



Water and Food Security in the Arab Region in a Climate Change Context

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Key Regional Challenges

The Arab region is one of the most water scarce regions in the world

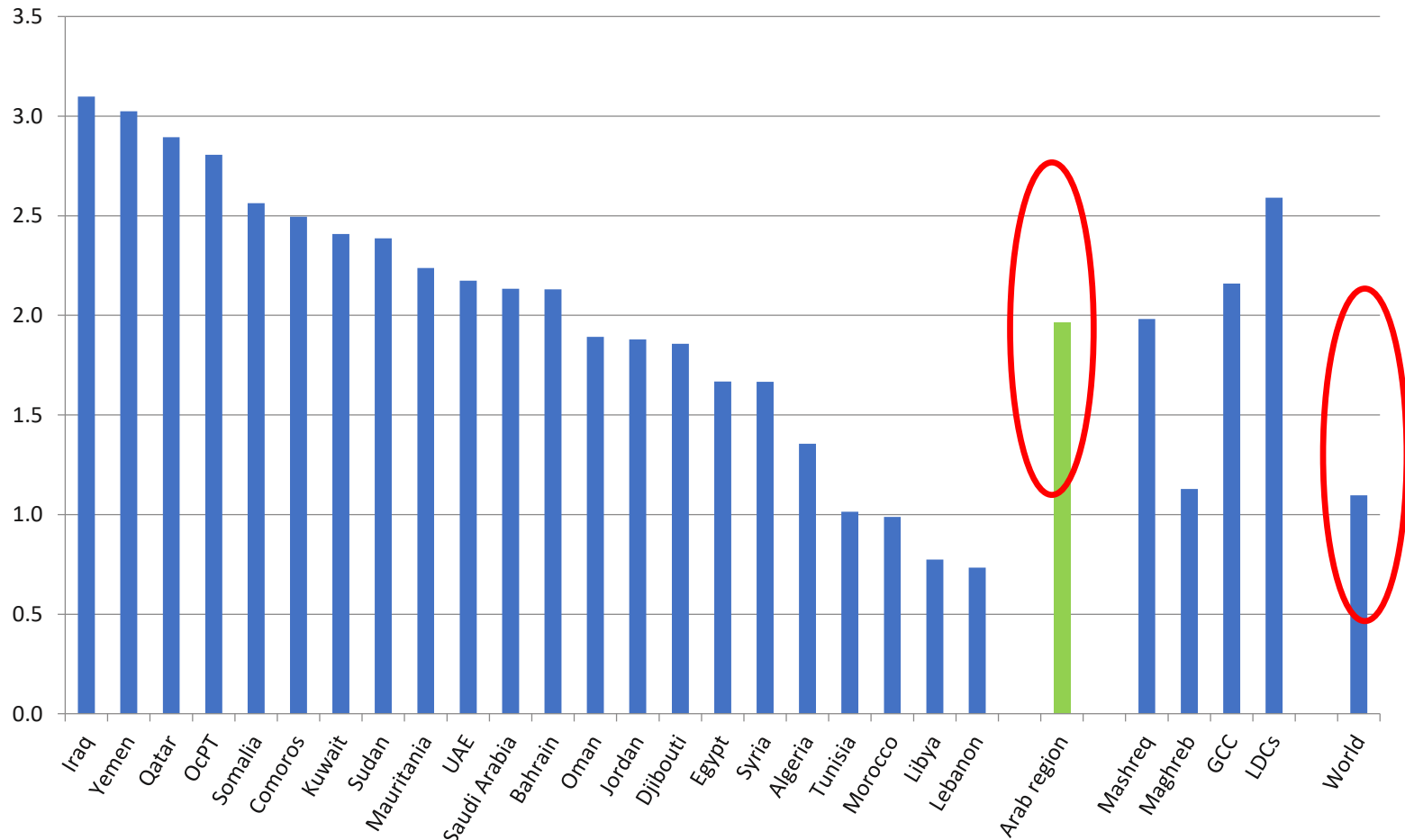
Home to around 5% of the world population but less than 1% of the global renewable water resources

Large portion of the renewable water resources in the region originates outside the borders of its countries

Around 75% of the population in the Arab region have a share that falls below the water poverty level of 1000 m³ per capita annually

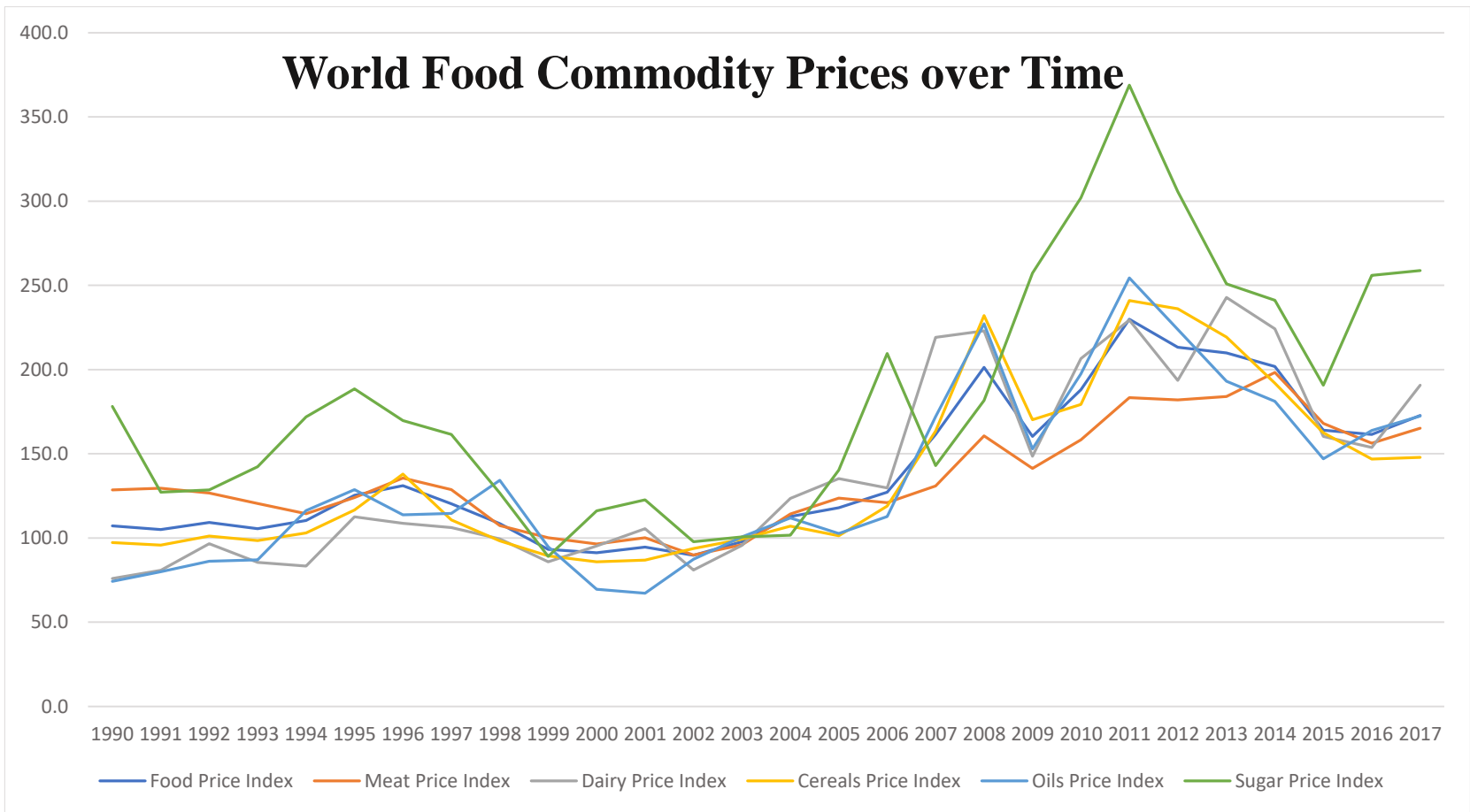
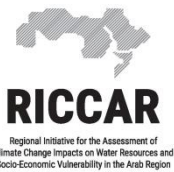
High Population Growth...increased demand for food & water

Annual Population Growth Rates, 2010-15 (per cent)



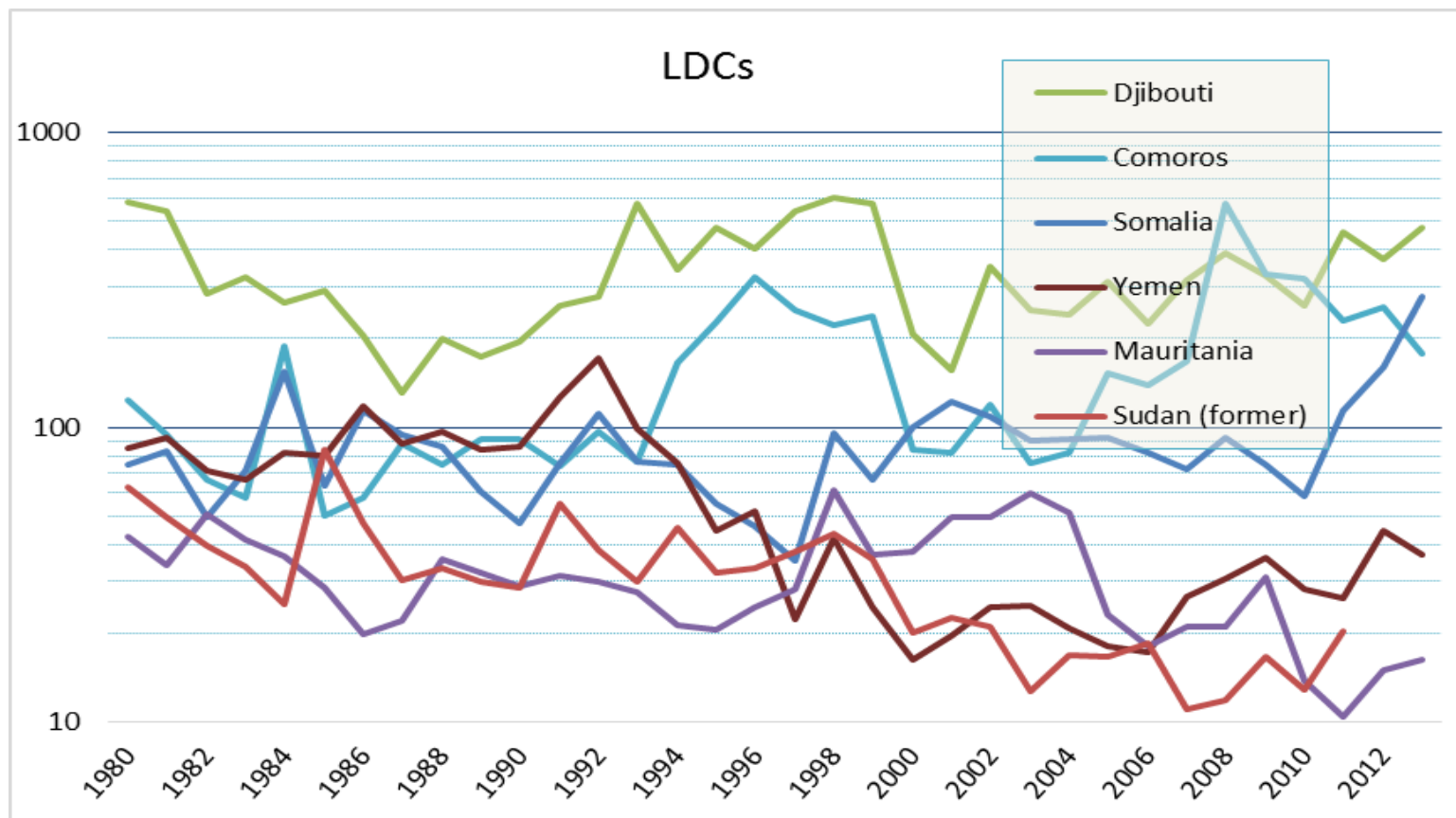
Source: UN DESA, Population Division

Volatile Global Food Prices –coupled with dependence on imports



Source: <http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en/>

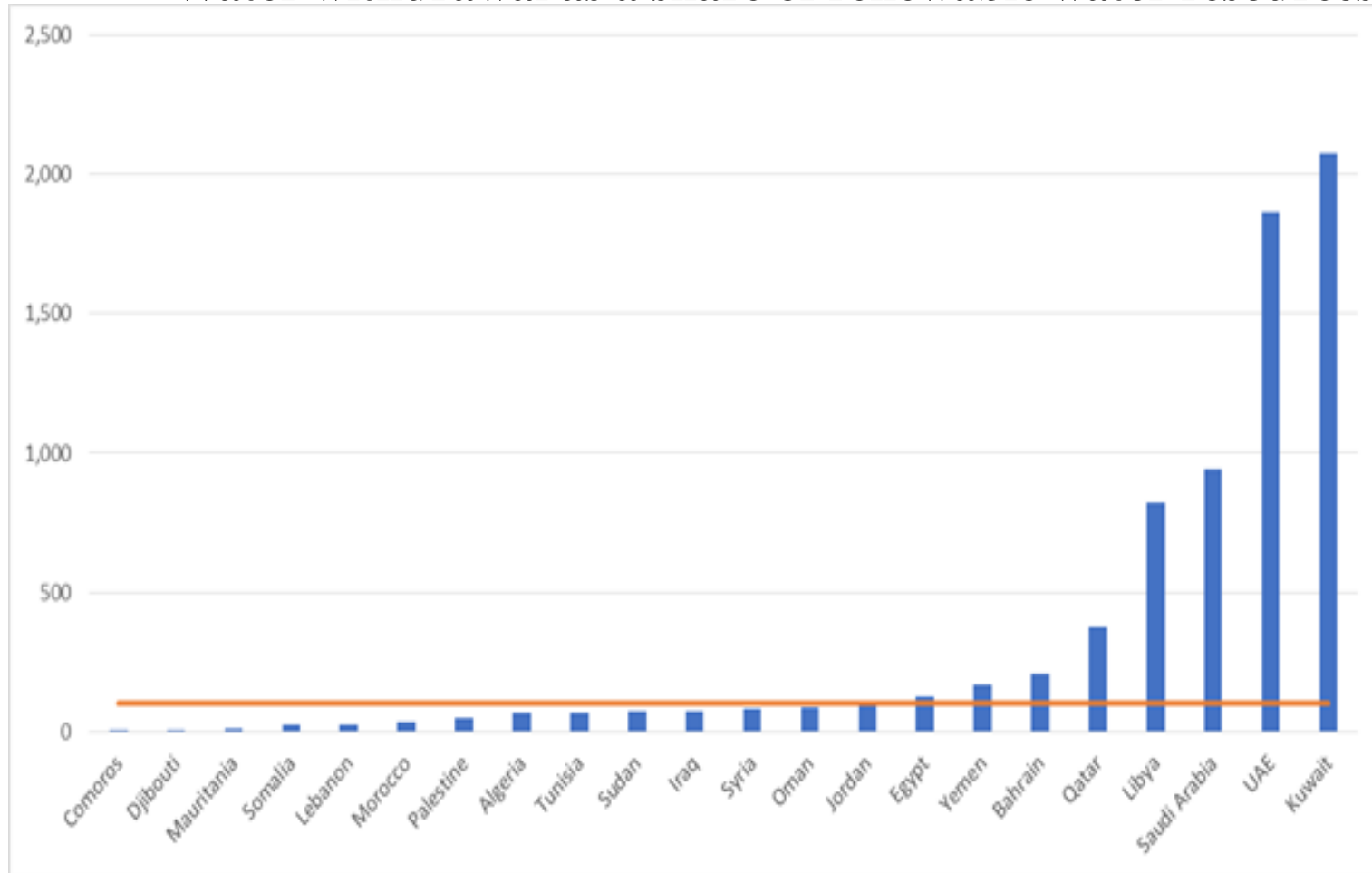
Ratio of the Value of Food Imports to Total Merchandise Exports



Source: FOA Stats

Unsustainable Water Use in Countries

Water withdrawal as a share of renewable water resources



Source: FOA Stats

Needed Areas for Intervention


A need for developing a **clear vision and framework for food security** within the Arab regional setting



A need for **enhanced coordination between agriculture and water institutions** to develop more appropriate approaches for integrated policy development



Science- policy interface: use of projections and modeling to inform policy makers (referring to outputs of RICCAR)



Development of a **food safety framework** that aims to promote and adopt good agricultural practices in the Arab region





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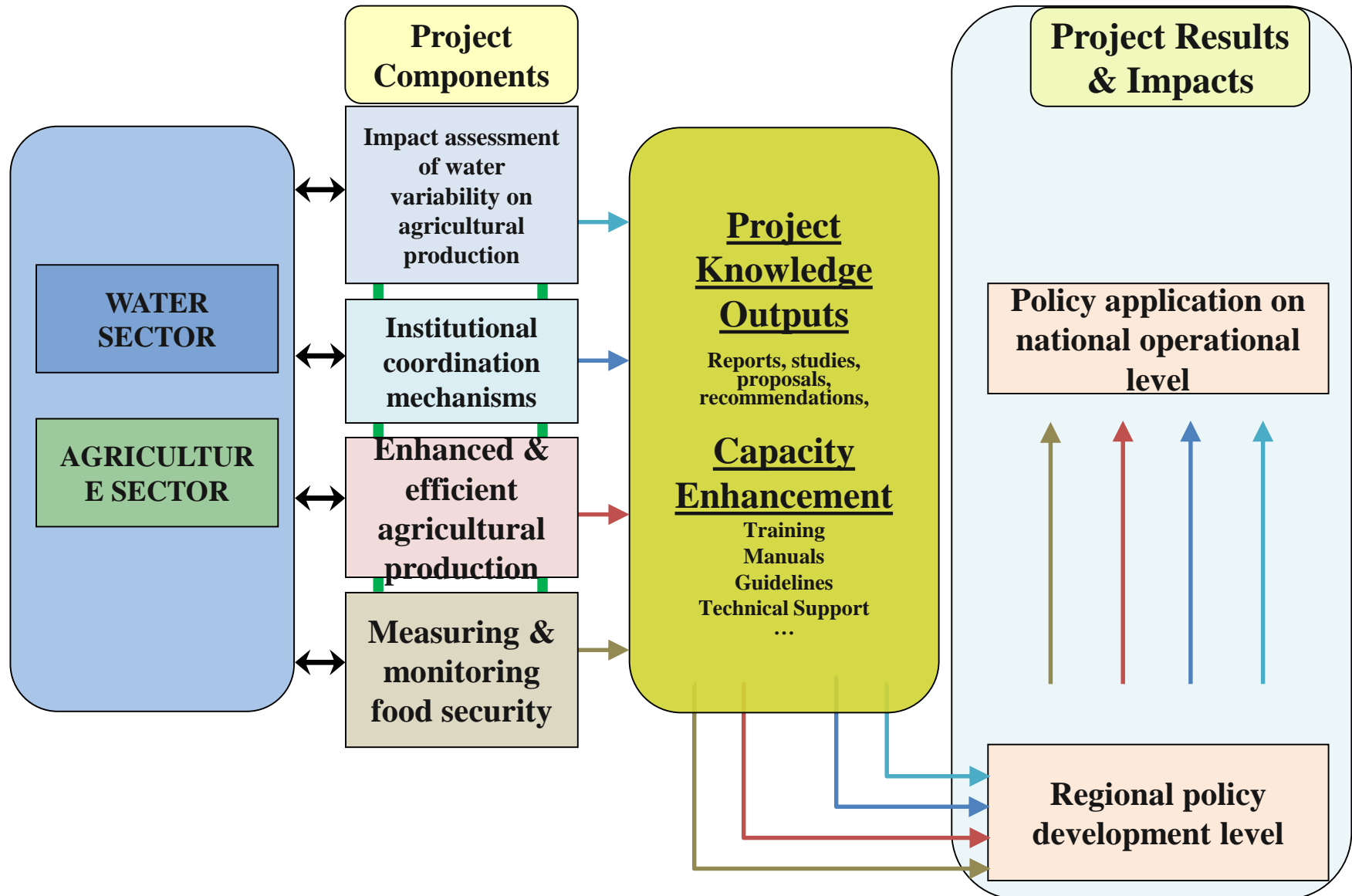


SWEDEN

Promoting food and water security through cooperation and capacity development in the Arab region

To enhance food and water securities in the Arab region through improved and coordinated policy design, strategy development and programme implementation, under the rapidly changing natural, economic and socio-political environment.

Project Concept & Implementation Modality



Project's Expected Accomplishments



Strengthening the capacity to assess impacts of changing water availability on agricultural production (building upon the outcomes of the regional climate and hydrological modeling of the RICCAR project)



Enhancing the capacity for intra-regional coordinated policy development on food and water security in the Arab region

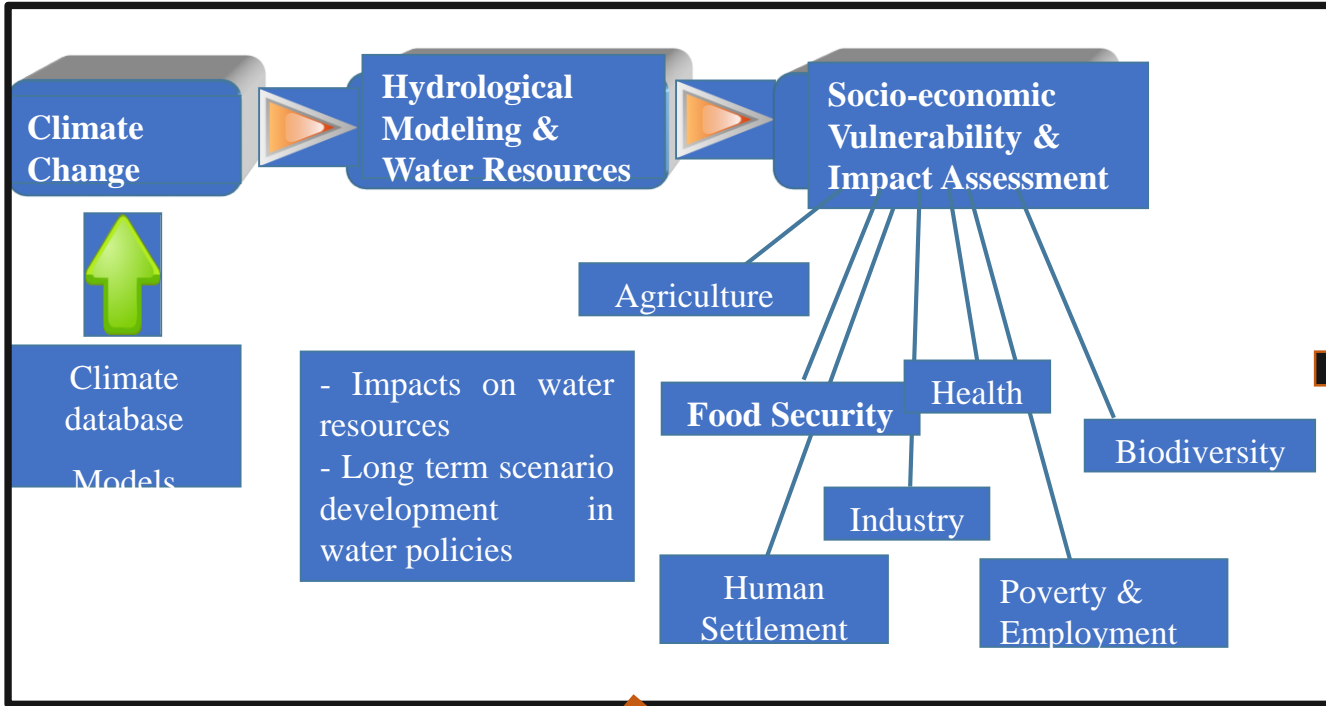


Enhanced capacity for efficient food production in the Arab region



Enhanced assessment capacity of the status of food security in the Arab countries

Implementation Approach for the component



Capacity building /ToT of national teams on the model and development of national assessments based on climate change impact and water availability on agricultural production

towards science-based policy formulation

Implementation Approach

Regional cooperation and coordination

Partnerships with key stakeholders (organizations, ministries, private sector, NGOs, Academia, regional and international expertise, etc.)

Knowledge transfer to strengthen policy development (Capacity building and training programs based on scientific outcomes with simplified and applicable mechanisms)

Case studies/pilot projects' results and recommendations being expanded and streamlined within the workplan of concerned ministries

Development of monitoring frameworks

Inclusive and consultative approach involving all concerned stakeholders

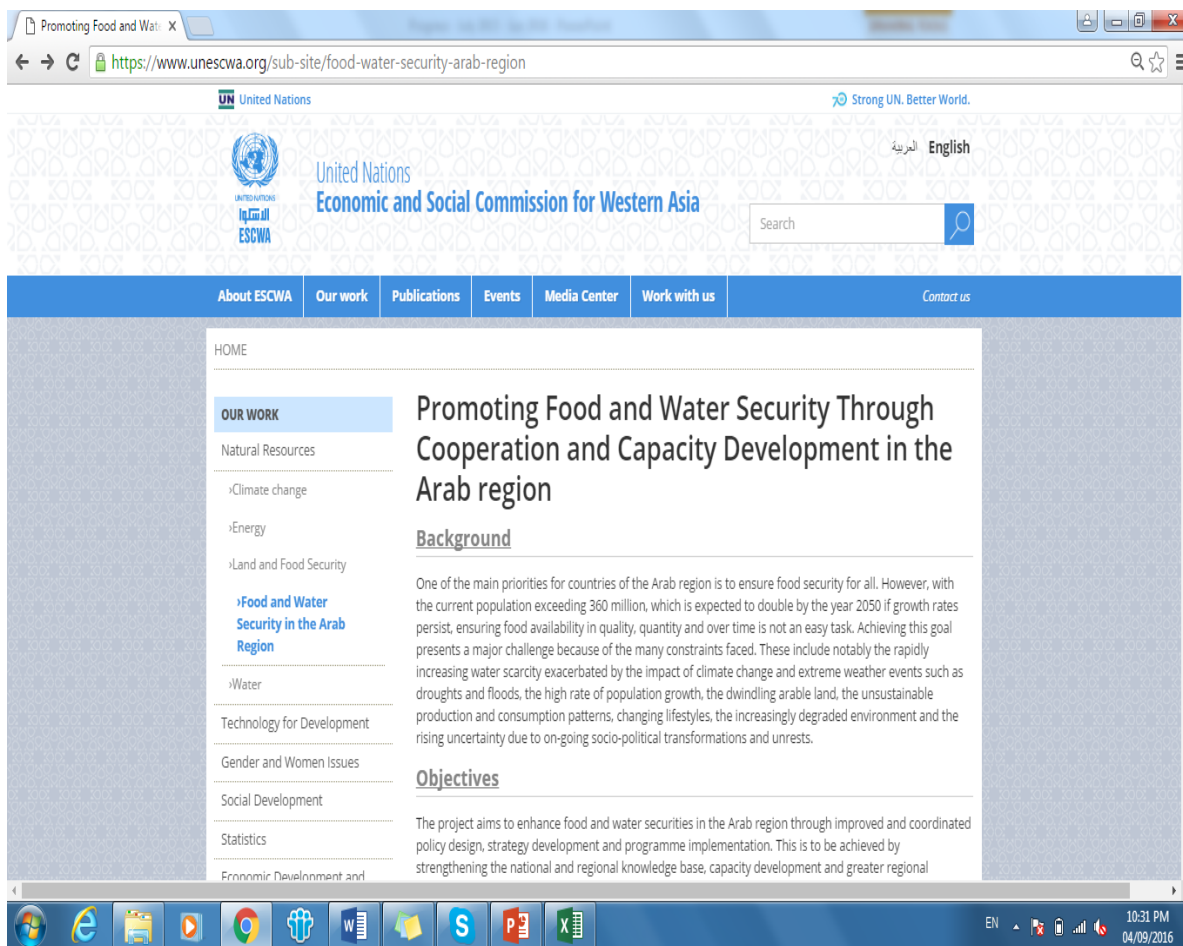
Implementation Challenges

The **institutional framework** readiness and responsiveness to science and research outcome, and the 2030 agenda's commitments;


Limited access & availability of **reliable data** needed for accurate assessment & policy advise;

The ongoing **crisis & conflicts** changing priorities and hindering the implementation in affected countries;

<https://www.unescwa.org/sub-site/food-water-security-arab-region>



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.unescwa.org/sub-site/food-water-security-arab-region>. The page header includes the United Nations logo, the text 'United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia', and a search bar. A navigation menu contains links for 'About ESCWA', 'Our work', 'Publications', 'Events', 'Media Center', 'Work with us', and 'Contact us'. The main content area features a sidebar with 'OUR WORK' categories: Natural Resources, Climate change, Energy, Land and Food Security, Food and Water Security in the Arab Region (highlighted), Water, Technology for Development, Gender and Women Issues, Social Development, and Statistics. The main article title is 'Promoting Food and Water Security Through Cooperation and Capacity Development in the Arab region'. Below the title is a 'Background' section with text: 'One of the main priorities for countries of the Arab region is to ensure food security for all. However, with the current population exceeding 360 million, which is expected to double by the year 2050 if growth rates persist, ensuring food availability in quality, quantity and over time is not an easy task. Achieving this goal presents a major challenge because of the many constraints faced. These include notably the rapidly increasing water scarcity exacerbated by the impact of climate change and extreme weather events such as droughts and floods, the high rate of population growth, the dwindling arable land, the unsustainable production and consumption patterns, changing lifestyles, the increasingly degraded environment and the rising uncertainty due to on-going socio-political transformations and unrests.' Below this is an 'Objectives' section with text: 'The project aims to enhance food and water securities in the Arab region through improved and coordinated policy design, strategy development and programme implementation. This is to be achieved by strengthening the national and regional knowledge base, capacity development and greater regional'. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the date 04/09/2016 and time 10:31 PM.



The graphic features a hand holding a small green seedling over soil, with a water droplet falling from the hand. The background is a bright, sunlit green field. At the top, it reads 'Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia'. At the bottom left is the United Nations logo and the text 'UNITED NATIONS' and 'الأمم المتحدة ESCWA'. At the bottom right is the title 'Promoting Food and Water Security through Cooperation and Capacity Development in the Arab Region'.



RICCAR

Regional Initiative for the Assessment of
Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and
Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region

Thank you