

## Water Data Improves Quality of Life

The LIFE-IWRM Project is working with the Water Quality Unit and the Groundwater Sector of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI) to introduce water quality monitoring in 27 Integrated Water

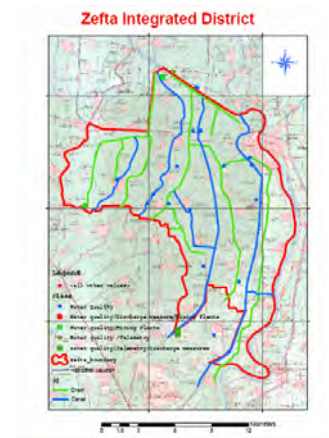


Management Districts( IWMD). Each IWMD has received equipment and training in techniques to monitor the quantity and quality of all available water resources; groundwater and surface water in irrigation and drainage systems. In recent years water quality has become of increasing concern to the MWRI. Water quality monitoring is important because it detects pollution, determines feasibility of reusing water from drains, and serves as a basis for enforcing water quality violations. Districts seldom dealt with water quality prior to the Life-IWRM project.



Now the project provides each IWRM District with water quality equipment to test the pH, temperature, conductivity and salinity of water as part of their monitoring tool kit. Each IWRM District also received two GPS units, a digital camera, and the

necessary training to enable staff to accurately locate, record, and monitor water quality problem areas. Each IWRM District now has the hardware, software and expertise to easily generate maps and analyze data electronically to guide in decision making. Using this water quality equipment, the GPS units and mapping, IWMDs are now able to assess the quality of water in canals, drains and wells, and to evaluate the data measured against approved parameters.



A few months ago in the IWMD of South Zifta, this monitoring program detected some changes in the groundwater quality around the villages of Saad Zagloul, Mit El Haron, Mit El Rakha. The Groundwater Sector in Cairo was contacted to conduct a survey. They found that in several villages, residents, without realizing the impact of their actions, had recently begun discharging domestic sewage directly into wells. Meetings were held with the residents to explain the seriousness of their action. Alternative solutions for safe disposal of sewage water were discussed and the contaminated wells were closed. This event shows that the collection and analysis of water quality data can protect the quality of life of the people

