

## **BENEFIT SHARING AS A MECHANISM TO ADDRESS WATER SECURITY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The five riparians of the Jordan River basin (Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Palestine and Jordan) have long competed over fresh water resources, and continue to do this. The region is believed to be particularly strongly threatened by global climate change, implying that access to fresh water may become an even greater source of tension and difficulty in the future. A transition to benefit sharing in the basin - as opposed to the simple volumetric allocation of the water resources - offers great opportunities not only to improve the existing water management, but also to enhance regional economic growth and protect against future climate change. However, the riparians will need to change their existing mind-sets if this new approach is to be introduced.