

**Regional Workshop on Climate Change and
Disaster Risk Reduction, Cairo, Egypt, 21-23
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“Summary of the Workshop”

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Joint Vision

Disaster Risk Reduction in the framework of adaptation to climate change is extremely important to achieve sustainable development in the Arab region.

The vision includes the improvement of a regional strategy that involves short, medium and long term plans and programmes for climate change adaptation and preparedness, in cooperation with international organisations, which have great experience in such field. Focus on education, awareness and communities' participation should be strengthened, taking into consideration previous experience and activities.

Common Challenges and Vulnerability

Types of risks	Negative impacts on development and vulnerability
Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scarcity of water resources. • Decline in vegetation and decrease of productivity. • Food insecurity and increase of imports. • Land degradation. • Social instability and increase in conflicts. • Increase in immigration to urban areas and decrease in city and urban standards. • Deterioration of urban infrastructure. • High rates of inflation. • Decrease in sustainable development planning.
Dust Storms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in harmful impacts on human and animal health. • Increase in health care and treatment burdens. • Decrease in economic and social activities. • Increase in negative impacts on agriculture productivity. • Decrease in biodiversity, including natural plants, coral reefs). • Decline in vegetation and decrease of productivity. • Food insecurity and increase in imports. • Negative impacts on air and ground movements.
Heat Waves	<p>The same as dust storms in addition to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase rates of evaporation from water surfaces, land and vegetation.
Floods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase rates of water erosion and landslides. • Impacts on buildings and infrastructure. • Decrease in economic and social activities, (in some agricultural areas). • Spread of insects, diseases and epidemics.
Seawater intrusion into groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decline in ground water quality and suitability of its use. • Decline in vegetation and increase of soil salinization. • Increase in coastal erosion.
Spread of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change of the nature and types of diastases and epidemics, in addition to its

Diseases and Epidemics	<p>spread over the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emergence of new generations of other diseases that were disappeared in the early of last century, such as Malaria.• Emergence of transferable diseases between humans and animals.• Increase in negative impacts on human and animal health.• Increase in health care and treatment burdens.
Locust Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decline in vegetation, agriculture and decrease in productivity.• Decrease in food security and increase of imports.• Increase in the land vulnerability to wind.
Landslides	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased rates of water erosion and landslides.• Impacts on buildings and infrastructure.• Decrease in economic and social activities.• Spread of insects, diseases and epidemics.
Slow Onset Term Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long term risks such as desertification
Areas prone to Multiple Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overlap of risks on some geographic areas (drought, dust storms, heat waves...etc)
Sand Encroachment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decrease in economic and social activities.• Increase the impacts on agricultural development.• Decrease in biodiversity.• Decline in vegetation agriculture and decrease in productivity.• Decrease in food security and increase in imports.• Negative impacts on ground transportation.
Forests' Fires	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decrease in biodiversity and vegetation• Decrease in economic and social activities• Increase of air pollution and temperature.
Tsunami	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Destruction in buildings.• Increase in coastal erosion.• Destruction of infrastructure nearby coasts.

Obstacles and Challenges

- Lack of data and information needed for effective and efficient decision making and relevant researches (accurate assessments of climate changes impacts at the national and regional levels, in addition to data on vulnerability and disasters).
- Lack of skilled labour.
- Lack of financial resources (centralised).
- Lack of coordination amongst relevant stakeholders (good governance).
- Weak institutional capacity at all levels.
- Different priorities between countries of the region.
- Insufficient legislation and its implementation mechanisms.
- High rates of illiteracy and lack of formal and informal educational resources.

Opportunities and Available Resources

- Existing available expertise in some Arab universities (such as Nagah University, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, Arabian Gulf University, ACCAD, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development...etc
- United Nations and International organizations working in the Region.
- Experiences available from Red Cross and Red Crescent Organisations and Nongovernmental organizations.
- The Regional Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction for training and researches.
- The International Tunisian Centre for Environment, Djibouti Centre for Pollution Abatement, Emergency Management Centre located in KSA and other national specialised institutions.

Priorities of Implementation

- Collecting and updating maps, data and information regularly.
- Identifying roles and responsibilities at the national and regional levels.
- Developing and improving the mechanisms required for coordination and follow up at the national and regional levels.
- Organizing the institutional efforts and the plans to be effectively monitored on regular basis.
- Concentrating the efforts for conducting researches, developing technologies and exchanging experiences.
- Identifying an appropriate budget for disaster risk reduction programmes, within the framework of adaptation activities to climate change.
- Identifying specialized working groups from the Arab countries (education, preparedness, response,...etc)
- Developing specialized education programmes and training, to be conducted through the Regional Centre for Disaster risk Reduction, and make them available to all Arab Countries.
- Monitoring the implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, in addition to developing national and regional reports.
- There is willingness at Arab Political Level and decision of CAMRE.
- Need for practical mechanisms and implementation programmes.
- Resources and expertise are available in the Arab region, but needs for identification and effective use.
- Public awareness and education.
- Participation of local and volunteering capacities.
- Working at the city and village levels, in close collaboration with the national efforts.
- Building synergy between Arab-Arab cooperation and with other regions.