



LEBANON: FINDING WAYS TO EASE WATER PRESSURE

Lebanon Water Project

Duration: 2015–2020

Challenge

Strengthening water services has been a priority in this water-scarce region since USAID began its partnership with Lebanon in the 1950s. Lebanon's water supply and systems are under greater strain than ever before as it absorbs a massive influx of Syrian refugees. On average, water is available intermittently for just eight hours a day, and only 8 percent of the population is connected to a central sewage system.

Opportunity

Conservation is a necessary emphasis. Agriculture and industry are by far the biggest users of water in Lebanon, so LWP is partnering with the private sector to create incentives for adopting water-saving technologies on the farm and in the factories. Farmers Field Days are planned to showcase water-conserving technologies in agriculture, and grants will help farmers convert their irrigation systems to more efficient drip technologies. Working with the marble and granite industry, LWP is identifying cost-effective ways to reduce and reuse the large amounts of water required in the manufacturing process.

The Litani River is the primary water source for irrigation in the Beqaa Valley. LWP is empowering municipalities along the

LWP supports water network upgrades to improve water service delivery to Lebanese citizens and enhance the efficiency and sustainability of its public water utilities. Photo credit: USAID Lebanon Water Project

Litani Basin to develop plans to protect the river by completing sewage system networks and treatment plants, collecting and properly disposing of solid waste, and reducing pollution from the overuse of pesticides and herbicides.

LWP is training water operators to treat water and distribute it safely with the potential of improving water quality for up to 700,000 inhabitants. Through citizen engagement and robust communications channels, LWP is engaging citizens to help them better understand the roles of the utilities and their work to improve water services.

When water customers have an easier time getting their problems addressed, they have more incentive to pay their bills. When bills are paid on time, water service providers have a much easier time keeping the water flowing.