



**USAID**  
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# STRENGTHENING WATER SECURITY

## JORDAN

Jordan is one of the most water-scarce countries in the world. The country's renewable water supply currently meets around two-thirds of the population's water demands, with groundwater being used twice as quickly as it can be replenished. Population growth and the influx of refugees from regional conflicts put additional strain on an already stressed water supply. Climate change will exacerbate the problem. Jordan's water security is critical to the country's long-term political and economic stability. For nearly 70 years, USAID has partnered with the Government of Jordan to strengthen the Kingdom's water security by expanding and rehabilitating water supply systems and distribution networks, training hundreds of water experts, promoting water conservation, and building and renovating water and wastewater treatment plants.

### AREAS OF FOCUS

#### IMPROVING WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Efficient, reliable infrastructure is essential to ensuring long-term access to water and sanitation services. Over the years, USAID has built critical water infrastructure such as the Zara Ma'in system that collects, filters, and transfers surface water to 1.7 million people and the As Samra Wastewater Treatment Plant which treats almost 70 percent of all of Jordan's wastewater. USAID continues to support the government maintenance of these large projects and is now replacing the large pumps required for the Zara Ma'in system to improve energy efficiency. In collaboration with the government, USAID upgrades and expands Jordan's water and wastewater infrastructure through smaller projects in many urban areas. USAID is also supporting the design and procurement process of the large-scale Aqaba-Amman Water Desalination and Conveyance Project - also known as the National Conveyance Project. The project is critical to Jordan's water security because it will eventually provide the equivalent of 40 percent of Jordan's municipal water demand through a multi-donor, public-private partnership.

PHOTO CREDIT: MOHAMMAD MAGAYDA

## KEY PARTNERS

Ministry of Water and Irrigation

Water Authority of Jordan

Jordan Valley Authority

Aqaba Water Company

Miyahuna

Yarmouk Water Company

Arabtech Jardaneh

Hussein Atieh and Sons

CDM Smith

FAZ Company

Engicon

SAJDI

Chemonics

AECOM

## LOCATIONS

All twelve governorates

## CONTACT

### Development Outreach and Communication Office

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## STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE

Leakage in old pipes, administrative errors, illegal water connections, inaccurate metering of the supplied and/or consumed water, and improper billing of water usage cause \$400 million in financial losses to the water sector per year. To reduce water losses, build a sustainable and self-sufficient water sector, and facilitate sustainable water management, USAID supports the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to strengthen water sector regulations, implement management reforms, rehabilitate water supply systems, and introduce smart metering and rapid leak detection. Long-term, USAID improves the government's oversight of water management through training of water entity staff and developing actionable water strategies and policies that focus on measurable impacts and accountability.

## PROMOTING WATER CONSERVATION

USAID studies show that farmers, particularly in the Northern highlands often use two to five times more water than is needed. USAID supports farmers and households to use water-efficient technology to conserve the country's limited water resources. By promoting behavioral change among water consumers and policy makers, and partnering with the private sector, USAID is cultivating stewardship of Jordan's precious water resources, to ensure fresh drinking water remains available for the people of Jordan.

## NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS

- USAID has improved water and sanitation services by building water and wastewater networks, treatment plants, and pumping stations. Recent examples include the construction of wastewater treatment plants in Jerash, Tafilah, and North Aqaba. These plants improve sanitation for millions of Jordanians and increase the availability of drinking water by substituting fresh water with treated wastewater for irrigation and industrial uses.
- USAID supported the installation of the Water Authority of Jordan's Control Center. The new operational system connects Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems across Jordan, enabling aggregated monitoring and reporting, which will improve management of scarce water resources.
- USAID has installed 8,500 kilometers of water piping and 120,000 high-accuracy smart meters, procured leak detection equipment and vehicles, and upgraded water monitoring and control systems throughout Jordan, saving enough water in 2020 to supply more than 215,000 people each year.
- Social media campaigns supported by USAID have raised Jordanian awareness of the water crisis facing the country and encouraged water-saving practices. Adoption of water-saving technologies through USAID programs in 2020 saved enough water to supply more than 260,000 people each year.
- USAID helped the Aqaba Water Company (AWC) to integrate its water and wastewater system from source to households to treatment to reuse. Through this partnership, USAID and AWC installed state-of-the-art monitoring systems and overhauled management and business practices that, along with a customer campaign to encourage water conservation, resulted in 50 percent less water being lost to leaks, theft, and improper metering. Through this integrated approach AWC became the only water utility in Jordan that consistently covers its own operational costs.