

Action Fiche for West Bank and Gaza Strip / Jordan / Israel

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Fostering co-operation on water management between the Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian water authorities (ENPI/2009/021-855)		
Total cost	EU contribution: EUR 1,500,000		
Aid method / Method of implementation	Project approach – centralised (direct) management and joint management (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation - International Institute for Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering (UNESCO-IHE))		
DAC-code	14010, 14081	Sectors	Water resource policy and administrative management; Education and Training in water supply and sanitation

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Sector context

Bilateral and multilateral peace talks between Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation led to the creation of the multilateral Working Group on Water Resources (WGWR) in May 1992. In November 1994, the group established the EXecutive ACtion Team (EXACT) to assist its co-ordination and endorsed the Water data Banks Programme which received EU support since 1995. Currently, the Core Parties are represented by their respective Water Authorities. The United States of America (USA) has been the gavel-holder of this forum since its creation. Current donors are Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and the European Union.

This project is the fifth project funded by the EU in the framework of the WGWR/EXACT initiative. Throughout its repeated investments in this framework, the EU provided the tools to address the water scarcity problem and political deadlock by promoting dialogue, capacity building and more specifically wastewater treatment and reuse. As for the water data banks enhancement objective, the technical assistance provided by the EU has had significant impacts on the water quality sampling and consolidation of the data collection in the Core Parties¹.

The initial purpose of the project has been revised for different reasons (question of relevance linked to the risk of duplication; change in priorities in a context of global financial crisis and re-assessment of whole EXACT co-operation framework) and now consists in the identification and quantification of climate effects on water resources in the Core Parties territories. The major economic and societal implications of water availability induced by climate change render modelling important for water planners.

¹ EXACT Water Data Banks IV Evaluation Note, Parsons Brinckerhoff Consortium, May 2008, p. 4.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report (IPCC AR-4) indicated a precipitation decrease in the Mediterranean area for a future warmer climate. Several regional climate projections were made for the 21st century for the Eastern Mediterranean area. However, those models are still relatively coarse in terms of spatial resolution and several factors imply the need for a high resolution model: (i) the Core Parties are located in areas with very diverse climates including arid, semi-arid and Mediterranean climates: (ii) precipitation in the sub-region is highly variable spatially and temporally, (iii) the need to take into consideration the topography, soil, water resources and land use for reliable climate modelling and water resources quantification.

The three EXACT core parties agreed to co-operate on a project that will focus on the expected effects of climate change on water resource in sites selected by each of the Core Parties in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip and in Jordan.

The project will seek to benefit from knowledge developed in other projects where climate modelling for the sub-region was involved, such as the Global change and hydro-geological cycle (GLOWA) project and the Sustainable Management of the West Bank and Gaza Aquifers project (SUSMAQ).

2.2. Lessons learnt

The WGWR/EXACT initiative "has contributed to the prevention of water conflicts between Jordan, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory and its political value is regarded as an important element to foster the peace process in the middle-East"². The present project specifically builds on two project ideas that were developed at the December 2010 Oslo EXACT Review and Planning workshop³: 1) Regional hydrological and hydro-geological information assessment needed for future programmes and 2) Study of the connection between different sorts of ground coverage and evapo-transpiration rates.

2.3. Complementary actions

Complementarity of efforts is enhanced by the bi-annual Executive Action Team meetings which gather all donors in the EXACT framework and the Core Parties (Palestinian, Israeli and Jordanian Water Authorities).

The European Union Water Initiative and Horizon 2020 programmes as well as the Union for the Mediterranean's Mediterranean Water Strategy have been taken into account in the design of this project. Coherence and alignment with these initiatives will be sought during implementation.

2.4. Donor co-ordination

Co-ordination of efforts is ensured by the bi-annual Executive Action Team meetings which gather all donors in the EXACT framework and the Core Parties (Palestinian, Israeli and Jordanian water authorities).

² EXACT Water Data Banks IV Evaluation Note, Parsons Brinckerhoff Consortium, May 2008, p. 21.

³ EXACT Progress Review & Planning Workshop, Oslo, Norway, December 6, 2010, Final Report, Dr. Jennifer Kushner, p. 8, 36 pp.

At national level, it can be noted that the donor co-ordination of the water and wastewater sector in West Bank and Gaza Strip is rather well organised, notably through the support of the Local aid Co-ordination Secretariat. The quarterly meetings organised under this umbrella regularly address questions of relations with Israeli authorities, project implementation updates as well as institutional issues.

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

Overall objectives⁴

Contribute to the success of the EXACT initiative, which is 1) a platform for sub-regional co-operation on water-related issues with emphasis on sharing information related to water resources, and know-how transfer, 2) a platform to create an atmosphere that enhances the peace process.

Purpose (specific objective)

Generation of quantitative data on current and future water availability in the sub-region of the Core Parties in light of the possible impact of climate change and possible changes in land use patterns. The project proposes to downscale the existing regional climate models (which resolutions vary between 18.5 km and 25 km) to a finer resolution of 4 to 6 km in order to generate more detailed scenarios on future water availability. Unlike previous projects that focused on climate trends, this project would combine climate and hydrological models in order to simulate the future water resources (runoff, surface water, and ground water resources).

3.2. Expected results and main activities

Expected results

- (1) Quantitative data on current and future water availability scenarios in the sub-region of the Core Parties on the basis of existing hydro-climatic models and hydrological and hydro-geological data from the Core Parties;
- (2) Validated and detailed scenarios for the validation areas specified by the Core Parties in their respective territories;
- (3) Improved expertise of the Core Parties in the field of high-resolution hydro-climatic modelling;
- (4) Identified remedial or mitigation actions on the basis of joint discussions on the implications of the future water availability;
- (5) Finalised works for Wadi Far'a Artificial Recharge Pilot and Aqbat Jabr Pilot Water Treatment Plant projects (to complete previous intervention in the EXACT framework).

⁴ Adapted from the vision of the Core Parties, EXACT Progress Review & Planning Workshop, Oslo, Norway, December 6, 2010, Final Report, p. 6, 36 pp.

Main activities

- (1) Finalisation of EXACT uncompleted works for Wadi Far'a Artificial Recharge Pilot and Aqbat Jabr Pilot Water Treatment Plant projects.
- (2) Consolidation of EU-EXACT phase 4 activities, including Decision Support System application.
- (3) Data generation/modelling/sharing, including the joint selection of an existing hydro-climatic model; down-scaling, customization and localization of the model; validation by the Core Parties in a specific geographical area in their respective territories; and finally joint discussions on the implications of the future water availability on the basis of the work done.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

One assumption that is instrumental for the successful completion of the project is the access to the data needed for the validation and the physical access to the areas chosen for validation.

The Core Parties are aware of these risks on the project success and agreed on the following principles: (i) the Water Authorities are committed to do their utmost to facilitate access to validation sites; (ii) in those cases where access is not possible, the core parties agreed that a third party consultant be mandated to perform the needed works and services; (iii) to enhance the regional co-operation, each core Party will exchange the related data and information requested by other core parties to maximize the benefits of the Hydro-climate model outputs. (iv) all the available and generated data concerning the project shall be accessible for all core parties through one database.

3.4. Crosscutting Issues

The project will foster co-operation and good water governance and is expected to contribute to peace and stability in the sub-region.

The project directly targets climate change issues and their consequences on water availability. The project aims at identifying responses to climate change and water scarcity challenges in the framework of sub-regional co-operation.

The programme is expected to be neutral on gender issues.

3.5. Stakeholders

The direct beneficiaries of this project are the Palestinian Water Authority, the Israeli Water Authority and the Jordanian Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the EXACT multi-donor action group, and the communities of the three parties which should benefit from the project.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

A rider to Financing Agreement ENPI/2009/021-855 will be concluded between the European Union represented by the Commission and the relevant authority of the Palestinian Authority (PA).

Direct centralized management will apply for activities 2 and 4.

For activities 1 and 3: Joint management through the signature of two agreements with (1) the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as a leading actor in climate change related interventions worldwide, and (2) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation - International Institute for Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering (UNESCO-IHE) Institute for Water Education in accordance with Article 53d of the Financial Regulation. The two international organisations comply with the criteria provided for in the applicable Financial Regulation. The International Organisations are covered by a framework agreement concluded with the Commission (FAFA) and the contractual model that will be used is a standard Contribution Agreement.

4.2. Procurement and grant award procedures

1) Contracts

All contracts implementing the action must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the Commission for the implementation of external operations, in force at the time of the launch of the procedure in question.

Participation in the award of contracts for the present action shall be open to all natural and legal persons covered by the Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006. Further extensions of this participation to other natural or legal persons by the relevant authorising officer shall be subject to the conditions provided for in article 21(7) of the above mentioned regulation.

For activities 1 and 3:

- All contracts implementing the action are awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the relevant International Organisation.

4.3. Indicative budget and calendar

The duration of this programme is estimated at 84 months after signature of Financing Agreement ENPI/2009/021-855, including an operational phase of 60 months and a closure phase of 24 months.

The indicative breakdown of the overall budget is as follows:

Activity	Management mode (type of contract foreseen)	Amount (EUR)
(1) Finalisation of EXACT uncompleted works	Joint management, Contribution Agreement with UNESCO-IHE	200,000
(2) Consolidation of EU-EXACT phase 4 activities	Direct centralised management, service contracts	150,000
(3) Data generation/modelling/sharing	Joint management, Contribution Agreement with UNDP	1,000,000
(4) Monitoring, evaluation, audit	Direct centralised management, service contracts	100,000
(5) Contingency		50,000
Total		1,500,000

4.4. Performance monitoring

Internal monitoring will be based on periodic assessment of project progress against expected results using a logical framework matrix and key performance indicators.

Yearly Progress Reports will be submitted to the European Commission, providing detailed information on individual activity progress. Deviations from the budget and/or schedule will be noted, their implications assessed and corrective measures will be proposed. A final report will be submitted at the end of the project activities.

The programme will be also subject to external Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM), to be contracted by the European Commission.

Project monitoring will be harmonised with other donors as may be required in order to align reporting/monitoring frameworks, to prevent duplication of efforts, and to ensure effective use of available funds as well as to ensure consistency with the programme framework of the Multilateral Working Group on Water Resources.

4.5. Evaluation and audit

An external final evaluation, covering all the activities of the action, will be carried out in accordance with European Commission procedures. Where appropriate, an external audit will be undertaken.

4.6. Communication and visibility

The action will follow the visibility guidelines of the European Commission. Each contractor will be responsible for implementing those guidelines in line with the relevant templates.