

# Addressing the WASH urban crises in the Middle East: Bridging the gap between the humanitarian & development divide

19 - 20 September 2018  
Amman, Jordan



Although many of the countries in the Middle East region have advanced water and sanitation services, several countries face numerous challenges, such as water scarcity, energy crises, complex social and political dynamics and conflict.

While the international community continues to respond to the on-going humanitarian needs across the Middle East region, there is a critical need to start thinking beyond the emergency to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

In order to advance the discussion on how to better support sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (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. The event took place in Amman, Jordan, on 19 - 22 September 2017. ([Meeting report](#))

25 people attended, from 11 different organisations (including UN, donors, NGOs, private organisation and the Red Cross), working either globally, regionally, or in countries within the region such as Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon and Syria.

A second meeting took place at the Dead Sea in Jordan on 6 - 7 February 2018, with a focus on the advocacy perspective in WASH in the Middle East. ([Meeting report](#))

The objective of this upcoming third meeting is to 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 the sustainable WASH model in urban setting and thereby addressing the gap between humanitarian and the development divide.

A further unpacking of a regional WASH strategy that is owned by all key stakeholders will take place at this meeting. It will be linked to commitments on moving the WASH work from the emergency, transition phase to longer term development in this region.

This meeting will be convened by a number of WASH regional staff from the following organisations: World Vision, UNICEF, the International Committee for the Red Cross, Oxfam and Action Against Hunger.

Further information on the details of the agenda will be provided in the coming month.