

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Expert Group and Inception Meeting on “Strengthening
National Capacities to Manage Water Scarcity and Drought
in West Asia and North Africa”

24-25 June 2013
Beirut, Lebanon

DESA and ESCWA Partnership





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)

Outline



1

Introduction to Department and Division

2

Introduction to Division's work on Capacity Building for Sustainable Development

3

Overview of Capacity Building project on Water Scarcity and Drought Management



Mandate



UN DESA:
**Division for
Sustainable
Development**



DESA Mandate:
**Promote and support
international
cooperation in the
pursuit of sustained
economic growth, the
eradication of
poverty, and
sustainable
development for all.**



DSD Mission:
**The Division for
Sustainable Development
(DSD) provides leadership
in promoting and
coordinating
implementation of the
sustainable development
agenda of the United
Nations.**

Capacity Building for Sustainable Development



Rio+20 main outcome document—The Future We Want—puts emphasis on building developing countries' capacity for sustainable development

To enhance the technical, human and institutional capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement national strategies for sustainable development



Capacity Development Activities and Projects

a

The provision of advisory services addressing specific needs of a technical nature;

b

National, regional and interregional training workshops;

c

The production of guidance notes and training material on specific methodologies;

d

Establishing/strengthening networks of expertise through the exchange of best practices.



Funding Resources

the Secretariat's regular budget

Development Account (DESA, UNCTAD, UNEP, UNODC, UN-HABITAT, The 5 Regional Commissions)

Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC)

Capacity Development Project:

**STRENGTHENING NATIONAL
CAPACITIES TO MANAGE WATER
SCARCITY AND DROUGHT** IN WEST
ASIA AND NORTH AFRICA





Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-17)

Called for effective drought management considering social, economic and environmental aspects.



RIO+20

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

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

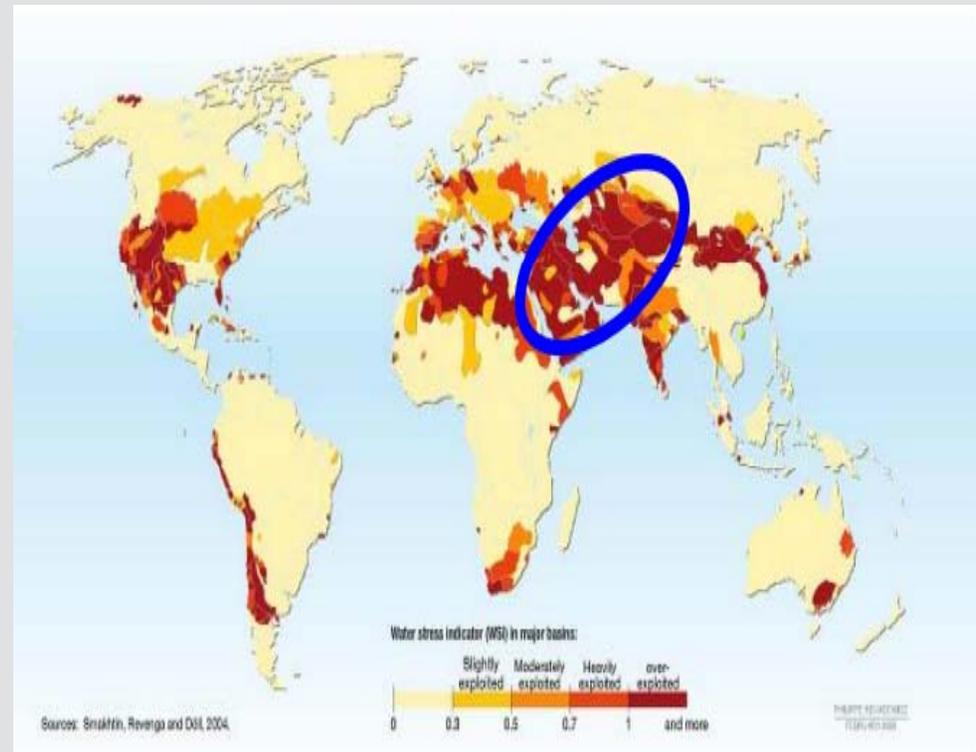
Drought is an extremely serious problem in the Arab region

- 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.



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).



Geographic Locations



Water-scarce and in transition settings countries in West Asia/North Africa

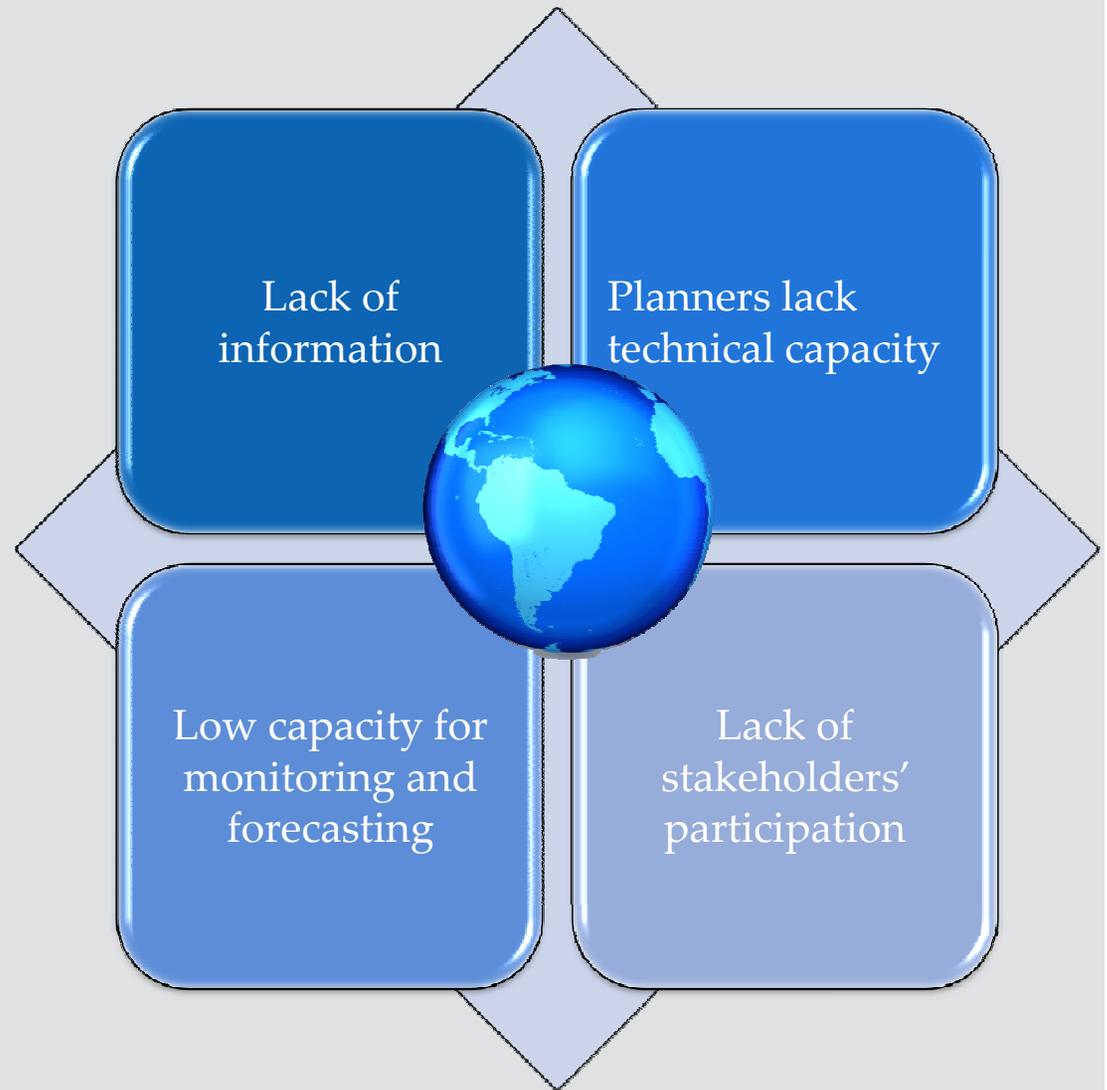
Five (5) pilot countries among:

- Yemen
- Tunisia
- Syria
- Sudan
- Palestine
- Morocco
- Libya
- Lebanon
- Jordan
- Egypt
- Algeria

Current national
drought management
Plans in West
Asia/North Africa

-Ex-post (reactive)

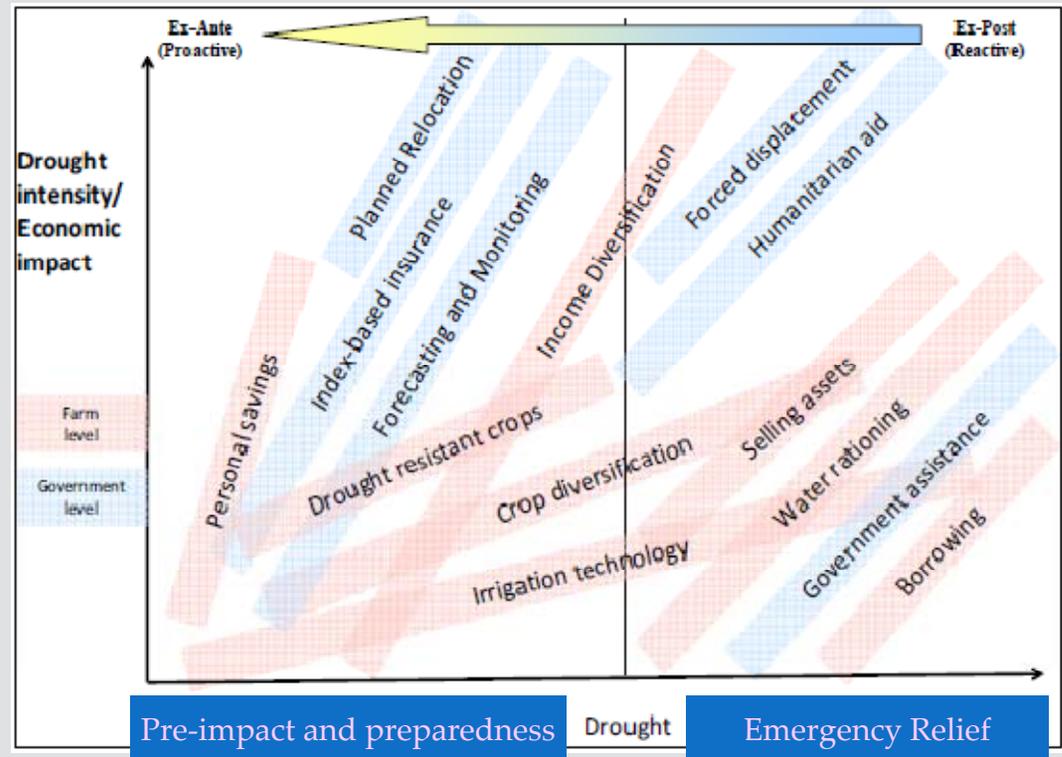
-Emergency relief
that take effect after
or during a drought
event.



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

Main objective:

Capacity building in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of proactive and preparedness drought management strategies.





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

Best Practices/Essential Elements for National Drought Management Policy



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

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



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

Expected Accomplishments:

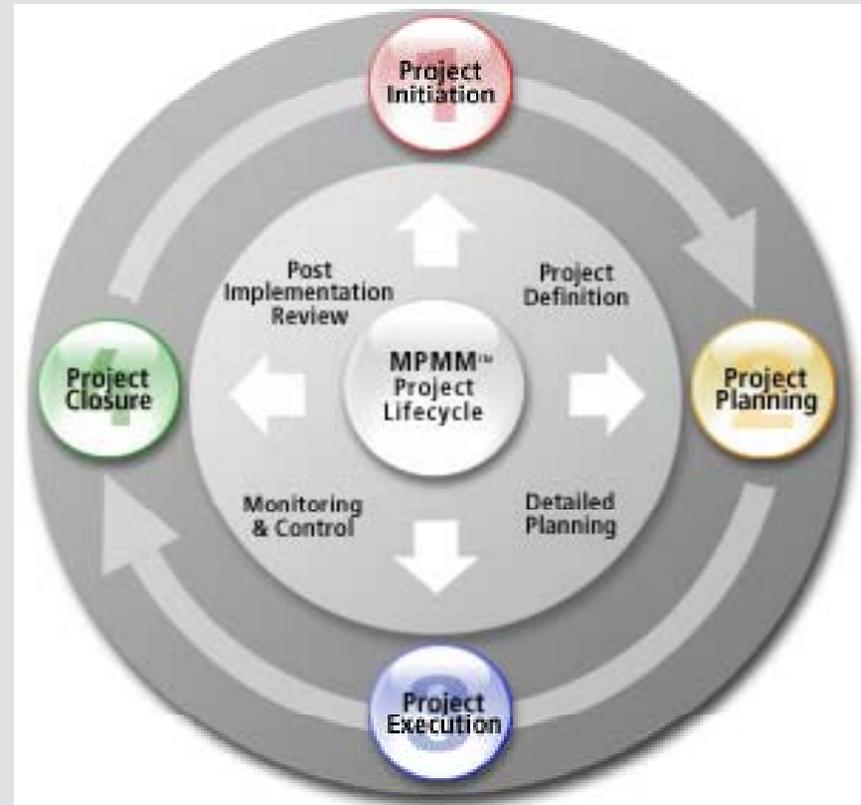
EA.1: Increased awareness and knowledge

**EA.2: Increased human and institutional capacity
Linkage to IWRM, NDP and relevant Strategies (i.e. PRSP)**

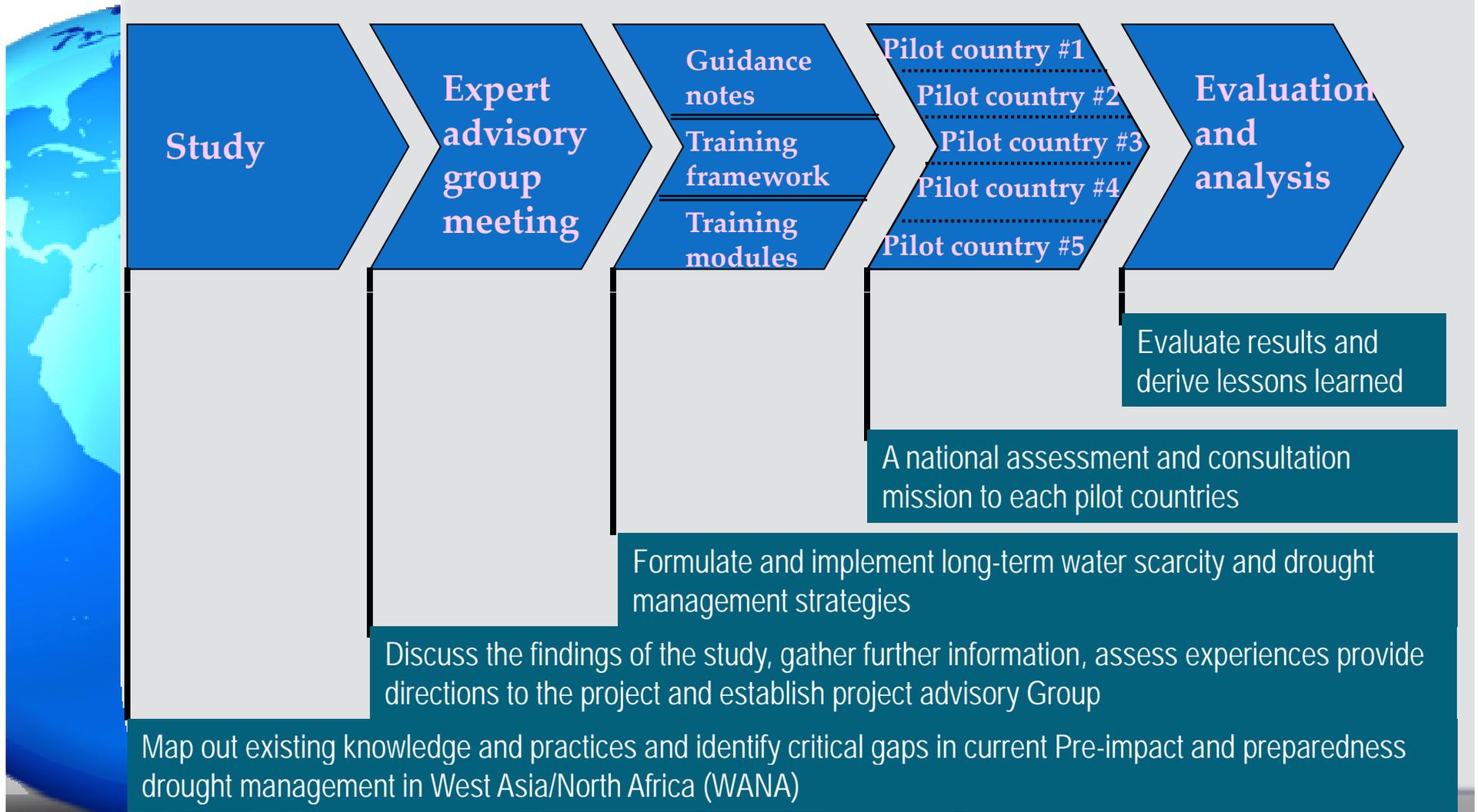
Project Management

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.



Strengthening National Capacities to Manage Water Scarcity and Drought in West Asia and North Africa – Activities (2013-2015)



Thank you!

Feel free to contact:

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