



March Newsletter 2026

Latest WASH news

OXFAM WEAM Roundtable #5 - Water Scarcity and Tensions in the South -

12FEB26

Oxfam in Lebanon is pleased to share its latest report following the roundtable on Water Scarcity and Tensions held in the Beqaa. The roundtable falls within WE'AM's objective of creating avenues for dialogue among local stakeholders and influencing positive change toward more socially stable communities.

The roundtable, which took place in Chtaura on December 4th, brought together stakeholders from across the Beqaa, including the Water Establishment, local authorities, international and local organizations, as well as WASH professionals and local activists. The event provided a platform to discuss how limited water access, inadequate infrastructure, and perceived inequalities in resource distribution contribute to social tensions. It also presented the latest policy brief produced by the WE'AM Consortium and addressed lingering systemic gaps that threaten water security, along with priority policy reforms for the immediate and medium term.

Oxfam continues to lead these dialogue activities, with another roundtable organized on the same topic in the South on February 12th, 2026. The corresponding report will be shared in due time.

The WE'AM (Working for Engagement, Acceptance and Mediation) Project represents a collaborative initiative by Oxfam, in partnership with Right to Play, SHiFT, and ALEF NGOs, to foster social stability across 12 localities in Lebanon over the 2023-2026 period. Funded by the European Union, the project operates in diverse geographical areas including Akkar, the North, Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Baalbek-Hermel, and Saida. The project's core approach combines three strategic pillars: addressing community-level drivers of tension, promoting gender-responsive conflict prevention and resolution tools, and mainstreaming social stability into programming. The WE'AM roundtable series was established as a structured mechanism to translate research findings into actionable

dialogue, share learnings across stakeholder communities, and inform decision-making with real-time, organic data from affected populations. Three roundtables took place, building on these foundations, the fourth roundtable on December 4, 2025, focused on water scarcity and tensions as a natural progression into environmental peacebuilding, integrating natural resource management, climate resilience, and conflict prevention into a coherent programming framework.

To know more about these roundtables, visit the link [here](#) and to know more about the policy brief developed check the publications section below.

2nd Multi-stakeholder Consultation on the preparation of an Integrated Management Plan (IMP) from Source to Sea for the Damour Area (27 – 30 October 2025) and 3rd Consultation on the National Integrated Zone Management Strategy & Law, and for the Integrated Management Plan for the Damour Area from Source to Sea (3-5 February 2026)

Two consultation events were held in Beirut in October 2025 and February 2026 as part of the stakeholder engagement process for the development of the Damour Area Integrated Management Plan (Damour Area IMP).

This initiative is a collaborative effort involving the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean, the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre, the Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre, and the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme. It is developed within the framework of the Mediterranean Sea Programme (Medprogramme), an initiative for the Mediterranean region funded by the Global Environment Facility and implemented by the Mediterranean Action Plan of UNEP.

The IMP aims to provide a comprehensive framework for addressing water and environmental challenges, enhancing climate resilience, and supporting sustainable socio-economic development across the entire source-to-sea continuum—encompassing the river basin, aquifers, as well as coastal and marine zones affected by the area's socio-economic activities. Its development aligns with and supports the appropriate implementation of Lebanese laws and planning documents.

It is prepared through stakeholder and governance analysis, diagnostic studies, and modeling, and is based on extensive consultations with both local and national stakeholders to ensure that interventions are evidence-based and aligned with local conditions for effective implementation.

The 1st consultation event was organized in July 2025 and served to present the overall project scope and gather initial feedback from key stakeholders regarding the approach and methodology. Building on these inputs, subsequent consultations focused on advancing the IMP's development, particularly on:

- The development of a Diagnostic Assessment for the Damour Area socio-ecological system, based on an analysis of Drivers, Pressures, State, Impacts, and Responses (DPSIR) carried out from source to sea, led by GWP-Med.
- Spatial planning and coastal zone management related issues, led by PAP/RAC .
- The preparation of a Damour Coastal Aquifer Management Plan led by UNESCO IHP

Furthermore, Plan Bleu RAC facilitated two participatory Climagine workshops, which aimed to foster a shared vision for the Damour Area by actively engaging stakeholders to reflect upon environmental, social, and economic realities, and to prioritize actions for sustainable regional development.

These consultations brought together representatives from national, regional, and local government institutions, academia, research centers, non-governmental and international organizations, the private sector, and other experts to discuss opportunities and challenges related to the IMP's development. The planning process follows the Integrative Methodological Framework jointly developed by GWP-Med, PAP/RAC, and UNESCO IHP, which emphasizes a holistic "source to sea" approach rather than fragmented management plans for the coastal zone, surface water, and aquifers. This multidisciplinary strategy integrates hydrology, economics, and social sciences to address complex issues and aims to promote sustainable water management while recognizing the interconnections among land, freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems.

Discussions during the Consultations events also related to synergistic actions carried out by the above organizations to support Lebanon with updating its Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Strategy and Law, as well as enhance the integrated management of natural resources through the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus approach and the Conjunctive Management of Surface Water and Groundwater.

Furthermore, discussions during the consultations addressed efforts by the implementing organisations to support Lebanon in updating its Integrated

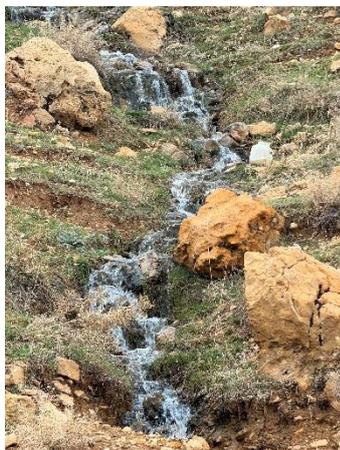
Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Strategy and related legislation, as well as enhancing integrated resource management through the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus approach and the conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources.

A final consultation is planned to review the draft IMP with stakeholders prior to its finalization.

Stay tuned for key findings, recommendations, and next steps.

French Decentralized Cooperation Projects

Updates on HAUD Berdaouni Project



On January 30, 2026, the HAUD-Berdaouni project held the first meeting of the Technical Committee (Co-tech) of the Water Forum, marking a key milestone in establishing a collaborative governance framework for the protection of the Berdaouni basin.

The Technical Committee serves as a coordination and consultation platform bringing together public institutions, municipalities, civil society organizations, and academic actors. Its objective is to support the sustainable management of water resources at the basin level, in the context of increasing pressures linked to human activities and climate change.

During this first online meeting, members discussed:

- The strategic role of the Co-tech in supporting the future Berdaouni Basin Forum.
- The overall progress of the HAUD project, which aims to launch the Forum.
- A project to implement agro-ecological developments at the scale of test plots to reduce water consumption and pollution while improving the resilience of agriculture to droughts and climate variability - including the presentation of proposed designs.
- A project for the ecological rehabilitation of an aquatic environment, aimed at slowing water flow and improving infiltration into soils for the benefit of agriculture and groundwater recharge - including proposals for intervention options.

The Co-tech will play a central role in:

- Monitoring the implementation of activities proposed within the Forum and financed through cooperation between the City of Zahlé and the Community of Communes of Grand Pic Saint-Loup (France) over a three-year period.
- Supporting the operation of the Forum, including programming, facilitation, and mobilization of stakeholders and resources to achieve the Forum's objectives.

- Strengthening coordination among stakeholders and identifying opportunities for future collaboration.

Discussions also highlighted the importance of shared scientific data, restoration of living soils, reforestation, and rehabilitation of agricultural terraces as concrete measures to improve both the quality and quantity of water resources in the basin.

This collective momentum confirms the commitment of local and institutional actors to work together to sustainably preserve the water resources of the Berdaouni watershed.

- [Report in French](#)
- [Report in Arabic](#)

National and institutional news

News from the Ministry of Energy and Water

Donors coordination meeting was held on November 28, 2025, where an interactive platform linked to the dashboard was developed to determine who is doing what and where.

The Ministry of Energy and Water presented an overview of the national wastewater sector status, based on site visits conducted to operational wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) and pumping stations across Lebanon.

Key points:

- A sector status report and sustainability roadmap is under development under the Water Reform Program (IFT) and is still under stakeholder consultation.
- Many WWTPs are designed for secondary treatment but are currently operated at preliminary level, mainly due to:
 - High electricity and operational costs
 - Limited and underpaid human resources
 - Incomplete wastewater networks
 - Sludge treatment and disposal challenges
- Inflow to WWTPs remains significantly below design capacity, particularly due to limited network coverage.
- Inland WWTPs are generally operated at secondary level, while coastal plants are largely operated at preliminary level.
- Overall, less than 50% of wastewater design capacity is currently utilized.

Main challenges identified:

- High energy costs and reliance on fuel
- Staffing shortages, lack of certified training, and salary constraints
- Weak digitalization (SCADA), limited preventive maintenance
- Sludge management and environmental compliance gaps
- Low tariffs, weak revenue collection, and unclear allocation between water and wastewater services
- Overlapping mandates at municipal level despite clear legal framework

Priorities and proposed direction:

- Optimize existing WWTPs to operate at design treatment level.
- Expand and rehabilitate wastewater networks to increase inflow.

- Clarify wastewater network responsibility under water establishments.
- Strengthen training, certification, and digital transformation.
- Address sludge management in coordination with the Ministry of Environment.

Investment overview:

- Additional CapEx required (approximate):
 - South: USD 70M
 - North: USD 100M
 - Beirut & Mount Lebanon: USD 82M
 - Bekaa: USD 50M
- Total wastewater investment estimated at ~USD 2 billion over ~30 years.
- Priority projects include Tripoli basin expansion, Ghadir upgrades, coastal coverage gaps, and network expansion.

Management modality (proposal – not final):

- Maintain wastewater services as a public-sector responsibility, supported by a technical consultancy team within each water establishment.
- Consultancy role to support planning, efficiency, and sustainability, without decision-making authority.

WASH Sector Updates

The coordination structure of the WASH sector was changed for 2026 ; the thematic groups were changed and grouped into 6 task forces led by the ministry of energy and water.

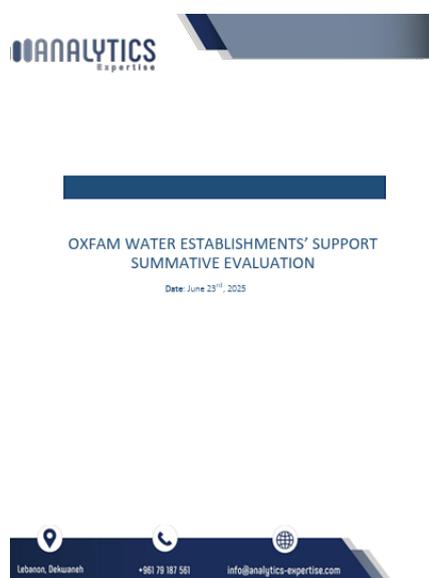
UNICEF is phasing out a sub-national level before March 2026 for stabilization component only and will still be on the seat of the national coordination with the ministry of energy and water and world vision

Partners have selected their thematic group of interest and the meetings will be launched soon

Latest publications

More publications on LEWAP and pS-Eau [database](#). To share a publication, send it via email to contact@lewap.org.

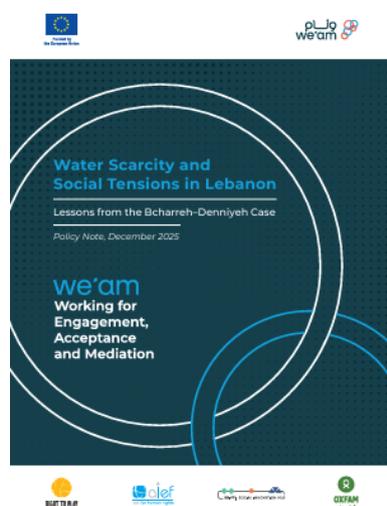
OXFAM WATER ESTABLISHMENTS' SUPPORT SUMMATIVE EVALUATION



This report presents a summative evaluation of Oxfam's support to Lebanon's regional WEs over the past decade. Against a backdrop of severe economic crisis, conflict, and institutional fragility, Oxfam's interventions in infrastructure, capacity building, and emergency response have been both highly relevant and effective. The organization played a pioneering role in the sector, introducing strategic initiatives like solarization pre-2019, which proved critical during the nation's subsequent energy (and more broadly, economic) crisis and war.

To access the report, check the link [here](#)

Water Scarcity and Social Tensions in Lebanon : Lessons from the Bcharreh–Dinniye case study *Policy Note December 2025*



Lebanon has always been known with its availability of water resources however systemic mismanagement, conflict, climate crises, political interference and institutional neglect have pushed the country into one of the most severe water crises in its modern history. This crisis is rooted in fragmented governance, informal, monopolized, and unregulated water markets, and deteriorating infrastructure. The Bcharreh–Dinniye dispute illustrates how resource scarcity, when left unmanaged, can transform into a conflict. What began more than a decade ago as a

dispute over the ownership of Qurnat al-Sawda – a critical source for northern Lebanon's groundwater recharge and pastoral livelihoods – has escalated into cycles of violence and sectarian tension. The Bcharreh–Dinniye case is not an

isolated anomaly, but a preview of a growing national trend as water shortages intensify across multiple regions. Hence, Lebanon's water crisis is not solely about scarcity, it is about governance. Without credible state intervention and participatory management frameworks, resource competition will continue to erode social cohesion and threaten long-term stability.

To know more about the policy brief, check the link [here](#)

Lebanon's National Adaptation Plan – strategy and roadmap 2025



The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) provides a strategic framework for Lebanon's response to climate change. It defines the country's vision for a climate-resilient future and outlines a coherent set of objectives, outcomes, and interventions to reduce climate risks and strengthen adaptive capacities across priority sectors and enabling systems.

The NAP aligns with Lebanon's international commitments under the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity

Framework (GBF), and other global frameworks. It builds on a strong foundation of national strategies, including the National Water Sector Strategy (2024–2035), the National Agriculture Strategy (2020–2025), the Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Directions (2025–2026), the National Strategy for Forest Fire Management (2024), the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2025–2030), the Lebanon National Health Strategy: Vision 2030, the Ministry of Tourism Vision 2035, and Lebanon's Economic Vision. At the same time, the NAP recognizes that Lebanon's compounded crises, including the economic collapse, governance constraints, and refugee pressures, shape both the feasibility and the urgency of adaptation action. The NAP provides an integrated framework that combines strategic direction with a practical roadmap for financing, implementing, and monitoring adaptation actions over the 2025–2035 period.

To know more about the report, visit the link [here](#)

Lebanon – Climate Snapshot 2025: Assessing Rainfall and Vegetation Stress: November 2024 – June 2025

Lebanon Climate Snapshot 2025

Assessing Rainfall and Vegetation Stress: November 2024 – June 2025



World Food Programme



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Lebanese Republic
Ministry of Agriculture

Lebanon

August 2025



Lebanon has experienced arid climatic conditions during the rainy season of November 2024 till March 2025 that has continued throughout the spring season, with widespread rainfall deficits and vegetation stress in rain-fed areas. WFP, FAO and sector analysis team from the Lebanon Food Security and Agriculture Sector with the endorsement of the Ministry of Agriculture have developed a

brief that provides a situational snapshot of rainfall and vegetation conditions during this period, compared with the long-Term seasonal average (1991–2020) as well as an analysis of its effects on agriculture and food security. It does not provide an official drought map for Lebanon. This analysis is designed to flag areas of likely dry conditions stress, guide field verification and community consultations, and help inform early action planning. To access the brief, visit the [link here](#)

Lebanon’s Wastewater Sector: A Path to Development and Sustainability – Nadim Farajalla

Lebanon’s wastewater sector has long faced scrutiny and criticism, with its deficiencies directly reflected in the nation’s deteriorating water resources. Dr. Nadim Farajalla assesses Lebanon’s wastewater sector, tracing its long-standing institutional and financial weaknesses and the severe impact of the 2019 economic crisis. He highlights recent recovery efforts that restored part of the sector’s treatment capacity, while emphasizing the need for structural reforms, sustainable financing, and stronger governance to transform wastewater management into a driver of public health and environmental protection. To know more about Dr. Farajalla’s insights, visit the [link here](#)

Upcoming events in Lebanon – date and further information will be sent via email

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