



This Project is funded  
by the European Union



# SYNTHESIS REPORT

## Policy support to address single-use plastic items in Lebanon

**Activity No: N-E-LB-2b**

**September 2023**

<b>COMPONENT</b>	Component 1 (Environment)
<b>WES TOPIC:</b>	Curbing Plastic Pollution & Marine Litter
<b>WES SUB-TOPIC :</b>	Sub-Topic 1.2: Addressing single-use plastic
<b>DIMENSION</b>	Technical Assistance

<b>Version</b>	<b>Document Title</b>	<b>Authors</b>	<b>Review and Clearance</b>
v.1	Synthesis report: Policy support to address single-use plastic items in Lebanon	Pedro Fernández Sammy Kayed	Anis Ismail Michael Scoullas

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>BACKGROUND OF THE ASSIGNMENT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT .....	3
1.2	GENERAL BACKGROUND OF THE ACTIVITY .....	3
<b>2</b>	<b>OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>MAIN OUTPUTS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS .....</b>	<b>4</b>

### *DISCLAIMER:*

*This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the WES Project and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.*

## 1 BACKGROUND OF THE ASSIGNMENT

---

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

The "Water and Environment Support (WES) in the ENI Neighborhood South Region" project is a regional technical support project funded by the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI South). WES aims to protect the natural resources in the Mediterranean context and to improve the management of scarce water resources in the region. WES mainly aims to solve the problems linked to pollution prevention and the rational use of water.

WES builds on previous similar regional projects funded by the European Union (Horizon 2020 CB/MEP, SWIM I and II, SWIM-Horizon 2020 SM) strives to create a supportive environment and increase the capacity of all stakeholders in the partner countries (PCs).

The WES Partner Countries are Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Libya, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia. However, in order to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of EU funding or to promote regional cooperation, the eligibility of specific actions can be extended to neighboring countries in the Southern Neighborhood region.

### 1.2 GENERAL BACKGROUND OF THE ACTIVITY

According to a study carried out by SCP/RAC under the EU-funded Marine Litter Med project<sup>1</sup>, each Lebanese resident on average consumes 596 Single-Use plastic bags (SUPBs) per year. This rate of consumption is quite high in comparison with other countries in the region e.g. Morocco 800-900 (before the ban), Tunisia 380, or Egypt 136<sup>2</sup>. This results in an untold number of plastic bags entering marine ecosystems where they may cause various problems to biota.

After the preliminary discussions that the WES project had with the Ministry of the Environment (MoE) and the Ministry of Industry (MoI) of Lebanon, both ministries supported the implementation of a WES national activity which should contribute to the gradual phasing out of single use plastic (SUP) items in Lebanon by taking into account, on the one hand, the environmental aspects and, on the other hand, the technical and industrial challenges of the plastic industries. This technical assistance mission should start with the analysis of the single-use plastics "scene" in the country (data analysis/database, sector assessment, technical measures accompanying the conversion of plastic manufacturers, cost benefit analysis for the phasing out of plastic, etc.), leading to proposing concrete actions (i.e. legal texts or policy action plans) for the progressive phasing out of SUPs, and finalizing, with the provision of evidence based advice, a nationwide strategy for reducing and eventually banning production and/or use of certain single-use plastic items in the country.

## 2 OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES

---

The activities were progressively implemented following a logical approach from analysis to planning in relation to tackling selected SUPs in Lebanon.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cprac.org/en/news-archive/general/transitioning-from-over-consumption-of-single-use-plastic-bags-in-lebanon-an-al>

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/MAP (2019). Background elements for the guidelines on phasing out single-use plastic bags: review of international experiences and alternative options. UNEP/MED WG.466 Inf.5

- Kick-off meeting, 17/3/2022 (online). Presentation of the overall activity.
- Inception meeting, 4/5/2022 (online) – TASK 1. Proposal and selection of targeted SUP items, high level discussion on current status and related initiatives.
- Baseline situation (production and consumption) for the selected SUP items in Lebanon (November 2022) – TASKS 2 & 3. The report also provides the situation on alternatives in the country, potential policy measures to reduce SUPs, as well as their potential impact.
- Consultation workshop, 17/11/2022 – TASK 3. Jointly organised with the Marine Litter Med II project, the workshop reviewed and discussed the baseline report and participants voiced their views on the presented potential policy measures.
- Roadmap to address SUPs in Lebanon, March 2023 – TASK 4. The roadmap provides details on the selected measures taking account of the consultation process (see below).
- Consultation meetings to validate the results so far and the way forward for the reduction of SUPs in Lebanon, and support the MoE in the development of a Voluntary Agreement to tackle SUPs (TASKS 4 & 5). Indeed, the Ministry was supported to develop the first measure, the Voluntary Agreement. For that, the scope and text was proposed and meetings were held with key stakeholders to promote buy-in. By the closure of the activity, both the Ministry of Environment and the Syndicate of Restaurants expressed their will to move forward and sign the agreement later in 2023.

### 3 MAIN OUTPUTS

---

All project documents/deliverables can be found at the dedicated section of the WES website: [https://www.wes-med.eu/activities\\_type/n-e-lb-2b-policy-support-to-address-single-use-plastic-items-in-lebanon/](https://www.wes-med.eu/activities_type/n-e-lb-2b-policy-support-to-address-single-use-plastic-items-in-lebanon/).

As main outputs, the following are considered:

- Baseline report on selected SUPs in Lebanon
- Roadmap to address SUPs
- Final draft Voluntary Agreement between the Ministry of Environment and the Syndicate of Restaurants.

Last but not least, one should acknowledge the importance of raising awareness, building capacity and promotion of action in relation to on-the-go SUPs through the implementation of this activity in Lebanon. This shall result in further actions in the near future to crystallise the Voluntary Agreement and other measures.

### 4 CONCLUSIONS

---

The activity successfully met its objectives and was smoothly implemented in Lebanon, allowing for a detailed roadmap on the actions to tackle on-the-go SUPs, mostly related to the hotel, restaurant and cafe sector. Private stakeholders have shown interest in taking voluntary action towards the reduction of SUPs, mostly driven by economic savings and consumers' perception. Next steps shall include the formalisation of the Voluntary Agreement through promotion and eventual signature by specific businesses, who would benefit from expert follow up to assess their consumption of SUPs and guide them toward tailored sustainable alternatives.