

# Rapid action to improve water supply in host communities in the Yarmouk basin (Jordan)

## Rehabilitation and enhancement of water supply and establishment of participatory planning processes



### Country / Region

Jordan – Yarmouk basin/  
Bait Ras area

### Partners

MWI, WAJ, YWC, SDC,  
GIZ

### Background information

The extreme scarcity of water resources of Jordan oftentimes outdated water infrastructure as well as missing public participation and transparency in decision-making processes led to insufficient water supply and social conflicts.

### Project objective

Water availability is improved in Bait Ras area.

### Beneficiaries

Bait Ras population (local community and refugees) and water provider.

### Costs

EUR 875,000 (SDC contribution EUR 422,000)

### Duration

07.2017 – 12.2018

### Contact

Global Programme Water  
water@eda.admin.ch

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

Since the beginning of the Syrian civil war in March 2011, Jordan received more than 655,000 refugees. Given the extreme resource scarcity of the country, this is a challenging situation for Jordan. Insufficient public participation and deficits in water infrastructure lead to insufficient water availability and social tensions in host communities. Therefore, the water availability in host communities is in urgent need to appropriately respond to the crisis with sustainable and effective measures. The project intends to improve water availability in one of the host communities through improving communal water infrastructure and enhancing the participatory approach by establishing a multi-stakeholders dialogue.

**Context.** Due to the extreme scarcity of resources, outdated water infrastructure as well as lacking public participation and transparency in decision-making processes, access to water bears considerable conflict potential. Especially in rural areas, water infrastructure is not designed for the increased number of population. The situation was further aggravated by the Syrian crises when most the Syrian refugees were accommodated by host communities in northern Jordan.

Located in northern Jordan and within the Yarmouk basin - which is shared between Jordan and Syria - is the host community of Beit Ras which lacks water infrastructure and has no platform for public participation.

**Rationale.** As the situation needs an immediate and urgent response, measures are designed to improve water supply through public participation. The project will help improving the water availability situation in Bait Ras, promote social cohesion and sustainable development. In addition, the project will prepare the ground for a potential twinning initiative with a Syrian community in the basin.

**Objective.** The objective of the project is to improve water availability in host communities. To achieve the objective, the project will apply a strategy with

multi-level approach, targeting the needs of individuals and households as well as the water infrastructure needs. Support participation by establishing stakeholders' dialogue consisting of the representatives of the responsible water utilities and governmental bodies, local authorities, as well as of civil society and vulnerable groups. The purpose of this dialogue is to provide the community members with a platform to discuss water related issues directly with the responsible from water utility to bridge the gap between the two parties. This will be combined with installation of water networks and enhancing water use efficiency for 60% of households through provision of water saving devices.

These interventions contribute directly to the improvement of living conditions for Jordanians and Syrian refugees in the area and countervail conflicts between refugees and the host population, therefore contribute also to peace and security in the region.

The overall goal of the project is improved water availability in Bait Ras area.

The main expected outcomes are:

- Stakeholders have a platform to express and voice their interests and concerns.
- Drinking water supply is secured for almost 10,000 inhabitants with a share of at least 10% Syrian refugee.
- Enhance the water use efficiency for 60% of households.

