

# **Advancing Gender Equality and Empowerment for Enhanced Water Security**

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**INTEGRATED**  
from insight to impact

# Jordan Context - Water

- 40% - Jordan shares main surface waters with other countries (Yarmouk, Jordan Rivers);
- 54% - 12 renewable groundwater aquifers depleted at more than twice the recharge rate (247% of sustainable yield);
- National Water Supply = 900 million m<sup>3</sup> while Demand is 1200 million m<sup>3</sup>.

# Jordan Context - Population

- Refugee influx of 1.2 million people – doubling population in North Jordan overnight;
- Youth bulge – 78% of population is under the age of 30;
- Fertility rate is 3.5 children per woman;
- Water shortage – 90 m<sup>3</sup> per capita by 2025.



# Jordan Valley Water Vulnerability

- Jordan Valley Case Study
  - Farmers have reduced dependence on agriculture due to water shortages, and are largely tenant farmers;
  - Increased use of child labor in the fields;
  - Poor women work as day labor on large farms;
  - Garden farming is needed to supplement consumption needs;
  - Large families with elderly and child dependents;
  - Limited access to alternative sources of income;
  - Lack collateral for to obtain loans for farming investments.

# Women in Jordan Valley

- Only 44% of women headed households own land due to limitations on land ownership (vs. 68% of male HH);
- Women have less access to credit (21%) than men (44%);
- Women are responsible for household, and often fieldwork and animal husbandry;
- Women do not always have decision-making authority on key water purchase, use, efficiency and allocation issues.



# Mafraq Water Vulnerability

- Mafraq Case Study
  - Higher cost of water due to shared metering placing them in a higher tariff bracket (6.9% of income spent on water)
  - Rationed water supply means additional pumping costs
  - Buying water to feed deficit – up to 30% of income
  - Intermittent supply impacts water flow, quality and contamination
  - Wastewater discharge is poor or non-existent leading to contamination of groundwater aquifers
  - Poor water quality leads to worsening public health

# Women in Mafraq

- Women and children are usually ones responsible for water-related activities in the home and gardening;
- Women store water, clean using water and wash;
- Women regulate water reuse, bathing frequency;
- As caregivers, women ensure water is healthy and tend to sick – water-borne diseases;
- Yet women have limited voice in household infrastructure decisions.





# Advancing Gender Equality and Empowerment

- How can we ensure that the SDG 5 and SDG 6 implementation will produce mutually complementary results?
- What are the most significant roadblocks in inclusion of gender-related targets in the national SDG implementation of water-related targets? Water policies?
- What are some of the best ways to mobilize resources to achieve gender equality and water security at the same time?





# Ideas with Merit

- **Household – Water Manager Level**

- Women as plumbers (Water Wise Women – Plumbers - GIZ)
- Women as household water auditors;
- Awareness through Female Community workers (WWW-GIZ);
- Programming targeting women as water managers (health, hygiene, storage, WSDs, etc).



- **Policy Level**

- Land ownership by women;
- Access to credit by women;
- Increased participation in WDM;
- Increased recognition of the role of women as water managers.

