

Monitoring SDG 6.2 and 6.3

Case Study 2: Jordan



Background

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is the second most water scarce country in the world, with annual renewable water resources of less than 100 m³ per person. As such, the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector is deeply embedded within the broader water resource management context, with water a key environmental, economic, and social concern, and a key sector for the country's Green Growth agenda.

An upper middle-income country with a population of 10 million people, the national water policy includes wastewater treatment as the main sanitation intervention. As per the WHO- UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program (JMP), 97% of the population has access to either basic or safely managed sanitation, 2% has a limited service, and 1% uses an unimproved service. Open defecation rates are reported to be near zero. The country hosts a large refugee population (estimated around 30% of the total population), with the majority of them living within Jordanian towns and villages rather than in refugee camps. The National Water Strategy 2016-2025 (NWS), developed in 2014/15, stated that in 2014, sanitation coverage for both the urban and rural population was 93%, out of which 63% were connected to the sewerage system and the rest used on-site sanitation solutions such as septic tanks.

It also explained that the "Government's strategy and emphasis on wastewater collection and treatment is highly advanced. The country has a fair operational capacity in wastewater treatment, although it is highly cost-intensive. The 33 central wastewater treatment plants are expected to treat 240 MCM/year by 2025, although many of the existing plants will need urgent rehabilitation and extension work." The latter was confirmed by a sector informant, who explained that many utilities and treatment plants deal with breakdowns and ad hoc repairs, but that in general, budget for maintenance is lacking. In general, the sector is said to struggle with under-funding, with tariffs not covering costs and a heavy reliance on, but shortfalls in, sector subsidization. Notably, WASH standards met in the refugee camps are generally higher than those for the general population. Run largely by the international community and UN agencies, there is little engagement of local utilities in service delivery, apart from in some of the oldest Palestinian refugee camps.

A Kingdom with a democratically elected government, Jordan has relatively strong governance, and has in recent years

been focused on reform and decentralization. These processes are however hindered by frequent staff turn-over and a culture of favouritism.

Jordan has been a member of the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Initiative since 2016. Jordan also reports through the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS) process, coordinated by WHO, and publicly reports on progress against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The country was also one of 79 countries included in the 2018 UN Water/WHO/UN HABITAT report 'Progress on Wastewater Treatment; Piloting the monitoring methodology and initial findings for SDG indicator 6.3.1. It placed Jordan within the bracket of countries with a percentage of safely treated wastewater flows from households between 76 – 100%.

WASH sector governance, planning & review

Sector governing bodies

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) is responsible for overall strategic direction and planning, in coordination with the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) and the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA). WASH service delivery is further supported by water companies and regional authorities. Water user associations also exist.

Planning and target setting

Jordan has set targets for water supply, sanitation, wastewater treatment, water quality and more. They are reflected in the NWS, the Green Growth National Action Plan (GG-NAP) Water 2021-2025; and Jordan 2025 – A National Vision Strategy. While more detailed water sector objectives and action plans were established as part of the GG- NAP process, the core performance targets were set in the NWS. As stated in the GG-NAP Water, the NWS "is the country's guiding policy document and strategic plan for ensuring a resilient and sustainable water sector within the period of the Jordan Vision 2025. The strategy takes a comprehensive approach incorporating social, economic, and environmental sustainability in the development of Jordan's water sector. NWS is aligned with the SDGs and places a strong emphasis on coordination and integration of the many water sector stakeholders, as well as stakeholders in most key green growth sectors, to ensure effective stewardship of the country's limited water resources." This, while being largely developed in 2014/15, the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) era.

Key NWS targets with relevance to SDG target 6.2 and 6.3 include:

Indicator	Definition	Baseline	Target
Proportion of potable water	% conforming water samples in public	99.3% (2015)	100% (All wastewater to be treated)

safely treated (water quality)	resources, public networks, private resources and private tanks		and used as a replacement of fresh water and utilized by the agricultural sector)
% population connected to sewage networks	Total number of households connected to sewage networks, relative to total households	66% (2017)	80% by 2025 2030 target to be set after sector actions are established
Amount treated wastewater	Municipal wastewater safely reused, compared to total municipal wastewater	163.7	2030 target to be set after sector actions are established

Another national target reported in GLAAS, is for 0% of population practicing open defecation by 2025 – a target already reported to be met.

More recently, beyond these high-level targets set out in the NWS, additional sector objectives and action plans were developed as part of the Green Growth National Action Plans 2021-2025, designed to complement the Jordan Vision 2025 national development strategy in the recognition that “While the environment and climate change are not central features in the Jordan Vision 2025, several environmental priorities are addressed, including climate change adaptation, water and energy efficiency, waste management and natural resource protection. Importantly, the document calls for the development of the green economy in six targeted sectors: Energy, Transport, Water, Waste, Agriculture and Tourism.” (2020, GG NAP Water). Based on a self-proclaimed elaborate process of consultation led by the Ministry of Environment with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) and other stakeholders, the GG NAP Water lists 19 costed actions, of which at least 7 have direct relevance for sanitation and wastewater, or for sector monitoring:

WR01	Implement capacity building program for evidence-informed investment decision making in the water sector
WR03	Implement Key Wastewater Treatment Projects to improve Water Supply Augmentation
WR09	Increasing willingness of end user stakeholder to accept wastewater reuse in Jordan
WR10	Construct an industrial wastewater treatment plant in Zarqa
WR13	Programming to increase the availability of WASH in Schools and strengthening WinS standards for climate change impacts
WR14	Improve implementation of decentralized water supply and sanitation solutions in Al-Azraq

WR17	Expand the As Samra Wastewater Treatment Plant (Phase III)
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Coordination, participation and sector review

The extent to which target setting and strategy and action planning included representation from various civil society groups is difficult to assess. The NWS makes no mention of a consultative process used to develop the strategy beyond mentioning the WAJ and JVA in support of the MWI. The GG-NAP mentions more diverse stakeholders, including the various line ministries, water companies; regional authorities; water user associations, academic institutions, chambers of industry; and the farmers union. But there is no mention in either of the documents of involvement in target setting and planning by women, or by vulnerable populations.

As reported in GLAAS and the SWA CB Profile, Jordan has a formal government-led multi-stakeholder review mechanism, which is in place to assess progress on a regular basis and results are acted upon; and the mechanism applies evidence-based decision-making, including consideration of agreed indicators.

The SWA Collaborative Behaviour Profile on Jordan published in 2020, when discussing Behaviour 3: Use one information and mutual accountability platform built around a multi-stakeholder, government-led cycle of planning, monitoring, and learning, lists the following strengths and weaknesses:

STRENGTHS:

- A recent national assessment is available for: Drinking Water, Sanitation, Hygiene.
- National multi-stakeholder review mechanisms include: actions based on results, evidence-based decision making.
- Routine monitoring and reporting includes: available routinely collected data, results accessible to all, data informed decision making, disaggregation for assessing inequalities, an effective complaint mechanisms for WASH.

CHALLENGES: No major challenges to using one information and mutual accountability platform have been identified in this profile.

Reports can be found online of regular meetings of the WASH coordination group (the WASH cluster led by UNICEF and ACF that deals particularly with service delivery to the refugees and in other emergencies); but no reports of Joint Sector Reviews or of the sector coordination mechanism could be found online. Sector stakeholders did indicate that there are different donor level groups, with a large donor round called generally once a year, and core donors meeting at a more regular basis as well. But overall, stakeholder representation, particularly participation representative of gender or minorities, is said to be low.

Confirming this, the 2018/19 GLAAS Country Highlights indicates that while participation procedures are defined in laws or policy, women’s participation is not specified. Furthermore, the Highlights state that no special measures to extend services to specific vulnerable groups are included in policies or plans (presumably because of the existing high coverage levels). But progress for specific groups such as poor populations, those living in remote areas, and refugee

populations, is being monitored. Also, the NWS makes note of specific measures to facilitate and enhance the participation of women. These include the need to “devise monitoring systems and other tools to capture or factor in women’s involvement in WASH”. It is however unclear how this has been put into practice concretely.

National monitoring systems for 6.2 and 6.3

The implementation, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) responsibilities for the NWS fall under MWI, with implementation support from bodies such as the WAJ, the JVA, and the water utility companies. MWI works closely with the regulatory body, the WAJ, to align strategy and policy making with technical and regulatory oversight for water infrastructure across the country.

The NWS planned for a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the National Water Strategy to be adopted, stating that “the evaluation will be conducted every three years to ensure that the water sector is progressing in the intended direction to achieve its goals and to review targets, allowing for planning for them in a manner that takes into consideration the new developments.”

In reality, for the three indicators and targets listed above, data collection is less than regular. The latest available data for the safe water treatment indicator is 2015, and for the population connected to sewage networks it is 2017.

One key line ministry involved in monitoring and oversight is the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, through its Evaluation and institutional development unit which reports against the Jordan Vision 2025 and annual Executive Development Programs, economic growth and investment planning, and sustainable development planning; and the Department of Statistics (DOS), which collects data to report against KPIs. Among others, the DOS website features data and reporting against the SDGs, including the KPIs used to report against SDG target 6.2 and 6.3:

6.2.1: Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water

2016
0.84

6.3.1: Proportion of wastewater safely treated

2015
63.9

6.3.2: Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality

2016
2017
0.92

Substantially less data is available for hygiene than there is for sanitation, which presumably explains the low proportion of population meeting indicator 6.2.1 (0.84), while the access rate to safely managed sanitation stands at 82.3% (JMP, 2020).

Beyond censuses and surveys, sector performance data is largely provided to the MWI by the water utilities and water treatment plant operators, particularly for the large majority of households connected to sewer systems. Annual reports are publicly available online, albeit in Arabic. There is said to be some variability in the quality and extent of data delivered by the utilities and the water treatment plants, linked to their overall strength and the challenges they face.

The JMP 2019 Inequalities Report included data on access by rural vs. urban context and wealth quintiles for Jordan, which showed inequalities to be very low. But it is not clear whether and how disaggregation of data by geography, sex, age and wealth quintile is routinely conducted. While the DOS in its SDG reporting database does report on other indicators linked to gender and poverty, no disaggregation on the above listed indicators is provided.

Monitoring the GG-NAP Water

The GG-NAP sets out a range of detailed action plans linked to the priority actions, and also identifies responsible parties for each action – so called action leads. With regards to M&E, the MWI is overall responsible to provide quarterly status updates on the implementation of the action plan to MoEnv, Green Economy Unit, but will carry out ongoing performance monitoring in collaboration with these action leads. Several donor-funded actions are included in the action plan, each with specific logic models and corresponding performance indicators as part of standard donor requirements. As much as possible, the idea is for these to align with the overall results framework for the GG-NAP, using common indicators to increase alignment, and synchronizing reporting schedules with the government of Jordan’s fiscal year. As the GG-NAP is relatively new, and many of the proposed actions are as yet unfunded, it remains to be seen how implementation, monitoring and oversight will ultimately play out.

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SuSanA SDG 6.2 and 6.3 Monitoring Case study

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