



## NEWS RELEASE

Beirut, March 27, 2018

### Designing Water, Waste Water and Solid Waste Management Systems in Refugee Emergency

The EU funded SWIM-H2020 SM Project organizes in Beirut, from March 26 to 29, 2018, a sub-regional on-site Training on Refugee Emergency titled “Fast track project design on water, waste water and solid waste”.

The Training focuses on the design, under conditions of emergency, of wastewater treatment and solid waste systems, and is supported and mentored by the Mediterranean Hot Spots Investment Programme II (MeHSIP-II) of the European Investment Bank (EIB).

The Workshop brings together key stakeholders from Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan and Tunisia involved in the management and design of wastewater treatment facilities and solid waste systems, and introduces them to the relevant technical concepts and approaches including wastewater characterisation and chemistry, determination of the size and types of wastewater treatment ponds, flow, loads and discharge standards, , in addition to design of solid waste management systems (collection and transfer, landfills, recycling), taking also into account the design requirements under emergency conditions in response to the influx and displacement of refugees. In this regard, the workshop will offer a platform for the exchange of experience with governmental and relief organisations within the sub-region with a view to both organisational/administrative aspects including procedures for applying for funds for emergency water/wastewater/solid waste projects.

The 40 participants are representing the ministries of Energy and Water, Environment, Interior as well as Governmental Agencies, International and local NGOs working on environmental issues and in refugees’ camps.

Mr. Mufid Duhaini, Representative of the Ministry of Energy and Water in Lebanon, emphasised the importance of this sub-regional Training in building the capacity of the technical staff from the water and wastewater sector in the sub-region in designing wastewater treatments and solid waste systems and in enhancing their understanding of the requirements for sanitation facilities and solid waste management solutions that can be adopted for temporary settlements/camps as they would be for long term temporary or permanent settlements.

Ms. Suzan Taha, SWIM-H2020 SM Key Water Expert explains: “The Training focuses on the Fast Track Project design on water and wastewater (focusing on wastewater) as well as the Fast Track Project design of solid waste management systems” (collection and transfer, landfills, recycling). The plenary sessions (shared with the trainees of both Tracks) will be covering the experiences in dealing with the influx of the Syrian refugees in the region, as it relates to organisational and financing issues. **In this regard, the Training comes to support the Partner Countries in the sub-region as they face increasing challenges with water scarcity which is exacerbated by the influx of the refugees from neighbouring countries due to the political unrest in the region.”**

Indeed, **Syria’s civil war**, in its seventh year now, has driven more than 60% of its pre-war population from their homes. According to UN estimates, 4.8 million Syrians have fled their country as refugees, seeking safety in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and beyond. The massive exodus of population from Syria has placed enormous pressure on nearby countries.

**In Lebanon**, according to the UNHCR, there were over a million Syrian refugees who had been registered in 2016. Recent estimates were as high as 1,500,000 people. The influx of refugees has resulted in the overpopulation of the camps and cities. Lebanon has been confronted to a severe solid waste crisis since 2015.

**In Jordan** according to the World Bank, refugees constitute a third of the population (9.5 million in 2015). **Municipal Waste Generation was estimated to be 2.7 million tons annually. About 5% of this amount is generated by Syrian refugees. By 2034, the amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) to be generated is estimated to reach 5.2 million tons annually. In Jordan, 48% of Municipal Solid Waste is landfilled (19% in Egypt and 70% in Lebanon), 45% is openly dumped and 7% is recycled.**

**In Gaza strip of Palestine**, cycles of conflict with Israel have required that the **Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) and the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) shift funds for development and operations to crisis response.**



## Sustainable Water Integrated Management and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism

Working for a Sustainable Mediterranean, Caring for our Future.

This Project is funded by the European Union.

The civil society component of SWIM-H2020 SM is facilitated by the UfM labelled BlueGreen project and network.

**The changes in the demand spurred by the conflict have adversely affected the performance of the water sector in the three countries of Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan; exerting severe pressure on the existing water and wastewater infrastructure and markedly lowering the level and quality of solid waste management and municipal services.**

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## SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism Project

The **SWIM-H2020 SM EU-funded Project** aims to contribute to the sustainable use of scarce water resources and properly manage municipal waste, industrial emissions and waste water, and therefore enhance, directly and indirectly, resilience to climate variability and change in the entire region with emphasis on the countries of North Africa and the Middle East (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, [Syria] and Tunisia).

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### Disclaimer

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