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The Water Reform Programme Chronicles - Edition 3 | Quarterly Update

Dear subscribers,

We are thrilled to be sharing with you **the third edition of The Water Reform newsletter** dedicated to bringing you the latest updates, achievements, and transformative strides of the Water Reform Programme. Here's what's been happening since you last heard from us!

QUARTER IN REVIEW

Website Launch



We're also delighted to announce that **the WRP's website is up and running**. This is where you'll be able to learn about the programme in depth and in detail and stay informed about upcoming events and workshops.

Don't forget to check the resources section to download the reports produced within this programme.

[Click here to check out the website!](#)

WRP Instagram



Another achievement implemented this quarter was **the launch of the WRP Instagram account.**

The WRP Instagram page is a vital component of our communications strategy, aimed at educating the public about the water sector in Lebanon through interactive and educational content. Head over to the page and **follow us** to stay up to date with the latest news and events.

[Click here to check out the Instagram account!](#)

MAJOR ONGOING ACTIVITIES year-to-date

An organizational and human resources assessment for the Water Establishments – *Diagnosis reports released in February 2023*



An organizational and human resources diagnosis, launched in October 2022, has identified the expected activities of the Water Establishments (“WEs”) as per laws 221-2000 and 192- 2020, and the gaps observed with the existing situation. The final version of the diagnosis reports was released in February 2023 and is available on the link below.

The following step is to elaborate a proposed target organigram that allows the WEs to ensure their mission according to the law. The intermediate version was delivered in May 2023. Discussions with the WEs are still ongoing to finalize these organigrams.

[Click here to check out the reports!](#)

Legal organizational governance reform of the Water Establishments - *Final version expected in November 2023*



An in-depth analysis of the legal organizational governance of the Water Establishments was conducted to identify the legal and regulatory challenges, gaps, and shortcomings facing the governance of the WEs in performing their functions and responsibilities. The focus was particularly on their competence relative to other sector stakeholders, internal governance and operating rules, their autonomy, and the extent of controls exercised over their actions by various external tutelage and oversight administrations, particularly the Ministry of Energy and Water (“MoEW”).

The report offers recommendations for actions to be decided, developed, and enacted to implement the legal organizational governance of the WEs and improve their autonomy and efficient controls.

Drafting the first batch of the application decrees of the water law - *Issuing of the first batch by the Drafting Committee expected in December 2023*



The first batch of application decrees and provisions is on its way to enactment. 22 drafting committees were held at the MoEW until the end of October 2023, and tackled many Articles, such as: regulate the issuance of water usufruct licenses (Art. 35); regulate the details applicable to the establishment of water users’ associations (Art. 75); set the rules applicable to the oversight and management of the non-public wastewater installations (Art. 73). Also, technical notes are being drafted by the technical experts of the Programme upon request of the drafting committee to support discussions and decision making.

The target date for the approval of the first batch of decrees, decisions and provisions by the Drafting Committee is set for end of 2023.



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An organizational, functional and human resources assessment of the tutelage at the MoEW - *Final report expected in March 2024*



Same as for the WEs, an assessment targeting MoEW is ongoing. The purpose is to identify major improvements to the oversight function of the sector and the supervision of the performance of the Regional Water Establishments.



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Developing a Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) for the Aley-Chouf Water Supply District - *Preliminary master plan expected in December 2023*



Not having a master plan for potable water, the Aley-Chouf area is currently the subject of an ongoing WSMP, aiming at identifying needs to meet water demands and resources availability.

Launched in July 2023, a preliminary master plan is expected for the end of December 2023.

A Digital Enterprise Transformation study - *Diagnosis report expected in November 2023*



After the success of the Digital Enterprise Transformation study for the South Lebanon Water Establishment (SLWE), the same scope is currently being replicated for the Bekaa Water Establishment (BWE), the Beirut-Mount Lebanon Water Establishment (BMLWE), and the North Lebanon Water Establishment (NLWE). It aims at assessing the existing digital maturity and identify the required steps for a modern utility capable of running and monitoring its operations and internal processes in digital format. Required investments for the shift toward this goal will be identified within a 5-year action plan for

the WEs.

The diagnosis report is expected in November 2023.

A Phase 2 of Digital Enterprise Transformation assessment for the SLWE - *Final report expected in January 2024*



Following the Digital Enterprise Transformation study for South Lebanon Water Establishment (SLWE), phase 2 was launched in July 2023 and focuses on taking further the recommendations identified in the first phase. These mainly concern specifications of the digital tools required for SLWE Digital Transformation. The report of phase 1 is available on the link below.

The final report of phase 2 is expected in January 2024.

[Click here to check out the report!](#)

Developing an annual report template for the WEs - *Final adoption expected by December 2023*



Setting up new templates for the annual reports to be submitted by WEs to the MoEW as part of the reporting and supervisory mandates, as well as in compliance with the new water law and that on transparency and public reporting.

A first version was delivered to the WEs in March 2023 and is currently being revised.

Support to the public-public partnership modalities - *First findings delivered in June 2023*



The legal team of the EU-AFD Programme was tasked to assess the three templates of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) prepared under 3 different initiatives and aiming at facilitating the collaboration between municipalities and WEs in the water sector.

This issue is related to article 58 of the new water law, which allows delegation agreements between the WEs and other public authorities. This exercise was done in collaboration with WSC project by USAID.

Discussions are still ongoing on article 58 of the water law

Reshuffling of the National Water Sector Strategy 2020



Upon the request of the MoEW, thorough efforts are tackling the structure of the updated national strategy to ensure integration of the recovery plan as well as compliance with the requisites of the new water law.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Strategic Roadmap for the Digital Transformation of the MoEW

- Launch expected in January 2024



Same as for the WEs, an in-depth diagnosis of the MoEW's digital maturity is soon to be undertaken. This assessment will provide a comprehensive and actionable roadmap that will guide the MoEW's digital transformation journey. It will lay the foundation for a more agile, efficient, and innovative organization that leverages digital technologies to meet the evolving needs of the water sector.

Metering and Monitoring Water Production of Major Sites -

Launch expected in January 2024

As per the recommendations of the water sector recovery plan of the MoEW, the EU-AFD Programme will be launching the first campaign of measuring and monitoring water production at major sites. This endeavor is of great importance to the future of the sector as it allows evidence-based decision making on investments and interventions in the water sector by means of data production, acquisition, management, and efficient use. Preparations are ongoing for the activity to be launched by beginning of 2024.



Inspection and monitoring of Qaraoun and Chabrouh dams

- Launch expected in January 2024



In collaboration with the Litani River Authority and BMLWE, inspection by ROV will be done for Qaraoun and Chabrouh Dams.

The aim is to assess the hydraulic infrastructures for safety and monitor stability of the retaining walls.. Recommendations about the repairs and necessary remedies will be identified.



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