



**LEbanese Water  
Actors Platform**

# Lebanon Water Network Meeting 2024

November 19, 2024

## Report

*The French aid to Lebanon in the Water/Sanitation/Hygiene (WASH) Sector  
Decentralized French aid to Lebanon in the Water/Sanitation/Hygiene sector:*

*What possible contributions can the French cooperation offer to local actors  
(municipalities, civil society organizations) and international organizations?*

This meeting, organized by pS-Eau and LEWAP, is aimed at decentralized and non-governmental cooperation (NGDC) actors - local authorities, French associations, academes and companies - involved or wishing to be involved in the water and sanitation sector in Lebanon.

The webinar aims at putting in contact decentralized cooperation actors with other water/sanitation/hygiene actors or initiatives in Lebanon – namely WASH actors and civil society organizations.

The aim is to inform the NGDC actors of the existing dynamics in the water sector and connect them with other stakeholders.

[Link to the video in French](#)

[Link to the video in English](#)

[list of participants](#)

## 1) Introduction

### ✓ Presentation of pS-Eau and LEWAP

Mélodie Boissel, Mediterranean Basin referent at pS-Eau, Jasmine EL Kareh, LEWAP coordinator

Video 0.2 - 0.12

With the support of the French Development Agency (AFD), the French Water Agencies (Agences de l'Eau) and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE), the mission of the Solidarité Eau (pS-Eau) program is to network, build the capacities and stimulate decentralized and non-governmental cooperation actions and actors involved in the water and sanitation sectors.

Created at the initiative of pS-Eau in 2017, the Lebanese Water Actor Platform (LEWAP) connects and links different types of actors involved in the water and sanitation sector in Lebanon and facilitates information sharing between them.

- [Presentation : Presentation of LEWAP and pS-Eau](#) (French, English)
- [Positioning and roles of LEWAP and the Lebanon network of pS-Eau, vis-à-vis decentralized and non-governmental cooperation, with regards to NGOs and CSOs working in Lebanon in the water and sanitation sector](#) (French)
- [Annual report for decentralized and non-governmental cooperation 2023- Southern mediterranean countries](#): Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Palestine (français), pS-Eau (mediterranean basin countries); This report presents the active decentralized and non-governmental cooperation actors and actions in the water and sanitation sector, for 2023.
- [Lebanon country sheet](#) (French, English, Arabic) LEWAP : This note describes the Lebanese water and sanitation sector structure.
- **To receive LEWAP's quarterly newsletter**, which shares news from the WASH sector in Lebanon (French, English, Arabic), contact: [jasmine.kareh@lewap.org](mailto:jasmine.kareh@lewap.org)

### ✓ Issues and objectives of the meeting

Jérémy Guerin, in charge of linking emergency and development actions and actors, at pS-Eau

Video 0.12-0.21

- [Presentation: stakes of the relation between development actors and emergency situation](#) (French)
- [Briefing note](#): the water and sanitation development sector in times of crises and emergency (French). pS-Eau, knowledge production and understanding deepening: although not specifically related to the situation in the Middle East, this brief is food for thought on the stakes and scope of the issue, action pathways and resources.

## 2) International and local actors in the WASH sector in Lebanon

- [Brief\\_Emergency\\_War\\_WASH\\_\(English,\\_French\)](#), Note , LEWAP, November 2024

This brief lists the actors involved in Lebanon's water and sanitation sector; the coordinating and networking bodies and organizations, and their actions in the various regions of Lebanon.

Representatives of multiple current initiatives shared information about their activities during the webinar.

### ✓ WASH sector coordination and actors

Jakub Pajak, Wash Cluster Coordinator, UNICEF: [jpajak@unicef.org](mailto:jpajak@unicef.org)

Video: 0.22-0.33

- [Watch the presentation \(English\)](#)
- [Links to the WASH cluster meetings](#)

The WASH cluster coordinates NGOs actions in the water and sanitation sector in Lebanon, in conjunction with the Ministry of Energy and Water.

Despite the many active NGOs, the WASH cluster is facing a lack of financial resources to meet growing needs.

The shortfall in financial resources is estimated at 83%, to cover the following needs in particular:

- Fuel: 3 million USD per month.
- Water heaters in collective shelters: 2 million USD
- Hygiene kits: 3 million USD
- Collective shelters need to be expanded due to the increasing number of displaced persons: 12 million USD are required.

Some groups of people are particularly vulnerable, especially foreign workers.

### Debate

Jakub Pajak explained that access to water in shelters, i.e. public schools in general, is provided by water tanks transported by trucks, or by connecting to the public networks. The action includes as well hygiene kits, water-heating devices and, in some cases, washing machines.

Answering Cécile Rémyon (Nice Métropole), Jakub Pajak pointed out that there is no similar cluster for waste. However, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) coordinates NGOs actions in this specific domain. Contact: Mohammed Al Sayah, Social Stability Sector Coordinator: [mohammed.al-sayah@undp.org](mailto:mohammed.al-sayah@undp.org)

Ghassan Tayoun (Deputy Mayor of the municipality of Zgharta-Ehden) explained that sorting initiatives can be carried out locally. He added that this topic is difficult for municipalities to handle, especially in cases of displacement where a lot of waste is generated.

The Wash cluster was involved in long-term coordination with national, deconcentrated and decentralized institutions (Ministry of Energy and Water, Water Establishments, Municipalities). Joumana

Nasser (independent consultant) and Claire Papin Stammose (consultant and former LEWAP coordinator) inquired about the link between the current coordination work and that related to NGOs.

Jakub Pajak explained that there are two UNICEF-led coordination programs, one for Lebanese institutions, the other for NGOs. He indicated that the link between these two coordination mechanisms is through the Water Establishments that are positioned as the coordinators of the response to the needs of the regions they are in charge of, namely with regards to the supply of fuel to keep pumping stations running.

## ✓ The key role of Lebanese CSOs (Civil Society Organizations): best practices for a localized and sustainable emergency response

Léa Mascaro, HawkaMaa-EU program coordinator

Contact: Gaetane WICQUART, Country Manager Lebanon: [gaetane.wicquart@acted.org](mailto:gaetane.wicquart@acted.org)

Video: 0.53 - 1.13

- [Presentation \(French\)](#)
- [Link to the Lebanese CSOs interactive dashboard \(English\)](#)

The HawkaMaa-EU program has been running for four years, financed by the MADAD fund, a European fund that supports Syrian refugees and host communities. The program aims to support water governance and WASH services in Lebanon for refugees and host communities. The consortium includes ACTED (leader), ACF, Solidarités International, WW-GVC, LebRelief and is in partnership with IMPACT, LCPS, Nahnoo and LEWAP.

Among the many actions carried out within the framework of this program (infrastructure projects, governance, multi-stakeholder participatory approach to water resource management at basin level, research grant program for students, etc.), ACTED, with the support of the LCSW (Lebanese Civil Society for Water) that is created by LEWAP, achieved some aid localization work involving Lebanese CSOs.

Following on from this action, an initiative is currently underway to identify, network and coordinate the initiatives of Lebanese CSOs working in this field to meet the needs of displaced people in terms of water, sanitation and hygiene.

### Debate

Cécile Rémyon asked about the use of the CSOs interactive dashboard beyond the emergency situation, and about its dissemination channels. As part of its work on risk prevention and management in Lebanon, the Nice Metropole is also confronted with the issue of stakeholder mapping and involvement.

Léa Mascaro pointed out that the dashboard was created in September, with the aim of facilitating information sharing for emergency response. Long-term use is therefore not yet envisaged. In order to involve 80 CSOs in just one month, a process of identification and individual contact was carried out. The dashboard is disseminated via governmental and inter-NGO coordination mechanisms and social networks.

Answering Damien Brintet (Mediterranean basin referent within DCT-CIV, Delegation for local authorities and civil society) on the typology of stakeholders involved in the participatory approach at watershed level, Léa Mascaro noted that the multi-actor dimension has been very broad: Ministry of Energy and Water, Water Establishments, municipalities, private stakeholders, researchers...

Joumana Nasser stressed the importance of ensuring that emergency measures are part of a long-term strategy. Léa Mascaro noted that actions such as delivering water by trucks are not part of a long-term vision. With regard to the HawkaMaa program, coordinated by ACTED, the question of the sustainability of responses to a crisis (hosting Syrian refugees) was at the heart of the strategy. The program involved Water Establishments, municipalities and the Ministry of Energy and Water.

Jasmine El Kareh informed participants that LEWAP leads the Wash Cluster's Stabilization thematic group, which aims to facilitate information sharing between NGOs, with a view to promoting the sustainability and coherence of actions so to meet the needs of the water sector and its global strategy. In addition, LEWAP is involved in the identification and involvement of Lebanese CSOs, by leading the LCSW network. Recently, LEWAP had organized numerous workshops to share and debate the results of projects carried out under the HawkaMaa program.

## ✓ Lebanese municipalities involvement in coordinating aid in the Wash sector

Ghassan Tayoun, Deputy Mayor of the municipality of Zgharta-Ehden: ghtayoun@gmail.com

Video: 1.34 - 1.50

### ➤ Presentation (French)

Municipalities are the frontliners in terms of hosting and orienting IDPs. They endeavor to coordinate the various aid initiatives in their communities, and seek to raise awareness about their needs.

Thousands of people are housed in public schools and hotels; citizens' initiatives have led to the creation of collective housing facilities. Some people moved into family housing or had enough resources to rent an apartment.

Aid is provided by international NGOs and donors, local CSOs and the Water Establishments. The army and Internal Security Forces (ISF) are also mobilized. Civil defense trucks, usually used for fire-fighting, are currently being mobilized to deliver water.

## Debate

Sophie Alary, coordinator of the Qadisha sustainability project (Cooperation among Chambéry ville et Métropole, Département de l'Aude, Auvergne Rhône Alpes/ Zgharta Ehden and Bcharré cazas) asked about the links between the national institutions and local actions, in particular with regards to the DRM (Disaster Risk Management) unit run by the Ministry of Environment.

Ghassan Tayoun agreed that coordination between local initiatives and the national crisis unit is indeed complex.

Jasmine El Kareh pointed out that the Ministry of Energy and Water recently updated the water strategy. But since the strategy does not take into account any subsequent wars, it is complex for the Ministry to deploy a response.

Damien Brintet asked about municipalities' needs in this situation. Ghassan Tayoun insisted that is very important to think of concrete action pathways to complete the "soft" actions, i.e. the training and mentoring aiming at elaborating a community development strategy.

## ✓ IDPs situation and needs, first profiling data

Aline Maalouf, REACH initiative

Vidéo : 2.15 - 2.29

- [Presentation \(English\)](#)
- [Link for detailed research results \(English\)](#)

REACH is a common initiative of IMPACT, ACTED and UNDP for the United Nations Satellite Center (UNOSAT); it aims at collecting and providing useful data for humanitarian action.

In this context, the Displacement Impact and Rapid Needs Assessment (DINAR) Initiative works on collecting information from IDPs about their needs in different domains.

In general, IDPs find it costly to pay for water when available but not for free. On the other hand, the available water is not drinkable. Furthermore, the flux of IDPs puts further pressure on the existing water system.

### Conclusion

Damien Brintet stated that the DCT CIV is open to reorienting the already initiated and co-financed projects to be adapted to the needs of partners; and that it is ready for new projects within the contexts of decentralized cooperation.

Mélodie Boissel noted that this is not the case of the funding partners of the decentralized cooperation for Water and Sanitation, i.e. Water Agencies (Agences de l'Eau).

In fact, many actors involved in the decentralized cooperation system consider that their mission is not emergency response in armed conflict. In such a case, their role might be to relay their partners' needs to other actors capable of providing such response via the existing coordination networks. Keeping the current developmental projects may also be useful and meet the interest of both parties.

pS-Eau and LEWAP would like, thus, to inform the NGDC actors of the different mobilized bodies in the WASH sector in Lebanon and of their actions and coordination means.

Fundraising initiatives for municipalities:

- Cités Unies France (CUF); Solidarity Fund
- Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs : [FACECO](#)
- International Association of the French Speaking Mayors (AIMF): <https://lnkd.in/evE6WPYd>