

Addressing Water Needs of Jordan Hosting Communities

AWANE Project (2015-2018)

Water in Jordan

In 2014, Jordan was ranked as the second water-poorest country in the world. Water per capita was estimated at 88% below the international water poverty line of 1,000 cubic meters annually.

Water use in Jordan is currently unsustainable with the annual renewable supply being 780 MCM but demand exceeding 1000 MCM annually. The difference is covered by over-pumping of aquifers, the use of fossil water resources, and de-salination of brackish water and the re-use of treated wastewater.

Government officials point to the population influx resulting from the Syrian crisis in the region (as well as in the OPTI and Iraq) , as the participating factor for Jordan's growing water shortages , but many of the challenges, facing Jordan's water sector pre-date the crisis and point to the need for systematic changes to water use practices and Management .

While the influx of Syrian refugees to Jordan since 2011, particularly in 2012 and 2013 (1.4 million Syrians from which 628,867 are registered with UNHCR) has provided a convenient scapegoat for the water deficit problems, the challenges in the Jordanian water sector are more complex than a 10% increase in consumer demand created by Syrian refugees

AWANE PROJECT

Addressing **Water Needs of Jordan Hosting Communities** (AWANE) is a bilateral project funded by the government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada (GAC). It starts on February 2015 and ends on February, 2018.

The project ultimate goal is to improved water resource management in the Zarqa and Balqa governorates in Jordan so that all residents are able to realise their rights and responsibilities in a sustainable manner.

AWANE project is focusing on the Zarqa and Balqa Governorates in Jordan, it will promote better water governance, stronger institutional accountability and improved environmental sustainability while ensuring that the specific needs and capacities of women are addressed.

In line with the Jordan Response plan 2015 (JRP), the principal objective of this initiative is "to enhance government capacity to meet the increase in demand for water and sanitation services, particularly in host communities".

The project will work, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) and the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), on improving water resource management in the Zarqa and Balqa governorates.

This will be achieved by working closely with relevant water utilities to rehabilitate and improve existing water infrastructure and strengthen the accountability and response of water governance bodies to the population's needs while investing in activities to increase community awareness and engagement on water conservation At household and community level .

The project is expected to target approximately 40,000 men , Women , girls and boys including 6,000 women and 2,000 men who will benefit from community led interventions aimed at improving water use and conservation practices and communities participation in water management .

Additional targeted Beneficiaries are relevant personnel from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI), The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) and water utilities (Miyahuna) of Zarqa and Balqa. Through targeted activities, this project will help address Communities need for more reliable domestic water supplies, and more effective and accountable water governance.

Project main three pillars

The expected result is to promote:

- 1) Increased reliability of water supplies in the Zarqa communities;
- 2) Increased participation of Zarqa and Balqa communities, especially women, in efficient water management
- 3) Improved Accountability mechanisms for water management and governance, which take into account Women's needs, in the targeted communities.

Water Governance in Jordan

The Government of Jordan (GoJ) has its national strategy for water management, 'Water for Life' (2008-2022) which sets out a vision for the water sector focusing on water governance and institutional reform topics.

The strategy outlines the Government of Jordan's vision for a water strategy that ensures that by 2022 Jordan has:

- Adequate, safe and secure drinking water
- Greater understanding and more effective management of ground and surface water
- Healthy aquatic ecosystems
- A sustainable use of water resources, and fair, affordable and cost -reflective water charges

Adaptation to increased population growth and economic development across water sectors and water users.

Working in Partnership

With the support of its local key partner Future Pioneers for Empowering Communities (FPEC), Oxfam is going to work with CBOs at grassroots level in order to reach communities where the project is implemented. Oxfam believes that programmes implemented in partnership increase the collective knowledge, skills, reach and experience applied to an issue or challenge. Programmes implemented in partnership are likely to be better at encouraging and enabling the real participation and investment of people living in poverty.

Project Main Activities

- Increased reliability of water supply through rehabilitation of existing water infrastructure and institutional capacity building of water utilities in AL-Naqab & teachers housing area / Zarqa Governorate.
- Work extensively with the local communities in both of Zarqa and Balqa through the selected local community based organizations in order to improve the water services there through improving the concept of Accountability.
- Select the Water Community Groups to include community leaders, and decision makers in relevant sectors in both locations (Zarqa and Balqa) to adopt the project concept and contribute to the sustainability of its results.
- Select the Gender Water Ambassadors through following the project concept to contribute to the sustainability of the project results taking into consideration transparent selection process of these Ambassadors to achieve best results.
- Conduct several awareness and capacity building workshops to raise the local community awareness about the project objectives, and the expected results in the field of water management.
- Build the capacities of the Gender Water Ambassadors to be able to raise the public awareness of the community about the importance of protecting water resources and best practices at one hand and representing the community on front of the decision makers at another hand, in addition to facilitate networking between these Ambassadors and the decision makers.

Project outcomes

- Reduction in leaks and malfunctions in domestic water networks in the selected area in Zarqa Governorate
- Increased ability of water utility personnel to anticipate, prevent and respond to water system breakdown and malfunctions
- Increased community awareness and knowledge on sustainable water management in Zarqa and Balqa governorates
- Increased women's skills in sustainable water management Increased ability of Women to promote gender responsive water Management
- Increased access and improved accountability between water governance bodies and users of Zarqa and Balqa communities



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