



Water Users Associations in the Jordan Valley

Eng. Ziad Ababneh

Jordan Valley Authority-JVA

Eng. Ali Al Adwan

German-Jordanian Programme
Management of Water Resources

Outline

This presentation will cover:

1. Introduction
2. Methodology (Our Approach)
3. Results and Discussion
4. Conclusions & Recommendations
5. Next steps

Introduction

- Jordan Valley is a key agricultural area.
- It suffered though of challenged water resources.
- High competition among sectors.
- Throughout the past few decades, the stress increased progressively.
- With the authority taking over the water distribution in 1977, farmers started to rely on the authority for water management

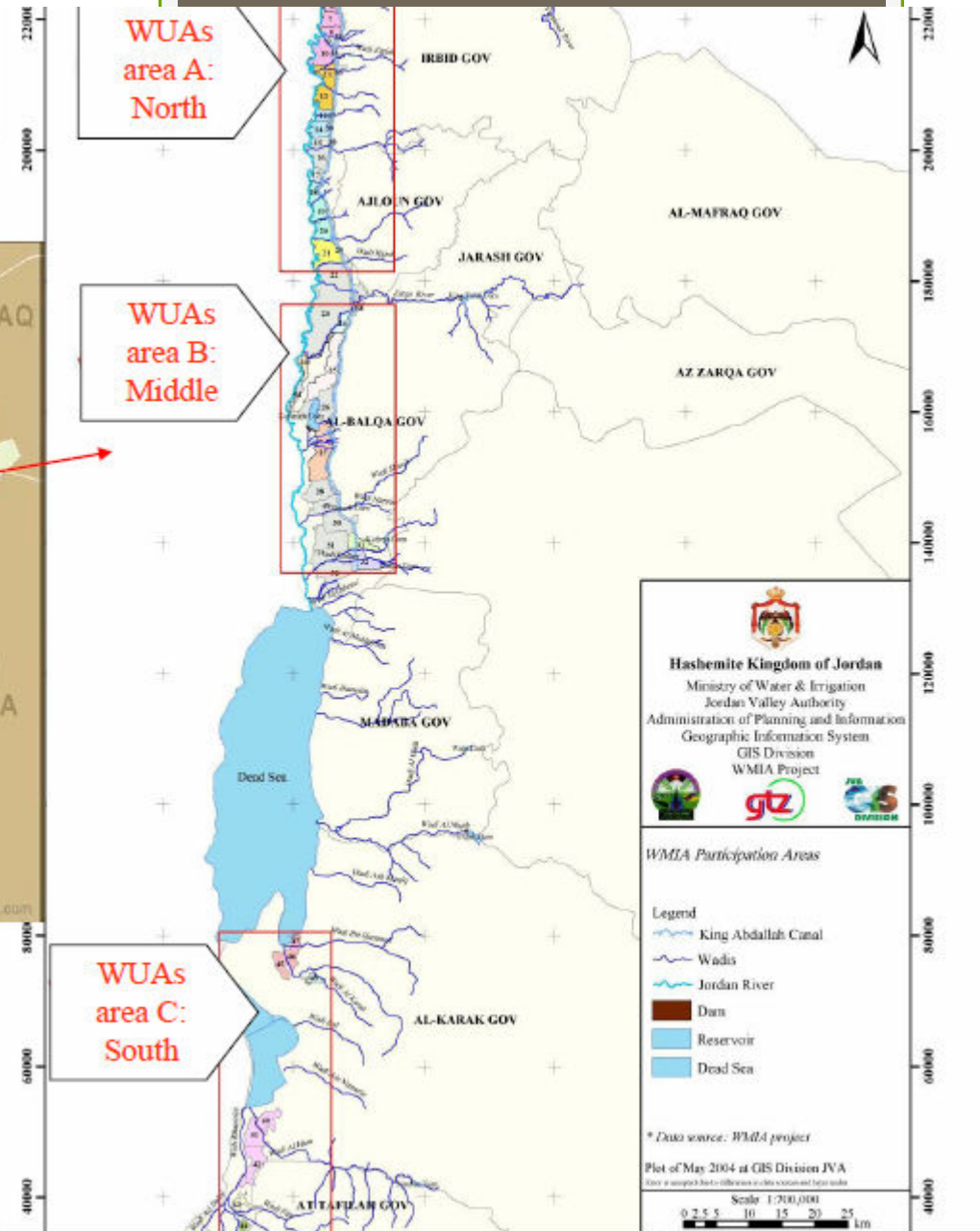
giz



WUAs
area A:
North







WUAs
area B:
Middle

WUAs
area C:
South




Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
 Ministry of Water & Irrigation
 Jordan Valley Authority
 Administration of Planning and Information
 Geographic Information System
 GIS Division
 WMLA Project

WMLA Participation Areas

Legend
 King Abdallah Canal
 Wadis
 Jordan River
 Dam
 Reservoir
 Dead Sea

* Data source: WMLA project

Plot of May 2004 at GIS Division JVA
 Error in map's data is difference in data source and data used

Scale 1:700,000
 0 2.5 5 10 15 20 25 km

Introduction

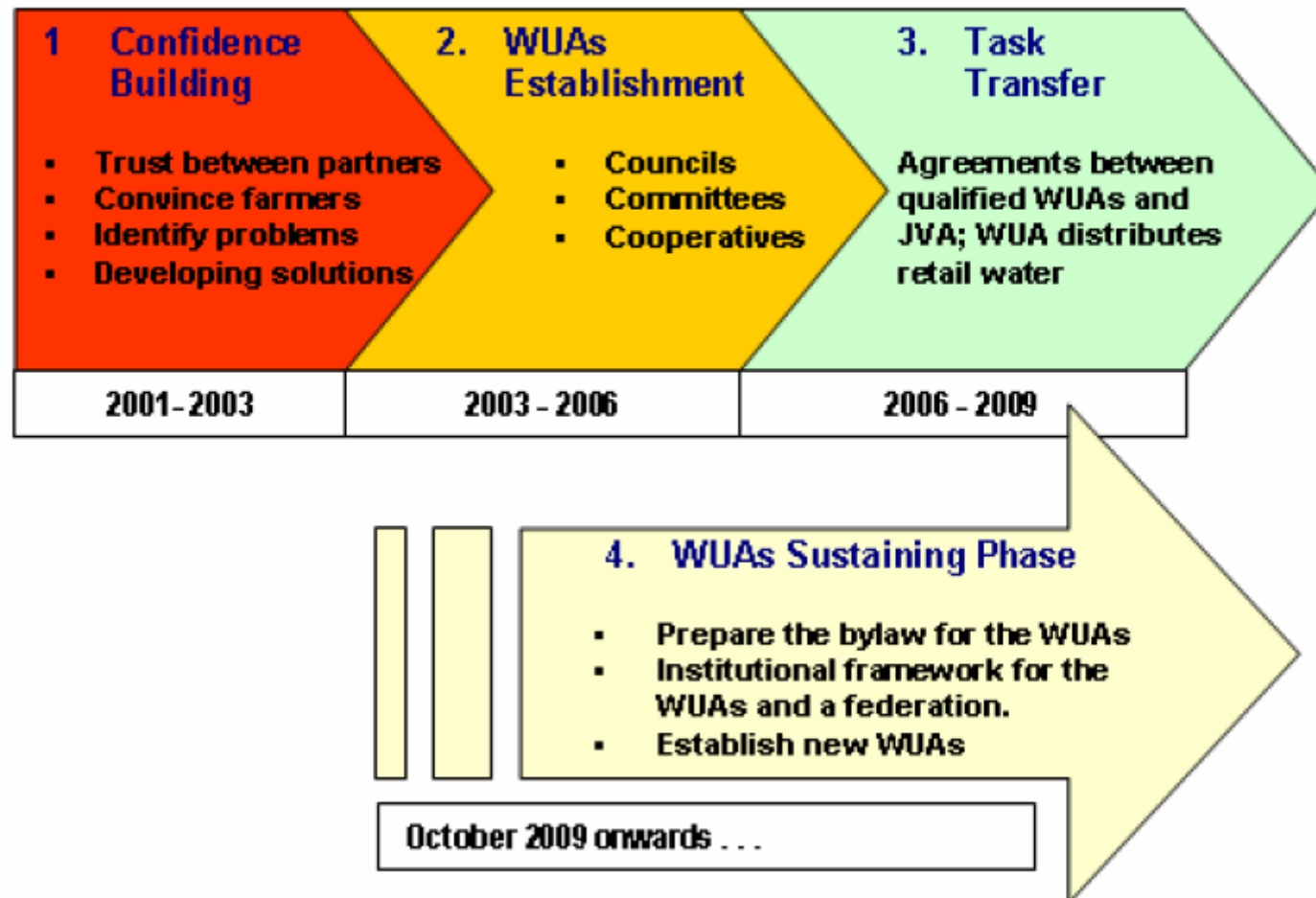
- In late 1990s, the situation became very critical; thus made it necessary to step in and introduce the participative irrigation management.

Note: Participative irrigation used to be a traditional system in the past but the practice was stopped after the establishment of the Jordan Valley Authority. Going back to the practice with sophisticated irrigation management system required a more formal farmers group to be in place = WUAs

Constraints

- Historical mistrust and lack of mutual confidence between farmers and JVA.
- Worn out water distribution network.
- Shortage of water resources; competition of other sectors (municipal and tourism).
- Unavailable legal frame for farmers participation.
- Many illegal connections to the network.
- Influence of large farmers.

Methodology (Our Approach)



Methodology *cont.*

- Participative irrigation is the solution, this is in agreement with all parties “win-win situation”;
- Farmers participation via WUAs.
- Bottom-up approach in a step by step mechanism
- Developing trust and regaining cooperation between the parties.

Methodology *cont.*

- Provide technical assistance to respond to urgent needs of the farmers such as reclaiming some parts of the network *with farmers contribution in cost.*
- Provide capacity building on participative irrigation, consultation and others; training workshops.
- Technical know-how transfer and exposure to other regional experiences.

Partners

- Farmers of the JV (north, middle, south + Southern Ghors).
- Jordan Valley Authority (JVA).

- Cooperation also existed with
 - Jordan Cooperatives Corporation.
 - Water Authority of Jordan
 - Ministry of Agriculture
 - Ministry of Interior (Governors)
 - Other donors projects

Activities

- Meetings and brainstorming sessions to confirm the concept.
- Training workshops on participation and irrigation management.
- Field monitoring tours to confirm good performance
- Contributing in fulfilling technical needs such as repairing parts of the network.



Activities

- Technical visits on participative irrigation and agricultural production in Syria, Turkey, Egypt ,Spain.
- Farmers visit farmers
- Establishing of WUAs by the farmers.
- Preparing the necessary contracts / improving the statutes of the WUAs.
- Data system for maintenance and penalties.



Results & Discussion

- To date 21 WUAs, 12 have received task transfer for distribution.
- More than 3/4 of the irrigated areas in the valley are covered by WUAs.
- Fair distribution of water.
- Water savings in many areas.
- Large number of membership particularly in Task transfer WUAs.
- Farmers are willing to contribute.
- WUAs became reference for farmers; to handle their problems



Results & Discussion

- Higher farm productivity – better economy.
- Cooperation between farmers / solidarity.
- Partnership between the farmers (WUAs) and the JVA; decentralized management.
- Higher democratic level; better leadership.



Success factors / lessons learnt

- Participation is the way forward; it is the strategic way for a sustainable irrigation water distribution and management.
- Cooperation among farmers is necessary for the success of the process.
- JVA + Farmers shall shoulder the responsibility.
- Mutual trust is a key factor.



To understand the issue, you have to be close to it; live with it.

- The support of the top authority level is so vital for the success, as was demonstrated in our project.



- Decentralized management and being in the field is also useful for advancing and solidifying the cooperation.



Conclusions & Recommendations

- Good experience; worth building on it. Should be disseminated / replicated in other regions in Jordan and the Middle East.
- The farmers became dedicated; successful participation; fair water distribution; efficiency of water improved.
- The stepwise approach was a key factor for the success made + the bottom up approach.
- It is vital to ensure good understanding and well utilization of the local / traditional knowledge and the drivers of change; in this case sustaining water for agriculture in the Jordan Valley).

Next Steps

- Expanding the Task Transfer areas vertically and horizontally.
- Establishing the necessary legal frame work within the Ministry of water and irrigation .
- Establishing an administration unit for WUAs within JVA .
- Creating an independent unit to control, monitor and evaluate the performance of WUAs and to resolve disputes.
- Developing data system for JVA and WUAs as a source for indicators and management.
- Forming a WUAs umbrella organization.
- Continue to address technical issues.



Thank you

Eng. Ziad Ababneh
Email: Ziadobaid@gmail.com

Eng. Ali Adwan
Email: ali.al-adwan@giz.de