



# SDG 6.5.1 Stakeholder Consultation Report Lebanon

March 2024

# ANNEX 3: Optional Stakeholder Consultation Report template

## Executive Summary

The SDG 6.5.1 Focal Point at the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW), with the assistance and facilitation of the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med), led and concluded the review and monitoring process for the SDG 6.5.1 Indicator. This worldwide reporting exercise is part of the [SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme](#), coordinated by the Global Water Partnership (GWP), under the guidance of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and in collaboration with UNEP-DHI Centre and UNDP Cap-Net.

The highly consultative process was carried out in the last quarter of 2023 and engaged more than 50 participants representing public institutions and administrations (15), including the Focal Points for indicators SDG 6.5.2, 6.4.2, and 6.3.2, NGOs (6), research-oriented organizations and academia (4), the private sector (3), water experts (2) and International Organizations (3), for the completion of the official country Survey used for the global monitoring of the SDG 6.5.1 indicator.

### **The Review and Monitoring process involved the followed steps:**

1. Invitations were sent at the beginning of October 2023 to over 150 stakeholders in Lebanon, including institutions, administrations, research/academia, NGOs, private sector, international organizations, and donors. These invitations also outlined the different steps planned for the national SDG 6.5.1 review and monitoring process.
2. An online introductory event was held on October 12th to discuss the SDG indicator 6.5.1 survey and the expected contributions from stakeholders via the Survey. This event was attended by 35 participants representing various national institutions (10), regional water establishments (2), national research centers (2), universities (1), NGOs (2), international organizations (4), and private sector organizations (4).
3. The Survey was filled in by November 7th by 22 stakeholders using the online tool provided by GWP. Only a few stakeholders submitted their input in written form via email or orally. The stakeholders who contributed came from different national institutions and departments (10), regional water establishments (2) and sub-national administrations (1), national research centres (2), universities (2), NGOs (2), international organizations (3), and also included individual water experts (1).
4. The SDG 6.5.1 Focal Point compiled the survey taking into account stakeholders' contributions (see previous point) and also the 2020 survey. This was carried out during a meeting on November 13th attended by MoEW officials from various Services and Departments (Water Quality, Irrigation, Wastewater, Groundwater and Geology, Programs and Plans), the Minister's advisor, and representatives from regional water establishments (2). The compiled version of the survey was then shared with the relevant stakeholders prior to the final workshop.

5. Concerning the Gender Checklist, the SDG 6.5.1 Focal Point worked with the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW), the institution responsible for addressing gender mainstreaming and women's issues in Lebanon, to coordinate the details of the gender-dedicated session during the final workshop and determine the most effective methods for promoting discussion and contributions on the relevant checklist's questions.
6. The final workshop was organized on November 28th, focused on finalizing the survey, compiling Annex B, and completing the gender voluntary checklist. There were 36 participants, including representatives from national institutions (MoEW, MoA, MoE, MPWT, MoT, Mol, MoPH, some represented by different Services and Departments), regional water establishments (2), NGOs (5), international organizations (2), gender-related organizations (2) - including the National Commission for Lebanese Women, the institution in charge for gender mainstreaming and women equality - and one women NGO, private sector organizations (4), and water experts (2). A dedicated session, facilitated by the NCLW, was held to complete the gender voluntary checklist.
7. The feedback received during the final workshop was integrated in the Survey and the final draft, including the gender voluntary checklist, were shared with the participating stakeholders. Final comments were gathered and integrated in the final version of the Survey that was shared with UNEP DHI on December 19th.

### **Main findings and areas of consensus**

The SDG 6.5.1 review incorporated advancements in the implementation of IWRM in Lebanon since the last reporting exercise conducted in 2020, in particular following the approval of the new Water Law 192/2020 and the ongoing efforts to complete and implement the Updated National Water Sector Strategy (NWSS 2020), as well as other initiatives, plans and projects implemented by relevant stakeholders.

Moreover, considerations related to gender equality and inclusive participation, which are relevant to the IWRM process in Lebanon, have been integrated in the review thanks to the important contribution of the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW) that has facilitated the discussion and the filling of the Gender voluntary checklist accompanying the Survey. In this context, the valuable input of gender Focal Points from the the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water and the Lebanese Ministry of Public Works and Transport, as well as of the Women's Association of Deir el Ahmar (WADA), should also be acknowledged.

During the process there has been overall consensus among the involved stakeholders on the status of IWRM implementation in the country and on the way forward, which has allowed to jointly identify key priorities and targets, including the following:

- Finalize and approve Law 192 decrees by the relevant institutions
- Approve the Updated National Water Sector Strategy (NWSS)
- Ensure the maintenance of water facilities beyond 2025
- Connect and operate existing wastewater plants for pollution reduction
- Implement complete wastewater systems throughout Lebanon
- Create an Integrated Hydrological Information System (IHIS) for data sharing and decision-making
- Update Regional Master Plans for integrated water management
- Establish Climate Change Early Warning and implement Drought Action Plan

- Explore alternative financial options, including climate financing
- Improve communication and collaboration among institutions
- Promote education and capacity building
- Apply gender lens to IWRM interventions, including data collection and training efforts

### Key points of difference in stakeholders' opinion

There has been opinion difference on three points, related to the scoring of two specific questions in the 2023 Survey and the overall scoring of one section under the estimated National target for 2030.

Regarding question **3.1.c, which pertains to pollution control at the national level**, the initially suggested scoring of 40 was deemed excessive given the current circumstances in the country. After considering various factors, it was ultimately decided to lower the score to 30.

Concerning question **3.1.d, which focuses on the management of water-related ecosystems and biodiversity at the national level**, potential scores of 30 or 40 were suggested. However, after thorough discussions on the current situation, it was determined that a score of 30 would be more appropriate.

Finally, the proposed score for **Section 4, which addresses financing related to the National target for 2030**, was deemed too high overall and statistically challenging to achieve in the short to medium term. However, after exchange of views the score was kept based on the anticipation that, once the country has recovered from the crisis, the Government and public funds, along with financial assistance from donors, will support the advancement of interventions related to IWRM. This would also reflect and be the result of progress in the other four dimensions, particularly in the enabling environment for IWRM.

### Status and progress of IWRM in Lebanon

A comparison of the average scores for the different sections of the survey conducted in 2017, 2020, and 2023 indicates a steady progress in the status of IWRM in Lebanon, currently assessed as "medium-low" for both Enabling Environment and Institutions and Participation (40 and 45 respectively). This shows the country's efforts in creating necessary policy, legal, and planning tools for IWRM, as outlined in Law 192/2020 and the Updated National Water Sector Strategy 2020.

Regarding Management instruments, the current status falls between "low" and "medium-low" (30). This reflects the challenges faced by institutions responsible for IWRM due to the economic crisis since 2019, impacting their ability to monitor water resources, share knowledge, and build capacity. The recovery process is being supported by financial partners, international organizations, and development agencies.

The Financing dimension also received a low average score (17) due to minimal budget allocations by the Government for water sector projects. Despite these challenges, the coordination efforts led by the Ministry of Energy and Water have shown a positive trend in terms of foreign investments and inter-sectoral planning.

Overall, the level of IWRM implementation in Lebanon is evaluated as medium-low (33) based on the average scores. Stakeholders engaged in the SDG 6.5.1 review and monitoring process

discussed national targets for 2030, anticipating support from the Government, public funds, and donors once the country has recovered from the crisis. The realistic score by 2030 is estimated to be medium-high (65), though still below the global very-high target of 91 or above.

## 1. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 1: 'Enabling Environment'

There have been no divergences in relation to the scoring and rationale for the questions related to this dimension.

### *a. What are the main challenges to progress in the country?*

Despite the progress in the enabling environment for IWRM represented by the recent water Law 192/2020 and the Updated National Water Sector Strategy 2020, the **key challenge** to progress with implementation is the **lack of financial resources** due to the economic and financial crisis that affects Lebanon since 2019. The country is currently going through a recovery phase, which is supported mostly by development and financial partners, and aims at bringing the sector and related services back to pre-crisis levels.

The Review and Monitoring process has contributed to prioritize additional challenges and needs that – if properly tackled – could assist the country to advance with setting the proper conditions for IWRM. These include:

- the poor understanding of available water resources (quantity and quality parameters) and the monitoring of their status. The case of aquifers is particularly difficult because of the karst geology of Lebanon (more than 65%) that does not make easy their delineation and the identification of their resources, especially in the absence of data and monitoring.
- Understaffing of Regional Water Establishments, particularly regarding wastewater and irrigation management/ systems and capacity building needs. LRA also suffers from understaffing and limited financial resources as well as central institutions relevant to IWRM.

The above-described situation is not conducive to the application of an integrated approach to water resources management towards most River Basins or aquifers, which is considered the basis for advancing at National, sub-national and transboundary levels.

### *b. How can the main challenges be addressed?*

Based on the consultation's discussions the above-described challenges can be addressed through the following interventions:

- Implementation and operation of the Integrated Hydrological Information System (IHIS) with related monitoring systems, which will facilitate the collection, storage and sharing of information among pertinent institutions and other stakeholders.
- Development of models adapted to the specific geologic features of the country.
- Establish groundwater monitoring networks and update the hydrogeological maps.
- Update of Regional Master Plans to better integrate water, wastewater, irrigation, environment related dimensions, etc.
- Development of River Basin Management Plans, including through a Programme of Measures for the Lebanese River Basins in order to identify the major challenges and

necessary interventions, based on an IWRM approach and in alignment with the Water Law.

- Implementation of the National IWRM Master Plan
- Finalization of Water Law 192 Decrees and bylaws and Implementing the Performance Evaluation Committee mentioned in Law 221 (Water Sector reorganization)

## **2. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 2: 'Institutions and Participation'**

### *a. What are the main challenges to progress in the country?*

The average score for this section and a comparison with previous reporting periods shows that the country was able to consolidate and further enhance IWRM related institutional capacity and participatory processes.

Based on existing sector laws there is clear mandate for the water sector authorities to apply IWRM, while the updated NWSS has addressed the need for additional coordination with other actors, resulting in the establishments of focused Task Forces and Groups that actively engage National and International stakeholders (institutions, organisations, donors etc.). Moreover, Law 192 calls for the establishment of the National Water Council to encourage inter-sectoral coordination at a higher level for water resources management and planning.

However, it is essential to enhance the capacity of these institutions with adequate human and financial resources to effectively fulfill their roles. In particular, the contributions received during the 2023 monitoring and review process have highlighted:

- the lack of reliable and updated data and scientific information for integrated planning, which is one of the key challenges impairing decision-making in the water sector at all levels, and also the need to formalize information sharing and consultation processes.
- the necessity to improve coordination between the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) in relation to climate funding for adaptation and mitigation.
- the limited capacity building activities in the water sector, specifically focusing on IWRM elements and on climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- the need to strengthen education and communication on the above topics.

The same challenges, including lack of financial resources, availability of data, capacity building and training to effectively support IWRM implementation in the country, apply to National, sub-national/river basin and transboundary levels. Moreover, at the river-basin level, no dedicated basin authorities currently exist in Lebanon.

The participation of vulnerable groups in decision-making processes related to water management is not explicitly addressed in laws, policies, and plans. Gender objectives are similarly lacking in existing water-related laws and plans at various levels. The economic crisis in Lebanon since 2018 has further hindered progress in gathering sex-disaggregated data and advancing related activities.

### *b. How can the main challenges be addressed?*

Based on the consultation’s discussions the above-described challenges can be addressed through the following interventions:

- Finalize the Decrees of application of Law 192 by Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) and their approval by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Council of Ministers (CoM)
- Approve the Updated National Water Sector Strategy (NWSS) by the Council of Ministers.
- Strengthen the relevant institutions with human and financial resources so as to be able to carry out their roles effectively.
- Improve communication and collaboration among various institutions to achieve policy coherence and integrated management, through:
  - Set-up and functioning of the National Water Council and preparation of River Basin Management Plans, both foreseen by the new Water Law.
  - Sustain the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Inter-Ministerial Group that encourages technical collaboration on issues of common concern related to the implementation of the NWSS/MoEW and encourage the WEFE Nexus Policy Dialogue and related interventions.
  - Promote the functioning of other Committees focused on priority issues and engaging various stakeholders (institutional and not).
  - It is particularly important to enhance coordination with the institutions related to Food Security and Climate Change in the context of water scarcity due to climate variability and change, including through the continuous engagement of MoEW representatives in the development of Lebanon’s NAP (in 2024) and the agreement on developing and reporting specific adaptation indicators to use for tracking the progress of the NDC implementation (2024).
  - Establish a protocol between the different entities in order to enable the sharing of information.
- Promote education, awareness raising and capacity building at all levels, adapted to the targeted stakeholders. Regarding capacity building needs and with the objective of optimizing limited financial resources, it is advisable to conduct a needs assessment and evaluate the potential for collaboration and integration of capacities among relevant stakeholders.
- Strengthen the capacity of institutions responsible for managing water-related ecosystems and ensuring alignment with environmental policies towards achieving sustainable water management practices.
- Enhance capacity of authorities on how to identify and consider vulnerable groups relevant to the water sector and about the best means to inform and engage them in water resources planning and management.
- Apply a gender lens to IWRM related interventions, including on climate change issues. To advance with gender mainstreaming it is particularly important to:
  - Collect sex-disaggregated data
  - Enhance coordination among the members of the Gender Focal Point Network set-up by the National Commission for Lebanese Women in the relevant institutions
  - Promote trainings on gender, including Training of Trainers (ToT)
  - Set-up a gender Community of Practice engaging public and private stakeholders

- Concerning the enhancement of private sector participation (PSP) in water resources development, management and planning, it is important to:
  - Finalize Decrees of application of the new Water Law/Code relevant to PSP provisions and strengthening of the public authorities to be able to deal with PSP contracts also in collaboration with the High Council for Privatisation and PPP and based on Law 48 mentioned above.
  - Further strengthen the capacity of the RWEs on PSP aspects, such as monitoring and social safeguards, and to enhance their credibility through the provision of transparent and publicly accessible reporting on the use of revenues.

### 3. **Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 3: 'Management Instruments'**

#### *a. What are the main challenges to progress in the country?*

Several management instruments are in place but are typically utilized on a short-term or localized basis, such as in pilot projects, and are not consistently sustained. This pattern also extends to campaigns, education initiatives, and awareness-raising events.

Law 192 mandates Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at the basin level, requiring the establishment of management and monitoring instruments to ensure water quality and quantity, allocate water among sectors, and maintain environmental flows.

The existing permanent monitoring networks for resource quality and quantity are insufficient for comprehensive IWRM and planning at the national and sub-national/basin level due to the lack of significant human, technical and financial resources. Specially challenging is the delineation of aquifer and the understanding of their resources due to Lebanon's unique geology and financial constraints, highlighting the need for integrated hydrogeological information systems and additional resources allocated to this undertaking.

Inadequate coordination among institutions responsible for monitoring various water resource parameters sometimes leads to data duplication and fails to address information gaps, with groundwater monitoring being particularly problematic. Moreover, data sharing is limited, primarily occurring on project bases, and the absence of an e-government system also hinders efficient data gathering and sharing among relevant stakeholders. This also relates to collaboration and data sharing between Lebanon and Syria on transboundary water resources, which have been productive in previous years but are now hindered by resource constraints in both countries due to their financial situation.

Wastewater treatment stations have also experienced prolonged disruptions due to electricity blackouts and chemical shortages, negatively impacting public health and the environment. EU support has helped to partially resume operations, but this assistance is scheduled to end in 2025. Other international organizations are exploring the possibility of incorporating Renewable Energy technologies to reduce operation and maintenance costs at these facilities.

Challenges related to climate change disasters, such as flash floods and droughts, are not adequately addressed in current management instruments. While technical capacity to assess impacts is strong, the development and implementation of Drought Risk Reduction and Disaster Risk Management plans are weak, and climate-proofing of water infrastructure is still lacking in development plans.

*b. How can the main challenges be addressed?*

Based on the consultation's discussions the above-described challenges can be addressed through the following interventions:

- Establish the Integrated Hydrological Information System (IHIS) under the responsibility of MoEW. The application of technological “open source” tools and modelling of the River Basins and of aquifers, could be a first step towards estimating their status and in order to prepare appropriate action plans and strategies, aligned with the provisions of the Water Law/Code. This would also include:
  - Establishing a protocol for stakeholders to agree on the exchange of data and information through the automated system.
  - Building capacity within responsible institutions on how to use monitoring instruments to ensure effective monitoring tasks once the infrastructure and equipment are in place.
  - Ensuring adequate human, technical, and financial resources to achieve the above objectives.
- Prepare an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Master Plan and River Basin schemes/Management Plans following the finalization of relevant Decrees of application related to Law 192, including capacity building for institutions and other stakeholders on management (including for aquifers) and awareness campaigns.
- Mainstream biodiversity into future developments, establish economic incentives for industries to adopt sustainable practices, update existing legal texts on pollutant discharge, and enhance pollution monitoring systems.
- Implement an Early Warning System for extreme events and climate change impacts, as well as the Drought Action Plan.

**4. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 4: 'Financing'**

*a. What are the main challenges to progress in the country?*

Following the onset of the financial crisis in 2019, the country is facing important economic difficulties. The government has limited resources available for both new infrastructure projects and for the operation and maintenance of existing ones.

Currently, there are no budget allocations at the national level for IWRM initiatives. Once Law 192 is fully implemented and approved, it is expected that the government will begin considering funding allocations for IWRM components, including at National and transboundary levels. However, these funds will likely need to be supplemented by support from donors, also considering the financial strain caused by the presence of a large number of Syrian refugees in need of water and wastewater services.

While international partners have been providing assistance in areas such as stormwater and wastewater management, water supply services, and resource conservation, further investment is needed to fully implement a National IWRM plan as required by the new water law.

Efforts to address climate change adaptation through the National Water Sector Strategy (NWSS) will also require financial support from the government, international organizations, and donors. However, securing climate change funds has been challenging so far, due to

lengthy procedures and inadequate attention to supporting Lebanon, which resulted in additional costs due to inaction.

*b. How can the main challenges be addressed?*

Based on the consultation's discussions the above-described challenges can be addressed through the following interventions:

- The Council of Ministers (CoM) should adopt the National Water Sector Strategy (NWSS) and channel national funds towards its implementation. It is vital that, in light of the ongoing financial crisis, these funds are supplemented by donor contributions.
- Invest in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), with a specific focus on incorporating climate considerations into all future projects. Given Lebanon's energy challenges, priority should be given to climate-resilient and Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus interventions, with appropriate funding mechanisms in place, such as climate change funds.
- In this context, International organizations should streamline processes for disbursing climate change funds to improve efficiency and maximize impact.
- Enhance the operational capacity of RWEs through training and resource allocation to ensure better infrastructure management but also increase public trust in service providers, resulting in improved fee collection and profitability within the sector.
- Extend water metering to enable more accurate billing based on usage, further supporting financial sustainability.

## 5. Next steps

***Key points regarding next steps identified during the consultation to accelerate IWRM implementation and overcome challenges including cross-cutting ones, include the following:***

- Ensure the implementation of the policy and legal frameworks established to promote Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Lebanon. This includes finalizing and translating these frameworks in practice, in particular:
  - The Decrees of application of Law 192 by the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) that need to be finalized and approved by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Council of Ministers (CoM)
  - The Updated National Water Sector Strategy (NWSS) that has to be approved by the CoM
- Improve coordination among various institutions and other actors to enhance policy coherence and integrated management, through:
  - The set-up and functioning of the National Water Council
  - Sustaining the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Inter-Ministerial Group that encourages technical collaboration on issues of common concern related to the implementation of the NWSS/MoEW
  - Supporting the WEFE Nexus Policy Dialogue and related interventions

- Developing collaboration with the institutions related to Climate Change and Food Security in the context of water scarcity due to climate variability and change.
- Promote education, awareness raising and capacity building at all levels, adapted to the targeted stakeholders. Regarding capacity building needs and with the objective of optimizing limited financial resources, it is advisable to conduct a needs assessment and evaluate the potential for collaboration and integration of capacities among relevant stakeholders.
- Operate and maintain the existing water and wastewater facilities beyond the period of assistance provided by International organizations (up to 2025).
- Advance wastewater treatment to ensure pollution reduction through the operationalization of existing wastewater treatment plants and the implementation of complete wastewater treatment systems in all Lebanon.
- Implement and operate the Integrated Hydrological Information System (IHIS) with related monitoring systems, which will facilitate the collection, storage and sharing of information among pertinent institutions and other stakeholders, thereby contributing to informed and coordinated decision-making on the preparation of River Basin plans/schemes and strategies in alignment with the Water Code/Law. The IHIS shall process through technological tools (models, SCADA etc.) raw data to prepare information/reports targeted to specific groups and the public.
- Update the existing Regional Master Plans to better integrate water, wastewater, irrigation, environment related dimensions, etc.
- Development of River Basin Management Plans - Implementation of a Programme of Measures for the Lebanese River Basins in order to identify the major challenges and necessary interventions, based on an IWRM approach and in alignment with the Water Law/Code.
- Set-up Climate Change Early Warning systems and implement the Drought Action Plan recently prepared by a technical inter-Ministerial Committee.
- Explore alternative financial options, including climate financing and options, in particular through the Green Climate Fund.
- Mainstream biodiversity into future developments, establish economic incentives for industries to adopt sustainable practices, update existing legal texts on pollutant discharge, and enhance pollution monitoring systems.
- Apply a gender lens to IWRM related interventions, including on climate change issues. To advance with gender mainstreaming it is particularly important to:
  - Collect sex-disaggregated data
  - Enhance coordination among the members of the Gender Focal Point Network set-up by the National Commission for Lebanese Women in the relevant institutions
  - Promote trainings on gender, including Training of Trainers (ToT)
  - Set-up a gender Community of Practice engaging public and private stakeholders

**Overall rate of progress and likelihood of achieving global targets by 2030**

The below tables (Figures 1-3) present the average scores for the 4 Survey’s sections based on the review and monitoring exercises conducted respectively for the years 2017, 2020 and 2023. The Ministry of Energy and Water has led the process as the Focal Point also during the previous two rounds, following a similar approach for stakeholders’ consultations.

The Indicator’s scores reveal a steady progress in the status of the **Enabling Environment and Institutions and Participation** for IWRM in Lebanon, which can currently be assessed as “medium-low” (**40 and 45 respectively**). This reflects the engagement of the country in creating the policy, legal and planning tools needed for IWRM, as reflected by the requirements of Law 192/2020 and the Updated National Water Sector Strategy 2020 approach.

| Section  | Average Score |
|--|---------------|
| Section 1 Enabling Environment   | 37            |
| Section 2 Institutions and Participation                                 | 40            |
| Section 3 Management Instruments   | 40            |
| Section 4 Financing  | 12            |
| <b>Indicator 6.5.1 score<br/>= Degree of IWRM implementation (0-100)</b> | <b>32</b>     |

Figure 1: Average scores for Lebanon based on the 2017 Review and Monitoring exercise (Review and Monitoring process was not led by the Ministry of Energy and Water)

| Section   | Average Scores<br>(all values rounded to nearest whole number) |
|---|--|
| Section 1 Enabling environment  | 37   |
| Section 2 Institutions and participation                                  | 26   |
| Section 3 Management instruments  | 24   |
| Section 4 Financing   | 13   |
| <b>Indicator 6.5.1 score<br/>= Degree of IWRM implementation (0-100)*</b> | <b>25</b>  |

Figure 2: Average scores for Lebanon based on the 2020 Review and Monitoring exercise (Review and Monitoring process was led by the Ministry of Energy and Water)

| Section  | Average Scores<br>(all values rounded to nearest whole number) |
|--|--|
| Section 1 Enabling environment   | 40   |
| Section 2 Institutions and participation   | 45   |
| Section 3 Management instruments   | 30   |
| Section 4 Financing  | 17   |
| <b>Indicator 6.5.1 score</b><br><b>= Degree of IWRM* implementation (0-100)*</b> | <b>33</b>  |

*Figure 3: Average scores for Lebanon based on the 2023 Review and Monitoring exercise (Review and Monitoring process was led by the Ministry of Energy and Water)*

Concerning the **Management instruments** their status is currently assessed between “low” and “medium-low” **(30)**. This is a reflection of the slow recovery of institutions in charge for IWRM from the economic and financial crisis that has affected Lebanon since 2019, with considerable impacts on the ability of institutions to sustain existing tools for monitoring water resources, promoting knowledge sharing and capacity development. The recovery process is mostly supported by financial partners, International Organizations and development and cooperation agencies.

This is also confirmed by the low average of the **Financing** dimension (17), which is the result of very minimal budget allocations by the Government to the water sector, both for new infrastructures projects and for the operation and management of the existing ones.

Despite the low score of the last two surveyed dimensions, particularly following the start of the country’s crisis, the positive trend observed could be the outcome of the strengthened coordination efforts exerted by the Ministry of Energy and Water both at the level of foreign investments in the sector and of inter-sectoral planning.

Based on the above-described average scores, the overall **degree of IWRM implementation in Lebanon** is evaluated to be **medium-low (33)**.

The discussion among stakeholders on the prospects for 2030 has been focused on the identification of national targets taking into consideration the progress outlined in the Survey's "Way forward" sections and the anticipation that once the country has recovered from the crisis, the Government and public funds, along with financial assistance from donors, will support the advancement of interventions related to Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Despite these considerations, the potential ‘realistic’ score by 2030 is estimated to be **medium-high (65)**, which is still far from the global **very-high target (91 or above)**.

### **Follow-up actions for monitoring SDG 6.5.1 indicator in the country**

Further to the set of interventions identified in the responses under each section, the Ministry of Energy and Water remains alert and committed to all actions needed for advancing with the IWRM implementation in the country. To this endeavour, GWP-Med has the privilege to be a steady partner already since 2005 and is committed to this partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Water and the wide number of involved Lebanese stakeholders.

## 6. **Annexes**

Annex 1: List of Participants & other involved stakeholders

Annex 2: Workshop's Agenda

Annex 3: Facilitator's Comments

Annex 4: Photos

## Annex 1: List of participants

### Workshop participants

| Name                         | Organisation  | Position  |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| Eng. Iffat Edriss            | OBBA / Lebanese Coastal Forum   |   |
| Dr. Hussein Nasrallah        | Ministry of Agriculture   | Minister's advisor                                    |
| Mr. Assaad Zeiter            | Ministry of Energy and Water  |   |
| Eng. Nisrine Ghattas         | Ministry of Energy and Water  | Acting head of programs and monitoring                |
| Eng. Mufid Duhainy           | Ministry of Energy and Water  | Head of Wastewater Department                         |
| Eng. Wissam Kanj             | Ministry of Energy and Water  | Head of Irrigation Department                         |
| Eng. Jihad Fakh              | Ministry of Energy and Water  |   |
| Eng. Mona Fakh               | Ministry of Energy and Water  | Director of Water                                     |
| Eng. Haythem Bazzi           | Ministry of Public Works and Transport  |   |
| Eng. Ghadia Faour            | Ministry of Public Works and Transport  | Head of the Bureau at the general directorate         |
| Mr. Mohammad Nemer Nouredine | Ministry of Public Health/Preventive medicine department                      |   |
| Mr. Nazih Rayes              | Cedars for Care   |   |
| Eng. Yasser Sleiman          | Ministry of Energy and Water  |   |
| Eng. Mahmoud Termos          | Ministry of Industry  |   |
| Eng. Marc Wehaibe            | Ministry of Public Works and Transport/<br>Lebanese Meteorological Department | Acting Director                                       |
| Eng. Reem Fares              | Ministry of Energy and Water  |   |
| Eng. Dina Sleiman            | Ministry of Tourism   | Head of travel agencies section                       |
| Dr. Soumaya Ayadi Maasri     | Association for Community and Environment (ACE)                               | President   |
| Mr. Raji Maasri              | MORES s.a.r.l   |   |
| Mr. Youssef Bizri            | FAO   | Project Manager                                       |
| Mr. Bassam Jaber             |   | Former Director of Exploitation at MEW / Water Expert |
| Eng. Antoine Zoghby          | Regional Water Establishment of Beirut and Mount Lebanon                      |   |
| Dr. Ata Elias                | BTD   |   |
| Eng. Lara Samaha             | Ministry of Environment   |   |
| Ms. Dunia Khoury             | Women's Association of Deir el Ahmar - WADA                                   | Founder & President                                   |
| Ms. Lea Kai                  | Ministry of Environment/UNDP  | Climate Programme Coordinator                         |
| Eng. Kassem Khalifeh         | Water Establishment of South Lebanon  | Head of Supervision Projects Department               |
| Ms. Joane Saade              | MORES s.a.r.l   |   |

|                       |   |   |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Dr. Hatem Haidar      | Order of Engineers and Architects             | Water and digital transformation Expert<br>President of the Water Resources and Dams at OEA                       |
| Dr. Antoine Allam     |   | Hydrology Expert  |
| Eng. Mirvat Kreidieh  | Ministry of Energy and Water                  | Head of the Quality Department  |
| Ms. Ola Hariri        | Lebanese Micro-Finance Association            | Programme Manager   |
| Dr. Ghaleb Faour      | National Council for Scientific Research      | Director – Center for Remote Sensing  |
| Ms. Jasmine El Kareh  | Lebanese Water Actors Platform (LEWAP)        | Platform Coordinator  |
| Ms. Cathy Tyan        | National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW) |   |
| Dr. Anthi Brouma      | GWP-Med                                       | Deputy Regional Coordinator<br>Theme Leader on Water Governance, Sustainable Financing, Diversity (Gender, Youth) |
| Ms. Barbara Tomassini | GWP-Med                                       | Senior Programme Officer  |

#### Other stakeholders engaged (not in workshops)

| Name                       | Organization/Position   | Summary of inputs provided   |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Ms. Suzy Hoayek            | Ministry of Energy and Water / Advisor of the Minister  | Contribution to the preparation of the draft survey by the Ministry of Energy and Water after receiving comments by stakeholders on specific sections. |
| Prof. Elie Awad            | Lebanese University   | Contribution by filling the online survey  |
| Eng. Zeina Majdalani       | Prime Minister Office- Presidency of the Council of Ministers (PMO)/ Civil Engineer / Economic Expert | Contribution by filling the online survey  |
| Colonel Mazn Sakr          | Ministry of Interior / General Security Officer   | Contribution by filling the online survey  |
| Dr. Marie-Therese Abi Saad | Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI)/ Researcher in Irrigation and Agronomy                | Contribution by filling the online survey and by providing comments to the final draft following the workshop  |
| Dr. Manal Nader            | Institute of the Environment - University of Balamand/ Director, Associate Professor                  | Contribution by filling the online survey  |

|                        |  |  |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Eng. Nassim Abou Hamad | Litani River Authority/ Head of water governanace and basin managment deptment   | Contribution by filling the online survey                                      |
| Dr. Sorina Mortada     | Lebanese centre for Energy Conservation (LCEC)/Technical Consultant  | Contribution by filling the online survey                                      |
| Ms. Jihan Seoud        | UNDP/Programme Manager   | Contribution by filling the online survey                                      |
| Dr. Firas Fayssal      | Association Libanaise pour la Maitrise de l'Energie et pour l'Environnement (ALMEE)/ Enviromental Expert - Water & Wasterwater | Contribution by filling the online survey                                      |
| Mr. Nabil Rizk         | UNICEF/WASH specialist   | Contribution by filling the online survey                                      |
| Dr. Atika Berry        | Ministry of Public Health/Head of preventive medicine Department, IHR focal point  | Contribution by filling the online survey                                      |
| Major Karim Mraad      | Ministry of Interior and municipalities  | Contribution by filling the survey   |
| Dr. Youssef Karam      | Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR)   | Contribution to the survey via direct communication with SDG 6.5.1 Focal Point |

*[Please note that this Annex is supplemented by information in Annex E of the SDG 6.5.1 survey, which reflects on the level of engagement from different stakeholder groups.]*

## Annex 2: Agenda



### Consultation Workshop

## National monitoring and reporting on SDG 6.5.1 indicator: Degree of IWRM implementation in Lebanon

**28 November 2023**  
**Crowne Plaza Hotel – Hamra, Beirut**

### Agenda

| Duration     | Agenda item  |
|--------------|--|
| 09:00-09:30  | <b>Welcome and Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome and Introduction to the meeting</li> <li>Brief introduction of the participating stakeholders (Tour de Table)</li> </ul>  |
| 09:30-10:30  | <b>Finalization of SDG 6.5.1 Survey (part 1 and 2)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion on draft scores and narrative sections</li> </ul> <p><i>*The Survey's draft scores and narrative sections will be shared with participants in advance of the workshop.</i></p>  |
| 10:30-11:00  | <b>COFFEE BREAK</b>  |
| 11:00-12:00  | <b>Finalization of SDG 6.5.1 Survey - continued (part 3 and 4)</b>   |
| 12:00-13:00  | <b>Facilitated Discussion on the Survey's Annex B</b>  |
| 13:00-14:00  | <b>LUNCH BREAK</b>   |
| 14:00- 16:30 | <b>Gender Mainstreaming in Water Resources Management – Voluntary checklist 2023</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to the checklist</li> <li>Facilitated roundtable discussion on the questions</li> </ul> <p><i>*This session will be facilitated by the National Commission for Lebanese Women</i></p> |
| 15:00        | <b>COFFEE BREAK – continuous</b>   |
| 16:30-16:45  | <b>Wrap up and closing of the meeting</b>  |

*Simultaneous interpretation will be provided for Arabic and English*

### **Annex 3: Facilitator's Comments**

An essential factor that facilitated diverse and extensive participation in the 2023 SDG 6.5.1 review and monitoring process, including the final workshop, was the dedication of the Focal Point, Engineer Mona Fakih. She had a strong commitment to fostering a participatory approach by personally engaging with various institutions and stakeholders to encourage their contributions and promptly address any inquiries.

Her leadership was also instrumental in ensuring that the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW), the agency responsible for women and gender mainstreaming in Lebanon, was not only involved but led/facilitated the session on the voluntary checklist for Gender Mainstreaming in Water Resources Management. Involving the Commission was also important for having ownership of the input in the Checklist, for raising the gender issue across the IWRM-related interventions, as well as for the follow up towards the next reporting period.

The overall review process for the SDG 6.5.1 indicator involved several steps, culminating in the development of a draft survey shared with stakeholders prior to the workshop. Many participants had previously attended an introductory workshop to familiarize themselves with the review and monitoring process, their role within it, and the survey questions. They provided valuable feedback on questions relevant to their work using either the online tool or electronic version of the survey. This input was incorporated into the draft survey discussed during the workshop.

The consultation process proceeded smoothly, resulting in enhanced survey entries and adjusted scores following engaging discussions among stakeholders. Participants were also informed about specific initiatives and funding opportunities for IWRM in the country, particularly related to climate adaptation interventions funded through the Green Climate Fund. Details on these opportunities were presented by Ms. Lea Kai, Climate Programme Coordinator at the Ministry of Environment, and Dr. Anthi Brouma from the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med).

**Annex 4: Photos**





