

PALESTINE

International Coordination Unit
Palestinian Water Authority (PWA)
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West Bank



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www.emwis-ps.org

Palestine is a member of EMWIS since 1999 and a member of its steering committee since the launch of the Initiative. Palestine has set-up an EMWIS website, run by its NFP, the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) in 2001. In 2007, this website has been redesigned, new content has been added and it is now hosted in Palestine. It gathers information on: institutional framework, water legislation and regulations, education and training programmes and research & development, data administration (maps, projects, etc). To provide accurate information, PWA is coordinating its activities with all national water stakeholders.

DATA

- **Area** : 6 900 km²
- **Population** (mill) : 3,83 **
- **GDP per capita** : 1 024 € **
- **Access to improved water resource** :
TOTAL : 80% *
- Urban : 95% *
- Rural : 60% *
- Camps : 95% *
- **Water withdrawal** :
irrigation : 56% *
domestic & industries : 64% *
- **Access to sanitation** :
- Urban : 62% *
- Rural : 12% *

Sources :

* Palestinian Water Authority 2008

** MEDSTAT 2007



⇒ Legal Framework

Palestine follows a modern approach to water resource management and applies many principles of IWRM that is also the guiding principle of the EU Water Framework Directive. The legislation is quite recent, with a by-law establishing the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) in 1996 and a water law defined in 2002 and currently under revision.

⇒ Right to Water

Article three of the water law (2002) states that: *“Each person has the right to sufficient water quantities in good quality and affordable price according to the available water resources. And each service provider has to take the necessary procedures to secure the above mentioned.”*

⇒ Main institution

The Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) is in charge of Water Resource Management together with Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) for the resources related to irrigation and with the Environment Quality Authority (EQA) for water resources protection and the conservation of ecosystems. PWA is also responsible for sanitation services in cooperation with EQA, the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Local Governorate (MoLG). Drinking water is supplied by the West Bank Water Department –WBWD-, Municipalities and existing utilities. In the future, water and wastewater services will be provided by a National Water Utility together with 4 regional utilities (three in the West Bank and one in Gaza).

	Water Resource Management	Drinking water supply	Sanitation	Irrigation
PWA	✓		✓	✓
WBWD, Municipalities, existing Utilities		✓		
EQA	✓		✓	
MoH			✓	
MoLG			✓	
MoA	✓			✓

The territorial water management : The WBWD is currently responsible for providing all water that comes from Mekerot (Israeli water Company) to all Palestinian Communities. In addition, municipalities and village councils are responsible in managing their water. **Inter-ministerial coordination** is undertaken by the Ministry of Planning.

⇒ Main issues of Water Resource Management

Water scarcity and the lack of access and control on the Palestinian water resources are the main challenges in Palestine. Water supply is mainly provided by groundwater resources. Research on rain fed agriculture and the use of brackish water for irrigation shall provide new solutions to avoid overexploitation and for the necessary future recharge of groundwater resources in Palestine. Other solutions might be the construction of water reservoirs in Wadi (valleys).

⇒ Water pricing and cost recovery

A water pricing policy is under preparation. Water for irrigation is provided by farmers with private wells.

	Institutions responsible for water pricing	Level of cost recovery (%)
Households	Palestinian Water Authority Municipalities and village councils	< 20
Industry	Regional Water Utilities	
Agriculture : Irrigation	MoA - PWA Private farmers	≤ 80

⇒ Water master plan

The development of a Water Policy was launched by PWA in 2000. In 2003 a national IWRM plan was defined followed by a Master Plan in 2004 and an emergency plan in 2005. Unfortunately these plans have not been approved as the National Water Council (NWC) is not functioning. But the Technical Committee for NWC has reviewed the Water Policy.