



LOCALIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL AID IN THE WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR IN LEBANON



LAUNCHING OF LEWAP PLATFORM AND WORKING GROUPS

29TH OF SEPTEMBER 2017, BEIRUT



PRESENTATION OF LEWAP PLATFORM

Intervention of Claire Papin-Stammose, pS-Eau

pS-Eau is a French association that has been supporting international cooperation actors for more than 30 years in their activities to promote access to drinking water and sanitation. It has been active in Lebanon since 2013.

As part of its activities in Lebanon, the pS-Eau perceived the need of the actors of the sector for an easy access to information and the possibility of exchange between them. That is why it wanted to set up the LEWAP platform (www.lewap.org), a platform for information, exchange and sharing of experiences between the actors of the drinking water sector and the sanitation in Lebanon.

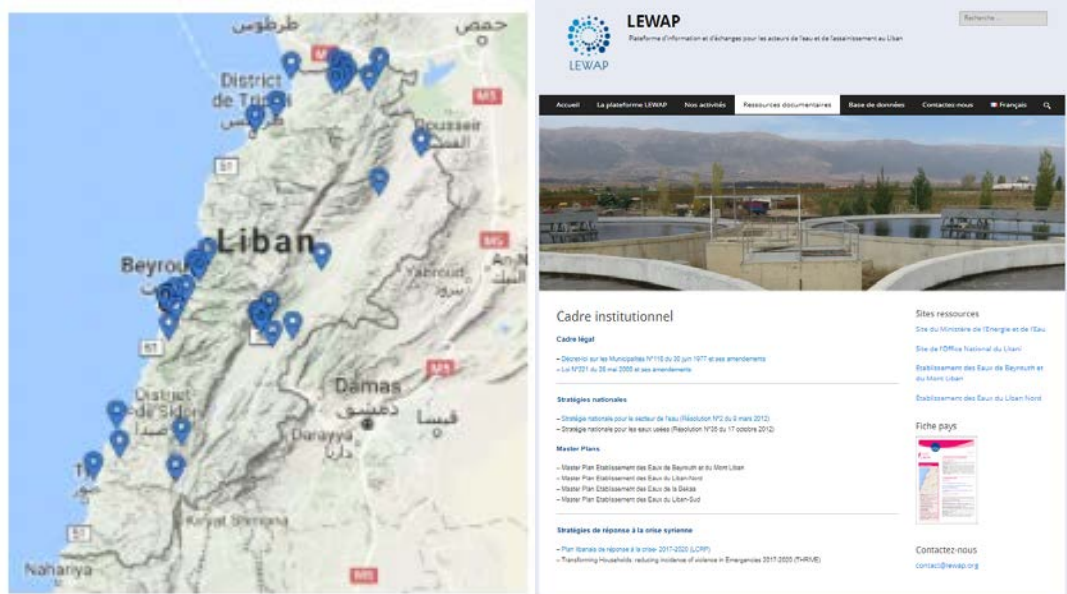
Activities to facilitate intervention in the field of water and sanitation

- Organization of exchange meetings and study tours in France / Lebanon
- The animation of working groups on specific themes
- Support for cooperation actors in their projects (contact with institutional actors and local expertise)

A website where to find documentation and information on actions in Lebanon

LEWAP website (available now in French and English), gives you access to:

- Information materials (on the institutional framework, the reference documentation on certain themes, etc.)
- information on the projects (map of actions) and the actors intervening in Lebanon (directory)



The image displays two side-by-side elements. On the left is a map of Lebanon with several blue location pins indicating project sites across the country, including areas near Beirut, Tripoli, and the south. On the right is a screenshot of the LEWAP website. The website header features the LEWAP logo and the tagline 'Plateforme d'information et d'échanges pour les acteurs de l'eau et de l'assainissement au Liban'. Below the header is a navigation menu with options like 'Accueil', 'La plateforme LEWAP', 'Nos actions', 'Ressources documentaires', 'État de données', 'Contactez nous', and 'Français'. The main content area is titled 'Cadre institutionnel' and lists various documents and strategies, such as 'Cadre légal', 'Stratégies nationales', 'Master Plans', and 'Stratégies de réponse à la crise syrienne'. A sidebar on the right contains 'Sites ressources' and 'Fiche pays'.

QUESTIONS AND REMARKS

How the selection of documents is made available on your database? USAID has done several studies and documents that can be shared.

During the diagnosis conducted prior to the launching of the platform, we met several organizations that sent us their documentation. We regularly update this database that we can complete with USAID documents.

What complementarity between LEWAP and O-Life platform conducted at the initiative of the CNRS Lebanon / France, IRD and the University of Montpellier?

We are in contact with the bearers of [O-Life](#) project. It is an environmental observatory that brings together researchers to collect data, analyze them and facilitate their spread within the scientific community as well as policy makers and the users consumers. The results of these researches can be spread on the LEWAP platform.



THE ACTION OF AERMC IN FRANCE AND LEBANON

Intervention of Rémi Touron, Rhone Mediterranean Corsica Water Agency (AERMC) –[see the PPT presentation](#)

The role and functioning of the Agency

In France, water management is decentralized water resources are managed at the watershed scale. Therefore, 6 water agencies were created in 1964 including the AERMC.

The European Water Framework Directive sets targets for the preservation and restoration of the state of superficial waters (fresh and coastal waters) and for underground waters. The Agency works with the actors of the basin to achieve these objectives.

That's why, the Agency collects a tax on the water bill (polluter pays) that enables it to subsidize the actions of water resources protection (fight against pollution, increasing knowledge, protection and resource management, awareness).

The Agency is not just a technical body. It is also the place of basin governance. The Rhone-Mediterranean Basin Committee and the Corsica Basin Committee defines the main water guidelines for the basin. They consist of 3 colleges representing local authorities, users (domestic, farmers, industrialists) and associations, and the State.

Agency planning tools

The AERMC is currently implementing its 10th program "Save the Water" (2013-2018) with the following objectives:

- Water savings
- Protection of water resources and health against pollution
- Restoration of rivers and wetlands to ensure their natural functioning

It has defined its Masterplan for Water Development and Management (SDAGE). It is a framework that applies to all projects carried out in the basin's territory.

Finally, the Agency has defined its [plan for adapting to climate change](#). This made it possible to identify the areas of vulnerability and the measures to be taken to deal with climate change: reduce the waterproofing to facilitate infiltration, fight against leakage on the distribution networks, naturalization of watercourses.

Intervention of the Agency abroad

In 2005, the Oudin-Santini law allows water authorities and agencies to mobilize up to 1% of their water and sanitation budget for international cooperation actions. For the AERMC, this represents a potential of 5 million Euros per year. In 2016, the Agency raised 4.5 million Euros for international cooperation actions.

At the international level, the actions of the Agency are divided into 2 main types:

- Institutional support mainly towards the countries of the Mediterranean basin
- Support for cooperation projects led by local authorities (decentralized cooperation) or associations of its basin

QUESTIONS AND REMARKS

The Water Agencies in France do not depend on the Ministry of Water but on the Ministry of the Environment. Does this facilitate coordination with other actors of the environment?

In France, there is no Ministry of Water, but water is an important component of the Ministry of the Environment.

The Agency's action program is defined with all watershed actors, in accordance with the national and European political framework.

How are basin committee members chosen?

It depends on the colleges:

- For the college of local authorities, the representatives are local elected officials;
- For the users' college, an election is organized specifically to choose them;
- For the state college, representatives are appointed.

With which actors do you work here in Lebanon?

The Water Agency intervenes for the moment within the framework of the decentralized cooperation in support of French authorities which set up projects with their Lebanese partners (exchanges of competences, reinforcement of the management of the services, etc.)

Did not USAID try to promote a watershed approach in Lebanon?

There was an attempt to set up a basin agency, but that meant a real change not only technical but also political and institutional. This did not succeed.

LOCALIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL AID IN THE WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR IN LEBANON

INTRODUCTION OF THE THEMATIC

Intervention of Nawal Karroum, of URD group– [view the report](#) (in French only)

URD group is an association specialized in humanitarian and post-crisis practices. It supports actors to improve their interventions by conducting evaluation, research, training and methodological support activities.

The concept of "localization" is relatively new in the international humanitarian community. It was at the center of discussions at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul and the commitments made on this occasion as part of the "Grand Bargain".

There is no strict definition of localization. However, the URD group has conducted several case studies (in Lebanon, Haiti, Myanmar, DRC) to better understand how this translates concretely for the actors in the field. One of these studies was conducted in Tripoli.

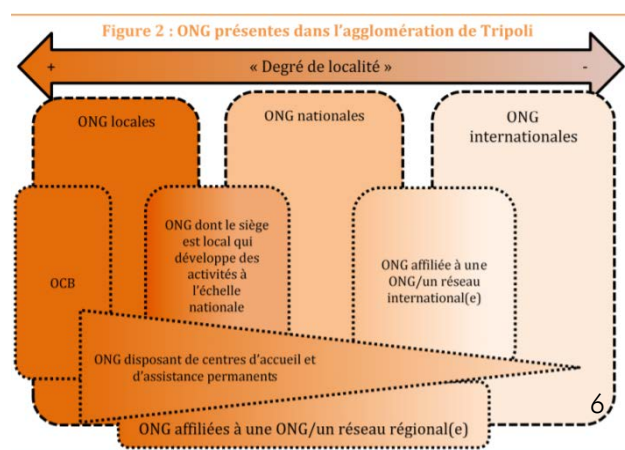
Based on these studies, it was possible to propose a definition of localization:

- It's a **collective process**;
- That aims **to strengthen the role of local actors** - national and local public actors, civil society actors, etc.
- To put them back in the center of the crisis response.

This work on the localization of aid raises several reflections:

- It is necessary to distinguish the attributed role and the place actually taken by local actors;
- Localization is not necessarily a "bottom up" approach that totally reverses the decision-making mechanisms, but it is certain that it re-examines the relations of power and power-sharing;
- The localization requires a change in the forms of
 - Partnership: seeking a balance between the partners, information sharing, better visibility of local actors, supposes taking time to identify local actors and mobilize them;
 - Financing: seeking the most direct financing possible;
 - Coordination

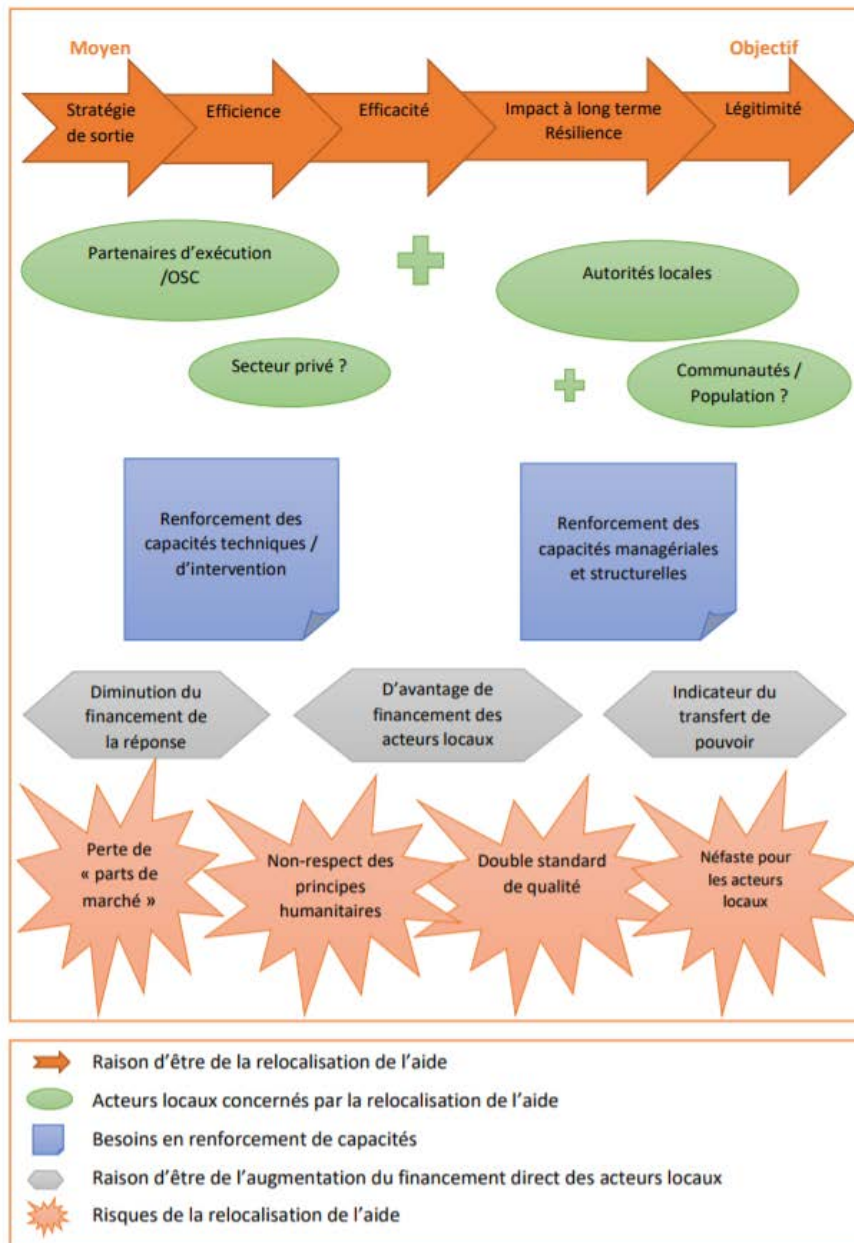
Localization is therefore not just about giving more funding to local actors, but involves setting up a decision-making and coordination process in which local actors will be involved. This requires having a detailed knowledge of the actors involved and understanding the complexity of the games of actors.



The diagram below illustrates, for example, the diversity of local NGOs present in Tripoli.

The study conducted on Tripoli allowed to question the actors in the field on their understanding of the localization: What is the purpose of localization? How does it translate in the field? With which local actors do you work? What are the risks of localization?

Figure 3 : La relocalisation de l'aide un moyen ou un objectif en soi ?



As the diagram shows, localization is perceived by some humanitarian as a means in their exit strategy. For others, it is an objective in itself and reinforces the legitimacy of the response to the crisis.

Localization takes various forms and may involve the mobilization of local authorities (municipality, EE, MEE), of associations, private sector, or populations.

It is not without risk, both for the humanitarian actors and for the involved local actors.

EXAMPLE OF COORDINATION WITH THE PILOT PROJECT OF SANITATION STATION IN BCHARRÉ

Intervention of Alain Tidière, of Corail and Nathalie Keyrouz of the Union of Municipalities of Bcharré – review the presentation PPT and [the video of the AFD](#)

The reed bed filter launched in 2013 in the Caza of Bcharré, presented in the video, is a first step in the implementation of a sanitation master plan throughout the district, which plans to build 22 wastewater treatment plants (AFD financing of 34 million euros).

To understand the success of this first step, we have to go back to the preliminary steps that allowed the involvement of all the parties of the project: the Municipalities, Establishment of North Lebanon Water (EELN), the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEE), the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) as well as the technical and financial partners.

Stages of mobilization of local actors and partners:

- 2001: launching of a cooperation program between Grand Lyon and the EELN. Law 221 and its amendment 337 specifies the responsibilities that are comply with the terms of sanitation to Water Establishments. The EELN asks its cooperation partner for technical support to better understand modern approaches of sanitation. It wants to put its knowledge into practice on a concrete project. The choice is made to act on the Caza of Bcharré, in conflict then with the EELN on the payment of the water bill.
- In 2005, a cooperation program involving the Union of municipalities of Bcharré and the Corsican Mediterranean Water Agency began. The program is aimed at setting-up a *river contract*. The objective is to make the EELN and the Caza work together to define an action plan. After 2 to 3 years of discussions, an agreement to act on sanitation was reached. It was necessary to update the pre-existing sanitation Master Plan for the targeted area, established in the 1990's.
- In 2009, the Regional Natural Park of the Catalan Pyrenees joins the AERMC and the Union to support the development of the river contract. At the same time, the partners are mobilizing a Private Sector Study and Assistance Fund (FASEP) to implement the master plan. This one is validated by all the institutions associated with its elaboration (the Federation, the EELN, the MEE and the CDR).
- This will facilitate AFD's mobilization for the initial financing of a pilot station in Harim and today for the implementation of the overall master plan.

Lessons

- Mobilizing local actors takes time. Although the first exchanges with the EELN began in 2001, it was not until 2013 that the station was launched. But it is an essential preparation time to avoid being confronted with overwhelming blockages thereafter. It took only 3 years to build the station from the moment the AFD agreed to its financing. This is rarely the case for stations built in Lebanon.
- Decentralized cooperation and the action of major donors are complementary: decentralized cooperation actors commit to long-term with a certain flexibility of intervention. The mobilization of AFD was necessary to consequently mobilize significant

funds for technical investments. AFD agreed to give financial and technical support, being mobilized from the start.

- It is essential to engage all stakeholders to ensure their support. The mobilization of the population in this project, far from being a blockage, was a real lever to encourage them to participate financially in the operation of the WWTP (payment of the water bill).

QUESTIONS AND REMARKS

What is the role of the Municipality in the management of the station?

The station is the responsibility of the Union of Municipalities, which has mobilized an agent for its routine maintenance. This was possible because it is a simple technique that requires skills and financial means available for the Municipalities. On the other hand, under the Master Plan, the 22 stations will not all be Reed bed filter treatment plant. Some will be activated sludge stations. In this case, their management will be entrusted to the EELN.

What is the funding mechanism provided for the operation of the station?

Part of the water bill is provided for sanitation, but the population is not always aware. Nevertheless, the portion allocated to sanitation is very low and this does not cover all costs related to the sanitation service.

What is the volume of water treated by the station and how effective is it?

The station has been sized for 400 EH (a little over 60m³ per day).

According to a chemical analysis of the water, carried out by the CDR, 90% to 95% of the biological pollution is cut down. Therefore, treated water can be released into the natural environment without problems. It was even envisaged to use these waters for irrigation of apple trees downstream from the station, but the CDR opposed it^{*1}. Regarding chemical pollution, there are no special precautions because the station is connected only to homes for domestic use. Farms, industries are not connected to the station.

EXCHANGES

Case of the Union of Municipalities of Mont Rihan, Fayssal Zein

The representative of the Union of Municipalities confirms that the process is long to install a sanitation system, especially with the complexity of the actors' stake in the field of water / sanitation in Lebanon.

Rihan is located in a mountainous area in southern Lebanon, upstream of the source Nabah el Tasseh which supplies half of southern Lebanon with drinking water (300 000 inhabitants). The preservation of the quality of this water is crucial or it is threatened by the rejections of the villages of the Union of Municipalities.

Therefore, the Municipality of Rihan has sought a solution, first mobilizing funding from Mercy Corps to build a treatment plant station (activated sludge). Then it mobilized other partners

¹ Remark: Raw sewage is regularly used to irrigate plots in Lebanon!

(UNICEF, UNDP, SIAAP) for the realization of a master plan of the sanitation in order to have a global approach of the basin and to define the priorities of intervention. Finally, the Interdepartmental Union for the Sanitation of the Paris Urban Area (SIAAP) supported it for the realization of sanitation networks and support for the operation of the station. It has been running for 2 years.

The Municipality is in contact with the Ministry (which financed part of the network) and with the Water Establishment (for the WWTP - but the WE does not have the means to ensure the functioning). They validated the master plan but the Municipality had to look for the partners to implement it and it is her who covers the running costs of the station (staff, energy, etc.).

Reaction of the representative of Zgharta-Ehden, Ghassan Tayoun

In Zgharta-Ehden, a wastewater treatment plant was carried out by the CDR without consulting the Municipality. Its operation requires a lot of energy or neither the Municipality nor the WE has the means to take care of the running costs.

Reaction of the AERMC, Rémi Touron

These exchanges raise several important points:

- We cannot act on the quality of drinking water without acting on sanitation (network / treatment). It is important to work the most upstream of the basin, closest to the source of pollution.
- Natural systems such as the RPF are interesting solutions to act in the mountain areas / small localities (efficiency / sustainable). On the other hand, this requires an organization and a follow-up to ensure the good functioning of the WWTP in the duration. The operation of WWTPs in Lebanon is often problematic. It is crucial to anticipate this when choosing the treatment system taking into account the operating costs, and the human and financial resources of the Municipalities and Water Establishments who will be in charge.

Case of the NGO GVC, Racil Charara

GVC is a member of a consortium of international NGOs. The teams are working in the Bekaa, North Lebanon and South Lebanon.

In the field of water and sanitation, GVC's action focuses on several aspects:

- Technical: the construction of drinking water infrastructures;
- Social : the mobilization of local populations and the facilitation of the link between the Water Establishment and the users;
- Strengthening the skills of the Water Establishment so that it is better able to respond to local demand and manage the water and sanitation service.

GVC works closely with local actors. This mobilization goes through different modalities (organization of public meeting, household surveys, etc.) defined according to the local context and the actions to be implemented. It also exchanges with international NGOs and local associations present in the areas of intervention.

CONCLUSION AND AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

This session was a first opportunity to discuss the localization of aid and the mobilization of local actors in water and sanitation projects.

The examples presented and exchanges show the importance of involving all actors, but that it is complex and requires time to analyze the institutional and political frameworks and to build confidence between all actors.

This theme will be further discussed on the occasion of the three working groups organized in Lebanon on:

- Users involvement (17/11/2017)
- The involvement of local non-governmental organizations (12/01/2018)
- The involvement of institutional actors (23/02/2018)

AERMC Awareness Film: [Water and Climate Change: Lets Adapt !](#) (4min)

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