



LEBANON

Long-lasting improvement in public water service: a decentralized Rhône-Alpes cooperative effort to support capacity building of North Lebanon Water Authority

Project presented by North Lebanon Water Authority (EELN).

→ Context and strategy

Since the beginning of the new millennium, the Lebanese government, which is conscious of the preciousness of its water resources, has undertaken a profound restructuring of the sector. This policy aims to maintain a clean water supply for the population, ensure additional hydraulic resources and develop sanitation systems within the framework of integrated water management. To do this, the Lebanese state has simplified sector organization by merging twenty-two water offices into four regional establishments and has assigned them the task of supervising sanitation and irrigation in addition to supplying clean water.

Starting in 2003, a partnership between the EELN and experts from the French Rhône-Alpes region has been progressively implemented in agreement with the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water. This partnership is based on an exchange of know-how, the on-site presence of representatives and missions for training and the development of awareness. It is carried out in consultation and in cooperation with major international investors.

In March 2009, the initiative led to the signing of a framework agreement between the partners, with the aim of reinforcing the synergy of their actions.

→ Project

The goal of this agreement is to reinforce the capacity of EELN to implement sustainable management of water resources and improve the quality and performance of the public water service and sanitation system. It strives to take into consideration the complexity of EELN intervention over a territory that is both urban and rural.

→ Implementation

The project aims to provide:

- » technical assistance for the management of contracts,
- » support for the development of cooperation between local suppliers and users of the service,
- » development of pilot infrastructures for accessing clean water and non-collective sanitation,
- » support EELN in drawing up sanitation regulations and calculating charges,
- » definition and implementation of an EELN communication policy,
- » training for EELN managers (sanitation, laboratory and communication).

→ Expected results

- » Formalization of EELN actions: validation of an administrative framework, implementation of a sanitation budget,
- » Enrichment of national regulations from a successful pilot experiment,
- » Participation in the protection of North Lebanese water resources, in particular through the implementation of a water resource know-how and tracking system in partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Water and through an approach of coordinated water management using catchment areas,
- » Participation in recovering the quality of Mediterranean water and shores by supporting the development of sanitation in the North Lebanon region.

→ Partners

EELN, Grand Lyon, Rhône-Alpes Region, Rhône-Mediterranean and Corsica Water Agency, French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the Lebanese University, the North Lebanon municipalities and the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water.

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