

LEBANON

Ministère de l'Energie et de l'Eau
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The National Focal Point team is composed of :

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The Water Directors :

- **Mr. Mahmoud BAROUD**, acting as General Director of exploitation - Ministry of Energy and Water.
- **Dr. Fadi COMAIR**, General Director of Hydraulic and Electric resources - Ministry of Energy and Water.

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The National Focal Point (NFP) in Lebanon was nominated in 2000 by S.E. Soleiman TRABOULSI, Minister of Hydraulic and Electric resources.

The Lebanese NFP is operating a national multilingual website (in English, French, and Arabic), containing information on the Lebanese water context, the main institutions in charge of water, documentation and legislation on water, research and development programmes of universities and research centres, as well as some information on data management. The website was redesigned in 2007 with a new technology allowing a smooth integration within the Mediterranean framework defined by EMWIS. In addition, the development of a national water data information system has attracted a lot of interest among the national stakeholders and further analysis have been carried out by the Ministry after the EMWIS feasibility study in order to prepare its development.

DATA

- **Area** : 10 452 km²
- **Population** (mill) : 3,8 *
- **GDP per capita** : 3 465 € **
- **Water per capita** :
1 081 m³/inhab./year *
- **Access to improved water resource** :
TOTAL : 98% *
- Urban : 100% *
- Rural : 85% *
- **Water withdrawal** :
irrigation : 27,1% *
domestic & industry : 68% *
- **Access to sanitation** :
TOTAL : 80% *
- Urban : 100% *
- Rural : 22% *

Sources :

* Central Administration of Statistic, 2004

** World Bank – World Factbook 2005

⇒ Legal Framework

The main recent legislation on water is the Law No. 221 dated May 29, 2000; it defines the organization of the water sector. But even before the Lebanese Constitution in 1926, a large number of texts (laws and decrees) were related to the water sector. The right to water and its public nature are mentioned in two texts of the French Mandate (definition, delimitation of the Public Domain -1925; conservation and water use in the public domain -1926).

⇒ Main institution

The four Public Regional Establishments of Water Exploitation (EPRE) must provide the necessary investments for the infrastructure and exploitation of water resources located within their geographical area. The role of the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEE) is reduced to plan for water resource exploitation and to manage large national water projects. The EPRE are responsible for providing drinking water and sanitation services and irrigation, except for South Lebanon and West Bekaa where the Lebanese River Authority (LRA) is taking care of irrigation. The EPRE monitors the chemical and biological quality of the resource and drinking water supply in coordination with the MEE. The Ministry of Public Health also monitors the bacteriological quality of the resource and drinking water supply. Finally the Ministry of Environment conducts, on demand, water quality controls.

	Water Resource Management	Drinking water supply	Sanitation	Irrigation
Ministry of Energy and Water	✓			
Public Regional Establishments of Water Exploitation (4)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lebanese River Authority	✓			✓

The territorial water management : Since the law 221 of year 2000, water resources management is carried out at the territorial level by the four EPRE and the LRA.

Inter-ministerial coordination is ensured by the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR).

⇒ Main issues of Water Resource Management

Reforms are underway but it is still necessary to develop a fair water pricing system (currently fixed pricing) and cost recovery, to ensure the participation of all actors in decision-making process, to streamline the institutional framework, and to encourage public-private partnership.

⇒ Water pricing and cost recovery

Today cost recovery is not taken into account within the legislation. The EPRE have budgets in deficit, except the Beyrouth-Mont-Liban establishment with a well balanced budget thanks to the large population served. But according to the World Bank, the average recovery of operation and maintenance costs of water utilities (for households) was between 47% and 70% in 1996.

	Institutions responsible for water pricing	Level of cost recovery (%)
Households	EPRE after validation by the MEE (fix price)	Not included
Industry	EPRE after validation by the MEE (fix price)	Not included
Agriculture : Irrigation	EPRE after validation by the MEE (fix price)	Not included

⇒ Water master plan

A ten year Plan to build dams and ponds has been prepared by the Ministry of Energy and Water in 2000 and ratified as law program. It includes: the storage of surface water, the natural and artificial recharge of the aquifer, rehabilitating and improving the efficiency of drinking water and irrigation, wastewater treatment and reuse, improvements of the banks of rivers. With the support of the French cooperation, a Water Code was established in 2007; however the Code must be ratified by the Lebanese Parliament.