

## Highlights on Main Activities

Some of the activities that are the main focus of the Initiative and that meet its strategic objectives include, but are not restricted to:

- Systematic identification of the knowledge gaps within the Arab region, and responding to gaps and needs in data, information and knowledge required for more effective actions on the regional, national and community levels for building resilience.
- Assisting decision-makers for better characterization of hazards, vulnerabilities and exposure for assessment and monitoring purposes.
- Promoting the use of Remote Sensing (RS), Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Management Information Systems (MIS) and modelling techniques to more reliably predict temporal and spatial distribution of risk in the region, forecast severity and frequency of extreme temperatures, evapotranspiration, drought, etc.
- Establishing a network of institutions to coordinate existing scientific capabilities for enhanced use of science and technology in understanding risks.
- Supporting production of high-level reports on the state of multi-dimensional risk trends in the region, capturing findings of social vulnerability that are unique to the profile of the Arab region.

- Development of local capacity and leadership skills of decision-makers and mid-level staff for improved management of multi-dimensional risks and reduction of social vulnerability, in partnership with world-class experts in risk management.
- Mobilizing the role of institutional and private sector investors to meet the implementation challenge.
- Linking regional on-going actions, like the Arab Climate Change Action Plan and Arab DRR Strategy, towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab region.



## Partners



# The Climate Risk Nexus Initiative

Addressing food security, water scarcity and social vulnerability to build resilience in the Arab region

## Background and Rationale

The Arab region faces unprecedented challenges due to a rapidly changing climate, greater exposure to disaster risks, and trends of land degradation, food and water insecurity. Social vulnerability and instability, poverty and inequality, migration and population growth, and urbanization are increasingly complex to manage due to natural constraints such as limited arable land and freshwater.

Climate change acts as a risk multiplier, making natural shocks and stresses like drought more frequent, intense and in some cases, creating new risk hotspots that demand urgent and concerted action.

The situation is particularly severe for vulnerable communities in the region that are already struggling with food and water insecurity, hence fuelling migrations and social tensions.

## Initiative Supported By



In this context, the League of Arab States (LAS) recognized a positive trend in the number of initiatives addressing major challenges faced by the Arab region.

With consensus from several partner organizations for a possible need to mainstream the ongoing work and to create a coordination mechanism between them in order to ensure effectiveness and avoid duplication, LAS has launched the Climate Risk Nexus (CRN) Initiative in November 2015 which was later endorsed in October 2016 by the Arab Water Ministerial Council.

## Strategic Framework

The CRN Initiative aims at developing capacities of LAS and Member States to enact decisions and policies that better manage the growing complexity of risks and support the resilience of people and countries. The Initiative is supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), and the Arab Water Council (AWC) as lead agencies.

The multi-partner Initiative will help address gaps that exist to achieve a more risk-informed development. One major gap is the lack of a strong 'Arab region

profile' that helps understand the nature of converging risks and the implications for development goals in the region, and beyond. By improving the use of science and capacities of networks in the region, a better picture of the risk and resilience profile of the region can emerge.

The LAS/CRN Initiative will serve as a platform for joint programming between LAS and partner agencies to bring about a series of outcomes in the region that engage the complexity of risks, and exemplify resilient-based development solutions.

## Key Activity Areas

Four Areas of Work are identified as being critical to achieving an integrated set of outcomes under the post-2015 Development Agenda, the Arab Plan of Action on Climate Change and the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction.



## Implementation and Structure

A series of projects would be generated under the Initiative for the 2015-2020 period under the four Areas of Work, while the initiative will also support establishment of networks among regional and national institutions and centers of excellence across disciplines. In doing so, it will help create synergies across sectors to reduce fragmentation of efforts, and make existing efforts 'greater than the sum of their parts'.

To achieve the Initiative strategic goals, a Steering Committee, chaired by LAS, has been established to

maintain the coordination process between LAS and partners, and to enhance further complementarities among partners as described in the structure below.

An Arab Geographical Information Room (AGIR), has also been instituted and hosted by the Arab Water Council (AWC), and supported by a Unit of technical excellence established by the LAS Arab Water Ministerial Council in 2015.

