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Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



## Sub-RésEAU Middle East and Northern Africa launch event Jordan, 11-13 June 2022

# Report



*Participants visiting Salt beach, Dead Sea, Jordan*

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## Executive Summary

From 11 to 13 June 2022, representatives from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Switzerland, Syria, and Turkey participated in the launch of the Sub-RésEAU Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA). RésEAU is SDC's thematic knowledge network on water and sanitation, while Sub-RésEAUs are regional sub-networks under the global RésEAU that focus on specific regions where SDC is working. The launch event, hosted by the SDC regional office in Jordan, gathered SDC staff and key partners from the region. During three days, the 33 participants discussed key water issues and knowledge gaps in the region, learned from other projects and solutions, and shaped the future of the knowledge network.

This face-to-face event was an excellent opportunity for the participants to check their assumptions and to familiarize with water-related issues in the region including in particular: the drying up of the Mujib dam and its high sedimentation level exacerbated by climate change; the lowering of the Dead Sea level of about 1 meter per year and the complex interrelations between e.g. economic activities such as the extraction of potassium and the pumping of water and the phenomenon of climate change; the Mujib Biosphere Reserve and the impact of both water scarcity and floods on water quality, biodiversity, crop cultivation, and food security.

Moreover, the launch event enabled incisive discussions on water-related knowledge gaps in the region, displaying challenges and successful solutions and comparing with other experiences from the MENA region. Furthermore, the event permitted the identification of upcoming activities and topics of interests from the members, while establishing, expanding, and strengthening professional and personal contacts in the region.

If you would like to become a member of the sub-RésEAU MENA and receive information e.g. about upcoming activities, click [here](#). Individuals with expertise and/or interest on water and sanitation, experience in the MENA region, and some link to SDC, can join the sub-RésEAU MENA.

## List of abbreviations

**ASR:** Aquifer storage and recovery  
**AWARENET:** Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network  
**CEDRIG:** Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance  
**CEWAS:** Centre for Water Management Services  
**DRR:** Disaster Risk Reduction  
**EAWAG:** Eidgenössische Anstalt für Wasserversorgung, Abwasserreinigung und Gewässerschutz  
**EBP Schweiz:** Ernst Basler + Partner  
**EECA:** Eastern Europe and Central Asia  
**ESCWA:** United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia  
**F2F:** Face to Face  
**ICRC:** International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent  
**INGO:** International Non-governmental organization  
**IWMI:** International Water Management Institute  
**IWRM:** Integrated Water Resources Management  
**JOD:** Jordanian Dinars  
**LAC:** Latin America and Caribbean  
**LAS:** League of Arab States  
**MENA:** Middle East and Northern Africa  
**MOOC:** Massive Open Online Course  
**NEAT +:** Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool  
**NGO:** Non-governmental organization  
**RSCN:** Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature  
**SDC:** Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation  
**SDG:** Sustainable Development Goal  
**SuSanA:** Sustainable Sanitation Alliance  
**UAE:** United Arab Emirates  
**UNICEF:** United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund  
**UN CC: Learn:** UN Climate Change Learning Partnership  
**WANA:** West Asia and North Africa  
**WASH:** Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene  
**WEFE:** Water – Energy – Food – Ecosystems

## I. About the Sub-RésEAU MENA launch

### Background

The [RésEAU](#) is the thematic knowledge network on water of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), which aims to ensure knowledge management within SDC and with its implementing partners. Individuals with expertise and/or interest on water and sanitation, and with some link to SDC, can join the network. For the sub-RésEAU, regional expertise is needed. To become a member of the global network click [here](#); to become a member of the regional sub-RésEAU click [here](#). Discover some of our activities:

- [RésEAU Briefs](#): thematic compilation of learnings from water related projects and programs
- [Trend Observatory on Water](#): summaries and links about relevant emerging trends and innovative approaches
- [RésEAU Updates](#): regular news, events, resources and updates from the sector
- [RésEAU webinars](#): online seminar's

### Sub-RésEAUs

To foster exchange and learning at the regional level, sub-networks (called sub-RésEAUs) complement the global network. The MENA one is the fourth regional network to be launched in addition to the existing sub-RésEAUs Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA), and Africa (Anglophone & francophone).

The MENA region covers projects from the Humanitarian Aid, the South Cooperation divisions, and the Global Programme Water in ten countries: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, occupied Palestinian Territories, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, and Yemen. The region is the most water-scarce in the [world](#)<sup>1</sup>. High climate variability, political instability, ongoing conflicts, and unprecedented population growth increase water demand and the respective gap. In urban areas, 40% of produced municipal and industrial wastewater is treated, and only 14.5% is reused<sup>2</sup>. The region has the most significant expected economic losses from climate-related water scarcity, estimated at 6–14 per cent of GDP by 2050<sup>3</sup>. Total water productivity in the MENA region is only about half the world's average<sup>4</sup>. Despite its scarcity, the region has the world's lowest water tariffs and the highest proportion of GDP spent on public water subsidies. Flood and drought risks are increasing and are likely to harm the vulnerable poor disproportionately. Some 60% of surface water resources in the region are transboundary, and all countries share at least one aquifer, highlighting the importance of cooperative management of shared water resources<sup>5</sup>

### Venue

The Sub-RésEAU MENA launch event was held in the Mövenpick Resort and Spa Dead Sea, Jordan. A note on water management at the Mövenpick Resort and Spa Dead Sea is available [here](#).

### Agenda summary

Saturday 11 June	Sunday 12 June	Monday 13 June
Welcome: introduction, objectives and program	Visiting Mujib dam	Digestion of field visits
Networking	Visiting the Salt Beach and the Mujib Biosphere Reserve	Water knowledge gaps
Learning from projects		Shaping the Sub-RésEAU – Introduction
<b>Lunch</b>		
World Café on 5 topics	Discussion with local farmers	Joint strategic planning
Introduction to field visits		Closing remarks
<b>Closing</b>		

The detailed program of the event is available [here](#).

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.prb.org/resources/finding-the-balance-population-and-water-scarcity-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa/#:~:text=The%20Middle%20East%20and%20North%20Africa%20\(MENA\)\\*%20is%20the,demand%20for%20water%20resources%20rises.](https://www.prb.org/resources/finding-the-balance-population-and-water-scarcity-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa/#:~:text=The%20Middle%20East%20and%20North%20Africa%20(MENA)*%20is%20the,demand%20for%20water%20resources%20rises.)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.arabwatercouncil.org/images/Arab-Water-Report/3rd-Arab-SOW-Report-E.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/862571468196731247/high-and-dry-climate-change-water-and-the-economy>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/water/publication/beyond-scarcity-water-security-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa>

<sup>5</sup> This information is extracted from the [Report: A Rapid Study of the Water Knowledge across the MENA Region in support of launching the MENA RésEAU](#).

## Workshop Participants



Figure 1 Workshop participants with two local farmers, Mujib Chalets, Mujib Biosphere reserve

Participants

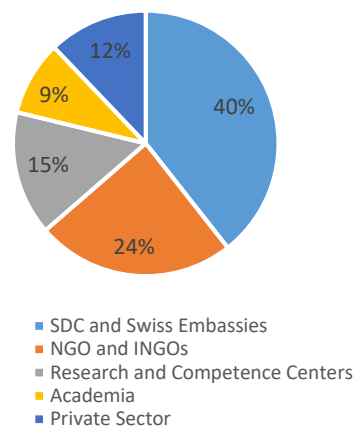


Figure 2 Distribution of Sub-RésEAU MENA experience among participants

**Thirty-three** participants (36% women) working in seven countries joined the event; the majority contributed to practical insight presentations, group work, and elaboration of solutions. Most participants represented **SDC cooperation offices and Swiss embassies** (13 representatives). Next best represented were **NGOs and INGOs** (eight representatives), followed by **Research and Competence Centers** (five representatives), four representatives from the **private sector**, and three representatives in **academia**.

## II. Project presentations and thematic discussions

### Introduction

After some welcoming words by **Mufleh Aref Haza' Alalaween** (Regional Water Advisor SDC Jordan) & **Daniel Maselli** (RésEAU Focal Point), the two co-facilitators, **Elodie Feijoo** and **Rania Al-Zoubi** provided an overview of the objectives and program of the three-day event and kick-started the event with an spontaneous networking session. This was followed by a session with project presentations that aimed at raising challenges, solutions, and lessons learnt from a selection of ongoing projects from the region.



Figure 3 Plenary session - opening presentation

### Learning from Projects

After an introduction by **Pierre-Yves Pitteloud** (Water & Sanitation Regional Advisor, SDC Jordan) on SDC's portfolio in the region, selected projects were presented by participants. Presentations are available in the dgroups Sub-RésEAU MENA [Library](#).



- [National Flood Mapping's](#) project by **Heba Ababneh** (SDC Jordan)
- [Blue Peace Middle East](#) by **Mufleh Aref Haza' Alalaween** (SDC Jordan)
- [Innovative Sanitation Solution & Reuse in Arid Regions](#) by **Alaa Al Qaisi** (SDC Jordan)
- [Improved Water Resources Monitoring and Integrated Water Resources Management in the North of Lebanon](#), **Michelle Jalkh** (SDC Lebanon)
- [Potable Water Management Programme](#) by **Andreas Zysset** (EBP Schweiz AG) and **Mona Saleh** (SDC Egypt)
- [Green Entrepreneurship](#) by **Maisam Otoum** (Cewas)
- [Agricultural Water Use Efficiency](#) by **Tuğba Evrim Maden** (Turkish Water Institute)
- [WASH and Water Crisis Research and Findings](#) by **Korbinian Schink** (Reach-initiative)
- [Unicef Accelerator on Climate Change and Water Scarcity](#) by **Tarik Hassan** and **Adrian Stadler** (Unicef).

### World café on five topics

Each table had a topic and table host(s) assigned; table host(s) acted as facilitators of the discussions. Table hosts were participants in the AGUASAN Workshop and presented key conclusions from their work on the workshop topics. The aim of this session was to bridge between the two events, so that the findings from the AGUASAN workshop could feed in into the sub-RésEAU (as the AGUASAN learning journey is over, but the sub-RésEAU MENA stays). There were five rounds of discussion, with participants rotating while table hosts stayed at their table. Below is a summary of the main points discussed at each table.

- *Groundwater resources management*

The group discussions have confirmed that there is a lack of governance and authority concerning groundwater resources management and water management as a whole. The goal is to link with other groups, share ideas, and work together to strengthen governance. On the issue of illegal wells, an amnesty with a deadline to announce all wells without a fine might be an interesting approach to be able to map all undeclared wells.

- *Wastewater treatment and reuse*

There was a consensus on the decentralized wastewater approach. There is a need to understand the balance of power within the community. In addition, there is a need to enforce regulations and legal access. Reuse of treated wastewater may be rather challenging to bring to the farmers.

- *Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus*

The discussion revolved around the need to address more gender-related issues. A challenge highlighted by the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus is the lack of tangibility.

- *Impact of multi-dimensional water scarcity on food security*

The facilitators presented their AGUASAN Workshop solution and project. The group has received feedback, comments, input and advice on improving the project model. Indeed, the model with more factors with more accurate data is needed to take into account.



- *Smart WASH approach for refugee camps and host communities*

The main topic that was highlighted is rainwater harvesting. Each group provided complementary elements. The question raised is: how do we create incentives for the population to harvest rain? Harvesting small water could be a thematic that would increase resilience to climate change.



Figure 4 Participants gather around tables to discuss different topics

### III. Field Visits

The main objective of the field visits was to bring participants to the realities of Jordan, and to see concretely some of the water issues that are usually discussed around a table. The visits covered the following topics:

1. Flood risk management / disaster risks
2. Impact of climate change on dams
3. Impact of water scarcity on the quality of crops grown and food security
4. Water management methods used in Jordan
5. Shared water and transboundary water management.

Three groups developed a set of questions to ask locals and engage into discussions (see annex 2). Each group was assigned one of the following topics: **Dam and IWRM**; **Salt beach and transboundary water**; **Biosphere reserve and ecosystems**. The field visits encompassed visits to the Mujib Dam, the Salt Beach, and the Mujib Biosphere Reserve in the region. After visiting the Mujib Biosphere Reserve, the participants had the opportunity to discuss and share experiences with local farmers. To introduce the visits, Dr Majed Abu Zreig provided the participants with an insightful [presentation](#) of the sites.

#### Visiting the Mujib Dam



Figure 5 Picture: the impoundment of the Mujib Dam

The Mujib dam is facing sedimentation issues and was almost dried up during the visit: it was at its lowest level for that period of the year. Participants learnt that there is no systemic approach to sedimentation and no plans for a systematic intervention: the dam was cleaned only once so far. There is a lack of technical capacity in Jordan, specifically concerning sedimentation control projects. When designing the dams, the ministry and local contractors do not have substantial experience in sediments control. It was originally built to provide water to the potash factory (which consumes 70% of the water), as well as to protect against floods and flash floods. The price of water is fixed following national pricing, which is not adapted to infrastructure costs (from 0.11 JOD to 0.35 cubic meter for irrigation, up to 1 JOD for potash factory, incremented price). Environmental impact assessment was conducted before the construction of the dam. As the dam was built after the biosphere reserve, the ecological impact and the location had to be adapted to preserve the natural environment. In the last two years, only 50% of the dam filled, while in 2019 there were big floods. There is no solid scientific reflection on the water balance.

Participants shared experience from other countries from the region on dams: **In Lebanon**, most of the dams are dry. There were no environmental impact assessments conducted, so the contexts are difficult to compare with



Jordan. According to the ministry's advisor, there are plans to increase the storage capacity of the dams. **In Turkey**, the dams are built back to back to avoid sedimentation problems. The dams' life increases too. For the last two years, some of the dams have been dry; the most significant dam and the water potential was nearly 30%, which is extremely low, mainly when used for electricity. There are protocols and a Memorandum of understanding with riparian countries.

### Visiting the Salt Beach



*Figure 6 Salt Beach: Participants gather to discuss the decreasing water level of the Dead Sea*

During the visit of the Salt Beach, participants could observe the realities of the Dead Sea issue: it is shrinking by about 1 meter per year. The main reason is human activities, e.g. potassium extraction via evaporation, which is exacerbated by climate change. 'Saving' the Dead Sea has its importance for the country, because the Dead Sea is a public heritage, several industries like the chemical and potassium ones depend on it, and it contributes to the touristic attraction of Jordan. Jordan water needs reach 1.5 billion cubic meters, while the country is only able to get 1.1 billion cubic meters. Jordan regularly buys water from Israel to fulfill its water needs. While no decision has been taken yet, two possible options to increase water supply for the country/region, as well to replenish the Dead Sea, were discussed:

- **Transboundary option:** the Red Sea – Dead Sea Conveyance solution, a planned pipeline to transfer water from the Gulf of Aqaba into the Dead Sea, was discussed during several years (even had a feasibility study and an Environmental Impact Assessment done). This was a joint project between Jordan and Israel, but lack of trust probably resulted in the project to be abandoned. Israel considers pumping water from the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea, but this solution would mean Jordan to rely on its neighboring country for the provision of water, so this is not their favorite option.
- **National option:** A desalination plant will be constructed in the south of Jordan, in the Red Sea, to provide water to the country while its leftover brine would be pumped to the Dead Sea to replenish it. All necessary resources, dams, collection systems, treatment systems, and distribution systems would result in the cost of 1m<sup>3</sup> to being between 7 to 8 JOD.

The Dead Sea being shared between Israel and Jordan, transboundary management issues were discussed. Jordan has two key agreements concerning the management of its transboundary waters: An agreement with Syria on the utilization of the Yarmouk River between both countries, and the Jordan – Israel Water Agreement. Those two agreements are poorly developed compared to international model agreements, based on 17 parameters. From those 17 parameters, only 2 parameters are respected in the mentioned agreements. In Jordan, there is no real watershed management as such. All the agreements are bilateral and do not answer today's problems such as climate change and do not focus on groundwater and surface water. For more information on shared water resources in the Middle East, see the [Inventory of Shared Water Resources in Western Asia](#) is the first UN-led effort to comprehensively assess the state and evolution of transboundary surface and groundwater resources in the Middle East. It was developed in consultation with ESCWA member countries.

## Visiting the Mujib Biosphere Reserve



Figure 7 Mujib Chalets, Mujib Biosphere Reserve - Participants discuss water and agriculture with local farmers

The abundant biodiversity is a reminder that water is not only used for irrigation and drinking but is also vital to the local biodiversity and nature, especially in a climate change context. This affects land, species, tourism etc., and a more holistic and comprehensive approach when examining water would be beneficial. In the reserve, participants had the opportunity to discuss with local farmers, where they learnt that there is no holistic approach to water management, and that there is a lack of government and private sector engagement. RSCN are 'alone' in the biosphere management project. In need of long-term sustained involvement and comprehensive approaches, with support for these various models. Stakeholder mapping in the region, with an involvement plan to involve the various stakeholders would increase efficiency.

There is ample communication with the community to build ownership and convince people of the impact of having a biosphere area and helping with farming and water management. Personal and environmental benefits are conflicting interests, which need to be taken into account, e.g. farmers have a personal benefit by generating money, but also consider environmental protection. Communication of personal benefits and environmental benefits needs to be adequate. Looking at the feasibility and assistance towards farmers. Organizations support businesses, develop the scope and examine the feasibility of companies to scale or benefit. Looking at case by case of small-scale farmers is too complicated; therefore, there is more of a focus on Small Medium Enterprises. These businesses can act as intermediaries between organizations or the private sector and the small-scale farmers. Corruption, technical issues, economics, and stealing of water are underlying challenges that hinder the development of projects.

## IV. Shape the network

### Introduction

**André Wehrli**, former Core Group leader of the sub-RésEAU EECA, shared some insights from the sub-RésEAU EECA's experience. He highlighted that the most important aspect is the buy in; members need to engage to keep the RésEAU alive. A strong core group from the different countries of the region is essential. Having fewer topics to dig deeper into them instead of superficially skimming over many issues simultaneously. We are dealing with complex issues and may need to connect and have a critical mass. A critical mass brings together necessary knowledge from various domains and experts constructively and innovatively so that they can exchange. Sub-RésEAU is an excellent opportunity to exchange, meet, and connect. For **Daniel Maselli**, RésEAU Focal Point, the main objective of this kind of networking is to identify the key partners and organizations that share the same ideals and goals. RésEAU is a good opportunity get to know what different types of water experts are doing; this contributes to increased communication and coordination between various organizations and experts. If a member encounters a challenge in his/her work, it can post a question on [Dgroups](#); more than 500 members will receive the message, and it may cumulate in a wealth of information that can be used in a specific local context or project.

## Water-related knowledge networks in the region

Prior to the launch event, a [Rapid study of water knowledge across the MENA region](#) was commissioned to identify water-related knowledge gaps in the region, as well as existing knowledge networks. During the launch event, additional networks, tools and projects were mentioned for possible partnerships and synergies with the sub-RésEAU MENA. The below table lists them with a short description.

**AWARENET:** The Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network (AWARENET) is a regional network of training and research institutes, NGOs, government institutions and experts in the field of water, engaged in the development and delivery of capacity development programs and resource material on Integrated Water Resources Management policies and practices for the Arab region.

**Aquifer Storage and Recovery:** The project aims at improving water security by accelerating the practice of aquifer storage and recovery (ASR). New methods for identifying high potential ASR sites, based on remote sensing and geospatial hydrologic analysis, are applied.

**Climate Risk Nexus Initiative (LAS):** The objective is to develop capacities of the League of Arab States (LAS) and Member States to enact decisions and policies that better manage the growing complexity of risks and support the resilience of people.

**CEDRIG:** The Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance (CEDRIG) is a practical tool developed by the SDC, which is meant to systematically integrate climate, environment and disaster risk reduction (DRR) into development cooperation and humanitarian aid to enhance the overall resilience of systems and communities.

**EAWAG Sanitation Massive Open Online Course (MOOC):** The MOOC series 'Sanitation, Water and Solid Waste for Development' is an open-access, four courses, full-fledged eLearning programme of EAWAG and the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne.

**NEAT+:** Free and open-source, the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+) has been designed for humanitarian actors to quickly identify issues of environmental concern to make emergency and recovery interventions more sustainable.

**Regional Technical Platform on Water Scarcity from the Food and Agriculture Organization:** Aims to support the scaling up of water-related actions, programmes and policies to address water scarcity and food insecurity in the context of climate change and socio-economic vulnerabilities.

**Re-Water Project :** The project from the International Water Management Institute is to expand the safe reuse of water in the MENA region. It addresses barriers to reuse in the region and promotes safe reuse practices that improve food safety, health and livelihoods.

**Sanitation and Water for All :** the United Nations-hosted partnership mobilizes partners in governments, utilities, regulators, donors, financial institutions, UN agencies, civil society and research organizations, and the private sector to increase political support for the human rights to water and sanitation. A MENA Roadmap identifies regional priorities and opportunities.

**SDG-Climate Nexus Facility:** A multi-phased program that aims at supporting countries in integrating climate measures into broader SDG affiliated policies and plans while developing national capacities in accessing climate finance towards building resilience to risks and enhancing adaptive capacities in the Arab region to climate risks and natural hazards.

**SuSanA WANA Chapter:** the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) is a network of people and organizations who share a common vision on sustainable sanitation and want to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG6. It has a regional West Asia and North Africa (WANA) chapter, to make SuSanA more accessible locally.

**UN CC: Learn:** The United Nations Climate Change Learning Partnership (UN CC: Learn) is a collaborative initiative of 36 multilateral organizations providing guidance and quality learning resources to support people, governments and businesses to understand, adapt, and build resilience to climate change.

**Water Integrity Network:** supports and connects an open network of partner individuals, organizations, and governments promoting water integrity to reduce corruption, and improve water sector performance worldwide.

**Igor Malgrati** from ICRC introduced the [ICRC Energy and Water Knowledge Hub](#), another interesting network that could be a partner of the sub-RésEAU MENA. The hub is located in the Innovation Hub in the UAE. Its two main objectives are learning and development (the hub will host in-person classes and provide technical laboratories to train ICRC staff), and partnerships for Policy (the hub will bring together a community of actors from the development, financial and private sectors, foundations, academia and other humanitarian organizations that run energy projects and face similar challenges). The idea of the hub is to anticipate challenges and to build capacities of field staff and of the WASH sector in general; ICRC traditionally was an output-based organization trying to activate solutions in emergency settings to an outcome approach. ICRC have established partnerships with academia, institutes, humanitarian organizations, governments, and the private sector for its knowledge hub. The private sector's potential, specifically in the UAE, is key to leverage the number of stakeholders there, with some cross-cutting partnership ideas.

## Activities and priority themes for future Sub-RésEAU MENA efforts

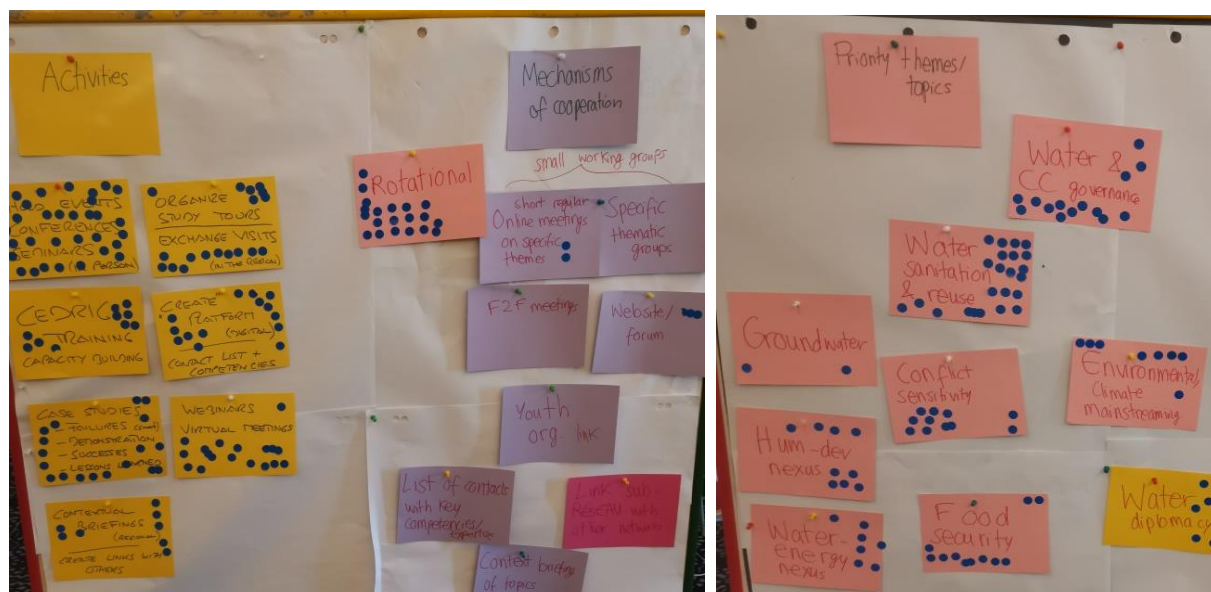


Figure 8 Activities, mechanisms of cooperation, priority themes/topic identified and prioritized by the participants

Participants identified a list of topics and activities they would like the sub-RésEAU MENA to cover, and then had to vote (6 sticky notes in total). The color gradient in the table below represents the prioritization from the participants: the lightest blue is the lowest level of importance; the darkest blue is the highest. This list will be prioritized by the Sub-RésEAU MENA Core Group members, in order to plan feasible activities for the network in the coming years.

Activities	Priority Themes/Topics
F2f Events, Conferences, Seminars	Water and Sanitation & Reuse
Study Tours	Water & Climate Change Governance
Case Studies: Failures; Demonstration; Successes; Lessons learned	Conflict Sensitivity Food security
Webinars, virtual Meetings	Environmental, climate mainstreaming
Contact List + Competencies	Human Development Nexus
Capacity building and training, CEDRIG training	Water Energy Nexus
Regional RésEAU Briefs	Water Diplomacy
Create links with other knowledge networks	Groundwater

Different mechanisms of cooperation for the sub-RésEAU were discussed: small working groups working on specific themes; short regular online meetings on specific themes; website; forum; f2f meetings; link with youth organizations link; list of contacts with key competencies/expertise (overlap with activities); link sub-RésEAU with other networks; not thematic focus per se but selection of topics on a rotational basis.

### Next steps

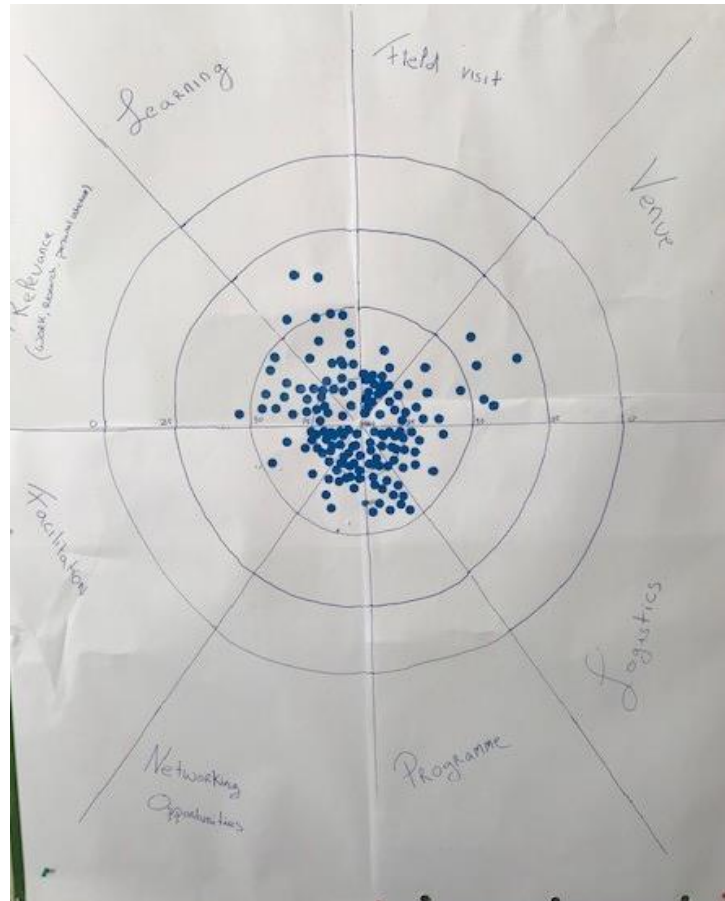
The Core Group of the sub-RésEAU MENA (made of SDC staff from the region) will meet online in August 2022 to validate the next topics and activities of the network, based on the wishes and interests expressed by the participants. An [online platform](#) will be opened as a repository for key documents but also for participants to further discuss and see the expertise of each other's. An online activity is planned for October 2022: stay tuned!

For any questions, feel free to contact:

- [Mufleh.alalaween@eda.admin.ch](mailto:Mufleh.alalaween@eda.admin.ch) (Regional Water Advisor & Core Group representative of MENA sub-RésEAU)
- [Daniel.maselli@eda.admin.ch](mailto:Daniel.maselli@eda.admin.ch) (RésEAU Focal Point)
- [Elodie.feijoo@skat.ch](mailto:Elodie.feijoo@skat.ch) (sub-RésEAU MENA backstopper)

## Annex 1 – Evaluation

Below is a visual representation the evaluation by the participants<sup>6</sup>. Each concentric circle radiating out from the centre corresponds to a different level of satisfaction. The inner circle represents 100/100, representing the highest degree of satisfaction. The utmost outer circle represents 0/100, which means the lowest degree of satisfaction. The bull's eye diagram is divided into eight different categories: field visit; venue; logistics; program; networking opportunities; facilitation; relevance; learning. Each participant was given a round sticker per category (therefore eight stickers per participant) and evaluated their degree of satisfaction per category.



When examining the diagram above, the overall participant's satisfaction is very positive. Most of the stickers remain concentrated between 100 and 75 in **facilitation**, **field visit**, **networking opportunities**, and **logistics with** relevance and **programme** having the stickers penetrating into the 50% circle. Only **learning** and **venue** have had some stickers spreading into the 25-50% satisfaction circle. The overall pictures must be seen as an extremely satisfactory assessment by the participants (without voting by the people involved in the organization).

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<sup>6</sup> Key organizers, facilitators and logistics support did not take part in the evaluation.



## Annex 2 – Questions for field visits

Participants worked in three groups to develop a set of questions to foster the discussions during the field visits. Below is the set of questions that they prepared.

### **DAM & INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM)**

1. Is there an existing programme for sediment management? Is there a link to more employment opportunities?
2. Why building more dams instead of other innovative solutions? Are there plans to build more dams?
3. Evaporation?
4. How often does the Mujib dam have to be cleaned?
5. What is its resistance to earthquakes?
6. Is there infiltration taking place? What about groundwater restorage?
7. Cost-benefit study?
8. Was there an environmental impact assessment of the project?
9. What is the price of water for agricultural purposes?
10. Is there a water balance?
11. How do you pursue IWRM in the management of the dam?

### **SALT BEACH & TRANSBOUNDARY WATER**

1. What are the sinkholes and how can you solve the issue?
2. What is the (economic) value of the Dead Sea?
3. Is there an international treaty/agreement? What is in it? Is it enforced?
4. Why is the Dead Sea not a UNESCO World Heritage site?
5. Does the system of key tributaries to the Dead Sea still work?
6. Is there a masterplan for management?
7. What is the situation regarding pollution?
8. How can we save the Dead Sea? Why is the Read/Dead Sea canal not an option? What about the option to fill up via a desalination plant Aqaba/Haifa? Which option might be most realistic (national/international)?
9. What is the groundwater situation?

### **BIOSPHERE & ECOSYSTEM**

1. What is the vision, needs, challenges and possible solutions?
2. What was the situation before and after the reserve?
3. What is the impact of the dam on the aquifer recharge?
4. How is the zoning classified and what are the restrictions?
5. What is being produced in the area? And what are the prices?
6. Why did the area become a biosphere? Is the dam part of the reason?
7. From where does the water come in the drought season?
8. Have there been changes in the uses/activities in the past years?
9. What are the mitigation measures to climate change?

## Annex 3 – List of participants

Name	Country of Operation	Organization
Ababneh Heba	Jordan	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Abdelhay Arwa	Jordan	German Jordanian University
Abu-Zreig Majed	Jordan	Water Diplomacy Centre
Alalaween Mufleh	Jordan	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Al-Bakri Enas	Jordan	Water Diplomacy Centre
Al-Nemry Nataly	Jordan	IWRDAM
Al-Qaisi Alaa	Jordan	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Al-Qaisi Bassam	Jordan	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Al-Qaissi Mohammed	Jordan	BORDA
Al-Sharif Munjed	Jordan	German Jordanian University
Al-Zoubi Rania	Jordan	USAID
Beckzada Mona	Egypt	Embassy of Switzerland in Egypt
Bussmann Aline	Jordan	CEWAS
Feijoo Elodie	Switzerland	Skat Consulting
Goimard Pierre	Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Yemen	Action Contre la Faim
Hassan Tarik	Jordan	UNICEF / Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Ibrahim Ramzi	Lebanon	Swiss Embassy
Ismail Ibrahim	Switzerland	EBP Schweiz AG
Jabali Yasmine	Lebanon	University of Balamand
Jalkh Michelle	Lebanon	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Kayumov Abdurasul	Jordan	BORDA
Maden Tuğba Evrim	Turkey	Turkish Water Institute (SUEN)
Malgrati Igor	UAE	International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
Maselli Daniel	Switzerland	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Moix Patrice	Jordan	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Otoum Maisam	Jordan	CEWAS
Pitteloud Pierre-Yves	Jordan	SDC
Saliba Darine	Lebanon	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Schink Korbinian	Syria	REACH Initiative
Sheldon David	Switzerland	Skat Consulting
Stalder Adrian	Jordan	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Wehrli André	Switzerland	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Zysset Andreas	Switzerland	EBP Schweiz AG

You can find the complete illustrated list of participants: [here](#)