



JICA and Partners' Footprints of Cooperation in Lebanon 2018-22



JICA Alumni Association in Lebanon (LEBA-JICA)

*The volunteer network of Lebanese experts for
development and international relations*



LEBA-JICA is a registered civil organization aiming at strengthening the relationship between Lebanon and Japan and it facilitates cooperation among other JICA alumni associations in the Arab countries and beyond. LEBA-JICA has around 60 active members who participated in the Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) provided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Since its founding in 1998, the key members of LEBA-JICA have received several awards for their valuable contributions to the international relation between Lebanon and Japan from the Embassy of Japan and JICA.

LEBA-JICA's activities cover various sectors including education, agriculture, public health, tourism, and environment. Previously, it hosted the Regional Conference with other alumni associations in the Middle East over common agendas but switched its approach to more project-based assistance to address the local needs in Lebanon. After the shift, LEBA-JICA implemented the digital education workshop at a local public school in Mount Lebanon helped by rigorous coordination from LEBA-JICA Board Member Ms. Hanane Abi Ghanem. Furthermore, LEBA-JICA and Lebanon Agricultural Research Institute (LARI) conducted the pilot project of aquaponics/hydroponic over the period from 2021 to 2022. It led to another pilot project using a windmill pump with LARI in the following year.

Among the many successful activities of LEBA-JICA, the art contest titled "Japan from Lebanese Eyes" has been an amazing cultural event involving public school student. In the event, children study Japanese culture with help from their teachers and draw paintings with motifs related to Japan. The artwork created by the children never fails to surprise the staff of the Japanese Embassy and JICA, making the selection process a difficult task. The participating public school uses the opportunity to enhance the children's understanding of foreign cultures.

LEBA-JICA is a group of experts with valuable work experience in the public sector. Their contribution is based on their volunteer spirit and willingness to bring positive change to societies in Lebanon. With strong leadership, it is expected that LEBA-JICA keeps developing its capacity for technical assistance and consultation work to JICA and potentially to other aid agencies soon.



Dr. Jaoudat Abou-Jaoude (Right)
Mr. Kamal Mokdad (Left)



The awardees of the 7th Japan from Lebanese
Eyes (top) and the art work by the students of
Tabaris Public School (bottom)



LEBA-JICA and LARI Windmill Pump Pilot
Project is ongoing in 2022/2023



The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is one of the world's largest bilateral aid agencies, supporting socioeconomic development in developing countries in different regions of the world.

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Data Collection Survey on Water Quality Management in Water Supply Sector in Lebanon (2019-2020)

A good initiative is materialized with JICA

Mrs. Mirvat Kraidieh, Water Quality Control Director, Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW), recognized the need to rehabilitate several chlorine stations under the management of Beirut & Mount Lebanon Water Establishment (BMLWE). Based on her initiative and commitment, JICA could add an important aspect of safety management to the rehabilitation of 4 pump stations. The technicians and operators working in water chlorination regularly handle hazardous chemicals and are exposed to various risks. Mrs. Kraidieh had a strong will to build a safe working environment for them by putting in place a good safety system.

Consequently, the rehabilitated pump stations in Qaa, Ain El Cheikh, Mkalles, and Qornet El Hamra are all equipped with a safety system against the leakage of chlorine gas in addition to new pumps and other equipment. The safety system includes an emergency ventilation, a gas neutralizing system using a water tank, and a water shower. A good collaboration between the public and the private sector produced a locally designed innovative neutralizing system. JICA is confident that the developed safety system and technical training positively contributed to the safe working environment of the technicians and operators. The rehabilitation of the 4 chlorination stations ensures the supply of safe potable water to 140,000 households connected to these stations.

MoEW, BMLWE, and JICA are working together for sustainable safe water supply and wastewater management for all people living in Lebanon.



Mrs. Mirvat Kraidieh



Mr. Naraoka (Center, Former Counsellor, Embassy of Japan), Mr. Antoine Zoghby (3rd right, BMLWE), Mrs. Yara Achkar (2nd right, BMLWE), Mrs. Ghada Rida (1st right, BMLWE)



Workshop at Karantina Public Hospital

Follow Up Cooperation for Seminar on Emergency/Disaster Medicine (2020- 2021)

No JICA Office in Lebanon, but JICA's brain, heart, and hands exist

JICA Alumni Association in Lebanon (LEBA-JICA) is one of the most active alumni associations of the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program in the world. LEBA-JICA has been taking a very important role to assist JICA as the latter has not yet set up its Overseas Office in Lebanon. The alumni association provides valuable assistance to JICA for its project formulation and management. "Follow Up Cooperation for Seminar on Emergency/Disaster Medicine" is an example that highlights how JICA's assistance became possible with rigorous help from LEBA-JICA.

The tragic Beirut Port Explosion took place on August 4, 2020 in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Straight after the incident, JICA Headquarters arranged the provision of emergency relief items to Lebanon with support from the Embassy of Japan in Lebanon. Meanwhile, JICA asked Dr. Jaoudat Abou Jaoude, President of LEBA-JICA, to identify the needs from a middle to long-term perspective. He visited Karantina Public University Hospital which had suffered huge damage to its buildings and medical and laboratory equipment given its proximity to the epicenter of the explosion. He contacted the former participant of the JICA KCCP program working at the Ministry of Public Health and communicated with the management of the hospital to find out what was in need. Based on



Ms. Sakr (Center, Hospital Director)
Dr. Kayrouz (Right, Lab Manager)

the collected information by Dr. Abou Jaoude, JICA could start designing the assistance to the hospital with technical training for infection control and laboratory management and the provision of medical and laboratory equipment.

In the next stage of procurement and implementation, JICA worked closely with Dr. Abou Jaoude and Mr. Kamal Mokdad, the former President and current Treasurer of LEBA-JICA, to procure medical and laboratory equipment. LEBA-JICA organized two separate workshops for the medical staff of the hospital and 175 persons attended to learn infection control and laboratory management. JICA's assistance to Karantina Public University Hospital would not have materialized without the generous assistance from LEBA-JICA. JICA does not have an office in Lebanon but has an amazing network of LEBA-JICA alumni who can work as its brain, heart, and hands to deliver assistance to beneficiaries in Lebanon.



Donated lab equipment (part)



Dr. Randa Sami Hamadeh

Follow-Up Cooperation for Capacity Building of Primary Healthcare Centers (2021-2022)

Lebanon's professional spirits here and there!

Dr. Randa Sami Hamadeh is the Director of Social Health Services & PHC Department and Manager of Immunization and Essential Drugs Program at the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in Lebanon. Under the strong and pro-active leadership of Dr. Hamadeh, remarkable outcomes were produced in the Follow Up Cooperation. Other key success factors were the commitment of the MoPH Team supporting the network of Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCC) and the high-quality service delivered by the technical consulting company, Global Health Team of Experts (GHTE) S.A.L.

48 training sessions were delivered between January 7 and May 23, 2022 in Beirut, Tripoli, Akkar, Zahleh, Saida, and Nabatie, reaching a total of 806 Primary Healthcare Center staff. 3 different training courses covered the issues of self-care, infection prevention and control, and health communication and education. The end evaluation report showed that a high percentage of participants were satisfied with the contents of the training, some commenting "I want my supervisor to understand the content of the training, so please provide similar training in the future." The trainings empowered the health care staff to feel more confident in providing health care messages and services to their patients, and more resilient in facing the Covid-19 pandemic and multiple crises.

Apart from the training, a TV campaign and well-designed PR material increased the visibility of PHC centers and resulted in an increased demand for their high quality and affordable services. In addition, Dr. Hamadeh and the MoPH Team invited leading health journalists to a Media Round Table to create further public awareness via trusted media coverage.

The collaboration of MoPH staff with strong commitment and credible public health experts brought very positive outcomes. JICA staff recognized Lebanon's health sector professionals' strong capabilities and it was the source of this successful Follow Up Cooperation.



Workshop for PHCC staff



Training certificate given to PHCC staff by Ms. Nakamura, Embassy of Japan