURCES : THE CASE OF QADISHA RIVER”

On Tuesday, July 11, LEWAP organized a conference at the French Institute of Lebanon on the sustainability of the water resources, showcasing the Qadisha river. This conference was part of the «Tuesday of LEWAP», annual meetings organized by LEWAP that aim at bridging the gap between academics and operational actors

in the water and sanitation sector.

Dr. Yasmine Jabaly from the University of Balamand and Dr. Jalal Halwani and Rachad el Hajj from the Lebanese University came to present the results of the qualitative and quantitative studies they conducted on Nahr Qadisha. They have been sampling water in ten locations in both cazas in order

to test the quality of the water and analyze the trend of the river. UOB is responsible for the monitoring of flow and depth, and the Lebanese University is responsible for water quality monitoring, turbidity, bacteriological properties and physico-chemical parameters. A governance plan is being studied to proceed

with the momentum of testing and provide proper management and a prevention plan. You can find [here](#) the presentation of Rachad Al Haj, [here](#) the presentation of Dr. Jalal Halwani, [here](#) the presentation of Dr. Yasmine Jabaly and [here](#) the resume of the event.



WEBINAR – WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND REUSE: CREATING RESOURCES FOR AGRICULTURE AND ADDRESSING WATER SCARCITY

On June 8th, the IHE Delft Water and Development Partnership Programme (DUPC) organized a webinar on wastewater treatment and reuse in the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa) addressing the timely question of “How can we use wastewater treatment and reuse to support crop production and address water scarcity?”. Based in Delft, the Netherlands, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education is the largest international graduate water education facility in the world.

The webinar aimed at showing interesting

examples (of projects, case studies, activities) showcasing the added values of waste water treatment and reuse, discussing lessons learned through designing and implementing wastewater treatment and reuse practices in different contexts, analyzing the next steps towards wastewater treatment and reuse at scale and questioning the role of partnerships in developing, using and promoting wastewater treatment and reuse.

CLIMATE CHANGE TRANSPARENCY CONSULTATION MEETING

On July 20th, 2023, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and UNDP conducted a Stakeholder Consultation Meeting related to assessing and establishing Lebanon's Transparency Framework to Climate Change. Under this project, Ricardo will be supporting the UNDP and the MoE in implementing the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project which will play a crucial role in assisting Lebanon to establish a robust Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV)

system that entails sustainable governance structures, enhanced mechanisms for data collection and improvement of institutional capacities. The project will allow Lebanon to establish a national transparency framework in Lebanon to enhance implementation and abide by the transparency provisions of the Paris Agreement and its corresponding Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines (MPGs).

This meeting was part of a series of consultation

meetings which will be organized throughout the year, as part of CBIT and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) .

The objective of this meeting was to assess current institutional arrangements related to climate reporting and identify opportunities, challenges and ways forward for enhanced transparency.

LEWAP was consulted to present our experience and practices in data collection, validation and analysis and how the platform is continuously updating the database and offering space for local and international actors to discuss previous, ongoing and future actions. The platform was consulted to provide lessons learnt from the database work and how it can be replicated for other sectors at a national level and guarantee its sustainability.

For further information, check [this link](#).



PROJECTS RELATED TO FRENCH-LEBANESE COOPERATION

DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION PROJECT IN THE QADISHA VALLEY

A joint multisectoral project, co-financed by AFD's FICOL scheme, involves 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. The goal of the project is 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. Studies underwent in parallel of this project in order to understand the trend of the Qadisha river water source and define areas of pollution to be able to define proper preservation measures. A double study has been conducted by the Lebanese University (qualitative study) and the University of Balamand (quantitative study), the results have been presented in July during a conference organized by LEWAP.

DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION PROJECT 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 first phase of the project has started, which involves carrying out a study by CubeX that aims to assess needs, help find manufacturers for the operational phase and propose a budgeted execution plan. CubeX has now finished the evaluation phase of the data collected from the

inhabitants, as well as the evaluation of the sanitation systems already existing. The study was completed in early June, and a final report was presented to all partners on July 12, 2023, bringing the first phase of the project to an end and paving the way for the second phase of work.

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, Acted and WWGVC organized two workshops under the HawkaMaa-EU WASH Consortium, titled: «From Research to Action: Sharing the River Basin Management Plan», respectively for Al Ghadir (BML) and Al Assi (Bekaa) river basins. The events aimed to disseminate the results of the study conducted for both basins, including the baseline and future scenarios from the water balance models, share the series of cross-sectoral interventions/measures that were developed and foster collaboration among diverse stakeholders, on the implementation and sustainability of the management plans. Both CNRS-L and NDU participated in the development of the study. In addition, Acted hosted solution providers at the Al Ghadir workshop, where they had the chance to showcase their innovative solutions on

water resources, waste water, pollution control and agriculture. A similar study had also been developed under another project by Acted on the Al Ostuan basin located in North Lebanon. As a next step, HawkaMaa-EU partners, will be funding 10 grassroots grants across the 3 river basins, to be implemented by local CSOs and NGOs, in collaboration with relevant municipalities. Trainings on project management, fundraising and advocacy were also provided to stakeholders of the 3 basins. The grassroots grants will reflect the measures that were developed by the study and will be implemented at the basin level.

In addition to progresses on the River Basin Management plans, infrastructure works have also progressed in several areas of the country. In the Southern Suburb of Beirut, ACTED completed a potable and stormwater networks, as well as conducted works on the Ghadir wastewater treatment plant. Meanwhile, the drilling of a well, as a first step of the Tleil water scheme in Akkar, was launched by SI. Works also progressed on the water schemes for Brak (ACF), as well as Ain Bourday and Douris (WWGVC).

MEETING WITH LCSW - MODALITIES OF PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY

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.

In the last three months, 2 meetings took place; one on Public Public Partnership and one on Public Private Partnership - to create a space of discussion on modalities of partnership to improve service delivery in water and wastewater services.

1. PUBLIC PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP - DR FARAJ AL AWAR - 16 JUNE 2023

Members from the LCSW were gathered to discuss Public Public Partnership modality - what it entails and the different case studies in the country. Dr Faraj El Awar gave an overview of the laws and regulations governing the sector, this was followed by a presentation on the tensions between RWEs and local authorities i.e. municipalities. Dr Faraj continued by presenting the

specific cases of Der El Ahmar and Aarsal where the local authorities have taken charge of providing water services to their citizens through funds by donors however this was proven to be unsustainable as once the funds ended the service stopped. To know more the presentation conducted, please consult the link [here](#).

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP - MAITRE CHRISTINA ABI HAIDAR - 11 AUGUST 2023

Members from the LCSW were gathered to discuss Public Private Partnership with Maitre Christina Abi Haidar - what it entails, the difference from privatization, the laws and regulations in the water sector and how PPP can be included. She presented different case studies related to PPP and the reasons for their failure and this agreement is incorporated into the latest laws in the water sector and can be used to improve service delivery.

She highlighted the importance of avoiding replication of laws without tailoring them to the local context and the necessity of involving the private sector to support the public sector in improving water supply. To know more about the discussions and the evolution of PPP throughout the years in the water sector, please consult the [link](#) here.

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 and are now meeting on a regular basis.

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

During the WaSH Sector National Working Group Meeting of 3 August 2023, a mid-year review was presented. Some achievements were highlighted, such as :

- Enhancing water sector institutional governance, policies and capacities through Task Forces and Technical Assistance support ;
- Supported water supply and sanitation infrastructure in permanent locations, emphasizing renewable energy projects ;
- Continued operation and maintenance support to water supply systems ;
- Commenced operation and maintenance support to wastewater treatment plants ;
- Assisted 232,000 displaced Syrians in temporary locations with access to safe

water and sanitation.

Priorities for the second half of 2023 were also identified, such as :

- Repair and maintenance support to WEs to maintain water supply;
- Rehabilitation of key water production and supply infrastructure;
- Solarization of feasible water production and supply infrastructure;
- Emergency energy supply to WE to keep min. level of water supply;
- Operation and maintenance support to wastewater treatment plants
- Solarization of 11 feasible WWTPs;
- Continue supporting access to adequate WaSH for displaced population in non-permanent locations.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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

HYDROGEOCHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF GROUNDWATER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION: A META-ANALYSIS

The Mediterranean region is a water-stressed environment where groundwater, as the main water source, is under a lot of anthropogenic pressure. This study aims to evaluate the baseline hydrogeochemical characteristics and water quality of groundwater in the region. For this purpose, 123 hydrogeochemical studies conducted in the area were examined. This work is a preliminary assessment of

groundwater characteristics in the region. Further works are needed to investigate specific aspects of Mediterranean region aquifers' groundwater hydrogeochemistry.

To know more about this report, check the link [here](#).

LEBANON CRISIS RESPONSE PLAN 2023 - LEBANON EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN 2023

The 2023 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and Lebanon Emergency Response Plan (ERP) have been published in May.

The LCRP brings together 118 partner organizations to assist more than 3.2 million crisis-affected people living in Lebanon, including 1.5 million displaced Syrians, 1.5 million vulnerable Lebanese, 31,400 Palestinian refugees from Syria and 180,000 Palestine refugees in Lebanon, while seeking to mitigate the impacts of the Syria crisis on Lebanon's infrastructure, economy and public institutions. The ERP complements the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan by setting up the framework to address the impact of the Syria crisis in Lebanon which mainly targets Syrian Refugees and host communities.

You can find the reports [here](#) and [here](#).



ESCALATING NEED IN LEBANON

This document is produced in collaboration with and on behalf of the Lebanon Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and humanitarian partners working in Lebanon. It provides a shared understanding of the impact of the multi-layered crisis in Lebanon on the population, the systems and services and the operational space of the aid community in the country. It outlines an analysis of the most pressing humanitarian and stabilization¹ needs in the country, and the estimated number of people who need humanitarian assistance.

The document aims to provide as consolidated as possible an analysis of the situation to inform coordinated, efficient and accountable humanitarian and stabilization response planning for 2023.

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



EVALUATION OF UNICEF SUPPORT TO WATER ESTABLISHMENTS

Triangle SAL was assigned by UNICEF to conduct an evaluation of their work and intervention with regional water establishments across the country. This report presents a final evaluation of UNICEF's support to these RWEs for the period of the country program (2017 to 2022). It is the product of an overall assessment of the implementation and performance of this support, specifically its two main components of infrastructure/stabilization and communications.

The purpose of the final evaluation is twofold: (1) to inform UNICEF's future engagement with and support to the RWEs; and (2) to provide a basis for accountability. It gives the intended users the information needed to make decisions, take action and add to institutional knowledge. The report focuses on five main points of the OECD-DAC criteria – relevance and coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and gender and human rights. To access the report, check the [link](#).

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

TRAINING SESSIONS WITHIN THE ENGAGE PROGRAM - NOVEMBER 2023

In November 2023, the two in-person training sessions are for civil society training sessions planned as part of the organizations - more information to come. ENGAGE program will take place. These

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY LEWAP, CREATED UPON THE INITIATIVE OF PS-EAU, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE RHONE AND MEDITERRANEAN CORSICA AGENCY, THE AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

CONTRIBUTE TO LEWAP NEWSLETTER!

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