UNDP Project SAU10-133976



2025

Capacity Development and Related Services for an Integrated Sustainable Development and Management of the Water Sector

Report: 2025 Annual Progress Report
Reporting Date: (Feb, 2026)

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I. Project Details

Project Title	Capacity Development and Related Services for an Integrated Sustainable Development and Management of the Water Sector
Project ID	SAU10-133976
Project Start Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	(01/03/2023)
Project End Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	(29/02/2028)
Implementing Partner(s)	Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture **(MEWA)**
UNDP Contact (Name/Title/Email)	**(Asim Salah/Senior Programme Officer/ Asim.Salah@undp.org)**
Budget (USD)	**USD 36,195,075.00**
Annual Expenditure (USD)	

II. Outcomes and Outputs

CPD/CF Outcome 2: The environment is better protected from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources, and taking urgent action on climate change

Contribution towards outcome: (minimum 50 words)

Output 1: **Establishment of technical methodologies including data management processes and water Information systems) to support longer term sustainability and integrity of water data and Inform decision making**

The UNDP Continued its support to the activation of the Water Information Center. The entire advisory services of UNDP technical experts in water management and water data wwere aligned with the needs of WIC projects through team work engagement. . Artificial Intelligence-based water management software were tested for climate adaptation and the platform was modified to adapt to water management in Saudi Arabia. The UNDP Provided GIS support in groundwater, surface water, water conveyance lines as part of the overall water management and planning. The UNDP also provided advisory services in database modelling and architecture, QC and QA. Project specialists has launched an AI supported knowledge management

Output 2: **Water Resources Development to support sustainability of water resources and create new opportunities for agricultural and rural developments In the Kingdom.**

The UNDP continued to develop water resources opportunities for rainwater harvesting, through dams, by assessing precipitation patterns and conducting geological, hydrogeological, and gemprphological studies to optimize surface water management The UNDP experts played key role in flood mitigation studies which also provide volumes of water for local use or aquifer recharge. Areas include Wadi Usfan, Jeddah, Wadi aaAl Rasha, Dawadmi, Riyadh Region, The UNDP is also assessing non-conventional water resources including brackish aquifers, small water harvesting infrastuructures, and new technologies. In water reuse, the UNDP provided advisory services in the tendering of major national level sanitation strategy. UNDP specialists played active role in MEWA water in roll out of water reuse planning and implementation.

Output 3: **Human, Institutional, and technical Capacity development, and women participation to promote the self sufficiency of the Water Deputyship on technical expertise and water awareness capabilities.**

The UNDP at MEWA launched the Water Talent Localization Program and recruited 10 young recent graduates. The program participants were infused into the General Directorates of the Deputy Ministry and also were assigned hands-on tasks related to their respective specialties. The WTLP participants also received a series of courses, seminars, and out of Kingdom training at internationally recognized training institutes. The participants are also engaged in the secretariate of the World Water Forum 11 secretariates and processes. Currently each is assigned a paper to be published in a scientific journal subject to approval by MEWA and UNDP. For MEWA capacity building, UNDP experts continued in institutional, technical and human capacity building for MEWA employees including engaging them in field work, on the job training, and daily consultations. Institutional capacity building included effective communication, catalyzing of project budgeting, media and public relations, and supporting MEWA recruitment processes. For Englih language, the UNDP

To further strengthen professional competencies, UNDP implemented a Technical English Language Program aimed at enhancing English language skills for technical communication, reporting, and engagement in international water platforms.

Additional capacity-building activities included a range of specialized workshops addressing priority technical and policy areas in the water sector. Furthermore, UNDP delivered a certification-level Project Management training program, supporting and facilitating the certification of selected MEWA staff in Project Management Professional (PMP).



Output 4: **Design and development of a holistic Integrated Water Resource Management (WRM) program to support sustainability of water resources for long-term developments in all sectors Including the agricultural, rural, industrial, tourism, etc.**

The integrated water resources management is an ongoing practice by MEWA in implementing the NWS 2030 where UNDP provides specialized advisory services These advisory services included updating numerical groundwater models, conducting a series of field trips to water resources sites including dams, well fields, springs, specialized studies sites, and also supervising key projects such as valuing water, implementing integrated water resources management at a watershed scale.The UNDP delivered highly specialized services in the implementation of the water law, water supply and demand, wastewater supply and demand planning, water risk management, surface water and groundwater monitorings and planning, Geophysical support to groundwater supply projects, stakeholder engagement, financing and budgeting for water projects Conducting several workshops in highly specialized Integrated water resource management topics. The UNDP took a leading position in the roll out of the Saudi Water Resources and their Uses in forming technical committee, supervisory committee, data acquisition and processing.



Contribution towards outcome:

Odutput 2.1:	Sustainable, integrated and climate-smart management of ecosystems and non-oil natural resources ensured		
Indicator	**Target**	**Summary Achievements**	**Status[1]** (On-track, Delayed, Achieved)
Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated	25 %	UNDP provided the primary capacity technical advisory capacity building to craft long term supply and demand plans for urban and industrial water supply and TSE reuse. Other Integrated Water Management outputs are elaborated in outputs 1-4 in the contribution towards outcome.	On Track

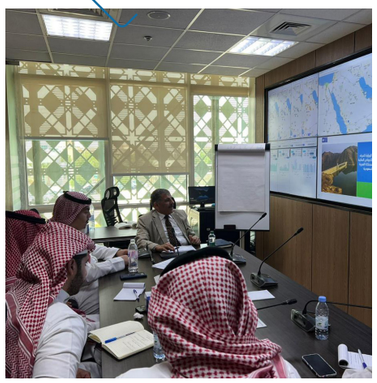
Achievements	Technical Capacity Building: supply and demand long term plans, database establishment, Dam management, groundwater management, water resources monitoring network QC\QA,, Water Valuation, Groundwater and Surface Water modelling, Policy implementation, Legislative support, IWRM, GIS, Rainwater Harvesting Institutional Capacity Building: Robust institutional local and international water related engagement, SDG6, media, High level country related water engagements, World Water Forum 2027, G20, One World Water Summit, SDG6. Human Capacity Building: Courses and Workshops covering SDG6, Project Management Certification, surface water, groundwater, well logging, well testing, geology, Introduction of Water Talent Localization Program

Unachieved Activities	**Activity**	**Reason**
	Identifying untapped water resources	UNDP Introduced the Water Talent Localization Program to Launch this activity under the supervision of existing advisors

Issues/Challenges	Need increase Integration
Mitigation Actions	Introduction of Water Talent Localization Program/Monthly Brown Bag Sessions, Coordinated UNDP meetings, Acknowledging MEWA interdepartmental etiquettes, proactive support to MEWA general directorates
Risks	Unclear Role of UNDP capacity building
Quality Assessment	Reemphasize Role and Advisor Reporting
Cross-cutting Issues (Gender/Disability/Environmental Considerations)	The project is increasing the gender balance while ensuring fit-for-position capabilities

[1] If not "Delayed", please state reason

III. Visibility











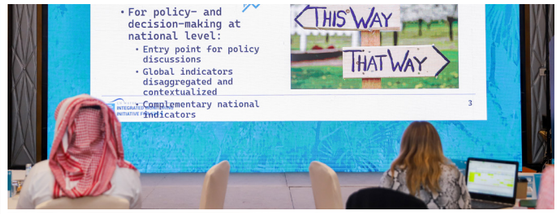
IV. Lessons Learnt

a) Proactive support to MEWA General Directorates, assessing needs, more precise definition of role, retraining of new Saudi Graduates.

b) Tabbing into new Saudi females with relevant technical background for the WTLP. This was solved by aggressive search and attractive packages.

c) **It is essential to define role in the context of the country agreement, Country Program Document, and Project Document. These are to be aligned with national strategies and sector targets. It is key to have UNDP advisors well informed of the these. This was often reiterated in Monthly Brown Bag sessions. On the other hand, it is essential to highlight the specific role and framework under which all UNDP staff operate: Capacity Building with its three primary types 1 Technical 2 Institutional and 3 human. Intra-UNDP advisors integration and MEWA-UNDP healthy work ecosystem is to be achieved through being proactive and initiative. Developing young National Talent through in-depth technical blending with both MEWA projects and related UNDP advisors.**

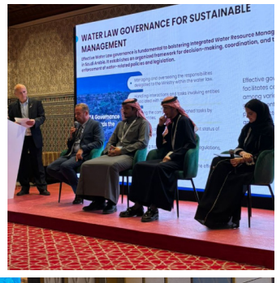














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V. Annex

1. Insert signed Interim Financial Donor Report (IDR) here . SAAD

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2. Insert the Q3 CDR here. SAAD

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3. Complete the table below. SAAD

Outcome	Outcome Indicator
2	CO2 emissions from fuel combustion for electricity and heating per total
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Outcome	Output Indicator	2023 Milestone	Target
2.1	---	---	---
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