



Luxembourg, 15 October 2021

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Jordan Valley Water Resources
Project Number:	2018-0858
Country:	Jordan
Project Description:	The project involves the implementation of measures to increase the efficiency of the use of water resources in the Jordan Valley.

EIA required:	yes
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Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no
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Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project involves the implementation of measures to improve the efficiency of the water conveyance and irrigation infrastructure in the Jordan Valley with the aim to support the improved management of available water resources. More specifically the project involves the rehabilitation of ageing irrigation networks, the construction of a water storage reservoir and a closed water carrier to partially replace a section of the southern part of the King Abdullah Canal (KAC).

The measures will not only reduce water losses for the benefit of agriculture but also achieve significant fresh water savings to be reallocated to alleviate the drinking water shortages in the country's urban centres, mainly Amman and Irbid.

Compliance with applicable Environmental Legislation

The project will comply with national environmental requirements as defined in the Jordanian Environmental Protection Law No.52:2006. Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation No.37:2005 sets out the requirements for the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). A complete ESIA approved by the Ministry of Environment is required in order to obtain environmental clearance and the environmental permit for the project, which then complements other non-environmental permitting requirements such as the construction license. A draft ESIA has been prepared in line with EIB Environmental and Social requirements as part of the feasibility study for the project but will need to be updated during the detailed design stage in order to be able to obtain the environmental permit. In addition, the promoter will have to apply for a site approval permit in accordance with the Instructions for Site Selection of Development Projects of 2018 prior to the commencement of the process for environmental permitting.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



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According to the EU EIA Directive, the majority of the components of the project fall under Annex II with the obligation to prepare a full EIA being subject to the decision of the competent authority. Some components fall outside the scope of the directive. The project will not affect any protected areas.

The promoter of the project is the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) acting through the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA). JVA has significant experience in implementing projects financed by development finance institutions and bilateral donors requiring compliance with international environmental and social standards. In this context JVA is considered capable of implementing the project in accordance with the project's environmental and social requirements.

Contribution to Climate Action

The project has a significant contribution to climate change adaptation (100% of the project investment cost) according to the EIB's relevant guidelines as it targets the conservation of water resources through the reduction of water losses and measures to ensure a more resilient water supply in a severely water stressed area. Through the reallocation of fresh water resources from agricultural use to potable water supply, the project will also increase the security of drinking water supply. Investments to make water supply more resilient to climate change are a top priority for the Government of Jordan as confirmed by the National Water Strategy 2016-2025.

Environmental Impacts

The draft ESIA did not identify any significant adverse impacts on the environment that cannot be prevented and/or minimised through appropriate mitigation measures. The main impacts identified were limited to the construction period of the project and are the following:

- Impact on local morphology and surface hydrology.
- Pollution.
- Disturbance and Noise.

The project however will have a number of positive environmental impacts, the main of which are:

- Establishment of a reliable and resilient water supply for agricultural activities.
- More efficient use of water resources and re-use of treated wastewater in agriculture.
- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Social Assessment

Land will need to be acquired as part of the project. The institutional and administrative framework that governs land acquisition in Jordan is the Land Acquisition Law No.12/1987. The law states that any land acquisition process must be undertaken by the Government of Jordan represented by a governmental entity. For this project, the governmental entity is the Jordan Valley Authority. The law on broad terms requires that all land acquisitions that take place for any project must be for the public benefit, and must be undertaken through fair compensation measures. The law sets out a framework for the land acquisition process and stipulates the requirements for consultation, disclosure, advertising, fair compensation, grievance and dispute, etc. A gap analysis was carried out and concluded that it is largely aligned with EIB requirements. Bridging actions have also been identified and the promoter agreed that the principles of EIB standard 6, will be followed.



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In terms of labour rights, Jordan has ratified seven of the eight fundamental ILO conventions (with the exception of *C087 - Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948*) and three out of the four governance conventions. The legal framework regarding labour in Jordan mainly comprises of the Jordanian Labour Law No.8 of 1996 and its amendments.

A gender assessment was performed as part of the draft ESIA and although the activities of the project do not specifically target women, measures were identified in a gender action plan to encourage the involvement of women in the project.

Finally, within its scope the project foresees the provision of consultancy services to support the farmers and the Water User Associations (WUA) in developing concepts to reduce water theft, improve security on the canal, combat illegal well drilling and advise on less water intensive crop patterns.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

In the context of the draft ESIA, a first public consultation meeting was held on 5 September 2021 at the Jordan Valley Authority offices in Deir Alla and online (in hybrid format) to present the project components and major environmental and social issues related to the project to the stakeholders and obtain their feedback. No major issues were raised during the meeting and participants had a chance to provide feedback both during the presentation and discussion of the project as well as through a questionnaire distributed to all participants at the end of the session.

Further consultations will be required as part of the final ESIA to be prepared for the environmental permitting process but these will be conducted at a later stage during the detailed design phase.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The overall long-term objectives of the Project are to contribute to the following:

- (i) support the Government of Jordan to achieve measurable improvement and greater sustainability of the water sector as set out in Jordan's National Water Strategy 2016-2025
- (ii) reallocation of fresh water resources from agricultural use to potable water supply and contributing to the best management of the existing water resources,
- (iii) improvement in the efficiency of bulk irrigation water delivery,
- (iv) increased security of water supply for both domestic and agriculture uses through adaptation to the impacts of climate change,
- (v) job creation, during construction and through the safeguarding of agricultural activities in one of the poorest areas of Jordan.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project is not expected to have any significant adverse impact on the environment, with possible negative environmental effects being temporary and confined to the immediate construction sites. These adverse impacts can be either prevented and/or minimised through appropriate mitigation measures and by adhering to national standards and relevant international standards, guidelines and design criteria.

The project will comply with the requirements of the EIB and the national legislation. The Jordan Valley Authority has significant experience in implementing projects financed by



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development finance institutions and bilateral donors requiring compliance with international environmental and social standards.

The scope of the project is fully in line with the Bank's Lending Priority in Climate and Environment and the Water Sector Lending Policy and will contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal No.6 (SDG) of "availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all", particularly in the rural low income areas as well as SDG No.13: "take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts".

In order to comply with the Bank's requirements, the following conditions and undertakings relating to environmental and social matters will be applied to the project:

- No EIB funds will be disbursed for works on EIB financed components without prior receipt of the approved ESIA including the project's Environmental and Social Management Plan, to the satisfaction of the Bank, for publication locally and on the Bank's website.
- Any compensation in relation to land acquisition will be paid prior to the start of works.
- The promoter will undertake to ensure full compliance with the project's Environmental and Social requirements.