

Support to ESCWA and the ESCWA Member Countries – Integrated and Transboundary Water Resources Management



UN-ESCWA Countries:

Bahrain
Egypt
Iraq
Jordan
Kuwait
Lebanon
Oman
Palestine
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
Syrian Arab Republic
United Arab Emirates
Yemen

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All of the countries in the Middle East face a tremendous challenge to ensure the sufficient provision of water to all users in the long run. This is a regional challenge because a major part of the scarce ground and surface water resources crosses political boundaries and is being used by several countries.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) located in Beirut/ Lebanon is one of the five UN-regional commissions for economic and social issues subordinate to the UN secretariat.

Regional Technical Cooperation with ESCWA started in 1992 and was re-launched in 2005 with the overall objective to improve the collaboration of ESCWA member countries in the water sector. On the German side the project involves BGR and GTZ, both complementing their fields of expertise and coordinating activities jointly with ESCWA. The ESCWA-BGR component focuses on the promotion and application of integrated approaches to water resources management. Special emphasis is placed on the management of transboundary (shared) groundwater resources.

The project supports and facilitates the development of national capacities and strategies of member states towards the management of shared water resources, and aims at establishing a regional forum for dialogue and exchange among member countries. For selected pilot cases, and pending the countries' interests, the project offers tailor-made advisory services to bilateral working groups and committees, and acts as a facilitator for fact-finding missions, basin diagnostic studies and the initiation of joint or complementary activities.

At the regional level ESCWA and BGR facilitate the pooling and dissemination of expertise and best practices in selected issues of integrated water resources management (IWRM) and the development of IWRM reference materials and surveys. Thus the project cooperates with international and regional partners (e.g. AWARENET, Cap-Net, GWP, other UN agencies) for enhancing dialogue within the region and between regional stakeholders and key international organizations.

All activities are carried out in close coordination and cooperation with bilateral technical cooperation activities of BGR and GTZ in the member countries, in order to create synergies and increase the impacts.



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Bundesanstalt für
Geowissenschaften
und Rohstoffe