

## REGIONAL REVIEW OF NATIONAL WATER PLANS AND / OR STRATEGIES

As the saying goes “no water no development”. Water is a very scarce resource in the South Mediterranean; climate change will further exacerbate this scarcity. Water needs to be managed properly and sustainably to yield economic benefits and contribute to poverty reduction. Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) (sect 2.1) is an approach that ensures the sustainability of water and its equitable sharing among users. IWRM secures water for people, agriculture, industry and nature for current and future generations. It secures the voice of women and the poor in the decision making process. It is a very important management tool especially in water scarce countries that are threatened by climate change. Conscious of the benefits of the approach, all SWIM-SM partner countries (PCs) have embarked on an integrated process of water planning, which, however, is blocked by several barriers. Decision makers and planners repeatedly ask: “how do we move forward”?.

Understanding where IWRM planning is at, particularly following the major political changes in the region, is the purpose (chap 1) of the analysis organized by SWIM-SM. A desk study covers all the PCs (section 2.2) and is followed by an in depth review in three countries namely Jordan, Lebanon, and Tunisia. Issues such as, the enabling environment, management instruments, financing, impact and priority challenges, are evaluated at the regional level. At the country level (chap 3), the evaluation focuses on a) progress and achievements, b) gaps, shortcomings and constraints, and c) challenges. The conclusion (Section 2.3): “can do better”. Progress in IWRM planning is highly evident, with potential for improvement in specific issues such as enabling framework, financing, ecosystem services, water allocation to nature, cross-sectorial planning, water governance, etc.

What countries ask for usually is “what do we do to implement IWRM?”. The report does not stop at identifying barriers but it also proposes solutions (Chap 4) for moving forward and identifies current and future opportunities to support sustainability and IWRM (chap 5).

The “Regional Review of National Water Plans and/or Strategies” will be the reference for stakeholders in water planning and management in the partner countries to draw and put into action a roadmap for water reform to reap economic development.

For the full report [click here](#)