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JORDAN: BUILDING A MODERN, RESPONSIVE WATER & WASTEWATER SYSTEM

Jordan Institutional Support and Strengthening Program (ISSP)

Duration: 2010–2015

Challenge

Jordan is one of the world's most water-poor countries, but it still manages to provide drinking water access to 98 percent of its population. Despite the high rate of access, water supply is under great strain—access is intermittent and the country's population has grown greatly in the last three years, due to an influx of Syrian refugees. Further compounding the problem are challenges that the water sector institutions face relating to financing, governance, sector structure, technical and planning capacity, infrastructure repair, and debt.

Opportunity

From 2010–2015, USAID Jordan's Institutional Support and Strengthening Program (ISSP) worked closely with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), Jordan Valley Authority, and several water utilities to initiate reforms that would allow for the restructuring of the sector. Key activities under the project included strengthening and consolidating the authority for water planning and management to address the over-utilization of groundwater; improving water sector planning; and ensuring availability and better data

USAID celebrated 60 years of cooperation with Jordan's water sector. Over the years USAID water programs have focused on infrastructure and on expanding and rehabilitating the water supply systems, as well as training hundreds of water experts. Photo credit: USAID/Jordan

quality management to be used in decision-making.

One major achievement for ISSP was the development of the National Strategic Wastewater Master Capital Investment Plan in close collaboration with WAJ. This plan updated the comprehensive national records for the existing wastewater systems, identified critical capital investment planning

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needs through 2035 based on population numbers, and projected population growth and current system capacities, all while taking into consideration urgent needs to address groundwater contamination risks. As a result, more than \$200 million in donor funding has been mobilized for the water sector, and 26 new wastewater projects are now underway to help meet the goal of wastewater service coverage for more than 86 percent of the total population. The remaining 14 percent will be served through small-scale decentralized treatment.