

Status of Coordination in water resource management among sectors in the Republic of Yemen

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Facts and Statistics

- Yemen is considered amongst the poorest countries in water resources.
- The renewable water resources are estimated to be 2.1 Billion Cubic meters annually.
- Annual water use is estimated to be 3.5 Billion Cubic meters annually.
- The annual deficit is 1 Billion Cubic meters annually.
- The water deficit in the critical basins is estimated to be 600% such as the case in Sana'a, taez and Amran.

Facts and Statistics (Cont.)

- The population of Yemen is 25 million.
- The per capita share of water resources does not exceed 120 cubic meters daily.
- This average is equal to 10% only from the lowest acceptable average which is 1000 cubic meters daily.
- 75% of the population in Yemen live in rural areas and depend on agriculture to meet their livelihood needs.

Water usage by sectors

- The agricultural sector uses more than 93% of water resources.
- Water usage for drinking , industrial and tourism is 7%.
- Water use in agriculture is characterized by low efficiency due to the traditional methods in irrigation such as flooding agricultural fields and furrow irrigation. This efficiency does not exceed 35%.
- The low efficiency in water use in agriculture is also related to overwatering, loss of water in traditional canals as well as low efficiency of on farm water management.

The legal and institutional aspects of water sector in Yemen.

- The official interest in water problems and challenges was lacking to a certain extent throughout the last few decades.
- The interest started lately and was reflected in launching significant institutional and legal steps in this regard. NAWRA was established in 1996 and was given a task of management of water resources. The management of water resources did not cover water management in the agricultural sector.
- The water law was issued in 2002 and in 2003 the Ministry of Water and Environment was established. In the year 2004, the National Water Sector Strategy and its investment plan (NWSSIP) was prepared covering the period 2005-2009.

The legal and institutional aspects of water sector in Yemen (cont.).

- The strategy aimed at implementation of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and coordinate the implementation of the investment plan. In 2008 an update of NWSSIP was launched covering the period 2009-2015. In 2010 the by law was issued after ten years of issuing the water law.
- In 2010 Sana'a declaration of the government and donors was issued on the status of water resources and how challenges resulting from overexploitation of water resources should be met .

Coordination among sectors in water management

- Coordination among relevant ministries dealing with water was not based on a sound arrangement and each sector dealt with water in a complete isolated manner.
- The WSSP was formulated to support efforts of integration and streamlining of separate activities and development efforts in a joint planning manner .
- WSSP launched the joint planning of annual programs in the water sector at the governorate and water basins levels in seven governorates as a first step in 2010.
- The political developments in 2011 and the slow implementation of WSSP affected coordination efforts and led to the amendment of WSSP to become a typical water sector project dealing with the different ministries in a separate manner. Water basin joint planning was abandoned thereafter. Similarly the funding agencies started to function in a separate manner.

Coordination among sectors in water management (cont.)

- The government decided in the year 2007 to update the NWSSIP with the aim of amending the policies of the strategy and the investment plan on the basis of accumulated experience and the integration of the irrigation sector in MAI in the context of IWRM to ensure that NWSSIP update (2009-2015) will serve as the basis for a sector wide approach (SWAP) and provide basis for joint participation of donors and government under the umbrella of the Water Sector Support Program (WSSP).

Conclusion

- It must be noted that the effect of institutional, legal procedures adopted had little impact on the status of water resources and provision of water to different communities .
- This is evident in the fact that mining of water resources still on the rise and many agricultural areas are on the verge of collapsing in terms of provision of water for agriculture purposes and even for drinking purposes.
- The situation became even worse as a result of the late political conflict which took a form of armed conflict in the beginning of 2015 and still dominate the scene, During this period of conflict more random drilling of wells took place and the irrigation structures as well as water harvesting construction were subjected to more deterioration as a result.
- Development activities as well as donor support ceased to exist since the eruption of conflicts and the withdrawal of development partners.

Thank you for your attention