



**National Stakeholder
Consultations on Water:
Supporting the Post-2015
Development Agenda**

Jordan

11 April 2013



**Global Water
Partnership**
Mediterranean

JORDAN

National Dialogue on Water in the post-2015 development agenda

Amman, 11 April 2013

1. BACKGROUND & DIALOGUE'S CONTENT

As the timeline of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) expires in 2015, a set of 22 national dialogues form part of broad consultations on water launched during the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 (Rio+20 Summit) to address the post-2015 sustainable development framework. Global Water Partnership (GWP) is working with UNDP to follow up with the dialogue as part of the water thematic consultation process now underway by the UN in preparation for the development of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. Notably, these 22 country dialogues will form the only multi-stakeholder-focused input (led by GWP) to be provided to the official UN process at this stage.

Jordan is one of the 22 countries where a national dialogue would take place as it has been actively involved in the elaboration of the UN-Water Global Report on Assessing the Status of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) through a Country Report prepared for the Rio+20 Summit.

The dialogue was hence held in Amman, Jordan on April 11, 2013 under the auspices of the Jordanian Ministry of Water and Irrigation, and was technically and administratively supported by the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med). The Agenda, shown in Appendix A, was prepared according to guidelines prepared for the purpose.

A broad spectrum of individuals with inter-governmental representation and quasi-public institutions as well as NGO's, donors and private sector were invited to and attended the dialogue. In essence, the participants represented stakeholders involved in the water sector with influence on water resources management as well as wastewater and water quality management; some of whom contributed to the aforementioned survey for the UN-Water Global Water Report. The participants' list is provided in Appendix B.

As the key objective of the Dialogue is to mobilise the water voice in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda, the consultation process was intended to identify the most crucial issues at national level that should be taken into consideration in the international agenda and will eventually materialise in support and assistance to the various countries.

To this end, the one day Dialogue workshop was organised covering the broader aspects of "water in the context of society at large" and "sustainable development", with focus on, and as per the provided guidelines:

- Water supply and sanitation and hygiene (WASH);

- Water resources management (WRM);
- Wastewater management and water quality (WW/WQ) from non technical basis; and
- Water resources management monitoring and reporting, requirements and priorities

2. REPORTING ON SESSIONS AND FINDINGS/RESULTS

OPENING

HE the Secretary General of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Dr. Basem Telfah, opened the dialogue and gave a briefing on the current challenges. He highlighted the continuous struggle for Jordan to augment its supplies with problems intensified by an aging infrastructure. All are financially demanding issues particularly when it comes to the problem of the hour; that of the impact of Syrian refugees and the resulting pressures on water, environment and the economy as a whole.

SESSION I - DISCUSSION ON PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES

The discussion objectives were to:

- identify by the various stakeholders water issues, challenges and priorities from a national perspective;
- promote cross-sector dialogue – food-health-energy etc – in order to sensitise those sectors to water issues while water people broaden their vision. This is intended to motivate participation of national stakeholders in other, water-relevant, thematic dialogues; and
- mobilise the water stakeholders' presence (the voice of water) in broader national consultations on the post-2015 development agenda.

The general discussion, which followed the opening, ranged between highlighting existing problems and giving brief presentations on the way specific issues are being addressed in the country. The group was extremely knowledgeable in many of the water issues and ensuing challenges to the nation as a whole and the water sector in particular; as the country has historically suffered from water scarcity.

The identified issues, divided into categories for convenience, include:

Inter-linkages with other sectors – notably with energy

- Important linkages of water with energy – need to further address the link and gather water and energy consumption data, and provide training on the subject. As Jordan is an energy importer the subject of energy self-sufficiency was brought up.
- One impression on energy-water relationship is that donors seem now to be in favour of energy projects over water projects.
- Renewable energy particularly solar energy use has spirally increased with production kWh cost in some cases being less than network costs. Nuclear energy production was brought up resulting in resistance by some.

Climate Change Considerations

- The need to addressing climate change with respect to extreme events, particularly related to drought, was raised; impacts of reduced as well as varied precipitation need to be studied.

Increasing Supply Measures

- Traditional water harvesting methods represent one way of addressing impacts of climate change as there are more than 196 examples in Jordan of resorting again to these methods. The greatest potential of applying such measures is in schools
- Diversification of sources of water used in irrigation is needed such as the introduction of new technologies to directly use brackish water in irrigation
- Dealing with unaccounted for water (lost or not paid for) represents the most effective to supply enhancement

Governance Framework

- Further public engagement in water issues is needed
- The integrated aspect and cross-cutting character of water - linkages of water with land management or community planning/development has to be highlighted along with ecosystem approaches
- Reforms have to ensure transparency and accountability
- Stakeholder participation is an essential component to governance
- More decentralized management is foreseen with a focus on WUAs
- Adequacy of legislation is important but more so is its enforcement
- Institutionalization of water planning

Financing and Donor Involvement

- Donors' coordination needs an initiative from donors and government alike
- Water projects funding is shrinking; donor fatigue is the descriptor

Water Demand

- Reallocation of water supplies has to be based on three criteria, namely economic return, availability based on safe yield, and water tariffs
- Institutional restructuring should continue with vigor
- Water reuse can be practiced at mosques and schools

Other Issues

- Centralization of governmental data systems and master planning is envisioned
- Raise water's priority by taking it into consideration in all Government's activities
- Pressure is placed on water and the environment from refugee influx as population density has increased due to Syrian refugees
- Aquifer over-abstraction and the need to protecting water quality remain ongoing issues
- Though food security has to be addressed in a country context emphasis should be placed on small farmers who depend on farming for livelihood
- A 4th sub-theme on environmental and water security at cross-border level should be introduced as further work and preparations are needed to reach agreements with neighbours

- IWRM indicators would focus on monitoring, quality, quantity, at different levels; closing the water cycle is an essential aspect: be it national or trans-boundary
- Sludge management

SESSION II – WORKING GROUPS ON SUB-THEMES

In order to focus further on issues under the three sub-themes, working groups were formed:

- one on water supply and sanitation and hygiene (WASH),
- the second on non-technical aspects of wastewater management and water quality (WW/WQ),
- the third group on water resources management (WRM) which was too big a group and hence was divided into two.

The following are the key points raised by the working groups:

Water Supply and Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- More research is needed to recalculate and redefine minimum daily per capita water requirements
- Connectivity to sanitation services should be increased; funding is needed
- Sludge should be properly managed; PPP could manage this and have it available for different uses
- Non-point pollution sources represent a threat; better storm water management, proper control in cities; impact of animal manure
- Issues related to safe water supply include safe access, continuous supply, control to avoid pollution
- Awareness at household levels to be increased for individual household rainwater harvesting and proper maintenance of storage tankers/reservoirs
- Bottled industry needs proper monitoring as more than 40% of households use bottled water; Jordanian standards should address this issue
- Water resources standards to be developed regarding the water source and its transport; quality of water transported in tankers can be impaired
- People working in WASH need capacity development particularly WWTP employees
- Availability of accurate and reliable data is essential; proper monitoring

All agreed that, if drinking water quality is impaired, hygiene becomes the criteria to assess whether it can still be supplied.

Wastewater Management and Water Quality (WW/WQ)

- Preserve and prevent: people are aware of quantitative issues but not so on quality issues; this needs more awareness, enhancement of GW protection and watershed management
- Reduce impact: enhance laboratories' capacity for testing and monitoring; more SH involvement
- Reuse and recover: this ensures the supply for specific needs
- More PSP in management: more outsourcing for operations at WWTP
- Decentralized infrastructure: use in rural areas to complement the centralized structure of the cities

- Syrian refugees: camps sanitation and water provision
- National Water Master Reuse Plan and Sludge Management Plan: move forward with their implementation
- Standards: there are standards for WW reuse; need to relax these standards and increase provision, e.g. nitrogen is a resource and not a restricting factor for reuse
- Industrial WW management: a plan is needed
- Legislation and environmental regulations : legislation is there but enforcement is weak

All agreed that there is overlapping of roles and responsibilities among public entities (MWI, MoEnv, MoH, MoAgr, MoInd, free zones); thus, when a problem occurs it becomes difficult identifying the key counterpart.

Water Resources Management (WRM)

Group 1 addressed the broad issues of water resources management as follows:

- Review, update laws related to water
- Rehabilitate municipal networks to reduce losses
- Disseminate best practices
- Include stakeholders participation in all areas
- Make data available and accessible to the public
- Harmonize data among sectors; form inter-ministerial committees for this purpose
- Manage water supply to different sectors; consider water value in the economic, social and environmental sense
- Make water a key determinant in national planning processes
- Increase non-conventional water use
- Facilitate inter-sectoral collaboration; e.g. sharing resources among different sectors, inter-ministerial committees even at operational levels can be established
- Good housekeeping of institutions, e.g. improve information flow within the same Ministry and target human resources satisfaction;
- Reduce bureaucracy

Group 2 selected the goal as “applying IWRM with emphasis on demand management” and addressed the targets, naturally overlapping those of Group1, as follows:

- Efficient use of conventional and non- resources (treated WW and brackish water)
- Fair allocation of water based on national policy needs and socio-environmental values
- Improve and strengthen legal framework; not just improve but also ensure compliance
- Start promoting use of non-conventional water resources – provision of incentives; incentivize water demand management
- Improve stakeholders participation; inter-ministerial level coordination - not only at Ministers’ level but also at SGs’
- Increase public and private sector cooperation
- Prepare and adopt crises management policies
- Protection of water resources (quality-quantity)
- Access to data that is unified

SESSION III – DISCUSSION ON WRM MONITORING & REPORTING

This session followed the working groups and largely drew from the discussion on the sub-themes, with emphasis on the water resources management one. Therefore, the points raised need to be read in conjunction with the previous section on WRM.

It should be noted however, that the participants stressed clearly the inherent difficulties accompanying the issue of monitoring, the setting of indicators and the reporting system for them. Moreover, they highlighted that in Jordan indicators and monitoring systems are usually linked to specific donor-funded projects and are thus, time-, context and result-bound. Furthermore, the participants accentuated the need to further elaborate on the elements of a M&R system, with due consideration of the national and global contexts.

The key points from the discussion include:

- It is important to understand better and consider jointly the needs of the government and the private sector when setting priorities for the water sector
- Need an entity for monitoring such as a Regulatory Commission for the water sector
- Raised the issue of who is monitoring the regulator – could an NGOs act as watchdog?
- Further input is needed as to the institutional setting of the monitoring unit
- Provide targeted training on WRM monitoring
- Strategies for water allocation should not only be applied for the different sectors but also among different governorates
- Ways to quantify water resources? Tools to be used? An example used was the NASA project on remote sensing
- Need to differentiate the monitoring of WRM under conditions of standard availability and under conditions of scarcity or emergency
- Groundwater abstraction and non-revenue water represent targets that can be measurable
- Illegal wells as an urgent issue need to addressed and monitored
- Grey water reuse was successful on a pilot level in schools, and mosques in Jordan – cost barrier has prevented its widespread application
- Overall, it was suggested that for an effective M&R system, different types of indicators are needed to address infrastructure; access to services; pollution prevention and mitigation; institutional aspects (that are ‘softer’ and therefore more difficult to quantify)

3. CONCLUSIONS

The concluding session was brief and brought together the points raised/highlighted during the three sessions. These main points have been already depicted in the above sections. Below are some overall elements that need to be considered in conjunction with the discussions of the preceding sessions.

- Jordan is fairly well advanced in the implementation of IWRM objectives also when placing the country within the regional context. The participants, representing institutions, or at least be

involved if not influential in the water sector, appeared well versed and knowledgeable on issues of water within and beyond the country context.

- The one-day workshop achieved its goals in terms of identifying water issues, challenges and priorities from a national perspective; in terms of promoting cross-sector dialogue though more so on further sensitising the stakeholders towards the water sector, and in terms of building expectations to mobilise the stakeholders in broader national consultations
- Though issues raised can lead to a set of goals as these issues encompass the broader range of resources, management, stakeholders' involvement; but what surfaced is the need for greater inter-governmental coordination.
- WRM monitoring and reporting should address -at a first stage at least- issues of data collection and management at national level; training in SDG's monitoring however needs further concretisation and development.



National Dialogue on Water

in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda

11 April 2013

Belle Vue Hotel

Amman, Jordan

ANNEX A : NATIONAL DIALOGUE'S AGENDA

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:30	Welcoming and Introductory Session - Mr. Basem Telfah, Ministry of Water and Irrigation - Ms. Anthi Brouma, Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) - Mr. Koussai Quteishat, Dialogue's facilitator
09:30 – 11:00	Session I: Determining the priority themes for the future development agenda with respect to water resources
	Introduction on the context of the session (5') Facilitated discussion on water challenges and sustainable development priorities from a national perspective (25')
	Working Groups on 3 sub-themes (60') 1. Water supply and sanitation and hygiene (WASH) 2. Water resources management (WRM) 3. Wastewater management and water quality (WW/WQ) from a broad non technical basis
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:30	Session II – Priority themes continued
	Wrapping up of working group discussions (30')
	Presentation of working groups' conclusions (30')
	Roundtable discussion on priority themes (60')
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 16:00	Session III: Water Resources Management Monitoring and Reporting System
	Introduction to key elements for a WRM M&R System (15')
	Discussion on priority for M&R to advance WRM including the feasibility of establishing such a system (30')
	Discussion on minimum requirements & available data (30')
	Conclusions on monitoring priorities for a national WRM system (15')
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee Break
16:30 – 17:30	Session IV: Conclusions & Recommendations
	Priority national themes for the post-2015 agenda (10')
	Suggestion for future sustainable development goal/targets for water (10')
	Priorities for a national WRM monitoring system (10')
	Linking water and other sectors within a sustainable development agenda (10')
	Closing Remarks & Next steps

The Dialogue will be chaired by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the discussions will be facilitated by Mr. Koussai Quteishat and Ms. Anthi Brouma

VENUE

Belle Vue Hotel Amman, Jordan

ANNEX B: List of Participants				
National Dialogue in Jordan: Water in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, Amman, 11 April 2013				
	Name/ Surname	Affiliation	Institution	E-Mail Address
1	Jarrah Al Zubi	Technical Advisor MDG+	Arab Countries Water Utility Association (ACWUA)	jarrah_alzubi@acwua.org, jarzubi@hotmail.com
2	Rania AlZoubi	Chief of Party	Community-Based Initiative for Water Demand Management Mercy Corps	rzoubi@jo.mercycorps.org
3	Izzat Sajdi	Managing Director	Consulting Engineering Center (CEC) Sajdi & Partners	sajdi@cec.com.jo
4	Nour Habjoka	Technical Advisor	Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Highland Water Forum	nour.habjoka@giz.de
5	Sameer Abdel-Jabbar	Programme Manager/Eu Financed Project "WRAP"	Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Highland Water Forum	sameer.abdel-jabbar@giz.de
6	Mai Al-Dergham	Technical Advisor	Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Highland Water Forum	mai.aldergham-aeel@giz.de
7	Fidaa Haddad	Programme Manager	Dryland, Livelihoods and Gender, West Asia - Regional Office "ROWA", IUCN- International Union for Conservation of Nature	fida.haddad@iucn.org, Fida.Haddad@iucn.org
8	Hala Zawati	CEO	EDAMA Association	ceo@edama.jo
9	Alexandre Mesnil	Technical Advisor, Highland Water Forum at the MWI	French Embassy	alex_mesnil@yahoo.fr

10	Barbara Rossmiller	Chief of Part for the USAID - Institutional Support & Strengthening Program in Jordan	ISSP	brossmiller@isspjordan.org
11	Hani Al Kurdi	Deputy Chief Program Officer	JICA	hanikurdi.JD@jica.go.jp
12	Diana Athamneh		Jordan Environment Society	dianaathammneh@gmail.com
13	Hashem Al-Zubi	Member	Jordan Environment Society	zhashem@hotmail.com
14	Ziyad Alawneh	Director	Land and Human to Advocate Progress(LHAP)	lhap@cyberia.jo, ziyad@cyberia.jo, ziyadalawneh@gmail.com
15	Mary Bahdousheh	Minister of Agriculture Consultant	Ministry of Agriculture	ppcs@moa.gov.jo, mary.bahdousheh@moa.gov.jo marybahdousheh@yahoo.com
16	Indira Al-dahabi	Environmental Specialist	Ministry of Environment	dahabi_indira@yahoo.com
17	Ahmad Al-Jazzar	Head of water and agriculture section	Ministry of Planning and International Development (MOPIC), Projects Department	Ahmad.Jazzar@mop.gov.jo, ahmad.j@mop.gov.jo
18	Basem Telfah	Secretary General	Ministry of Water & Irrigation	basem_telfah@pmu.gov.jo
19	Ali Subah	Assistant Secretary General	Ministry of Water & Irrigation	ali_subah@mwi.gov.jo
20	Nisreen Haddadin	WDMU Director	Ministry of Water & Irrigation	nisreen_haddadin@mwi.gov.jo, nisreen_haddadin@yahoo.com
21	Mohammed Bany-Mustafa	Master of Hydro-informatics, Finance Administration Director/ WEG member	Ministry of Water & Irrigation	mk_bm@mwi.gov.jo
22	Rania Abdel Khaleq	Director Environment Department	Ministry of Water & Irrigation	rania_abdel_khaleq@mwi.gov.jo

23	Mohamad Waqfi	Technical Monitoring & Auditing Manager	Ministry of Water and Irrigation Performance Management Unit (PMU)	mohammad_al-waqfi@pmu.gov.jo
24	Youssef Hassan Ayadi	Advisor	MWI/Jordan Valley Authority	Youssef_Hassan@MWI.gov.jo
25	Mi-Yong Lee	Project Manager	National Implementation Committee for Effective Decentralized Wastewater Management in Jordan - "NICE"-Office/SMART II Project	mi-yong.lee@ufz.de
26	Othman Al-Mashaqbeh	Assistant Researcher / Ph.D. Water Engineering Research Division / Knowledge Sector	Royal Scientific Society (RSS)	othman@rss.jo, othman.mashaqbeh@rss.jo
27	Tharwa Qutaish	Senior Studies & Consultation Specialist/Head of Water Studies Division	Royal Scientific Society (RSS)	tharwaq@rss.jo
28	Amal Hijazi	Managing Director	Sustainable Environmental Energy Solutions (SEES) Jordan Valley Water Forum	info@sees-jo.com
29	Mona Barghout	Regional Programme Officer Water Governance	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)	Muna.barghouth@foreign.Ministry.se
30	Aiman Bani-Hani	Project Management Specialist / WRE	USAID	abanihani@usaid.gov, Omar.ABU-EID@eeas.europa.eu
31	Koussai Quteishat	Facilitator of the Dialogue	Facilitator of the Dialogue	koussaiquteishat@gmail.com
32	Anthi Brouma	Senior Programme Officer	Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean	anthi@gwpmmed.org