

PALESTINIAN TERRITORY OF THE WEST BANK

Support for sustainable water management for the city of Jericho in the Palestinian territory of the West Bank



Jericho

→ Context and strategy

In terms of water resources, the needs of the city of Jericho are crucial and urgent. Domestic water supply is regularly interrupted. Since water distribution is not quantifiable by volume, it is unequal. Certain segments of the population, including refugees, are submitted to more restrictions than others.

Having to share resources between domestic water and water used for irrigation causes tensions that can lead in the short term to social conflicts and in the mid term to the deterioration of networks and means of production due to inappropriate use.

This conflict around water resources continues for legal reasons (existence of traditional water "rights" handed over from the Ottoman period) that the municipality alone has neither the means nor the competence to resolve.

This conflict has been strongly intensified due to diversification of water utilizations and a growth in demand. Jericho is a city for vacationing and tourism because it is far from centers of conflict, has a mild climate in winter and is near Christian pilgrimage sites. In addition, the Middle East Quartet is looking for ways to promote private investment in Palestine, and the project of a vast industrial zone in the Jericho region is under study. In this context, the municipality of Jericho could become an area of concentrated economic activity.

→ Budget

Estimation: 183 000 euros, co-financed by the City of Paris up to 97 500 euros, by the French Development Agency up to 65 500 euros and by the Municipality of Jericho up to 20 000 euros.

Project presented by the city of Jericho.

→ Project

The idea is to establish a shared diagnosis of the water resources and needs for the city of Jericho and to propose a Master Plan for Water Management. This document would serve as the basis for building a water policy and strategy, as well as for sustainable urban and economic development, which would be linked to environmental constraints of the territory.

The project goal is to improve water governance in Jericho by helping to implement a system for sharing, distributing and managing water that would satisfy all users and would take into account different context elements, such as the challenge of demographic and industrial development.

→ Implementation

The project aims to improve the capacity and production modes for water production and distribution (domestic and agricultural utilizations). It has been elaborated in a way that will reinforce the capability of the municipality to manage water service, in particular with regards to the establishment of rates, debt collection and network maintenance. It also proposes assistance in the implementation of a policy that encourages awareness of controlled water consumption to ensure sustainable management of the resource.

→ Expected results

- » Reinforce the capability of the parties concerned and develop a partnership between the Municipality of Jericho and the Palestinian Water Authority.
- » Improve the coordination of work between researchers and experts.
- » Improve municipal management of service for domestic water and irrigation water.
- » Make the inhabitants of Jericho aware of the need for sustainable water management and reduced consumption and improve the debt collection rate for water bills.
- » Ensure network maintenance (decreased leakage, training of technical teams, etc.).

→ Partners

This project brings together the Municipality of Jericho (including the Water Service), the Palestinian Water Authority, the Association of Irrigators (considered as the owner of the Ain el Sultan source), the Palestinian Hydrology Group (local NGO) and is carried out in partnership with the City of Paris and the French Development Agency.