Water Governance Stakeholder Mapping

Tel Tamer Sub-District, Syria

Socio-Economic Water Survey

December - 2025

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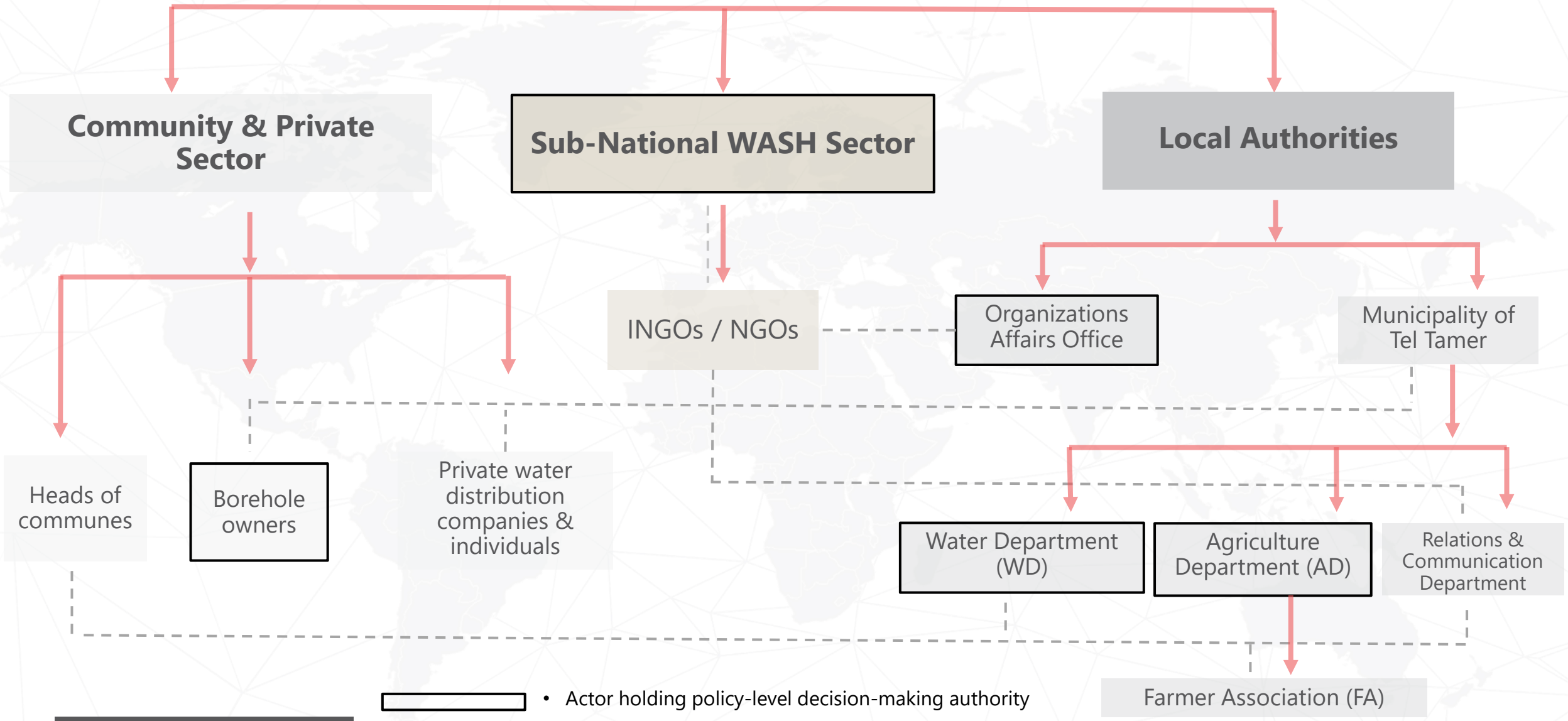
Stakeholder Mapping

Key actors in Tel Tamer water governance

Tel Tamer Water Stakeholders



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Mandates of Stakeholders

Main roles in drinking water and irrigation/agriculture

Mandates of Stakeholders

Community & Private Sector

Heads of Communes

- Observe water problems in the village and relay community complaints and needs to the authorities.
- Act as the communication link between residents and the Water Directorate /municipality.
- Help organize local water distribution and support coordination during shortages or emergencies.
- They have no technical authority but play an important role in reporting needs and facilitating

Borehole owners & water distributors

Borehole owners:

- Primary source of water for most households because public water sources are insufficient or non-functional.
- Extract groundwater using private wells (most wells in Tel Tamer and Hasakeh are privately owned).
- Provide water for both drinking and agriculture, depending on location and borehole type.

Water distributors:

- Transport water from private boreholes to households, villages, camps, and public facilities.
- Fill the gap caused by the lack of regular piped water and become the main supplier during outages or emergencies.
- Operate independently with little regulation, setting prices based on fuel costs, distance, and demand.

Sub-National WASH Sector

INGOs / NGOs

Sub-National WASH Sector:

- Coordinates all WASH actors (UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs) working in the area.
- Facilitates information sharing.

Sets priority areas for intervention.

- Ensures no overlap /duplication between organizations' activities.
- Provides technical guidance, standards, and best practices to partners.

NGOs /INGOs:

- Support WD and AD in planning, technical assessments, and capacity building.
- Groundwater monitoring

Borehole/network rehabilitation.

- Capacity building for WD.
- Emergency responses.
- Technical assessments.
- Data collection.
- implement agricultural-water activities.

Local Authorities (LA)

Agriculture Department (AD) Farmer Association (FA)

- (AD) Responsible for identifying boreholes and water-drilling sites.
- (AD) Monitors groundwater levels
- (AD) Plans and allocates irrigation water.
- (FA) Supports farmers based on water availability.
- (FA) Shares information from Agriculture Department.
- (FA) Guides farmers in water management decisions.

Water Department (WD)

- Operate and maintain water networks
- Manage boreholes, conduct field visits, drill new boreholes, clean existing ones, and provide generators
- Rehabilitate and repair water infrastructure, including pipelines and distribution systems
- Coordinate with organizations during emergencies to address water crises
- Monitor and regulate water resources, including groundwater levels and issuing licenses for borehole digging and usage.

Organizations Affairs Office Relations & Communication Department

- Coordinate humanitarian work between organizations and local authorities to avoid duplication.
- Grant approvals for organizations and facilitate cooperation through MoUs and agreements.
- Act as the main link between organizations and government entities.
- Monitor and supervise activities, resolving issues as needed.
- Propose project ideas sometimes and follow up on sector-specific work (e.g., water-related projects).
- Advocate for services and organize meetings with organizations and stakeholders.

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Challenges

Institutional, resource, and regulatory constraints

Challenges

Institutional & Governance Challenges

- Coordination is informal, with no structured systems or joint planning.
- Weak law enforcement led to widespread illegal well-drilling and improper wastewater dumping, causing severe environmental damage and reducing water security in Syria, including falling groundwater levels and drying springs[1].
- Heads of communes lack technical authority — they can only report issues.
- Organizations Affairs and municipalities wait passively for NGOs to propose activities.
- INGOs conduct assessments without sharing results or follow-through.
- No clear hierarchy or leadership in water management in the area.
- Local authorities cannot enforce rules on private actors (borehole owners, truck operators).
- Weak enforcement: residents extract water without licenses.
- Farmers Association exists but is not functionally supported.

Technical & Capacity Challenges

- Weak planning capacity and absence of scientifically based project design.
- Limited technical expertise at WD and local authorities.
- No central database — water information is shared verbally or in simple reports.
- Lack of essential equipment (e.g., water-quality testing kits).
- Heavy reliance on private boreholes and truck distributors due to weak public systems.

Social & Demographic Challenges

- High population pressure from displacement increases demand on scarce water resources.
- Communities depend on unregulated private wells, worsening over-extraction and reducing safety control.

Financial & Resource Challenges

- Insufficient financial resources at both local authority and donor levels.
- Donors view water management as short-term humanitarian work, not long-term development.
- Lack of investment in sustainable infrastructure (treatment plants, storage facilities).

Environmental & Infrastructure Challenges

- Declining groundwater levels, increased salinity, and higher extraction costs.
- Long-term drought and dryness of the Khabour River since 2002[2].
- Non-operation of the Allouk Water Station (main regional source)[3].
- Surface water is distant and requires unavailable large-scale infrastructure.
- Absence of drinkable water sources in Tel Tamer.

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[1] hikama09-2024-ahmed-haj-asaad.pdf
[2] 202505_ebb-and-flow_water-nes.pdf
[3] 202505_ebb-and-flow_water-nes.pdf