



# WATER REFORM

long term technical assistance



This Project is funded  
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Implemented by AFD



# "WATER TALK: Towards Structural Reforms" 20-01-2023



The first Water Talk of the Water Reform Programme entitled "Towards Structural Reforms" was held on January 20th 2023 under the patronage of the MoEW and the four Water establishments and the participation of the key water sector stakeholders.

The national workshop tackled different subjects such as the water establishments' technical, financial and organizational diagnosis, tariff restructuring, the water sector legislation, key performance indicators, digital transformation and sector coordination.

More details will be shared in a special edition newsletter.



## MAIN HIGHLIGHTS OVER THE FIRST 2 YEARS



### **The technical and financial diagnosis of the four Water Establishments (WEs) - Final version released on August 2022**

Launched as the first activity of the Programme, it constitutes a reality check of the current situation at technical and financial levels and draws recommendations for improvement. Findings are crucial for any development targeting the WEs.

### **OPEX assessment of priority WWTPs - Final version released on October 2021**

The O&M cost for selected 11 wastewater treatment plants were assessed in depth to feed discussions on service continuity and financing of the wastewater sector. These plants are the following: Ras Nabi Younes (Chouf), Gharifeh (Chouf), Safa (Chouf), Barouk (Chouf), Selaata (Batroun) and related lift-up stations, Chikka (Batroun) and related lift-up stations, Aintourine (Zgharta), Ejbaa



(Zgharta), Charqiyeh (Nabatieh), Tebnine (Bint Jubail), and Zahleh (Zahleh).

### **Tariff simulation model - Released on January 2022**



With the devaluation of the Lebanese pound and the insufficient collected fees for operation and maintenance, the Water Reform Programme (WRP) was asked to assess the gap between collected annual fee and operational expenditures. The analysis was useful for the authorities in order to adjust the tariff and assess financial viability of water services. Continuous updates on tariff simulations and coverage of expenditures are being undertaken.

### **Analysis of the legal structure of the water sector and compilation of a Water Code - Final version of compilation released on December 2021 and analysis on March 2022**



A diagnosis of the legal structure of the sector allowed better understanding of the current legislation, in the sense that it summarily describes the applicable provisions and highlights, when needed, its strengths and challenges. The report offers recommendations for actions to be taken to implement the water sector legislation, particularly through the required implementation decrees and administrative decisions of the WL 192/2020. Moreover, a WATER CODE has been put together! In fact, what was wrongly called 'The Water Code' is now a reality: all the texts applicable to the water sector were gathered in one document, the Code.

### **The roadmap to recovery of the water sector - Final version released on May 2022**



With a protracting crisis context and a serious threat of collapse, setting the milestones for sector recovery is game changer. The water sector recovery plan helped align all stakeholders on a common reading of challenges as well as measures and intervention guidelines in the water sector for a better viability sector over the coming years.

**A Digital Enterprise Transformation study - Final Version**  
released on January 2023



Launched in August 2022, this study aims at laying the foundations of a modern water establishment capable of running and monitoring its operations and internal processes in digital format. Required investments for the shift towards this goal are being identified within a 5 year action plan for the South Lebanon Water Establishment.

**Key Performance indicators (KPIs) - Final Version released on**  
October 2022



Working towards well-measured goals is key to an improved service delivery. The WRP is therefore supporting the MoEW and WEs establish KPIs, which will help set up a service-related aims by the WEs and facilitate supervisory functions of the MoEW.

## MAJOR ONGOING ACTIVITIES

**Legal analysis of the water sector strategy implementation'**



A diagnosis of the legal prerequisites for the proper implementation of the updated Sector Strategy and the required structural reforms that need to be tackled.

First findings expected on February 2023.

**An Organizational and Human Resources support to the Water Establishments**



It starts with an organizational and Human Resources diagnosis, launched in October 2022. This assessment constitutes the basis of the shape of tomorrow's operators. Through a service-based approach, the aim is to reshuffle internal organization of the WEs to meet the desired level of service in both water & wastewater according to the strategies set up by each operator.

First findings released on December 2022.

### Tariff restructuring



A well-structured tariff model is key to financial viability of the water sector. The WRP is undertaking the endeavor to establish actions required to address the gaps in the existing tariff structure while assessing the impact of the adaptation on the financial model of the WEs.

First findings released on November 2022.

### Drafting the first batch of the application decrees of the water law



Following the establishment of the drafting committee on November 2022, the first batch of application decrees and provisions is expected to see the light and embark on a formal enactment journey. The first committee was held on January 13th 2023.

First findings expected on July 2023.



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## SOME UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

## **An Organizational and Human Resources assessment of the tutelage at the MoEW**



Same as for the WEs, an assessment is expected to propose major improvements to the oversight of the sector and the supervision of the performance of the regional water establishments.

First findings expected on May 2023.

## **Developing a Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) for the Aley-Chouf Water Supply District**

A WSMP for the Aley-Chouf will be developed in order to meet the water demand at the Project's Horizon; and to set up a phased investment plan for required water supply infrastructure by ten years increments.



First findings expected on June 2023.

## **PROGRAMME RECAP**

The Technical Assistance Programme to Reforms in Water and Wastewater Sector in Lebanon, called also "**Water Reform Programme**", started in 2020 and spans over a period of 5 years. It is funded by the European Union and Implemented by the *Agence Française de Développement* (AFD) It aims to strengthen the four Water Establishments and the tutelage at the Ministry of Energy and Water.

### **Specific Objectives**

1-The set-up of conditions for the sustainability and balance of water and wastewater services through capacity building and the conduction of specific studies.

2-The implementation of priority reforms proposed in the new water law and the achievement of an improved governance.

3-The facilitation of institutional dialogue and sectoral coordination.

### **Pillars**

**Pillar 1:** Support the implementation of priority reforms and strengthen capacities of RWEs.

**Pillar 2:** Maturation of projects.

**Pillar 3:** Institutional dialogue and coordination.

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