

Swiss Cooperation in Lebanon

Water Domain

Swiss Response

Objectives:

Providing access to water and sanitation to conflict-affected and vulnerable populations through strong operational interventions combined with strengthening of water management by communities and government institutions.

Complementing country-based interventions with a regional approach to water security through the Global Program Water (GPW) and engagement in the water diplomacy program (Blue Peace Middle East).

Examples

Switzerland achieved the following impact through the implementation of its Cooperation Strategy (examples):

- In close cooperation with the Bekaa Water Establishment, the Embassy of Switzerland aims at improving public water management and distribution in Lebanon to better serve both the host and the refugee communities. Four lines of intervention contribute to enhance **resilient, sustainable, and conflict sensitive water management**:
 1. Capacity development of the BWE for integrated and sustainable management of water resources.
 2. Equitable access to drinking water for host and Syrian refugee communities.
 3. Efficient and environmentally sound management of Waste Water Treatment Plants.
 4. Improved water quality and safe drinking water in the Bekaa Valley.

The project targets improvement of infrastructure and operation of water supply systems and enhances operation and maintenance of waste water treatment plants in villages and urban environments in the Bekaa Valley.

Improving the capacity of BWE enhances crisis resilience in the entire valley and helps to maintain and improve its services to all its inhabitants. The intervention is aligned to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-20 and the Energy and Water Sector.

Within an integrated Whole of Government Approach (WOGA), the Embassy of Switzerland is also incorporating interventions on conflict transformation within the project with BWE. Through partner organisation,

International Alert, BWE receives capacity building on skills related to dialogue formation and conflict transformation. They are also introduced to various tools for community outreach and to further develop their relationship with their stakeholders.



- By supporting the Lebanese Red Cross Society, the Swiss Embassy in Lebanon **are improving access to water and sanitation services** for Lebanese host communities and for Syrian refugees living in Informal Tented Settlements at Sahel Akkar. Akkar is known as the most vulnerable area in Lebanon and is hosting the largest fragments of Syrian Refugees. LRCS is a main national Lebanese Institution and WASH actor, who through this intervention is increasing the standard of WASH intervention to ensure sustainability.
- North Lebanon Water Establishment is also supported through our partnership with FAO. The project funded aims to **improve performance and enhance capacity of water management institutions** leading to more effective planning and management of water resources and better water outcomes to end users.
- The Swiss Embassy is assigning a **Senior Environmental Specialist, to support the Environmental Task Force and the concerned services at the Ministry of Environment**, to conduct a planning for priority environmental interventions through Environmental assessments.

- Also, a geological expert is assigned to UNRWA, who is working in close collaboration with UNRWA's health expert to provide expertise and advice on water resources, and development of a consistent hydrogeological data base for 12 Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

Further information

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