



# Shared challenges — Joint response

The regional project **Sustainable Use of Transboundary Water Resources and Water Security Management** (WATER SUM) addresses water-related challenges and promotes regional cooperation in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) through two project components: Water Resources Management Good Practices and Knowledge Transfer (WATER POrT); and Water Security (WaSe).

The WATER POrT component focuses on building skills and transferring knowledge on integrated water resources management in order to promote sustainable development and climate adaptation. The WaSe component supports the introduction of local water security action plans to help communities withstand asset scarcity and tackle environment-related conflicts.

## OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the WATER SUM project is to promote and enhance the sustainability of managing water resources in beneficiary countries in the MENA region in order to halt the downward spiral of poverty, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation.

## MAIN AREAS OF ACTIVITY

- Needs assessments
- Analysis
- Workshops
- Conferences
- Demonstration sites
- Local water security action plan development and implementation
- Distance learning platform development and implementation
- Capacity building
- Grants
- Communication
- Networking

### At a glance

Project duration

**April 2014 – April 2017**

Donor

**Government of Sweden**

Budget

**EUR 6 million**

Geographical scope

**North Africa**

**(Tunisia, Egypt)**

**Middle East**

**(Jordan)**



## RESULTS

The project will lead to:

- strengthened regional cooperation to improve water management and promote sustainable development;
- increased capacities to combat water shortages and other negative environmental and climate-related impacts; and
- enhanced dialogue and trust among national authorities, civil society and non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders.

## IMPACTS

The main impact is expected to be institutional and behavioural change in water governance and utilisation patterns. This change will be achieved through the successful transfer of knowledge and skills to all participating actors in the water management arena. Additional impacts related to improving water security will also be significant in terms of overall environmental security. It is therefore vital to build partnerships in order to address environmental asset scarcity, environmental risks or adverse changes, and environment-related tensions or conflicts, as this is the most effective way to meet development and conservation targets in local communities and beyond.

## ADDED VALUE

The WATER SUM project provides beneficiary countries with a structured opportunity to boost their development, share new methods for better water management, improve planning at all levels of governance, and address unemployment and poverty.

## CONTACTS

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The REC is an international organisation with a mission to assist in addressing environmental issues. The REC fulfils this mission by promoting cooperation among governments, non-governmental organisations, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, and by supporting the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision making.



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