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Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

Development Account Project 121C "ROA-207": Strengthening National Capacities to Manage Water Scarcity and Drought in West Asia and North Africa

Progress Report

On

Developing and Implementing a Country-Specific National Drought Management plan in Jordan and the Advisory Service on Supporting the National Consultants, Hired in the Other Pilot Countries Under the Project, in Developing and Implementing a Country-specific National Drought Management Plan in the Pilot Countries.

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National Meetings Objectives

One of the main outcomes from the TOT workshop which was organized in Zaragosa from 6 to 9 May 2014 was to organize national meeting for all pilot countries. The meetings main objectives are;

- To bring together all stakeholders related to drought planning, management or affected by drought to present the project scope of work, countries gap analysis findings, and hear about key stakeholders work experience in drought issues.
- To review the latest developments and challenges of the pilot countries in the WS&D area
- To review the drought management guidelines, such as the MEDROPLAN, Nebraska, and near east guidelines and adopt the suitable ones to the pilot countries
- To provide direction to the pilot countries' efforts in developing and implementing WS&D management plans. This includes drought plan components, and drought indices.

Jordan National Meeting

In the preparation process to Jordan national meeting planned on 10 August 2014 , three meetings were organized with the key ministries ; ministry of water and irrigation, ministry of agriculture and ministry of environment. The meetings focused on the followings;

- Preparing the list of stakeholders working with each of the key ministries or were included in the previous drought activities or committee's
- Prepare the agenda and topics to be covered in the meetings
- Prepare the material to be distributed in the meeting
- Plan for the field trip
- Plan for the venue and logistics for the meeting

As a result of the meetings, the following list of stakeholders to be invited to the meeting was prepared;

Invited Organization	Organization type
Ministry of Water and Irrigation	government
Water Authority	government
Jordan Valley Authority	government
Water Utilities/ Miyahuna	gov. company
Ministry of Environment	government
Metrological Department	government
Ministry of Agriculture	government
Ministry of planning	government
Jordan University	Academic
A'1 Al Beit University	Academic
Jordanian Society for Desertification Control and Badia Development	NGO
Royal Society for Nature Conservation	NGO
National Centre Agricultural Research and Extension	government
Hashemite Fund	government
Plant Garden	Government
Royal Geographic Centre	Government
Farmers Association	NGO
UNDP	Int organization
FAO	Int organization
EKARDA	Int Organization
IUCN	Int organization

The ministry of water and irrigation prepared and sent official invitations to the governmental organizations while the consultant invited the NGO's and international organizations.

The next step was to plan for the agenda and topics to be covered in the meeting. Based on the consultations with key ministries, the meeting agenda shown in the annex 1 was prepared. The agenda distribute the meeting activities into three days;

- The first day will cover presentations on project and work progress so far, drought impact on the water supply and agriculture, the pilot projects and mitigation measures implemented to minimize the drought impacts.
- The second day will cover the review of drought guidelines, drought indices' and feed back from the participants.
- The third day will cover field visit to three sites; pilot drought mitigation project (Himma Bani Hashem) which was implemented by GIZ and ministry of agriculture; King Talal dam for water storage and distribution to agriculture in the Jordan valley; and botanic garden.

The field trip was planned and arranged with help from ministry of agriculture , they provided tour guide to the participants.

The consultant prepared with support from UNDESA support team the material to be distributed in the meeting. Basically it give participants and overview on the projects and drought management components and guidelines.

The last part in the meeting planning process was to book the hotel, and arrange for field trip transportation. The consultant sent the procurement office at UNDESA three quotations for hotels and three quotations for bus transportation to the field. They selected holiday in hotel and RUM transport company . The consultant arranged with UNDP office in Amman with support from UNDESA office the financial aspects related to the hotel and transportations payments.

Meeting expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes from the meeting are:

- Clear understanding among the stakeholders on the project, progress, and planned steps.
- Demonstrating a real case of drought management and how it is linked to other areas, such as IWRM, water reuse, economic development, etc.
- Applying the processes used in drought characterization, drought planning and decision-making other countries to Jordan.
- The adoption of drought guidelines to be used in the development of drought management plan.

Support to Other Pilot countries Country Presentations

As mentioned before, each of the pilot countries was requested to prepare and conduct a national meeting. The proposed dates for such meetings were as follows;

- Jordan in August 2014 in Jordan
- Palestine in September 2014 in Jordan
- Yemen in October 2014 in Ethiopia
- Morocco in October 2014 in Morocco
- Tunisia in November 2014 in Tunisia

For the purpose the consultant coordinated with the national consultants and national coordinators the dates and venue, participants, agenda, and topics to be covered. The consultant share with countries consultants the steps to be followed in preparation of the national meetings in their pilot counties. He also worked with them on reviewing the agenda and topics to be covered. For the purpose of making the meeting consistent the agenda format was distributed to all countries.

As a result of Jordan national meeting which was considered the model to be followed by other countries, the regional consultant shared with them the learned lessons from Jordan meeting; the lessons learned are as follows;

- Make sure to talk and meet the stakeholders one by one, give them brief summary on the project and help them to identify the right person for the meeting.
- Make sure to send official invitations with enough time two weeks in advance and follow with them by email and phone to get confirmation the person who will attend the meeting
- Try to invite high level figure for meeting opening to aware the decision makers on the project activities and objectives.
- Send the agenda and material in advance to all participants
- Make sure to give time for discussions after the presentations
- Try to make the presentations short and avoid late presentations and long days
- It will be good to make the working day ends with lunch
- Conduct a brain storming session on the task force members to be identified for development of the drought management plan in each country.

- Prepare comparison between three guidelines (MODERPLAN, NEBRASKA, and NEAR EAST) guidelines to make it easier for the participants to understand and select the appropriate one.
- Encourage and confirm with participants on attending the field trip
- List the next steps at the end of the discussions
- Report and document all notes by the participants