



CHALLENGES WITH WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY GOVERNANCE

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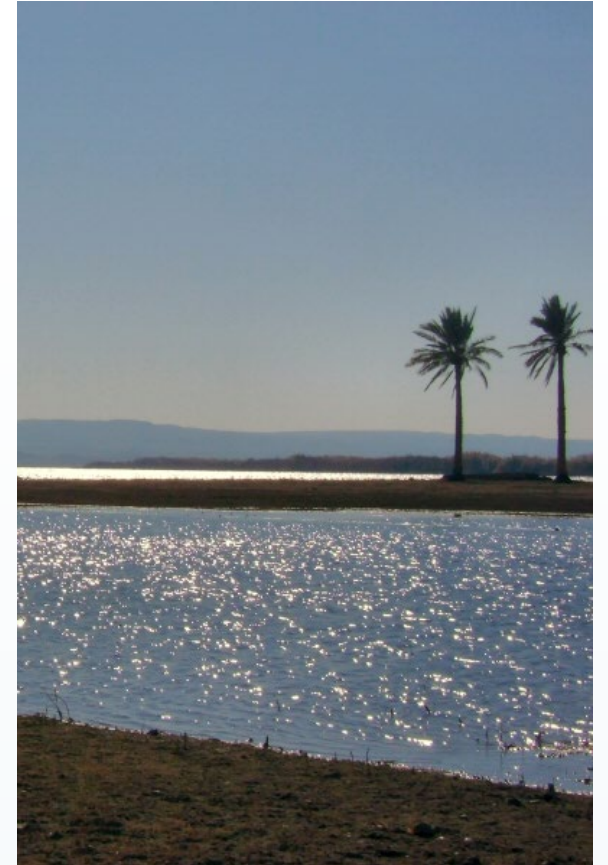
Excerpts from slides prepared for Water, Peace and Security tailor-made capacity development activities in Iraq. Please attribute authors when using materials.

WATER GOVERNANCE AND WATER MANAGEMENT

- **Water Governance:** “... the political, social, economic and administrative systems in place that influence water’s use and management. Essentially, who gets what water, when and how, and who has the right to water and related services, and their benefits.” (UNDP-SIWI Water Governance Facility, 2021)
- **Water Management:** “the use of technical means to achieve water-specific outcomes/respond to water-related challenges” (Sehring et al., forthcoming)
 - Drinking water supply, sanitation, flood protection, water quality protection, and monitoring
- Policy-making, implementation, and enforcement

COMMON WATER MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

- Water quantity
 - Non-stationarity of inflow, precipitation, and demand
- Water quality
 - Land use and non-point sources
 - Variable water quantity
 - Complex water quality parameters and screening criteria



"File:The Euphrates River-Iraq.jpg" by Jayel Aheram from Iraq,USA. is licensed under CC BY 2.0

COMMON MULTI-LEVEL WATER GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

- Funding: Implementation of water policies, data collection, and governance processes
- Capacity: Staff, time, knowledge, and infrastructure
- Administrative: Mismatch of administrative and hydrologic boundaries
- Policy: Sectoral fragmentation
- Information: Asymmetries of information (central and sub-national governments), lack of data for decision-making and monitoring
- Objective: Contradictory objectives between ministries
- Accountability: Lack of citizen concern or involvement, enforcement

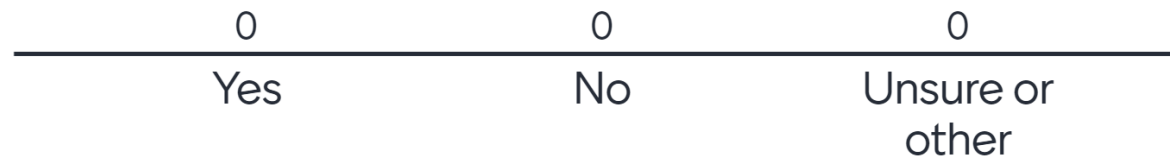
(OECD Water Governance Survey, 2010)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 5891 4027

Is water political?

 Mentimeter



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 5891 4027

In your opinion, what is the most important water governance challenge in Iraq?

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WATER AND POLITICS I

- The distribution (and utilization) of water is always the result of political decisions – which makes water itself political
- Water is embedded in a broader political context and usually “more than drinking water”
- Cross-sectoral political issue
 - Impact on water: other sectors’ policies having an impact water sector (intervening factors)
 - Impact of water: Water policies having an impact on other sectors
- Water and conflict often centred around competing interests or result of unintended consequences
- Water also attributing to other conflict issues/lines

WATER AND POLITICS II

- Relevant at all governance levels & for different time horizons
- Requires the involvement of all stakeholders: state, private sector, science, NGOs, the individual, etc.
- Water is highly emotional, highly symbolic and a sensitive issue (easy to be instrumentalized)
- Complex: water (policies and management) affected by interactions of natural, societal and political processes

CHALLENGES FOR WATER QUANTITY GOVERNANCE IN IRAQ

- Limited space for maneuver regarding the water inflow of Euphrates & Tigris
- Internal upstream-downstream logic in Iraq (allocation in the provinces)
- Competition vs. cooperation between local governments and the central government
- Sectoral fragmentation, competing objectives with a dominant role of the agriculture
- Strong link between quantity and quality
- Difficult to prioritise among the various pressing issues
- Lack of awareness, particularly related to pollution, waste-dumping, etc.