



**USAID**  
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Water Governance Activity  
مشروع حوكمة قطاع المياه

## Newsletter #2



### **Updating the National Water Strategy**

USAID Water Governance Activity supported a sector-wide activity to review and update the 2016-2025 National Water Strategy (NWS) to launch a long-term strategy for water security (2022 – 2040). This activity is aligned with His Majesty King Abdullah II's directive to develop a long-term strategy that addresses Jordan's water sector challenges. Over 100 interested persons from the Ministry of Water

and Irrigation, the Water Authority of Jordan, the Jordan Valley Authority, water utilities, concerned ministries, sector donors, and citizen experts participated in specialized stakeholder consultative group meetings or were part of the document review process. The strategy is expected to be launched in March 2023.

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During the workshop, attended by His Excellency Dr. Jihad Al-Mahameed, Ministry's Secretary General

#### **Establishment of a Research and Innovation Unit**

His Excellency the Minister of Water and Irrigation (MWI) approved the establishment of the Research and Innovation Unit at the Ministry on October 6, 2022, with the goal of fostering long-lasting collaboration between water sector authorities and academic and research institutions. To assist MWI in developing this partnership, the USAID Water Governance Activity sponsored a workshop at Tafileh Technical University on November 20, 2022 to discuss the concept and next steps. Graduate students, faculty

members, and representatives from other universities and international organizations attended the session.

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### **Increasing Public Knowledge of the Updated National Water Strategy**

In preparation for the National Water Strategy's launch, communications teams from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and water utilities produced a joint communications plan to educate different audiences about the updated National Water Strategy, with USAID Water Governance Activity technical support. Developing the joint plan helped strengthen partnerships within water entities and build their capacity to adopt behavior-change communications approaches in their own outreach and awareness campaigns.

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### **Spotlight on Women Empowerment**

The USAID Water Governance Activity facilitated several initiatives aimed at promoting gender mainstreaming in the sector in November 2022. One notable activity was the “Gender Sensitive Budgeting Principles Training” targeting financial and strategic planning teams, human resources management, and institutional development in the water sector. The training concluded with techniques for determining gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) allocations in annual budgets and examining case studies from the latest water sector budgets. The Gender Unit in the Ministry will continue to work to improve gender equality by implementing a gender policy in the water sector in all departments.

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### **Nationwide Collaboration to Reach 2% Non-Revenue Water Reduction**

Jordan is one of the most water-scarce countries in the world. One compounding factor impacting the water availability in Jordan is the high levels of non-revenue water (NRW), which can take different forms such as water leakage, illegal connections, and meter losses. The water sector is attempting to lower NRW by 2% every year in order to reach 25% by the year 2040. Local NRW taskforces have been formed to combat water losses with USAID Water Governance Activity (WGA) support. As one example, USAID WGA is partnering with Zarqa NRW Taskforce to conduct step-testing flow measurements along the 60 km Azraq-Khaw pipeline. This water measurement technique helps to isolate areas of possible leakage or illegal use. With this information, the NRW Taskforce will better target their interventions along this route. USAID WGA will continue to technically support all NRW Taskforces to reduce commercial and physical losses.

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Training on the work and maintenance of pumps and pipes

**NRW Certification and Training Programs Launched**



Five non-revenue water (NRW) training topics were introduced by USAID Water Governance Activity in December 2022 to build the capacity of NRW-relevant staff in the sector's entities. 75 sector employees received theoretical and practical training in the areas of physical loss reduction, water distribution certification, and water networking maintenance certification.

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### **Mentoring Skills Training for the Mentors in the National Water Internship Program**

Fifty mentors and focal points (17 women and 33 men) in the National Water Internship Program of the USAID Water Sector Governance Activity participated in a mentoring skills training. The training was attended by participants from all host entities in the sector where they acquired key skills to mentor and guide youth trainees in the National Water Internship Program through interactive methods like role-playing and case studies.



### **NRW Reduction Citizen Outreach Kickoff**

Beginning on December 6, 2022, USAID Water Governance Activity (WGA) assisted utilities in holding community outreach events to spread the word about reducing non-revenue water (NRW). The seminars, organized by Miyahuna, are intended to inform the public about Jordan's water situation, provide advice on improving home water use efficiency, and inspire community members to become change agents in lowering NRW by adopting behaviors like reporting leaks/thefts. The water utilities will continue to benefit from the technical expertise provided by USAID WGA as they create and implement specialized communications strategies aimed at NRW reduction efforts.



### **Distributed Rainwater Harvesting Guide**

USAID Water Governance Activity (WGA) organized three rainwater harvesting workshops in Madaba, Tafileh, and Karak. USAID WGA updated and printed the Rainwater Harvesting Guide for Governorates and handed copies to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. Future rainwater harvesting workshops will be held in four governorates (Balqa, Irbid, Ajloun, and Jerash).

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