



Sustainable Water  
Integrated Management (SWIM) -  
Support Mechanism



Project funded by  
the European Union

*Water is too precious to waste*

**Session IV: DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AS A NO-REGRET ACTION  
TOWARDS CLIMATE CHANGE.**

**17-18 October 2012, Brussels**

# BRIEF REMINDER OF 2012 ACTIVITIES

Within the context of no-regret action for CC adaptation, SWIM-SM implemented in 2012 three activities:

1. Production of a report entitled "Development of Guidelines for Mainstreaming CC No-regret actions into IWRM Policies".
2. Organized a training workshop to develop the capacity of water & environment professionals in SWIM-SM PCs to undertake precautionary measures towards the adaptation of the water sector to potential negative impacts of CC including drought.
3. Identification and catering of no-regret actions for the water sectors in Jordan and oPt to adapt to projected impacts of climate change with emphasis on drought & flood risks management.

## MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF 1<sup>st</sup> IMPLEMENTATION YEAR

1. Serious concern is prevailing among water officials on the potential risks of CC in the form of frequent recurrence of droughts in PCs beyond the normal average.
2. Technical assistance is needed to depart from crisis management approach to risk management approach of drought & develop drought policies for SWIM PCs.
3. Build the capacity of water practitioners, planners, developers, etc. on drought management using a risk management approach to avoid future irreversible socio-economic problems is needed.

# CC AS A DRIVER TO DROUGHT

- According to the World Bank (2007) CC will increase the occurrence of droughts: in the Maghreb, drought frequency increased from one event every 10 years in early 20th century, to five or six events every 10 year currently.

## water scarcity & droughts are two different issues.

1. Water scarcity describes a situation of long-term water imbalance, where water demand exceeds the available water resources.
2. Droughts are the expression of a temporary decrease in average water availability. The primary cause of drought is usually rainfall deficiency.

## CURRENT DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- The current adopted approach is mostly based on crisis management & not much on risk management. Drought episodes are often been addressed by a spontaneous ad-hoc crisis management approach dictated by a lack of timely preparedness for extreme events.
- The problem is further complicated by the limited & scattered drought data at the national & regional levels.
- Furthermore, drought assessment and monitoring programs are neither integrated nor complete.

## DEVELOPMENT OF DROUGHT MANAGEMENT IN SWIM PCs.

- With the assistance from international organizations, some SWIM PCs have focused on drought relief measures. SWIM PCs have established ad-hoc entities for drought management where different concerned ministries are represented to coordinate efforts to deal with the drought crisis & its impacts.
- On the positive side, some SWIM-SM countries have already adopted measures to reduce the impacts of water scarcity & droughts resulting from CC by improving water demand management within their IWRM plans. Others have not taken yet such actions.

## ORIENTATION FOR 2013-2014 WORK PLAN

- It is evident that there is an urgent need to address no-regret actions to improve drought preparedness of SWIM-SM PCs through:
  1. Increased knowledge and awareness;
  2. Better drought management policies and
  3. Development of contingency plans with the view of reducing community's vulnerability & enhancing resilience towards future drought episodes.

## OBJECTIVES OF PROPOSED CC NO-REGRET ACTIVITIES FOR 2013-

2014

- The overarching objective of the CC no-regret activities proposed for the year 2013-2014 is to support SWIM-SM PCs in developing specific drought policies and plans within their long-term sustainable management of water resources with the view of reducing vulnerability & enhancing communities' resilience.



# THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To assess drought frequency of occurrence, delineate the affected areas and identify the population & economic sectors affected the most;
2. To enhance the knowledge, understanding & awareness of droughts in SWIM-SM PCs as an increasing hazard, how it relates to CC as a main driver and its potential environmental & socio-economic impacts.
3. To propose specific drought policies and contingency plans based on risk management with the aim of enhancing preparedness for increasing and extending drought's episodes.
4. To develop the capacities of SWIM-SM PCs to mitigate droughts impacts, on the environment, economy & society; reduce vulnerability & improve communities' resilience in SWIM-SM PCs.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

1. Better knowledge, understanding & awareness of past drought episodes characteristics, frequency, geographic distribution, and potential drought relation to CC as a driver.
2. Identification of traditional water sectors responses to past drought episodes and indigenous success stories in drought management practices for potential replication.
3. Conceptual identification of potential socio-economic & environmental impacts of drought episodes including identification of drought most sensitive sectors, communities, and ecological systems.
4. Development of drought management policies and plans including drought contingency plans catered to the socio-economic and environmental specificities of the SWIM-SM region.
5. Better capacity in SWIM-SM PCs in the management of drought episodes to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance resilience of affected communities.

**ACTIVITY I: Regional Assessment of past drought episodes and their management in Selected SWIM-SMPCs (Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan & oPt). (2013)**

1. To review and develop an inventory of past drought episodes in selected SWIM-SM PCs including frequency, duration, geographic distribution & affected communities.
2. To review and analyse the official water sector reactions and traditional communities response to past drought episodes and identification of lesson learnt and potential indigenous best practices in drought management.
3. To conceptually assess the socio-economic and environmental impacts of drought in SWIM-PCs including the identification of the most vulnerable socio-economic sectors and sensitive ecological systems.

## ACTIVITY II: Development of guidelines for drought mitigation policies & assess institutional & technical capacities available at the national level. (2014)

1. Review of best international drought management and mitigation practices that are based on drought risk rather than drought crisis management; & analyse their compatibility to the SWIM-SM regional specificities.
2. Develop a framework for drought mitigation policies that is built on international best practices utilizing an integrated approach encompassing relevant sectors.
3. Knowledge map institutional and technical capacities available at the national level to identify the capacity building need for the better management of drought episodes with emphasis on tools & techniques to reduce vulnerability of sensitive socio-economic sectors.

**ACTIVITY III: CONVENE A REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING TO  
VALIDATE PROPOSED DROUGHT MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND  
PLANS. (2014)**

1. Convene a regional consultative meeting for water & environment stakeholders including international and regional experts on drought managements to review, deliberate, discuss, propose amendments, validate and approve the proposed drought management policies for the SWIM-SM region. The meeting is expected to identify the areas in need for capacity building and pave the road for future regional activities to better manage drought & reduce communities' vulnerability.

## ACTIVITY IV: DEVELOP CAPACITY OF WATER & ENVIRONMENT STAKEHOLDERS FOR BETTER MANAGEMENT OF DROUGHT EPISODES. (2014)

A capacity development program is planned to train water officials on the fundamentals of drought management and best practices from around the world. This will encompass:

1. the organization and convening of a capacity development workshop on potential impacts of drought episodes on drought sensitive sectors, mitigation measures and tools, methods for reduction of communities' vulnerability, mobilization of resources for drought contingency plans, etc.
2. Organization of 10 days study tours in European countries with experience in planning and managing drought episodes and adaptation of the water sector to climate change.



*Thank you  
for your kind attention*

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*Merci pour  
votre attention*

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