

Shortage prompts radical plan to address loss

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AMMAN - With the Kingdom losing around 138.9 million cubic metres (mcm) of water annually due to worn out pipeline networks, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation on Sunday announced a JD300 million project to minimise the loss.

The ministry's measures, coordinated with the Jordan Water Company (Miyahuna), are part of efforts to conserve the water supply in anticipation of the added pressure of the summer season.

"The ministry is currently working on 15 projects for rehabilitating the deteriorating water networks in Amman. Similar schemes also are being implemented in the country's northern governorates of Jerash, Ajloun and Mafraq," Ministry of Water and Irrigation's Spokesperson and Assistant Secretary General Adnan Zu'bi told The Jordan Times yesterday.

Water loss, a key challenge facing the ministry, stands at 46.3 per cent. In the capital it totals 39.8 per cent and is higher in the southern governorates and agricultural areas.

Zu'bi said water loss in Maan amounts to as much as 70 per cent and around 28 per cent in Jerash and Madaba, while in Irbid it stands at 43 per cent.

"We are working to bring this down to 30 per cent over the coming years," the official said.

According to the ministry, reduction of every 1 per cent of water loss saves the country 3mcm of water.

To this end, the ministry has announced an award for the best performer among the country's water and irrigation departments in regard to curbing water loss. Zu'bi said the award serves as an incentive to carry out the vital job as best as possible.

"The initiative is working," he said.

"Water loss in Jerash and Madaba is already going down, but in order to feel a real difference, more time and commitment is required," Zu'bi noted.

Meanwhile, Miyahuna Executive Director Kamal Zu'bi said the company is carrying out a multimillion project for rehabilitating the capital's deteriorating water pipes.

"Under the 2007-2011 project, the company plans to replace worn out distribution and service pipelines. Carrying out maintenance and rehabilitation will help reduce water loss by 85 per cent," the director told The Jordan Times yesterday.