



**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