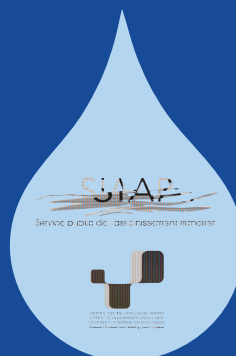


“ SANITATION AND PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES IN THREE UNIONS OF MUNICIPALITIES IN SOUTH LEBANON ”

**AN INNOVATIVE DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION
PROJECT IN THE FIELD OF SANITATION**





A cooperation project
implemented from 2010 to 2012
between :

- The Interdepartmental Sanitation Authority in the Paris Region (SIAAP),
- The city of Nogent-sur-Marne,
- The Union of Municipalities of Iqlim el Tufah,
- The Union of Municipalities of the Jezzine Region,
- The Union of Municipalities of Mount Rihan,
- The Office of United Cities and Local Governments (Lebanon) / Technical Office for Lebanese Municipalities (UCLG/BTVL).

With the financial support of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



ACTIONS

- the legal study
- the technical and economic study
- trainings and technical visits
- concrete actions



ACTIONS



In order to support the Unions in defining a global wastewater management strategy within their territories, the SIAAP worked with its partners on the implementation of two major studies : a technical and economic study and a legal study which led to the formalization of sanitation master plans.

THE LEGAL STUDY WAS BASED ON :

- A precise analysis of the legal framework of sanitation management in Lebanon ;
- A legal and institutional analysis of joint municipal initiatives in Lebanon in the field of sanitation ;
- An analysis of wastewater management models in other Mediterranean countries (Morocco, Tunisia) ;
- The formulation of legal proposals in order to develop collegial and local wastewater management in Lebanon.

This study was conducted by General Nicolas EL-HABER, engineer and legal expert.





**THE TECHNICAL AND
ECONOMIC STUDY WAS
BASED ON :**

- A territorial continuity : the identification of relevant hydrographic basins within the territory of each Union ;
- The improvement of the knowledge regarding the state of water resources and wastewater management in the concerned territories ;
- A cross-disciplinary analysis of various sanitation scenarios taking into account the following criteria :
 - environmental criteria (respecting national standards, the energy's specific character in the country) ;
 - economic criteria (investment and operating costs, roll out duration according to the partners' financial capabilities, maintenance...) ;
 - sociological criteria (security particularities in the area, governance style...).

This study was conducted by the consulting company Libanconsult AGM selected by the project's Steering Committee through a tender floated and managed by UCLG/BTVL Office.
The study was supervised by experts of SIAAP through the reports of the consulting company and meetings with consultants.



TRAININGS AND TECHNICAL VISITS

Trainings and technical visits that fall within a process of institutional enhancement were organized in order to strengthen the technical, administrative, and financial skills of elected representatives and technicians of the local authorities benefiting from the project.

Trainings and technical visits led to :

- a skills improvement in decision making and mobilization : technical visit of elected local representatives and technicians to SIAAP in November 2010 for a training on sanitation ;
- a familiarization with the maintenance and financing methods of various wastewater treatment systems : technical visit to Ain Baal's purification plant (Caza of Tyre) in March 2010 ;
- an awareness on sustainable development and environmental protection issues : participation in the World Water Forum in Marseille in March 2012.





CONCRETE ACTIONS

Concrete actions were implemented in order to set off a dynamic in the territory during the study and skill enhancement phase and rally the municipalities, members of the Unions, around the project.

The actions led to :
refurbishment of sanitation facilities in each of the three Unions of municipalities.



GOVERNANCE AND CONSULTATIONS WITH THE STATE

- a Steering Committee

- a frame of collaboration and exchange with the State

GOVERNANCE



In order to ensure a qualitative consultation and exchange framework, essential to the success of the process, governance bodies were set up.

A STEERING COMMITTEE

Consisting of two elected representatives of each Union as well as representatives from SIAAP, and led by UCLG/BTVL Office, this collective decision-making body ensured unanimous implementation and validation of all activities undertaken within the framework of the project and thus guaranteeing :

- Support and commitment of each Union to the implemented activities ;
- Coherence of the process.





A FRAME OF COLLABORATION AND EXCHANGE WITH THE STATE

Consisting of members of the Steering Committee as well as representatives of the Lebanese State, this **exchange platform** between the local level and the national level guaranteed :

- The **support** of all stakeholders in the sanitation field in Lebanon ;
- The necessary **continuity between the local level and the Lebanese State**: the local level defines its needs while complying with national strategies; the State goes back over the proposed strategies in order to facilitate their implementation and guarantee the facilities' durability.

The UCLG/BTVL Office provided coordination between Municipalities, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, Ministry of Energy and Water, the Council for Development and Reconstruction and the Water Authority of Southern Lebanon in order to establish this dialogue and to guide stakeholders in thinking over the issue of sanitation.



RESULTS

- each of the three Unions has now a master plan for wastewater management
- a collective and local management system for the sanitation facilities was defined
- the support of government authorities to the results of the technical and economic and legal studies was granted
- the expertise of SIAAP led to the improvement of operations in existing facilities in each Union
- the decentralized Franco-Lebanese cooperation was strengthened



EACH OF THE THREE UNIONS HAS NOW A MASTER PLAN FOR WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

This **operational planning document** provides information to technical and financial partners willing to participate in the implementation of sanitation projects in the three Unions. It mainly encompasses :

- An overview of the sanitation issue in the identified hydrographic basins ;
 - The scenario adopted as a basis for the master plan ;
 - A detailed budget ;
- A projected calendar for the implementation of the master plan with set priorities ;
 - A structure for the management of facilities.

Each Union has been involved in the formulation of the master plan using its experience in wastewater management within its territory, and chose a sanitation scenario among the proposed solutions. This scenario will be presented to technical and financial partners in order to raise funds for its implementation.



A COLLECTIVE AND LOCAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE SANITATION FACILITIES WAS DEFINED

- The status and tasks of a common structure to the three Unions in charge of sanitation management were defined ;
- The articulation of the structure with the national authorities was pointed out and approved by all stakeholders ;
- A financing strategy for the operation of facilities was proposed.





THE SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES TO THE RESULTS OF THE TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC AND LEGAL STUDIES WAS GRANTED

This project is the outcome of regular [consultations](#) with all the involved partners. The national authorities legally competent in the field of sanitation [adhere to](#) the adopted scenarios for wastewater treatment, support the defined management structure and subscribe to the financial mechanism proposed for the facilities operations.

A [dialogue](#) is now established between the [local stakeholders](#), who are aware of the needs and constraints on the field, and the government institutions.





THE EXPERTISE OF SIAAP LED TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF OPERATIONS IN EXISTING FACILITIES IN EACH UNION

- **In the Union of Municipalities of Mount Rihan :**

Diagnosis and financing missions were undertaken in order to operate the wastewater treatment plant of Rihan and **expansion of the wastewater collection network** existing between the villages of Aramta and Rihan.

- **In the Union of Municipalities of the Jezzine Region :**

Diagnosis and financing missions were undertaken to connect households to the sanitation network and support was provided to **conduct studies** in villages that were not included in the hydrographic basin covered by the master plan of the Union.

- **In the Union of Municipalities of Iqlim el Tufah :**

Support in designing and financing the **expansion of the collection network** in the village of Ain Qana.





THE DECENTRALIZED FRANCO-LEBANESE COOPERATION WAS STRENGTHENED

- in the sanitation field in Lebanon through the proposal of a process based on consultations between all stakeholders in the sector ;
- as a relevant partnership model to adapt national strategies on the local level ;
- as a complementary partnership level of bilateral cooperation in Lebanon.

Through the project approach based on :

- The dialogue between the various stakeholders in the same field (government, municipalities, technical and financial partners...) ;
- The definition of sustainable strategies in the field of essential services (water, sanitation, wastes...) ;
- The local and institutional strengthening through the exchange of expertise and the project management support.





Contact:
UCLG-BTVL Office
contact@bt-villes.org
tel: +961 1 64 99 00 **fax:** ext.111
www.bt-villes.org

January 2013



This cooperation project aimed at defining the institutional foundations for the development of sanitation projects within the territory of the three Unions, in order to **improve the protection of water resources and the living conditions of dwellers.**

In order to achieve this goal the partners worked step by step to ensure the project's consistency and the durability of its results :

- To develop a **concerted process** among the three Unions, and between the Unions and the State regarding sanitation ;
- To support the Unions and the Lebanese State into the elaboration of a **sanitation strategy** within the territories of the three Unions ;
- To ensure a **better visibility of the Unions' actions** within their territories ;
 - To **enhance the skills of the Unions' elected representatives** ;
- To **enhance the skills of the technicians** in charge of the maintenance of existing sanitation facilities ;
- To resume operation, or **improve the functioning of some existing facilities.**

The project led to **some promising institutional prospects in the field of wastewater treatment** for the participating Unions, their territories and dwellers as well as for national and international institutions willing to take part in this issue and for other municipalities that will rely on this successful experience.

