
UN-DESA



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

*United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
In partnership with the Government of Jordan*

Workshop Summary Report

on

The second National Consultation Workshop on Developing and Implementing Mitigation and Preparedness Plans for Water Scarcity and Drought (WS&D) Management in Jordan and Palestine

Amman - Jordan

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June 7-9, 2015

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Abbreviations and Acronyms:

ARIJ:	Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem
EQA:	Environment Quality Authority
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
MEDROPLAN:	Mediterranean Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Planning Guidelines
MoA:	Ministry of Agriculture
MoLG:	Ministry of Local Government
NC:	National Committee
NDMPs:	National Drought Management Plans
NGOs:	Non-Governmental Organizations
NDMC:	National Drought Mitigation Centre
PMD:	Palestinian Meteorological Department
PWA:	Palestinian Water Authority
UN-DESA:	The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
WS&D:	Water Scarcity and Drought
WSRC:	Water Sector Regulatory Council
MOP	Ministry of Planning
MWI	Ministry of Water and Irrigation
MAG	Ministry of Agriculture
MOE	Ministry of Environment
MEOT	Metrological Department
NCARE	National Centre for Agricultural Research and Extension

1. Introduction

The Workshop was organized by UN-DESA in partnership with the Government of Jordan, represented by the ministry of water and irrigation, and the Government of Palestine, represented by the Palestinian Water Authority. The joint workshop falls within the framework of UN-DESA capacity development Project 121C ROA-207 entitled “Strengthening National Capacities to Manage Water Scarcity and Drought in West Asia and North Africa”.

The objective of the workshop is to enhance the capacity of national and civil society members to integrate water and sustainable development into a national development strategy. The specific objectives include:

1. Update decision makers and stakeholders on work progress since the first national meeting
2. Present the proposed framework and mandate for establishing drought a management unit, which will be responsible for drought-related issues .
3. Involve all related stakeholders in planning for drought management activities and priorities
4. Strengthen coordination and information-sharing among stakeholder and the drought management task force
5. increase understanding of the evolving SDGs, general target areas, water and sustainable development, particularly including the cross-sectoral linkages between planning and development of the SDGs on a national level.

2. Workshop Approach and Program

The workshop was conducted between 7 to 10 June, 2015 at the Le Maredian Hotel in Amman –Jordan. The first two days were for presentations and discussions, while the third day was for a study tour to Wadi Musa Reuse Project. The workshop agenda is shown in annex 1. The workshop focused on the following areas:

1. Work progress in prepraing drought management plans in Jordan and Palestine and challanges facing task forces since the last national meetings in both countries
2. Integration between the countries’ drought management plans and the UN Sustainable Development Goals
3. Strengthening the coordination and partnerships with the stakeholders
4. Framework, location and mandate for the propsoed drought management unit
5. Planning for the next steps related to various technical aspects in the management plan, such as use of the drought strategy, monitoring , early warning, action planning and mitigation measures

The workshop incorporated a range of learning and knowledge-sharing approaches, including auditory/visual (e.g. presentations and panel discussions), collaborative (e.g. group exercises) and experiential (e.g. problem solving). Participants were given the opportunity to share and learn from national country experiences implementing sustainable development strategies in both Jordan and Palestine.

3. Workshop Participants

The list of participants throughout the three days includes representatives from the Government of Jordan and Palestine, technical experts, civil society actors and organizations, and community groups (farmers). The following organizations participated in the workshop from both countries:

Jordan	Palestine
Ministry of Water and Irrigation	Palestinian Water Authority
Jordan Valley Authority	Environment Quality Authority
Water Authority	Ministry of Agriculture
Ministry of Environment	Palestinian Energy Authority
Ministry of Agriculture	Ministry of Planning
Ministry of Planning	Meteorological Department
Metrological Department	Applied Research Institute Jerusalem
Al Al Beit University/Al Hussein University	Birzeit University
Jordan Valley Farmers Association	Negotiation Affairs Department
Hashimitae Fund for Badia Development	Palestinian Hydrology Group
Al Azraq Tourism and Environment NGO	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Royal Geographic Centre	
National Centre for Agriculture Research	

4. Presentations

First Day: Welcoming Session, work overview and progress;

The first day started with welcoming speeches by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Water from the Jordan and Palestinian Water Authority representative and project coordinator. The first presentation was by Mr. Sami Areikat, the project coordinator from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA). In his presentation, he gave an overview of the project objectives, accomplished activities and proposed work plan for the remaining duration (until the end of year 2015). He also gave an overview of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Palestine Presentation

The national consultant of Palestine (Mr. Ziad Mimi) presented the achieved progress of the drought management plan until mid-2015. The following are the main issues which were presented:

- A workshop was organized by UN-DESA in partnership with the Palestinian Water Authority on 17 December, 2013 in Ramallah- Palestine. The PWA invited different stakeholders including ministries, universities, research institutions, NGO's and funding agencies. The attendees agreed to form a National Committee (NC) from four key institutions directly working on drought and related aspects.

The institutions are the Palestinian Water Authority, acting as a focal point ministry under the UN-DESA project - which will coordinate with other ministries and stakeholders in implementing the project, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Environmental Quality Authority and the Meteorological Department. The NC was responsible for implementing the various activities of the project.

- A national workshop was organized by UN-DESA in partnership with the Palestinian Water Authority on 23 and 24 September, 2014 in Amman - Jordan. During the first national workshop the following were accomplished:
 - The attendees agreed that MEDROPLAN drought management guidelines will be the primary guidelines that could be partially used in Palestine. However, some steps from the Nebraska Guidelines will be also taken into consideration.
 - The attendees identified the related stakeholders for drought management in Palestine. The expectation for, and adaptive capacity of these stakeholders was analyzed.
 - The attendees discussed the drought indices for Palestine, the main impacts to be considered in each sector, and long and short-term drought mitigation measures.
- The National Consultant has drafted the national drought management plan for Palestine in November, 2015 based on the first national workshop. This plan was distributed to all stakeholders who participated in the workshop, for feedback and comments. The National Consultant has received some comments from five stakeholders and modified the plan accordingly. During the Jordan – Palestine joint workshop, the modified plan was presented by the National Consultant. The attendees agreed to move forward with the steps outlined in the following section.

Jordan Presentation

The national consultant of Jordan (Mr. Loay Froukh) presented the work status since the first national meeting in August, 2014. The following are the main issues that were presented:

- Forming the task force for drought management planning in Jordan from the following organizations;
 - Ministry of Water and Irrigation (focal and lead ministry)
 - Ministry of Agriculture
 - Ministry of Environment
 - Jordan Valley Authority
 - Metrological Department
 - National Centre for Agricultural Research and Extension
 - Hashemite Fund for Badia Development
- The task force met 10 times to discuss the management plan steps and components

- Adopting the MEDROPLAN guidelines as a reference for the development of a drought management plan
- Defining drought indices for Jordan (SPI, NDVI, Water Balance and Soil Moisture) and defining the responsibilities of the task force members and their organizations as follows:

Index	Organization responsibility
SPI	Metrological Department
NDVI	National Centre for Agricultural Research and Extension
Water Balance	Ministry of Water and Irrigation
Soil Moisture	Ministry of Agriculture

- Coordination with ongoing projects specifically related to drought, desertification and climate change (update of the desertification strategy by IUCN and UNDP, launch of climate change and biodiversity reports by UNDP)
- Involving stakeholders in the task force meetings and discussions (Jordan University as an example)
- Adopting the need to establish a drought management unit responsible for drought planning and management in Jordan
- Defining the responsibilities and mandate of the drought unit, in draft form, to be presented to stakeholders at this meeting
- Preparations for the second national meeting in June, 2015.

The third presentation was an exercise for stakeholders to list and identify the most important drought-related issues in their organizations. The followings issues were raised by the participants as the most important:

- Water harvesting and storage
- Defining areas affected by drought
- Types of crops affected
- Cultivated areas affected
- Efficiency of irrigation systems
- Reduction of losses
- In case of drought, water distribution by tankers
- Dams-management system
- Expanding cultivation of alfalfa
- Use of treated wastewater in irrigation
- Supporting feeders
- Public awareness campaign
- Specific attention to Badia

Then the opportunity for discussion of each issue was then made available.

Second Day: The focus of the second day was on two main subjects;

- The shift in UN strategy from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) phase to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) phase. The project's internship students gave a presentation on the MDGs

and SDGs and their link with drought management planning. It was clear that there is a strong link between drought management and SDG goals 2, 6 and 17 listed below:

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation
 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (taking note of agreements made by the UNFCCC forum)
 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss
 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development
- The next session was on establishing a Drought Management Unit responsible for drought management and drought planning in each country. For this purpose, there were two exercises leading to two main outcomes; the first identified the responsibilities of the Drought Management Unit, while the second outlined the organizational structure and institutional location of the unit. Based on the discussion and feedback from stakeholders, the responsibilities of the unit are as follows:
- Data collection and analysis
 - Preparation of plans and actions to mitigate drought
 - Announcement of drought
 - Studying drought impact on all sectors
 - Coordination and follow-up with all other ministries and organizations regarding actions and implementation measures to be taken
 - Defining indicators and indices for drought
 - Prediction of drought
 - Training on drought management for Stakeholders

The second exercise was about the location or host institution for the proposed drought unit. The feedback from stakeholders was as follows:

Stakeholder Organization	Proposed Unit Location
JVA	Royal Committee/independent
MWI	MWI or Agriculture Research Centre
WAJ	Ministry of Municipalities
MWI	Ministry of Agriculture
WAJ	Ministry of Agriculture
JVA	MWI
MWI	Ministry of Environment
MOP	MWI
Badia NGO	Ministry of Agriculture
Azraq Environment NGO	Agriculture Research Centre
Al Beit University	Ministry of Agriculture
Hussein University	Ministry of Environment
Metrological Dept	Ministry of Agriculture
National Centre for Agriculture Research and Extension	Ministry of Agriculture
Ministry of Environment	Prime Minister's Office

Third Day:

The third day was for a field trip to the Wadi Musa Wastewater Reuse project. The water reuse pilot project was established in 2002 by the USAID Water Reuse Implementation Project in Wadi Mousa, aimed at enhancing livelihoods in the local community. This pilot project was later expanded during the USAID Water Reuse for Agriculture, Industry and Landscaping Project from 2004-2007.

The project site is adjacent to the Wadi Mousa Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Up to 80 hectares is irrigated with reclaimed water for growing fodder crops—mainly alfalfa and barley—and some fruit crops. Farmers practicing reclaimed water irrigation belong to the Sad Al-Ahmar Association, commonly known as the Water Users Association (WUA). The association has 120 members (over 200 people, including their families), of which about 42 members are directly engaged in the pilot agricultural activities.

Financial support was given by USAID, while technical support to farmers is provided by the Hashmitae Fund for Jordan Badia Development, Aqaba Water Company and Ministry of Agriculture. The farmers managed to sustain themselves from selling the alfaalfa product in the market.



5. Workshop Outcomes

Through three days of discussions between taskforce members from both countries and stakeholders, the meeting outcomes can be summarized as follows:

- There is a high need for a Drought Management Unit, which will be responsible for drought management and planning in each country. In Jordan, most of the participants suggested to have the unit at the ministry of agriculture within both Jordan and Palestine. For Palestine, it was agreed that this unit would be headed by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- The unit will have its own technical team for drought management and planning, and it will have a support team comprised mainly of the task force members who represent the various relevant ministries. The support team will provide necessary support on the political or policy level, and will follow up with their ministries on implementing portions of the drought management plan related to their particular areas of focus.

- The unit will have the following responsibilities:

- Data collection and analysis
- Development of drought management plans
- Study of the impacts of drought on different sectors
- Recommendations of announcing drought when it occurs
- Coordination with all relevant ministries
- Analyzing climatic data through different methodological techniques to identify the probability of drought and return periods for different districts
- Identification of areas of high probabilities of drought
- Selection of remotely-sensed indices for monitoring drought
- Development and monitoring early warning systems
- Development and updating of drought policies and strategies related to drought
- Follow up on the implementation of drought plan actions and mitigation measures
- Advancement of training for staff in the field of remote sensing and high temporal resolution data, and their use in drought monitoring

6. Next Steps

The following steps are planned for the coming weeks:

Jordan

- Prepare workshop report and distribute to decision-makers
- Conduct training for task force members
- Conduct special workshop jointly with Hashemite Fund for Badi
- Finalize the selection of host institution where the drought unit will be located
- Task force meeting to review and adopt guidelines and drought indices
- Prepare draft drought management plan
- Organize stakeholders meeting to discuss the draft plan
- Finalize drought management plan

Palestine

- National focal person to ask the Minister of Water to transfer the responsibility of drought to the Ministry of Agriculture

- The Minister of Agriculture should be informed to upgrade the department of drought to a Drought Management unit with reference to the ministry structure
- The National Consultant should send the draft drought management plan to all stakeholders for final comments
- Comments from stakeholders on the draft plan to be reviewed by the National Consultant
- Final dissemination workshop

7. ANNEX 1: Workshop Agenda

Day 1: Sunday June 7, 2015		
Time	Theme	Presenter
9:30-9:45	Arrival of Participants and Registration	
9:45-10:15	Opening Remarks and Welcoming Statements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting Opening - Welcoming Remarks 	Opening: Jordan & Palestine Government Reps. UN Reps. in Jordan & Palestine Welcoming: UN-DESA
10:15-11:00	Workshop Overview and Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshop Goals & Objectives - Roundtable Introductions 	Jordanian and Palestinian National Coordinators
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break	
11:15-11:45	Jordan's Progress since Last National Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity Building Project Overview - Work Update on Drought Management Plans - Drought Preparedness System Metrics - Discuss Recommendations from Previous Meetings 	Jordanian National Coordinator and National Consultant
11:45-12:15	Palestine's Progress since Last National Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity Building Project Overview - Work Update on Drought Management Plans - Drought Preparedness System Metrics - Discuss Recommendations from Previous Meetings 	Palestinian National Coordinator and National Consultant
12:15-1:15	Lunch	
1:15-2:00	N-DESA Project's 2015 Work Plan in Jordan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work Plan Activities & Objectives <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.To enhance Jordan's water scarcity & drought management capacity 2.To build on the Zero Draft of National Water Scarcity and Drought Management Plan (NWSMDMP); and to develop and implement the following SDGs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Goal 2: Food Security & Agriculture ➤ Goal 6: Water ➤ Goal 17: Technology, Capacity Development & Partnerships 	Jordanian National Coordinator and National Consultant

1:45-2:15	UN-DESA Project's 2015 Work Plan in Palestine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Overview - Work Plan Activities & Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.To enhance Palestine's water scarcity & drought management capacity 4.To build on the Water Scarcity and Drought Management Plan (NWSMDMP); and to develop and implement the following SDGs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Goal 2: Food Security & Agriculture ➤ Goal 6: Water ➤ Goal 17: Technology, Capacity Development & Partnerships 	Palestinian National Coordinator and National Consultant
2:15-3:00	Context Setting for Post-2015 Development Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce the Post-2015 Development Agenda - Lessons Learned from MDGs - Roundtable Discussions 	UN-DESA
Day 2: Monday June 8, 2015		
9:30-9:45	Review of Day 1 and Plan for Day 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review Topics Covered and Lessons Learned from Day 1 - Organize Agenda for Day 2 	Jordanian and Palestinian National Consultants
9:45-10:00	Coffee Break	
10:00-11:00	Incorporating the SDGs Into National Development Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review connections between SDGs - Water Scarcity and Drought Management as Enabling Elements for Achieving the SDGs in Water Scarce Countries - Assess Potential Areas for Inclusion 	UN-DESA
11:00-1:00	<i>Drought Unit Responsibilities and Host Institution</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder feedback on unit organization & responsibilities - Stakeholders discussion on host institution 	
1:00-2:00	Summary of Actions and Priority Needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based on the outcome of the 2-day workshop - Recommendations for the Future 	Jordanian and Palestinian National Consultants
2:00-2:30	Closing Statements	Jordan & Palestine Government Representatives, UN-DESA

Day 3: Tuesday June 9, 2015

Field Visit – Wai Musa/Reuse Project

Lunch

8. Annex 2: List of Participants

Jordan

No.	Participant Name	Organization
1	Muna Saba	NCARE
2	Mutasem Kilani	MOP
3	Muayed Ghaniem	MOP
4	Mohamad Shawabkeh	Meteorological Department
5	Osama Kattan	MoA
6	Mohammad Banya Mustafa	MWI
7	Saleem Hweimel	JVA Farmers Association
8	Khaled Osos	JVA - WUA unit
9	Ali Hayajneh	MWI-NFC
10	Fawzi Nueiham	Al Hussein University
11	Saad Al Ayyash	Al Al Beit University
12	Othman Dawlat	Farmer /Al Azraq
13	Mohammed Sharabati	Ministry of Environment
14	Ahmed Theibat	Farmer south badia
15	Mohammed Qrisha	Farmer /middle badia
16	Mansour Fawwaz	Farmer/north badia
17	Loay Froukh	UN-DESA
18	Sami Areikat	UN-DESA
19	Melinda Alfano	UN-DESA
20	Lydia Slack	UN-DESA
21	Sarabeth Brockley	UN-DESA

Palestine

No.	Participant Name	Organization
1	Ibtisam Abu Al-Haiga	Ministry Of Agriculture
2	Farah Sawafta	Ministry Of Agriculture
3	Ibraheem Al-Quqa	Environment Quality Authority
4	Mohamad Turshan	Ministry of Planning
5	Yousef Abu Asad	Palestinian Meteorological Dept-MOT
6	Jain Hilal	Applied Research Institute Jerusalem-ARIJ
7	Natasha Carmi	Negotiation Affairs Dept

8	Deeb Abdelghafour	PWA-NFC
9	Ziad Mimi	Birzeit University-NC
10	Majdi Al Shiek	Energy Authority