

Water-related Tensions in Lebanon

Tensions Monitoring System Briefing Note - May 2023

Background: This briefing note has been developed to support Water Sector partners to prioritize interventions that can mitigate, and diffuse tensions related to water quality, access, and scarcity and ensure more conflict sensitive interventions in a context of increasing constraints. The analysis is based on data from the UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey (data collected in March 2023) and incident and field monitoring as of May 2023. The note complements the [“When water becomes a privilege: the consequences of shutting down the public water system in Lebanon”](#) paper published by the Water Sector in October 2022.

Summary: Findings suggest that the compounded crisis, in particular the socioeconomic and electricity crisis, have had a significant impact on people’s perceptions on the quality and accessibility of water, which in turn have manifested in tensions and incidents between and within communities. Exogenous factors such as geographic disparities in service provision; disparities in electricity outages; population pressure; preexisting tensions and negative relations; and lack of trust in institutions may influence the nature of these tensions and incidents across different localities: inter- vs. intra- communal, and vertical vs. horizontal. Mitigating factors included interventions by UN and I/NGOs, diaspora, local authorities and political and private actors.

Increasing gaps in the provision of water services amidst the compounded crisis

Lebanon has abundant water resources, but faces a water crisis due to poor governance, inadequate infrastructure, inefficient use, pollution, climate change, and population pressure. The public water supply is unreliable and intermittent, forcing many households to rely on private water trucking, wells, or bottled water.

The multi-layered crisis compromises both institutional capacities to supply services and household purchasing power, and has affected the availability and affordability of water. The electricity crisis, in particular, is having adverse effects on the water sector, with inoperable water supply systems and wastewater treatment plants due to a lack of electricity and unaffordability of fuel for generators. As the majority of water pumps are operable on public electricity, primarily state electricity, municipality- or Water Establishment-owned generators, access to water has been hindered by authorities’ inability to provide electricity or purchase fuel. Those who can afford have resorted to private trucking water for domestic use.

Deteriorating perceptions of access to and quality of water services

With deteriorating services, all populations face challenges in accessing safe and sufficient water for drinking, domestic hygiene and sanitation. Perceptions around access to, and quality of, water have deteriorated. Negative perceptions are partially driven by seasonal effects and periods with increased electricity gaps, such as in the summers of 2021 and 2022 where perceptions have deteriorated.

In March 2023, 51% of respondents rated the quality of water in their area as poor or worse, an increase from 25% in February 2018 but a decline from August 2022 (68%). The recent improvement was likely partially attributable to seasonal effects, with increased demand for water during summer seasons, compared to the late-summer observation. However, even after accounting for seasonal effects, satisfaction with water services improved. This may be attributable to increased interventions from December 2021 to April 2022 including fuel support to over 350 water facilities and the response to combat the spread of cholera in late-2022/23, which included repair and maintenance for over 80 water pumping stations and 39 chlorination systems. Also, since February 2023 public electricity supply increased significantly.

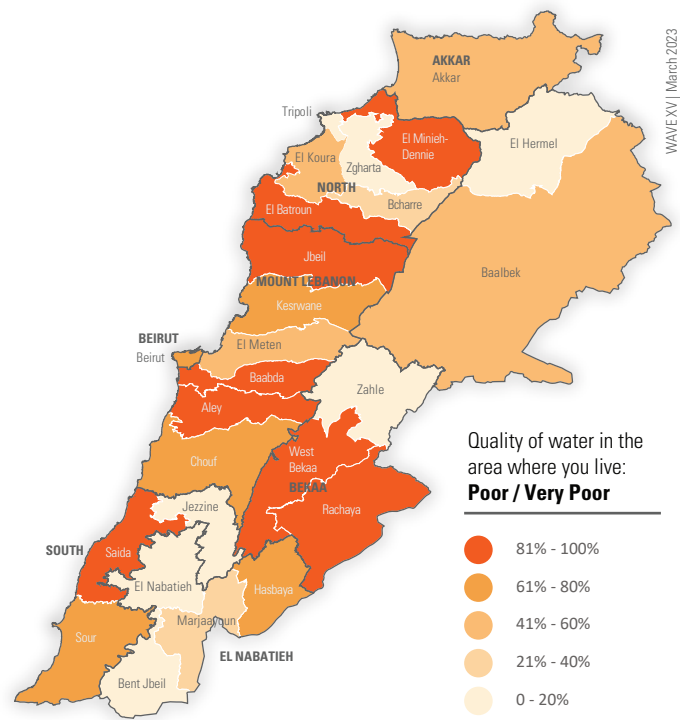
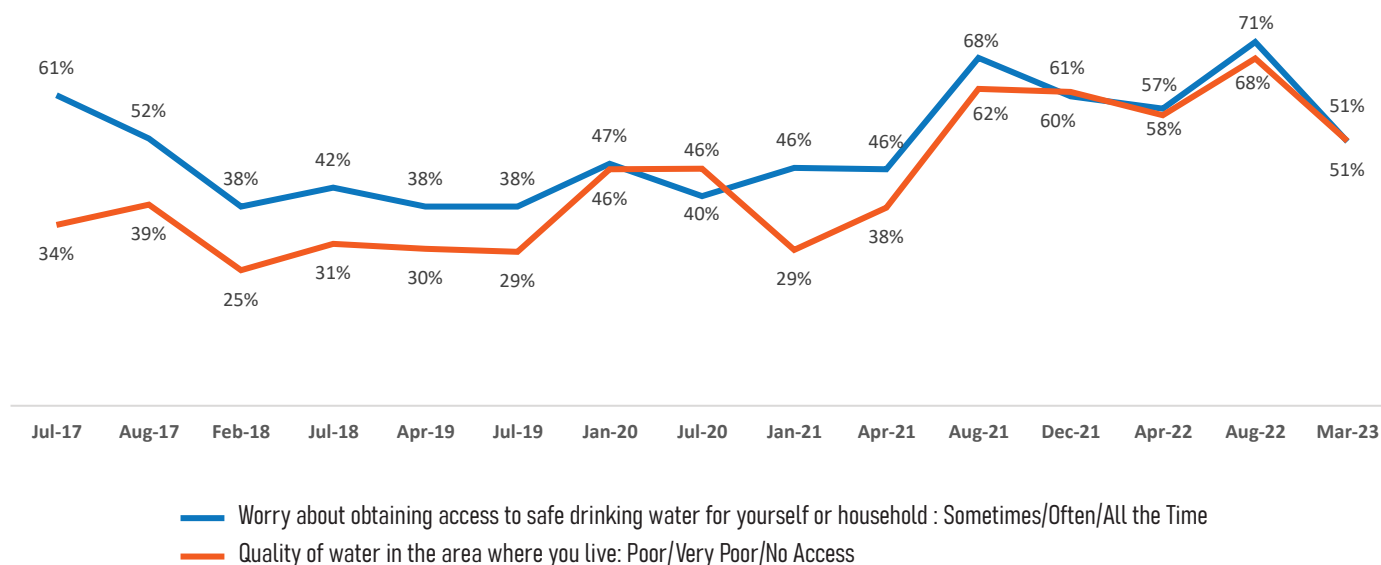


Figure 1: Perception of water quality and worry about safe drinking water, Jul 2017-Mar 2023, UNDP/ARK Regular Perception survey



Negative perceptions around water quality in March 2023 were highest in Jbeil, Aley, Batroun, Baabda, Rashaya, El-Minieh-Dennie, Saida, and West Bekaa districts, where more than 80% rated the quality of water in their area as poor or worse. This could be attributed to electricity cuts that impacted the availability of treated water from public networks and forced households to mix or totally substitute the network water with trucked water of uncertain quality or water from private wells, in some areas brackish. Nonetheless, there are a few areas where the water quality is still perceived as "good" or "excellent", such as in Jezzine (72%) and Zahle (67%). Reasons for this could be better electricity provision compared to other areas, mainly due to the Zahle powerplant (Electricite de Zahle) and hydroelectricity in Jezzine.

In terms of perceptions of access to water, those who expressed worry about accessing safe drinking water 'sometimes, often, or all the time' increased from 38% in February 2018 to 51% in March 2023. Perceptions have particularly deteriorated in Beirut, where 69% now cite that they worry about access to safe drinking water (increase from 12% in February 2018). Perceptions have also deteriorated significantly in the North, where 46% cited that they worry about access to safe drinking water in March 2023, up from 27% in February 2018.

When asked about what services in their area require the most improvement, water was ranked as the fourth highest at the national level 21% in March 2023 (following electricity at 90%, medical care at 70%, and access to jobs 41%). Water was highest-ranked as a priority in Beirut by 55%, followed by Mount Lebanon (39%), Nabatieh (28%), and Baalbek Hermel (25%).

Geographic disparities impacting service delivery

Geographic, socio-economic, and sectarian-political distinctions all contribute to service disparity. With services such as electricity and water, disparities tend to be geographic; some areas are better served than others. Disparities in electricity outages may also determine disparities in water access. Prior to the crisis, 90% of residents in Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Tripoli, Bekaa, Nabatieh, and the South were connected to the public water network. This percentage was lower in other regions; for example, only 40% were connected in Akkar and El-Minieh-Dannie and 60% in Hermel and Baalbek. However, since the crisis, even areas connected to the public water network have suffered severe shortages, such as Nabatieh, Tripoli and several areas in Mount Lebanon. Areas such as the Chouf and Keserwan, on the other hand, seem to enjoy more regular access to water. Partners report that most municipalities have a limited role in providing and regulating water supplies with few exceptions. For example, in Hasbaya, the municipalities provided fuel for water pumps and, with support of a diaspora business man, installed solar panels to power local water equipment. In Tripoli, Nabatieh, and Akkar, partners report that some politicians and businesspeople supported the installation of water networks, large storage tanks, and solar panels for water pumping. However, fewer politicians, religious and political groups or local businessmen seem to support water services compared to electricity.

Water-related tensions and incidents are mainly triggered by competition for services

Perceptions on the strain of refugees on Lebanon's resources like water and electricity have remained high since 2017 with little fluctuation. At the national level, 82% cite that they perceive that Syrian refugees pose great strain on resources such as water and energy. Perceptions are most negative in the North (95%), Baalbek-Hermel (92%), and Beirut (90%). However, only 4% cited that their access to services was limited by "services [being] used by people of other nationalities". Instead, the most reported barriers were corruption (28%) and poor quality of services (25%). This suggests that it is not primarily the variation in negative perceptions about the strain of refugees on resources that drives tension, but rather the disparities in access to services. Comparing districts with high negative perceptions of water quality and access with tension levels and water-related incidents provides evidence to this correlation, as does the UNDP/ARK regular perception survey which lists services as one of three top tension drivers.

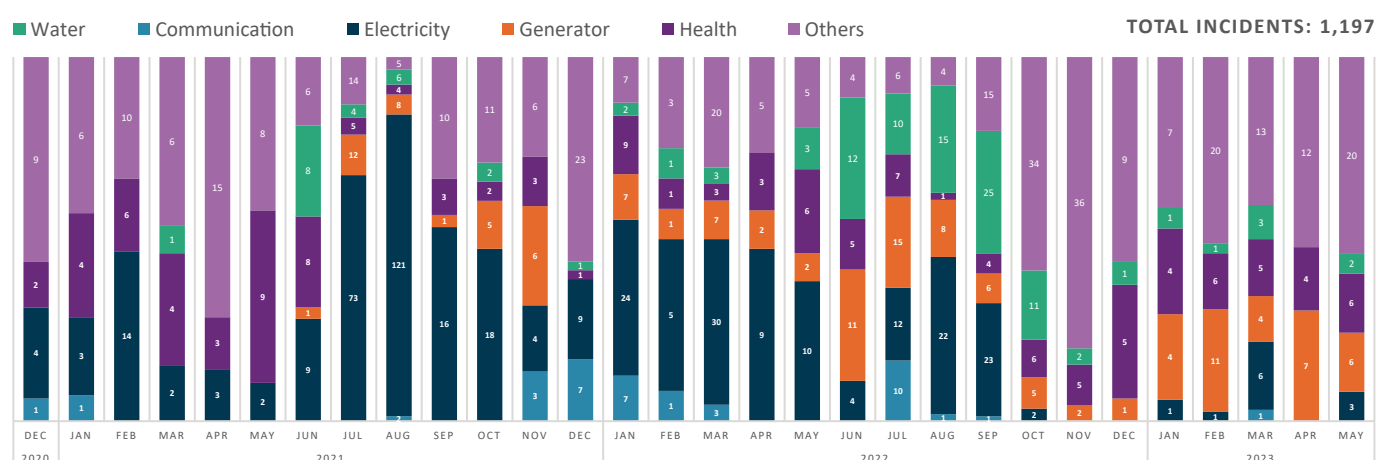
The nature of water-related tensions and incidents differs across governorates and districts. In some areas, tensions and incidents are mainly intra-communal, often horizontal (anti-establishment) and manifest protests against government institutions and service provision companies. There is also increasing horizontal intra-communal tensions between or within communities. For example, in Akkar, the perceived overuse of water for farm irrigation, which impacts the amount of water that reaches neighboring villages, sometimes leads to tensions. In the Chouf, residents were reportedly resentful after water from the Barouk river and Safa spring was diverted to Aley district and Iklm Al Kharroub after an intervention of a politician.

In other areas, tensions are mainly inter-communal, often driven by perceptions that refugees are overusing water or that refugees receive water from international aid agencies, even though much of the refugee population accesses water from public water systems. For example, in Chehabiyi in August 2022, tensions were reported between Syrian refugees and the host community after a dispute over a broken water pipe. In Srifa in 2022, due to pressure on water resources, the municipality said it would cut water supply from refugees and provide it to Lebanese.

Collapsing water services leading to incidents

The deteriorating services are increasingly triggering incidents with more than 1,000 service-related incidents recorded since the end of 2020. Almost half of these service-related incidents are linked to electricity. Incidents related to water services amounted to around 10% of incidents and peaked during the summer. Incidents mainly comprise of demonstrations and roadblocks aimed at the state and public water authorities; riots, break-ins at a local water authorities and armed and unarmed clashes. Incidents range from tension between area residents themselves (horizontal) to between residents and local authorities (vertical). Water-related incidents were spread across the country with most incidents taking place in the North, followed by Baalbek El-Hermel and El Nabatieh.

Figure 2: Service-related incidents, Dec 2020-May 2023, UNDP Tension Monitoring Reporting



- **June-August 2021 (18 incidents)** – seemingly related to the electricity crisis as well as price increases due to the exchange rate. Incidents comprised demonstrations and roadblocks in front of water stations, protesting water cuts and the increasing price of water tanks.

- **June-October 2022 (73 incidents)** – seemingly related to shortages of electricity from the public grid, gaps in fuel for back-up generators, and subsequently in decreased services. Another contributing factor could be that, in September 2022, partners decreased in quantity of water supply to Informal Settlements (ISs). In response, IS residents in Aarsal issued a statement on October 1 refusing to allow partners, UN agencies and INGOs to operate until they reverted the water cut.

Examples of water-related incidents

Tension Typology	Direction	Example of incident
Intra-communal	Horizontal	In November 2022, armed clashes erupted between individuals in Dibbiyye, Chouf due to a dispute over water tanks. Two individuals were reported dead as a result of the clashes.
Inter-communal	Vertical	In August 2022, in Bisariyi, the Litani River Authority evicted five families from Al Shamsiya ITS due to a damaged sewage pipe leaking into the river.
Inter-communal	Horizontal	In August 2022, in Chehabiyi, tensions were reported between Syrian refugees and the host community after a dispute over a broken water pipe.
Intra-communal	Horizontal	In September 2022, armed clashes erupted between members of 2 families in Akkar due to a dispute over irrigation water.
Intra-communal	Vertical	In August 2022, residents in Dekouane blocked the road with burning tires to protest water shortage.
Intra-communal	Vertical	In August 2022, a group of protesters in Tripoli broke into the local water company and tried to pump water to their houses.

Forward-looking risk analysis

- **Vertical tensions and incidents related to water services are expected to continue. They will likely peak during the summer seasons or during frequent or prolonged electricity cuts.**

With continued gaps in access to and quality of water services, tensions between and within communities will continue. Incidents are likely to peak during the summer season as per previous years. Vertical water-related incidents could include demonstrations and roadblocks aimed at the state and public water authorities. Potential hotspots are Beirut, Akkar, and Mount Lebanon.

- **Disparities in access to water across areas may also lead to horizontal tensions, including between residents of a single area and between areas (both inter- and intra-communal).**

As with electricity, geographical disparities in access to water may fuel tensions between areas. Key areas of concern include the North, South and Beirut governorates which can suffer from extended water outages, particularly in the summer. Disparities in water access may heighten tension horizontally in cases where one community blames another for diverting water resources to its own benefit or over alleged water theft. Since securing water has become an additional burden on residents at the household level, there can now also be disparities within residents of a single area. Such tensions could lead to armed and unarmed clashes between area residents. It can also lead to discriminatory measures towards refugees.

- **Incidents and tensions will likely increase between private water actors and their customers.**

With deteriorating services, many who can afford it have resorted to purchasing trucked water. With only weak or non-existent regulation of these private services, service providers' exploitative practices (real or perceived) will likely lead to tensions with area residents or with partners. Service providers may also clash with each other as they compete for market shares locally. Tensions could also occur as partners face funding cuts for water trucking.

- **Drop in water supply to Informal Settlements could also impact tensions.**

The Water Sector faces increasing funding constraints which will likely negatively impact support to water supply and wastewater management services for ISs. This could also have a downstream effect on tensions. Reducing desludging activities may lead to wastewater flooding in ISs which sometimes leads to scapegoating of refugees for pollution and waste. As sector partners explore alternatives to water trucking, it is important to make conflict sensitivity considerations.

- **Water-borne diseases with heightened risk of tensions and stigmatization.**

Outbreak of diseases in Lebanon is often coupled with a heightened risk of tensions and stigmatization as witnessed during the COVID-19 and cholera outbreaks. With decreased access to water, sanitation and hygiene services, such outbreaks present an additional and urgent risk on population groups. They could specifically pose a heightened risk of tensions and stigmatization against Syrians but can also fuel intra-Lebanese tensions.

Recommended Conflict Sensitivity Measures for Water Sector Partners

These recommended actions should be seen as complementary to the Water Sector advocacy paper [“When water becomes a privilege: the consequences of shutting down the public water system in Lebanon”](#). These actions are intended to support partners in Lebanon to better mitigate water-related tensions and ensure more conflict sensitive water interventions:

1. Base your intervention on a solid understanding of the context

- As a first step, seek the latest data and analysis related to competition over water resources in your target areas. This could be information on water-related incidents, mapping of hotspots where competition over water is causing tensions, or information on tension drivers.
- Ensure that your project is built on a solid understanding of the interaction between the different groups: **Connectors** (factors that bring people together) and **Dividers** (source of tensions). This information will help you to recognize and address concerns at an early stage.

Examples of connectors and dividers related to water in Lebanon

Selected dividers	Selected connectors
Perceived disparities and unfair distribution between neighborhoods, municipalities, communities and areas	Shared aspects of reliance on a certain water source (such as the village well)
Perceptions that certain households, people or communities are overusing water	Jointly resorting to more environment-friendly sources of energy (such as solar)
Leakages into agricultural land due to gaps in desludging	Water committees that allocate time and space for managing joint water resources
Water-borne diseases	The efforts of local mediators, community leaders, and elders to resolve water-related conflicts when tensions escalate
	Shared experiences of certain kinds of undergoing such as inability of authority to provide a service or negative sentiments towards a private supplier

- Practical steps on how to carry out such a full-fledged analysis can be found in the [Guidance Note: Getting Started with Conflict Sensitivity in Lebanon](#).
- Request that the Water Sector coordinator at sub-national level provides you with the latest consolidated mapping of ongoing sector projects. This will allow you to better address gaps and avoid duplication.

2. Take specific conflict sensitivity considerations in the design of your project

- Take steps to mainstream conflict sensitivity throughout the project cycle starting from conceptualizing the intervention, to outreach and assessment, to activity design, and implementation, monitoring and evaluation. [The Guidance Note Conflict Sensitivity throughout the Project Design Cycle in Lebanon](#) provides you with practical steps to get started.
- Target inclusively: Where tensions are arising between or within different community groups (horizontal tensions), try to benefit more than one population group or one village with the same project. For example, if installing pipelines that go through a village other than the one you intend to benefit from the intervention, consider adding some pipelines for the second one as well.
- Consider multi-sectoral projects, for example, creating water ponds for agriculture in agricultural areas or rainwater catchment systems in vicinity can be carried out using a cash for work approach. This will give longer-term benefits for farmers and provide temporary employment/income.

- Add soft components to the project, such as raising awareness on water management at household level to reduce tensions resulting from perceived water mismanagement. Try to do these for groups comprising of different nationalities and community groups.
- If applicable, in collaboration with the Social Stability sector, integrate components of conflict sensitivity training into training of Water or WASH committees.

3. Ensure conflict sensitive engagement throughout the implementation of your project

- When and where applicable, design and implement joint projects in partnership with local actors, to increase the impact of the intervention among the local communities. [The Conflict Sensitivity toolbox on Conflict Sensitive Engagement with Local Authorities in Lebanon](#) can be helpful in that regard. For water services, both municipalities and water establishments are key actors.
- For Water Sector partners, procurement process can be a particularly sensitive area that can cause tensions and conflict with local authorities, communities and contractors. Practical steps on how to mitigate this can be found in [Guidance Note 3: Conflict Sensitive Procurement, Recruitment and Accountability in Lebanon](#).

4. Explore conflict sensitive alternatives to water trucking and desludging services

The Water Sector is encouraged to reflect, learn and plan together on the conflict sensitivity aspects of alternatives to water trucking and desludging services. This can include:

- Collaboratively identify promising practices and new solutions. For example, with limited access to stable power supply, solar energy has been identified as a green alternative to traditional grid power to allow uninterrupted pumping from boreholes. To ensure conflict sensitive solar interventions, please adhere to sector guidance on solar energy projects which can be accessed [Here](#).
- Ensure that any new interventions are legal, within the jurisdiction of water partners and that government procedures are respected. This will include following both considerations for municipalities and water authorities, in addition to making sure that governmental procedures are respected to avoid the risk of losing access or creating tensions with authorities and communities, focusing on interventions that benefit both refugee and host communities. For example, if investing in boreholes, it is recommended to carefully select those with sufficient capacity to supply at least one village to avoid tensions between different neighborhoods within the same village.

Water-related Tensions Factsheet

Governorate of Akkar
May 2023

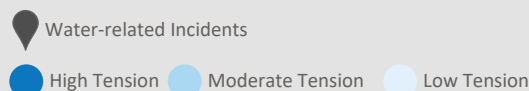
NATURE OF WATER-RELATED TENSIONS

- Water-related tensions and incidents in Akkar are primarily inter-communal, manifesting in scapegoating of Syrian refugees for pollution and shortage of water. This led to several discriminatory measures by landlords such as turning off water pumps for refugee tenants.
- Akkar was the most affected governorate of the cholera outbreak in 2022 as Lebanon's first cholera case was identified in Bebnine, Akkar on 6 October. The outbreak had an impact on both intra- and inter-communal relations, however at a lower level than initially anticipated.
- During this period, trucks carrying wastewater from Akkar ISs to Tripoli were denied access to the wastewater treatment plant.
- As of March 2023, tensions over wastewater and SWM were reported in Kouachra.

ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF WATER

- Perceptions around access to water have deteriorated in Akkar, where 34% now express that they always worry about access to safe drinking water, compared to less than 20% in 2018.
- Perceptions around the quality of water are also deteriorating with 46% now rating the quality of the water in their areas as poor or very poor, up from 9% in July 2018.
- Despite a slight improvement in perceptions about refugees' strain on resources, some 67% in March 2023 agree that the presence of refugees places too much strain on resources such as water.

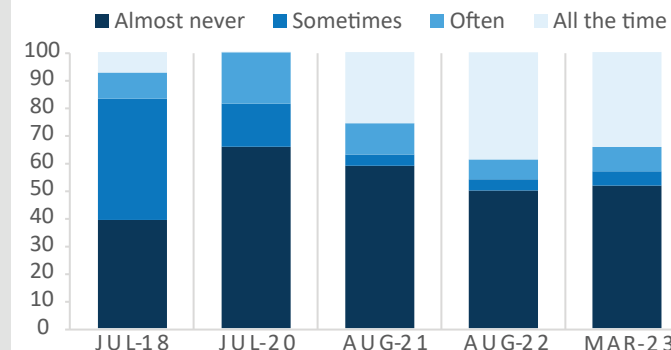
Water Tensions Mapping | Akkar



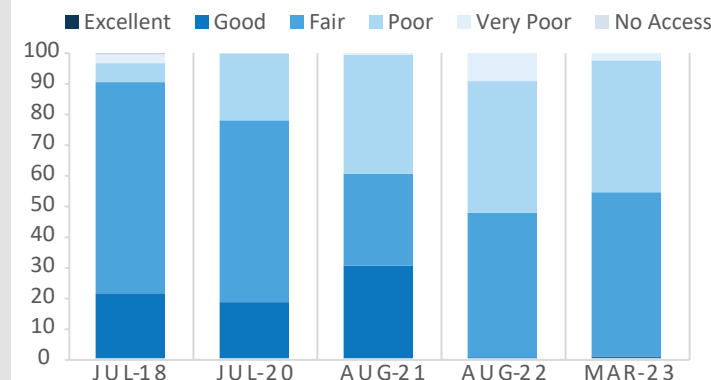
WATER-RELATED INCIDENTS

- As of May 2023, 8 incidents around water were reported, mainly related to residents demonstrating and setting up roadblocks to protest the water shortage in Takrit, Sheikh Ayyash and Mhamra.
- Water tensions in Akkar sometimes led to violent confrontations. For example, two armed clashes erupted in September in Berqayel and Quobbet Chamra over irrigation water and water theft.
- In Mazareaa Jabal Akroum in August 2022, partners reported that both the host and refugee communities in Wadi Khaled and Akroum were struggling to acquire water due to fuel shortage, which is causing conflict between host and refugee communities, as well as between refugees.

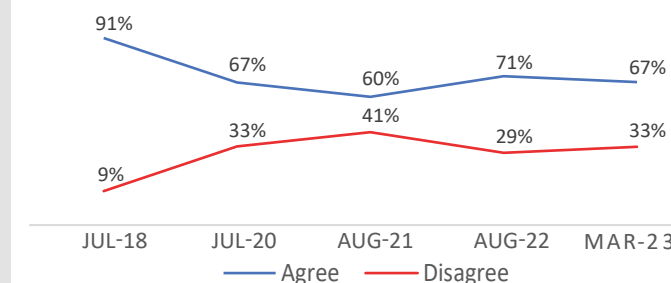
WORRY ABOUT ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER | AKKAR



PERCEPTIONS OF WATER QUALITY | AKKAR



AGREEMENT THAT THE PRESENCE OF REFUGEES PLACES STRAIN ON LEBANON'S RESOURCES | AKKAR



Water-related Tensions Factsheet

Governorate of North
May 2023

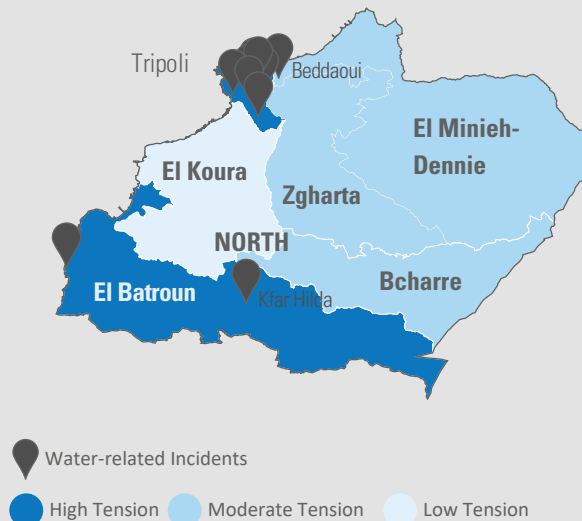
NATURE OF WATER-RELATED TENSIONS

- Water-related tensions in the North are both inter-communal and intra-communal.
- Intra-communal tensions mainly materialized in anti-establishment incidents such as roadblocks and demonstrations.
- Inter-communal tensions manifested in scapegoating of refugees, blaming them for placing pressure on resources like water. This led to several measures by landlords such as turning off water pumps for refugee tenants, asking that they pay for additional fuel. This is coupled with high perceptions (95.3%) that refugees are putting a strain on Lebanon's resources such as water.
- Tripoli and Miniyeh-Danniyeh districts administer the highest water-related tension scores. Specific hotspots include Beddaoui and Kfar Hilda. In the latter, inter-communal tensions often center around solid waste management where refugees were blamed by the mayor and residents for throwing waste in the irrigation canals and the Al Joz river. Tensions over WaSH activities were also reported as of March 2023.

ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF WATER

- Perceptions around access to safe drinking water have deteriorated in the North with 46% reporting that they worry about access, up from 30% in July 2018. Such sentiments are particularly high during the summer.
- Perceptions around quality have improved, where 30% in March 2023 rated the quality of water in their area as poor or very poor, compared to 34% in July 2018. Nonetheless, the percentage rating the quality of water as "good" has decreased from 22% to 10%, while those rating it as "fair" increased from 45% to 59% over the same period.

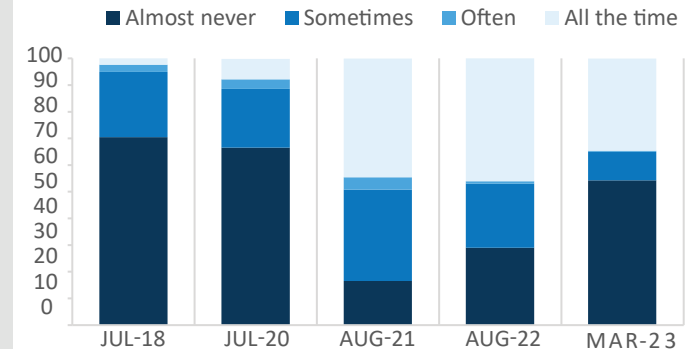
Water Tensions Mapping | North



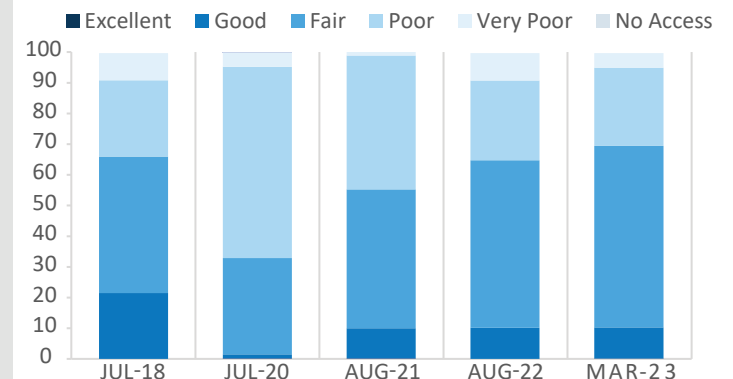
WATER-RELATED INCIDENTS

- A total of 25 water-related incidents were recorded in the North as of May 2023, the highest across governorates, distributed across 7 different localities. 21 of these incidents took place in Tripoli district alone, mainly in Quobbe, Tabbaneh, and Tripoli.
- On 31 August in Tripoli, a group of protesters broke into the Water company of Tripoli and tried to pump water to their houses, protesting the severe water outage.
- In terms of inter-communal incidents, sentiments were particularly negative in Kfar Hilda where the host community complains about the negative environmental impact around a collective shelter.

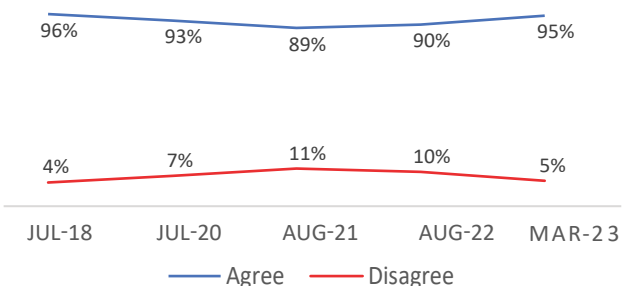
WORRY ABOUT ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER | NORTH



PERCEPTIONS OF WATER QUALITY | NORTH



AGREEMENT THAT THE PRESENCE OF REFUGEES PLACES STRAIN ON LEBANON'S RESOURCES | NORTH



Water-related Tensions Factsheet

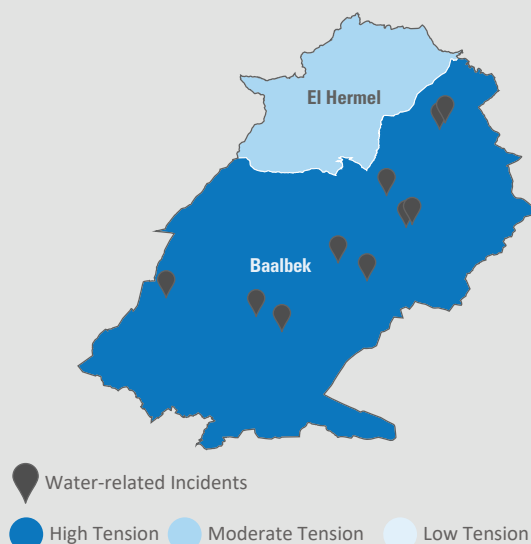
NATURE OF WATER-RELATED TENSIONS

- Water-related tensions and incidents in Baalbek El-Hermel are both intra-communal and inter-communal.
- Baalbek district is categorized as a high-tension area, mainly due to frequent water-related incidents and high negative perceptions on access to and quality of water.
- Intra-communal tensions manifest in protests, roadblocks, and arson targeting public institutions.
- Inter-communal tensions manifested in threats of eviction, actual evictions, and denying refugees in ISs access to water. Tension hotspots include Aarsal, laa, and Qaa, mainly linked to wastewater.
- In September 2022, sector partners had to reduce water trucking services to ISs from 35 to 7.5 liters per person per day and reduced desludging activities. As a result, in Aarsal, refugees made a statement that they would deny access to all UN Agencies and INGOs until the water reduction decision is put on hold. The water was restored in October following the cholera outbreak.

ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF WATER

- In March 2023, perceptions on the quality of water have improved where almost 49% in Baalbek-Hermel rated the quality of water as good or excellent, compared to just 7% in August 2022, and 9% in July 2018. This is mainly driven by perceptions in Baalbek, which increased from 4% to 37% over the same period, where implementing partners have operated several WaSH activities since 2020.
- At the same time, 28% worry about access to safe drinking water sometimes, often, or all the time, down from 32% in July 2018. This is possibly due to the installation of solar panels by partners to public wells, which improved access to water in the area.

Water Tensions Mapping | Baalbek El-Hermel

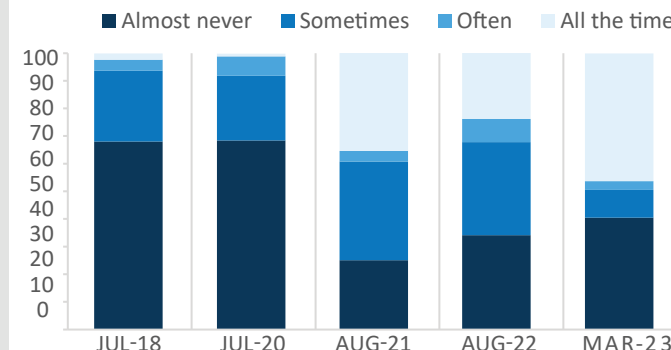


WATER-RELATED INCIDENTS

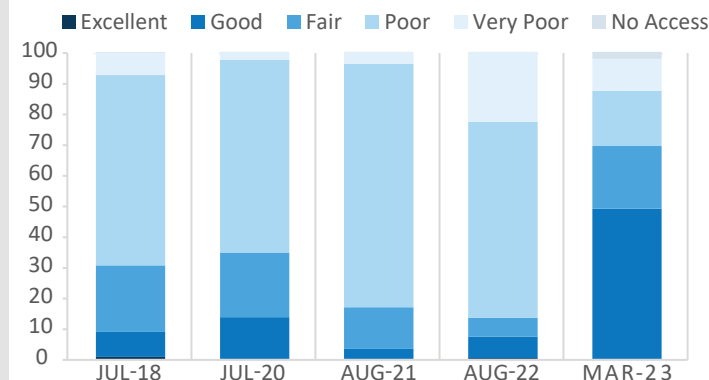
- 12 water-related incidents took place in Baalbek El-Hermel as of May 2023, distributed across 7 different localities. These incidents were mainly related to protests against the water outage.
- In Aarsal and laa, local authorities have hindered NGOs' water interventions due to disagreements on procurement processes.
- The first cholera case in Baalbek El-Hermel was reported in Aarsal on October 16, 2022.
- In March 2023, Yammouneh water network in Dar el Ouassa was attacked and looted from several outlets, causing tension between residents.

Governorate of Baalbek El-Hermel May 2023

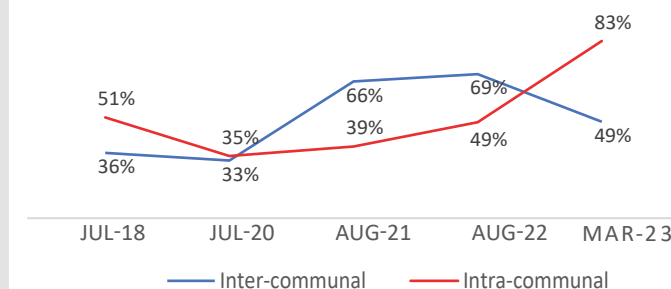
WORRY ABOUT ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER | BAALBEK EL-HERMEL



PERCEPTIONS OF WATER QUALITY | BAALBEK EL-HERMEL



CITATION OF RESOURCES AS A SOURCE OF TENSION
BAALBEK EL-HERMEL



Water-related Tensions Factsheet

Governorate of Beirut
May 2023

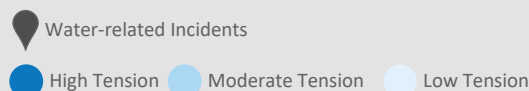
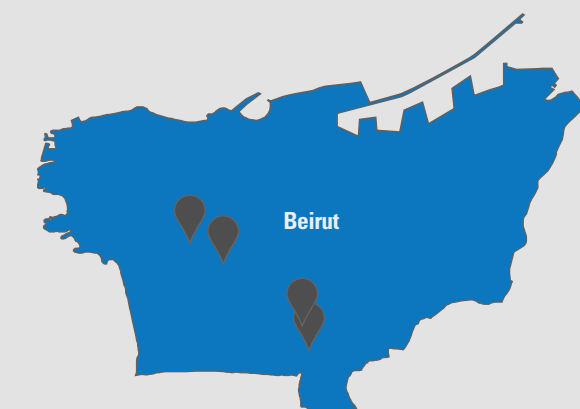
NATURE OF WATER-RELATED TENSIONS

- Water-related tensions and incidents in Beirut are primarily intra-communal. Such tensions manifest in anti-establishment sentiments such as protests, roadblocks, and demonstrations targeting public institutions. It is also reported that tensions are increasingly erupting among neighbors and often escalating into verbal and/or fist fights.
- Competition over resources remains a key tension driver in Beirut since 2020. In March 2023, 58% and 53% cited competition over services as a driver of intra- and inter-communal tensions.
- The main tension hotspot is Mazraa Fonciere.

ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF WATER

- In terms of access to safe drinking water, Beirut has the most negative perceptions across all governorates, where 69% reported worrying about access to safe drinking water sometimes, often, or all the time in March 2023, up from 13% in July 2018.
- At the same time, negative perceptions around the quality of water are at an all-time high, with 80% rating the quality of the water in their areas as poor or very poor in March 2023, up from 3% in July 2018.
- Water is also a main priority for residents in Beirut with 55% citing that water is one of the services that require the greatest improvement, the highest such rating across governorates.

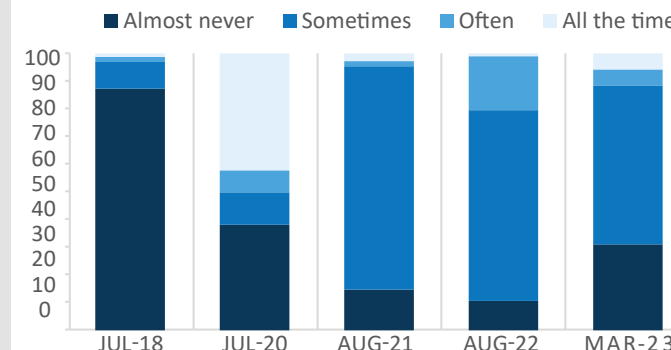
Water Tensions Mapping | Beirut



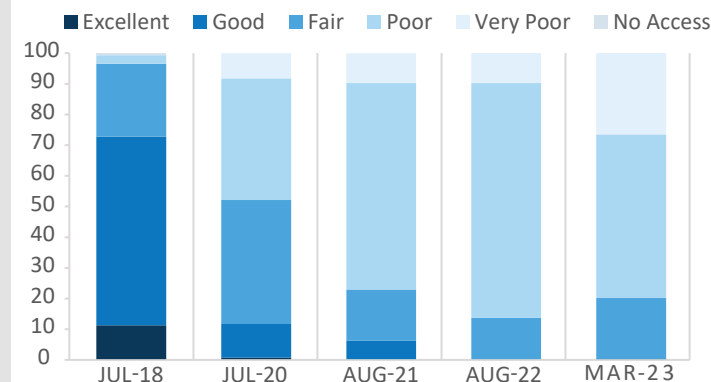
WATER-RELATED INCIDENTS

- As of May 2023, 4 water-related incidents took place, mainly related to demonstrations and roadblocks against water establishments. On 1 July 2022, a number of mayors and the "Beirut Societies Forum" demonstrated in front of Beirut Water Company in "Tallet al Khayat" protesting the severe water outage.
- In July 2022, individuals blocked the "Kaskas" road protesting the severe water outage.
- In Mazraa Fonciere, partners reported that tensions are likely to escalate due to pressure on services and products, including water and bread, and a high concentration/presence of refugees.

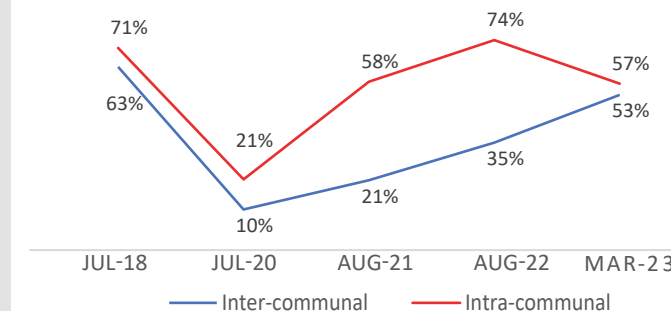
WORRY ABOUT ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER | BEIRUT



PERCEPTIONS OF WATER QUALITY | BEIRUT



CITATION OF RESOURCES AS A SOURCE OF TENSION | BEIRUT



Water-related Tensions Factsheet

Governorate of Bekaa
May 2023

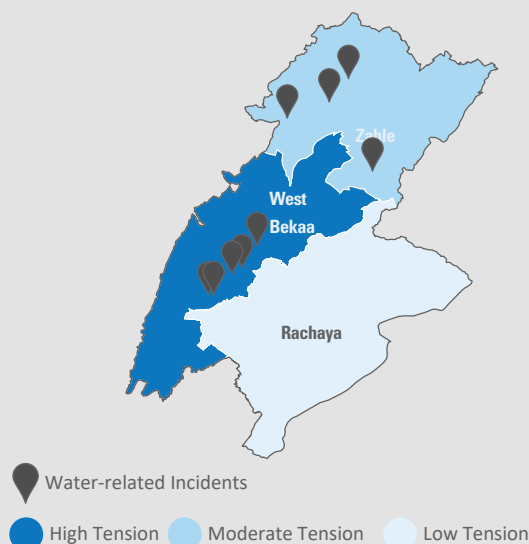
NATURE OF WATER-RELATED TENSIONS

- Water-related tensions in the Bekaa are both inter-communal and intra-communal. Over the last few months, water shortage was reported by partners due to long hours of electricity cuts, lack of access to alternative energy sources, high maintenance costs, and inability of the municipalities to cover the fuel cost to operate the wells. This led to tensions at all levels.
- Inter-communal tensions are characterized by cutting water supply from refugee communities and eviction threats due to negative perceptions around Syrians' impact on pollution and water consumption. Wastewater and solid waste management leading to creating tensions in Qabb Elias and Saadnayel between the ITS residents and the landlords with threats of evictions.
- Such tensions are driven by very high negative perceptions that Syrians are placing too much strain on resources such as water (at 85%).
- Intra-communal tensions are mainly anti-establishment with protests and roadblocks against institutions.
- The West Bekaa district has the highest tension level in Bekaa mainly due to a high number of incidents and negative perceptions on water quality and access. Tension hotspots include Qabb Elias, Qaraaoun, and Saadnayel (inter-communal).

ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF WATER

- The percentage worrying about access to safe drinking water in Bekaa has slightly increased over time from 29% in July 2018 to 36% in March 2023.
- Perceptions around the quality of water are rapidly deteriorating with 76% in Bekaa rating the quality of water as poor or very poor in March 2023, up from 19% in July 2018.

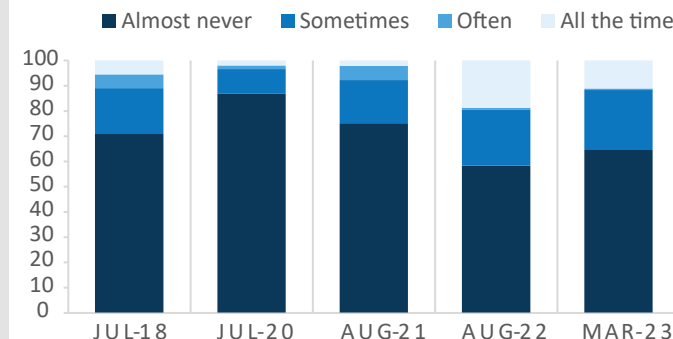
Water Tensions Mapping | Bekaa



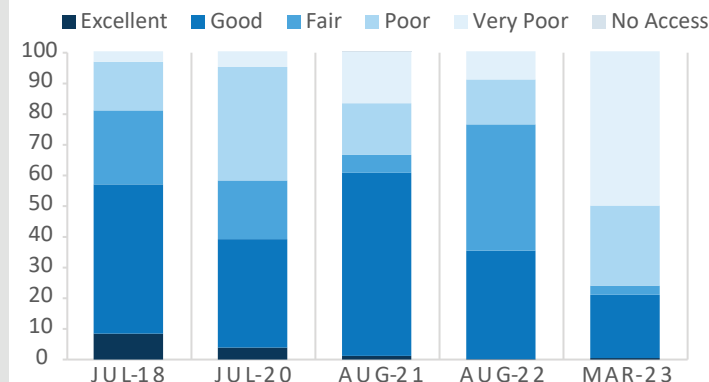
WATER-RELATED INCIDENTS

- As of May 2023, 9 water-related incidents were reported, mainly related to demonstrations and roadblocks against severe water outage in Joub Jannine, Qaraaoun, Anjar, and Zahle.
- In terms of inter-communal incidents, in Qabb Elias, private water suppliers complained to the municipality about suppliers coming from outside the town to provide water to ITSs, after the relevant organizations stopped providing water to the ITSs there. Additionally, collective eviction threats were reported in Khirbet Rouha in May 2022 and Soltan Yacoub el Aradi in January 2023 due to wastewater issues.
- In August 2022, the Litani River Association addressed a letter to the Minister of Interior and Municipalities asking for two ITS's to be evicted for allegedly polluting the Litani River.

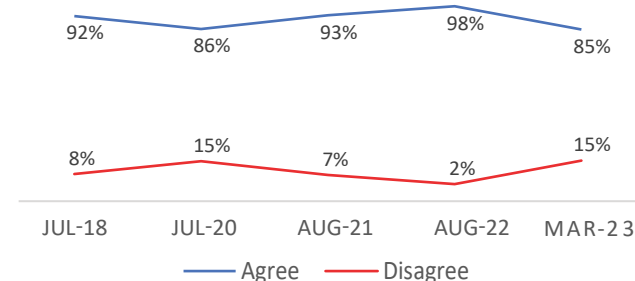
WORRY ABOUT ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER | BEKAA



PERCEPTIONS OF WATER QUALITY | BEKAA



AGREEMENT THAT THE PRESENCE OF REFUGEES PLACES STRAIN ON LEBANON'S RESOURCES | BEKAA



Water-related Tensions Factsheet

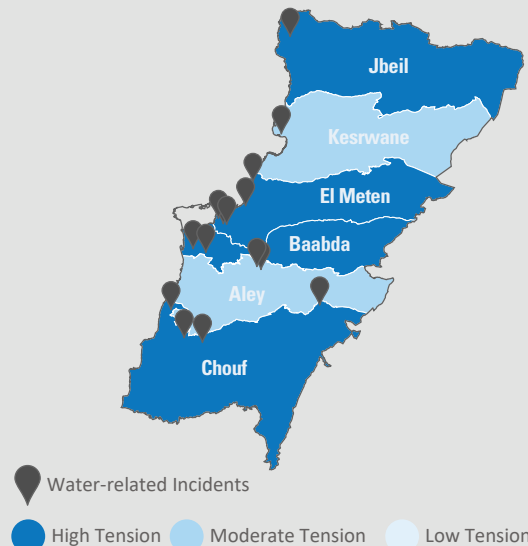
NATURE OF WATER-RELATED TENSIONS

- Water-related tensions in Mount Lebanon are both inter-communal and intra-communal.
- Aley, Metn, and Baabda districts have the highest tension levels due to water-related incidents and negative perceptions around access to water. Aley stands out as an area with high inter-communal tensions due to water shortages. Partners report that the host community was blaming refugees for placing pressure on resources such as water, leading to tensions that developed into violent confrontations.
- Inter-communal tensions mainly manifest in scapegoating of refugees for placing pressure on resources like water and electricity.
- Intra-communal tensions manifest as roadblocks, demonstrations, armed clashes.
- Tension hotspots include Aley, Bourj el-Brajneh, Bourj Hammoud, Dekouane, Jall Ed-Dib, and Naami.

ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF WATER

- In March 2023, 67% reported worrying about access to safe drinking water sometimes, often, or all the time, up from 56% in July 2018. During the same period, those who never worried about access to safe drinking water decreased from 42% to 33%.
- Perceptions on the quality of water continue to worsen with 80% in March 2023 rating the quality of water as poor or very poor, up from 33% in July 2018. Additionally, around 40% reported that water is one of the services that require the greatest improvement, most notably reported by 85% in Aley, 74% in Chouf, 54% in Metn, and 38% in Keserwane.

Water Tensions Mapping | Mount Lebanon

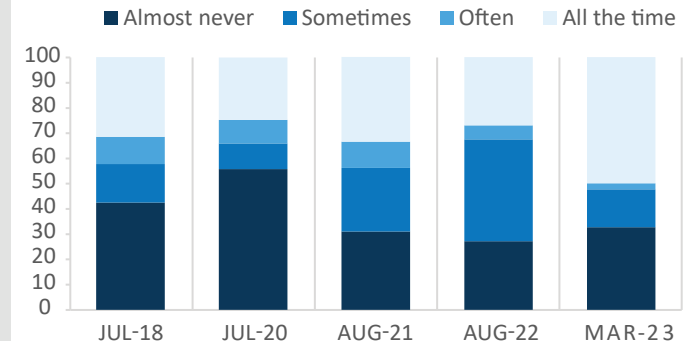


WATER-RELATED INCIDENTS

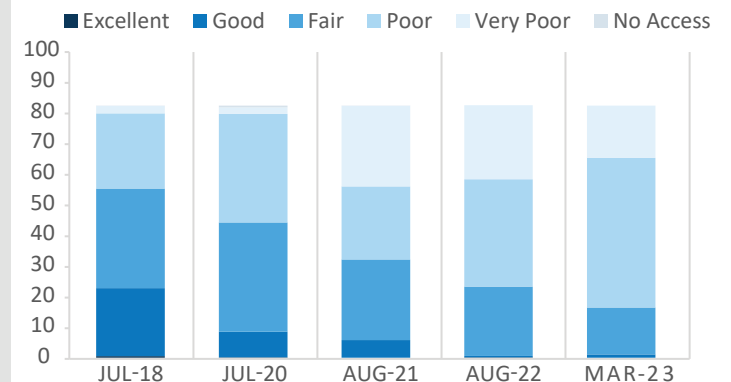
- 15 water-related incidents were reported as of May 2023, 9 of which were demonstrations or roadblocks protesting water shortage and quality in several localities. On August 31, 2022, residents in Dekouane blocked the road with burning tires to protest water shortage. In February 2023, severe water and electricity outage was reported in "Haret Sakher" for more than 10 days, which caused anger and demonstrations among residents.
- An increase in propensity to violence was specifically reported in NaamT, Bourj el-Brajneh, and Bourj Hammoud. Two armed clashes were reported in Dibbiye and Lailake over between families and individuals over water tanks and supply.

Governorate of Mount Lebanon May 2023

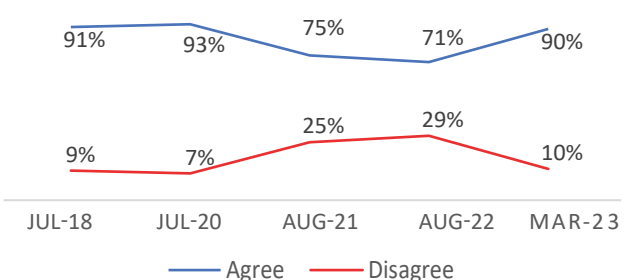
WORRY ABOUT ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER | MOUNT LEBANON



PERCEPTIONS OF WATER QUALITY | MOUNT LEBANON



AGREEMENT THAT THE PRESENCE OF REFUGEES PLACES STRAIN ON LEBANON'S RESOURCES | MOUNT LEBANON



Water-related Tensions Factsheet

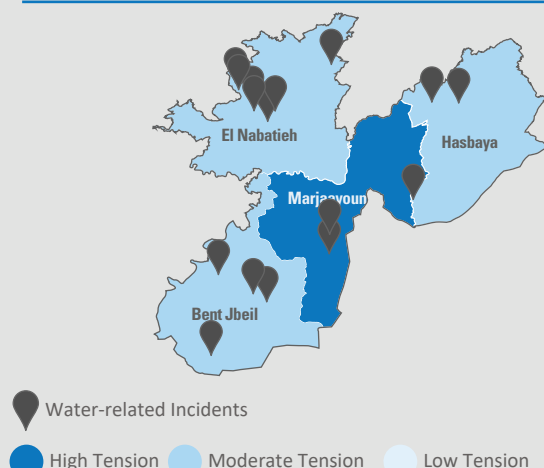
NATURE OF WATER-RELATED TENSIONS

- Water-related tensions in Nabatieh are primarily intra-communal with some inter-communal tensions.
- For intra-communal tensions, these mainly manifested in anti-establishment incidents such as roadblocks and demonstrations, protesting severe water shortage.
- In terms of inter-communal tensions, these manifested as host communities and local authorities blaming Syrians for overconsumption of water, leading to threats of cutting water supply. Tensions are coupled with consistently high negative perceptions on Syrians' strain on resources where some 73% in March 2023 agreed that the presence of Syrians refugees places pressure on Lebanon's resources such as water.
- Three out of four districts in Nabatieh administered a high water-related tension score (Hasbaya, Marjaayoun, El Nabatieh) due to the high number of water-related incidents. Tension hotspots are Hasbaya, Haris, and Rmeish.

ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF WATER

- In terms of water quality, 39% of respondents in Nabatieh rated the quality of water as poor or very poor in March 2023, compared to 54% in July 2018. At the same time, 47% reported worrying about access to safe drinking water sometimes, often, or all the time, up from 38% in July 2018. At the same time, 24% in March 2023 described their access to water as insufficient with bad quality, and 16% reported having no access to piped water at all.

Water Tensions Mapping | Nabatieh

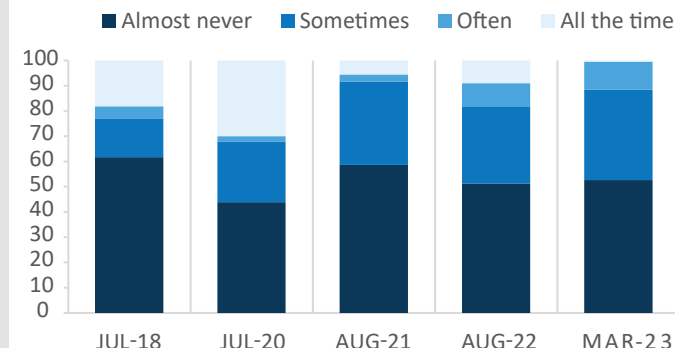


WATER-RELATED INCIDENTS

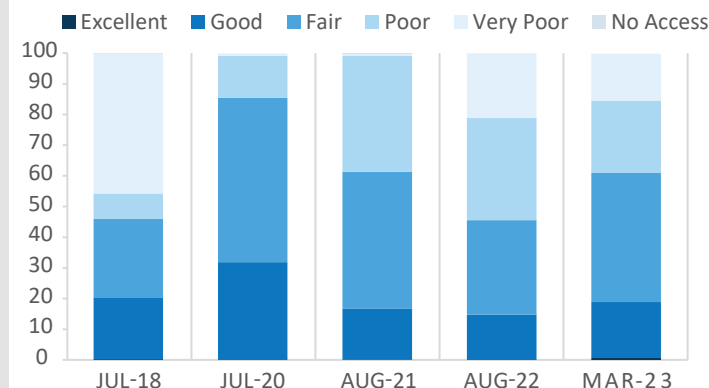
- 19 water-related incidents were recorded in Nabatieh as of May 2023, the second highest across governorates. Incidents included roadblocks and demonstrations, in addition to restrictions by local authorities on refugees' water access and consumption.
- On October 20, several individuals demonstrated in front of the water company in Markaba, kicked out the employees, and shut down the company to protest severe water outage.
- In 2022 in Hasbaya, the municipality warned residents that the municipality will assign patrols to check that all houses have installed equipment to avoid overuse of water. Then, in August, the mayor assigned police officers to prosecute violators and impose fines on residents who are not committed to installing water float valves at their houses.
- In May 2023, a year long water outage in Zefta, due to the encroachment on Charqiye and Nmairiye water reservoirs, caused anger among residents.

Governorate of Nabatieh May 2023

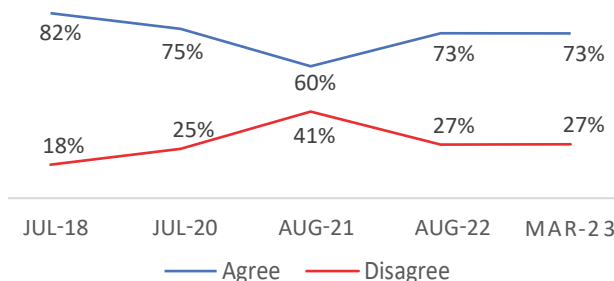
WORRY ABOUT ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER | NABATIEH



PERCEPTIONS OF WATER QUALITY | NABATIEH



AGREEMENT THAT THE PRESENCE OF REFUGEES PLACES STRAIN ON LEBANON'S RESOURCES | NABATIEH



Water-related Tensions Factsheet

Governorate of South
May 2023

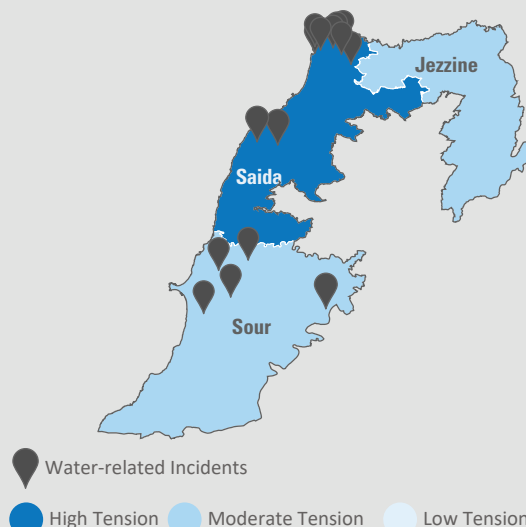
NATURE OF WATER-RELATED TENSIONS

- Water-related tensions in the South are inter-communal and intra-communal, even between members of refugee communities.
- Intra-communal tensions manifested in anti-establishment incidents such as roadblocks, demonstrations and clashes.
- Inter-communal tensions manifested as threats of evictions and evictions. This is coupled with 66% in the South in March 2023 agreeing that the presence of refugees places too much strain on Lebanon's resources like water and electricity.
- In terms of districts, Saida and Sour administered a high water-related tension score. Tension hotspots are Bisariyi, Chehabiyi, and Sarafand.

ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF WATER

- There has also been a rapid deterioration in perceptions on water quality, with 63% rating the quality of water as poor or very poor in March 2023, up from 28% in July 2018, the highest such rating across governorates.
- In March 2023, 70% cited worrying about access to safe drinking water, up from 50% in July 2018. Some 38% worry about access all the time with only 30% almost never worrying about water access.

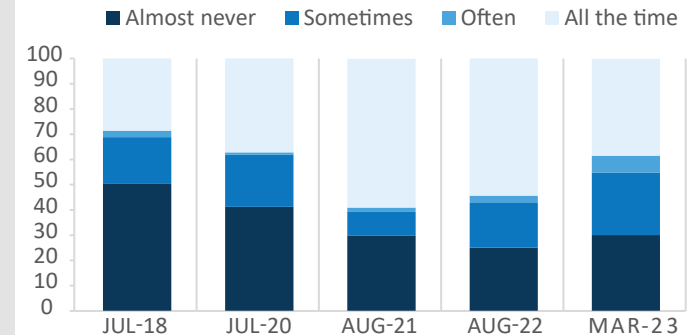
Water Tensions Mapping | South



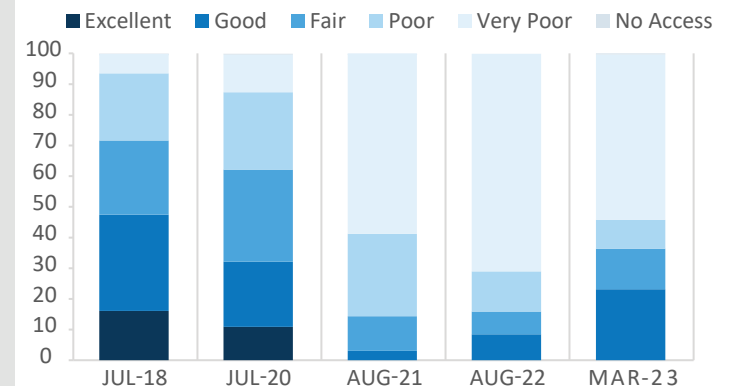
WATER-RELATED INCIDENTS

- A total of 16 water-related incidents were reported as of May 2023, distributed over 11 localities.
- In Bisariyi, the Litani River Authority evicted five families from Al Shamsiya ITS in August 2022 due to a leakage from a damaged sewage pipe.
- In Chehabiyi, tensions were reported between Syrian refugees and the host community in August 2022 after a dispute over a broken water pipe, whereby some refugees were beaten and detained by the ISF.
- In Sarafand, on August 21, 2022, a landlord in Sarafand asked a Lebanese tenant to evict 11 Syrian families residing in 7 tents, giving a notice period of 1 day. Initially, it was reported the main reason for the eviction is the complaint from Litany River Authority that the families are contaminating the river.
- In March 2023, several individuals blocked "Mghairiye" road protesting the severe water outage in Saida.

WORRY ABOUT ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER | SOUTH



PERCEPTIONS OF WATER QUALITY | SOUTH



AGREEMENT THAT THE PRESENCE OF REFUGEES PLACES STRAIN ON LEBANON'S RESOURCES | SOUTH

