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FACT SHEET

WATER MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE

2016-2021 • \$35.5 million • Partners: Tetra Tech ARD; Ministry of Water and Irrigation; Water Authority of Jordan; Jordan Valley Authority; Water Utilities.

BACKGROUND

Jordan is one of the most water-scarce countries in the world. Renewable supplies meet half the country's needs, and groundwater is depleted twice as fast as it is replenished. An influx of refugees, a high rate of population growth, and changing weather patterns add strain to the already shrinking water supply. Even with major new investments to increase supplies, peak demands will go unmet in the coming decades without improved performance. USAID supports the Government of Jordan in implementing its ambitious National Water Strategy (2016-2025) to accomplish its short-term priorities and long-term institutional reform goals.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Water Management Initiative concluded on March 31, 2021. The activity was implemented by Tetra Tech and a consortium of four international and local subcontractors. The project had four components: 1) Water Supply Systems, dedicated to strengthen management of water utilities and instituting reforms to reduce water losses and increase cost recovery; 2) Water Conservation and Demand Management, dedicated to increase water-savings through the adoption of water-efficient practices and technologies in households, commercial entities, and irrigation; 3) Water Sector Governance dedicated to support the development and implementation of water sector policies, improved utility governance and performance, and improved irrigation management; and 4) Water Supply Protection, dedicated to

support improvements in groundwater management, wastewater treatment and compliance, and water quality protection.

NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Water Management Initiative strengthened water sector governance through a National Water Strategy that established clear roles and responsibilities in the water sector. The initiative accelerated the formation of three regional utilities to manage water distribution to the north, central and southern governorates. The Water Authority of Jordan was transformed into a groundwater management and bulk water operations entity and the Jordan Valley Authority was provided well-defined responsibilities in operation and management of bulk water for irrigation. The project also provided advisory support to the development of a water law to formalize the sector's transformation and create a regulatory body. USAID is proud of the results achieved under the Water Management Initiative including:

- 21 new policies and regulations adopted including a sector-wide gender policy, enhanced administrative regulations, human resource guidelines, financial and operational procedures for water utility management and governance, national regulations for rainwater harvesting, and plumbing standards to enhance water conservation.
- 31 performance-enhancing operation and maintenance improvements such as: business processes re-engineering for all utilities; enterprise resource planning implementation and upgrades for two of Jordan's largest water utilities; introduction of energy-saving technologies in wastewater treatment plants; and new employee incentive programs to enhance revenue collection.
- 284 professionals certified in water treatment and distribution, wastewater treatment and collection, and utility management.
- 248 technology solutions to improve water resources monitoring including smart meters to measure the groundwater abstraction, advanced systems to detect illegal abstraction through remote sensing technologies, and e-GroundWater Management system.
- Over 17,000 adoptions of new technologies and practices to save water or increase reuse.
- 7.5 million people reached with behavior change campaigns, and a viral water conservation campaign that garnered over 50 million social media impressions. Over 4,700 women trained in state-of-the-art technologies and methods to enhance water and wastewater management.
- 15 initiatives to promote water conservation including a Debt Collection Campaign, National Water Use Efficiency Initiative for Schools and Hotels, and "Based on your Needs" Campaign.
- Financial modeling and tariff restructuring scenarios prepared for review by Cabinet as part of the International Monetary Fund Action Plan and the government's commitments with donors.

CONTACT

Saskia Funston

Senior Development Outreach & Communications Specialist

United States Agency for International Development

American Embassy

P.O. Box 354

Zip Code 11118 Amman, Jordan

Phone: +962 6 590 6601

Email: sfunston@usaid.gov