



Middle East and
North Africa



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UNDRR
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



World Health
Organization

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
Centre for Environmental Health Activities

Middle East and North Africa Climate Week Track 2: Integrated Approaches for Climate-Resilient Development

*Resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating the importance of an
inclusive, just and green recovery*

Date and time: 29 March 2022, 11:00 am – 12:20 pm

Venue and Room: Atlantis, The Palm; Silk B

Background: Arab States have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. What began as a health emergency burgeoned into a socio-economic crisis that has had to be addressed in a region already plagued by conflict and heavily impacted by climate change. Public expenditures for social protection programmes in 2020 increased public debt in a region laden with heavy debt burdens. Disruptions to trade, transport and tourism have affected supply chains and hindered the provision of basic needs.

Countries are thus expected to have a more constrained fiscal space during 2022, which will affect their ability to secure the resources to pursue a resilient, just, inclusive and green recovery. It is also affecting the ability of Arab States to pursue further investment in social protection and disaster risk reduction that are urgently needed to ensure resilience before the next health emergency or natural disaster manifests.

Description: The session will demonstrate the importance of a resilient, inclusive, just and green recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. The issue will be framed by an overview of the socio-economic conditions facing the region due to covid and other stressors affecting recovery efforts.

To guide the way forward, the session will showcase lessons learned from previous health and climate emergencies that can be drawn upon to better prepare countries and communities for future disasters. This includes how early warning systems and cross-sectoral exchange can strengthen resilience building on local and regional knowledge as well as the importance of adaptation as priority for increasing resilience. The session will also discuss approaches for greening and climate-proofing health care systems. Innovative and inclusive instruments for funding green recovery efforts through national and sub-national interventions will also be shared.

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inclusive, just and green recovery

Programme

Opening and Keynote Address	
11:00 - 11:10	Welcome by Moderator Keynote Address: H.E. Minister Nasser Yassin , Minister of Environment, Lebanon
Setting the Stage (10 min each)	
11:10 - 11:40	<p>Ms. Carol Chouchani Churfane, Director, Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies, Cluster Leader, Climate Change and Natural Resources Cluster, UN-ESCWA: <i>Regional conditions and opportunities for a green and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic</i></p> <p>Mr. Mazen Malkawi, Regional Advisor, WHO: <i>COVID-19 impact on the health sector in the region and prescriptions for a healthy and green recovery</i></p> <p>Mr. Hisham Dinar, Advisor for the General Directorate of Emergencies, Disasters & Medical Transportation, National Health Emergency Operations Center, Ministry of Health, KSA: <i>Lessons learned from recovery efforts: UNDRR/WHO Policy Brief on Health and DRR in the post-COVID context</i></p>
Panel discussion (5 min each)	
11:40 - 12:05	<p>Mr. Jamal Saghir, Senior Advisor and Board Member, Global Center on Adaptation: <i>Adaptation as priority for resilience in the MENA region</i></p> <p>Mr. Mohamed Hassany, Minister Assistant for Public Health Affairs, Ministry of Health and Population, Egypt: <i>Climate-resilient health systems (online speaker)</i></p> <p>Mr. Said al Sarmi, Meteorologist/Climatologist, Directorate General of Meteorology, Oman Civil Aviation Authority: <i>Early warning, seasonal forecasting for enhanced resilience and readiness</i></p> <p>Ms. Shada El-Sharif, Investment Priority Leader, Prime Minister's Delivery Unit, Jordan: <i>Climate finance for a green recovery</i></p> <p>Mr. Nafaa Baccari, Director, Solar Energy, National Agency for Energy Management (ANME), Tunisia: <i>Inclusive entrepreneurship for a green and resilient recovery in rural communities</i></p>
Q&A	
12:05 - 12:15	Open discussion from the floor
Closing	
12:15 - 12:20	Closing remarks