



Last updated: June 2017

COUNTRY SHEET

LEBANON

OVERALL CONTEXT



Currency : Lebanese pound pegged to the US dollar (1 USD = LBP 1,510.5)

HDI : 0.763 ranked 76 out of 187 (UNDP 2016)

Population :

5,850,000 inhabitants including:

465,000 Palestinian refugees

1,017,000 refugees coming from Syria (UNHCR estimation Dec. 2016)

Proportion of rural population :

12.2 % (World Bank 2015)

Political framework :

Parliamentary Republic

President of the Republic : Michel Aoun, elected on 31 October 2016 for a six-year mandate

Territorial Organisation : Mohafazat (governorates), Caza (districts), Municipalities

KEY ISSUES OF WATER AND SANITATION

Main issues :

- **Sanitation** : low access rate to wastewater services, only 8% of waste water is treated
- **Drinkable water** : intermittent supply, quality below international standards and important number of leaks due to dilapidated infrastructure.
- **Tarification** : pricing system does not cover cost of the service. Absence of volumetric pricing which does not favor water savings.
- **Pollution** : important surface and groundwater quality problems with significant impact on human health and the environment.
- **Influx of refugees** : increased pressure on water and sanitation services.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Legal framework

Municipal act, Decree-law No. 118 dated June 30, 1977

Law 221 dated May 29, 2000, and its amendments, organising the water and sanitation sector

National Strategy for the Waste Water Sector (Resolution No. 35, dated October 17, 2012).

Key institutional actors

There are ambiguities in the distribution of authorities between the main actors due to a superposition of legal norms.

Five main structures are at the center of the legal system:

Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) : defines the political and strategic framework of the sector;

Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) : is the contracting authority of water, sanitation and irrigation infrastructure projects financed by the Lebanese State and, if required, supported by international donors;

Water Establishments : are in charge of planning, constructing and operating water, sanitation and irrigation infrastructures under supervision of the MoEW;

Litani River Authority : manages and operates irrigation in South Bekaa and South Lebanon;

Municipalities : are given legal legitimacy by the municipal act to operate the sanitation facilities that they have built.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Map of the decentralized and non-governmental cooperations in Lebanon :

www.pseau.org/actions

LEWAP website : www.lewap.org

DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES

2014, Machayekhi D., Kalinowski C. et Valfrey B., Etude de capitalisation sur le secteur de l'assainissement au Liban, Bureau CGLU/BTVL – SIAAP

pS-Eau Newsletter for Lebanon, February 2017

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The main public service management structure

• **Drinkable water** : water management is delegated by the State to the four Water Establishments. In several municipalities, local water committees are still managing the water service. Those committees are unwilling to concede management of the service to the Water Establishments in accordance with the law No. 221, applied in 2005.

• **Collective sanitation** : despite substantial investments done, the level of services remains weak. Water Establishments are, by law, in charge of managing the service. In practice, several municipalities continue operating waste water networks. Generally, water treatment plants' operations are delegated by the CDR or Water Establishments to private companies. However, some water treatment plants are directly managed by municipalities.

• **Individual sanitation** : the investments, and costs of operating and maintaining household-level sanitation equipments are at the expense of users.

• **Access to services for refugees** : as 80% of refugees live in host community, Lebanese public institutions are meeting their needs. Regarding the population taking refuge in informal settlements, their needs of water and sanitation are mainly provided by the UN and NGOs.

ONGOING PROJECTS

UNICEF coordinates, with the MoEW, the response provided to meet water and sanitation needs of vulnerable populations (refugees and host communities). Its strategy is defined in the [Lebanese Response Crisis Plan](#) (2017-2020).

AFD (French cooperation) dedicates 44.5% of its financial assistance to the water sector in Lebanon since 1999. Its programs focus on the rehabilitation and construction of water networks, improvement of sanitation services and water sector reform (Water Code).

European Union, through the ECHO program (European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations), it provides emergency aid to meet the needs of vulnerable populations in term of water and sanitation. Development aid is provided by Europeaid. It is accomplished by the construction and rehabilitation of water and sanitation infrastructures for the refugees and host communities. Part of the MADAD fund is dedicated to support neighbouring countries of Syria regarding water management and capacity building of institutional actors.

USAID (USA cooperation) implements the Lebanese Water Project (LWP). This five-year project (2016-2021) intends to improve access to water and sanitation. The main objective of LWP is to reinforce the administrative and operational capacities of the Water Establishments and Litani River Authority.

SDC (Swiss cooperation) intervenes with the Bekaa Water Establishment to improve water and sanitation services for host and refugee populations. The project started on October 1, 2016 and will end on March 31, 2019.

GIZ (German cooperation) implements projects through municipalities in order to improve access to sanitation. GIZ promotes integrated water resources management and the involvement of the private sector.

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation supports several cooperation projects in the water and sanitation sector.

