



Distr.  
LIMITED  
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2016/WG.4/INF.1  
8 March 2016  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

## Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

United Nations Development Account Project on Developing the Capacities of the Arab Countries for Climate Change Adaptation by Applying Integrated Water Resources Management Tools

Expert Workshop on Developing the Capacities of the Health Sector for Climate Change Adaptation to Protect Health from the Climate Change Effects on Freshwater Resources  
Amman, 19-21 April 2016

### INFORMATION NOTE

#### I. BACKGROUND

The United Nations Development Account Project on Developing the Capacities of the Arab Countries for Climate Change Adaptation by Applying Integrated Water Resources Management Tools seeks to assist Arab States to build their capacity for climate change adaptation by applying integrated water resources management (IWRM) tools. This is sought by: (a) increasing understanding of climate change impacts on water resources and associated vulnerabilities to inform climate change adaptation policy-making; (b) providing a set of regionally appropriate IWRM tools for supporting climate change adaptation in five key sectors (agriculture, economic development, environment, health, and human settlements); and (c) enhancing knowledge of associated best practices in each of the five sectors that may be drawn upon to support the preparation of national and sector based adaptation and development plans. The project is led by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA), and is implemented in partnership with the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the World Health Organization Regional Centre for Environmental Health Action (WHO/CEHA). This UNDA project builds on the results of the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR) that is led by ESCWA and implemented by 11 League of Arab States, United Nations and expert organizations.

A training manual consisting of five complementary modules, each focused on one of the key sectors, was prepared by the respective organizations. This was agreed to during the inception meeting of the project that was held on 24 November 2013 in Amman. This regional workshop aims to present and test the draft module on health that was prepared by WHO/CEHA in collaboration with ESCWA. The training module aims to build the capacity of Arab officials on the use of IWRM tools in the health sector for climate change adaptation. This is done by drawing upon regional climate change assessment tools and demonstrating methods for considering and responding to the effect of projected climate change impacts on the health sector using vulnerability and adaptation WHO guidance. The national and regional health assessment approaches will also be introduced as a way for informing climate change adaptation in the Arab region. Adaptation measures and options related to the health sector as well as areas for action at the national and regional levels are included in the module.

#### II. OBJECTIVE

The main objectives of the workshop are to:

16-00080

- Present and discuss the draft module on health with experts in the sector;
- Examine the linkages and integration between health assessment guidance and methodologies related to the impacts of climate change on freshwater resources and health and their possible incorporation in regional and national policies and plans for climate change adaptation;
- Share case studies from Arab States and discuss their possible inclusion in the module; and
- Discuss the finalization of the module based on the input and feedback received from the workshop participants.

### III. PARTICIPANTS

This workshop will bring together representatives from the health ministries of the Arab States, members of the Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network (AWARENET) engaged in climate change adaptation, as well as WHO and ESCWA representatives and associated experts.

### IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

The workshop will be held at the offices of the World Health Organization Regional Centre for Environment Health Action (WHO/CEHA) in Amman, Jordan. Arabic and English will be the working languages of the meeting. Simultaneous interpretation will be available.

### V. LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

Sponsored participants are kindly requested to return their completed registration form to ESCWA by 22 March 2016 to secure arrangements for their travel. Sponsorship cannot be guaranteed for registration forms received after that date. Participants are responsible for securing their own visas for travel to Jordan.

A block of rooms has been reserved for meeting participants at the Kempinski Hotel, which is located in the Shmeisani business district in Amman. A preferential single room rate of US\$ 125, inclusive of breakfast and all taxes is offered. The hotel is located 5-10 minutes from the WHO/CEHA offices by car. Kindly indicate on the registration form if you would like ESCWA to reserve a room for you at this hotel.

### VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence and inquiries concerning the workshop should be addressed to:

Mr. Tarek Sadek  
 First Economic Affairs Officer/Climate Change Officer  
 Water Resources Section  
 Sustainable Development Policies Division  
 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for  
 Western Asia (ESCWA)  
 Beirut, Lebanon  
 Tel: + 961 1 987 520  
 Mobile: + 961 70 824 432  
 Fax: + 961 1 981 510 / 511 / 512  
 E-mail: [sadekt@un.org](mailto:sadekt@un.org)

cc: Mr. Hadi Radwan  
 Research Assistant  
 WRS/SDPD/ESCWA  
 Tel: + 961 1 978 569  
 Mobile: + 961 3 231 217  
 Email: [radwan@un.org](mailto:radwan@un.org)

Mr. Hamed Bakir  
 Coordinator  
 Environmental Health Interventions Unit &  
 Regional Advisor WSH, Climate and Health  
 Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office /  
 Centre for Environmental Health Action  
 World Health Organization  
 Amman, Jordan  
 Tel: +962 6 552 4655, 553 1657  
 Email: [bakirh@who.int](mailto:bakirh@who.int)

cc: Ms. Dalal Al-Deir  
 Assistant to Director of the Regional Centre for  
 Environmental Health Action (CEHA)  
 World Health Organization  
 Amman, Jordan  
 Tel: + 962 6 510 0677  
 Email: [aldeird@who.int](mailto:aldeird@who.int)