

WATER MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES IN PALESTINE:
ROLE OF LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL NGO'S

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EMWIS WORKSHOP

Ramallah - Palestine

ROLE OF NGO'S

- NGOs played important role in improving the livelihood of the Palestinian Society over the past two decades. Such roles took various shapes during the three main stages prevailed as follows:

Full Occupation Stage: –

- The role was to strengthen the coping mechanisms of people against occupation through the provision of key services including water

– Partial Occupation (after Oslo):

- Participated in the rehabilitation and development of the situation after the negligence of occupation.
- Redefine their roles and strategies in accordance with the plans and strategies developed by the PNA.
- Integrate efforts and improve networking and co-ordination among NGOs (Local and International) and between GOs and NGOs.

What Makes the NGOs work Different than others

stakeholders

- The two common attributes of NGOs are that they are non governmental, and they are non-profit organizations.
- NGOs are motivated by other objectives than profit, the objectives of Palestinian NGOs are practically limitless in variety, and cover a wide area of interests, ranging from political, human rights, humanitarian and cultural causes, to the protection of the environment or part of it, to all types of welfare organizations working on the educational, health or social fields, refugee organizations, religious organizations, and to development-oriented organizations covering one or more sectors.
- NGOs reach the marginalized communities, groups, and remote areas with high flexibility with no constrains on number of inhabitants or allowed budget, the driven approach for the NGOs is the Demand-need of these communities
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Integrating involvement of many stakeholders

- NGOs approaches based strongly on grass roots relations, partnership and stakeholders' involvement, for the following reasons:
- Communities are the best to identify their own needs and priorities
- Communities are the best to sustain their own interventions if they participate in the project and if their capacities and skills enhanced to keep these interventions.
- Communities can be more efficient in reducing their livelihood bad conditions if their access to services, resources and knowledge enhanced by empowerment, and capacity building.
- Partnership with communities and other stakeholders is a key element in an integrated and multi sector approach,
- Integrating the communities needs into national policies is an essential element in sustaining the impact of developmental initiatives of NGOs with poor communities.
- Sharing experiences between stakeholders through partnership for poverty reduction produce better approaches.

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How Stakeholder Dialogue can be Facilitated?

- Facilitating “vertical” and “horizontal” communication, coordination between all relevant actors (including local communities), recognizing different perceptions, negotiating conflicting interests, finding win-win solutions, in a specific domain, requires interactive dialogue among all actors. Such dialogue often requires also the skills of a professional mediator with no direct stakes in the issue to be discussed. A person or organization who is able to help others to listen to each other, to help actors to find common ground where possible; and if not, to come to reasonable compromise. Experience in many situations has shown that good process facilitation can contribute to better planning and implementation of viable and sustainable activities, Engel (97). Process facilitation here refers to mediating and guiding “brokering” processes in planning and decision making between government agencies (officials), local communities (end-users) and other relevant parties.

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– Re-Occupation Stage

- Shift from implementing short and medium term development plans to emergency and relief works.
- Focus on peoples survival and safety.
- Focus on removing economic, social and health hardships of the people.
- Lobbying hard to stop the aggression against Palestinian People.
- Monitoring and documenting the violations of the Occupation against all aspects including water and sanitation.
- Form sectoral coordination mechanisms (eg., EWASH) to integrate efforts and to respond to the emerging needs in a better ways. In addition to eliminate duplication

- EWASH is the coordination mechanism among the local and international NGO's working in the emergency water sanitation and hygiene in the OPT.
- Currently there are some 20 local and international NGO's in this coordination body. They meet monthly and exchange information about their activities (both ongoing and planned)
- EWASH has created a yahoo group where they place all the information on that place for members to refer to.

- EWASH members are filling in a monthly form related to the status of their emergency water and sanitation projects. These forms are also placed at the group location.
- EWASH is currently chaired by a local NGO (PHG) and co-chaired by an international NGO (ACPP).
- Due to the increasing work load, the voluntary coordination group decided to appoint a coordinator. ACPP secured funding through the Spanish cooperation AECI for one year.

- EWASH group is discussing the updates in the WASH situation in the OPT. They also benefit from the WASH monitoring program initiated and implemented by PHG.
- The group also discusses the major obstacles and difficulties facing them during their daily work and also discussing strategies on how to face such problems.

EMPOWERS, a practical example



EMPOWERS, a practical example



Major Obstacles and Problems

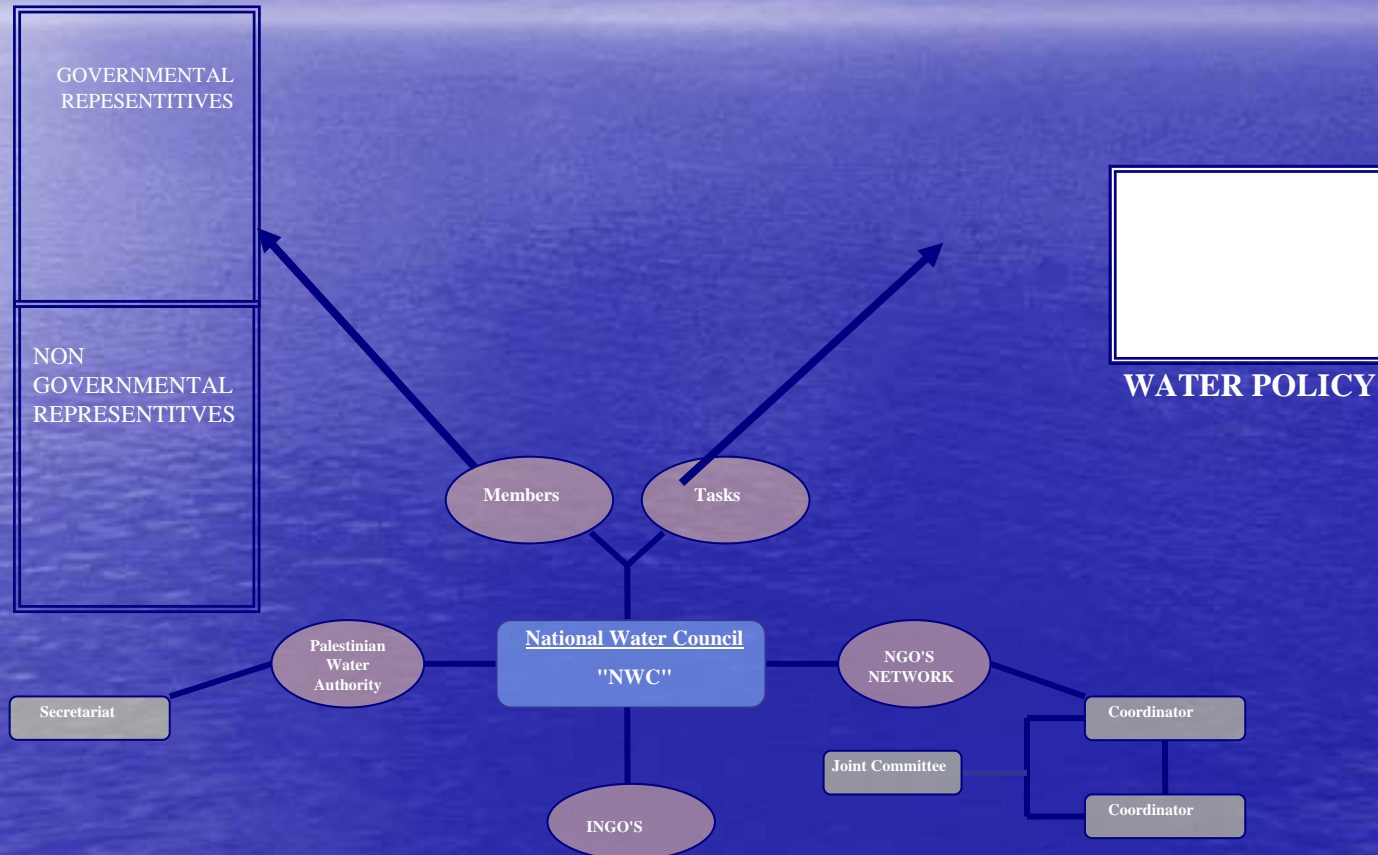
- Occupation is the major problem.
- Other important problems are:
 - Shifts in Peoples priorities and preferences in accordance with the various stages.
 - The lack of systems and the deficient rule of law.
 - The lack of understanding of the civil society concepts, rights and implications.
 - The non availability of crises management scenarios and preparedness.

What's Next?

- It is clear that with the Occupation there will be no real development in all sectors including water and the work of NGOs will be continued like it is right now.
- In the meantime NGOs will continue to work in parallel to build the capacity of public and empower them to cope with the situation.

- The need is probably more than ever before for the real co-ordination and integration of NGO and GO work to meet this huge challenge.
- This would also mean that NGOs will develop integrated plans and means to unify the lobbying activities through the established coordination mechanisms (general and sectoral).
- NGO's will continue monitoring the impact of the crises on water availability and accessibility to adequate water and sanitation

STRUCTUR OF PARTICIPATION



Potential Sources of Conflicts

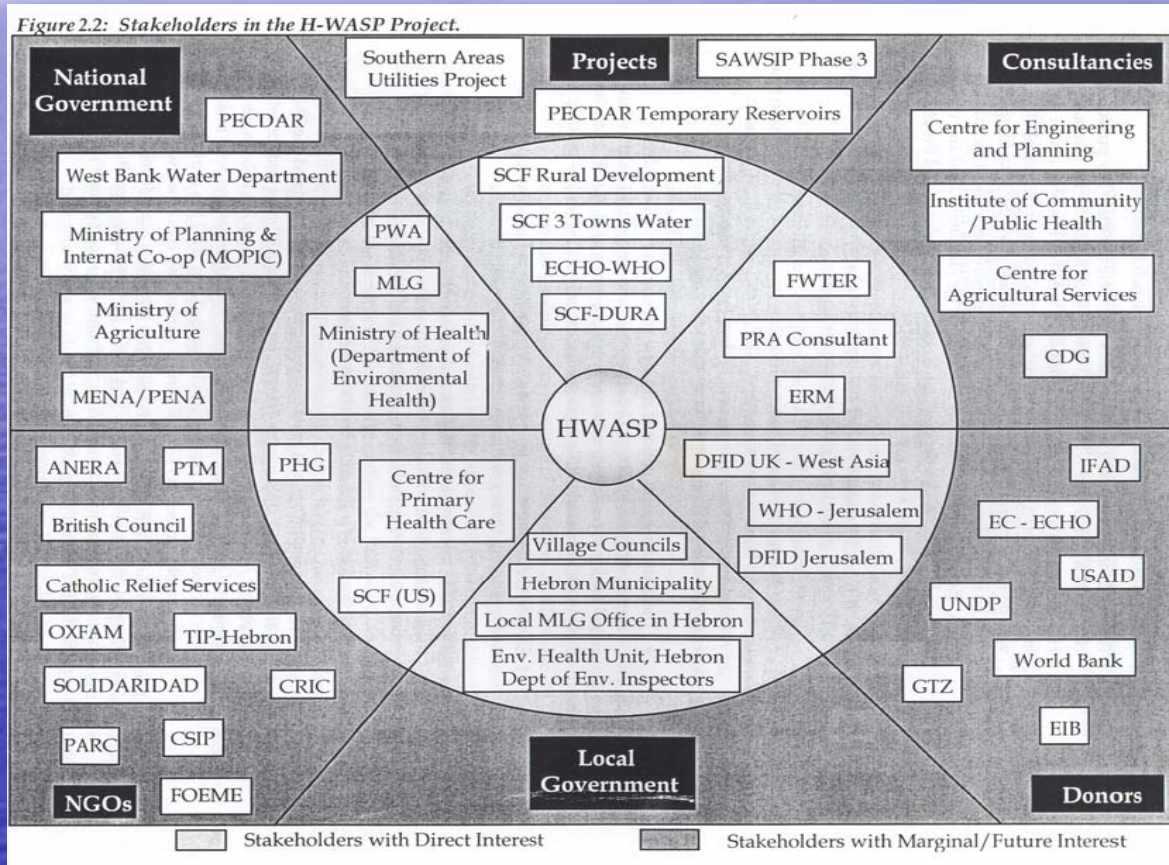
- Different Perception and Interests

Conflicts are not necessarily related to situations of war; they can also reflect situations in which competing actors have simply different interests they want to defend. In many cases such conflicts of interest have resulted from the different perception on the same issue. In some certain cases these conflicts of interest can be reasonably dealt with through direct negotiation among competing actors. However, in situations of war or occupation the margins of negotiation are often extremely narrow or non-existent

How Stakeholder Dialogue can be Facilitated?

- Moreover, facilitation should pay special attention to the less advantaged and poorer segments of the communities and actors. Every community has its own socio-economic configuration determined by culture, wealth, gender, land tenure, access to resources, etc. In most if not all communities there will be groups that are more vulnerable, have less resources and therefore, less influence in decision-making.

STAKEHOLDERS ANALYSIS AT PROJECT LEVEL



EMPOWERS, a practical example



The background is a smooth blue gradient. On the left side, there is a bright, glowing area that resembles a sun or moon reflecting on water, creating a shimmering effect. The rest of the background is a deep, uniform blue.

THANK YOU