



Amman City
Greater Amman Municipality

“The ODS and the action of cities against inequality: a Mediterranean perspective”

Amman's first VLR-2022

Barcelona - Spain

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Amman city

- Amman is the capital of Jordan, which has about 4 million residents (42% of the national population), is a main industrial center, and is home to international development and cooperation agencies.
- In Jordan 44% of the national population is under 18 years of age, in Amman city youth represent (20%) of city residence.
- According to “Amman Profile-2018”, about 36% of Amman city population are refugees (Syrians, Palestinians, Iraqis, Sudanese, Yemenis, and Somalis).
- Over the past decade, Amman has invested in improving the quality of life, in green growth, and in addressing climate change with the support of an international partners from ESCWA, UN-Habitat, UCLG, and many others.

Amman's VLR

- VLRs have the potential to become powerful accelerators of SDG localization worldwide, coupled with an enhanced political commitment to the 2030 Agenda, civic engagement, and participatory planning, while fostering partnerships for the Goals.
- Jordan launched its second VNR in which it seeks to review and assess the measures taken to meet the 2030 Agenda. In doing so, Jordan has to report on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) even as the HLPF 2022 focused on : SDG4, SDG5, SDG14, SDG15, and SDG17 to reflect the interlink ages and synergies between them
- The year 2022 marks a milestone in Amman's commitment to the 2030 Agenda's Goals and values, with the launching of the first Voluntary Local Review (VLR) in parallel with the second VNR.

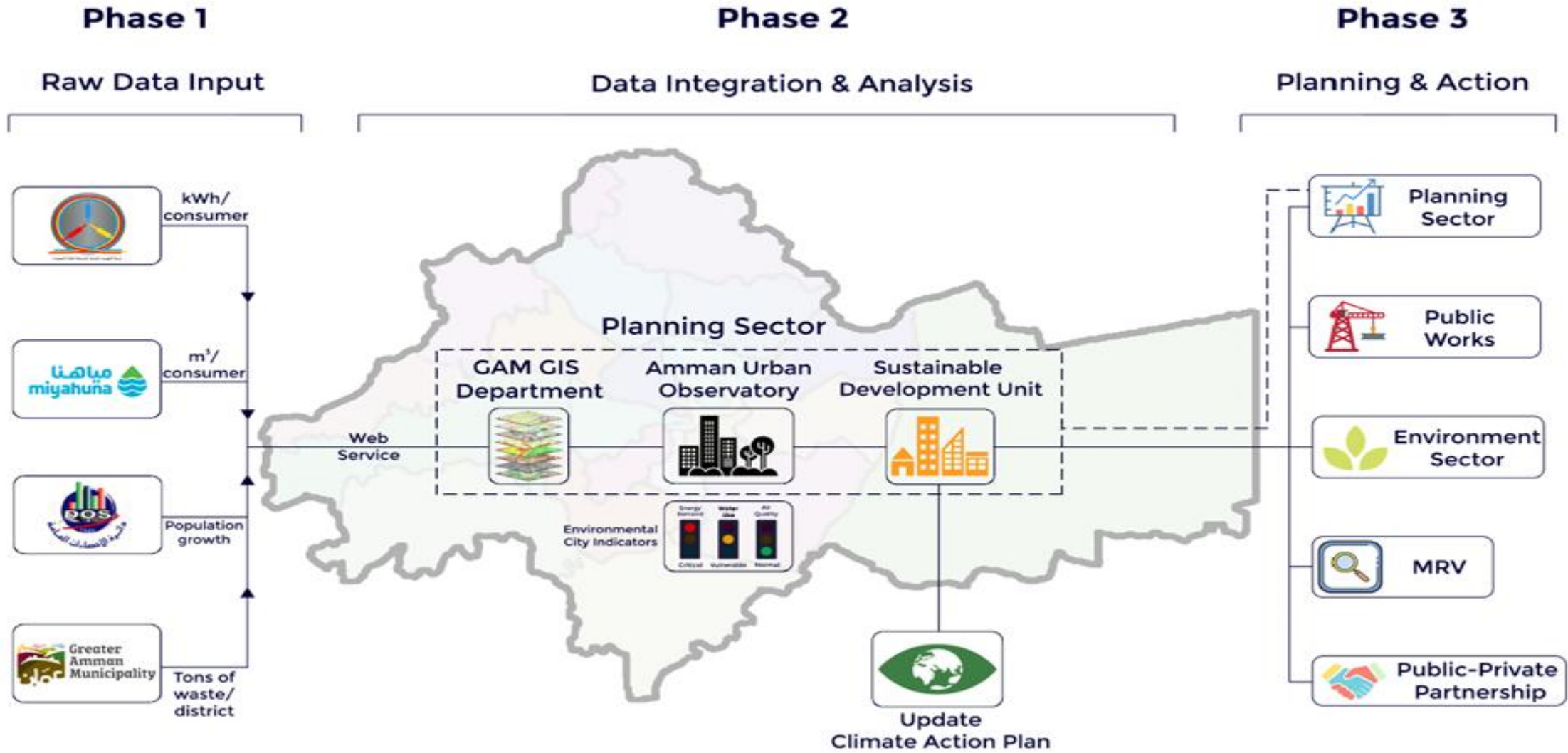
Amman VLR Goals

- VLR focused on a review of the city's progress towards Six goals from the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 3, SDG 7, SDG 9, SDG11, SDG 13 and SDG 17).



Examples of (projects, strategies, initiatives) from Amman city that show progress towards localizing SDGs :

- Amman city is implementing many strategies, from which projects have emerged on the ground straight forward to achieving SDGs, like: Amman green city action plan , Smart city, Resilience city , Adult-friendly city , Sustainable electronic transformation....
- Bus Rapid Transit BRT : A flexible and fully-integrated public transportation system that provides rapid, safe, and highly reliable service for city population.
- Sanitary landfill project for solid waste.
- SURE project: Through the Sustainable Urban Development (SURE) project with collaborating with UNDP, a sustainable map for the city of Amman is being prepared, which is based on the preparation of an integrated and automated database to implementing urban sustainability standards for the city.
- Climate change Adaptation projects: under ground tanks, rainfall harvesting (Al Zohuhor Green triangle)
- The projects mentioned are included in the Greater Amman Municipality Strategic Plan 2022-2026 which related to SDGs and measured through KPIs.



The basic principles of Amman's VLR:

- **Evidence-Based** : Data and information were collected in order to produce indicators for measuring the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and in the implementation of initiatives and projects reporting the progress towards the SDGs
 - Various types of data: ; official statistics, administrative data
 - Data which comes in various formats (numerical and non-numerical)
 - Data that comes from a reliable data producer (GAM, AUO) and a reliable source (e.g. the Housing and Population Census)
 - The most recent data available and data produced at regular intervals
 - Data sourced using various techniques (e.g. surveys, interviews)
- **Participatory** : all stakeholders from all sectors of the Greater Amman Municipality, ministries, government departments, civil society, international bodies and academics were involved in Amman city, following the central promise of the 2030 Agenda for SDG's of "leaving no one behind."

Amman VLR participatory process:

- The VLR reflects the vision of GAM and the voices of over 60 entities consulted in the process:
 - Various public sector institutions
 - International organizations, businesses, academia, and civil society organizations that represent the interests of vulnerable groups.
- Reviewed by multiple organizations GAM and its key partners, ESCWA, UN-Habitat, UCLG-MEWA, the UN Resident Coordinator Office in Jordan, UN Women, UNDP, the Jordanian National Commission for Women, UNDP İstanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (UNDP IICPSD), Karatay Municipality (Konya, Türkiye), and Sultanbeyli Municipality (İstanbul, Türkiye).

The basic principles of Amman's VLR:

- **Full alignment (compatibility) with JORDAN'S VNR:** Amman gathers 42% of the total population of Jordan. Report complementarity entails presenting similar challenges and opportunities in two different but complementary levels.
- **Actionable:** It highlight the projects, initiatives policies and strategies implemented by various groups of stakeholders in Amman city to strengthen current efforts to support progress towards the SDGs.

Partners:

The preparation of the VLR is led by GAM along with UN-Habitat and ESCWA and UCLG

Representative and Participatory



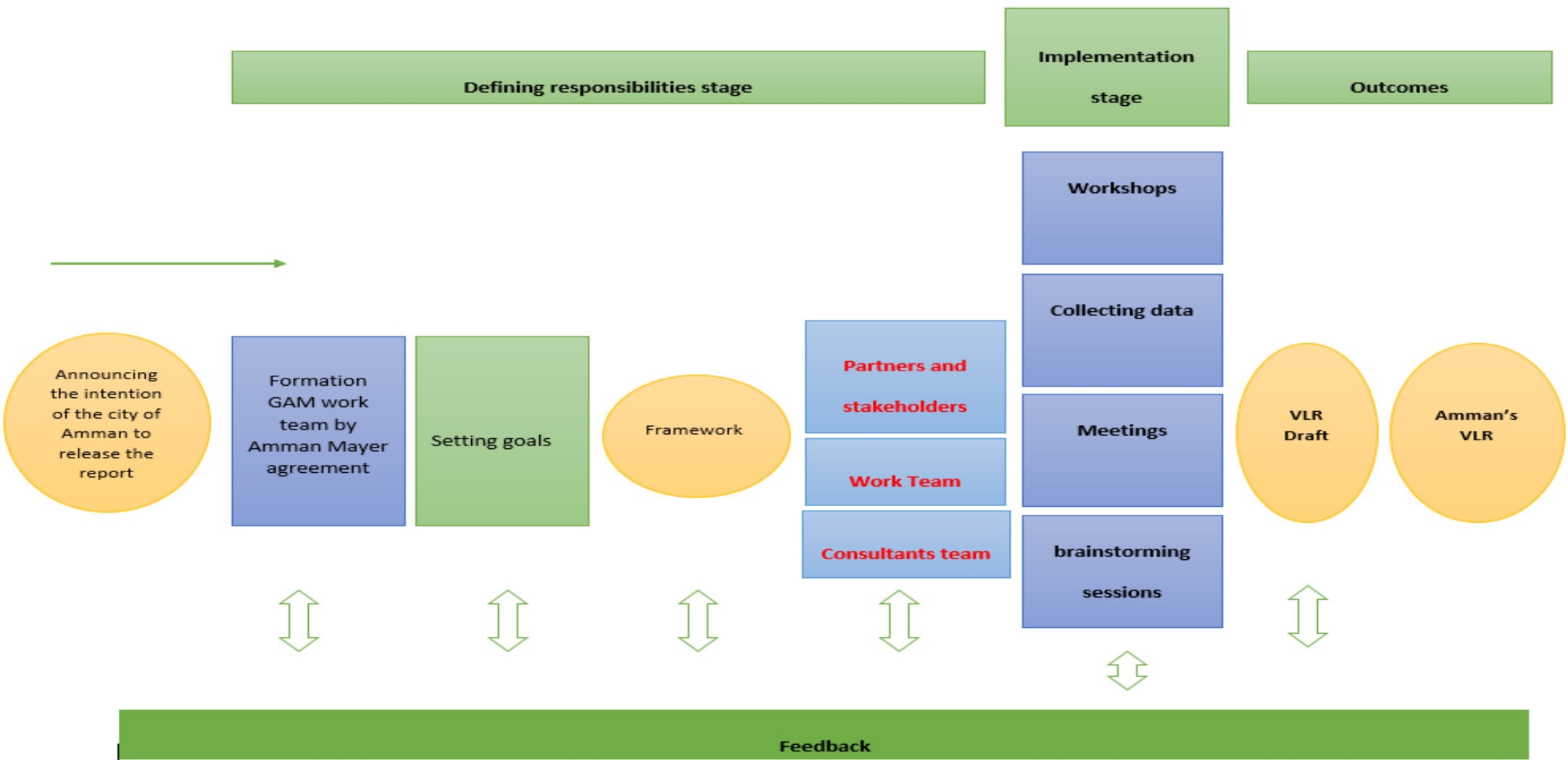
Stakeholder Participation



An integrated approach, Inclusive, Participatory, and leaving no one behind was followed in preparing Amman's VLR based on involving everyone in the city of Amman.

Objective	Details	Target group
Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar to share information about the VLR process, objectives; time frame, activities • Follow up by email for data collection; questionnaire O,... 	All
Focus discussion groups	3 meetings, identify priority targets for SDG's, discuss progress and vision, and updates on ongoing activities or projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government • Private sector • NGOs • Academia, civil society
Expert group validation	Discuss main findings and directions	Expert group (request nominations)

Base plan for preparing Amman's VLR:



Step by step SDG progress review:

- Determination which SDGs will be included in VLR (discussed)
- Collection of quantitative and qualitative data to inform SDG targets,
 - with support of GAM, especially Amman Urban Observatory (main data producer)
 - including desk research.
- Data analysis and verification (e.g. verifying data values and sources)
- Attributing data to SDG targets and writing-up 6 SDGs Working Papers (WPs) that review by various groups of stakeholders, through a participatory process (e.g. 2 consultation meetings per each SDG WP, bilateral correspondence).

VLR main outcomes:

- VLR mainstreamed the SDGs into policies and strategies, programs and partnerships, and municipal operations, covering energy, building, housing and transport. VLR developed new approaches to participatory planning and deliver innovative, climate resilient urban infrastructure to achieve the SDGs.
- Applying the guidelines of the New Urban Agenda 2030, promote the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at local level especially SDG11. Municipal policies, strategies, programs, plans working towards for inclusive city, leaving no one behind and ensuring that all partners and communities in Amman are considered in the planning process.
- Promoting evidence-based policy, Developing and building capabilities in information technology, Adopting SDGs within the national strategies and GAM strategic plan 2022 -2026.

VLR main outcomes:

- Develop multiple partnerships with the private and public sector institutions, investors, financial institutions, businesses, international organizations, and local NGOs to gather efforts towards localizing SDG's and to Develop government services.
- Promoting resilient and climate-resilient urban infrastructure, particularly in the water, waste, transportation and energy sectors, and by providing accessible and open green public spaces for all as well as the complete electronic transformation of city services.

VLR main outcomes:

- Enriching the report with a variety of success stories like : the climate change plan, Amman is a green city, Amman is a resilience city, Amman is a child-friendly city, Amman is friendly to the elderly, Amman is one of the leading 40 cities, “Hakeem” a project for the Ministry of Health.
- Releasing VLR and VNR together; reflected positively towards achieving SDGs, by improving data quality and accuracy, also for expanding the base of participation in preparing VNR through the inclusion of partnerships in the private sector and local community.

SDGs Achieving Challenges :

- **Challenges related to policies** : There were challenges to align national efforts and SDGs, also a frequent changes in policies and responsible leadership.
- **Challenges related to funding**: Limited funding and allocations within the general budget, and lack of interest by donors and international partners in providing financial support.
- **Challenges related to technical issues**: Overlaps in the tasks of the different sectors, and the need to update laws and instructions.
- **Institutional and human capabilities** : Lacking in capabilities and competencies, also lacking in a comprehensive and documented database.
- **Covid 19 Pandemic**: Impact on all sectors due to the closures and the suspension of some aspects of life.
- **Refugees** : Regional crises led to waves of immigrants that affected the country infrastructure.

Highlights of Amman's VLR Results according to each SDG

Amman VLR highlights for SDG3 (Good health and Well-Being)

- Amman known for its healthcare infrastructure and services in the country and in the region (medical tourism).
- 47.3% of the population of the city have access to public hospitals and public health centres within a 15-minute walking distance.
- In 2015, 41.2% of Amman's population had health insurance.
- Increased non-communicable diseases incidence associated with air pollution.

Amman VLR highlights for SDG7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)

- 95% of energy mix are imported fossil fuels
- Relatively high electricity prices.
- GAM's investments in large-scale solar projects; integrating LED lighting systems into street lighting, installing rooftop solar units on municipal buildings, developing solar and others.

Amman VLR highlights for SDG9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)

- National-level support for SME's: e.g. establishing a credit bureau, launching export and loan guarantee programs.
- 85% of Amman's population is subscribed to mobile broadband services
- Growing ICTs sector, generating \$2.3 billion revenues in 2018, and an annual increase rate at 5%.
- GAM established the “Creative Women Hub” for women to acquire the necessary capabilities in the field of ICT and e-marketing.

Amman VLR highlights for SDG11 (SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES)



Developing and improving accessibility to public green and open spaces for all:

can play a critical role in addressing **environmental challenges**, especially in relation to climate change, and it can **improve health, well-being and social cohesion**. This is particularly important in relation to **women and vulnerable communities**, as they are more reliant on access to public spaces.



Amman's municipal government is encouraged to work closely with the national government to

- reinforce the implementation of national and international commitments.
- develop new tailored housing solutions, to improve housing affordability and quality



One of the flagship transport infrastructure development projects administered by GAM is the planned **Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system**. Starting in 2008, the project's main goal is to **increase the share of commuters using public transportation from 13% to 25% by the year 2025**.



GAM is currently planning to build a **mechanical biological treatment (MBT) system**, which stabilizes and separates waste unsuitable for recycling, extracting recyclable materials, treating organic waste, producing compost, enhancing soil, and producing solid recovered fuel (SRF) for industrial thermal applications. **This project is aligned with the strategic objectives of the Amman Green City Action Plan, which are to incorporate circular principles into waste management and to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills by 12% by 2030.**

Amman VLR highlights for SDG13 (climate actions)

Amman Is affected by Climate Change

Increasing temperatures, Erratic Rainfalls, Water Scarcity, Heatwaves, etc.



Amman is a Member of C40 Cities

Amman is committed to be climate-neutral by 2050



Dependency on Fossil Fuels and an uptake in Solar

GAM Created and shared design guidelines for rooftop solar PV systems. The 2012 Renewable Energy Law encouraged the use of Solar energy.



Development of Sustainable Recreational Areas

The Urban Micro-Lungs (UML): Aims at making dense urban areas greener by planting micro forests.



Flash Flood Resilience Project

Identified 120 suitable sites for Pilot Projects. Helps in reducing the effects of droughts and secures a reliable water source.

Al-Zohour green triangle pilot flood control. Mitigation of the effects of urban stormwater on the environment



Climate Change Integration in National and Local Political Realms

- Amman's Green Growth Programme
- National Policy on Climate Change
- Green Growth National Plan
- Amman's Resilience Strategy
- Amman Climate Action Plan 2050
- Amman Green City Action Plan



Amman Resilience Strategy



Amman VLR highlights for SDG17 (Strengthen means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development)

▪ Financial management:

- In 2020 88% of the revenues for GAM were self-generated.

● International Cooperation:

- GAM functions as a testing ground for collaborative and transformative development projects

in: Solid waste, urban resilience, climate change, flood management, green infrastructures, urban mobility and transport, financial management through the establishment of the Amman Vision Company

- City to city cooperation and sister city agreements (42 cities around the world)

- Amman is a member in the UCLG, C40, ATO, Mayor's migration Council, UITP.

Thank you