

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE



The steady arrival of refugees from Syria has severely stretched the hosting communities' resources. The increased population has generated an additional amount of solid waste and also amplified the demand for water.

In the water and waste water sectors, the EU is currently financing infrastructure projects worth 97 million Euros, mainly in the Bekaa valley and Northern Lebanon, thereby assisting the Lebanese Government to improve vulnerable peoples' access to clean and safe potable water and modernised sanitation infrastructure.

The EU continues to work with the Ministry of Energy and Water as well as with the Water Establishments in the implementation of the National Water Sector Strategy, through the SISSAF Programme (Support Programme for Infrastructure Sector Strategies and Alternative Financing) totalizing 9 million Euros. In addition to this support, the EU Delegation to Lebanon co-chairs with the Ministry of Energy and Water the bi-monthly Water Sector Coordination Group meetings, which brings together the donor community and all key stakeholders involved in the sector.

The EU is supporting the enhancement of basic infrastructure in the solid waste, water and sanitation sectors, and contributes to economic recovery in Lebanon.

This is done through:

- Supporting the water sector reform process of Lebanon as articulated in the National Water Sector Strategy; upgrading water supply facilities for communities in Lebanon affected by the consequences of the conflict in Syria. This aims at securing a better access to adequate quantities of safe water, and improved means to store water responding to qualitative acceptable standards;
- Encouraging water consumers to save water, while raising the issue of water scarcity and informing them on proper water conservation practices;
- Conducting awareness sessions in particular for children;
- Contributing to the installation of water meters, and supporting the subscription process;
- Delivering training of technicians and managers on operations, maintenance and management of the new water infrastructures.

RESULTS OF OUR COOPERATION

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Delivery and accept pick-up trucks for solid waste collection for 26 communities;
- Creation and/or extension of 16 solid waste treatment plant of an overall capacity of 2,500 t/day (approximately 45% of solid waste of Lebanon) and related sanitary landfills;

WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE

630,000 Lebanese citizens and 150,000 refugees from Syria have access to clean water supply in 42 communities in the Bekaa, North and South Lebanon (Talabaya, Ablah, Al Fouar, Zabboud, El Ain, Bejjeje, Chtaura, Cheick Zennad, Aarida, Tanail, Qab Elias, Riyak, Nassrieh, Bekaa Sefrine, Assoun Donniyeh, Mrah El Sraj, Halba, Machta, Qobbayat, Al Sawiri, Akroum, Qonieh, El Qobbeh, Tebbeneh, Sahleh, Mhamara, Saadnayel, Kherbet Daoud, Burj El Arab, Kfar Fila, Kfar Rouman, Mayfadoun, Ghazyieh, Lubieh, Bissariyeh, Aamaret el Baykat, Qoshlok, Wadi el Hor, Bint Jbeil, Marjeyoun), where water supply networks and wells are being rehabilitated, constructed or extended.

Water storage capacity is being improved by the construction or rehabilitation of water tanks in 25 villages in the Bekaa, North and South Lebanon.

- A series of irrigation canals are established in Fnaydek village (Akkar District), to ensure that water was effectively managed thus increasing the quality and quantity of agricultural products. Furthermore, the construction of the irrigation network also contributed to reducing production costs as a result of limiting reliance on water/fertilizer while creating short term job opportunities for local residents. The construction of an irrigation canal benefitted around 400 farmers in the village.
- 8,1 KMs of irrigation channels are rehabilitated in Qaa (Beqaa Governorate).
- Waterborne diseases are being mitigated in 42 communities thanks to the provision of a cleaner drinking water.
- Technical losses in the water networks are decreasing thanks to the rehabilitation of networks in 42 communities.
- The rate of collection of fees (by the Water Establishments) for the provision of water supply is gradually increasing, thereby improving the financial situation of these institutions.

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WASTE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

16,000 Lebanese citizens and 4,000 refugees from Syria benefit from improved waste water services (networks and a waste water treatment plant) in 3 communities in Wadi Khaled.

A new waste water network and treatment plant is being built in Hermel (New waste water conveyors (22 km) are being built in the Koura region to bring the waste water flow of 300,000 Lebanese citizens to the Tripoli waste water treatment plant.

Since 2014, ECHO, the Humanitarian Assistance branch of the European Union, contributed around €45 M to the WASH and shelter sector supporting the most vulnerable Syrian refugees and Lebanese host communities. Interventions include integrated WASH and shelter programming that contribute to ensuring safe and dignified shelter conditions and access to water and sanitation. ECHO supports the provision of shelter kits in informal settlements, rehabilitation and upgrading of substandard shelter units, construction and maintenance of sanitation facilities, provision of water and hygiene promotion.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Technical assistance to the Ministry of Energy and Water (5 experts full time during 3 years) to support the implementation of the national strategy and better respond to the impact of the influx of refugees from Syria on water resources.

More than 100 training and capacity building activities supporting the Water Establishments' staff in improving their governance of the water resources (preparation of master plans, business plans, improvement of customer database management, customer support services, communication plans, awareness campaigns, maintenance and operations procedures).

Since 2013, contribution to bi-monthly coordination meetings at national level (in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy and Water) and monthly coordination meetings at regional level (with the Water Establishments) to improve the efficiency of the response to the crisis, and build sustainable development plans and projects in the water and waste water sectors.

