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INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLE
**TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN**

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**Capacity Building
Within the
Palestinian Water Authority**

by

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**Ministry for the Environment,
Land and Sea**



**United Nations Economic
Commission for Europe**

Overview

- Overview of the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA)
- PWA Mission for Capacity Building in the Water Sector
- Capacity Building in TWM
- Major Ongoing Capacity Building Programs in the PWA
- Local Conditions for TWM
- Case: EXACT Project
- Real Consequences in lack of TWM
- Palestinian Needs in Capacity Building in TWM
- Sustainability of Capacity Building Efforts
- Capacity Building: Just one piece of the puzzle



The Palestinian Water Authority

- The Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) was founded in 1994 as a regulator of the Palestinian water sector.
- It serves as a policy maker and is responsible for managing the water resources and wastewater in Palestine.
- The PWA is responsible for restructuring and establishing the operational bodies of the water sector, mainly the water utilities, which are responsible for ensuring proper water supply distribution and sanitation services to Palestinian cities and villages.



Reform Program of the Palestinian Water Authority

- PWA recently initiated a process of reform of the water sector in Palestine with a focus on building functional institutions able to take responsibility for and ensure reliable and fair services to the Palestinian population .
- A major component of the reform process is the **Water Sector Capacity Building Project** ,which includes the commissioning of Technical Planning and Advisory Teams "TPAT".



Constraints faced by the PWA

- Water resources abstraction and development in the West Bank is limited to groundwater allocated to Palestinians in the Interim Agreement.
- Development of water resources is further restricted by the prior approval requirement by the Israeli-Palestinian Joint Water Committee (JWC).
- In violation of the principle of “equitable and reasonable” allocation embedded in customary international water law, Israel exploits over 90% of all transboundary fresh water resources for exclusive Israeli use, including for use in illegal Israeli settlements.



Transboundary Water Resources



- Groundwater basins and Coastal Aquifer
- Jordan River
- Dead Sea
- Ephemeral Wadis



PWA Mission in Capacity Building

Vision:

To coordinate training with donors for Water Service Providers and ensure water professionals are trained , skilled and have continuous access to training, knowledge and skill development.



Mission:

The PWA in coordination with other local parties in the field of water will be the focal point for human resource development and training support for the water sector in Palestine by generating and creating relevant database, communication, coordination, management, policy and strategy, and finance necessary for a sustainable water sector training.



Guiding Capacity Building Efforts by PWA

- **Training Website:** www.watertraining-palestine.org

Consists of public section through which major training events and publications can be found and a member area.

- **Draft National Training Policy and Strategy**

Key principles, values and approaches that mark the Palestinian Training in the Water Sector.

- **Training Needs Assessment**

Identified training needs as well as priority training topics for each category in West Bank and Gaza Strip.

- **Training Modules**

Based on the results of the TNA, several training modules were designed and developed.



Capacity Building in TWM

- Capacity building in TWM can be classified as:
 - Capacity building within PWA
 - Capacity building across the water sector
- Good deal of training and capacity building on technical aspects of TWM
 - TWM requires for well regulated/organized water sector nationally will contribute to better TWM nationally.
 - More efforts are required on legal, institutional, management and policy aspects of TWM.



Major On-going Programs in Capacity Building

The Water Sector Capacity Building Project

To strengthen the capacity of the PWA to more effectively **plan, monitor, and regulate** water sector development in the West Bank and Gaza.

- One component of the project is advisory support, technical assistance and capacity building to be provided by the **Technical Planning and Advisory Team (TPAT)**
 - To develop PWA's capacity for implementation of water supply, sanitation and water resources management strategies, action plans and programs.
 - Ongoing assessment of the CB programs



Major On-going Programs in Capacity Building

GIZ-funded Capacity Building Program:



Aim: Palestinian Water Sector institutions provide improved water supply and sanitation services

- The Program is being applied on the various sector levels:
 - ***Water Sector Reform:*** National sector steering at PWA and developing instruments for regulation, improving donor coordination and sector management with the Israeli side.
 - ***Knowledge Management:*** Developing a platform for provision, documentation and exchange of professional sector knowledge and experiences.
 - ***Water Supply and Sanitation Service provision:*** Improving performance of selected WSPs, enhancing knowledge sharing/ learning and improving service provision capacities.



Major On-going Programs in Capacity Building

Austrian Capacity Building Program: Building Capacity and Institutional Reform for the Integrated Management of Water and Sanitation Services in Rural Communities

Aim: Building capacity and reform of the wastewater sector within rural areas.

- Activities include:
 1. Supporting local Master Degree Programs.
 2. Perform higher profile studies.
 3. Development of organizational setting for WWTPs, which include upgrading of current WWTP and construction of new innovative ones
 4. Construction of pilot-scale systems.
 5. Enhance governance within the sanitation sector through support of existing JSCs.



Major On-going Programs in Capacity Building

The Middle East Desalination Research Center (MEDRC)

Aim: The MEDRC-PWA Center of Excellence is expected to be a central coordinating point for desalination and water reuse research and training activities in Gaza and the West Bank.

- One of MEDRC's main objectives is to focus on capacity building in the MENA region.

1. Partners in Research

2. Short Courses

3. Scholarship Program for PhD. and MSc.

4. Introduction of Courses and Degrees at MENA Universities



Local Conditions for TWM

- To ensure effective TWM, there is an urgent need for:
 - **1. Shared/Coordinated Management Mechanism**
 - based on international law and sovereign equality
 - **2. Data Sharing**
 - continuous and accurate
 - **2. Objective Fact Finding**
 - resolving disputes of factual issues
 - **3. Dispute Resolution**
 - for both factual and legal issues based on international law



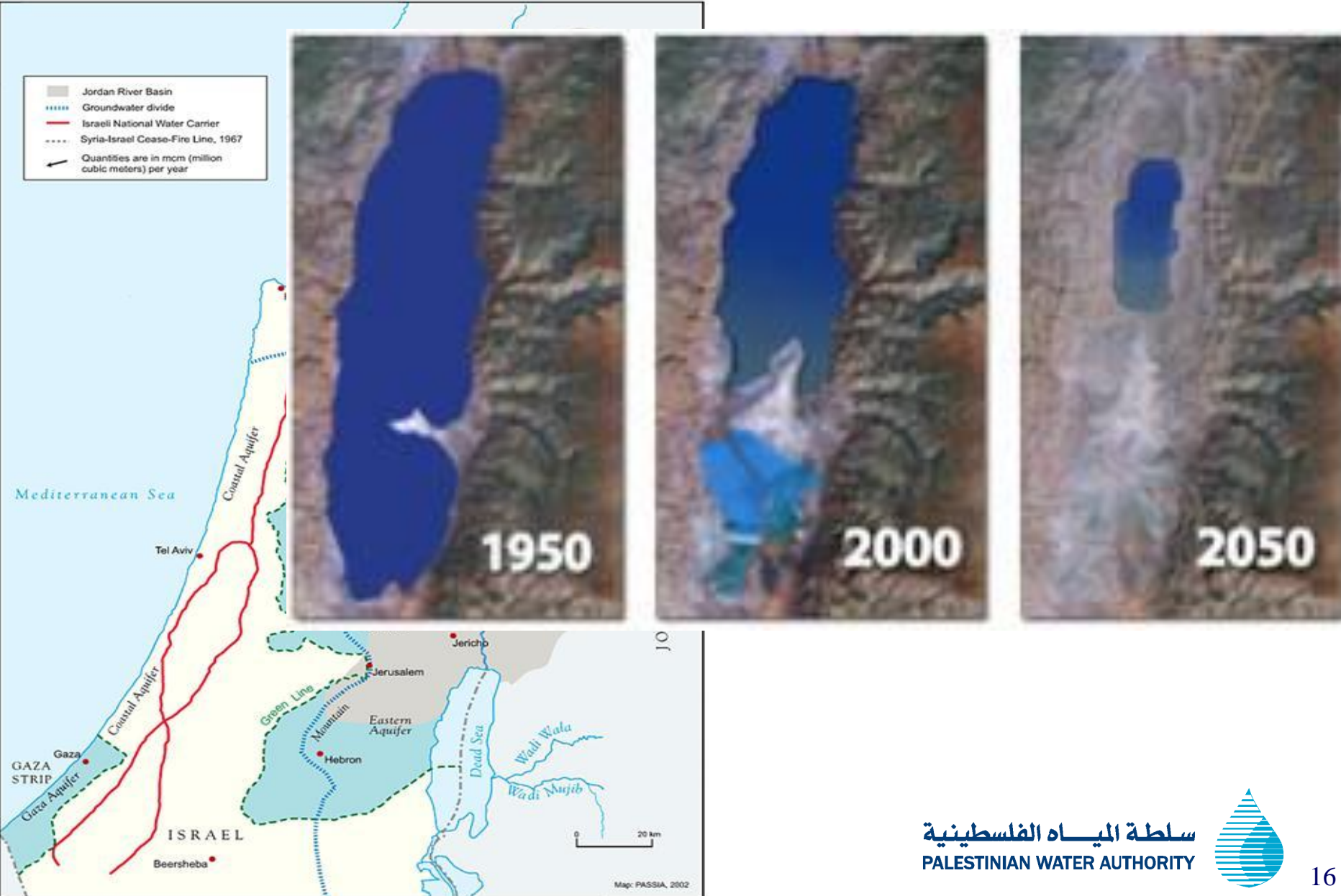
Case: EXACT Project

Regional Water Databank Project- EXACT

- Consists of a series of specific actions to be taken by the Israelis, Jordanians, and Palestinians that are designed to foster the **adoption of common, standardized data collection and storage techniques** among the Parties, **improve the quality of water resources data** collection in the region, and **improve communication among the scientific community** in the region.
- 15 years after the start of the project, Israel has not cooperated in sharing data over the Jordan River basin, and the western and coastal aquifers.



Consequences of lack of TWM



Palestinian Needs in Capacity Building in TWM

Specific Capacity Building Needs in TWM:

- **Training in TWM, legal training, policy and strategy, modeling and data systems**

- **Dispute Resolution**

- **Hands-on training on transboundary groundwater management**
 - **Delineation, vulnerability assessment, pollution protection, etc.**
 - **Real regional case studies**



Sustainability of Capacity Building Programs

- International expertise are greatly employed in developing plans, rather than building capacity of local expertise in sector management.
 - This puts into question the sustainability of such programs.

It is vital to ensure national ownership and long term sustainability of water sector management.

- Proper training evaluation and follow-up are key to changed behavior and improved performance.
- There is a need for more focus on the institutional level of CB
 - should involve aiding water institutions in Palestine.



Capacity Building- Just one Piece of the Puzzle



- **Palestine is functioning under unique conditions.**
- **Despite all this transfer of knowledge and experience there is simply no way to overcome the vast asymmetries of power without the motivation of other governments to see a resolution.**

Technical or managerial solutions that leave intact the political inequalities of Israel's occupation are no substitute for a political solution consistent with international law and mechanisms underpinned by the principles of equality of all riparian states.



سلطة المياه الفلسطينية
PALESTINIAN WATER AUTHORITY



Thank You for your Attention

For any further questions contact:

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