

SESSION 8

Land and soils

Intervention by UNDESA/DSDG

Experience in capacity building projects at the National Level

Manage Drought in Water Scarce West Asia and North Africa

Contribution to EGM on:

Sustainable Development Goal 15: Progress and Prospects

Drought: Basic facts

- **Drought ranks first** among all natural hazards (based on severity, duration, spatial extent, life/economic loss & other measures).
- **Low soil moisture lowers the quality of soil and cause wind erosion of soils**
- **Impacts life on land** (causes loss of human life, increased livestock & wildlife death rates), & drastic socioeconomic and environmental impacts.
- **Significant implications** for food security, water scarcity & energy.
- **Climate change** is likely to shift the patterns of droughts & possibly to increase the frequency & severity of extreme drought conditions.
- **Conflicts:** Drought increases the likelihood of communal violence, civil wars or even wars between nations;



Pilot Countries

West Asia

- Jordan
- State of Palestine

North Africa

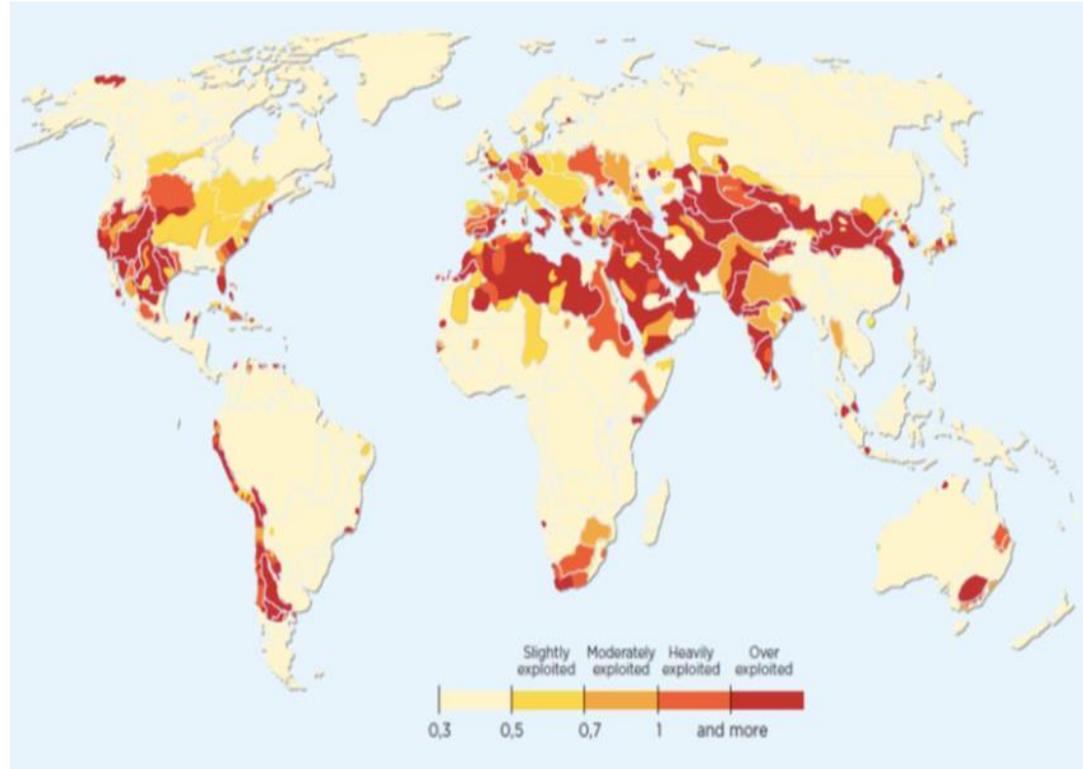
- Morocco
- SUDAN
- EGYPT
- MAURITANIA

Implementation Period

- 2014-2016

Vulnerability in West Asia/North Africa to Water Scarcity and Drought

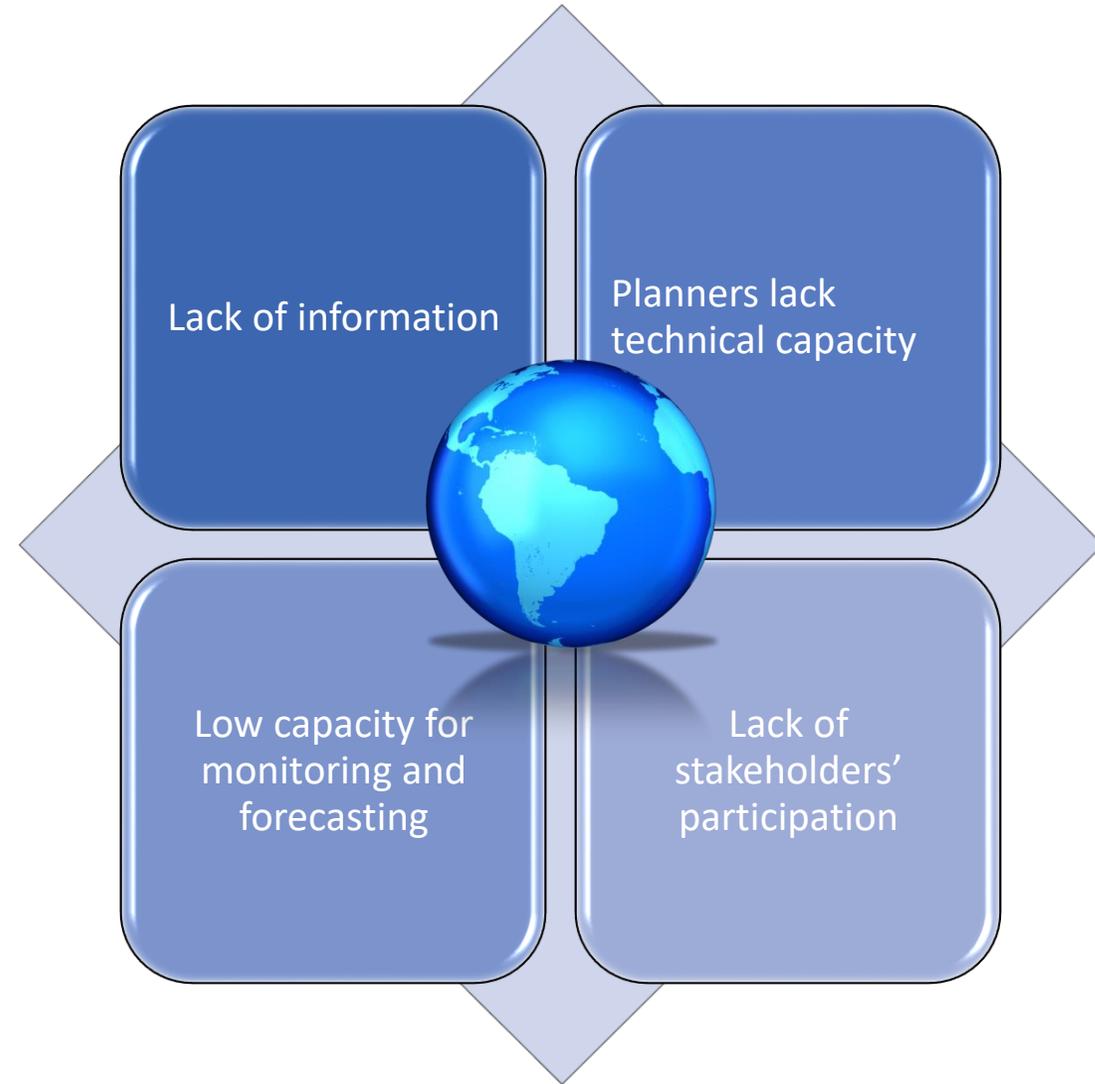
- About 90% of the West Asia & North Africa region is considered as arid or semi arid.
- About 70% of the region's water flows across international borders (shared rivers).



National drought management Plans in West Asia/North Africa

-Ex-post (reactive)

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

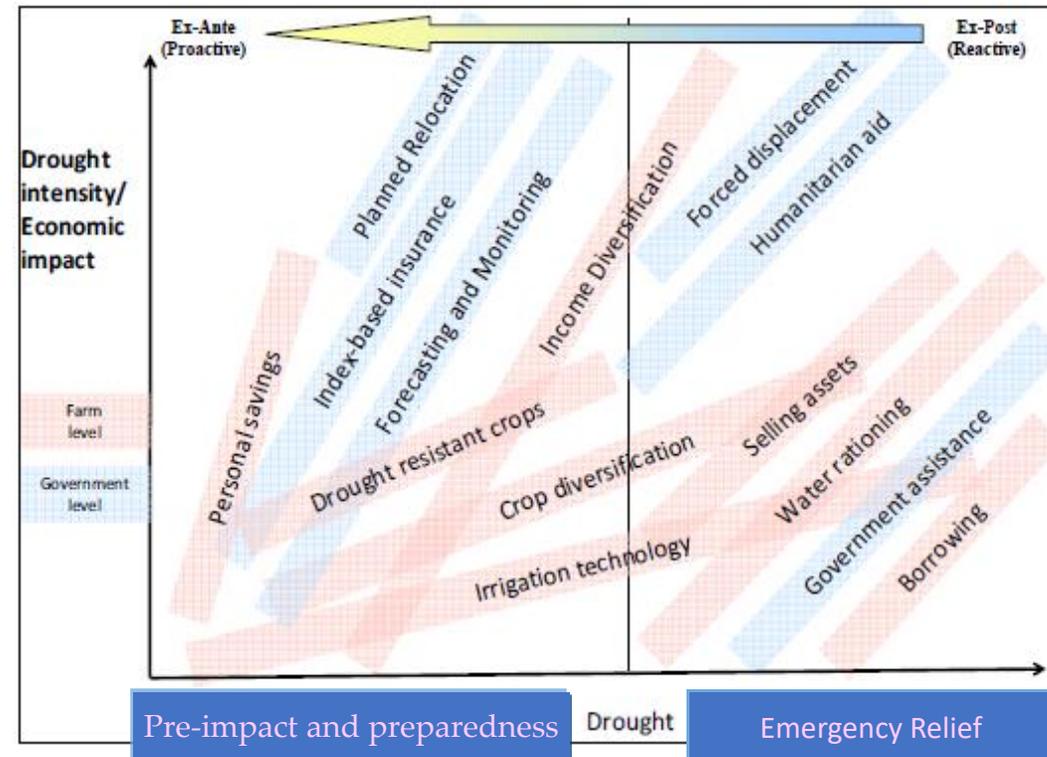


Main objective:

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

- **Making the shift**

- **From managing crises to risk management**
- **From emergency and humanitarian aid to preparedness and resilience**



Key elements in the Proactive Drought management Plan

Drought Monitoring and Early Warning Systems and Information Delivery

Monitoring of key indicators

Development and delivery of information

Vulnerability Assessment and Impacts

Who/What is at Risk & Why (social, environmental and economic)

Mitigation

actions and measures to mitigate drought impacts (short-, medium- & long-term)

structural/physical measures (e.g., appropriate crops, dams, engineering projects)

or non-structural measures (e.g., policies, awareness, knowledge development, public commitment, and operating practices)

Activities in Pilot Countries

Support the planning and coordination process

Assist with fostering involvement and stakeholders engagement

Conduct national stakeholder consultation workshops and provide advisory support.

Assist with developing country-specific preparedness and mitigation national drought management plan.

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

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

Project 121C "ROA-207"

About Project UN Partners Regional Countries Pilot Countries EGM EWS Analysis Research DESA Contact

Introduction

Droughts are complex events generally associated with greatly reduced precipitation, dry soil that impairs agricultural production, and reduced water levels in reservoirs and other bodies of water that can compromise drinking supplies and natural resources. Drought is a contributing factor to conflict, and conflict also makes drought situations worse, in turn causing famine and economic hardship. Many areas affected by drought are arid to semi-arid which tend to be under substantial ecological pressure and low in resources. When drought occurs in such arid areas, the living conditions of the local people become very difficult; the land yields no crops and the quantity of water is insufficient. People often compete for the availability of scarce water resources which can lead to tension and violent conflict.



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Thanks for your attention

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