

September Newsletter 2026

Latest WASH news

Increasing the resilience of the apple supply chain to climate change in the Nahr El Kaleb upper basin – 23Feb26

As part of Lebanon's urgent efforts to strengthen climate resilience, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, conducted a workshop on "Increasing the resilience of the apple supply chain to climate change in the Nahr El Kaleb upper basin" on Tuesday 23 June 2026, at Le Royal Dbayeh.

The objective of the workshop was to present the key results of the project, including climate change impact analysis, agro-climatic vulnerability assessment, and the findings from the farmer and apple supply chain surveys. The workshop also aimed to validate the set of proposed climate adaptation measures.

A participatory Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) approach was applied to rank adaptation measures across the agriculture and water sectors. Participants were grouped into thematic roundtables according to their expertise in agriculture or water resources to ensure informed evaluation and balanced stakeholder representation, including government institutions, academia, NGOs, private sector actors, and farming communities.

For the water sector, the adaptation measures were prioritized as follows:

1. Water governance
2. Efficient micro-irrigation
3. Water harvesting
4. Concrete reservoirs
5. Early warning systems and snowpack monitoring.

For the agriculture sector, the adaptation measures were prioritized as follows:

1. Integrated production system
2. Climate-smart planting material
3. Early warning systems
4. Contract farming
5. Index insurance
6. Intensive dwarf orchard with nets.

The workshop also addressed the key barriers to implementing these adaptation measures, including legal, social, financial, and technical barriers. Participants discussed potential pathways and enabling actions to overcome these barriers and facilitate the effective implementation of the proposed measures.

To access the presentation in Arabic, click on the link [here](#)

Rebuilding water justice in Lebanon: Governance, Accountability and the Future of Water – ARI, IFI-AUB, NCC-AUB, ANND, LEWAP 22 July 2026



On July 22nd 2026, a conference on Rebuilding water justice in Lebanon: Governance, Accountability and the Future of Water was co-organised by the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI-AUB), the Lebanese Water Actors Platform (LEWAP), the Arab Reform Initiative (ARI), the Nature Conservation Center (AUB), and the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND). It was framed explicitly around a water justice lens – examining how power, inequality, and accountability shape both vulnerability and recovery – rather than a narrowly technical approach.

The conference was divided into three panels:

- Session 1: Water governance in Lebanon: understanding the crisis beyond scarcity with a presentation of the Water Justice Policy Paper prepared by Jules Hatem. To access the report, visit the [link](#)
- Session 2: Water Under Fire: the weaponization of water
- Session 3: Governing water for a fairer future

To access the press release, visit the link [here](#)

To access the panel recordings:

- ARI event page: <https://www.arab-reform.net/event/rebuilding-water-justice-in-lebanon-governance-accountability-and-the-future-of-water/>

- The full playlist on ARI YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLd8E4CYCah5Q>
To know more about the event, check the conference report [here](#)

Wastewater treatment and Reuse: Opportunities and Constraints – ARI, LRI– 15 July 2026



On July 15, 2026, the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative (LRI) hosted the technical workshop “Wastewater Treatment & Reuse: Opportunities & Constraints” under the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSS)–supported project, “National Policy Roadmap for Treated Wastewater Reuse in Restoration,” in partnership with the Arab Reform Initiative (ARI) and the Lebanese Private Sector Network (LPSN).



The workshop brought together representatives from government institutions, the private sector, academia, development partners, and civil society to exchange knowledge and discuss the opportunities and constraints surrounding the reuse of treated wastewater in Lebanon. Through expert presentations and panel discussions, participants explored governance and financing mechanisms, policy priorities, and opportunities for collaboration to advance the safe and sustainable reuse of treated wastewater for ecosystem restoration. The workshop contributed to the ongoing dialogue on strengthening policies, partnerships, and

practical approaches for sustainable water resource management and ecosystem restoration in Lebanon.

As a follow-up, a policy paper is currently being prepared to consolidate the key discussions and recommendations and contribute to the development of a national policy roadmap for treated wastewater reuse in ecosystem restoration. To know more about this workshop, check the link [here](#)

The 3rd multi-stakeholder consultation meeting on the WEFE Nexus in Lebanon and Damour Area Integrated Management Plan (27–28 July, Beirut) – GWP-Med

The 3rd Multi-Stakeholders Consultation Meeting on the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus was held on 27–28 July 2026 in Beirut, organized by the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) as part of the GEF UNEP/MAP MedProgramme.

The primary focus of the event was to review and discuss the key findings of the Draft WEFE Nexus Assessment (Phase II), developed by the National Council for Scientific Research Lebanon (CNRS-L), concerning the following river basins: Abou Ali, Ibrahim, Beirut, Damour, and Litani.¹

This meeting represents the third multi-stakeholder consultation hosted by GWP-Med since the initiation of the WEFE Nexus Policy Dialogue in Lebanon in 2022, which aims to foster integrated and coordinated natural resource management across sectors utilizing shared natural resources.

On the first day, participants engaged in discussions to prioritize, within a 2050 horizon, the Nexus solutions identified during the Phase II assessment. The goal was to maximize co-benefits across the WEFE sectors and to support objectives such as food security, water and energy efficiency, and sustainable socio-economic development, while also strengthening environmental security.

Specifically:

- The first session provided an overview of the baseline assessment for each river basin and outlined key WEFE indicators.
- The second session addressed climate change scenarios and their potential impacts on water, energy, food, and ecosystems.
- The third session presented proposed intervention maps, followed by working group discussions where participants reviewed these interventions and suggested additional measures based on local needs.

¹ The Phase I WEFE Nexus Assessment (2022–2023) provided a national diagnosis of interdependencies across the water, energy, food, and ecosystem sectors. It highlighted several pressing challenges, including chronic water scarcity, inefficient irrigation, high agricultural energy dependency, land degradation, and weak intersectoral coordination. It also identified critical data and capacity gaps—particularly in agricultural and hydrological domains—which continue to constrain integrated planning. Phase II is designed to address these gaps through spatial modelling, suitability analysis, and improved data integration at the basin level.

The second day of the consultation was focused on engaging stakeholders to determine the future sustainable development pathway for the Damour Area, extending from its source to the sea. This process was informed by proposals developed through collaborative efforts by CNRS-L in the Damour River Basin as part of the WEFE Nexus Assessment Phase II, and the draft Damour Area Integrated Management Plan (Damour Area IMP). The IMP was recently prepared under the MedProgramme as a collaborative effort of GWP-Med, the Priority Action Programme/Regional Activity Center (PAP/RAC), the Plan Bleu Regional Activity Center (PB/RAC), and UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (UNESCO IHP). The development of the Damour Area IMP involved three multi-stakeholder consultations and participatory Climagine foresight workshops.

Specifically:

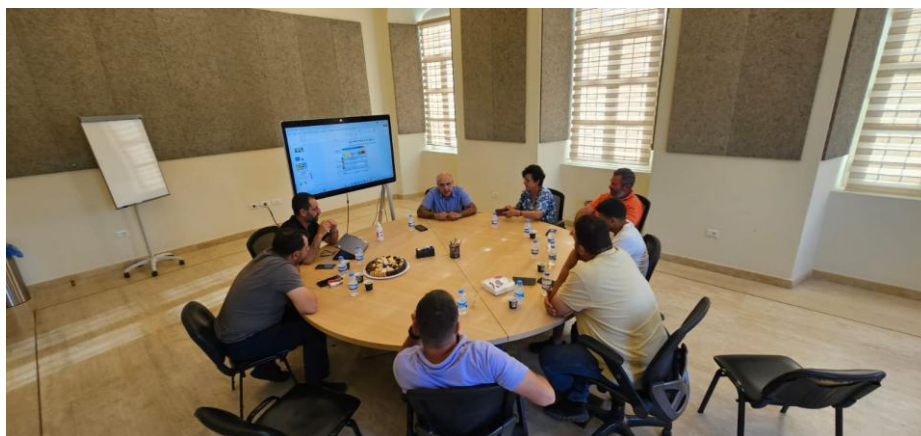
- The first session reviewed the key challenges faced by the Damour Area.
- The second session presented a vision for the area, based on the feedback received from stakeholders during prior consultation events.
- The third session facilitated group work to prioritize intervention objectives for the area, which will be presented to relevant authorities alongside the IMP and the WEFE Nexus solutions for the basin to support future planning decisions.

Participants included representatives from relevant institutions, government agencies, municipalities, farmers' associations, NGOs, Universities and Research Centers, and other stakeholders. The group was diverse, comprising women and men, young professionals and experienced experts, representing various sectors.

French Decentralized Cooperation Projects and funds

Latest updates on French decentralized cooperation projects in Lebanon

Grand Pic Saint Loup, in partnership with municipality of Zahlé-Maallaga and Taanayel and Qaa Er Rim – HAUD Berdaouni Project



Between 19 May and 12 June 2026, the HAUD-Berdaouni project organized seven training sessions for seven beneficiary farmers to support their transition toward more sustainable and climate-resilient farming practices.

The sessions combined presentations, discussions, practical workshops, and field visits. Farmers learned about agroecology, soil conservation, efficient water management, integrated pest management, composting, agroforestry, and biodiversity. The program also included a visit to Buzuruna Juzuruna farm and a practical composting workshop.

Earlier this spring, these farmers were also supported in planting hedgerows and diversifying the species grown in their orchards, helping them progressively adopt more agroecological practices that are better adapted to climate change.

The trainings provided an opportunity for farmers to exchange experiences and discuss common challenges, including water scarcity, climate change, high production costs, low market prices, and limited market opportunities. At the end of the program, farmers identified several practices they would like to apply on their lands, including composting, crop diversification, improved irrigation, contour cultivation, and planting drought- and pest-resilient species.



This agroecology initiative is being developed alongside two other technical actions aimed at protecting and restoring the natural water cycle across the Berdaouni watershed: a pilot rain garden and rainwater harvesting system at Zahle Municipality, contributing toward a more “permeable city” model; and the restoration of water bodies along the banks of the Berdaouni River.

Together, these actions are part of a broader approach to strengthen water governance at the scale of the Berdaouni watershed. As part of this effort, the Berdaouni Water Forum was established to bring together key water stakeholders, including municipalities, public institutions responsible for water management, such as the Bekaa Water Establishment (BWE) and the Litani River Authority (LRA), as well as representatives of water users.

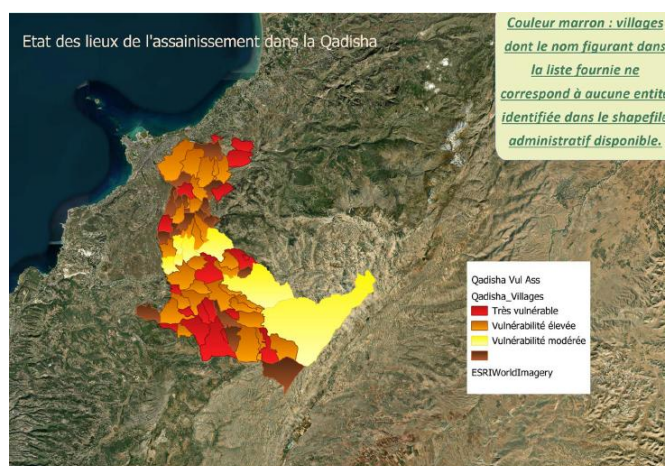
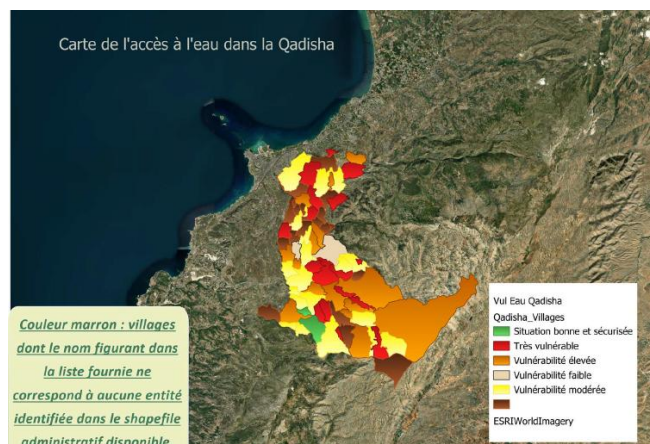
By combining agroecology, nature-based solutions, improved water management, and participatory governance, the HAUD-Berdaouni project seeks to contribute to a more resilient watershed and more sustainable management of its water resources.

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

City of Chambéry and the Aude Department, funded by the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Water Agency and the French Development Agency (AFD) in the districts of Bcharre and Zgharta in North Lebanon – Sustainable Qadisha project

Over the past months, several interventions have been implemented to improve access to safe drinking water and strengthen the resilience of local water infrastructure, a technical diagnostic was done for the area, to access the report click [here](#)

- Raskifa: Completion of an 850 m water distribution network in Raskifa. Beyond directly benefiting the village, this network will benefit neighboring villages.
- Bcharre: Provision of solarization systems for five sites, supporting the operation of chlorination pumps serving four villages and helping ensure more reliable and sustainable water disinfection.
- Zgharta: Provision of 12 chlorination pumps across 10 villages in the caza, with five of these sites also benefiting from solarization systems to support the operation of the pumps.



In parallel with these infrastructure interventions, one of the main activities in this project is to improve the understanding and coordination of the water and sanitation situation across both cazas.

On June 24, a working session was organized to present the findings of the mapping and assessment of access to water and sanitation services across the municipalities of Bcharre and Zgharta. This work provides a comprehensive overview of existing water and sanitation infrastructure, identifies their main vulnerabilities, and helps guide the prioritization of future interventions.

The event brought together Mr. Khaled Obeid, Director of the North Lebanon Water Establishment (EELN), and his team, including Mr. Gaby Nasr, Technical Director; Mrs. Cyba Raad, Head of the Analysis and Laboratory Department; Mr. Louay El Youssef, Director of the Zgharta Branch; and Mr. Charbel Bshara, Director of the Bcharre Branch. It also brought together the Presidents of the Federations of Municipalities of Bcharre and Zgharta, Mr. Elie Makhoul and Mr. Bassam Haykal, respectively, the Qaimmaqam of Bcharre, Mrs. Rouba El Shafshak, as well as representatives from around thirty municipalities.

Mrs. Suzy Hoayek, Advisor to the Minister of Energy and Water, also joined the session remotely to present and explain the Ministry's strategy and priorities for the water sector. Part of the session was co-facilitated with Mr. Mohamed Ayoub, Director of the NGO Nahnoo, which works on several initiatives supporting institutional capacity building.

The discussions were rich and constructive, highlighting the importance of continued coordination among the various stakeholders.

To learn more, access the link [here](#).

Hydreaulys, municipalities of Noisy and Bailly in partnership with the municipality of Antoura in Lebanon / Decentralized wastewater stations

The cooperation between Antoura and the municipalities of Noisy and Bailly is making strong progress in 2026.

As part of this three-year program, the first phase focuses on the installation and commissioning of eight autonomous wastewater treatment stations serving 34 priority households, benefiting approximately 170 residents.

To learn more, access the link [here](#).

Vendée Eau Trivalis and SYDEV, in partnership with the Municipality of Hammana, Lebanon / improve the operation of both the drinking water treatment plant and the wastewater treatment facilities

Vendée Eau, the departmental public authority responsible for drinking water services in the Vendée region and, in part, for sanitation, is implementing a cooperation project with its counterparts responsible for waste management (Trivalis) and electricity (SYDEV), in partnership with the Municipality of Hammana, Lebanon. The project has a twofold objective: to restore the drinking water treatment plant to full operation and to provide it with a solar-powered electricity

supply, reducing dependence on diesel fuel. This energy diversification will generate savings in operating costs, contributing to the long-term sustainability of the structuring of the Lebanese municipality's service.

To learn more, visit the link [here](#).

AERMC, Grenoble Alpes Metropole, Medair: water access for Sareen municipality

MEDAIR submitted a grant application to the Metropolis—via a call for projects—for a project in Lebanon responding to the war. A €50,000 capital grant awarded by Grenoble Alpes Métropole, in conjunction with a €50,000 grant awarded by the Rhône-Méditerranée-Corse Agency to the MEDAIR association for the 2025 fiscal year, to implement the project titled "Access to safe water for Sareein, Lebanon," in accordance with the project profile document submitted by the association to the Metropolis.

The work will focus on rehabilitating the pumping station in Sareein, in the northern Bekaa region and is expected to finish end of 2026.

To learn more about the project, visit the link [here](#)

National and institutional news

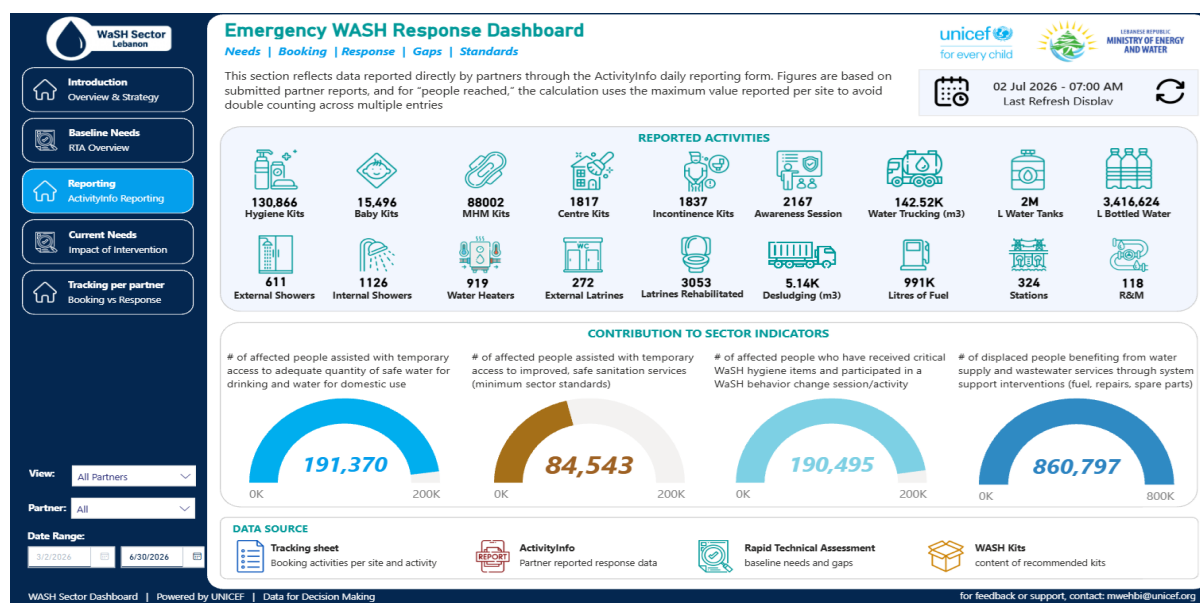
News from the Ministry of Energy and Water

SLWE had launched a preliminary assessment of water infrastructure damage and recovery priorities, while coordination continued on referrals and priority needs. The main challenges highlighted were very high demand for hygiene assistance outside collective shelters, exceeding current partner capacity, and activities remaining on hold pending MEHE approval.

Based on SLWE preliminary estimates, recovery requirements were presented in three phases totaling approximately USD 350 million: around USD 50 million for emergency response, including urgent repair and maintenance, fuel/diesel support, emergency water trucking and temporary solutions; around USD 100 million for early recovery and rehabilitation; and around USD 200 million for longer-term reconstruction and build-back-better interventions.

WASH Sector Updates

Sector dashboard and emergency response progress were presented.



360,132 people remained displaced and 821,077 IDPs had returned. Inside collective shelters, 267 sites remained open, hosting 7,571 households or 29,082 IDPs. The figures demonstrated a clear shift from the peak of the emergency, when the response was heavily concentrated on collective shelters, toward a more mixed response for remaining shelter residents, returnees, displaced households outside collective shelters and affected host communities.

The Sector reported that 75 South Lebanon Water Establishment (SLWE) referrals had been received, of which 46 had been assigned to partners and 15 completed.

Overall emergency reporting showed approximately 196,000 people reached. Key coordination challenges included high partner capacity compared with declining needs inside collective shelters, delayed reporting, approaching partner project deadlines, multiple focal points per partner or geographic area, and the need for stronger referral coordination. Partners were asked to maintain clearly communicated geographic focal points and to report activities in a timely manner so that available capacity can be allocated efficiently.

Latest publications

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

LEWAP Country Sheet 2026



LEWAP published the updated country sheet of Lebanon; this country profile summarizes key information on the water and sanitation sector in Lebanon.

To access the sheet in English, click on the link [here](#)

For Arabic, click [here](#)

For French, click [here](#)

South Lebanon Water Establishment Recovery Report – 29 July 2026

Under the leadership of Director General Dr. Wassim Daher, the South Lebanon Water Establishment (SLWE) has completed its Preliminary Assessment of Damage to Water Infrastructure across the South and Nabatiyeh Governorates following the Israeli war.

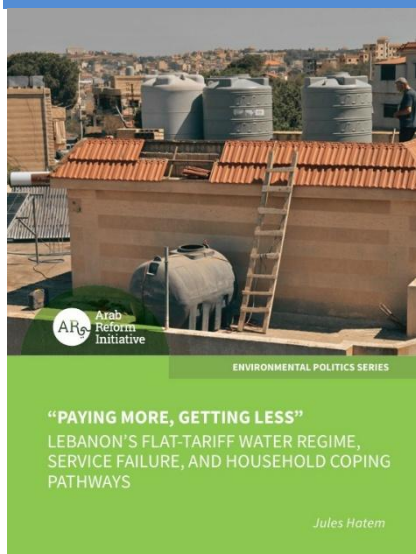
More than an assessment of damage, the report provides an evidence-based recovery roadmap to restore essential water services through emergency response, rehabilitation, and long-term reconstruction while strengthening the resilience of South Lebanon's water infrastructure for future generations.

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



"Paying More, Getting Less"

Lebanon's flat tariff water regime, service failure and household coping pathways – Jules Hatem with Arab Reform Initiative (ARI) July 2026



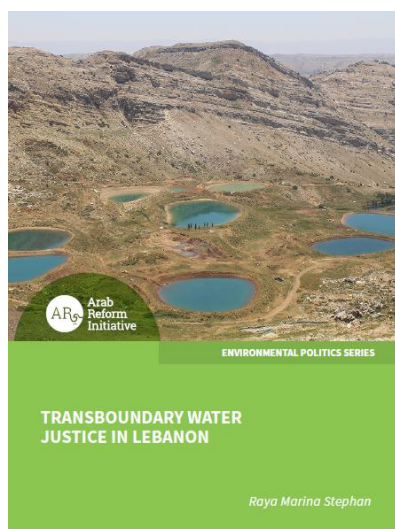
In Lebanon's domestic water sector, a central contradiction structures everyday life: Households pay an annual flat fee for formal water connection, yet cannot rely on a predictable, safe, and accountable service. Many households remain formally connected while organizing daily life around uncertainty: Irregular network supply, pumping constrained by electricity availability, water storage management, and periodic recourse to trucked or purchased water. As a result, the household water bill is not experienced as a single

tariff, but as a stacked burden combining formal payment with recurring coping costs. This is the condition captured by the phrase **“paying more, getting less”**. The analysis focuses on domestic water service in Lebanon and draws on 52 semi-structured interviews with households, municipal actors, Water Establishment personnel, informal water providers, experts, researchers, and civil society practitioners, alongside a targeted desk review.

The paper proceeds as follows. It first examines how the legacy flat-tariff regime bills access instead of delivery and how this shapes the connection–service gap. It then analyzes how households cope with intermittent supply through hybrid provisioning, focusing on affordability, accountability, and safety. Finally, it turns to three practical service improvement cases to identify what limited but meaningful gains are possible under constraints.

To access the report click on the [link](#)

Transboundary water justice in Lebanon – ARI August 2026



Lebanon shares terrestrial borders with Syria in the North and the East and with Occupied Palestine in the south. In the north, it shares with Syria the Nahr El Kabir Al Janoubi that forms the border. The Orontes emanates from Lebanon, flows north to Syria and continues until it reaches the Mediterranean Sea in Turkiye. In the South, The Hasbani-Wazzani River flows southward into Occupied Palestine.

This policy paper will address the issue of transboundary waters in Lebanon. It assesses the existing situation regarding just and equitable

cooperation on transboundary waters that aims to achieve water justice in Lebanon and provides recommendations for possible ways forward to reach this objective.

The policy paper is based on a desk study, including a review of existing agreements (when available) and official instruments and literature on the topic. To know more about this policy paper, click on the link [here](#)

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

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