



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

Guidance for **DIVIDING BILLS**



For further information, please contact the ICLA department at NRC via the hotline number.

Amman: 0797972390

Sunday to Thursday 9:00AM to 3:00PM

www.nrc.no

All information provided in this document is intended for general use.

One of the most common areas of dispute between landlords and tenants relates to financial expenses, more specifically to the division of utility bills. As a rule, landlords are responsible for the installation and connection costs of water and electricity and whenever independent meters are available, each party (landlord/tenant) is responsible for paying their own bills.

However, in some cases and due to various reasons, independent meters can be unavailable. This can create confusion on how to split bills. We, the NRC, wish to help you avoid these problems by providing you both (landlords/tenants) with some guidance and pointers.



1. YOU LIVE IN THE SAME BUILDING AND SHARE A METER

We advise you to divide the electricity and water bills using one of the different methods given below and each has its advantages and disadvantages:

✚ Dividing on a per head basis among the occupiers of the entire premises. In other words, divide the bill according to the total number of people living in the premises. This will avoid any unequal division and unequal sharing when layered tariffs are involved.

✚ Checking landlord's previous bills and dividing according to usual consumption. This method will show the difference between past and current consumption (without and with the presence of the new tenants). It might not be the best option if the landlord starts to use more and charges the tenants for his consumption.



2. YOU LIVE IN A REMOTE AREA AND DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO MAINS WATER SUPPLY

We advise you to use public water trucking services. They are available at different times and their prices depend on the area. The main cost might be the delivery rather than the water itself. It is more beneficial to have bigger water tanks as you will reduce the times you refill tanks and save money.



3. INSTALLING A SUB-METER AS A SUBSTITUTE TO INDEPENDENT METERS

It is possible to install sub-meters for electricity. They can be bought at electronic stores for 6.50 JOD. The cost of the installation depends on the electrician but the range is 6 to 10 JOD. The whole process costs around 20 JOD.

It is unclear whether such sub-meters are technically legal; therefore it is preferable to have independent official meters installed by the relevant body.