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INVESTING IN A WATER-SECURE FUTURE JORDAN

Jordan is one of the most water-scarce countries in the world. The country's renewable water supply currently only meets about half of the population's water demands, with groundwater being used twice as quickly as it can be recharged. A high rate of population growth and the influx of refugees from regional conflicts are putting additional strain on an already diminished water supply. Safe drinking water and proper sanitation services are fundamental to the health and wellbeing of the people of Jordan, and water is a central component of food production and economic growth. Sustainable and inclusive access to water is critical for the country's long-term stability and prosperity.

For over 60 years, USAID has partnered with the Government of Jordan to strengthen the Kingdom's water security by expanding and rehabilitating water supply systems, training hundreds of water experts, and building and renovating water networks and water and wastewater treatment plants. Today, USAID continues this partnership by improving water and wastewater infrastructure, strengthening water governance, and promoting water conservation so that the people of Jordan have sustainable access to water in order to help build strong, prosperous communities.

AREAS OF FOCUS

IMPROVING WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Efficient, reliable infrastructure is essential to ensuring long-term access to water and sanitation services. USAID upgrades and expands Jordan's water and wastewater infrastructure through projects like the Zara Ma'in Water Treatment Plant, the construction of the Na'our Wastewater Network, and the construction of the Jerash and North Aqaba Wastewater Treatment Plants to increase the availability of drinking water and improve sanitation for millions of Jordanians.

PHOTO CREDIT: MOHAMMAD MAGAYDA

KEY PARTNERS

Ministry of Water and Irrigation
Water Authority of Jordan
Aqaba Water Company
Miyahuna
Yarmouk Water Company
Arabtech Jardaneh
Hussein Atieh and Sons
CDM Smith
Engicon
Mercy Corps
Tetra Tech

LOCATIONS

All twelve governorates

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STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE

Despite efforts of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in recent years to reduce water losses, Jordan loses half of its water to leaky pipes, theft, and under-billing. In order to reduce water losses and facilitate sustainable water management, USAID works with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to strengthen water sector policies, implement staff training and reforms for water utilities, and introduce smart metering and rapid leak detection.

PROMOTING WATER CONSERVATION

Jordan's agriculture sector consumes over 50 percent of the country's overall water supply, while contributing three percent to the gross domestic product. USAID offers support services to scale up the use of water-saving technologies by farmers and households in order to conserve the country's limited water resources. By promoting behavioral change among the public and policy makers and partnering with the private sector, USAID is cultivating a renewed stewardship of shared water resources to ensure water remains available for the people of Jordan.

NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS

- USAID has improved water and sanitation services by building water and wastewater networks and treatment plants as well as pumping stations. This includes the Zara Ma'in Water Treatment Plant, which provides drinking water to an estimated 2.6 million residents in Amman, and As Samra Wastewater Treatment Plant, which treats almost 70 percent of the Jordan's wastewater. This infrastructure is crucial to providing access to water resources.
- USAID helped create two independent water utilities in Amman to improve the governance of Jordan's limited water resources and to provide an incentive for utilities to be self-financed and to reduce inefficiencies. Policy reforms and on-the-job-training for Miyahuna, Aqaba Water Company, and Yarmouk Water Company have increased cost recovery by over 50 percent in just one quarter. This builds the self-sufficiency of utilities so they can continue to deliver clean water to millions of Jordanians.
- Highly treated water from USAID-funded wastewater treatment plants provide Jordan with 120 million cubic meters of water safe for agriculture use, enough water to fill 48,000 Olympic swimming pools. These water savings are critical in alleviating the agriculture sector's heavy consumption of more than half of the country's supply, making more fresh water available for drinking use.
- From 2015 to 2018, USAID worked with Miyahuna and Aqaba water companies to install 9,600 new and improved smart meters, a water-efficiency technology that resulted in a decrease in non-revenue water and more than 2.4 million cubic meters of water saved. USAID is continuing to introduce smart metering and rapid leak detection with water utilities throughout the country.