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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, 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 sector governance to build self-sufficiency in managing water resources, and promoting water conservation so that the people of Jordan have sustainable access to the water they need to build strong, resilient communities. USAID is also helping ensure the continuity of Jordan's water supply during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 and the As Samra Wastewater Treatment Plant to increase the availability of drinking water and improve sanitation for millions of Jordanians.

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
FAZ Company
Mercy Corps
Tetra Tech

LOCATIONS

All twelve governorates

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STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE

Jordan loses up to half of its water to non-revenue water – water lost through 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 regulations, restructure and rehabilitate water networks and pump stations, and introduce smart metering and rapid leak detection. In addition, USAID is helping the Ministry and water utilities implement management reforms to build a sustainable and self-sufficient water sector in Jordan. More than 9000 water sector personnel were trained in 2020 on tools and methods to improve water resource management.

PROMOTING WATER CONSERVATION

Jordan's agriculture sector consumes over 50 percent of the country's water supply. Studies show that farmers often use two to five times more water than is needed. USAID provides 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 water consumers and policy makers, and partnering with the private sector, USAID is cultivating 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, treatment plants, and pumping stations. Examples include the Zara Ma'in Water Treatment Plant, which provides drinking water to an estimated 1.7 million residents in Amman; As Samra Wastewater Treatment Plant, which treats almost 70 percent of the Jordan's wastewater, and Wadi Al Arab Water System, where USAID's design work on the system enabled other donors to invest millions in infrastructure to provide fresh water for over 800,000 people in Irbid and Jerash.
- 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.
- Non-revenue water causes major financial strain to the water sector amounting to at least US\$ 300 million per year. 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.
- A social media campaign supported by USAID raised awareness throughout Jordan about the water crisis facing the country and encouraged water-saving practices. Campaign messages on social media, digital media, print media, billboards, and water tankers reached an estimated 3.5 million people. In addition, adoption of water saving technologies through USAID programs in 2020 saved enough water to supply more than 260,000 people each year.