



THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

**Establishing the Post-2015 Development Agenda:
Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) towards Water Security
The Jordanian Perspective**

Ministry of Water and Irrigation

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Establishing the Post-2015 Development Agenda:

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) towards Water Security

The Jordanian Perspective

Jordan – Fact Sheet

Jordan is a small, resource-starved, middle-income country with insufficient supplies of water, oil, and other natural resources. The total area of Jordan is 89297 km² mostly desert land. The country is classified as semi-arid to arid region with annual rainfall of less than 200 mm over 90% of the land. In 2012, the Jordanian population was reported at 6.388 million inhabitants, growing at an average rate of 2.2% which is higher than the world average of 1.7%. Its relatively young population characterizes the country, with 37.3% of its inhabitants below the age of 15. The average family size is 5.4 persons with a per capita GDP of USD 4912. The national unemployment rate is 12.2 %. The Jordanian work force distribution shows that 0.2% of the populations above 15 years work in water supply, sewerage and waste management. (DOS 2012)

Jordan suffers a harsh water situation. Jordanian per capita share of water dropped during the past 60 years from 3600 to 140 cubic meter/a in 2012, putting Jordan among the four poorest countries with growing gap between needs and availability. Jordanians are receiving water once per week for a limited number of hours using roof tanks to store their weekly needs. The intermittent supply regime also creates additional risk that may compromise water quality.

Severe competition among sectors was due to exponential rise in water demand. Industrial water demand is expected increase by 300% within 10 years, the commercial including touristic by 200%, competing with increasing domestic demand. Water sector policy makers recognize that domestic water supply is directly linked to the national water security and thus is a national priority.

Situation Analysis: Challenges Facing Jordan's MDG Achievements

Many challenges related to population increase put pressure on Jordan's natural resources. In particular, water scarcity is a major threat to achieving food security and reducing poverty.

The sustainability of achieving the MDGs is however, threatened by several factors:

(a) Demographic Shifting:

Jordan achievement and sustainability of MDG is threatened by the fluxes of refugees that resulted in stepped increase in consumers, see Figure 2 below.

(b) High fertility - despite the drop in fertility rates over the past decade, Jordan's population has more than doubled since 1980. The growth rate is still among the highest in the world, causing severe strains on the country's natural resources and infrastructure;

(c) Water scarcity - already one of the world's most water-starved countries, Jordan faces increasing deterioration in the quality and quantity of its water resources;

(d) Severe land degradation – a result of inadequate land-use planning, urban encroachment, soil erosion and poor waste disposal methods;

(e) Income poverty – a combination of high population growth, the return of thousands of workers from the Gulf States following the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis and low economic growth has made income poverty more widespread. Unemployment among women is about twice that of men;

(f) Inefficient production - much of Jordan's past economic growth has been created in sectors that were heavily shielded against international competition. To comply with conditions related to accession to the global trading system such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement many structural changes were implemented or planned in order to ensure sustainability; and

(g) Regional conflicts – the escalation of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has affected major economic sectors in the country (i.e. tourism) plus the step wise increase in population due to frequent refugee influx to the country i.e. the latest refugee Syrian influx due to the Syrian crisis.

(h) Climate change impact: models predict increase in evapotranspiration of 3%, decrease in rainfall of 15%, increase in irrigation water demand of 18% and as a result decrease in water availability about 30% in the next 20 years.

Fresh water resources

Scarcity of water resources of Jordan is a well-known fact. Ground water resources have been abstracted beyond their safe yield. Surface water resources stay under the threat of the fluctuation of precipitation patterns that are becoming more severed, though every attempt has been made to maximize the amounts captured surface water. The available renewable fresh water resources have decrease dramatically. Most of significant amounts of surface and groundwater flows from outside the country. Jordan is getting less that 25% of the historical shared water flowing from the Yarmouk River Basin amounting to about one third of the proposed share as per the treaties and agreements that attempted to distribute water between the beneficiary countries. This water scarcity is aggravated by:

1. Climate change impacts: The National Agenda sets Jordan's development vision till 2015, as well as UNDAF document (2008-2012), stress that Jordan's remarkable development achievements are under threat due to the crippling water scarcity, which is expected to be aggravated by climate change. Jordan will witness a rise in temperature, drop in rainfall, reduced ground cover, reduced water availability, heat-waves, and more frequent dust storms over the next three decades; thus bringing about additional threats to health, food security, productivity, and human security.

There are several barriers to water sector adaptation to climate change that threaten the sustainability of Jordan's achievement of the MDGs, these include: (i) climate change risks not sufficiently taken into account within sectorial policies and investment frameworks; (ii) existing climate information, knowledge and tools are not directly relevant for supporting adaptation decisions and actions; and (iii) weak national capacity to develop sectorial adaptation responses.

The available metrological data shows a decrease of 22% in total annual rainfall during the past 60 years.

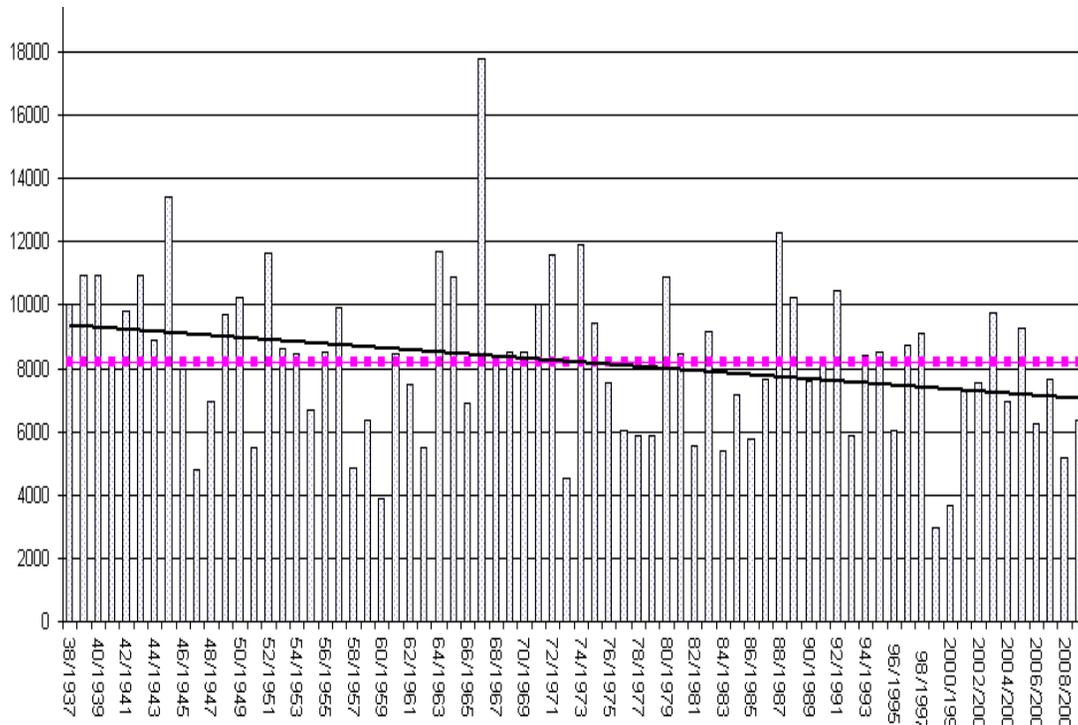


Figure (1) Rainfall 1937-2010
 (***** Average; -----Trend)

Climate change impacts on water security that encounters scarcity of supplies and water quality deterioration should be addressed and indicators for no regret actions should be included

2. Population growth: The domestic demand has increased due population growth of 2.2% and to the stepped increase in population resulting from waves of refugees, i.e. Palestinian refugees in 1948, 1967, 1982 from Lebanon and 1991 from Kuwait, the Iraqi refugees in 2003 and lately by the 1.3 million Syrians fleeing their homeland putting Jordan as the third country hosting the largest number of refugees. Thirteen camps for Palestinians and five for Syrians have been established creating new demand centers for water and sanitation services.

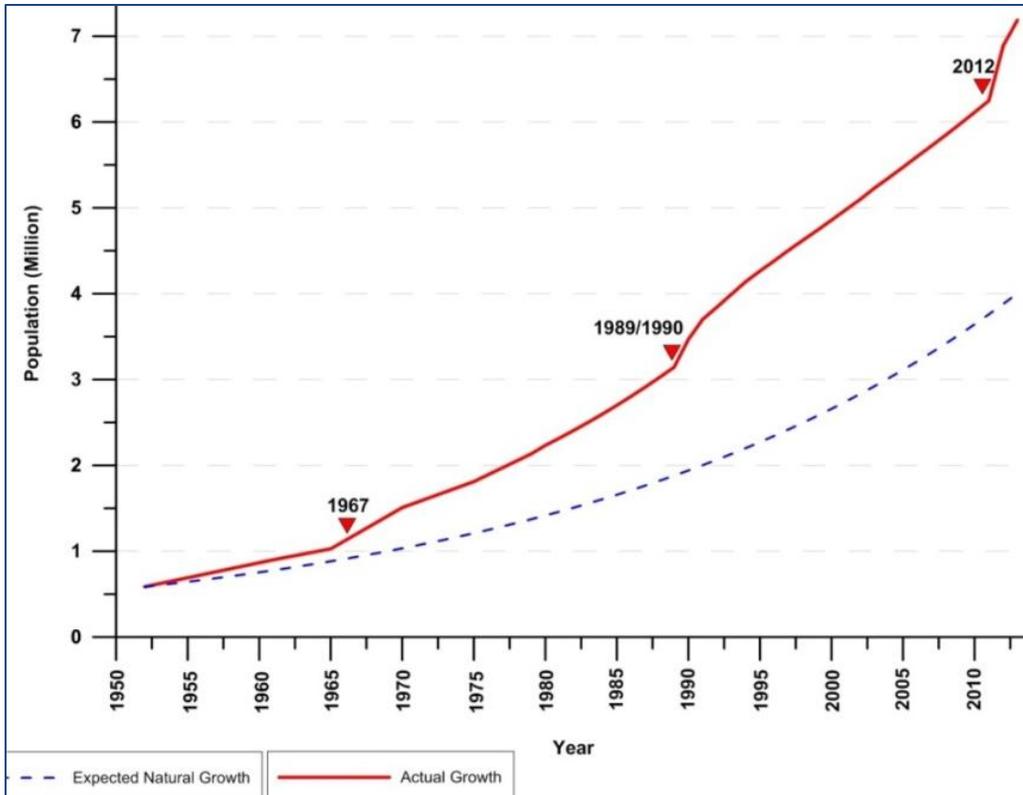


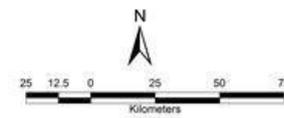
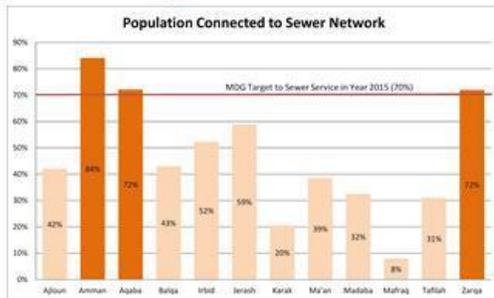
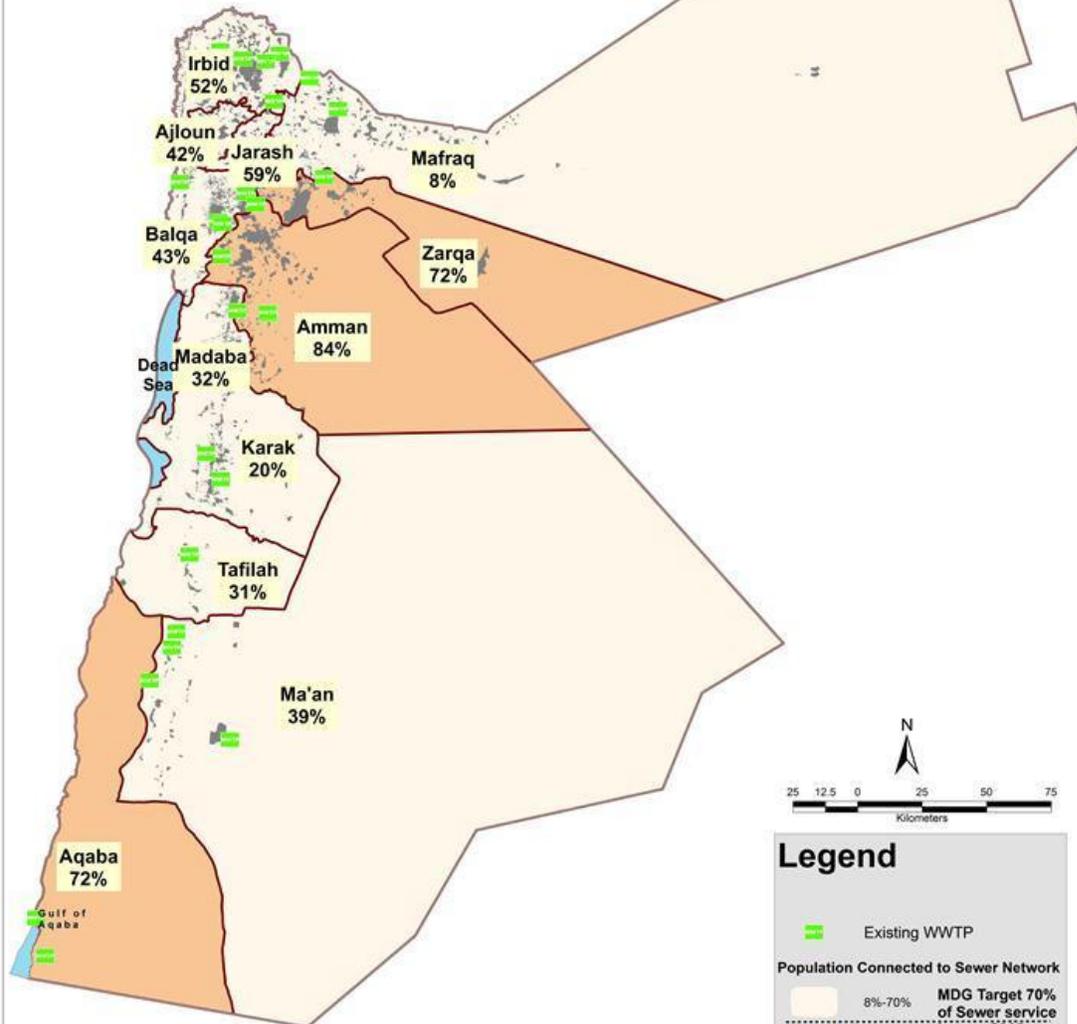
Figure (2): Expected natural growth (blue dashed line) vs actual growth rate (red line) of residents in Jordan

Urgent need for international community support to Jordan to host the refugees and to put the resilience plan into action

Sanitation

The number of people who gained access to public wastewater services during the last decade has generally been less than the increase in the number of the population. Normally, priority has been given to the provision of water supplies over sanitation. This modest overall sewerage coverage is due to the high costs involved when considering the capital investment associated with treatment plants and lying sewer network and house connections. The situation is relatively much harder in the rural due to small clusters of people distributed over a large area of land (Figure 3).

**Average National Connected Population (63%)
MDG Target in Year 2015 (70%)**



Legend

- Existing WWTP
- Population Connected to Sewer Network
 - 8%-70% MDG Target 70% of Sewer service in year 2015
 - 71%-84%
- Built Up Areas
- Governorate Boundary
- Jordan International Border

USAID | JORDAN
Institutional Support and Strengthening Program (ISSP)

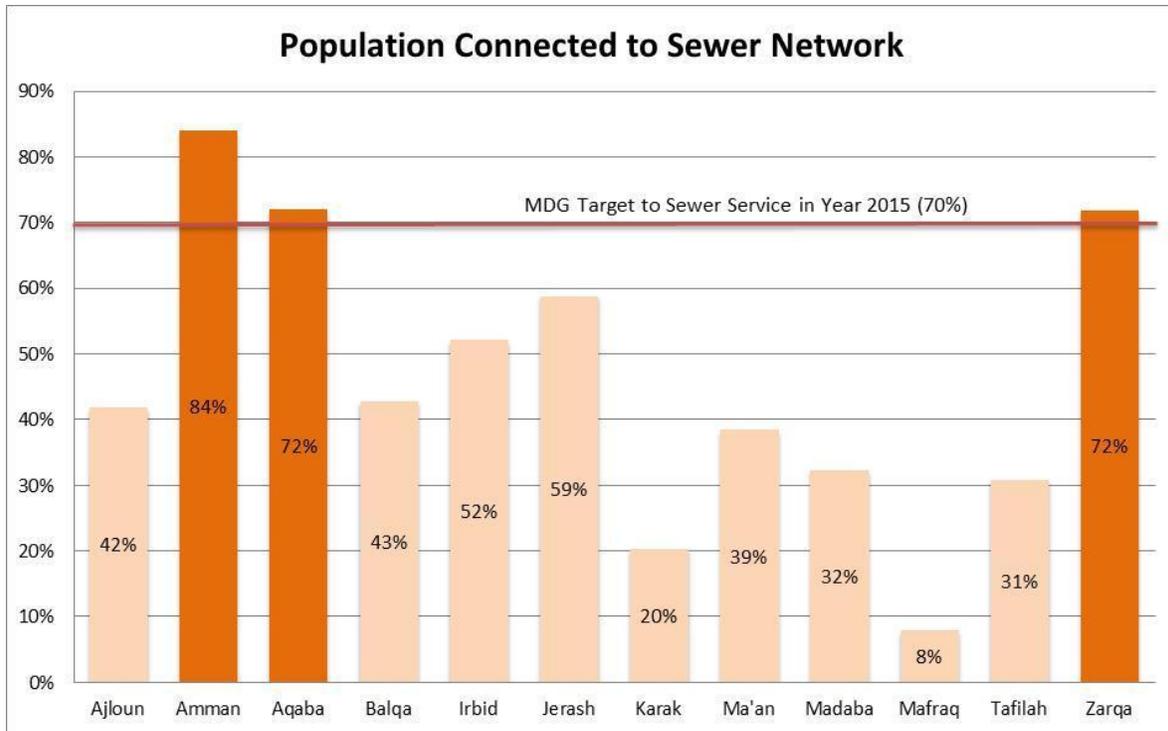


Figure (3): The national sanitation coverage

In Jordan there are 29 central wastewater treatment plants that are expected to treat 280 MCM/a in 2030. Yet many of the existing treatment plants are under capacity (shown in red points on figure 4), that will need urgent rehabilitation and extension works.

Poorly managed cesspools are the most common alternative for wastewater disposal. This has been a cause for concern as seepage from cesspools has contaminated scarce freshwater resources and created several negative health and environmental impacts. Around one third of the population use unsealed cesspits for dumping wastewater. If we assume 70% infiltrates to groundwater in underneath or near cities, the volume of wastewater expected to infiltrate to the ground will be about 50MCM/a threatening to deteriorate the quality of the precious groundwater resources.

Moreover, reuse of water is a lost opportunity as wastewater is buried away in these pits so that the amount of wastewater collected and treated makes up a small percentage of the generated quantities, as do the reused amounts. Compared with agricultural withdrawals in the Region, water reuse quantities constitute small percentages.

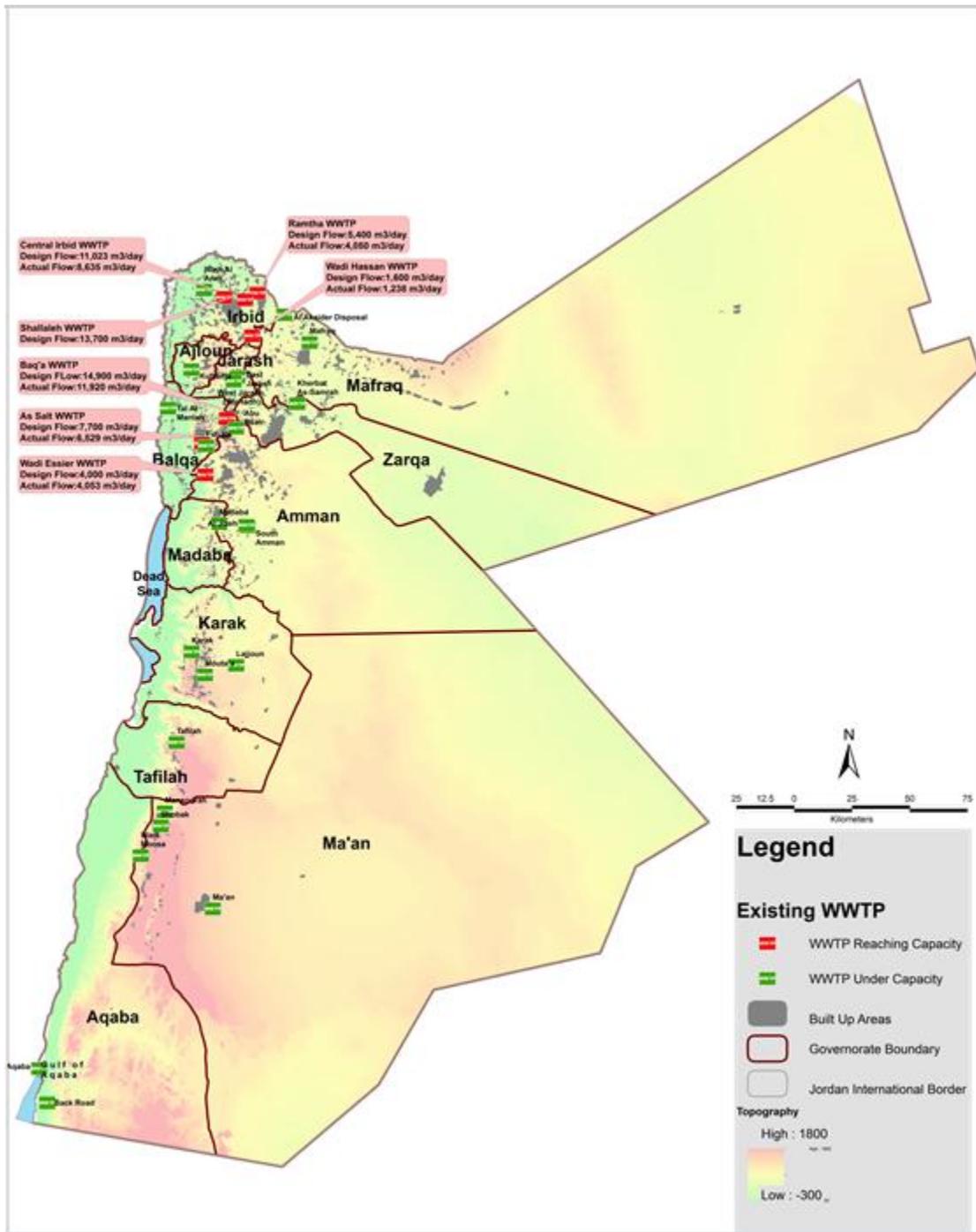


Figure (4): The WWTPs in Jordan

The treatment and reuse of urban wastewater in agriculture needs to be promoted as well as the benefit in methane conversion to energy in treatment systems recognized.

- 1. There is a need for foreign aid to fund sanitation centralized projects.**
- 2. Find sanitation solutions for rural areas and move to DEWATS to:**
 - a. Alleviate public health standards for the rural communities.**
 - b. Protect the environment and the groundwater aquifers after decommissioning the active cesspits.**
 - c. Maximize the amounts of reclaimed water for re-use purposes.**

Financial Aid

Recognizing the magnitude of threat of water scarcity, massive expenditures during the last decade by the government and external assistance partners are placed in enhancing water resources availability and managing water demand. However, there are several critical areas that are not addressed well and need more investment and policy development.

Governance

The MENA region and the Arab world going through the “Arab Spring” are facing challenges that may constitute reverse pulling forces to adopting water governance in the time when it is mostly needed with the severe water shortage we are facing that requires more than ever sound regional collaboration and local awareness in adopting and translating the water governance principles into actions.

Water shortages among other political issues in the Arab Countries are at the root of the region’s instability both locally and regionally. In the coming years, Arab countries will witness further manifestation of unrest all over the region due to water impact on food supply and water and sanitation services especially because thirteen of the 22 countries, members of the Arab League rank among the world's most water-scarce nations.

Jordan needs above all nursing an environment for water governance as a prerequisite for integrated water resources management and for equitable and sustainable development to build trust in water institutions in providing adequate protection against increased water scarcity and the best utilization of monetary funds to provide water and sanitation for all. We need more than ever translating the water governance principles into actions

Enabling political environment for good and efficient water governance will create balance of competing interests on who is entitled to what services, how services are provided, who pays, and how competing interests are balanced and also decide on how water resources are protected.

Jordan's Progress in Achieving the MDGs

Despite the limited natural resources, the narrow economic base and Jordan's location in a conflict stricken region, the country has made strategic advances towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), where tremendous progress has been achieved in the last twenty years. This progress led to reduction in poverty rates from 21% in 1997 to 14.4% in 2012 (MDG 1), increasing adult literacy rate to 93.3% (MDG 2), achieving infant mortality rate of 17 per 1000 (MDG 4) and increasing access to water supply to 99% (although intermittent) and access to sanitation to 63% compared to 48% in 2000 (MDG 7) .

The Common Country Assessment (2006) described Jordan's progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as on track to be met by 2015. In this context Jordan achieved the following despite the aforementioned challenges coupled with limited financial resources:

- The proportion of population with sustainable access to improved water resources exceeds 99%. The water quality compliance to microbiological parameters exceeds 99.3% in the whole kingdom.
- Acknowledging that safe sanitation is vital for improved human health, disease and pollution prevention, Jordan is keen to apply the world best practices especially in wastewater treatment, management and re-use especially now with the overwhelming pressure on water and sanitation as a result of hosting 600,000 Syrian Refugees and another 600,000 Residents.

- The proportion of population with safe sanitation exceeds 98% (according to the UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme assessment figures).
- Population connected to public sewer systems are 63% which is below the MDG target for 2015.
- Jordan is re-using 98% of its treated wastewater in agriculture to reallocate fresh water for domestic purposes (figure 5).

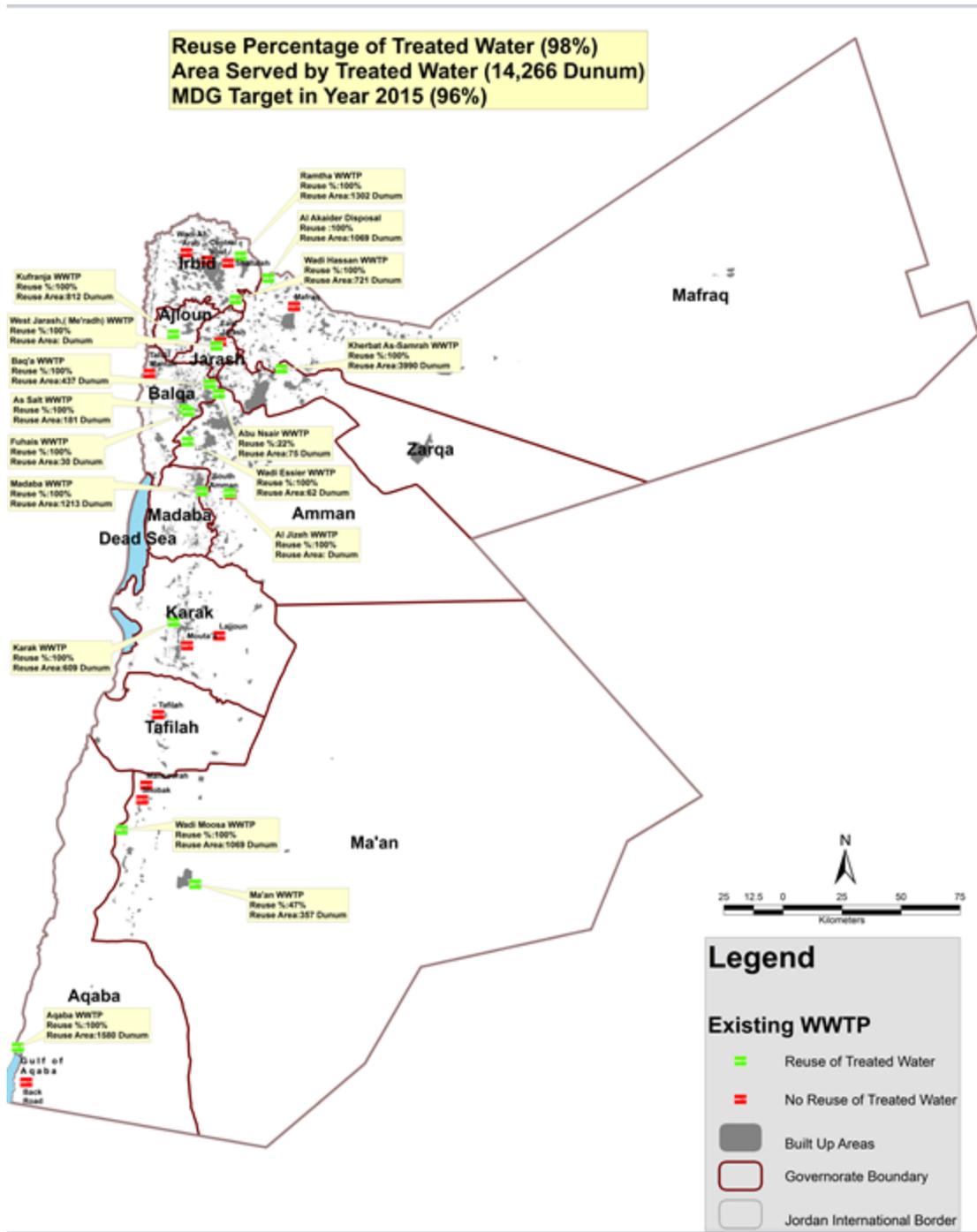


Figure (5): the reclaimed water reuse in Jordan and areas served

MDGs & SDGs Post 2015

His Royal Highness Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal in his capacity as chair of UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) as well as being well recognized and respected international thinker has put efforts both on national, regional and international levels to address the importance and effect of having a dedicated global goal for water and sanitation that will assure considering access to clean water and safe sanitation as a basic human right, HRH also played a major role on the regional initiatives tackling water and green economy as well as clean energy.

Water and Sanitation Dedicated Goal

Jordan developed its vision beyond 2015 that entails **dedicated global goal for water and sanitation**: Jordan supports fully the efforts of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) and other institution to dedicate a standalone goal for water and sanitation. A set of potential targets and indicators will be defined on national level that best advance its work for achieving and sustaining such global goal, it will also work with regional countries to achieve equitably the goal. Human Rights and Justice shall guide the regional and international efforts on this regard.

Access to clean water and safe sanitation should be recognized as a basic human right

Jordan Supports a Dedicated Goal for Water and Sanitation post 2015

Jordan's Vision for Sustainability

Jordan's vision for sustainable development encounters sustainable environment, universal access to sustainable sanitation, sound wastewater management and reuse, pollution prevention, safe drinking water delivery, water security and regional cooperation.

Achieving the MDGs and the SDGs will lead to optimize the utilization of the resources that are interlinked (water, energy and food security).

The key strategic issue to be addressed will encounter sustained access to improved water supply sources despite increased water scarcity, to address identified barriers and to support Jordan's national strategies and action plans for sustainable management of its water resources.

Jordan's success in adapting to increased water scarcity include adopting new management strategies that relies on demand management and the involvement of the community and nonprofit organizations to sustain development achievements and growth.

Sustaining water quality and reliable access to safe water supply involves measure of securing both sufficient quantity of water and safe quality. If drinking water quality is compromised it will have direct inverse impact on the health indicators. Therefore, the works on water quality and water resources allocation are integral in the efforts to sustain Jordan's achievement of MDG 7.

The treatment and reuse of urban wastewater in agriculture need to be promoted as well as the benefit in methane conversion to energy in treatment systems recognized.

Long term sustainability can be achieved by water allocation and supply through the adoption of a long-term plans to improve the provided services through restructuring and rehabilitation of networks, non-revenue water reduction (NRW), provide new resources and to maximize the efficient use of available resources. Above all the government support to subsidize the shortfall caused by low cost recovery of O&M costs.

Jordan recognizes the following as key points to ensure security and sustainability locally and regionally:

- 1- **Regional transboundary “Mega Projects are Human rights:** When the per capita water share of water has reached the critical limits to sustain human health and when Jordan has almost exhausted the precious groundwater aquifers, utilized fossil strategic reserves and are facing the climate change impacts of lower rainfall rates and change of rainfall patterns such that water reserves are threatened, then regional trans boundary mega projects (red-dead or conveyance water projects) become a human right.
- 2- **Nursing an environment for water governance as a prerequisite for integrated water resources management and for equitable and sustainable development.**
- 3- **National and regional resilience plans are put into action.**

- 4- **Climate change impacts on water security are addressed and indicators for no regret actions are determined.**
- 5- **Cost Recovery and creating revenue for sustainability:** including tariff structures for the agricultural and domestic sectors in a way that recovers costs, while protecting the poor.

Linkages must be recognized to effectively respond to population growth, urbanization, economic growth and climate change challenges to optimize the utilization of the resources that are interlinked (water, energy and food security) i.e:

- **Responding to Urban growth: can our networks expand to cover all the areas of urban population increase?**
- **Getting political commitment: justify capital investment in water and sanitation, what to do and how to gain the revenue for sustainability.**
- **Utility roles and challenges.**
- **Sanitation solutions and move to DEWATS for increased sanitation coverage in rural areas.**
- **Capacity challenge.**
- **Early action on informal settlements.**

Ref: Maintaining the MDG momentum, IWA Water 21 magazine, December 2014

The strategic national goals of Jordan water sector are set to achieve:

- Provision of safe, uninterrupted, reliable, and affordable access to domestic water for all.
- Provision of adequate quantity of water for economic activities including industry
- Greater understanding and more effective management of groundwater and surface water;
- Healthy aquatic ecosystems;
- Sustainable use of water resources;
- Fair, affordable and cost - reflective water charges in place;
- Measures implemented mitigating effects of increased population growth and economic development across all sectors which impact the water resources and their users;
- Prepared and adapted to challenges triggered by Climate Change;

- Efficient uses of water in irrigation are optimized.
- Increase the wastewater coverage kingdom wide

The Strategy identified specific challenges, objectives and approach for ten priority areas:

- 1- Supply and Demand Balance
- 2- Water Resources Management and Monitoring
- 3- Institutions and Legislation
- 4- Water Supply and Sanitation Services
- 5- Water – Energy – Food Nexus
- 6- Irrigated Agriculture
- 7- Climate Change (Adaptation and Mitigation)
- 8- Economics and Financing
- 9- Water Quality in the Natural Environment
- 10- Trans boundary and Shared Water

Water Sector of Jordan Pillars Beyond 2015

Water & Food Nexus

Water security leads to food security. The irrigated areas are located in the Jordan Valley (some 33,000 hectares), and in the Plateau (some 44,100 hectares). Irrigation practices in the highlands are not controlled and irrigation efficiency is poor. Treated wastewater effluent is added to the water budget for use in irrigated agriculture. It currently constitutes 17% of the annual irrigation water budget and around 61% of irrigation water in the Jordan Valley. MWI is planning to increase the amount of treated wastewater to reach 280 MCM by 2030.

Jordan also faces a complex set of challenges related to water allocation efficiency to increase economic and social return. The productivity of water used in irrigated agriculture is challenged by reducing losses and unproductive water use as well as shifting cropping patterns to increase the share of higher-value crops. Another main challenge is ensuring the safety and exportability of produce grown with treated wastewater. For the above agriculture comprises a relatively small share of GDP, i.e. roughly 3%. Lightly-regulated irrigated agriculture in the highlands is depleting many of the aquifers it taps, leading to overexploitation and increase in groundwater

salinity, thus rendering them unfit for fresh-water storage. Inadequate pricing of both ground and surface water used for irrigation is ineffective at restricting or rationalizing use.

In addition to above mentioned challenges and the severe water scarcity in Jordan, the agricultural sector is facing many challenges, weaknesses and threats that need to be addressed:

1. Rain dependent irrigation is less productive than irrigated agriculture and is threatened by the fluctuations and changing patterns of precipitation.
2. The land available for irrigation is not fully utilized.
3. Most of the irrigated agriculture consumes over 60% of the water budget of the country, yet it produces low cash crops.
4. Modern technology in agriculture is still limited affecting the productivity efficiency.
5. The irrigation water tariff is very low and can hardly recover the operation and maintenance cost of the delivered water.

Water & Energy Nexus

Jordan is facing a combined water and energy scarcity. Jordan's energy sector is almost totally dependent on foreign oil and natural gas: The country imports around 96% of its fossil fuels. Therefore, one of the biggest challenges facing the sustainable economic growth of the country's economy is the rising energy demand and the associated dependency on imports. This imposes a significant financial risk on the national budget because of the volatility of oil and gas prices in addition to the growing energy demand.

According to Jordan's National Electric Power Company (NEPCO), the water sector is the largest single consumer of electricity in Jordan: Electricity consumption for water pumping, transport/conveyance and distribution as well as wastewater services amounts to about 15% of the total national electricity demand. In addition, there is significant energy consumption for water pumping and desalination in the agriculture sector. Moreover, many farms are using diesel generators for water pumping. Diesel fuel prices places huge burdens on farmers.

The improvements of energy efficiency as well as of renewable energy supply provide alternatives for Jordan's energy-intensive water sector. Looking at life-cycle costs, investments into energy efficiency and renewable energies is not only an environmentally friendly option but in many cases economically more feasible. MWI have embarked on ambitious goals to upscale

energy efficiency and renewable energy potentials. Associated activities range from energy-efficient pumping systems, to incentive mechanisms for the use of renewable energies (hydropower, biogas, solar and wind) in the water sector and to the use domestic sludge from treatment plants to produce renewable energy and to improve environmental conditions.

Financial Sustainability

Water and associated services in Jordan is subsidized, the sector managed to achieve more than 100% operation and maintenance (O&M) cost recovery during the years 2004-2008. The O&M declined afterwards, reaching 98% in 2013. Forecasts envisage further decline to 63% in 2025. MWI has developed a strategy and associated Action Plan to:

- Reduce Water Sector Losses,
- Reduce the cost of hosting the Syrian refugees,
- Study the impacts of introducing expensive water supply projects, i.e Disi conveyor project that pumps non-renewable fossil water from the southern desert to the high demand area in Jordan through 350 km large conveyor pipe.
- Study the impacts of electricity prices that constitute 40% of the O&M costs that are increasing incrementally causing sharp decrease in financial sustainability of the services.

Jordan relies highly on aids and lending money expected from international community to finance the different national investments and currently to support Jordan in hosting the refugee influx.

Jordan Fiscal Reform Plan agreed upon by GoJ and IMF, constitutes cost reduction and revenue increase; it is associated with an investment program of USD (6) billion. The plan was approved as an indicator for the United States to grant Jordan Eurobonds.

Affordability and protecting the poor is a major factor risking the plan. Water governance policies in this regard is a priority while implementing the reform.

Water and Environment, Groundwater Protection & Wastewater Management

In order to prevent the infiltration of contaminants into the groundwater, the delineation of groundwater protection zones is of vital importance. A guideline for the protection of

groundwater, surface water and wadis was developed. Up to date, 17 drinking water protection zones have been delineated, including eight well fields, seven springs and two surface water bodies.

Notwithstanding the existing infrastructure, wastewater management remains a major challenge for Jordan in particular due to the interdependency between wastewater disposal and groundwater quality. The country is in need to further increase the wastewater treatment capacity and to rehabilitate existing ones. It is estimated 200 MCM of wastewater could be treated in addition of the current amounts (Water Budget 2012). Wastewater management in Jordan needs to adopt new effective technologies, flexible, modular and robust with minimal networks and pumping requirements in order to reduce the O&M requirements as well as energy requirements.

For rural areas where groundwater resources are highly vulnerable to contamination and in temporary refugee settlements; Jordan is considering decentralized treatment infrastructure. The introduction of these units will protect the environment, human health and will also increase local availability of treated wastewater for reuse in irrigation and provide growth opportunities for local farms, especially in the highlands.

In order to ensure effective and sustainable implementation of decentralized wastewater infrastructure an institutional and regulatory framework is currently being developed for Jordan.

Allocation and planning

Policies and plans for reallocation of water between geographic areas in Jordan based on needs and equity, substituting fresh water by treated wastewater for irrigation purposes, NRW reduction and new water tariff reform were adopted in 2010. The government started recently implementing a plan for reducing illegal use, amendment to legislations is part of this plan, and another part is the enforcement and associated public campaigns.

In response to Syrian refugee's crises, the government prepared a National Resilience Plan (NRP) that expands for the next three years, NRP realization in in line with the development strategy goals and plans and its effect will expand to the next 15 years, the overall investment volume of NRP is 750 MUS\$.

Actions Needed Beyond 2015

National Level Strategy

Jordan water sector has submitted Jordan's position on the SDGs beyond 2015 that was developed through consultative dialogue facilitated by the international organizations.

Regional Corporation and Projects

The formation of a Regional High Level Committee (RHLC) is a recommendation to serve as a platform for cooperation that has the following tasks:

1. Identify regional hot spots,
2. Develop regional water master plan and unified water strategy and action plans for regional large-scale water transfer projects.
3. Create regional thinking tanks like "Arab Thought Forum" in raising awareness and education on regional water issues,
4. Integrate water and electricity networks and other aspects to enable water market exchange (e.g trade water and electricity in the region),
5. Audit regional published data for informed decision making and research & development purposes.
6. Recognize regional network of accredited testing laboratories,
7. Proposing a setup for regional and international fund for water and sanitation initiatives, i.e. "Water Development Fund".

International Context

Jordan development goals achievements is affected by the number of refugees hosted in Jordan, it expects the international community to support its resilience as Jordan resources will not provide a decent and equitable services for refugees and the hosting communities, the NRP implementation is key milestone towards stopping the deterioration in water service delivery.

MDGs and SDGs Post 2015 Development Framework: Different Regions, Different Needs

As per Jordan's experience, and the country's water situation as a country that represents the MENA region; the UN together with the member countries are engaged in the process of developing new framework beyond the year 2015 after relatively successful efforts in achieving development and sustainability goals mainly in reducing poverty, hunger, expanding on education, environment, human development, water and sanitation, etc.

It is well known that MGDs addressed mainly poor countries and SDGs addressed all countries, regions and nations without proper consideration of regional needs, characterizations and specific challenges and the order of MDGs. In other world countries, globalization of objective is not necessarily fair and justice. In some regions, for example, access to water and sanitation in an arid and harsh environment supersedes other MDGs. In other cases, peace and security are preconditions for human development within the MDGs and SDGs.

The UNSGAB can play leading role in streamlining, harmonizing and integrating local and regional objectives with the global context in the, their role will also advance timely achievement, The UNSGAB are the best body to assign the Regional High Level Committees (RHLC).

In order to address such issues in terms of the real needs of the different regions and to avoid universality of the Development Goals which might not be applicable to so many countries and regions, a "mainstreaming" approach shall be adopted. For example, MENA countries shall have a standalone goal that deals with hunger including water and sanitation, peace and security. In addition to this specific regional goal, other universal development goals within the context of MDGs, SDGs and Post 2015 Development goals shall be also applicable to the same region with all needed interlinks and integration for better progress and results.