
The Palestinian-Israeli Joint
Cooperation
in the Water Sector
Cooperation A need to Enhance



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Presentation Outline

- Why cooperation is a necessity
- Lessons learned from the joint cooperation
- The need to enhance the joint cooperation
- Issues for future bi-lateral cooperation
- Issues for future multi-lateral cooperation
- Conclusions and recommendations



To
secure an
environmentally
sound and sustainable
development of water
resources through efficient
and equitable water
management

Skip Intro



Palestinian National Authority
Palestinian Water Authority



السلطة الوطنية الفلسطينية
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Background

- The basis for the joint Palestinian-Israeli cooperation: Joint Water Committee of Article 40 of Oslo II.
- Article 40 is considered as the base for water sector planning and projects implementation during the interim period, 1995-1999.
- During the last 10 years, implementation of Article 40 was restricted and extremely slow.
- There is a high necessity to enhance the present and future cooperation in the water sector.

The Current Situation in Palestine:

- Water resources in the region are scarce, disputed, mainly controlled and utilized by Israel.
- Water demand is continuously growing due to the population growth, economic development and rising standards of living.
- 12% of the population living in 250 communities are not served with water
- 66% of the served populations, being supplied with less than 50 l/c/d.

Continued

- The unaccounted for water in most communities ranges between 30-50% of supply.
- 30% of the population is connected with the sewage system.
- Less than 1% of the discharged sewage is properly treated.

Israeli Practices

- Damage to Palestinian Water infrastructure in West Bank and Gaza.
- Separation Wall. Israeli Hydro-Political Policy
 - Loss of water resources
 - Loss of agricultural lands
 - Socio economic impacts

The Separation Wall

The wall has "relocated" a great deal of rich farmland and water wells to the Israeli side of the wall.

At least 115 Palestinian towns and villages have so far been directly affected by the wall which cuts them off from their land and resources.

23 groundwater wells and over 200 cisterns have been isolated from their communities by the Wall with an additional 14 wells threatened for demolition in the Wall's "buffer zone".



Basis for a solid Bi-Lateral Cooperation

- Water is a powerful source of cooperation.
- There is no alternative for the Palestinians and the Israelis but to cooperate.
- Cooperation should meet the needs and demands of each side, based on the equitable share and reasonable utilization of the sustainable yield of the shared water resources .

Issues for current bi-lateral cooperation

- Continue implementing Article 40 till the agreed quantities of water are supplied to the Palestinians.
- Help solve the Palestinian water shortages and water access problems.
- Maintaining water services.
- Protecting water resources from pollution.
- Sharing data and information.

Continued

- The Israeli should acknowledge the Palestinians as an equal partner and a riparian to the shared water resources.
- Build joint cooperation committees based on the international law regarding cooperation over shared water resources.
- The promotion of cooperation over shared water resources should be for development, security and peace.

Issues for future Multi-lateral Cooperation

the cooperation should include the Palestinians as co-riparians in the Jordan River, Jordan Valley Basin and the Dead Sea.



Issues for future bi-lateral cooperation

- Cooperation with respect to water rights should be based on permanent sovereignty, regional safety, reciprocal benefits and good neighborhood.
- The whole shared aquifer basins should be considered as one unit and should be managed jointly based on sustainable management and development of the water resources.
- Development of additional water resources should be based on equity and riparian rights.

Continued

- Cooperation should take into consideration the protection of water resources and environment from pollution.
- A practical mechanism of cooperation should be established to observe the implementation of the signed agreements.
- Cooperation must concentrate on immediate programs to supply water for the un-served communities and to increase supply for the communities that suffer shortage water supply.

Issues for Future Multi-Lateral Cooperation

- Shared resources between countries should include economic sectors, interstate jurisdictions and sovereign nations, while respecting the need for environmental sustainability.
- This requires the adoption of sustainable transboundary water resources management that is based on respecting partners and co-riparian equitable rights in the shared water resources.



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- Sharing water-related benefits among nations for regional economic integration rather than polarized claims for water.
 - Balancing competing uses of basin and aquifer resources, especially upstream and downstream uses, in a transparent and participative way for local and regional sustainable development.
 - Focusing on poverty reduction, public participation and gender balance to ensure equitable access to water for livelihoods.
 - Recognizing the fundamental need of fresh water ecosystems for resource protection and natural risk prevention.

Conclusions

- The solid future cooperation should be based on the recognition of the Palestinian water rights based on equitable utilization, no harm principle and according to demand driving forces.
- Cooperation can lead to identification of mutual opportunities for development and investment including socio-economic development and prosperity.
- The support of regional and international levels in playing a major role in keeping the momentum for sustainable and continued mechanisms of cooperation for shared water resources should be always there.



Thank You

