



WES-BCA Webinar

Advancing WEFE Nexus policies, strategies and their implementation: a collaborative review of initial findings and recommendations

3 September 2025

11:00-14:00 CET

Online

WES-BCA in a snapshot



- The EU funded “Water and Environment Support-Biodiversity and Climate Action (WES-BCA) in the Neighbourhood South region” project aims to improve the protection of the environment, the restoration of biodiversity and the management of scarce water resources, while enhancing the resilience to climate change in the Mediterranean region, strengthening the formulation and enforcement of the relevant policies of the Partner Countries and the two regional political frameworks, namely the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Barcelona Convention.
- It strives to enhance the capacity of relevant stakeholders to support them in formulating and or implementing policies in the issues mentioned above.
- It is meant to raise awareness, increase knowledge and improve public understanding, stimulating behavioural changes needed for appropriate climate action and environmental protection.
- WES-BCA is the continuation of the WES project and therefore capitalises on the experience of previous successful EU funded regional projects (WES, SWIM-H2020 SM, SWIM SM, Horizon 2020 CB/MEP).

Introducing the Activity – (C1_HOR-1)

Demonstrating WEFE Nexus Policy Advancements at National Level

- Horizontal Regional activity under WES-BCA, Topic 3: WEFE Nexus
- Focus countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco
- Contributes to the draft Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Strategy (Source-to-Sea) by assessing national-level progress and challenges
- Implemented in synergy with regional initiatives:
 - **GEF MedProgramme (Child Project 2.2)** – implemented by UNEP/MAP & GWP-Med under the Global Environment Facility MedProgramme; supporting national WEFE policy dialogues and action plans in Lebanon and Morocco.
 - **PRIMA WEFE4Med** – funded by PRIMA/Horizon 2020; hosting the Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Community of Practice and promoting regional knowledge exchange.
 - **GWP-Med & UfM** – co-lead the drafting of the Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Strategy under the Barcelona Convention framework, providing the political umbrella for regional endorsement

Introducing the Activity – (C1_HOR-1)

Demonstrating WEFN Nexus Policy Advancements at National Level

- Timeline:
 - ✓ Sept 2025: 1st Webinar (today – JO/LB/MO) co- organised with GWP-Med
 - ✓ Dec 2025: Regional online event (broader regional meeting involving all WES-BCA Partner Countries, representative from regional bodies (UfM, Barcelona Convention, GEF MedProgramme Child Project 2.2 on WEFN Nexus and regional organizations such as WB, ESCWA, GIZ, etc.))

Purpose and Objectives of the activity

- **Strengthen national-level WEFE Nexus implementation** by identifying institutional and policy challenges, governance barriers, and integration gaps (Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco)
- **Enhance cross-sectoral collaboration**, inter-ministerial coordination, and policy coherence
- **Promote knowledge exchange** and regional learning from successful WEFE Nexus integration approaches
- **Foster dialogue** on best practices to improve multi-sectoral governance, inter-agency cooperation, and stakeholder engagement
- **Align national strategies** with regional frameworks and EU policies (Water Resilience Strategy, draft Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Strategy, UfM, Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP)
- **Identify key topics and knowledge gaps** for capacity building in WEFE Nexus governance and implementation
- **Strengthen capacity** of policymakers, experts, and institutions to integrate and govern WEFE Nexus approaches
- **Generate actionable recommendations** to strengthen Mediterranean WEFE Nexus implementation

Tasks of the Activity

Task 1 – Background document

- Assess national WEFE policies & strategies (JO, LB, MO)
- Identify governance challenges, case studies, alignment with draft Med Strategy
- Define knowledge gaps & capacity-building needs

Task 2 – Online events

- Sept webinar (today): review findings with JO, LB, MO Ministries of Water and Environment
- Dec “2- day event”: validate challenges, foster cross-learning, expand dialogue with all Partner Countries and regional actors on WEFE

Task 3 – Final background document

- Update with outcomes from Sept & Dec events
- Provide actionable recommendations for national & regional implementation
- Feed into 2026 regional activity on WEFE best practices in agriculture

WES-BCA Assessment Webinar Background document

Draft Mediterranean WEFE Strategy



Goal 1: Appropriate institutional arrangements, policies, and cooperation frameworks are established at country and regional levels.

Objective 1.1: Develop and/or accordingly adapt appropriate governance structures at all levels to implement the WEFE Nexus approach in the S2S continuum.

Objective 1.2: Mainstreaming WEFE Nexus approach in the S2S continuum into policies and strategies.

Goal 2: Efficient and effective planning, financing and implementation of management and technical solutions.

Objective 2.1: Upscaling demonstration WEFE Nexus applications to mainstreamed implementation, through appropriate investments and market mechanisms.

Objective 2.2: Attracting and coordinating increased financing for implementation of WEFE Nexus interventions.

Goal 3: Informed decision making based on enhanced science-based knowledge, engagement of capacitated stakeholders, and increased public awareness.

Objective 3.1: Promoting Science and Education on WEFE Nexus and S2S aspects.

Objective 3.2: Ensuring data availability, harmonisation and sharing across sectors and borders.

Objective 3.3: Developing capacities of stakeholders and related tools to implement WEFE Nexus at the S2S continuum.

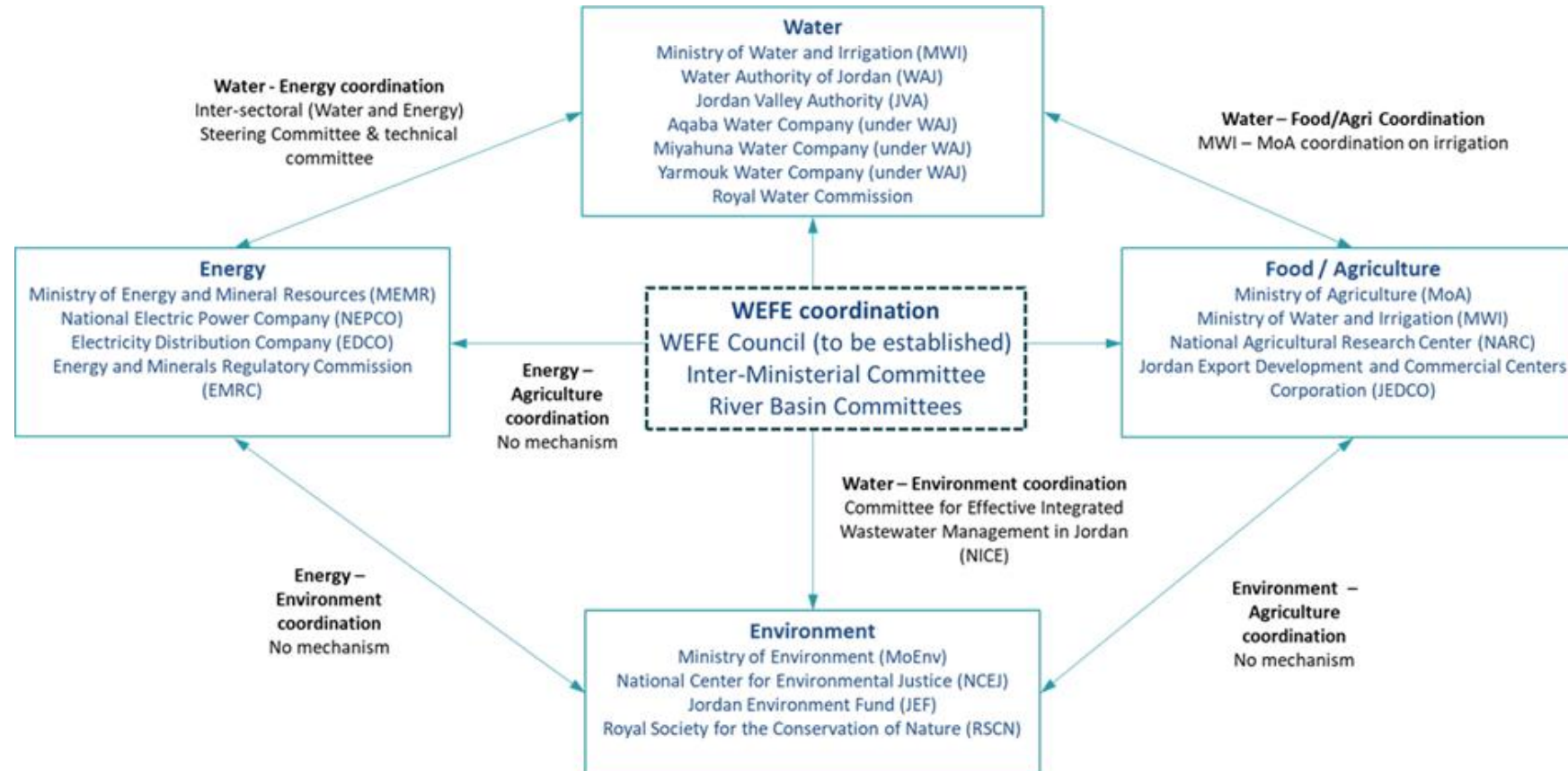
Objective 3.4: Raising awareness and improving understanding concerning the WEFE Nexus at the S2S continuum, stimulating stakeholder's engagement and empowering them for their implementation.

JORDAN

Key Findings

Jordan

Nexus related Institutions and Organisations



Jordan

Policies and Strategies

➤ **Jordan Water Strategy (2023-2030)**

- Prioritizes WEFE Nexus
- Integrated cross-sector planning
- Establishing of the Nexus Council

➤ **National Energy Strategy (2021–2030)**

- +15% water sector efficiency by 2025
- Expand renewables & storage
- Joint water–energy projects

➤ **Green Growth Action Plan (2021–2025)**

- Efficient irrigation systems
- Reduce water losses
- Support farmers' productivity

➤ **Environment Strategy Plan (2023–2025)**

- Nexus as priority initiative
- Climate-responsive, green output
- Pollution control & biodiversity

Jordan

Programmes and Initiatives



- **Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme (GIZ)**
 - Mainstreamed WEFE Nexus in national policies
 - Built capacity and facilitated policy dialogues
 - Developed tools and promoted Nexus in planning

- **World Bank – Water Sector Efficiency Project**
 - Improves efficiency through long-term investments
 - Strengthens institutions and coordination
 - Applies WEFE Nexus principles across sectors

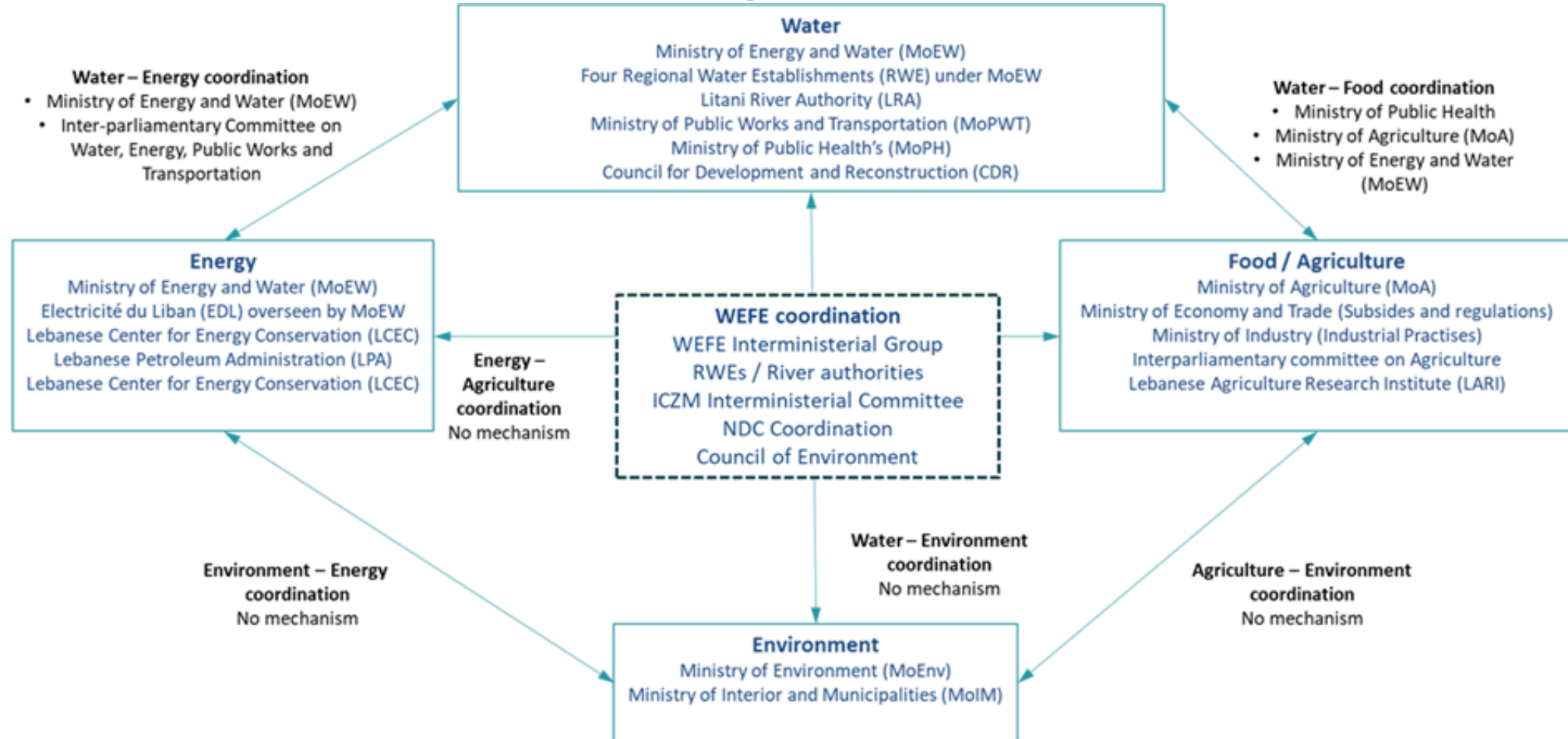
- **Energy Efficient Water Sector (EEWS, GIZ)**
 - Enhances energy efficiency and renewable use in water sector
 - Anchors standardized Energy Management System
 - Promotes Nexus dialogue via energy sector entry point

LEBANON

Key Findings

Lebanon

Nexus related Institutions and Organisations



Lebanon

Policies and Strategies



➤ Lebanon Water Strategy 2024–2030

- Universal safe/affordable services and sectoral allocation.
- Cut energy costs in water utilities and introduce renewables.
- Drought management & food security via coordinated crop/resource planning.

➤ Lebanon Energy Policy Statement 2022

- Highlights water sector electricity debts.
- Calls for water–energy coordination.
- Focus on sustainability of service provision.

➤ National Energy Efficiency Plan

- Drip irrigation, VSDs, efficient pumps.
- Cross-sector water–energy–agriculture savings.
- Promotes resource-efficient technologies.

➤ National Agriculture Strategy 2020–25 (NAS)

- Evidence-based agri-food decisions across sectors.
- Sustainable resources & irrigation efficiency.
- Climate adaptation & renewable energy in agri-food.

➤ Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan

- Mainstream biodiversity into policies.
- Links with agriculture, forestry, fisheries.
- Supports ecosystem integration in WEFE.

Lebanon

Programmes and Initiatives



➤ **Saving Water – Growing Crops Project (WES)**

- Installed smart irrigation systems (drip, sensors, weather stations) on 29 ha
- Restored lakes and developed stormwater-based silt removal
- Created Water Committee for long-term support and sustainability

➤ **Water, Sanitation and Conservation Project**

- Established sludge management system for WWTPs in Barouk watershed
- Combines sludge drying with composting of organic/agricultural by-products
- Produces biosolids compliant with Lebanese standards for safe use

➤ **MINARET I Project**

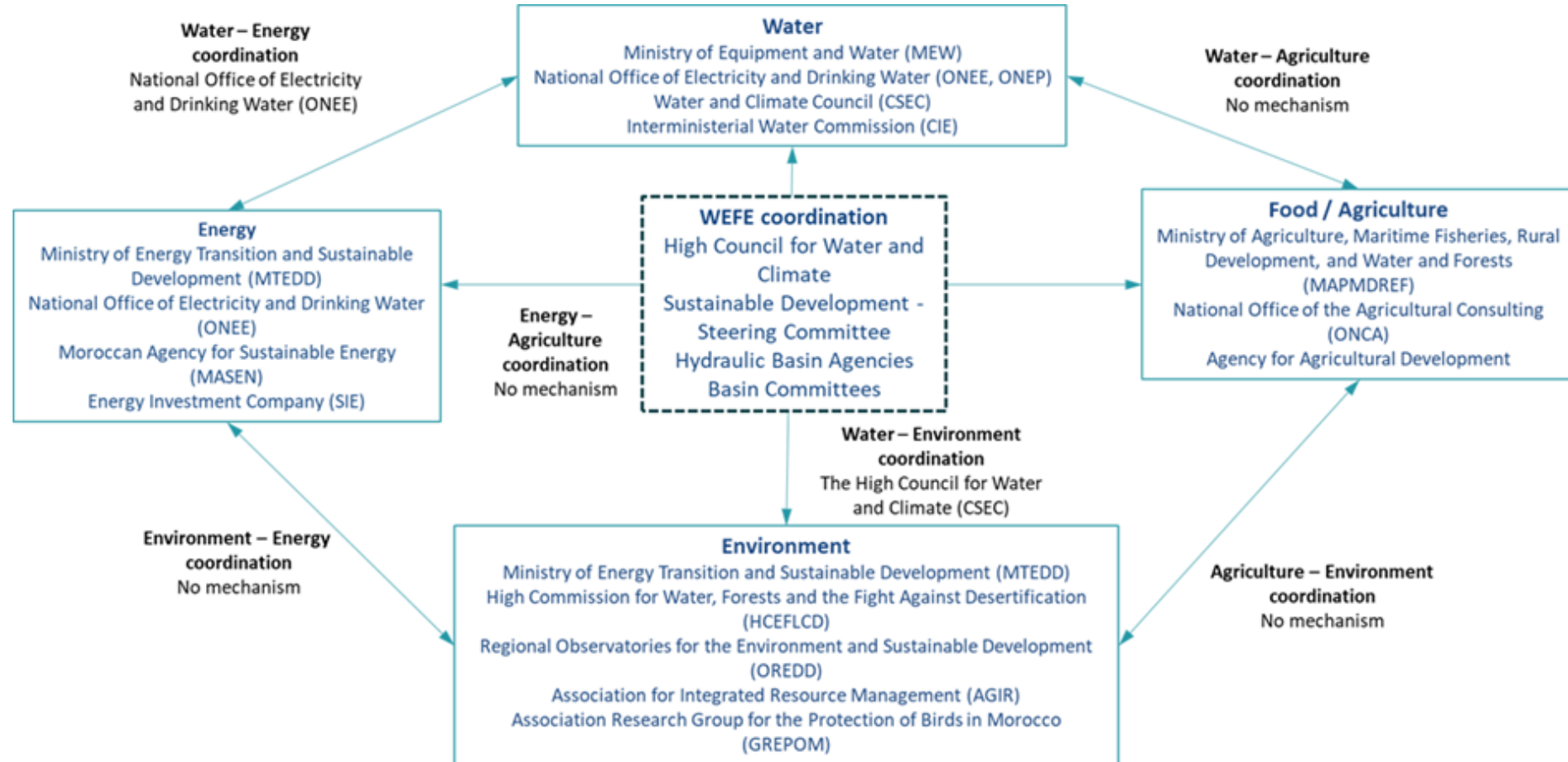
- Installed solar-powered water pumping and gravity-fed irrigation for 60+ farmers
- Reduced energy costs with PV for filtration, municipal building, and street lighting
- Created revolving fund (with local women's group) to finance green energy tech

➤ **GEF MedProgramme Child Project 2.2 (UNEP/MAP & GWP-Med)**

- Promotes WEFE Nexus through inter-ministerial groups and policy dialogues
- Develops Nexus action plans and investment project proposals
- Enhances sustainable development and resilience in Lebanon

MOROCCO

Key Findings



Morocco

Policies and Strategies



➤ **National Sustainable Development Strategy**

- Improve water valuation & productivity in agriculture and modernize irrigation.
- Promote renewables in irrigation/pumping and link desalination with RE.
- Enhance agricultural resilience via groundwater contracts, desalination rollout, drought plans.

➤ **National Water Strategy**

- Strengthen Basin Agencies, especially groundwater management
- Protect watersheds, oases, lakes & wetlands from erosion, desertification & overpumping.
- Emphasize integrated basin-level drought & resource planning.

➤ **National Climate Plan 2030**

- Promote water saving & irrigation efficiency.
- Address resilience of water-dependent sectors to climate impacts.

➤ **National Energy Strategy 2030**

- Advance renewables & explore nuclear for desalination energy.
- Promote solar PV water heating.
- Link energy transition with water sector needs.

➤ **Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan 2016–2020**

- Mainstream biodiversity into sectoral policies & legislation.
- incorporate biodiversity conservation in various sector approaches

Morocco

Programmes and Initiatives



- **WEFE Policy Dialogue – Tanger-Tétouan-Al Hoceima (GEF MedProgramme, UNEP/MAP & GWP-Med)**
 - Launched a regional WEFE Nexus Policy Dialogue with analytical and participatory components
 - Analytical part assessed sector interactions, identifying synergies and conflicts
 - Participatory process supported decision-makers in anticipating and managing resource-use conflicts
 - Produced a shortlist of 21 priority Nexus solutions in governance, ecosystems, agriculture, and sustainable development
 - Currently developing proposals for investment projects in the TTA region



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Common Findings in the three Focus Countries

Common Challenges

Theme	Description
Institutional fragmentation	Ministries and agencies operate in silos; limited inter-ministerial coordination; overlapping mandates; lack of intersectoral planning frameworks.
Weak policy coherence and regulatory misalignment	Policies often address individual WEFE sectors in isolation; laws do not support integration; unclear responsibilities.
Limited local-level implementation capacity	Centralised governance dominates; basin-level or decentralized mechanisms exist but are under-resourced or disempowered.
Data fragmentation and lack of interoperability	Poor-quality, outdated, or inaccessible data across sectors; no integrated systems for WEFE decision-making.
Stakeholder exclusion and low participation	Local communities, private sector, and civil society are underrepresented in planning processes; limited transparency.
Political instability and governance weakness	Institutional fragility, lack of transparency, and ad hoc planning undermine strategic coherence (Especially acute in Lebanon).
Chronic underinvestment and financing constraints	Budget limitations, poor cost recovery, limited access to international finance; few incentives for integrated projects.
Capacity gaps in integrated planning and technology use	Lack of technical skills, planning tools, and know-how to design or implement WEFE Nexus strategies across sectors.

Common SWOT Analysis

Weaknesses

- Institutional Silos
- Lack of Capacities
- Limited Data Sharing, Systems and Monitoring
- Financial Constraints

Opportunities

- Technological Advancements
- International Support and Partnerships
- Public Awareness and Stakeholder Engagement

Threats

- Over-abstraction and Pollution of Natural Resources
- Impacts from Climate Change
- Political Instability
- Competing Priorities

Strengths

- Awareness of Integrated Policy Frameworks
- Commitment to Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience
- Mediterranean Regional Cooperation

Preliminary findings

Institutional Arrangements and Policies

- **Limited understanding and know-how, and insufficient momentum to develop and implement governance frameworks** that can effectively coordinate across WEFE sectors and their spatial dimensions from Source-to-Sea.
- **Existing multi-sector coordination mechanisms** (e.g., sustainable development, climate change) are often **overlooked** when creating WEFE Nexus-specific frameworks, and vice-versa, thus limiting opportunities for policy coherence and institutional efficiency.
- **Gaps in adapting sector-specific policies** and regulatory frameworks that incorporate WEFE Nexus principles in a Source-to-Sea approach. This often leads to disjointed or conflicting strategies between sectors.
- **Insufficient knowledge on decentralization processes** and how to empower local authorities within a WEFE Nexus framework. This results in weak local-level governance structures and limited engagement in WEFE Nexus issues.

Preliminary findings

Planning and Financing

- **Absence of coherent and cohesive frameworks** that fully integrate the WEFE Nexus approach including its Source to Sea dimensions into national and sub-national planning and financing.
- **Inadequate tools for assessing the economic and financial impacts** of WEFE Nexus plans and projects, inhibiting investment and the implementation of market-based solutions.
- **Knowledge gaps** regarding the development and deployment of innovative **financial instruments** and incentives that can support WEFE Nexus-related projects.
- **Lack of practical guidance and successful models** of WEFE Nexus implementation and monitoring that truly work across sectors and scales.
- **Challenges in executing multi-sectoral projects** that effectively balance water, energy, food, and ecosystems needs considering also the spatial dimensions from Source to Sea.

Preliminary findings

Informed Decision Making

- **Persistent challenges** in accessing or obtaining **reliable, consistent and comprehensive data** across WEFE sectors and synthesizing these to support evidence-based WEFE Nexus planning and decision making.
- **Limited documented experiences** or case studies demonstrating successful cross-sector collaboration, hindering the development and implementation of cross-sectoral initiatives.
- **Limited dissemination, thus awareness**, of related best practices and mechanisms, including their achieved benefits as well as the obstacles encountered, for fostering effective multi-sectoral communication, joint planning, and coordinated implementation.
- **Limited stakeholder involvement and insufficient capacity-building initiatives** undermining the understanding and implementation of the WEFE Nexus approach and leading to insufficient stakeholder coordination and empowerment.
- **A scarcity of interdisciplinary research initiatives** and educational programs that address WEFE issues and solutions, particularly in a Source to Sea approach.
- **Insufficient emphasis on the interlinkages** among WEFE challenges and solutions, leading to a lack of accelerating the development, adoption and use of new technologies and innovations relevant for WEFE Nexus planning and implementation.



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Feedback, Input and Discussion





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Advancing WEF E Nexus policies, strategies and their implementation: a collaborative review of initial findings and recommendations

Review of Recommendations

Recommendations

Institutional Arrangements and Policies



- **Strengthen WEFE Coordination Mechanisms:** Reinforce and formalize cross-sectoral coordination platforms by defining clear mandates, agendas, and timetables for both their meetings and mandated activities.
- **Review and Update WEFE Sector Policies:** Systematically review and update existing sector policies and strategies to incorporate WEFE Nexus interlinkages, cross sectoral synergies and shared-priorities and opportunities, while ensuring alignment with national and regional processes' goals and objectives.
- **Align Sub-National Strategies:** Review mandates, composition, policies, and strategies on natural resources of sub-national authorities to ensure they reflect an integrated multi-sectoral WEFE Nexus approach, including in planning, budgeting, and project implementation.
- **Promote Integrated Governance Frameworks Training:** Provide training to policymakers, planners, and sector regulators on frameworks for WEFE cross-sectoral coordination in a Source-to-Sea approach, and build skills in designing inclusive, adaptive, participatory governance structures that enable multi-level stakeholder engagement.

Recommendations

Planning and Financing



- **Undertake WEFE Multi-Sector Integrated Assessments:** Conduct integrated assessments at national and sub-national levels to support WEFE Nexus planning and cross-sectoral prioritization.
- **Incorporate WEFE Priorities into natural resources and development Plans at appropriate level:** Explicitly incorporate WEFE Nexus priorities into plans like for river and groundwater basin management, coastal zone management, local climate resilience, etc. including provisions for water allocation and efficiency, energy efficiency, food security, ecosystem services and, overall, multi-sector approaches to manage trade-offs among WEFE sectors fairly and efficiently, applying a Source-to-Sea approach.
- **Define Specific Scaling Mechanisms:** Define scaling mechanisms for targeted WEFE Nexus solutions that address critical interlinked issues sustainably (e.g., solar powered irrigation with enforced water abstraction limits or solar powered desalination with advanced brine management or treated wastewater reuse with crop quality controls).

Recommendations

Planning and Financing



- **Develop a Project Pipeline of Investment-Grade Initiatives:** Create a project pipeline of WEFE Nexus interventions in a Source-to-Sea approach, utilizing r screening tools for incorporating socio-economic benefits, that can attract public and private investment and align them with national financing frameworks, domestic financing partners requirements, development assistance partners' criteria, such as the EU NDICI/EFSD+ mechanism, GCF, etc.
- **Engage Private Partners and Domestic Financial Institutions:** Explore opportunities for private investment in WEFE Nexus projects, including facilitated by domestic and international financial institutions, to promote private investment in WEFE Nexus-related projects, potentially using blended finance, public co-financing, tax breaks or subsidies.
- **Mobilize International Support:** Seek additional financial support from international development partners, including the EU, for WEFE Nexus approach implementation, including infrastructure retrofitting, technology adoption, capacity building, etc.

Recommendations

Informed Decision Making



- **Analyse Training Needs:** Conduct a thorough training needs assessment to identify gaps in WEFE Nexus in a Source-to-Sea approach knowledge and skills.
- **Enhance WEFE Nexus Capacity Building for the range of stakeholders:** Develop and further advance capacity-building initiatives, based on the identified needs, including with support by regional partners and projects like EU WES BCA, GEF UNEP MAP MedProgramme, etc
- **Support WEFE Nexus Community of Practice (NCoP) :** Develop and facilitate, at appropriate levels, WEFE Nexus NCoP to share information and knowledge, assist stakeholders networking, facilitate co-creation of solutions, utilise structured results of demo projects and initiatives, identify ‘champions’, etc., including at Mediterranean level with the WEFE Nexus CoP facilitated by the PRIMA WEFE4Med Project (www.wefe4med.org).
- **Build Capacity to Use Digital Tools:** Building capacity in the use of digital tools (e.g., GIS, remote sensing, modeling software, AI, digital twins, etc) for integrated natural resources management (planning, monitoring, and decision-making) towards advancing digital transformation.
- **Support Cross-Sectoral Data Standardization:** Train data collectors and managers operating in different sectors on data standardization and digital information platforms for integrated WEFE information systems.

Recommendations

Informed Decision Making



- **Enhance Cross-Sectoral Communication Skills:** Developing communication and facilitation skills amongst government officials to foster inclusive stakeholder participation across WEFE sectors and regions.
- **Adequately Inform Policy and Decision makers:** Improve skills in data analysis and visualization to support cross-sectoral evidence-based decisions in relation to the WEFE Nexus.
- **Train Mediators:** Offer training in conflict resolution, negotiations, and consensus-building with a specific focus on WEFE Nexus conflicts and solutions.
- **Promote Public Awareness:** Increase public awareness of WEFE Nexus issues, approaches and solutions to encourage initiatives with the private sector and communities.
- **Disseminate the draft WEFE Nexus Strategy** and, upon hopeful approval, engage in shaping and implementing its Action Framework towards shifting from WEFE Nexus thinking to WEFE Nexus doing.
- **Digital Transformation:** Engagement in a [regional dialogue on 'Digital Transformation for WEFE Nexus'](#) is ongoing, facilitated by the PRIMA projects ACQUAOUNT and TALANOA-WATER as well as the H2020 TRANSCEND projects and UfM.



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Water and Environment Support -
Biodiversity and Climate Action
in the Neighbourhood South region

Thank you for your attention!

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Next Steps



Introducing the Activity – Demonstrating WEFE Nexus Policy Advancements at National Level (C1_HOR-1)

- Horizontal Regional activity under WES-BCA, Topic 3: WEFE Nexus
- Focus countries: **Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco**
- Contributes to the **draft Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Strategy in the Source-to-Sea continuum** by assessing national-level progress and challenges, and its **upcoming Action Framework**
- Implemented in synergy with regional initiatives:
 - **GEF MedProgramme (Child Project 2.2)** – implemented by UNEP/MAP and managed by GWP-Med under the Global Environment Facility MedProgramme; supporting national WEFE policy dialogues and action plans in Lebanon and Morocco.
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The Activity contributes towards national, cross-country and regional advancements on WEFE Nexus

Key regional Policy and Technical processes to which the Activity contributes

➤ Policy process

- Adoption of the **‘WEFE Nexus Strategy in the Mediterranean Source to Sea Continuum’**
 - Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention, 2-5 December 2025, Cairo
 - UfM Ministerial Conference on Water, 24-25 March 2026, Rome
 - In preparation: 15th UfM Regional Platform on Water, early November 2026, Barcelona

➤ Technical process

- Elaboration of an **‘Action Framework’** for the implementation of the ‘WEFE Nexus Strategy in the Mediterranean Source to Sea Continuum’
 - Med Stakeholder Forum on Environment & Climate Action ‘Making the behavioural shift happen’, with WEFE Nexus Session, 21-23 October 2025, Cairo, organized by MIO-ECSDE, supported by WES-BCA and GEF MedProgramme: NGOs, MPs, Journalists, Women, Youth
 - UfM Training Workshop on utilizing the EU EFSD+/NDCI funding instrument for WEFE Nexus project in Mediterranean, 8-10 December 2025, Athens, organized by GWP-Med
 - 3rd Regional Roundtable on WEFE Nexus in the Med S2S Continuum, 10-12 February 2026, Cyprus, organized by GWP-Med and Cyprus Institute: synergy between GEF MedProgramme, PRIMA WEFE4Med and WES BCA, under the auspices of the Cyprus Presidency of the European Union
 - 16th UfM Regional Platform on Water, June 2026
 - Regular UNEP/MAP MCSD Meeting

Draft Mediterranean WEFE Strategy in the S2S cont.



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Objective 1.1: Develop and/or accordingly adapt appropriate governance structures at all levels to implement the WEFE Nexus approach in the S2S continuum.

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Objective 3.3: Developing capacities of stakeholders and related tools to implement WEFE Nexus at the S2S cont.

Objective 3.4: Raising awareness and improving understanding concerning the WEFE Nexus at the S2S cont, stimulating stakeholder's engagement and empowering them for their implementation.

**The Strategy should assist WEFE Nexus advances
in each country, and cross-country**

Tasks of the Activity

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Task 3 – Final background document

- Update with outcomes from Sept & Dec events
- Provide actionable recommendations for national & regional implementation
- Feed into 2026 regional activity on WEFE best practices in agriculture

Utilise the PRIMA-supported WEFE4Med Nexus Community of Practice for consultations on the Activity's outputs

PRIORITY AREAS ADDRESSED BY THE COMMUNITY

Policy & Governance

How to promote the uptake of WEFE solutions in the Mediterranean, by policy makers.

Implementation

How to support end-users uptake WEFE solutions in the Mediterranean.

Finance

How to demonstrate the financial attractiveness and ensure the sustainability of WEFE solutions in the Mediterranean.

SERVICES TO MEMBERS



Visibility & Recognition



Access to Knowledge & Resources



Networking & Collaboration



Capacity Building & Growth



Policy Influence & Advocacy



SCAN ME

<https://wefe4med.eu/>



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Thank you for your attention!



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**Thank you for your attention
and keep up with our latest news!**

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