Strengthening National Capacities to Manage Water Scarcity and Drought in West Asia and North Africa

DESA and ESCWA Partnership (UN Partners: ECA, FAO, WMO, UNISDR, UNEP, UNCCD, UNDP)
UNDA Project update and Linkage to RICCAR Outcome

Fifth RICCAR EGM
11-12 Dec 2013
This project is a response to Rio + 20’s:

- Call for urgent action to address desertification, land degradation, drought, and water scarcity
- Call for disaster risk reduction and the building of community resilience to disasters
Drought is an extremely serious problem in the Arab region

• The West Asia/North Africa region is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, and is increasingly bearing greater social and economic losses due to natural disaster events.

• In the Arab region, total people affected by drought from 1970-2009 is about 38 million (+10% of population).
Vulnerability in West Asia/North Africa to Water Scarcity

• About 90% of the West Asia & North Africa region is considered as arid or semi-arid.

• About 70% of the region’s water flows across international borders (shared rivers).
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Expected Accomplishments:

EA.1: Increased awareness and knowledge

EA.2: Increased human and institutional capacity

Linkage to NDP and relevant Strategies (i.e. PRSP)
Current national drought management plans in West Asia/North Africa

- Ex-post (reactive)

- Emergency relief that take effect after or during a drought event.

Diagram:
- Lack of information
- Planners lack technical capacity
- Low capacity for monitoring and forecasting
- Lack of stakeholders’ participation
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Main objective:

Capacity building in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of proactive and preparedness drought management strategies.
Regional/National stakeholders, Counterparts and Institutions

- Government Ministries (Planning, Agriculture, Environment, and Water)
- National and Local water authorities and water suppliers
- Farmer communities
- Water consumers and users
- Meteorological Departments and research institutions
- NGOs
Project Management

The project will be executed by UN-DESA in partnership with UN-ESCWA and cooperation with the UN partners

- UN Partners including FAO, WMO, UNISDR, UNEP, UNCCD, UNDP.
- The two regional commissions ESCWA and ECA.
Geographic Locations

Water-scarce and in transition settings countries in West Asia/North Africa:
- Yemen
- Tunisia
- Syria
- Sudan
- Palestine
- Morocco
- Libya
- Lebanon
- Jordan
- Egypt
- Algeria

Five (5) pilot countries among:
Five Pilot Countries

**West Asia**
- Yemen
- Jordan
- State of Palestine

**North Africa**
- Tunisia
- Morocco
- Egypt (TBC?)
Pilot Countries
National Coordinators

West Asia

✧ Yemen: Eng. Musa'ed M. Aklan (Ministry of Water and Environment)


✧ State of Palestine: Eng. Deeb Abdelghafour (Palestinian Water Authority (PWA))
Pilot Countries
National Coordinators

North Africa

- Tunisia: Dr. Slah Nasri (Ministry of Agriculture)
- Morocco: Ms. Yasmina Imani, (Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II)
Ref: The Near East Drought Planning Manual: Guidelines for Drought Mitigation and Preparedness Planning (By FAO and University of Nebraska)

Fundamental Steps in developing and implementing a national drought plan:

Creating Political Momentum and Authority

Strategic Planning and Coordination

Fostering Involvement and Developing Common Understandings

Investigating Drought Monitoring, Risk, and Management Options

Writing a Drought Plan

Implementing a Drought Plan

a. Promoting standard approaches to vulnerability and impact assessment

b. Implementing effective drought monitoring and early warning systems

c. Enhancing preparedness and mitigation actions

d. Implementing emergency response and recovery measures that reinforce national drought management policy goals

e. Water scarcity and drought conflict prevention measures
Initial Study under the project

Establishing Drought Early Warning Systems in West Asia and North Africa

Development Account Project 1213C "ROA-207"

Strengthening National Capacities to Manage Water Scarcity and Drought in West Asia and North Africa

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)
Division For Sustainable Development (DSD)

April 2013
Different components of drought forecasting (Mishra and Singh, 2011).
Drought monitoring systems available for use in countries in West Asia and North Africa...
African Drought Monitor and Global Drought Monitor
Global Drought Monitor

Data updated on the 18th of each month

Click on map to zoom or Draw box for a region

Drought News
(G1 Mar to 03 Apr)

Europe
Albania (1)
Denmark (1)
Germany (2)
Italy (1)
Romania (1)
Russia (2)
Ukraine (1)
United Kingdom (4)

Africa
Cameroon (1)
Chad (1)
Egypt (1)
Ethiopia (1)
Ghana (1)
Kenya (2)
Mauritania (1)
Morocco (2)
Somalia (1)
South Africa (2)

Americas
Bermuda (1)
Botswana (1)
Canada (1)
Jamaica (3)
Mexico (2)
United States (50)
Argentina (1)
Panama (1)
Peru (2)

Population in the current view under exceptional drought: 68,939,000


- Probably the most comprehensive one available;
- 20 indices including SPI, Daily 10-day Moisture Index etc. are mapped and easily accessed.

Example Africa SPI map

**Study**
- Map out existing knowledge and practices and identify critical gaps in current Pre-impact and preparedness drought management in West Asia/North Africa (WANA)

**Expert advisory group meeting**
- Discuss the findings of the study, gather further information, assess experiences provide directions to the project and establish project advisory Group

**Guidance notes**
- Formulate and implement long-term water scarcity and drought management strategies

**Training framework**
- A national assessment and consultation mission to each pilot countries

**Training modules**

**Evaluation and analysis**
- Evaluate results and derive lessons learned
- Pilot country #1
- Pilot country #2
- Pilot country #3
- Pilot country #4
- Pilot country #5
Development Account Project Website

Thank you!

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