

Section 2

Thematic guidelines

Introduction

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Section 2 provides thematic guidelines for different audiences based on lessons learned from international experiences, the case studies in Section 3 and the ReWater MENA project activities in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt.

There are multiple international guidelines to improve environmental quality and food safety in water-food systems (Figure S2.1). There are numerous guidelines for water pollution control from different sources and guidelines for health, environmental and agronomic protection when using marginal quality water to produce, process or prepare food (for example, see FAO 2013; Mateo-Sagasta et al. 2018; UNEP 2004; WHO 2006, 2015, 2019). There are also technical guidelines about direct water reuse for different purposes (for example, see US-EPA 2012). But these guidelines seldom address in-depth issues such as adopting financial models for cost recovery, gender integration, barriers to acceptance and governance frameworks. This section provides specific guidance on these niche topics, which are poorly covered in the existing literature.

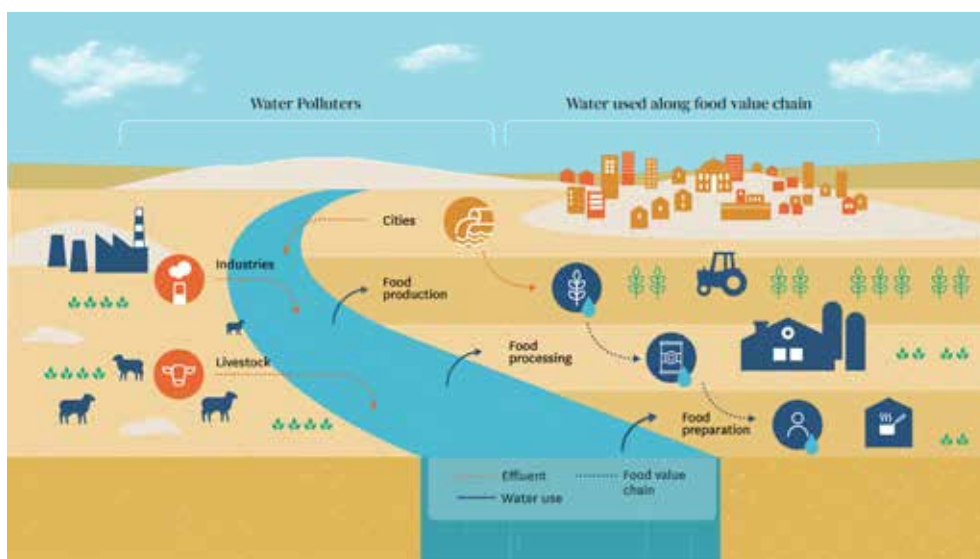


FIGURE S2.1 The waste-water-food value chain.

Chapter 6 provides guidelines for developing bankable water reuse models. These guidelines present an outline that can be used to develop bankable water reuse models in MENA. It supports the public and private sectors such as wastewater treatment operators, water utilities, ministries of agriculture, ministries of water and irrigation, and forestry commissions as well as investors and donors interested in developing wastewater reuse models in a particular location and context. The guidelines are developed based on IWMI's research on water reuse and business models development.

Chapter 7 proposes some guidelines for gender mainstreaming in water reuse. These generic guidelines enable project designers and implementers to understand and address the differences between and among women, men, girls and boys in terms of their relative ownership, distribution and control over resources, opportunities, constraints and power across the project cycle. These guidelines offer an introduction to core gender concepts and a framework for gender mainstreaming in water reuse based on the project planning cycle and the gender mainstreaming approach as suggested by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. These guidelines further provide a brief section on why we need to move towards gender transformative approaches (GTAs). GTAs aim to address the root causes of gender inequality and aligns with Sweden's feminist foreign policy approach for a gender-equal humane world. GTAs also enhance the ability of women and girls to become influential actors who can individually and collectively exercise their rights and claim their entitlements equally with men.

Chapter 8 explores how to improve acceptance of water reuse. Technology and good practices already exist to manage reclaimed water projects and meet or exceed health-based targets. However, good practices and adequate technical capacity are not enough to guarantee the success of water reuse interventions in terms of community buy-in. Understanding the issues and concerns around perceptions and acceptance and addressing these with timely, effective communications and stakeholder engagement can significantly help to build trust and improve and support of reclaimed water use initiatives. A comprehensive communication plan targeting key stakeholders is essential to the success of water reuse projects or policy decisions. This chapter provides a greater understanding of the issues that hinder acceptance of water reuse across the MENA region, and tools and strategies to overcome them.

Chapter 9 presents some guidelines and practices that can lead to harmonious planning and governance of agricultural water reuse projects in MENA. This chapter is solution oriented and provides stepwise guidelines, tools and examples for consensus building. It shows that governance problems are often rooted in deeper socio-political structures that cannot simply be changed by implementing participatory processes and social engineering tools. Some examples identified in MENA are cited to draw the attention on this type of challenges and to open the debate around the difficult question of reaching 'good water reuse governance' in the region.

References

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