

Lebanon



The Damour village

The Damour Village relies on both groundwater (public and private wells) and on the Damour River, shared among several villages.

The problems in the area include: the **absence of an up to date legislative framework** ensuring fair distribution of water among its users, the proper treatment of water (polluted by the discharge of sewage and industrial wastes), the **absence of modern piped networks** in the area (which leads to the extensive use of **private wells**).

Furthermore, the public wells in Damour are used by the Beirut Water Authority for **external supply** in west Beirut. Lastly, the **water losses** through the network are estimated to range between 25 and 50% during the winter season and 45 to 61% during summer.

A participatory approach has recently been implemented; it involved various stakeholders as the representatives of the government, the municipalities, the water users, experts of the water sector and the media.

The stakeholders **proposed elements** for conflict resolution including **coordination and negotiation** between the municipalities and the water authority to control over exploitation of the groundwater resources, installation of **metering systems** to control the utilization of water and to monitor the losses of the network and establishment of the **Damour River Basin committee**.

This institution would be responsible for:

- conducting a water allocation study to ensure fair water distribution among its upstream and downstream users through the use of a decision support system (DSS),
- establishing cooperation mechanisms between the different water users,
- monitoring the water quantities provided to the



agricultural sector (by installing metering systems at the irrigation channels),

- monitoring the quality of the river water,
- monitoring and controlling environmental offences along the river,
- Promoting awareness and capacity building.

DSS tools and approaches in Lebanon

Several attempts - primarily initiated by international agencies - have been made to apply DSS tools for the management of water resources at the national and regional levels in Lebanon. Unfortunately, there is not a single successful experience of use of such tools: most of them were either left at the developmental stage or are currently under development.

For what concerns the DSS approaches, some progresses are noticeable as presented in this leaflet.

Keywords: Public participation, Conflicts, River Basin Authority

Further readings: See the NOSTRUM-DSS *Lebanese National Report*, available at <http://www.nostrum-dss.eu>
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