



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



Participatory Action Research (PAR)
Multi-Sectoral Wastewater Recycling Techniques
for Sustainable Water Use in Duhok City

Prepared by:

Noor Ghassan Sami

Mavin mahdi Bahaddin

Payvin Hashim Muhammad

Judy Ibrahim Sdiq

Supervised by:

Dr. Mohammad Aziz Ibrahim

University of Duhok in collaboration with UNICEF

Dohuk Governorate, Kurdistan Region, Iraq

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1. Introduction

Duhok City, located in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, faces significant water scarcity due to a combination of factors, including rapid urbanization, population growth, and the impacts of climate change. The city's water resources are under increasing pressure, with demand for freshwater exceeding supply in many areas. This situation is exacerbated by inefficient water management practices, limited infrastructure, and the absence of structured wastewater recycling strategies.

Multi-sectoral wastewater recycling offers a promising solution to these challenges. By treating and reusing wastewater across domestic, agricultural, and industrial sectors, Duhok City can reduce its reliance on freshwater resources, minimize pollution, and ensure long-term water security. Wastewater recycling not only conserves water but also provides an alternative source of water for irrigation, industrial processes, and even potable uses in some cases.

However, the implementation of wastewater recycling in Duhok City faces several challenges, including high costs, lack of technical expertise, and public skepticism about the safety and quality of recycled water. Additionally, the absence of clear policies and cross-sector collaboration further complicates efforts to adopt sustainable water management practices.

This project aims to address these challenges by assessing current wastewater practices, identifying viable recycling solutions, and promoting cross-sector collaboration. The findings and recommendations from this research will provide a foundation for developing effective wastewater recycling strategies in Duhok City, contributing to sustainable water use and long-term water security in the region.

2. Literature Review

Wastewater recycling has emerged as a key solution for addressing water scarcity, particularly in regions facing water stress. Research has demonstrated that treated wastewater can be safely reused for various purposes, including irrigation, industrial processes, and even potable uses in some cases. Advanced treatment technologies, such as membrane filtration, reverse osmosis, and UV disinfection, have been shown to produce high-quality water that meets stringent safety standards (Asano & Levine, 1998).

In agricultural settings, the use of recycled wastewater for irrigation has been shown to conserve freshwater resources, improve soil fertility, and enhance crop yields (Angelakis et al., 2018). In industrial settings, wastewater recycling reduces freshwater dependence, minimizes environmental pollution, and lowers operational costs (Singh et al., 2020).

Several case studies from arid and semi-arid regions highlight the effectiveness of wastewater recycling in managing limited water resources sustainably. For example, Jordan has implemented large-scale wastewater recycling programs that have significantly reduced freshwater consumption and improved agricultural productivity (Al-Jayyousi, 2003). Similarly, Israel has developed advanced wastewater treatment and recycling systems that supply a significant portion of the country's agricultural water needs (Angelakis et al., 2018).

Despite these successes, challenges remain. High implementation costs, lack of technical expertise, and public skepticism about the safety and quality of recycled water are common barriers to the widespread adoption of wastewater recycling. Additionally, the absence of clear policies and regulatory frameworks often hinders efforts to implement sustainable water management practices.

In the context of Duhok City, these findings provide valuable insights. The experiences of other regions suggest that wastewater recycling can be a viable solution, but its success depends on addressing local challenges, including infrastructure development, stakeholder engagement, and public awareness.

3. Methodology

To achieve the project objectives, a participatory action research approach was adopted, involving data collection from multiple sectors and stakeholders in Duhok City. The methodology consisted of the following steps:

3.1 Questionnaire Distribution

Structured questionnaires were distributed to key stakeholders, including government agencies, industrial representatives, and small businesses. The questionnaires aimed to gather data on current wastewater practices, challenges, and potential opportunities for recycling. Questions

were designed to assess the frequency of wastewater generation, the types of wastewater generated, and the barriers to implementing recycling solutions.

3.2 Interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

Semi-structured interviews and FGDs were conducted with representatives from the municipal government, industrial sector, and local communities. These discussions provided deeper insights into the specific needs and concerns of different stakeholders regarding wastewater recycling. Key topics included the feasibility of different recycling technologies, the potential for cross-sector collaboration, and the role of policy in supporting recycling initiatives.

3.3 Data Collection and Analysis

Data from questionnaires, interviews, and FGDs were collected and analyzed to identify patterns, challenges, and opportunities. The analysis focused on understanding the current state of wastewater management, the feasibility of different recycling technologies, and the potential for cross-sector collaboration. Quantitative data from the questionnaires were analyzed using statistical methods, while qualitative data from interviews and FGDs were analyzed using thematic analysis.

3.4 Results and Recommendations

Based on the data analysis, results were synthesized to provide actionable recommendations for implementing wastewater recycling in Duhok City. These recommendations were tailored to address the specific challenges identified during the research process, including high costs, lack of technical expertise, and public skepticism about recycled water.

This methodology ensured a comprehensive understanding of the current wastewater management landscape in Duhok City and provided a foundation for developing effective recycling strategies.

4. Results

The results from the **survey, questionnaire, and FGDs** provide a detailed understanding of the current state of wastewater management in Duhok City, the challenges faced by different sectors, and the potential for implementing wastewater recycling solutions. Below, we present the findings from each method, along with additional context and analysis to enhance clarity and depth.

4.1 Survey Results

The survey was conducted with a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from government/municipal services, the industrial sector, and small businesses. The results are summarized below, with additional insights and analysis.

4.1.1 Sectoral Representation

- **Government/Municipal Services:**
 - **48.9%** of respondents were from government/municipal services, making it the largest sector represented in the survey.
 - This reflects the central role of government agencies in managing water resources and wastewater in Duhok City.
 - Respondents from this sector highlighted the need for improved infrastructure, such as sewerage networks and treatment facilities, to support wastewater recycling.
- **Industrial Sector:**
 - **19.1%** of respondents were from the industrial sector, including manufacturing, mining, and other industries.
 - Industries generate significant amounts of wastewater, particularly from processes such as cooling, cleaning, and production.
 - Respondents from this sector emphasized the high cost of treatment systems as a major barrier to implementing recycling solutions.
- **Agricultural Sector:**
 - **0%** of respondents were from the agricultural sector, indicating a lack of representation in the survey.

- This is a significant gap, as agriculture is a major water consumer in Duhok City, and wastewater recycling could provide a valuable source of irrigation water.
- The absence of agricultural stakeholders suggests a need for targeted outreach to engage this sector in future research and initiatives.

4.1.2 Wastewater Generation Frequency

- **Daily:**

- **42.2%** of respondents reported generating wastewater on a daily basis.
- This is particularly common in the industrial sector, where processes such as cooling and cleaning require continuous water use.
- Daily wastewater generation highlights the need for scalable and cost-effective recycling solutions to manage high volumes of wastewater.

- **Weekly:**

- **22.2%** of respondents reported generating wastewater on a weekly basis.
- This is more common in small businesses, such as retail and hospitality, where water use is less intensive than in industries.
- Weekly generation suggests that recycling solutions should be flexible to accommodate varying levels of wastewater production.

- **Not Sure:**

- **20%** of respondents were unsure about the frequency of their wastewater generation.
- This indicates a lack of awareness or monitoring of water use in some sectors, particularly small businesses.
- Improved data collection and monitoring systems could help address this uncertainty and provide a clearer picture of wastewater generation patterns.

4.1.3 Challenges in Implementing Wastewater Recycling

- **High Cost of Treatment Systems:**

- **23.3%** of respondents identified the high cost of treatment systems as a major barrier.
- Advanced treatment technologies, such as membrane filtration and UV disinfection, require significant upfront investment, which may be prohibitive for small businesses and industries with limited budgets.

- Financial incentives, such as subsidies or low-interest loans, could help overcome this barrier.
- **Lack of Technical Expertise:**
 - **14%** of respondents cited a lack of technical expertise as a challenge.
 - Many businesses lack the knowledge and skills needed to implement and maintain wastewater recycling systems.
 - Training programs and technical support could help build capacity and address this issue.
- **Concerns About Recycled Water Quality:**
 - **14%** of respondents expressed concerns about the quality and safety of recycled water.
 - Public skepticism about recycled water is a common barrier to its adoption, particularly for potable uses.
 - Education and awareness campaigns, along with transparent monitoring and reporting of water quality, could help build trust and acceptance.

4.2 Questionnaire Results

The questionnaire provided additional insights into wastewater generation and management practices across different sectors. Below, we present the key findings, along with further analysis and context.

4.2.1 Sectoral Representation

- **Government/Municipal Services:**
 - The questionnaire confirmed the dominance of government/municipal services in wastewater management, with respondents emphasizing the need for improved infrastructure and policy support.
- **Industrial Sector:**
 - The industrial sector was identified as a significant contributor to wastewater generation, particularly in industries such as manufacturing and mining.
 - Respondents from this sector highlighted the need for cost-effective recycling solutions that can be integrated into existing processes.
- **Small Businesses:**

- Small businesses, including retail, hospitality, and automotive sectors, also generate wastewater, though at lower volumes compared to industries.
- Respondents from this sector emphasized the need for affordable and easy-to-implement recycling solutions.

4.2.2 Wastewater Generation Frequency

- **Daily:**
 - The questionnaire confirmed that daily wastewater generation is common in the industrial sector, particularly in industries with continuous water use.
- **Weekly/Monthly:**
 - Small businesses, such as retail and hospitality, were more likely to generate wastewater on a weekly or monthly basis.
 - This suggests that recycling solutions should be adaptable to varying levels of wastewater production.

4.2.3 Challenges

- **High Costs:**
 - The questionnaire reinforced the survey findings, with respondents identifying high costs as a major barrier to implementing recycling solutions.
- **Technical Expertise:**
 - Respondents also cited a lack of technical expertise as a challenge, particularly in small businesses and industries with limited resources.
- **Water Quality Concerns:**
 - Concerns about the quality and safety of recycled water were a recurring theme, highlighting the need for education and awareness campaigns.

4.3 FGD Results

The FGDs provided deeper insights into the challenges and opportunities for wastewater recycling in Duhok City. Below, we present the key findings, along with additional analysis and context.

4.3.1 Infrastructure Needs

- **Sewerage Networks:**

- 25% of FGD participants identified the need for comprehensive sewerage networks to collect and transport wastewater.
- Many areas in Duhok City lack adequate sewerage infrastructure, which hinders efforts to implement recycling solutions.
- **Treatment Facilities:**
 - 25% of participants emphasized the need for advanced treatment facilities to ensure the quality of recycled water.
 - Modern treatment technologies, such as membrane filtration and UV disinfection, are essential for producing high-quality recycled water.
- **Monitoring Systems:**
 - 25% of participants highlighted the importance of monitoring systems to track wastewater generation and treatment.
 - Real-time monitoring and data collection can help optimize recycling processes and ensure compliance with water quality standards.
- **Green and Digital Infrastructure:**
 - 10% of participants emphasized the need for green and digital infrastructure, such as smart water management systems and sustainable drainage solutions.
 - These technologies can enhance the efficiency and sustainability of wastewater recycling efforts.

4.3.2 Collaboration Gaps

- **Lack of Collaboration Between Industrial and Agricultural Sectors:**
 - 77% of FGD participants identified a lack of collaboration between the industrial and agricultural sectors as a significant gap.
 - This highlights the need for integrated policies and initiatives that promote cross-sector cooperation.
- **Need for Regional Cooperation:**
 - 23% of participants emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in managing water resources and implementing recycling solutions.
 - Water scarcity is a regional issue, and collaboration across borders is essential for addressing shared challenges.

4.3.3 Policy Support

- FGD participants emphasized the need for clear policies and regulatory frameworks to support wastewater recycling.
- Key policy recommendations included financial incentives for recycling initiatives, technical support for businesses, and public awareness campaigns to build trust and acceptance of recycled water.

4.4 Summary of Results

The results from the survey, questionnaire, and FGDs provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities for wastewater recycling in Duhok City. Key findings include:

- The dominance of government/municipal services and the industrial sector in wastewater generation and management.
- The high frequency of daily wastewater generation, particularly in the industrial sector.
- The major barriers to implementing recycling solutions, including high costs, lack of technical expertise, and concerns about water quality.
- The need for improved infrastructure, cross-sector collaboration, and policy support to enable effective wastewater recycling.

5. Cross-Method Analysis: Aligning Survey, Questionnaire, and FGD Insights

5.1 Consistent Themes Across Methods

- **Dominance of Government/Municipal Services and Industrial Sector:**
All three methods highlighted the central role of government/municipal services and the industrial sector in wastewater generation and management. However, the FGDs revealed a significant gap in collaboration with the agricultural sector, which was underrepresented in the survey and questionnaire.
- **High Frequency of Wastewater Generation:**
The survey and questionnaire consistently showed that daily wastewater generation is

common, particularly in the industrial sector. The FGDs reinforced this by emphasizing the need for better monitoring systems to track wastewater generation.

- **Key Challenges: Cost, Technical Expertise, and Water Quality Concerns:** High costs, lack of technical expertise, and concerns about water quality were consistently identified as major barriers across all three methods. The FGDs added depth by emphasizing the need for policy support and public awareness campaigns to address these challenges.
- **Infrastructure Needs:** The survey and questionnaire highlighted the need for sewerage networks, treatment facilities, and monitoring systems. The FGDs expanded on this by emphasizing the importance of green and digital infrastructure, as well as transportation upgrades.

5.2 Divergent Insights and Gaps

- **Lack of Agricultural Sector Representation:** The underrepresentation of the agricultural sector in the survey and questionnaire, combined with the FGDs' emphasis on collaboration gaps, highlights a critical area for improvement. Engaging this sector will be essential for developing holistic wastewater recycling strategies.
- **Policy and Collaboration Gaps:** While the survey and questionnaire did not explicitly address policy or collaboration gaps, the FGDs highlighted the lack of collaboration between sectors and the need for regional cooperation. Addressing these gaps will require targeted policy interventions and efforts to foster cross-sector partnerships.

5.3 Recommendations for Integrated Action

1. **Engage the Agricultural Sector:** Develop targeted outreach programs to involve the agricultural sector in wastewater recycling initiatives.
2. **Improve Monitoring and Data Collection:** Establish robust systems to track wastewater generation and treatment.
3. **Address Financial and Technical Barriers:** Provide financial incentives and technical training to overcome cost and expertise challenges.
4. **Foster Cross-Sector Collaboration:** Promote partnerships between the industrial, agricultural, and municipal sectors.

5. **Integrate Infrastructure Development:** Align wastewater recycling efforts with broader infrastructure plans, including green and digital initiatives.
6. **Develop Supportive Policies:** Work with local and regional governments to create policies that incentivize recycling.
7. **Launch Public Awareness Campaigns:** Address concerns about recycled water quality through education and outreach.

6. Discussion

The findings from the survey, questionnaire, and FGDs provide valuable insights into the current state of wastewater management in Duhok City and the potential for implementing multi-sectoral wastewater recycling solutions. This section discusses the implications of these findings, their relevance to the city's water scarcity challenges, and how they align with broader literature and best practices in wastewater recycling.

6.1 Addressing Water Scarcity Through Wastewater Recycling

Duhok City faces significant water scarcity due to a combination of factors, including rapid urbanization, population growth, and the impacts of climate change. The findings from this study highlight the potential of wastewater recycling to alleviate water scarcity by providing an alternative source of water for domestic, agricultural, and industrial uses.

- **Domestic**

The survey and questionnaire results indicate that domestic wastewater is a significant contributor to overall wastewater generation in Duhok City. By treating and reusing this wastewater, the city can reduce its reliance on freshwater resources for non-potable uses, such as irrigation, landscaping, and toilet flushing. This aligns with global best practices, where treated wastewater is increasingly being used for urban irrigation and other non-potable applications (Asano & Levine, 1998).

Sector:
- **Agricultural**

Although the agricultural sector was underrepresented in the survey and questionnaire, the FGDs highlighted the potential for wastewater recycling to support irrigation and

Sector:

improve soil fertility. Recycled wastewater can provide a reliable source of water for agriculture, particularly during dry seasons when freshwater resources are scarce. This is consistent with findings from other arid and semi-arid regions, where wastewater recycling has been successfully used to enhance agricultural productivity (Angelakis et al., 2018).

- **Industrial**

Sector:

The industrial sector is a major contributor to wastewater generation in Duhok City, particularly in industries such as manufacturing and mining. The findings suggest that recycling wastewater for industrial processes, such as cooling and cleaning, can significantly reduce freshwater consumption and lower operational costs. This aligns with studies that have demonstrated the economic and environmental benefits of industrial wastewater recycling (Singh et al., 2020).

6.2 Challenges and Barriers to Implementation

While wastewater recycling offers a promising solution to Duhok City's water scarcity challenges, several barriers must be addressed to ensure successful implementation.

6.2.1 High Costs of Treatment Systems

- The survey and questionnaire results consistently identified the high cost of treatment systems as a major barrier to implementing wastewater recycling. Advanced treatment technologies, such as membrane filtration and UV disinfection, require significant upfront investment, which may be prohibitive for small businesses and industries with limited budgets.
- To overcome this barrier, financial incentives, such as subsidies, grants, or low-interest loans, could be provided to encourage businesses to adopt recycling technologies. Public-private partnerships could also play a key role in financing and implementing large-scale recycling projects.

6.2.2 Lack of Technical Expertise

- Many businesses in Duhok City lack the knowledge and skills needed to implement and maintain wastewater recycling systems. This is particularly true for small businesses and industries with limited resources.

- Training programs and technical support could help build capacity and address this issue. Collaboration with academic institutions and technical experts could also provide valuable knowledge and expertise to support recycling initiatives.

6.2.3 *Concerns About Recycled Water Quality*

- Public skepticism about the quality and safety of recycled water is a common barrier to its adoption, particularly for potable uses. The survey and questionnaire results indicate that concerns about water quality are a significant challenge in Duhok City.
- Education and awareness campaigns, along with transparent monitoring and reporting of water quality, could help build trust and acceptance of recycled water. Demonstrating the safety and effectiveness of recycled water through pilot projects and case studies could also help address public concerns.

6.3 Infrastructure Needs and Policy Support

The findings from the FGDs highlight the need for improved infrastructure and policy support to enable effective wastewater recycling in Duhok City.

6.3.1 *Infrastructure Development*

- **Sewerage** **Networks:**
Many areas in Duhok City lack adequate sewerage infrastructure, which hinders efforts to collect and transport wastewater for treatment. The development of comprehensive sewerage networks is essential for supporting wastewater recycling initiatives.
- **Treatment** **Facilities:**
Advanced treatment facilities are needed to ensure the quality of recycled water. Modern treatment technologies, such as membrane filtration and UV disinfection, can produce high-quality water suitable for various applications.
- **Monitoring** **Systems:**
Real-time monitoring and data collection systems are essential for optimizing recycling processes and ensuring compliance with water quality standards. These systems can also help build public trust by providing transparent information about the safety and effectiveness of recycled water.

6.3.2 Policy Support

- The FGDs emphasized the need for clear policies and regulatory frameworks to support wastewater recycling. Key policy recommendations include:
 - **Financial Incentives:** Providing subsidies, grants, or tax breaks to encourage businesses to adopt recycling technologies.
 - **Technical Support:** Offering training programs and technical assistance to help businesses implement and maintain recycling systems.
 - **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Educating the public about the benefits of wastewater recycling and addressing concerns about water quality.

6.4 Cross-Sector Collaboration and Regional Cooperation

The findings from the FGDs highlight the importance of cross-sector collaboration and regional cooperation in addressing water scarcity and implementing wastewater recycling solutions.

6.4.1 Cross-Sector Collaboration

- The lack of collaboration between the industrial and agricultural sectors is a significant gap that must be addressed. By fostering partnerships and shared responsibilities, Duhok City can develop a holistic approach to wastewater recycling that benefits all sectors.
- For example, treated wastewater from industries could be reused for agricultural irrigation, reducing freshwater consumption and enhancing agricultural productivity. Similarly, collaboration between the municipal government and private sector could help finance and implement large-scale recycling projects.

6.4.2 Regional Cooperation

- Water scarcity is a regional issue, and collaboration across borders is essential for addressing shared challenges. The FGDs highlighted the need for regional cooperation in managing water resources and implementing recycling solutions.
- By working together, neighboring regions can share knowledge, resources, and best practices to develop sustainable water management strategies. Regional agreements and partnerships could also help address transboundary water issues and ensure equitable access to water resources.

6.5 Alignment with Global Best Practices

The findings from this study align with global best practices in wastewater recycling, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions facing water scarcity.

- **Case Studies from Arid Regions:**
Countries such as Jordan and Israel have successfully implemented large-scale wastewater recycling programs, resulting in significant reductions in freshwater consumption and improved agricultural productivity (Al-Jayyousi, 2003; Angelakis et al., 2018). These case studies provide valuable lessons for Duhok City, particularly in terms of infrastructure development, policy support, and public engagement.
- **Advanced Treatment Technologies:**
The use of advanced treatment technologies, such as membrane filtration and UV disinfection, has been shown to produce high-quality recycled water suitable for various applications (Asano & Levine, 1998). These technologies could play a key role in ensuring the safety and effectiveness of wastewater recycling in Duhok City.
- **Integrated Water Management:**
The findings emphasize the importance of integrated water management, where wastewater recycling is part of a broader strategy to conserve water resources, reduce pollution, and ensure long-term water security. This aligns with global trends towards sustainable water management and the circular economy.

6.6 Conclusion of Discussion

The findings from this study highlight the potential of multi-sectoral wastewater recycling to address water scarcity in Duhok City. However, successful implementation will require addressing key challenges, including high costs, lack of technical expertise, and public skepticism about recycled water. Improved infrastructure, policy support, and cross-sector collaboration are essential for enabling effective wastewater recycling.

By learning from global best practices and fostering regional cooperation, Duhok City can develop sustainable water management strategies that ensure long-term water security and environmental sustainability. The recommendations outlined in the following section provide a roadmap for achieving these goals.

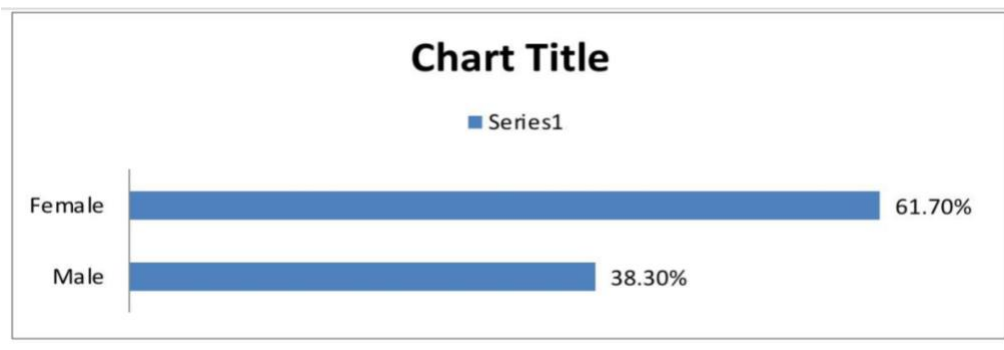
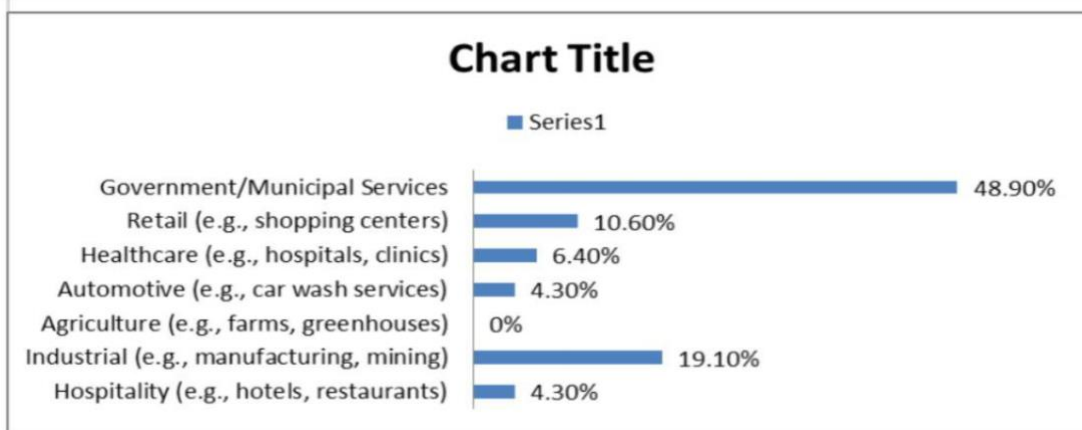


Fig. 1: Pie chart showing the gender distribution of survey respondents. Females represent 61.7% of the total respondents, while males account for 38.3%. This indicates a higher participation rate among females in the survey.



Bar chart illustrating the sectoral representation of survey respondents. Government/Municipal Services dominate at 48.9%, followed by the Industrial Sector at 19.1%. Notably, there is no representation from the Agricultural Sector (0%).

Figure 3: Frequency of Wastewater Generation

Caption:

"Bar chart showing the frequency of wastewater generation among businesses in Duhok City. Daily wastewater generation is the most common (42.2%), followed by weekly (22.2%). A significant portion of respondents (20%) were unsure about their wastewater generation frequency."

Figure 4: Challenges in Implementing Wastewater Recycling

Caption:

"Bar chart highlighting the main challenges businesses face in implementing wastewater recycling. The 'Other' category (27.9%) represents unique challenges not listed, followed by high costs (23.3%) and concerns about recycled water quality (14%)."

Figure 5: Sources of Wastewater Generation

Caption:

"Bar chart depicting the primary sources of wastewater generation in Duhok City. Domestic wastewater is the largest contributor (30%), followed by industrial wastewater (22%) and agricultural runoff (17%). Wastewater treatment plants contribute only 3%, indicating limited recycling infrastructure."

Figure 6: Infrastructure Needs for Wastewater Recycling

Caption:

"Bar chart showing the primary infrastructure needs for developing effective wastewater recycling systems in Duhok City. Sewerage networks, treatment facilities, monitoring systems, and agricultural drainage management are equally prioritized at 25% each."

Figure 7: Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Results on Infrastructure Priorities

Caption:

"Bar chart summarizing FGD results on infrastructure priorities. Upgrading transportation infrastructure is the top priority (80%), followed by green infrastructure (10%) and digital infrastructure (10%)."

Figure 8: Collaboration Gaps Identified in FGDs

Caption:

"Bar chart illustrating collaboration gaps identified in FGDs. The lack of collaboration between the industrial and agricultural sectors is the most significant gap (77%), followed by the need for regional cooperation (23%)."

Figure 9: Survey Results on Wastewater Generation Frequency

Caption:

"Pie chart showing the frequency of wastewater generation among businesses. Daily generation is the most common (42.2%), followed by weekly (22.2%) and monthly (2.2%). A notable portion of respondents (20%) were unsure about their generation frequency."

Figure 10: Survey Results on Challenges in Wastewater Recycling

Caption:

"Pie chart summarizing the challenges businesses face in implementing wastewater recycling. High costs (23.3%) and lack of technical expertise (14%) are the most significant barriers, while 27.9% of respondents cited unique challenges not listed in the survey."

Figure 11: FGD Results on Policy Gaps

Caption:

"Bar chart showing policy gaps identified in FGDs. The lack of collaboration between the industrial and agricultural sectors is the most significant gap (77%), while regional cooperation is also highlighted as a need (23%)."

Figure 12: Survey Results on Sectoral Wastewater Generation

Caption:

"Bar chart illustrating the sectors contributing to wastewater generation in Duhok City. Government/Municipal Services account for 48.9%, followed by the Industrial Sector at 19.1%. The Agricultural Sector is not represented in the survey (0%)."

Figure 13: FGD Results on Infrastructure Needs

Caption:

"Bar chart summarizing FGD results on infrastructure needs for wastewater recycling. Sewerage networks, treatment facilities, and monitoring systems are equally prioritized at 25% each, while green and digital infrastructure account for 10%."

Figure 14: Survey Results on Public Acceptance of Recycled Water

Caption:

"Bar chart showing public concerns about recycled water quality. Concerns about water quality (14%) and lack of technical expertise (14%) are significant barriers, while high costs (23.3%) remain the top challenge."

Figure 15: FGD Results on Regional Cooperation

Caption:

"Bar chart highlighting the need for regional cooperation in wastewater recycling. While 77% of FGD participants emphasized collaboration between sectors, 23% stressed the importance of regional cooperation for effective water resource management."

Figure 16: Survey Results on Wastewater Treatment Plant Contributions

Caption:

"Bar chart showing the contribution of wastewater treatment plants to overall wastewater generation. Treatment plants account for only 3% of wastewater sources, indicating limited recycling and treatment infrastructure in Duhok City."

Figure 17: FGD Results on Green and Digital Infrastructure

Caption:

"Bar chart summarizing FGD results on the importance of green and digital infrastructure. While 80% of participants prioritized transportation upgrades, 10% emphasized green infrastructure and 10% highlighted digital infrastructure as key needs."

Figure 18: Survey Results on Wastewater Generation by Sector

Caption:

"Bar chart illustrating wastewater generation by sector in Duhok City. Domestic wastewater is the largest contributor (30%), followed by industrial wastewater (22%) and agricultural runoff (17%)."

Figure 19: FGD Results on Monitoring and Management Systems

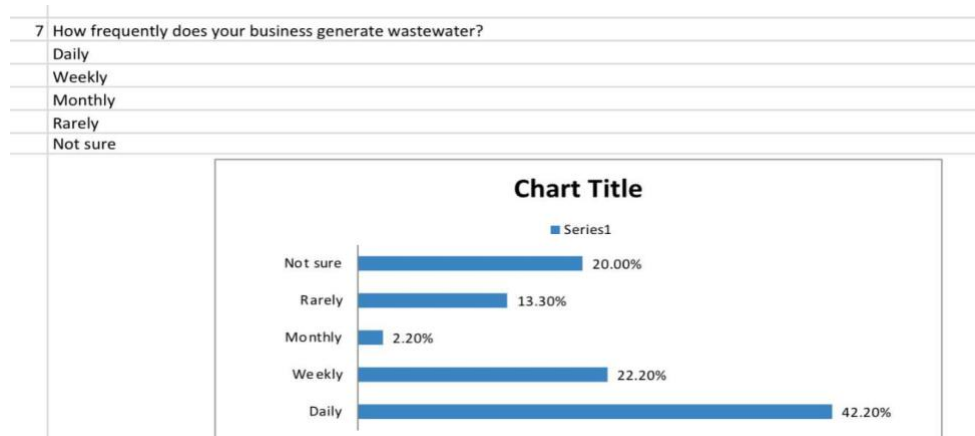
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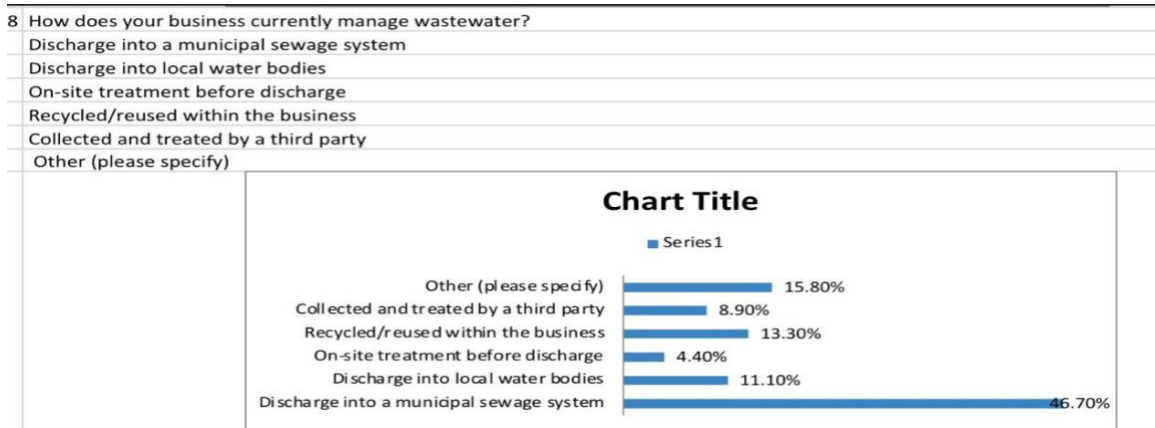
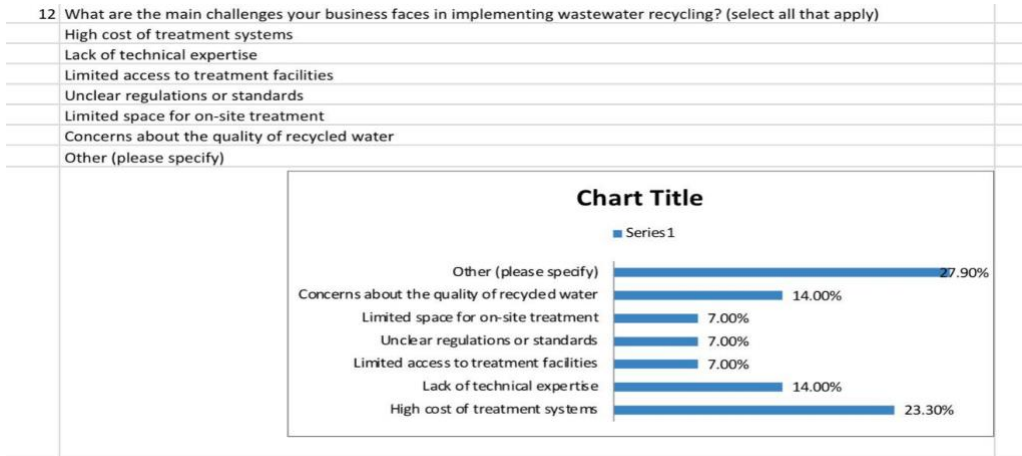
"Bar chart showing FGD results on the importance of monitoring and management systems. Participants emphasized the need for real-time monitoring (25%) to ensure effective wastewater recycling and compliance with water quality standards."

Figure 20: Survey Results on Public Awareness Needs

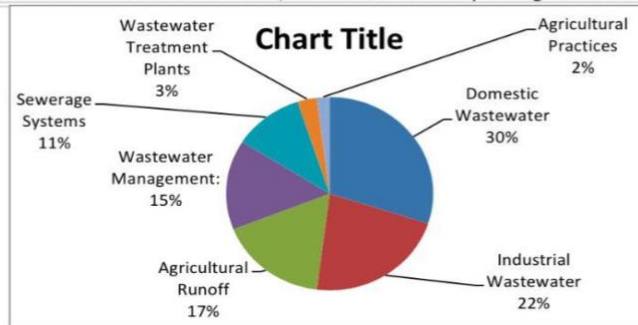
Caption:

"Bar chart summarizing survey results on public awareness needs. Concerns about recycled water quality (14%) and lack of technical expertise (14%) highlight the need for education and outreach campaigns to build public trust."





2-From your perspective, what are the main sources of wastewater in Duhok, and how is it currently managed across different sectors?



Answer

Domestic Wastewater

Industrial Wastewater

Agricultural Runoff

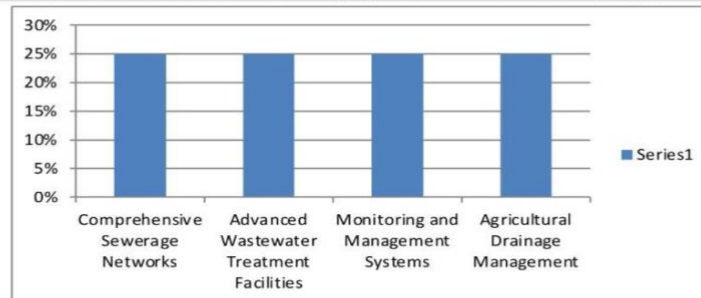
Wastewater Management:

Sewerage Systems

Wastewater Treatment Plants

Agricultural Practices

4. In your opinion, what are the primary infrastructure needs for developing effective wastewater recycling systems in Duhok?



Answer

Comprehensive Sewerage Networks

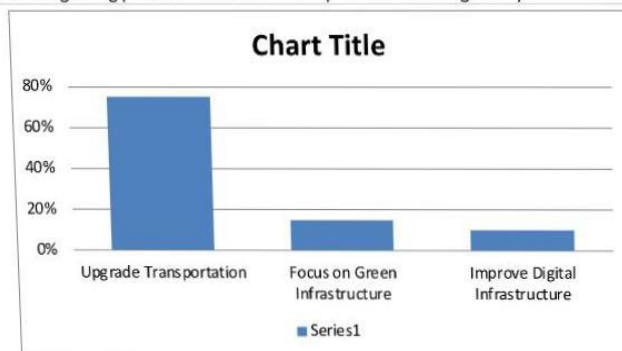
Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facilities

Monitoring and Management Systems

Agricultural Drainage Management

FGD Data results:

. Is there anything else you would like to add regarding potential infrastructure improvements or regulatory reforms?



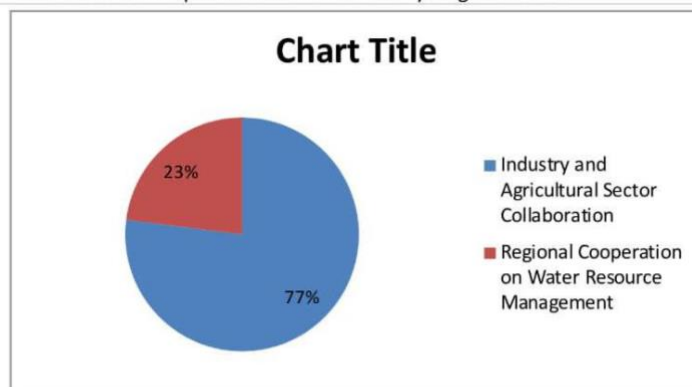
Answer

Upgrade Transportation

Focus on Green Infrastructure

Improve Digital Infrastructure

10. Are there any gaps in existing policies that hinder the development of wastewater recycling initiatives?



Answer

Industry and Agricultural Sector Collaboration

Regional Cooperation on Water Resource Management

8. Recommendations

The findings from this study highlight the potential of multi-sectoral wastewater recycling to address water scarcity in Duhok City. However, successful implementation will require addressing key challenges, including high costs, lack of technical expertise, and public skepticism about recycled water. Below, we present a set of actionable recommendations to guide the development and implementation of wastewater recycling strategies in Duhok City.

8.1 Invest in Advanced Treatment Technologies

To ensure the quality and safety of recycled water, Duhok City should invest in advanced treatment technologies that are suitable for local conditions.

- **Membrane Filtration and UV Disinfection:**
These technologies are highly effective in removing contaminants and producing high-quality recycled water suitable for various applications, including irrigation, industrial processes, and even potable uses in some cases.
- **Pilot Projects:**
Implement pilot projects to demonstrate the effectiveness of these technologies in Duhok City. Pilot projects can help build public trust and provide valuable data on the performance and cost-effectiveness of different treatment methods.
- **Scalable Solutions:**
Focus on scalable solutions that can be adapted to different sectors and scales of operation, from small businesses to large industries.

8.2 Build Robust Infrastructure

The development of comprehensive infrastructure is essential for supporting wastewater recycling initiatives in Duhok City.

- **Sewerage Networks:**
Expand and modernize sewerage networks to ensure the efficient collection and transportation of wastewater to treatment facilities.
- **Treatment Facilities:**
Develop advanced treatment facilities equipped with modern technologies, such as membrane filtration and UV disinfection, to ensure the quality of recycled water.
- **Monitoring Systems:**
Implement real-time monitoring and data collection systems to track wastewater generation, treatment processes, and water quality. These systems can help optimize recycling processes and ensure compliance with safety standards.

8.3 Promote Public Awareness and Acceptance

Public skepticism about the quality and safety of recycled water is a significant barrier to its adoption. To address this, Duhok City should launch targeted public awareness campaigns.

- **Education and Outreach:**
Develop educational materials and outreach programs to inform the public about the benefits of wastewater recycling and the safety of recycled water.
- **Community Engagement:**
Engage local communities in the planning and implementation of recycling projects to build trust and acceptance.
- **Demonstration Projects:**
Implement demonstration projects to showcase the effectiveness and safety of recycled water in real-world applications, such as irrigation or industrial processes.

8.4 Foster Cross-Sector Collaboration

Collaboration between different sectors is essential for developing holistic wastewater recycling strategies that benefit all stakeholders.

- **Industrial and Agricultural Sectors:**
Promote partnerships between the industrial and agricultural sectors to reuse treated wastewater for irrigation. For example, industries could supply treated wastewater to nearby farms, reducing freshwater consumption and enhancing agricultural productivity.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:**
Encourage public-private partnerships to finance and implement large-scale recycling projects. Private sector involvement can bring additional resources and expertise to support recycling initiatives.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:**
Facilitate regular dialogue among stakeholders, including government agencies, industries, small businesses, and local communities, to identify opportunities for collaboration and address challenges.

8.5 Develop Supportive Policies

Clear and supportive policies are essential for enabling the adoption of wastewater recycling practices in Duhok City.

- **Financial** **Incentives:**
Provide subsidies, grants, or tax breaks to encourage businesses to adopt recycling technologies. Financial incentives can help offset the high upfront costs of treatment systems and make recycling more accessible to small businesses.
- **Regulatory** **Frameworks:**
Develop clear regulatory frameworks that define water quality standards for recycled water and establish guidelines for its safe use in different applications.
- **Technical** **Support:**
Offer training programs and technical assistance to help businesses implement and maintain recycling systems. Collaboration with academic institutions and technical experts can provide valuable knowledge and expertise.

8.6 Integrate Infrastructure Development with Broader Urban Planning

Wastewater recycling efforts should be integrated with broader urban planning and infrastructure development initiatives to ensure long-term sustainability.

- **Green** **Infrastructure:**
Incorporate green infrastructure, such as sustainable drainage systems and green roofs, into urban planning to enhance water management and reduce the burden on traditional sewerage systems.
- **Digital** **Infrastructure:**
Leverage digital technologies, such as smart water management systems, to optimize wastewater recycling processes and improve efficiency.
- **Transportation** **Upgrades:**
Upgrade transportation infrastructure to support the efficient collection and transportation of wastewater to treatment facilities.

8.7 Monitor and Evaluate Progress

To ensure the success of wastewater recycling initiatives, Duhok City should establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework.

- **Performance** **Indicators:**
Define key performance indicators (KPIs) to track the effectiveness of recycling systems, including water quality, cost-effectiveness, and public acceptance.
- **Regular** **Reporting:**
Implement regular reporting mechanisms to provide transparent information about the performance of recycling projects and address any issues that arise.
- **Continuous** **Improvement:**
Use data from monitoring and evaluation to identify areas for improvement and optimize recycling processes over time.

8.8 Foster Regional Cooperation

Water scarcity is a regional issue, and collaboration across borders is essential for addressing shared challenges.

- **Knowledge** **Sharing:**
Collaborate with neighboring regions to share knowledge, resources, and best practices for wastewater recycling and sustainable water management.
- **Regional** **Agreements:**
Develop regional agreements and partnerships to address transboundary water issues and ensure equitable access to water resources.
- **Joint** **Projects:**
Implement joint projects with neighboring regions to develop large-scale recycling initiatives that benefit multiple communities.

8.9 Conclusion of Recommendations

The recommendations outlined above provide a comprehensive roadmap for implementing wastewater recycling in Duhok City. By addressing key challenges, such as high costs, lack of technical expertise, and public skepticism, and fostering cross-sector collaboration and regional

cooperation, Duhok City can develop sustainable water management strategies that ensure long-term water security and environmental sustainability.

These recommendations are aligned with global best practices and tailored to the specific needs and conditions of Duhok City. By taking a holistic and integrated approach, the city can overcome the barriers to wastewater recycling and achieve its goals of sustainable water use and resource conservation.

9. Key Actions for Policymakers

1. Develop and Enforce Clear Policies and Regulations

- **Establish Water Quality Standards:**
Define clear standards for the quality of recycled water to ensure its safety for various uses, such as irrigation, industrial processes, and non-potable urban applications.
- **Create Regulatory Frameworks:**
Develop policies that mandate wastewater recycling for industries and large water users, with clear guidelines for implementation and compliance.
- **Incentivize Recycling Practices:**
Introduce financial incentives, such as subsidies, tax breaks, or grants, to encourage businesses and industries to adopt wastewater recycling technologies.

2. Invest in Infrastructure Development

- **Expand Sewerage Networks:**
Prioritize the development of comprehensive sewerage systems to ensure efficient collection and transportation of wastewater to treatment facilities.
- **Build Advanced Treatment Facilities:**
Invest in modern wastewater treatment plants equipped with advanced technologies, such as membrane filtration and UV disinfection, to produce high-quality recycled water.
- **Implement Monitoring Systems:**
Establish real-time monitoring systems to track wastewater generation, treatment processes, and water quality, ensuring transparency and compliance with standards.

3. Promote Public Awareness and Acceptance

- Launch Education Campaigns:**
Develop and disseminate educational materials to inform the public about the benefits of wastewater recycling and the safety of recycled water.
- Engage Local Communities:**
Involve communities in the planning and implementation of recycling projects to build trust and acceptance.
- Showcase Success Stories:**
Implement pilot projects and demonstration sites to showcase the effectiveness and safety of recycled water in real-world applications.

4. Foster Cross-Sector Collaboration

- **Encourage Industrial-Agricultural Partnerships:**
Promote collaborations between industries and agricultural sectors to reuse treated wastewater for irrigation, reducing freshwater consumption and enhancing agricultural productivity.
- **Facilitate Public-Private Partnerships:**
Encourage partnerships between the government and private sector to finance and implement large-scale recycling projects.
- **Engage Stakeholders:**
Organize regular stakeholder meetings to facilitate dialogue, identify opportunities for collaboration, and address challenges.

5. Provide Technical and Financial Support

- Offer Training Programs:** Provide technical training and capacity-building programs for businesses and industries to help them implement and maintain wastewater recycling systems.
- Establish Technical Assistance Centers:** Create centers of excellence or technical hubs to provide ongoing support and expertise for wastewater recycling initiatives.

- **Allocate Funding for Recycling Projects:**
Secure funding from national and international sources to support the development of recycling infrastructure and technologies.

6. *Integrate Wastewater Recycling into Urban Planning*

- **Incorporate Green Infrastructure:**
Integrate sustainable drainage systems, green roofs, and other green infrastructure into urban planning to enhance water management and reduce the burden on traditional sewerage systems.
- **Leverage Digital Technologies:**
Use smart water management systems and digital tools to optimize wastewater recycling processes and improve efficiency.
- **Upgrade Transportation Infrastructure:**
Improve transportation networks to support the efficient collection and transportation of wastewater to treatment facilities.

7. *Monitor and Evaluate Progress*

- **Define Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):**
Establish KPIs to track the effectiveness of wastewater recycling systems, including water quality, cost-effectiveness, and public acceptance.
- **Implement Regular Reporting Mechanisms:**
Require regular reporting on the performance of recycling projects to ensure transparency and accountability.
- **Conduct Impact Assessments:**
Evaluate the environmental, economic, and social impacts of wastewater recycling initiatives to identify areas for improvement and ensure long-term sustainability.

8. *Foster Regional Cooperation*

- **Collaborate with Neighboring Regions:**
Work with neighboring regions to share knowledge, resources, and best practices for wastewater recycling and sustainable water management.

- **Develop** **Regional** **Agreements:**
Establish agreements and partnerships to address transboundary water issues and ensure equitable access to water resources.
- **Implement** **Joint** **Projects:**
Launch joint recycling initiatives with neighboring regions to develop large-scale projects that benefit multiple communities.

9. *Prioritize Research and Innovation*

- **Support** **Research** **and** **Development:**
Fund research projects to explore innovative wastewater recycling technologies and practices tailored to Duhok City's specific conditions.
- **Pilot** **New** **Technologies:**
Test and pilot emerging technologies, such as decentralized treatment systems or nature-based solutions, to assess their feasibility and effectiveness.
- **Collaborate** **with** **Academic** **Institutions:**
Partner with universities and research institutions to leverage their expertise and resources for advancing wastewater recycling efforts.

10. *Ensure Long-Term Sustainability*

- **Develop** **a** **Long-Term** **Water** **Management** **Plan:**
Create a comprehensive water management plan that integrates wastewater recycling as a key component of Duhok City's water security strategy.
- **Promote** **Circular** **Economy** **Practices:**
Encourage industries and businesses to adopt circular economy principles, where wastewater is treated as a resource rather than a waste product.
- **Engage** **International** **Organizations:**
Seek support and collaboration from international organizations, such as UNICEF, WHO, and the World Bank, to access funding, expertise, and best practices for sustainable water management.

10. References

1. Asano, T., & Levine, A. D. (1998). Wastewater reclamation and reuse: Past, present, and future. *Water Science and Technology*.

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3. Singh, R., et al. (2020). Industrial wastewater treatment and recycling: Challenges and opportunities. *Environmental Progress & Sustainable Energy*.
4. Al-Jayyousi, O. R. (2003). Wastewater reuse potential in the Middle East: An overview. *Water International*.

11. Appendices

1. **Appendix A: Data Collection Forms**
Surveys on water use and wastewater generation in Duhok's sectors, including questionnaires and interview guides.
2. **Appendix B: Wastewater Treatment Technologies**
Detailed descriptions and specifications of treatment methods evaluated, such as membrane filtration, UV disinfection, and biological treatment processes.
3. **Appendix C: Cost-Benefit Analysis**
Breakdown of costs, savings, and economic impacts of implementing wastewater recycling systems in Duhok City.
4. **Appendix D: Stakeholder Consultation**
Meeting notes and feedback from local authorities, industries, and community groups, highlighting key concerns and recommendations.
5. **Appendix E: Monitoring Plan**
Outline of performance indicators and evaluation strategies for wastewater recycling systems, including water quality standards and reporting mechanisms.