

Jordan – Ministry studying establishment of five new dams

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MENAFN – The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is currently studying the establishment of five new dams in various parts of the country with a total capacity of 15.1 million cubic metres (MCM) of water for drinking and irrigation purposes.

The ministry has also finalized a study for constructing Dlagha Dam in Madaba and floated a tender earlier this year for establishing Shaitham Dam in Tafileh and Wahidi Dam in Maan with a feeding basin area of 895 square kilometers, Jordan Valley Authority Assistant Secretary General for Dams Khairi Ammari said on Sunday.

“The Ministry has several plans for establishing a number of dams in Mafraq, Amman and Zarqa when the needed funds are secured, in addition to raising the walls of the Waleh Dam in Madaba and Shuaib Dam in Balqa among others,” Ammari added.

Official figures indicate that the 1.43mcm Shuaib Dam and the 8.177mcm Al Waleh are currently full.

The ministry will also establish dams in Karak and Tafileh with a total capacity of 25mcm, with a rainwater feeding basin area of over 488 square kilometers.

“Establishing new and expanding existing ones aim at benefiting from water harvesting and making use of surface water resources to increase storage that can be used in summer,” Ammari underscored.

The country, which started constructing dams in the 1960s, is home to 10 major dams with a total capacity of 327mcm and built at an estimated cost of over JD 300 million.

The country’s major dams, including Wihdeh, with a feeding basin of 13,980 square kilometers, currently hold around 118mcm of water.

Ammari said that 91 percent of Jordan’s total area of 97,000 square kilometers are situated in arid areas with an annual rainfall average of 50-200 millimetres, and 2.9 percent of the country’s land is categorized as semi-arid with an annual rainfall average of 400-580 millimetres, while 5.7 percent receive an average of 50-300 millimetres annually.