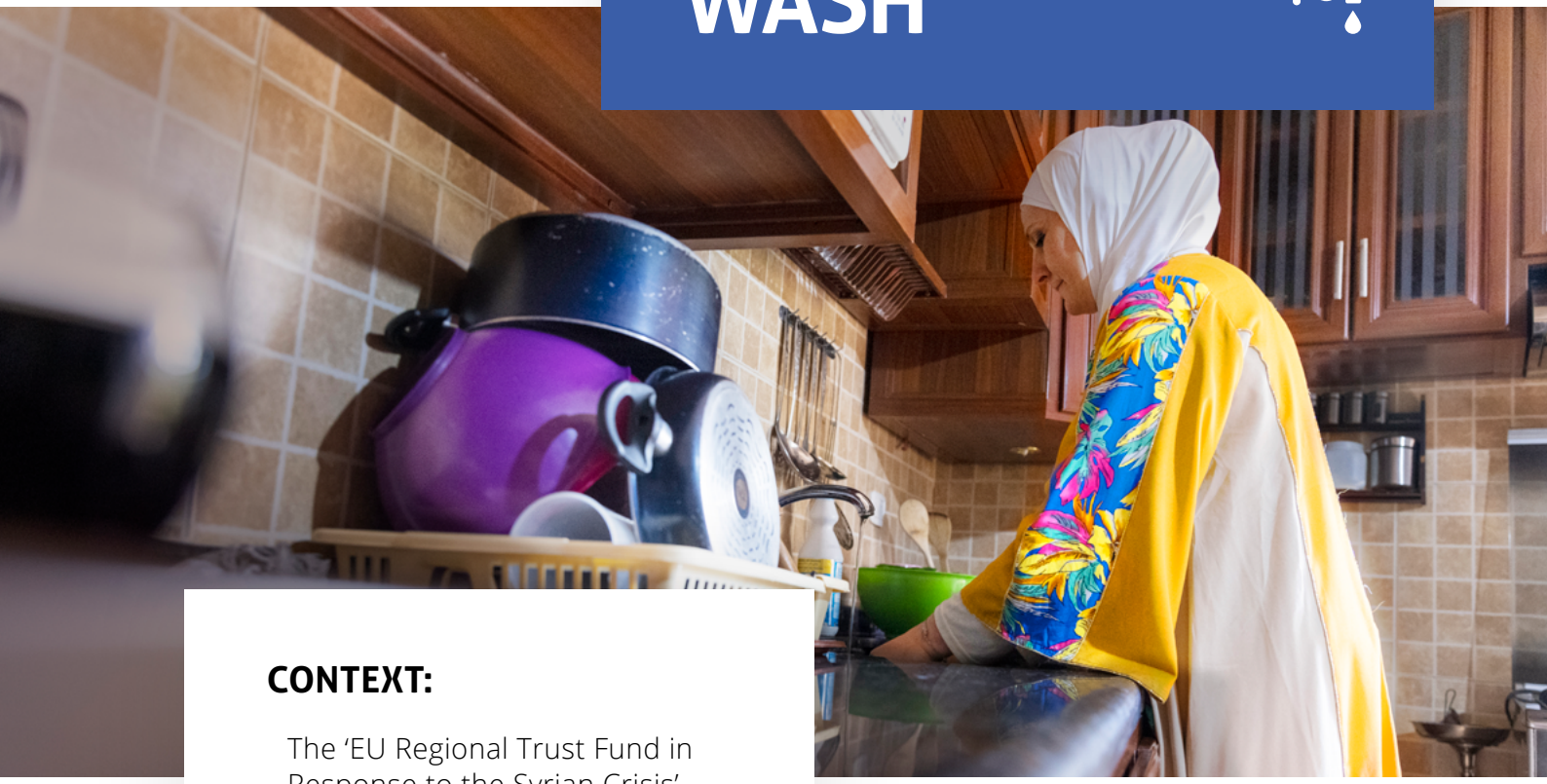
SECTOR UPDATE : EUTF´S CONTRIBUTION TO WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE AT A GLANCE

OCTOBER 2024

WASH



CONTEXT:

The 'EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis' (EUTF) supports access to safely managed water through improved Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, training and hygiene promotion sessions.

In this priority sector - which is strongly related to the wellbeing and health of the refugees, IDPs and host communities - the Trust Fund aims at:

1. Improving access to safely managed WASH services;
2. Strengthening local WASH capacities;
3. Improving local WASH infrastructure.

The Trust Fund has supported more than 20 projects and components as part of multi-sector projects, contributing to improve access and capacities to deliver safely managed water and wastewater infrastructure in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey. The main implementing partners of these interventions are ACTED, AFD, CISP, EBRD, EIB, FAO, GIZ, GVC, Intersos, NRC, UNDP, UNICEF, and World Vision. Currently, 6 projects are active across Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, under the lead of ACTED, AFD, EBRD, EIB, and GIZ.

The cumulative progress in terms of output delivery shows that the aggregated targets of strengthening WASH capacities and local WASH infrastructure have been achieved, while access to services, although recently increased and now at 72%, still has margin for improvement. Compared to other sectors, WASH Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have progressed at a slower rate, in particular those related to access to services. At country level,

projects in Türkiye remain underachieving in terms of access to services (49%) and local infrastructure improvements (68%). Final measurements on beneficiaries accessing safely managed water of T04.155 (EIB, Türkiye) still need to be reflected in the monitoring information. Jordan and Lebanon also need to improve performance regarding access to WASH services. Furthermore, at project level, T04.206 (AFD, Lebanon), and T04.92 (EBRD, Jordan) show a need for improvement.

In terms of available equality related data, women and men have accessed safely managed water to a similar extent, while substantially more men than women have been trained on WASH related topics. While host communities are getting more access to safely managed water, refugees are being reached with WASH related training to a larger extent. It needs to be highlighted that 59% of the data on access to water is not disaggregated by sex, and 28% lacks disaggregation by community of origin.

The following KPIs are part of the EUTF Results Framework_ (https://ec.europa.eu/trustfund-syria-region/monitoring-evaluation_en).

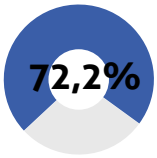
IMPROVED WASH CAPACITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

In all Figures the difference between total figures and the sum of disaggregated ones is due to a residual amount that hasn't been broken down by sex or community of origin at the source. This applies to all indicators where disaggregation is not fully available.

CUT OFF DATE: **OCTOBER 2024** / **13** CONTRIBUTORS / **4** COUNTRIES

20.

Number of people with access to safely managed drinking water.



2,011,918
Aggregated current value

2,787,874
Target

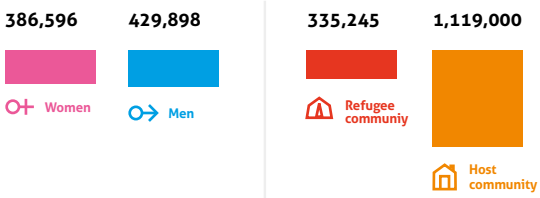


Figure 1.

CUT OFF DATE: **OCTOBER 2024** / **10** CONTRIBUTORS / **3** COUNTRIES

21.

Number of people trained in the WASH sector

18,459
Aggregated current value

14,324
Target

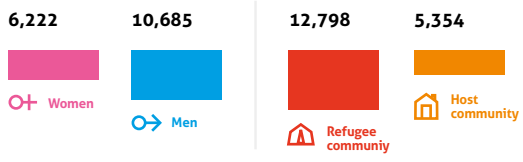


Figure 2.

CUT OFF DATE: **OCTOBER 2024** / **16** CONTRIBUTORS / **5** COUNTRIES

22.

Number of municipal/regional water and wastewater facilities constructed/ rehabilitated or equipped

458
Aggregated current value

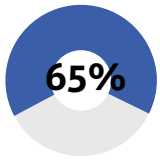
414
Target

Figure 3.

CUT OFF DATE: **OCTOBER 2024** / **9** CONTRIBUTORS / **4** COUNTRIES

23.

Metres of transmission and distribution lines installed



1,515,924
Aggregated current value

2,323,048
Target

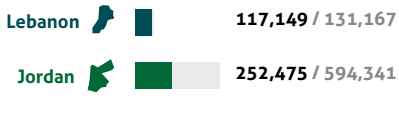


Figure 4.

WASH OUTCOMES IN LEBANON

AFD-Improved Drinking Water Services in Lebanon (T04.206)

The action was originally a water and sanitation project for the municipality of Arsaal and Valley in Bekaa, aligned with the reform of the water and sanitation sector and the new water law. Due to hyperinflation and political changes, the project was redesigned. Currently, there are 3 components to:

1. improve the (water) service quality on the Lebanese territory;
2. develop and structure the water services for the municipality in Arsaal; and
3. improve the performance of drinking water services in two villages in the valley bordering Arsaal and research activities.

Component 1 is implemented by UNICEF, aiming at supporting the 4 Regional Water Establishments (WEs) in recovering and expanding their capacity to provide the Lebanese population and displaced Syrians population with safely managed water services. It focuses on enhancing drinking water production and distribution in Lebanon and on equipping drinking water facilities with solar energy systems.

The most recent **results-oriented monitoring (ROM)** assessment, in **February 2024**, has looked at progress solely of the first component, that encompasses 32 interventions to equip and/or upgrade 14 drinking water plants, 8 pumping stations, 6 gravity distribution networks and 3 water systems. The ROM mission confirmed that outputs *"are satisfactory and equipped to function in the long run"* and that the expected outcome of increased access to improved water services to the populations in the project areas will depend on *"effective operation of all stations by its local technical staff"*.

An assessment of the results by the WEs and the municipalities to assess performance of the systems at the end of the action still needs to be undertaken. Therefore, **changes at individual level** were not evident at the time of the ROM assessment. The ROM report informed at that time that *"all ongoing work contracts were under professional supervision and could be considered as satisfactory"*. However, there were also some delays in the procurement process. The most recent **QIN (June 24)** confirms that 75% of the planned output targets have been achieved, including 7 water stations with new solar equipment, 8 stations and 1 channel fully rehabilitated, 6 gravity distribution systems constructed, and 2 new water systems upgraded. The ROM report suggests that, after outputs have been achieved, they will be likely to lead to the expected outcomes of improving access to water services for the target population -more than 1.5 million people, due to enhanced drinking water production and distribution, especially in areas previously affected by summer shortages. It is also expected that connections to the public water network increase due to solarization, as they become more efficient and sustainable.

At the time of the ROM mission, **changes in local organisations**, particularly in the WEs and their technical teams who are responsible to operate and maintain the facilities, were not yet visible. The action has not foreseen specific training actions, although it is expected that they grow their skills by being engaged from the beginning of the operations, using the new technologies and facilities. Those WE teams have also contributed to identify the needs for rehabilitation and network extension. The availability of resources for maintenance however, was not clear during the ROM mission. Whilst municipalities will eventually engage in the assessment of the new infrastructure performance, maintain, and protect solar park installations, and they are already aware of it, the ROM report does not suggest any changes in the relationship

between the municipalities and the WEs. The role of municipalities in the water provision continues to be unregulated. Locally, energy savings and improved early detection of failures might be additional effects which means lower costs and less service disruption. With the project, municipalities can be benefitted with savings, since they could limit their interventions when fuel shortage or lack of generators occurs. The relationship between WEs and subscribers might improve, too, if service is more efficient and sustainable through solarisation. The extent to which these effects occur is not clear yet, since it depends on the adequate financial and human resources in the WEs, which was uncertain at the time of the ROM assessment.

As for **changes at the regulatory or national policy level**, the project is aligned with the National Water Sector Strategy Update 2020 and the 2022 Roadmap to Recovery of the Water Sector in Lebanon policy, prioritising the rehabilitation of existing infrastructure and completing small to medium unfinished systems with high impact on service continuity. The ROM report specifies that *"the water supply system in Lebanon remains unsustainable and fragile unless necessary water sector reforms enable the WEs to function according to their mandate*". The increase in power generated from solar photovoltaic is an additional goal that might be attained at national level once works are completed. The project did not include explicit activities at ministry level although the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) is engaged in approving planned activities. Additionally, there are some limitations in terms of available personnel in MoEW. Once the expected Water Reform is back on the agenda, WEs would be able to *"regain technical and financial control of their operations and develop their water production and the distribution networks".*

WASH OUTCOMES IN JORDAN

EBRD-EUTF contribution to the West Irbid Wastewater Network construction project (T04.92)

The overall objective of the action is to strengthen Jordan's resilience to the Syrian crisis by increasing access to wastewater services. Specifically, the action aims at constructing new waster services across 18 towns in the west of the Governorate of Irbid in the north of Jordan. This is where the influx of many Syrian refugees has exacerbated already strained municipal services and the current practices are posing serious risks to human health and the environment. In addition to the new wastewater networks and connections (over 20,000 households), the action aims to improve the sector operational and financial sustainability.

Regarding **outputs (QIN 03/24)**, the three display different levels of achievement. The –output 'number of metres of sewer pipes installed' is reported as 30% achieved in the most recent available QIN (March 2024). The output 'training in WASH operations and maintenance; is reported at 60% achieved, while the indicator on awareness activities is still at zero. Concerning **outcomes**, the outcome on 'number of work opportunities in West Irbid' currently shows 55% achievement. In contrast, due to project delays, the number of households/ individuals benefitting from improved access to wastewater services has not yet been measured and continues to show zero. Regarding the outcome on the wastewater connection coverage in the north of Jordan, the most recent QIN (03/24) reported 62% level of achievement.

Regarding **behavioural changes at individual level**, the **ROM report** from **September 2023** highlighted that communities had expressed that they are "very keen to switch from cesspools or septic tanks to a sewerage network as soon as this is possible", however at the time of the ROM

report (09/23), the communities' awareness about the one-off costs of approximately 700 Jordanian dinars was not clear. The optimal operation of the new water treatment plan is conditional on the number of connections. If the project is successful, 230,000 people will benefit from the water network improvements. More than 520 people had accessed a construction related job – most of them benefitting men (94%) from host communities (94%). Furthermore, as of March 2024, more than 520 people -94% men, and 94% from host communities- have accessed a construction related job.

In the context of **local organisations and institutions, changes** were not visible at the time of the ROM mission (09/23). However, the Water Authority in Jordan (WAJ) had been actively engaged with the project, learning by doing during the process, including resolving problems and improving its own visibility in the community. The ROM suggests that the project has created a positive context "for service delivery and improved the chances for effective implementation". The system could be "easier to operate, more reliable, affordable, and environmentally friendly". Although for this to be realised, not only does the new treatment plant need to be in place, there also needs to be a high connectivity rate. In addition, the capacity of Yarmouk Water Company (YWC), responsible for operation and maintenance, needs to be improved. The project is accompanying this process of capacity building, for example in terms of tendering, procurement, technical oversight, and cooperation with communities. WAJ has taken community services as a new area of responsibility. Furthermore, the project is aligned with the new national water strategy 2023-2040, especially with the goal of wastewater reuse in a context of water scarcity. No specific **changes at regulatory and/or national policy level** were foreseen in the project design. Nevertheless, the project is consistent with the goal of increasing the percentage of population with adequate wastewater and treatment facilities, included in the National Strategic Wastewater Masterplan from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

During the **EUTF field visit** in February 24, the main challenges the project was facing were related to the low levels of connectivity of residents to the network and challenges with the construction of the wastewater treatment plant. Regarding connectivity, the project had identified the need to promote awareness within the communities to connect to the network ensuring a sustainable supply. In addition, the wastewater treatment plant is a precondition to achieving the project objectives. The EUD also raised the potential carbon foot impact of the wastewater treatment plant proposal and advised the project team to look for other alternative solutions.

WASH OUTCOMES IN TÜRKIYE

European Investment Bank (EIB)- Municipal Infrastructure in the field of water, wastewater, solid waste to support (T04.155)

The Municipal Resilience Facility aims at improving access to municipal water supply, waste, and water services to strengthen the long-term resilience of communities neighbouring the Syrian border affected by the influx of Syrian under Temporary Protection (SuTP).

The main WASH outcome in Türkiye at **individual level** is improved access to water and sanitation services at a *"reasonable cost"*. Thanks to the project intervention, there will be no need for water trucking or emptying sanitation tanks. Specific **behavioural changes** of the population

benefitting from improved water and sanitation services have not yet been recorded at the time of the recent **ROM mission (06/24)**. However, the report makes evident that evidence of improved living conditions of Turkish and Syrian people in target municipalities will be recorded under the communication component currently being implemented. During a recent **EUTF monitoring visit (10/24)**, improved children's health has been mentioned by a beneficiary as one of the positive effects of the renewed water network in Gaziantep, since previously children would get sick after drinking tap water. Whilst final measurements are still pending, the estimate is that there may be as many as 600,000 final beneficiaries of improved water services.

In terms of **local institutions and organisations**, the project is contributing to reduce the capacity gaps in the municipal water supply, and wastewater infrastructure in the selected municipalities. Currently, 16 out of 24 water and wastewater investments are completed and have been provisionally accepted by municipal authorities. The municipalities and water directorates will use these investment projects to deliver improved services. Some facilities have been damaged during the 2023 earthquake and still need to be connected to the sewerage network. In Hatay, the water directorate is facing some capacity related challenges due to time and budget limitations. According to the ROM report, small municipal water and wastewater administrations in Southeast Türkiye have modest financial and technical capacities compared to metropolitan directorates, but financial resources are limited in both cases, so that the EUTF support is covering a financial gap too. In general, beneficiary institutions have been *"able to incorporate the new infrastructure into their technical systems"*, and the local water authorities, despite differences among them, are in a *"good position regarding operation and maintenance of new facilities"*. As an additional positive effect of the project, Ilbank's implementation capacity has been strengthened, especially in procurement and social and environmental responsibility, as have the planning, contracting and implementation capacities of the local water and sewerage authorities. The ROM assessment also mentions eventual employment creation in the wastewater treatment plants for future technicians since salaries above average and training are offered.

Results at **national policy level** in the WASH sector continues to be limited. The improvements will lead to reduced water losses in the network and related non-revenue water. Additionally, according to the ROM report, some water authorities have installed solar panels that generate additional financial revenues. The wastewater treatment plants could also eventually reduce their operating costs by using solar panels. The Ministry of Environment has been engaged with the project for the environmental approvals, while Ilbank, subordinated to the Ministry, funds and follows the implementation of municipal WASH infrastructure projects. No specific actions were included in the project to promote regulatory changes in the sector.