



**Inter-Agency
Coordination**
Lebanon



Water Executive Committee (WEC) Inaugural meeting

15 June 2017

Agenda

- **Opening - H.E. Minister Cesar Abi Khalil**
- **Introductions**
- **Terms of Reference (TOR) of Water Executive Committee (30min) - UNICEF**
 - Presentation of TOR
 - Discussion and agreement of TOR (including membership and thematic subgroups)
- **Stabilisation project identification, prioritisation and approval process (30min) - MoEW**
 - Presentation on stabilization project prioritisation, identification and approvals
 - Discussion and agreement of process
- **Joint work-planning (30min) - UNICEF**
 - Presentation of example work-plan and concept of joint stakeholder work-planning (including plans, commitments, partnerships)
 - Discussion and agreement on approach
- **AOB and next meeting**

1. Terms of Reference (TOR) of Water Executive Committee

Objective

Exploit **mutual commitment** of Government of Lebanon, UN and other stakeholders to:

- Ensure a **collaborative approach**;
- Address **immediate water and wastewater needs** of the **most at-risk communities** in Lebanon;
- Increase **synergies, cooperation** and **resources** between **all** stakeholders.

The WEC should:

- Represent a central policy-level governance and coordination platform.
- Ensure the most critical water and wastewater public sector investments are undertaken efficiently and are of high impact and quality through coordinating efforts.
- Be a platform for strategic guidance, planning, selection and oversight of investments in programs and projects to ensure achievement of national objectives.

Scope of Water Executive Committee

- Government of Lebanon's National Water Sector Strategy (NWSS) 2012,
- The United Nations Strategic Framework (UNSF) which represents the UN's cooperation framework with Lebanon for the period 2017-2020,
- The water crisis response plan elaborated by the Government of Lebanon and its international partners in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) 2017-2020,
- World Bank program,
- Direct programming to MoEW/WEs, and
- The multi-stakeholder child survival and maternal health plan 2017-2020 known as Thrive.

Responsibilities of Water Executive Committee

1. Ensuring that **national and sub-national water-related strategies**, plans and programmes realise their intended results.
2. Ensuring that investments and interventions are **based on clear evidence prioritising communities most in need and at-risk**.
3. **Coordinating** with other government institutions, national and international organisations and the private sector insofar as their involvement in the water sector.
4. Ensure there are **agreed, clear and well documented standards, guidelines and good practice** for implementation and monitoring of water-related programming.
5. Ensure effective collection, compilation, analysis and use of **research, evaluations and data** pertaining to investments in the water sector.
6. **Scope, manage and endorse work of sub-committees** established by the WEC to ensure they are able to discharge their functions.

Membership of Water Executive Committee

1. H.E. the Minister of MoEW, or his delegate (Chair)
2. Water Advisor to Minister of MoEW;
3. Director General of Tutelle, MoEW;
4. Ministry of Social Affairs;
5. Ministry of Public Health;
6. European Union Delegation;
7. BMZ / KfW;
8. USAID;
9. BPRM;
10. World Bank;
11. Global Affairs Canada (GAC);
12. UNICEF;
13. UNDP;
14. UNHCR;
15. INGO representative;
16. LNGO representative;
17. Water Sector Coordinator.

Sub-groups

The WEC shall implement its responsibilities through working groups or sub-committees that report to the WEC.

The following thematic group options are suggested for discussion:

- Governance
- Knowledge management
- Service delivery
- Operation and management
- Community engagement
- Development,
- Stabilisation,
- Humanitarian (water, sanitation, hygiene)

How does the field/sub-national level fit under the WEC?

Administration

1. The **quorum** for any meeting of the WEC shall be two-thirds of its membership, including the Chair, at the time of the meeting.
2. Other than set out in these provisions, the WEC shall reach **decisions** by consensus. Should consensus not be reached, the Minister will retain the right to determine a way forward.
3. The WEC meeting **agenda** and papers should be circulated at least one week prior.
4. Draft **minutes** by MoEW circulated to all members for review within three working days. A finalised version within two weeks.
5. The WEC is constituted commencing in June 2017 **until December 2020**.
6. The WEC will **meet quarterly as a minimum**, with ad hoc meetings called as needed.
7. The WEC will **review Terms of Reference annually**.

Discuss

The following aspects, amongst others, should be discussed and consensus reached before finalising the WEC TOR:

- a. Objective
- b. Scope
- c. Responsibilities
- d. Membership
- e. Sub-groups
- f. Administrative matters

2. Stabilisation project identification, prioritisation and approval process

Objective:

Clarification and formalisation of a transparent project **approvals process** for stabilisation-related investments, with clear roles for and agreed by: national government and sub-national authorities, donors, UN, NGOs, private sector and any other relevant sector stakeholder groups.

Development of a **project identification, prioritisation and targeting** approach, agreed by sector stakeholders, that ensures the limited available funding for improvements in service delivery meets the urgent and critical needs of the most vulnerable in a transparent and effective way whilst aligning with government masterplans.

Scope:

Stabilisation-related investments in water, wastewater, irrigation and stormwater drainage.

Legal and institutional framework

- Organizational Law of Water Sector: **221** (original) and **241** (amendment 1) in year 2000 and **377** (amendment 2) in year 2001.
- The **Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW)** is mainly responsible, as per Article 2 of law 221/2000 for:
 - **Strategic Planning** of the Water and Wastewater (WW) sectors
 - Management, development and monitoring of **Water Resources**
- **The Water Establishments (WE)** (as per law 221/2000, Article 4 as amended): **Operation, maintenance and implementation** of water, wastewater and irrigation projects based on MoEW Master Plans.
- Municipalities have **no legal mandate** in the Water Sector.

Actual governance situation of the Water sector

- **WE's** are not yet fully staffed nor are they financially autonomous. WE's work is almost restricted to the **operation and maintenance of water systems**.
- **MoEW** plays a major role in **planning and executing** large and small scale **Water, Wastewater, Irrigation and Stormwater drainage projects** through its own budget.
- **CDR assist MOEW** in mobilizing loans and implementing large scale projects, upon the request of MoEW and approval of Council of Ministers.

Management Problems Associated with the Syrian Crisis

- Following the Syrian Crisis, a number of agencies and organizations mobilized funds for the implementation of infrastructure.
- Major problems associated with the implementation of infrastructure include:
 - **Poor coordination** with concerned parties
 - **Inadequate selection** and prioritization of projects
 - **Overlapping** of activities
 - **Incomplete** project implementation
 - **Poor design and implementation** of infrastructure.

Actions taken by MoEW

- **Water and Wastewater Regional Master Plans** were developed and/or updated.
- The **Water Sector Strategy** is being updated and a short to medium term **Sector Investment Plan for Stabilization and Development** is being prepared.
- **Consulting firms** have been appointed to study and prepare tender documents for priority projects in the **Sector**.
- A **data base** has been created at MoEW which includes:
 - Priority projects identified from the master plans
 - Priorities of water establishments
 - Requirements of municipalities that are not covered by the water establishments
 - Projects implemented or under implementation by MoEW, CDR, and sector partners.

Approvals process (simplified version)

Water:

1. **Coordinate** with MoEW and WE(s) to ensure investments are in line with priorities of the Sector
2. Submit to MoEW work-plan/list of projects (include a short description of the project) for **approval**
3. Develop project **proposals**
4. Submit donation/in-kind to WE for **final approval** by board or to water committee if the locality/village is not managed by WE
5. WE submits to MoEW for **endorsement**

Wastewater/irrigation/stormwater drainage:

1. **Coordinate** with MoEW to ensure investments are in line with priorities of MoEW
2. Coordinate technically with MoEW, CDR, irrigation committees...
3. Submit to MoEW work-plan/list of projects (include a short description of the project) for **approval**
4. Develop project **proposals**
5. Submit donation/in-kind to WE for **final approval** by board or to irrigation committee or municipality if the locality/village is not managed by WE
6. WE submits to MoEW for **endorsement**

Project prioritisation and targeting approach

Examples of potential criteria for prioritisation/targeting:

1. Alignment with master-plans,
2. Alignment with LCRP strategic objectives,
3. Community/WE/MoEW priorities,
4. Most vulnerable to risk/ least able to mitigate risk from their own resources,
5. 251 vulnerability mapping,
6. Cost-effectiveness,
7. JMP HH water quality study,
8. Addresses gaps and avoids duplications,
9. Social tension mapping,
10. Refugee concentration,
11. Environmental risk/impact,
12. WASH related disease incidence,
13. Service levels or lack-there-of,
14. Sustainability,
15. Mandate of donor/agency/organisation

Discussion

The following is proposed:

Assigning temporary sub-committee to draft for review and endorsement at next WEC meeting:

- a. Project approvals process
- b. Project selection, prioritisation and targeting criteria/approach

Ensure stakeholder agreement of final process and approach

3. Joint work-planning

Objective:

Defining, in advance, specific projects to be executed by who, for who, by when and where.

Dependant on:

- available funding
- WEC approved:
 - Project approvals process
 - Project selection, prioritisation and targeting criteria/approach

Example workplan

UNICEF AWP

1. Signed by Minister of Energy and Water as pre-approval
2. Based on:
 - National priorities of NWSS roadmap (p86)
 - UNSF outcomes and outputs
 - UNICEF outcomes and outputs
 - LCRP water chapter outcomes and outputs
3. Includes two annexes:
 - a. Workplan or log-frame
 - Outcomes, outputs, activities
 - Indicators, baselines, targets, frequency, available funding
 - b. Project list
 - Location, type, brief description, budget, beneficiaries

Discussion

Points for consideration:

- Agreement on concept/practice of developing workplans
- Joint workplans vs separate workplans
- Next steps

4. AOB and time and date of next meeting?

Any other business?

Set time and date for next meeting!

Thank you all