World Vision

CREATING SUSTAINABLE WASH PROGRAMMES

A COMPILATION OF LESSONS LEARNED IN FIVE COUNTRIES:

AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ, JORDAN, LEBANON AND SYRIA

"When the well's dry,
we know the worth
of water. "

Benjamin Franklin

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CONTENT

ABBREVIATIONS

CoP	Community of Practice
HEA	Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs
IDP	Internally Dispalced People
JMP	Joint Monitoring Programme
ME	Middle East
MEER	Middle East and Eastern Europe Region
NO	National office
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WTP	Water Treatment Plant
WV	World Vision

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

World Vision USA and World Vision HEA funded a two-year Regional WASH position in the Middle East (2016–2018) as part of an initiative to improve the effectiveness of existing WASH programmes. The paper focuses on community empowerment in WV WASH initiatives, specifically in Afghanistan, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon and Syria, in line with the sustainable WASH model.

A variety of WASH programmes are being implemented in this region, ranging from humanitarian response to long-term WASH services. Currently, the worlds of humanitarian and development WASH too often operate separately, creating gaps in service provision and increasing the vulnerability of the poorest and most marginalised populations to disease and lost socio-economic opportunities (Mason, et al. 2017).

In all of the WV countries, there was a combination on focusing on WASH hardware (for example the development of low cost water systems, the rehabilitation of existing, more technical and sophisticated water plants) with a balance of WASH software (such as hygiene behaviour, awareness of water conservation, awareness of solid waste management, etc.). In the case of Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria there is currently still a stronger focus on humanitarian WASH, whereas in Jordan and Lebanon the focus has been placed towards transitional to longer term WASH with an emphasis on country-specific WASH themes such as integrated water resource management and solid waste management.

The objective of the Regional WASH position was to help strengthen the capacities of the selected WV WASH programmes, while improving the analysis and reporting of WASH data.

This was achieved through region-wide conference calls, field trips to country offices, and internal WV MEER WASH workshops twice a year. In addition, WV MEER organised two key regional WASH events with key partners namely UNICEF, ICRC, ACF and Oxfam and donors to create more awareness through shared lessons learned from the field and thereby aspiring to attract more funds for WASH in this region.

Additionally, this position worked to develop key tools, such as the WV WASH MEER key indicators, including the enhancement of community-based monitoring of WASH services and to improve the coordination among national government, district governments, local governments, and local NGOs to ensure effective community empowerment in WASH.

WV's WASH work aimed to take a strong, decentralised approach that empowers communities, and involves local government whenever possible. This approach ensures that WASH interventions are further embedded within the local government structures, thereby setting them up to sustainably scale up interventions in the future. Inevitably the level and degree to which local government stakeholders are involved is entirely dependent on the country context.

In the future, WV will continue to share their lessons learned and further align their priorities with their local country partners. Using the integrated approach to WASH programming will help improve resource allocation and deliver WASH services that last, and thereby increase the effectiveness of WV MEER.

INTRODUCTION

This paper shares the main lessons learned in the support of WV MEER's WASH sector in five countries, namely Afghanistan, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria.

Regional support of WASH in MEER was a two-year initiative (2016–2018) to improve the effectiveness of the water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, through increased community empowerment.

The initiative was led by WV MEERO office with the support of funding from WV USA and WV HEA, with hopes of undertaking WASH issues in some of the most fragile regions of the world.

Through this initiative, WV MEERO hoped to bring together WASH work in the Middle East, encourage the implementation of the sustainable WASH model, and application of the integrated WASH approach.

The experiences and lessons learned shared in this paper aspire to help other development professionals, in and outside the WASH sector, to start or improve their own sustainable WASH programmes.

The WV MEERO WASH programmes have focused on a number of key themes over the past two years with a focus on water scarcity, WASH in non-household settings (WASH away from home) such as schools and health care facilities, inclusive WASH (disability and gender), and WASH services that last.

KEY CONCEPTS

SUSTAINABLE WASH MODEL: reflects not only on the technical aspects that come to play in WASH, but also the environmental, institutional, financial and socio-cultural ones.

IINTEGRATED WASH: focuses on the nexus between WASH and nutrition, education, livelihoods, child protection, agriculture and food security. The integrated WASH approach enables more people to gain access to improved services ranging from humanitarian, transitional, and longer term WASH.

ORGANISATIONAL LEARNING: is the process of creating, retaining, and transferring knowledge within an organisation.[1]

Figure 1: Thematic areas focused on in the WV MEER countries. Source Snel, M., 2017

HUMANITARIAN TO SUSTAINABLE WASH: OVERVIEW

Humanitarian WASH emergencies, with refugee influxes, often outlast the initial phase and move on to transitional or longer term WASH programmes. More than ever before situations have evolved into protracted WASH crises (Bennett 2015). At the same time, development actors engaged in such contexts, cannot rely solely on humanitarian counterparts alone in the face of short-term emergencies.

Challenges to effective response in protracted crises include issues related to insecurity, extreme and unpredictable need, and often broken trust between populations, government, and external agencies (ICRC, 2015, Mosel and Levine 2014). As a result the provision of WASH services can become extremely costly, reducing the effectiveness of targeting, making sustainable programming more difficult, and ultimately increasing the vulnerability of poor and marginalised people to disease and missed socio-economic opportunities.

These challenges also extend to Government agencies responsible for the provision of WASH services; for example, Ministries of Water that rarely have the mandate, resources, or human capacity for emergency response beyond the rehabilitation of their own systems.

Research undertaken by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and supported by UNICEF and the World Bank Water and Sanitation Programme examined why there is such a disconnect between humanitarian and development WASH, and what can be done about it (Mason and Mosello, 2016).

The study draws on a literature review, extensive consultation with global experts, and two in-depth case studies in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Mason, et al (2017) argue that the solutions are available, and it is the responsibility of WASH practitioners from both humanitarian and development sectors to lead real change.

The task is to remove barriers that currently drive apart the sectors by building on the strengths and capacities of existing organisations from the ground up, rather than inventing new global initiatives from the top down.

The key finding from Mason et al (2017) was that the siloes between humanitarian and development WASH are sustained by a hierarchy of perceived differences, which can be visualised as a wedge driving the communities apart (Figure 1).

This includes differences, contradictions, and tensions in:

- High-level norms, which are expressed in the two sectors' mission statements, principles and standards;
- Incentives rooted in the international architecture for humanitarian and development assistance, and the related signals given by funding and accountability arrangements, as well as engrained attitudes to risk.
- Operational processes such as: procedures and systems for targeting effort; implementing new services and sustaining existing ones; recruiting and developing staff; and dialogue.

In terms of timeframe that defines these three phases of WASH, the UNHCR manual (2016) classifies humanitarian WASH as lasting from 0-6 months, transitional as lasting from 6-24 months, and protracted as lasting from 24 months to 20 years (or longer). The manual provides a detailed overview in the form of a response programme framework, which include specific activities to be undertaken in each of these three phases[2].

At the regional level WV was the key initiator in the development of a number of key events focusing on the role of humanitarian to sustainable longer term WASH in the MEER region. In order to further advance the discussion on improving the sustainability of WASH services in the region, World Vision and UNICEF organised and funded the first meeting of its kind for agencies funding and implementing WASH services in the region (Snel, et al, 2017).

The event took place in Amman, Jordan, on 19 - 22 September 2017[3], with the second meeting at the Dead Sea on 6 - 7 February 2018[4], with a focus on the advocacy for WASH in the Middle East.

The objective of the upcoming meeting[5] on 19 - 20 September 2018 will be to further bring together regional WASH advisors, donors and other important stakeholders to reflect on how to move towards more effective WASH services, with a strong emphasis on a regional WASH strategy.

Below is an overview of the type of WASH developments ranging from emergency/ humanitarian, transitional to longer term WASH in the three phases.

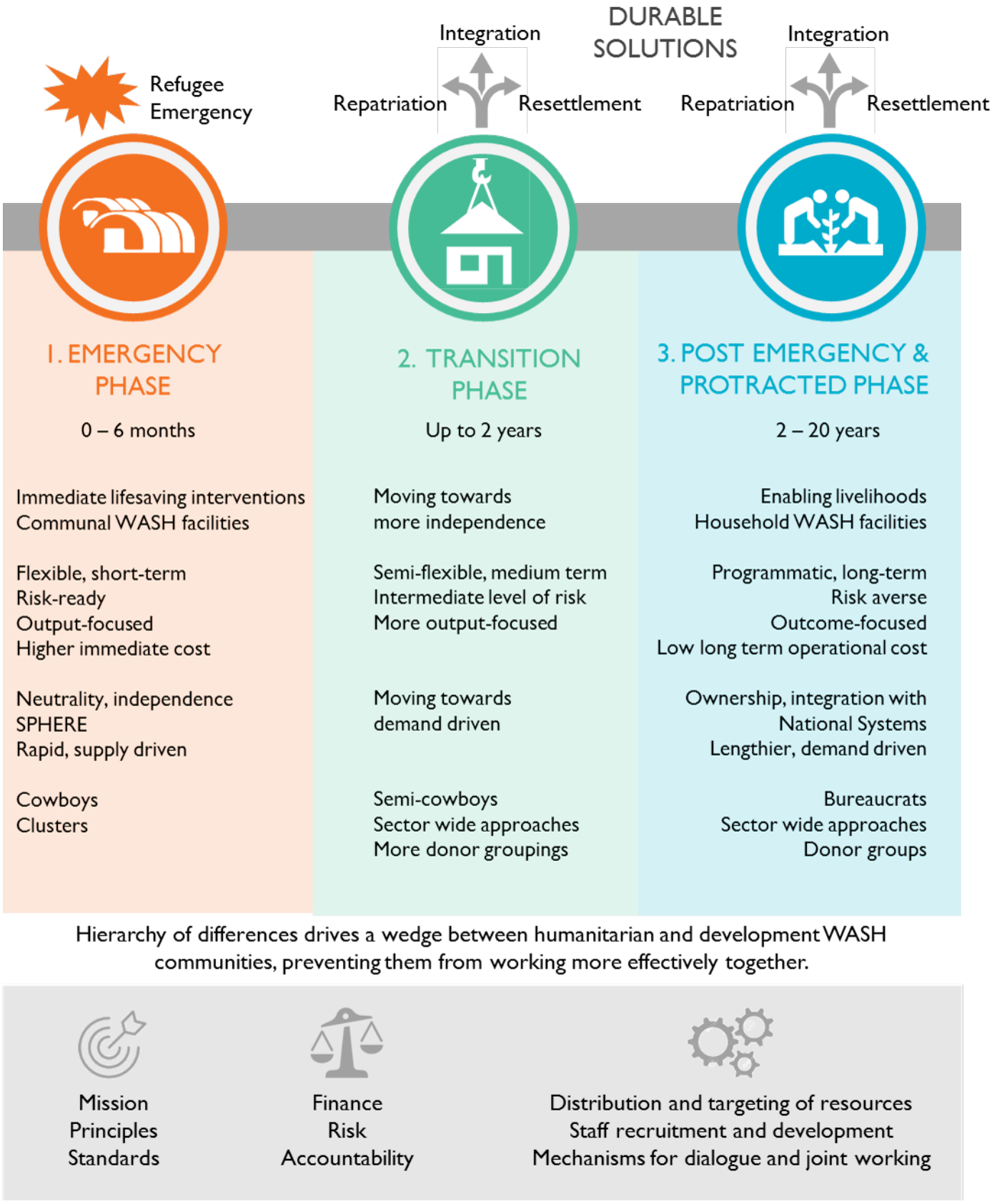


Figure 2: Bridging the gap of perceived differences driving humanitarian and development WASH communities apart. Source: Adapted from Mason, 2017 and UNHCR, 2016.

THE SUSTAINABLE WASH MODEL

One of the key aspects of the WV WASH MEER programmes is the sustainable WASH model, reflecting not only on technical, but also on institutional, socio-cultural, financial and environmental aspects of the WV WASH MEER programmes. This model is in-line with the variety of WASH schemes taking place in the WV MEER countries ranging from humanitarian, transitional, to protracted programmes.

Figure 3: Sustainable WASH model.
Source Snel, 2107

Below are the definitions of each of the subsectors.

Environmental sustainability
Environmental sustainability focuses on ensuring that WASH interventions are brought in light of the wider context of the natural environment, which includes implementing integrated and sustainable management of water and waste(-water) flows and resources. WASH interventions connect to and affect all aspects of the natural environment, thereby impacting people's livelihoods.

Financial sustainability
Financial Sustainability means that continuity in the delivery of products and services related to water, sanitation and hygiene is assured, because the activities are locally financed (e.g. taxes, local fees, local financing) and do not depend on external (foreign) subsidies.

Institutional sustainability
Institutional sustainability in the WASH sector means that systems, institutions, policies, and procedures at the local level are functional and meet the demand of users of WASH services. Households, commercial users, public users, authorities, and service providers at the local and the national level have clarity on their roles, tasks and responsibilities, are capable of fulfilling these roles in a transparent and effective manner. WASH stakeholders work together in the WASH chain through a multi-stakeholder approach.

Technical sustainability
Technological sustainability of WASH services is reached when the technology or hardware needed for the services continues to function is maintained, repaired, and replaced by local partners.

Social sustainability
Social sustainability refers to ensuring that the appropriate social norms are recognised and adhered to in order that the current and future society is able to create healthy and liveable communities. Social sustainable intervention is demand-driven, inclusive (equity), gender equal, culturally sensitive, and needs-based.

Due to the extreme challenges in the environmental aspect, we will take a deeper look at this aspect of the sustainable WASH model in the subsequent section.

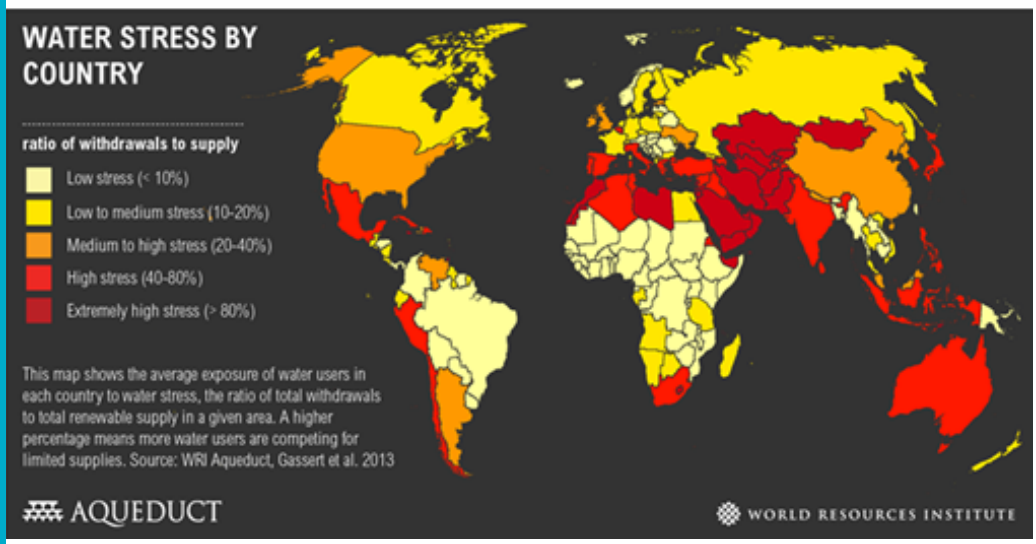
Each of these sub-themes have been discussed in detail through a set of web conferences, led by NO WASH leads.[6]

THE SUCCESSES

ADAPTATING INTERVENTIONS BASED ON WASH WORK IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Water resources are becoming increasingly scarce, especially for the millions that already lack access to sanitary water especially in the MEER region. Some of these countries, including Afghanistan, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq are facing unique problems that require global and immediate attention. Beside their proximity to one another, they share common challenges such as inadequate water resources and poor water management.

Water scarcity is becoming an increasingly pressing issue for our world today. It is a difficult problem to manage, with no "one-size fits all" solution. More than five per cent of the world's population live in a region where the demand for water exceeds its supply. The imbalance between supply and demand, along with persisting issues such as climate change and exponential population growth, has increased the relevance of water reuse methods as a means to conserve water.



Although the Middle East is largely a water-scarce region, it ironically boasts of some of the largest oil reserves in the world, producing most of the area's wealth. Even so, the region's climate and environment make living harsh for the impoverished. Water resources are critical not only for drinking, but also for maintaining suitable land for agriculture.

Water conservation through WASH schemes therefore play a critical role, which includes policies, strategies and activities that are made to sustainably manage natural freshwater sources, to protect existing sources and to meet the current and future human demands. Population size, growth, and affluence impact water demand. Factors such as climate change will continue to increase pressure on natural water resources, thereby impacting the supply of water available for manufacturing and agricultural irrigation.

The following country overview provides insights into how WV MEER undertakes this important challenge.

IN AFGHANISTAN, water sustainability is particularly important given the increasing frequency and severity of drought, high population growth rates, and unregulated extraction of groundwater. In terms of infrastructure there is a focus on construction of check dams: small barriers built across rivers and streams to slow spring flood water velocity to help recharge groundwater (water sustainability) and decrease flood risk (disaster risk reduction); construction of macro-catchments to capture flood waters and recharge groundwater; and future plans to conduct local environmental restoration efforts such as reforestation.

In terms of behaviour change there is a focus on promoting water conservation behaviours through programmes like Sesame Street WASH UP! Programme which is currently taking place in all of the WASH MEER countries (except for NW Syria) in camp child friendly spaces, host community schools and early childhood centres[5]. This programme, born from a unique partnership between Sesame Workshop and World Vision US, aims to promote positive WASH attitudes and behaviours among children and their school communities, with a particular focus on vulnerable populations.

Targeted behaviours include safe and responsible water practices, latrine use and waste management, consistent hand washing and personal hygiene, as well as children supporting and teaching other children about WASH objectives at home, in school, and in the community.

Regarding the enabling environment, water governance is a challenge in Afghanistan due to the lack of centralised groundwater monitoring and regulation. WV participates in national technical working groups on these issues. In terms of environmental sanitation around behaviour change, there is a focus on eliminating open defecation through Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). Composting latrines are common in rural areas.

Despite its potential positive environmental value, night soil is often unsafely managed due to lack of knowledge. In order to create a sanitary environment, WV WASH groups have worked together with communities on safe management of night soil, environmental cleanliness and appropriate siting of latrines away from water sources.

IN IRAQ, the Tigris and Euphrates rivers and their tributaries are the main water supply. There are lots of water treatment plants which are mostly small and low tech that provide water supply to towns and villages in the river plains.

Currently there is a threat to the water levels in the river because of the construction of a dam upstream in Turkey. Water scarcity is a major issue in Iraq, much of the water in South and Central Iraq is too saline to be drinkable. The turbidity of water in the rivers increases during the rainy season – results in stoppage of simple WTP and low output of water. Most of the towns in Iraq do not have proper solid waste management or sewage treatment systems. This will ultimately result in further environmental pollution and higher risk of contamination in rivers.

Groundwater is the main source of water in Northern Iraq. However the water table is dropping mainly due to higher demand from growing population. This has led to drilling of deeper boreholes. At the same time there are not enough dams to be used as reservoirs.

In terms of WV programmes with a stronger environmental component, a GIZ-supported project in Dohuk focuses on WASH software, namely behaviour change on water use. The designing of child focused water conservation awareness sessions is currently taking place in partnership with Sesame Street. Water conservation campaigns were done through media and billboards to display WASH environmental messages. Local community mobilisers were engaged to raise awareness of water scarcity.

Currently WV Iraq is piloting a project that recycles grey water for agriculture. At the moment there is improper dumping of solid waste in pits in areas with high water table that has lead to contamination of water. Currently there is no treatment of this water. Most people use septic tanks and cesspools; seepage of black water into the soil has occurred through the use of unlined cesspools, which can lead to water contamination. Specifically in IDP camps, grey water has been released into open drainage channels and eventually into the nearby rivers. The oil wells affecting groundwater in Southern and Central Iraq are currently making the water undrinkable, and the purification process is unaffordable.

There is also the threat of earthquakes that already destroyed many water supply networks and springs. After such natural disasters, WV provided water bottles which was followed by water trucking. These specific inicidences should not take away the focus on more substantial structural WASH work that takes place in the IDP camps.

Water supply activities are done in close collaboration with local authorities and WASH cluster: for example the rehabilitation of water treatment plants and improvement of water supply networks in Faida and Dohuk in Kurdistan region and Hamdaniya ditrict in Ninewa Governorate, augmenting water supply through borehole drilling serving both camp populations and host communities in Erbil, Khabat, Rabbia, Debaga and Dohuk.

IN JORDAN, climate change has already negatively impacted previously scarce water resources. Water withdrawal already exceeds the natural recharge availability. Jordan currently has 147 m3 per capita per year of renewable water resources, and this is expected to decrease to 90 m3 if current demand trends continue. Population growth among refugees and Jordanian host community places increased stress on WASH infrastructure.

Additionally, the anticipated increase in temperature, decrease in rainfall, and reduced soil quality will result in decreased water supply and therefore crop yields, unless the management of water improves. The rural poor will be disproportionately affected due to the disruption of livelihoods that are largely dependent upon natural resources, including water.

In Jordan, WV is implementing environmentally friendly programmes such as grey water recycling, which has been piloted in 20 households in host communities in Irbid, near Syrian border, with plans to expand. This has entailed grey water recycling systems and solar panels to power pumps, making use of scarce resources by using filtered grey water to water crops, and reducing households' water footprints as well as their water and energy bills.

WV also implemented a strong waste management programme through the Green Center in Azraq refugee camp. Colour-coded waste collection bins and a sorting system are used to manage the waste. 13 per cent of the waste is recycled and sold, which helps recoup the project's costs. As a result, the amount of waste going to landfills has decreased, which reduces pollution from emissions in burning waste. A feasibility study and market analysis concerning the potential implemention of composting in the camp is currently ongoing.

IN LEBANON, water conservation messaging and behaviour change has been strongly enforced by WV Lebanon with a focus on different messages like the reuse of grey water, immediate closure of taps when not in use, direct reparation of broken taps and leaking water tanks, proper storage of water, etc. Rainwater collection schemes have currently been piloted in Internal Tent Settlements.

As part of the Lebanon Water Project, funded by USAID, WV Lebanon conducted round table events with key water management stakeholders of the Bekaa valley (including representatives from the Bekaa Water Establishment and municipalities).

WV Lebanon has also been conducting awareness sessions in schools and community events, where children were sensitised on water conservation thanks to a wide range of information, education and communication materials.

Other initiatives led by WV Lebanon include the construction of a hill lake for rainwater harvesting in Bekaa as well as the extension of an irrigation network in Akkar – all coupled with teaching farmers about the installation and maintenance of drip irrigation systems for conserving water.

IN NORTH WEST SYRIA, due to the ongoing conflict, the WASH programmes are focused on emergency and humanitarian response. However two programmes have been able to develop some strong links to environmental sustainability components.

The first programme is a medical waste incinerator, which reduces waste going to landfill that has a catchment area of 1,200,000 beneficiaries. Medical waste is segregated into coloured waste containers and bags. Staff are trained on the management of the incinerator and handover.

The second programme is a wastewater treatment unit in A'zaz camp, which currently serves about 20,000 beneficiaries. Before this treatment plant, wastewater was dumped into surrounding valleys, causing environmental contamination and adverse health impacts. More funds are needed, but many donors are unwilling due to other pressing, humanitarian needs.

In some areas there are pockets of programmes focusing more on transitional WASH, emphasising the improvement of existing water supply systems rather than building new ones. This has entailed the use of high quality ISO certified materials in order to rehabilitate WASH infrastructure and avoid leakage and seeping.

In terms of waste management new landfills have been constructed by WV North West Syria in crowded camps and informal settlements. However more funds are needed for sustainable solutions.

BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY

The WV WASH MEER programme empowered local partners and other local stakeholders to critically reflect on the effectiveness of their programmes and respond by improving them. This initiative increased partners' understanding of the difference between merely implementing an activity, and ensuring its effectiveness and sustainability.

DEVELOPING THE REGIONAL WASH STRATEGY FRAMEWORK[7]

The designing of the regional WASH strategy started two years ago with an overview of objectives and targets. Many of the country WASH strategies were developed in accordance with the regional WASH strategy. This has been prioritised now, ensuring that it will be developed further in each of the MEER countries this year.

BUILDING MONITORING INDICATORS APPLICABLE FOR URBAN WASH

Over the past two years, the WASH NOs collaborated to create monitoring indicators tailored to their country context. This has encouraged the WASH NO leads to critically evaluate their ongoing work, and develop realistic solutions for their future WASH programmes.

SHARING OF LEARNING

Sharing of learning with other local organisations and the local government has led to improved coordination and harmonisation of WASH activities. Local governments were actively involved in Afghanistan, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and North West Syria programmes.

The following list summarises the WASH NO leads' major learnings from their involvement in the programme:

Afghanistan

- Sharing information among NOs allowed WV Afghanistan to apply successful ideas from other countries in their own context.
- WV's quarterly monitoring requirements enabled WV Afghanistan to create targets that have contributed to the growth of WV Afghanistan's WASH programme.
- WV Afghanistan was able to aggregate its results into overall sector-level achievements, and share them with donors and government partners, thus building their trust in WV Afghanistan's WASH capacity.

Iraq

- Participation of people with disabilities in the design and implementation of WASH services provided a platform for knowledge exchange and gaining trust/buy in from community, local organisations and government.
- Partnering with the Directorate of Water on capacity building initiatives was a catalyst in harmonising project goals and objectives.

Jordan

- The use of regional WASH experts helped identifying new opportunities and approaches.
- The involvement of the NOs in the WASH Strategic Planning provided a good understanding of the WASH sector on regional and global level, encouraged the sharing of information/resources among NOs. and it helped in fundraising activities especially with similar donors from other countries.

Lebanon

- Prioritising and addressing water conservation issues in the design of infrastructure and behaviour change programmes was crucial.
- Exploring ways of integrating WASH with agriculture/livelihoods was beneficial.
- The experience exchange with other countries was useful in considering the financial sustainability of projects.

North West Syria

- The initiative helped in developing an overarching strategy for all Syria country office, based on comprehensive needs assessment and situation analysis.
- Sharing information among WASH technical teams encouraged the piloting of new projects already applied in other countries.
- It became possible to track quarterly and annual, sector level WASH achievements, compared to previos project level reports.

CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

There are a number of constraints and challenges faced by WV WASH programmes in MEER. Many of these are shared by the wider WASH community, while some are attributed to the internal WV design and administration, making it difficult for the programme to achieve its full potential.

ORGANISATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

- **Elapsed time.** Undertaking activities and setting up deliverables was sometimes difficult to follow through due to the long periods between activities and workshops. To create more continuity, staff held monthly conference calls with NO WASH leads.
- **Staff turnover.** Changes in staff over the two years created a loss of institutional memory and challenges for new employees unfamiliar with the programme. Especially in Jordan the staff turnover and delays in collecting baseline data were prevalent in the WASH UP! programme due to the long approval process of various ministries to undertake the survey in Azraq camp.
- **Consistency gaps**. The regional WASH strategy was developed at the start of the two year period. However having this strategy aligned with the country WASH strategies has proven to be difficult since most offices have an integrated country strategy in which WASH is mentioned, but not detailed. This aspect needs further prioritisation so that country strategies are fully aligned with the regional WASH strategy.

CULTURAL NORMS AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES

- **Expectations.** Lack of self-reliance among local people was observed in some of the WASH MEER programs. In Iraq, for example, some people in the community asked project staff for hand-outs for items (e.g, soap, water sources and latrines). This is part of a larger on-going debate around the role of WASH and cash (ODI, 2015).

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS

- **Funding.** The WASH work at regional level started with the assumption that there would be an extensive amount of external funding available. Although the WASH grant funding has increased between FY 17 and FY18 there are two key factors hindering its further development. First, there is donor fatigue as the Syria crisis is into its seventh year. Second, coordination between key stakeholders at the regional level is poor, making it hard to obtain consistent WASH funding over time. WV MEER played a vital role in bringing together the key regional WASH partners and organising meetings with the participation of potential donors. These efforts have not gone to waste; the future of WASH funding in the future looks positive. Another meeting took place in September 2017 and focused on "Moving from humanitarian to sustainable WASH services that last in the Middle East region". A third meeting took place in March 2018, focusing on "Advocating for WASH in the Middle East". There will be one other key event in September 2018 to engage donors in the need for further WASH funding.
- **Time.** Over the past two years, the reputation of WV WASH in the ME region has improved, yet further work is needed to develop, implement and advocate. which all takes time.

EXTERNAL FACTORS

- **Drought.** Climatic factors have created more water scarcity in the region. Inaccessibility of water especially during the dry season will continue to hamper WASH practices and facility construction in all of the WASH MEER countries. This is already taking place in areas of Afghanistan and Iraq where WV is currently working.
- **Unrest.** Inevitably the political unrest continues to slow down the progress on WASH work.

MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONTENT

Key successes achieved in all five countries include:

- Development of community-level interventions based on genuine demand and interest from the community.
- Increase in knowledge and skills on how to undertake more effective WASH schemes.
- Development of key monitoring indicators specifically for the MEER region, which will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions.
- Skills development through collaboration between the countries and other stakeholders through the WASH MEER Community of Practice group, local partners and other interested organisations.

WV WASH emphasises a decentralised approach by focusing on empowering communities. However, the accompanying financial and human resources needs must remain consistent or grow over time in order for the WV WASH work in the ME to be optimised in these countries.

A more detailed budget, accounting for the costs of the activities and associated support is currently taking place with the strong support of WV USA. This will be part of a more detailed cost-benefit analysis focusing on where further internal WV funding and additional external funding should go for the WV WASH MEER programme. The support from WV USA will remain vital for WV WASH MEER's on-going programme.

Further integration in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation process between the hardware (e.g., construction of physical facilities) and software (e.g., hygiene promotion) components should continue to take place.

As discussed before, WASH is not only a technical issue; in order to create sustainable services that last, a combination of institutional, financial, socio-cultural and environmental components needs to be taken in consideration and balanced out with technical WASH solutions.

The further development of monitoring tools will be an important building block supporting the on-going success of this programme. This aspect should continue as it is a key activity that will help to sustain the WV WASH MEER interventions.

Given the socio-political issues in the ME region, these will be further exasperated by climate change and the ongoing threat of water scarcity. Therefore a focus on integrated WASH will be essential. By combining different aspects such as nutrition, education, and child protection, programming with improved access to water, sanitation, and hygiene will help to enable more people within and across the ME counties to gain access to improved WASH services.

There is currently a key gap that the WASH community has in terms of the technical and organisational disconnect between WASH and Agriculture/Food Security. More specifically, how often do WASH people engage (formally and

Figure 4: Integrated WASH.
Source: Snel, M., 2018.

informally) with the Food Security and Agriculture people? Why is irrigation so poorly understood amongst WASH staff?

Despite the W of WASH being 'Water', we seem to be more 'DWASH' (Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene). Therefore there is a need for a stronger focus on how we can break down the silo between Food Security/Agriculture and WASH for WV but also for the WASH sector as a whole.

In addition, as country governments take on more responsibility for investment in and oversight of WASH service delivery, there is a great opportunity to expand through public-private partnerships that bring new actors into the WASH sector. For example, partnering with water and sanitation service providers to develop bankable business plans, improve operations, and facilitate access to financing.

In parallel, behaviour change communication activities linked to sanitation and hygiene will help to further stimulate demand for improved household sanitation, hygiene, linked with nutrition, education and/or child protection.

ADMINISTRATIVE

A major takeaway from the WASH MEER workshops was that more time and consistent effort is required to fully integrate WASH within the WV country offices. At the same time there is a need to link up with public and private partners in order to increase effectiveness of WASH services.

The past two years laid the groundwork, while the follow-up phase of regional WASH support will continue to build on it. In a possible next phase of this programme, the roles and responsibilities between the different WV WASH offices should be elaborated upon and more fully defined in line with the vision, alignment, and commitment by WV MEER and WV USA. This should be further discussed in the next bi-annual workshop with key representatives.

To increase the effectiveness of programmes, the local governments must continue to be involved in the next phases of the national WASH programmes. Embedding the WV WASH MEER interventions within the local government structure would allow for far more sustainable replication and improve the process of scaling up programmes. For example, in a next phase, more local-level government staff could be involved in the data collection and monitoring process. Local government agencies would benefit if they could also add the information collected by this programme to their own data management systems. The level and degree to which local government stakeholders would be involved would inevitably depend on the country context.

A next phase would also allow the opportunity to further integrate lessons learned from this phase, in both content and administration of the programme. The WV WASH MEER process could thus be made more effective and aligned with existing planning and review processes of key partners, especially national government institutions, thereby improving resource allocation and helping them deliver WASH services that last.

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FURTHER READING

To read about the WASH MEER work over the past two years in Afghanistan, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and North West Syria see http://www.wvi.org/meero

For more information on the WASH at World Vision, see https://www.wvi.org/cleanwater

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