



**EVENT REPORT
&
PRACTICE-TO-POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

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Background

Humanitarian, development and peace (HDP) actors are struggling to overcome risks and address key needs in relation to the provision of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. Whilst HDP actors are often still working in silos, HDP outcomes are linked and require collective solutions. Emerging evidence shows that WASH resilience, sustainability and peace can only be reached through collaboration and coordination. To facilitate HDP nexus collaboration the WASH Roadmap Initiative “Triple Nexus”, co-chaired by Global WASH Cluster, UNICEF, Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) and the German WASH Network, has developed and published a [“Joint Operational Framework: WASH Resilience, Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding”](#) (JOF) in 2023 and a complementary [e-Learning course](#) on the topic in 2024. A hybrid Regional Exchange Forum MENA 2024: “Building WASH Resilience, Conflict Sensitivity and Peace” was held in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in October 2024 through which 26 practitioners working in 10 different countries across the MENA region developed practice to policy recommendations to inform policy and decision makers to support the operationalisation of the HDP Nexus and the JOF.

The following graphic provides an overview of the process of developing the JOF, including the regional Forum MENA 2024:



Figure 1: The process to develop the Joint Operational Framework: WASH Resilience, Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding” (JOF)

Event Rationale

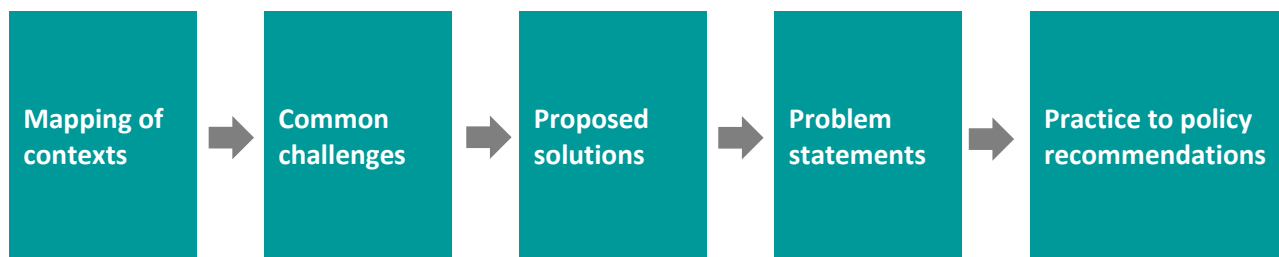
The MENA 2024 Regional Exchange Forum was convened by the German WASH Network as a hybrid event and organized by Malteser International in Gaziantep (Turkey). The objectives were 1) to facilitate effective learning exchange, 2) to develop evidence-based “recommendations for practice and policy” and 3) to present these to a high-level panel of decision-makers for validation.

27 practitioners working in 10 MENA countries came together for the full three-day hybrid event. The event had a mixed format, with 17 participants on site and 10 participants online. The integration of the two groups was ensured in order to enable an exchange of ideas across region despite the many travel restrictions and last-minute flight cancellations.



Figure 2 MENA countries represented with participants

As a key outcome they developed five recommendations in a highly consultative and interactive process. The process (see also agenda below) began with a regional analysis of the contexts and the most common risks, as well as brainstorming sessions on the main challenges and potential solutions that can be applied in many contexts in the region. On this basis, problem statements (issues) and policy recommendations were developed in five groups for the five outputs defined in the Theory of Change of the JOF. The discussion was fuelled by 12 pre-selected case study presentations. Three of these case studies as well as the five recommendations were presented and discussed by a round table consisting of government officials, regional donor representatives, UNDP and UNICEF, the IFRC, researchers as well as INGOs. The recommendations and the response of the Roundtable Participants are presented in the following.



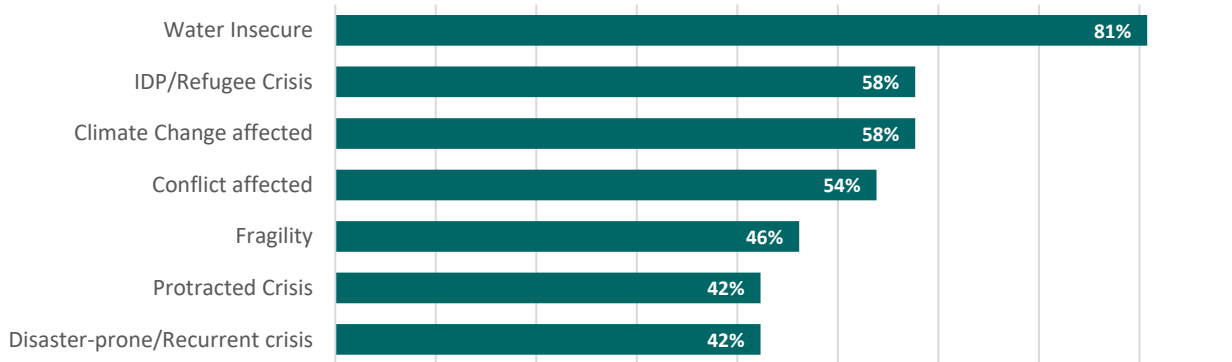
Event Agenda

	Day 1 – Oct 8 Tuesday	Day 2 – Oct 9 Wednesday	Day 3 – Oct 10 Thursday
All times in UTC+3	Hybrid (onsite & online) Event	Hybrid (onsite & online) Event	Hybrid (onsite & online) Event
Session 1 8:45-10:30	1.1 Welcome & Intro Welcome Introductions Thematic Introduction	2.1 Learning Exchange II Challenges and Solutions Participant Presentations	3.1 Learning Exchange IV Challenges and Solutions Participant Presentations
Session 2 11:00-12:30	1.2 Region & Context Mapping of contexts, risks and challenges	2.2 Workshop II Development of Practice to Policy-Recommendations	3.2 Preparation of HL-Roundtable Preparation of Presentations Briefing of Speakers / Presenters
Session 3 13:30 - 15:00	1.3 Learning Exchange I Challenges and Solutions Participant Presentations	2.3 Learning Exchange III Challenges and Solutions Participant Presentations	3.3 High-Level Roundtable (hybrid) Welcome Thematic Introduction Presentation of Practice-to-Policy Recommendations
Session 4 15:30 – 17:00	1.4 Workshop I Vision to Policy Process Identification of Topics Formation of Groups	2.4 Workshop III Grouping, Prioritisation and Fine-tuning of Practice to Policy Recommendations	3.4 High-Level Roundtable (hybrid) Roundtable Discussion Closing

Practitioner Exchange and Workshop

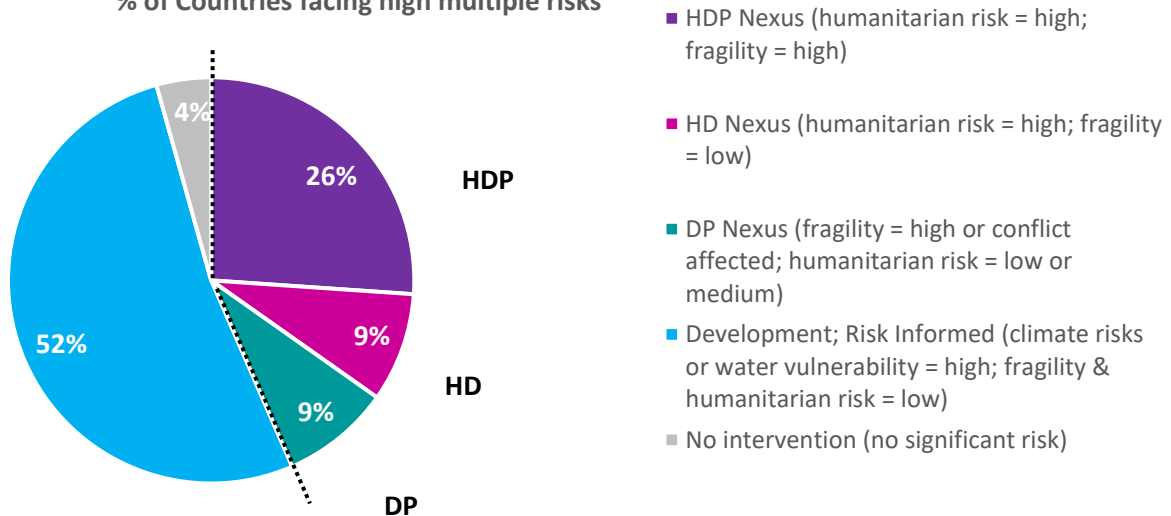
The participants of the 2.5-day workshop represented not only 10 different countries, but also a variety of contexts. A survey of the variables that describe their contexts best showed that the countries of the MENA region are confronted with multiple risks, shocks and stresses. While many contexts are already struggling with fragility and conflict, which also complicates the management of water resources and WASH systems, the impacts of climate change are exacerbating already high levels of water insecurity.

Please select which categories best describe your context of work
(multiple answers possible)



The self-assessments and the results were compared with a data analysis. An extended list of 23 MENA countriesⁱ was analysed in terms of their 1) humanitarian risks using the [RISK INFORM Index 2022](#) of the European Union, their 2) fragility using the [OECD State of Fragility List 2022](#), their 3) climate risks using the [Climate Risk Index 2021](#) of Germanwatch, and their 4) water security based on data from the [2021 UNICEF report “Water Security of All”](#). A quarter (26%) of all countries are confronted with high multiple risks, that require intervention from all three pillars of the HDP nexus. Another 18% require the intervention of at least two pillars of the nexus. Due to climate change and water insecurity, all countries except Oman must deal with at least one of the four risk types, classified as high or above.

HDP Contexts in the MENA region:
% of Countries facing high multiple risks



In preparation for the forum, participants prepared case study presentations specifically addressing 1) how the triple nexus is relevant to their context, including challenges they have observed, 2) what interventions or solutions they are applying within their programs, and 3) what they demand from relevant policy and decision makers. Throughout the three-day event participants presented and discussed these cases to inspire each-other, as an input for the development of the practice-to-policy recommendations.

Case study & Link	Location	Presenter	Organization
ADO WASH response as Conflict-sensitive programming to enhance social cohesion	Yemen (Hajjah Governorate, Abs District)	Wafa Mohammed Al Madhagi	Abs Development Organization for woman and child (ADO)
Introducing Iraq Climate Monitoring Dashboard (Water scarcity prediction module)	Iraq	Waleed Salih	Action Contra la Faim (ACF)
Peace Camp: Shelter and WASH integrated solution	Syria	Mustafa Alloush & Hazim Allash	Orange Organisation
Strengthening local climate sensitive and universal WASH capacities in Iraq	Iraq	Anni Loo Viljamaa	Arbeiter Samariter Bund (ASB)
Building WASH Resilience, Conflict Sensitivity, and Peace in Darnah City	Libya (Darnah City)	Fares Labedi	LORC-Research Consultancy
Building Climate Resilient Water Supply in the Syrian Refugee Camps	Jordan (Za'atari Camp)	Ahmad M. Al-Tarawnah	UNDP
Central Asian Case Study	Central Asia	Nataliya Chemayeva	UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA)
WASH achievements in Amran & Sana'a	Yemen (Amran & Sana'a)	Marielle Snel	Save the Children
Iraq between water scarcity and climate change	Iraq	Omar Mohammed	Ministry of Construction, Housing, Municipalities, and Public Works of Iraq

During the introductions, participants were asked to explain what they would do if they would have a 'magic stick' which conflict or tension he/she would magically heal, see figure 3.

After, the common risks were mapped through a brainstorming exercise to identify commonalities across contexts and identify linkages across the triple nexus (see annex). The groups used flipcharts and online whiteboards. To ease information sharing all results were copied into online whiteboards.

The most mentioned themes included water scarcity, natural disasters, infrastructure, funding constraints, donor engagement, conflict, security, political instability, governance and coordination.

With these inputs in mind, all participants took part in a 'World Café' and provided their ideas to define common challenges and propose solutions on the following five themes:

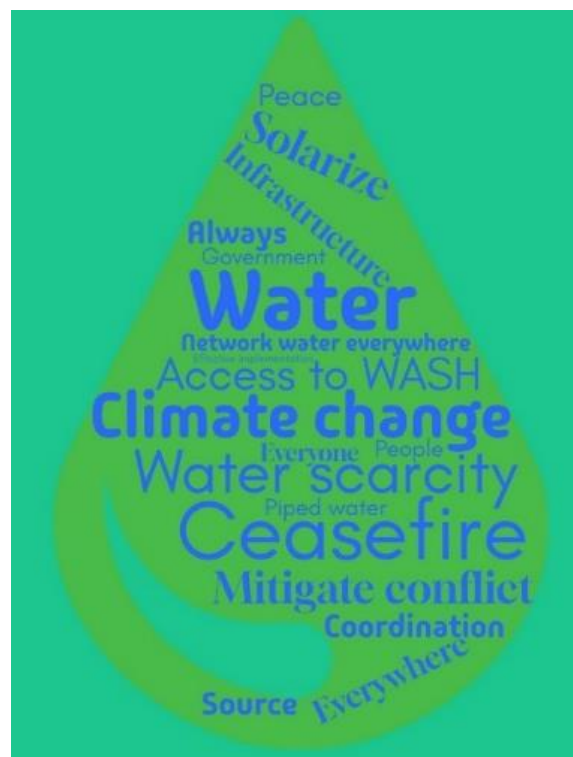


Figure 3: Magic stick

1 Resilient WASH Services, Infrastructure and Water Resources

Challenges

- **Lagging Infrastructure:** Continuous destruction due to conflict and lack of maintenance.
- **Poor Access:** Low access rates, especially in conflict areas, with strong inequalities for women and marginalised groups
- **Temporary solutions:** Short-term fixes are common, lacking long-term solutions.
- **Insufficient power supply:** Hampers effective WASH service delivery.
- **Groundwater depletion:** Lack of a robust monitoring systems lead to unsustainable use.
- **Brain drains:** Protracted conflicts lead to loss of skilled personnel, hindering multi-year planning and infrastructure maintenance.
- **Lack of scale:** small projects with short timeframes are common, hinder sustainable approaches

Solutions

- **Climate resilient systems:** Develop water supply systems that can withstand climate variability.
- **Infrastructure investments:** Prioritize investment in resilient infrastructure using locally available materials and knowledge, while embracing innovative and green technologies.
- **Gender-sensitive Facilities:** Ensure the provision of facilities that cater to all genders.
- **Groundwater monitoring and use:** Implement remote groundwater monitoring systems to enable sustainable use of water resources.
- **Renewable resources:** Shift towards renewable energy sources to power WASH services.
- **Capacity building:** Secure funding to maintain and enhance capacities, and provide training and opportunities for the youth to counteract brain drain.
- **Advocacy:** Promote the right to WASH and the accessibility for civilians in armed conflict
- **Mega projects:** Prioritize large-scale projects for national impact, while starting with small-scale initiatives to change mindsets.
- **Donor engagement:** Encourage donors to adopt resilient approaches in funding and project support.

2 Resilient Community WASH Behaviour

Challenges

- **Multiple stressors:** The communities are dealing with conflict, climate change impacts and economic instability at the same time.
- **Lack of community involvement:** Institutions often fail to involve communities in decision-making processes, leading to ineffective WASH interventions.

Solutions

- **Awareness raising:** Conduct awareness campaigns at the community level to promote behavioural change.
- **Education:** Educate communities on the importance of water conservation and safe handling.
- **Community engagement:** Encourage institutions to engage with communities and integrate their best practices and knowledge. Allow flexibility in

- **Policy and governance issues:** There is a lack of policies promoting sustainable WASH practices and governments tend to respond only to crisis rather than implementing proactive or preventative measures.
- **Water usage and conservation:** Insufficient awareness of water conservation and safe water handling, including water-intensive irrigation practices using portable water
- **Cultural barriers:** Existing cultural norms can hinder the adoption of improved WASH practices (e.g., hygiene practices using less water)
- fund use to enable co-planning with communities.
- **Strengthening governance:** Enhance governance structures to ensure accountability and effective policy implementation and regulation.
- **Disaster risk reduction (DRR):** Integrate effective strategies into all WASH planning.
- **Sustainable practices:** Promote the use of rainwater and greywater for irrigation.

3 WASH policies, laws, guidance, and standards linked

Challenges

- **Centralization and lack of capacity:** The region experiences a highly centralized system, which often lacks the institutional capacity to effectively engage with communities or the private sector.
- **Missing strategies:** National strategic plans to address water scarcity are often absent.
- **Contextualisation:** There is a need to adapt policies to the specific contexts, especially of IDPs and refugees.
- **Gaps in policy and legislation:** Many administrative regions or areas face a lack of existing policies or enforcement of current policies.
- **Poor law enforcement:** There is a clear discrepancy between policy making and law or regulation enforcement.
- **Inconsistent standards:** WASH policies and standards vary significantly across the region and INGOs and external support agencies often set their own standards, leading to further inconsistencies.

Solutions

- **Advocacy and Research:** Advocacy efforts are crucial to address policy gaps. To develop effective advocacy strategies more research and evidence is needed.
- **Community engagement and inclusion:** Policies should ensure community engagement, consider the local contexts and the inclusion of all vulnerable groups, thereby supporting peace-building efforts.
- **Gender mainstreaming** Gender mainstreaming should be included in all policy considerations.
- **Policy Integration** Regional and global policy development should consider social and environmental factors that transcend borders (e.g., water resource management)
- **Information sharing:** Transparent sharing of data and exchange of knowledge are crucial for improving collaboration between local and international stakeholders.
- **Robust monitoring:** Continuous monitoring of standards is required to ensure compliance and effectiveness.
- **National adaptation plans:** Support is needed to develop and implement national adaptation plans, contributing to climate resilience.

4 WASH Coordination, Planning, and Information Management linked

Challenges

- **Evidence based planning and policy:** There is a significant disconnect between policymakers and information systems. Decision-making processes not transparent.
- **Coordination:** There is a lack of coordination and data sharing between partners and UN organizations in the water sector.
- **Data sharing:** Different standards for data collection and analysis hinder effective data sharing and collaboration.
- **Power dynamics:** Information is often perceived as a source of power or threat, leading to poor governance structures.
- **Transboundary issues:** Cooperation over water resources has decreased is often viewed as a zero-sum game. Updated agreements and adherence to UN Conventions are needed.
- **Lack of river basin management:** Limited number of water resource management strategies, plans and basin coordination platforms that also link different sectors (e.g., water-energy-food nexus).

Solutions

- **Coordination:** Enhance coordination in WASH clusters and other sector coordination platforms and support governments in the development contexts to effectively lead sector coordination.
- **Enhancing transboundary coordination:** Establish a regional platform or organization to coordinate and ensure information flow.
- **Improve forecasting:** Development of capabilities for data driven scenario-based future forecasts.
- **Long-term planning:** Allow for multiyear planning cycles with a focus in climate resilience, including in humanitarian contexts.
- **Capacity Building:** Provide training and capacity building especially at the level of the local authorities to enhance governance.
- **Strategy:** Support strategic institutes and think tanks in the region to improve technical and institutional capacity.
- **Community Engagement:** Involve communities and their perspective in coordination and decision-making. Ensure inclusion of gender and vulnerable groups.
- **Data management and sharing:** Provide capacity building to local institutions governments, and communities to strengthen transparency and accountability.

5 Flexible and Sustainable Financing

Challenges

- **Funding Restrictions:** Difficulty in reallocating funds from development activities to address emergency needs.
- **Reactive approach:** There is no policy of anticipatory action or rapid response.
- **Project funding:** The projects often lack a long-term perspective and sustainability after completion.
- **Financial Limitations:** Inflexible funding mechanisms and short-term funding

Solutions

- **Regional Collaboration:** Develop regional consortia and proposals to attract more funding, which requires a strategic and well-coordinated approach.
- **Advocacy:** for flexible program design and adaptive management during project implementation.
- **Financial Systems and Policies:** Establishment of a transparent financial system adhering to international standards.

cycles. Very limited opportunities to fund regional proposals.

- **Limited mitigation and adaptation financing:** Across the region and especially the WASH sector due to weak National Adaptation Plans and reports to UNCCC.
- **Poor governance and integrity:** good sector governance and integrity, as well as supportive regulations to attract green financing are lacking.

- **Close funding gap:** Funding the implementation of emergency preparedness and response plans.
- **Community Engagement:** Encouragement of local businesses and entrepreneurs to support initiatives.
- **Private funding:** Community involvement and promotion of crowdfunding to reduce dependency on donors.
- **Cost recovery:** Advocacy and awareness campaigns to improve cost recovery in the WASH systems, such as installing (smart) water meters.

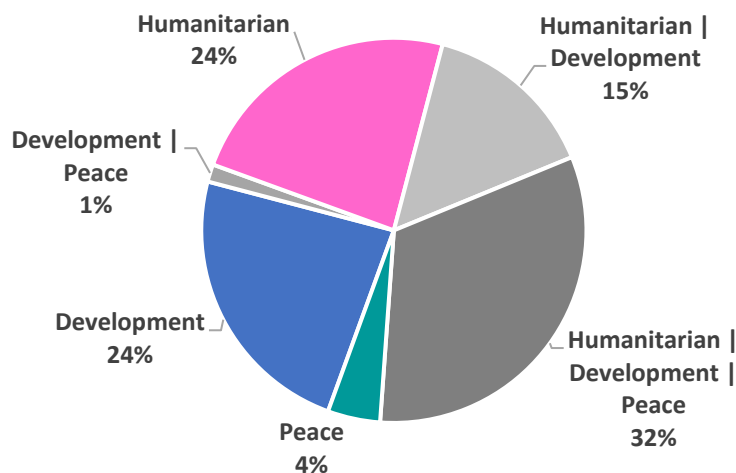
In the next round of the workshop sessions, the groups discussed the relevance of all inputs for the region and selected the most relevant aspects. After reaching an agreement, the five groups drafted both problem statements (burning issues) as well as the policy recommendations related to these issues. The policy recommendations were finalized through a plenary discussion.

This report presents the 5 key practice-to-policy recommendations and consolidates the feedback provided by the High-Level Roundtable in the final chapter.

High-Level Round Table


The problem statements and the practice-to-policy recommendations were presented on 10 October 2024 by designated spokespersons of the practitioner stream to a roundtable of 8 policy- and decision-makers from the region. This high-level event was convened by the German WASH Network and attended by 23 in-person and 68 virtual participants with the following mix of stakeholders: 32% CSO, 25% External Support, 13% Government, 15% Private Sector, 13% Research & Learning, 2 % Utilities/Operators. All HDP-angles were represented, but with lower participation of pure peace actors (see figure 5). The event agenda and a list of roundtable participants can be found in the 'Event Overview'-chapter.

From which angle do you approach the HDP nexus?



Programme of High-Level Roundtable Event

The final event included a welcome and thematic input on the triple nexus and the Joint Operational Framework ([download](#)) and three case studies presented by practitioners, after which the policy recommendations developed by the practitioners were introduced to the high-level panel. The panellist discussed these recommendations through a round-table.

Session 1		Session 2	
Intro & Rational 	Three Cases 	Policy Recommendations 	High-level Roundtable 
Welcome and Introduction Thilo Panzerbieter	Conflict Sensitive WASH Response, Yemen Wafa Al Madhagi	Resilient WASH Service Providers, Infrastructure and Water Resources Khalil Aziz Hamad	How to operationalise the WASH Triple nexus in the MENA region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Omar Mohammed Salih ▪ Ahmad Afaneh ▪ Aref Haza' Alalaween Mufleh ▪ Prof. Arwa Abdelhay ▪ Cristina Mena Lander ▪ Hiba Abu Al Rob ▪ Fantahun Getachew Tefera ▪ Najad Sheikhj Facilitated by Johannes Rück & Thilo Panzerbieter
WASH triple nexus in the MENA region: what's it all about? Johannes Rück	Information Management, Iraq Waleed Rasheed	Resilient Community WASH Behaviour Abdul Razak Harisa WASH Policies, Laws, Guidance, and Standards Linked Rama Gazal	
	Peace Camp, Northern Syria Mustafa Alloush	Coordination, Planning, Information Management Linked Waleed Rashed Flexible and Sustainable Financing Ahmad Al-Tarawnah	

The PowerPoint presentation including the complete slide deck of the High-level Roundtable Event, including the three case studies listed above are available under the following link:

→ [Download PPT: Regional Exchange MENA24 HL-Roundtable](#)

High-Level Roundtable Panellists

The multi-stakeholder round table consisted of high-level representatives from the MENA region, targeting all constituencies (government, external support, financing institutions, CSO, private sector as well as research & learning).

Omar Mohammed Salih	WASH Coordinator and Director of the Information Systems Center, Ministry of Construction, Housing, Municipalities, and Public Works of Iraq
Ahmad Afaneh	Regional Technical Specialist, Climate Hub, UNDP
Aref Haza' Alalaween Mufleh	Regional Coordinator of Blue Peace Middle East Initiative, Swiss Embassy Amman & Swiss Cooperation Office (SDC)
Prof. Arwa Abdelhay	Civil & Environmental Engineering Department, German Jordanian University (GJU)
Cristina Mena Lander	WASH Specialist and WASH Cluster Coordinator North West Syria, UNICEF
Hiba Abu Al Rob	Regional WASH Coordinator MENA Region, IFRC
Fantahun Getachew Tefera	Programme Coordinator WASH, IOM Yemen
Najad Sheikhj	Country Director Türkiye, Malteser International

Policy Recommendations

1. Resilient WASH Service Providers, Infrastructure and Water Resources

Spokesperson from the practitioner stream: Khalil Aziz Hamad (World Vision, Iraq)

Issue: Natural disasters, poor management and years of conflict caused poor planning and lack of investment in the infrastructure, while natural resources are depleted because of poor utilization and lack of investments in green solutions and climate action.

Policy Recommendation 1

Develop a 5-year costed strategy to enhance and expand water infrastructure and services using area-based and conflict sensitive approaches, with a focus on increasing sustainability of the water systems through innovation and technologies like rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation systems, and renewable energy.

Response of policy makers

The panellists support the policy recommendation and emphasize the need for a balanced approach to water resource management across the MENA region, where high demand and scarce water supplies pose serious challenges. They elaborated on the need to consider both domestic, agricultural and commercial water use while ensuring long-term sustainability of the water resources. A holistic approach that links water management with all relevant sectors can be a starting point for cooperation and conflict mitigation. However, the panel pointed out that water resource management is often fragmented across different authorities, making cross-sectoral coordination difficult but essential to address this regional challenge. An area-based approach is seen as promising, especially to enhance the conflict-sensitivity of the interventions.

To address the region's growing water crises, the panel advocates for collaborative, long-term (costed) strategies that incorporate resilience and they suggest a unified action plan in which multiple organizations share resources and expertise to build durable, scalable solutions across the MENA region. New approaches, innovations and solutions like rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation, and renewable energy are valuable and need to be scaled up quickly to delay groundwater depletion.

The panel also highlights the need for evidence-based decision making and greater involvement from academic institutions, which are underfunded despite their potential to identify or develop context-specific tools, technologies, frameworks, and resilience strategies or support capacity building, monitoring and information management.

2. Resilient Community WASH Behaviour

Spokesperson from the practitioner stream: Abdul Razak Harisa (Hand in Hand for Aid and Development)

Issue: Although water is scarce in the Middle East, people and communities are not using and handling the water properly (they are using water excessively, and without considering effects on water quality) and are not fully aware of the longer-term consequences of water overuse.

Policy Recommendation 2

By 2026 all water policies and legislations on the national level shall include budgets to focus on raising awareness about proper water consumption and change behaviours, as well as regulations on water use.

Response of policy makers:

The panellist support the policy recommendation to integrate dedicated budgets within national water policies and legislation to promote awareness, behavioural change, and better regulated water use by 2026. They emphasize that water scarcity and improper water consumption are pressing issues, requiring significant funding and well-coordinated action.

Sustainable water management policies should be backed by cross-sectoral collaboration, linking water initiatives with education, health, agriculture, and urban planning to maximize benefits. They stress that policies on water management are essential for ensuring sustainability and for mitigating water-related tensions, both domestically and regionally. Promoting the social and economic benefits of water management, particularly through community engagement and social media, is essential for behavioural change and effective policy implementation.

The panel recommends involving local communities in both creating and disseminating messages on proper water use, ensuring these initiatives resonate locally and are widely supported. This approach is crucial to achieving long-term change.

3. WASH Policies, Laws, Guidance, and Standards Linked

Spokesperson from the practitioner stream: Rama Gazal (Malteser International)

Issue: Inadequate development, harmonization, and implementation of WASH policies and standards, coupled with insufficient monitoring systems and limited local capacity, hinder effective WASH practices in crisis-affected and developing regions.

Policy Recommendation 3

To develop coherent WASH policies within five years for effective and sustainable outcomes in HDP contexts on all levels emphasizing standardization and robust monitoring, to be implemented through a multi-stakeholder collaborative approach and strengthening of local capacities.

Response of policy makers:

The high-level panel endorses the recommendation to develop coherent WASH policies that ensure effective and sustainable outcomes within the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus, emphasizing the critical role of robust monitoring and information management in preventing ineffective interventions. The panel underscores the importance of understanding conflict triggers to ensure that external support does not inadvertently escalate tension, advocating for a comprehensive integration of HDP principles into WASH policies.

The panel calls for mechanisms that function at both national and sub-national levels and highlights the necessity of transboundary cooperation. Building trust between sectors and communities is crucial for promoting peace. Active involvement of decentralized governments and communities in WASH management is crucial for achieving sustainability. Their strength lies in working directly with communities and promoting equitable water distribution. WASH actors should also undertake coordinated and risk-informed efforts to agree on standards, institutional frameworks and build capacities in areas where governments or de facto authorities cannot be involved due to conflict. There is a lack of guidance and back-up from higher-ranking decision-makers who avoid taking risks. In these contexts, the involvement of the private sector has proven essential, especially since many communities rely on unregulated services like water trucking. They highlight the inefficiency of water trucking and call for strong political leadership to address this issue.

4. Coordination, Planning, Information Management Linked

Spokesperson from the practitioner stream: Waleed Rashed (ACF, Iraq)

Issue: Data is frequently undervalued and underutilized, leading to a disconnect between policymakers and essential information. As a result, the absence of certified information systems restricts predictive tools, impeding proactive planning, effective policy development, and efficient resource management.

Policy Recommendation 4

To establish “Water/WASH data centres” within five years, incorporating humanitarian and development data and predictive analytics tools that support proactive policy making and planning. Through a collaborative approach, involving governmental and non-governmental agencies, standardized data collection methods and training sessions for stakeholders on data access and utilization, the centre will ensure information to be relevant, fully accessible and easy to use for all stakeholders.

Response of policy makers:

The participants in the roundtable discussion emphasized the need for data hubs for effective data exchange and advocated using and integrating existing systems instead of creating new ones. A centralized approach is not always the right solution, as it can fail to include stakeholders at decentralized levels. Enhancing trust, leadership and coordination among all relevant stakeholders, including data-sharing initiatives, academia and service providers and communities and can be a first step towards greater integration. A hub could support capacity-building activities and the introduction of user-friendly digital tools to enhance data collection and analysis.

Simply collecting data is not enough. Data needs to be well analysed to provide actionable insights for policy making and to develop strategies with well-defined activities, SMART indicators, realistic timelines and clear responsibilities and for stakeholders. An integrated approach is essential for ensuring that data reflects real-world conditions and identifies vulnerable areas, particularly regarding disaster risk reduction.

5. Flexible and Sustainable Financing

Spokesperson from the practitioner stream: Ahmad Al-Tarawnah (UNDP, Jordan)

Issue: Due to the climate vulnerability of the region, humanitarian and security risks will increase in the future if we do not invest in climate action and resilience. Currently the countries in the region face challenges to access or attract climate specific finance for Water / WASH. Climate finance is often not sector-specific and budget allocation is influenced by competing political and social priorities. As a result, international and domestic financing for climate resilient WASH is not sufficient, especially in fragile contexts.

Policy Recommendation 5

To develop convincing costed strategies and plans for climate actions, informed by strong evidence, needs and vulnerabilities, along with enhanced transparency and accountability to advocate for financing, through opening dialogue with donors, IFIs and private actors and investors on potential funding mechanisms (regional or country level), that facilitate access to financing, including for projects in HDP contexts.

Response of policy makers:

In protracted crisis, the emergency mindset must shift early towards recovery strategies that build resilience while addressing immediate needs. Too many communities remain reliant on temporary solutions like water trucking. The panellists see great potential in resilience financing mechanisms, integrating humanitarian and development financing to facilitate investments in WASH in fragile and disaster-prone contexts. One option could be a pooled fund that facilitates climate action and behaviour change in long-term humanitarian crisis.

The importance of evidence-based, transparent strategies is underscored, as credible plans can foster trust with funding agencies. Such strategies should clearly outline funded activities, which is particularly vital in fragile contexts where donors may have concerns about implementation success. The panellist highlighted the necessity of including diverse groups in the planning process and addressing the existing subsidies within the WASH sector to ensure effective monitoring and implementation. However, they point out the risk of overloading ministries when expecting them to focus on climate adaptation, as they already face capacity constraints.

Way Forward

The policy recommendations formulated by the practitioners were met with strong interest from the policy makers during the high-level round table. Widely disseminated throughout the region, these recommendations can inform relevant policy processes. Moreover, the reflections and validated elements of the recommendations will feed into the global Triple Nexus in WASH Initiative and the design of its future outputs in policy dialogue, advocacy, capacity development and knowledge management.

Further consultation and a replication of this process in other geographic regions presents a huge potential for mutual learning and will hopefully strengthen the operationalisation of the HDP nexus and the WASH sector at large.

Regional Exchange Forum convened by



Local Host MENA Region



Supported by



Annex

1 Workshop Results: Context Analysis

Yemen Iraq Turkey Syria

Risks

- Security
- Natural disasters (flood, drought, sand storms)
- Water contamination
- Water-borne diseases

Challenges

- Water scarcity
- Geopolitical fragmentation
- Climate induced migration
- Social integration
- Poor management (government)
- Access to clean water
- Medical waste management
- Wastewater management
- Poor infrastructure

	Humanitarian response	Development	Peace
(North West) Syria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shrinkage of funds Water scarcity Drought Dandom digging of wells High number of camps Water network (old) Low water quality (pollutoprn) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of energy sources Absence of governance, institutions, WASH related documents Lack of long-term funding Lack of capacity in development Instability of security Very old WASH, water stations Defacto authorities Cost recovery difficulty Lack of irrigation national system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No clear political solution Continuous conflict High number of IDPs Population density Household property difficulty Civil documentation
Water			
Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open sewage Dependency on emergency septic tanks Coverage of sewerage networks and status Objection about constructing the sewer/latrines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of wastewater treatment plants Lack of sewage treatment standards No institution Lack of research institute Misuse of sewage networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pressure on sewage network Lack of sewage networks in camps Odour of septic tanks Digging septic tank in others land
Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of landfill management Outbreak of diseases Solid waste management Lack of hygiene awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of funding Lack of hygiene materials factories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of community-based hygiene projects Lack of community engagement

Context: Humanitarian / Development / Peace - WASH

Risk, challenges, gaps

Humanitarian / Development / Peace - WASH

Risk, challenges, gaps

Climate change

2 World Café: Problems and solutions

1. Resilient WASH service providers, infrastructure and water resources

Challenges

- Poor water infrastructure
- Lack of infrastructure
- Lack of power sources
- Lack of knowledge
- Control of resources by one party to the conflict
- Big scales project always proposed but not implemented

Solutions

- Do temporary rehabilitation work
- Identify the criteria and provide training
- Promote climate resilient water supply systems
- Agri-ecor transition training
- Advocate for the citizens' right to have wages accountability

2. Resilient community WASH behaviour

Challenges

- Multiple stressors affect communities
- Lack of community involvement
- Lack of policy government
- Severe water unregulated digging
- Public awareness
- Cultural barriers

Solutions

- On the field Campaign
- Support institution to engage with community
- Strengthening governance
- Integrate BRR in WASH
- Don't use possible water for irrigation
- allow flexibility of funds use to co-plan with communities
- Fund

3. WASH policies, laws, guidance, and standards linked

Challenges

- borders for climates!
- Very centralized systems in the region
- No existing policies or policies not enforced
- Gap policies = laws
- Duplication of standards by NGOs
- Lack of national strategic policy plans
- Information sharing

Solutions

- Advocacy Research
- Work together
- Support to develop national adaptive plan



ⁱ MENA Region: Country analysis of different risk types (Extended list of countries, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan and Pakistan)

MENA Countries	OECD States of Fragility (Extreme fragility or fragile)	UNICEF Water Insecurity Hotspots (% of children experiencing high or extreme water vulnerability)	Germanwatch Climate Risk Index (CRI Score <50)	INFORM Risk 2022 index (Risk Class Medium, High or Very High)
Afghanistan	Extreme Fragility	93%		Very High
Algeria			92,83	Medium
Armenia			142,83	High
Azerbaijan			133,5	High
Bahrain			170,83	
Egypt			142,17	Medium
Iran	Fragile	43%	90	Medium
Iraq	Extreme Fragility		143,17	Very High
Israel			120,33	
Jordan			129,5	Medium
Kuwait			152	
Lebanon	Conflict affected		118	Medium
Libya	Fragile		160,33	High
Morocco		65%	96,17	Medium
Oman				
Pakistan	Fragile	34%		High
Qatar			173,67	
Saudi Arabia			100,33	
Syria	Extreme Fragility			Very High
Tunisia			114,5	
Turkey			111,83	Medium
UAE			156	
Yemen	Extreme Fragility	38%	76,17	Very High