

PWA Continues Implementation of Jenin Bulk Water Supply System Improvement Project to Serve Approximately 140,000 People

The Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) continues to implement the Jenin Bulk Water Supply System Improvement Project, including the construction of a water transmission pipeline connecting the Salem and Al-Jalama connection points to the main pumping station in Al-Jalama. The project is part of efforts to improve the bulk water supply system in the Jenin area, with the aim of increasing water availability and enhancing the continuity and efficiency of water services for approximately 140,000 people in residential communities and vital facilities across Jenin Governorate.

Funded by the World Bank and supervised by Sajdi Engineering Consultants, the project is being implemented by a consortium comprising Arabian Works Contracting Company and Arabian Company for Mechanical Contracting. The total contract value is approximately US\$11.49 million, with an implementation period of up to 18 months.

The project aims to improve the bulk water transmission system and connect the main sources, particularly at the Salem and Al-Jalama connection points, to residential communities and water distribution networks. This will contribute to increasing water availability, improving the regularity of water supply, and reducing reliance on water tankers, particularly during periods of high demand in summer.

The project will directly or indirectly benefit residents of Jenin, Jenin Camp, Burqin, Beit Qad, Deir Abu Da'if, Faqu'a, Jalbun, Deir Ghazala, Arabuna, Arranah, Wadi Al-Dabaa, Al-Jalama, Qabatiya, Al-Shuhada, and the industrial zone, as well as surrounding areas.

The project is expected to increase the availability of bulk water by approximately 7 million cubic meters annually through the Salem and Al-Jalama connection points. It will also improve water resources management and reduce water losses by establishing a modern water transmission system and enhancing water distribution efficiency.

In addition, the project will support the sustainability of water services by improving operation and maintenance efficiency and creating employment opportunities in the area, with 100% of the project workforce recruited locally.

Key Components of the Project

The project includes the construction of a water transmission pipeline connecting the Salem and Al-Jalama connection points to the main pumping station in Al-Jalama, with a total length of 13 kilometers for the first route and 610 meters for the second route. It also includes the construction of a ground-level balancing reservoir with a capacity of 1,500 cubic meters, as well as the main pumping station in Al-Jalama, equipped with pumps, control and monitoring rooms, and supporting facilities.

Implementation Progress

According to the latest implementation update, the project has reached approximately 13% completion. Several coordination meetings have been held with relevant institutions and stakeholders to ensure that the works are progressing in accordance with applicable technical and regulatory requirements.

At the main pumping station in Al-Jalama, excavation and site preparation works have been completed, along with the construction of retaining walls. Work is ongoing on the 1,500-cubic-meter balancing reservoir, following the completion of the foundation concrete works and the commencement of wall formwork.

Installation of the site pipelines is also underway. The stainless-steel pipelines have been completed, while work continues on the drainage chamber, pumping room, electrical room, and workers' accommodation facilities.

For the first-route transmission pipeline, the manufacturing and testing of 500-mm-diameter ductile iron pipes have been completed in China.

The final location of the connection point in Salem has also been verified, while the necessary coordination is ongoing to introduce several modifications to the scope of work, including relocating the flow-meter chamber above ground rather than constructing it underground.

For the second route, the 300-mm-diameter steel pipeline has been completed, while construction of the shared chamber for the drainage, metering, and air-release systems is ongoing.

Compliance with Environmental, Social, Health and Safety Standards

As part of the project's commitment to environmental and social requirements, the contractor's Environmental and Social Management Plan has been approved, including the Traffic Management and Security Plan. The Occupational Health and Safety Plan and the grievance mechanism have also been approved, ensuring that project activities are carried out in accordance with applicable standards and approved procedures.

Challenges Facing Project Implementation

The implementation of the project faces a number of challenges, most notably the prevailing security situation and restrictions on road movement and access to work sites, as well as fuel shortages and their impact on the movement of work teams and the transportation of materials and equipment.

Other challenges include increases in the prices of construction materials, shipping and insurance costs, as well as delays in the delivery of some ductile iron pipes due to the impact of regional conditions on supply chains.

The Palestinian Water Authority emphasized that the implementation of this project represents an important step toward strengthening the water supply system in Jenin Governorate, enhancing the efficiency of bulk water transmission, and improving the continuity and quality of water services. The project will contribute to meeting the growing needs of the population and supporting the sustainability of the water sector in the area.