



Lebanon

### → Context and strategy

Taking into consideration the growth in water needs (in particular with regard to the problem of a safe water supply), on the one hand, and the likely consequences of climate change on resources, that can be exploited, on the other, the Lebanese government is firmly committed to a strategic development of an "Integrated Water Resource Management" (IWRM) policy. To be effective, this overall strategy, which is currently being developed on a worldwide scale, requires adaptation to the specificities of the Lebanese legislative, institutional and cultural context.

The economy of Deir El Ahmar – Btedhi district, that is part of the economic sector of the Baalbeck Caza, rests essentially of agricultural nature (5,000 ha in Deir El Ahmar / 2,000 ha in Btedhi). These areas are potentially rich but are affected by periods of drought which are increasingly severe and longer. The gradual desertification of this territory has for consequence, the growing migration of local populations to the nearest urban centers, for the poorest, and to foreign countries, for those who have the means to do so.

Today, a local policy of protection, sharing and development of water resources cannot be accomplished unless there is an effective and efficient agreement between local institutions and water users. In consequence, local economic development and the improvement of living conditions for the population depend on the application of IWRM policy precepts.

### → Budget

Coordination and institutional support:  
100,000 euros/year over four years.  
Program implementation (estimation):  
1.4 million euros.

# LEBANON

## Application of a policy of "Integrated Water Resource Management" in the Deir El Ahmar – Btedhi district

**Presented by** the municipalities of Deir El Ahmar and Btedhi.

### → Project

The project focuses first on the implementation of support for a guiding framework, then on the monitoring of a "water quality contract," in view of creating a program for the protection, sharing and development of water resources in the Deir El Ahmar/Btedhi district. This would be a national pilot project for application of the IWRM policy.

### → Implementation

- » Organization of the agreement and tracking system for implementation of the programs;
- » Analysis of resources, utilizations and needs;
- » Definition of a program of measures to undertake for the protection, sharing and development of water resources and a program for optimizing the use of available resources;
- » Financial engineering for the implementation of the two programs;
- » Implementation of the programs.

### → Expected results

- » A well-established and permanent local framework of discussion and agreement between the different national and local actors in the water sector;
- » Proven practice of awareness and mobilization of water users in the district and their participation in the proposed development program;
- » A program of protection, sharing and development of water resources, approved by local and national actors;
- » A system for evaluating the development of this program;
- » Projects for improving water resource management and implementation of plausible and "bankable" structures;
- » Design, optimization and validation of a method for applying the IWRM policy;
- » Identification of lessons to be learned from the pilot project in view of developing this same approach on a national level;
- » Communication and promotion of these lessons in the framework of a feedback seminar at national and regional levels.

### → Partners

This project brings together the Ministry of Energy and Water, CDR, the municipalities of Deir El Ahmar and Btedhi, EEBK and is carried out in partnership with French collectivities and institutions, the Water Embassy (NGO) and CORAIL.