Priority Initiatives:
• Focus on trans-boundary water and environmental concerns
• Meet needs of the local communities
• Reduce sources of tension and reflects solidarity between neighboring communities

Priority Initiatives Process:
• Consultations
• Developing project briefs
• Gaining support for Solutions
The “Good Water Neighbors” Project

Priority Initiatives take place in 25 GWN communities situated around the region’s shared water resources:

• 9 Jordan Valley communities
• 5 Dead Sea communities
• 9 Mountain Aquifer communities
• 2 Coastal Aquifer communities
Preventing pollution of the Hebron/Be'er Sheva / Besor Stream by Israeli sources
Partnering Communities
Eshkol Regional Council, Israel
Abasan, Gaza Strip, Palestine
Shared Waters
Problem Statement:

• Illegal discharge of sewage and low quality effluents
• solid waste
The Shoket Waste Water Treatment Plant and the pumping station south of Be'er Sheva

Problem Statement: cont’d.
Problem Statement: cont’d.

Wadi Gaza:
• Sewage discharge to the Wadi
• Solid waste dumping in the Wadi
Priority Initiative:
Prevent dumping of sewage/low quality effluents from Israeli sources into the Hebron/Be'er Sheva/Besor Stream after the stream crosses the green line into Israel, until it crosses in Gaza.

- Identify sources of illegal discharge of sewage to the stream
- Identify operational and policy loopholes allowing for discharge of pollutants to the stream
- Ensure the presence of supportive practices and infrastructure for effluent reuse
- Support efforts of the Ministry of Environment Protection to identify and prevent illegal discharge of sewage to the stream
- Create awareness in relevant civil society forums (e.g. Hebron Stream Forum) about pollution by Israeli sources of the stream
- Continue to provide information about progress made on both sides of the Green Line to the respective neighbors.
Rehabilitating the Lower Jordan River (salinity challenges)
Partnering Communities

- Israeli communities of the Lower Jordan River (LJR) - Jordan Valley Regional Council, Beit Shean Municipality and the Spring Valley Regional Council

- Palestinian communities of the LJR – Fasayel, Auja and Jericho

- Jordanian communities of the LJR - Muaz Bin Jabal Municipality, Tabket Fahel,Sharhabil bin Hassnah, Deir Allah and South Shouna
Shared Waters
Shared Waters cont’d.

Diversions of the Jordan River:
- The Israeli National Water carrier
- The Kind Abdullah Canal
- Various Syrian dams and reservoirs
**Vision**

- Rehabilitating the LJR requires 400 MCM/Yr (less than a third of the historical flow), to be expanded to 600 MCM over time.

- The river's salinity should be reduced to no more than 750 milligram per liter (mg/L).

- Primarily fresh water needs to be returned to the river.

- Only the highest quality of effluents allowed (with effluents constituting no more than 25% of the LJR’s base flow).
Problem Statement:

• Reduction of freshwater inputs from the Sea of Galilee & Yarmouk River

• Diversion of saline springs into the LJR

• Increased salinity is the primary water quality challenge in the LJR

• 50% loss of the River's biodiversity
Problem Statement: cont’d.

- Flow of fish farms effluents into the LJR
- Drainage and seepage into the LJR of groundwater from saline springs in the Jordan Valley and the Spring Valley
Priority Initiative:
Ensure a maximum salinity of no more than 750 milligram per liter (mg/L) in the Lower Jordan River, as part of the larger plan of rehabilitating the LJR and restoring ecological integrity and biodiversity to the River.

- Educate decision makers about the importance of ensuring a maximum salinity of no more than 750 milligram per liter (mg/L) in the Lower Jordan River and how current plans for the region endanger this prospect.
- Hold meetings with stakeholders to communicate and raise support for the FoEME advocated position on salinity in the LJR.
- Identify and facilitate partnership with international investors for brine pipeline project.