

**PROJECT DOCUMENT REVISION**

Regional Project

**Title: “SDG Climate Facility: Climate Action for Human Security”****UNDP Project Number:** 00111749 / **SIDA Project Number:** 12054**Implementing Partner:** UNDP**Other Partners:** LAS, AWC, UNEP-FI, UN-Habitat, UNDRR, WFP**Start Date:** Jan 2019    **End Date:** Dec 2022**PAC Meeting date:** Jun 18, 2020**Brief Description**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction highlight that for development to be sustainable it must become resilient to growing risks from climate change and climatic disasters. This is a critical agenda in the Arab region, which already stands as the world’s most water scarce and food import dependent region, and with temperatures rising faster than the global average. Climate change has emerged as one of the most complex and important phenomena exacerbating poverty and human insecurity in the Arab region. In catalyzing greater levels of water insecurity, reduced agricultural productivity, and fragility of land and ecosystem services, climate change is now increasing social vulnerability, exacerbating conflict and triggering displacement in the region. Most of the conflict affected contexts in the region are also some of the world’s top climate risk hotspots, with climate-resilient approaches to development becoming increasingly important from both crisis prevention and recovery perspectives.

Focused on the nexus between climate action and human security, the project seeks to enhance the capacity of regional and national institutions to effectively take climate action in a way that brings benefits across SDGs and for crisis prevention/recovery efforts, including support to scale-up climate finance for innovative local solutions. In doing so, the project brings together multi-lateral institutions in the region such as the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Arab Water Council (AWC), and leading UN system partners active on climate actions in the region, including the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Environment Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI), the UN Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the World Food Programme (WFP).

Through joint actions, the project would address two main priorities in the region that have been identified during the formulation process – (i) to promote more integrated solutions for climate action that brings benefits across SDGs and for crisis prevention/recovery goals, and (ii) to scale up local partnerships and finance to this end. Through a combination of regional dialogues and technical assistance at the regional level, and innovation grants at the country level, the project would generate three key outcomes:

- **Outcome 1:** Enhanced knowledge and coordination on climate-security among key stakeholders at the regional level to achieve climate action with co-benefits across the SDGs, and crisis prevention/recovery goals.
- **Outcome 2:** Enhanced access to analysis, tools and strategies at the regional level to support a climate nexus approach to achieving SDGs and prevention/recovery
- **Outcome 3:** Strengthened national and local capacities to effectively integrate climate change considerations into development and crisis prevention/recovery policies and to scale-up climate finance for local innovative solutions with co-benefits across the SDGs

Underlying and cutting across these outcomes will be the establishment of the *SDG-Climate Facility*, which will take forward a nexus approach beyond the life-cycle of the project.

The project will focus on the following countries to develop local capacity, deploy integrated solutions and support scale-up of climate financing: Egypt, Iraq, State of Palestine, Tunisia, Yemen, as well as a response to the Syria crisis in Jordan as a host country of Syrian refugees.


**Note:** This Project Document comprises a revision of the original Project Document with the aim of integrating additional funding provided by Sida, to reflect the impacts of COVID-19 by adjusting original activities where necessary, expanding existing components that enhance cohesion among different activities, and where relevant, adding dedicated activities aimed at COVID-19 response in the context of climate security. As such, the revision accommodates several new activities related to gender, the project’s climate security pillar and its climate finance component.

Contributing Outcome (UNDP Regional Programme Document):  
 Outcome 1: Accelerate structural transformation of productive capacities in a sustainable and inclusive manner

Indicative Project Outcome(s) with gender marker<sup>1</sup>:  
 Outcome 1: Enhanced knowledge and coordination on climate-security among key stakeholders at the regional level to achieve climate action with co-benefits across the SDGs, and crisis prevention/recovery goals (GEN2)  
 Outcome 2: Enhanced access to analysis, tools and strategies at the regional level to support a climate nexus approach to achieving SDGs and prevention/recovery (GEN1)  
 Outcome 3: Strengthened national and local capacities to effectively integrate climate change considerations into development and crisis prevention/recovery policies and to scale-up climate finance for local innovative solutions with co-benefits across the SDGs (GEN2)

<b>Total resources required:</b>		<b>\$9,971,695</b>
<b>Total resource allocated:</b>	<b>SIDA</b>	\$9,371,695
	<b>UNDP</b>	\$600,000

Agreed by (signatures):

UNDP
 Khaled Abdelshafi <b>Director, Regional Hub for Arab States, RBAS</b>
Date: June 28, 2020

<sup>1</sup> As for UNDP ERP system, the above project outcomes are considered as Outputs.

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## I. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

**Note:** This Project Document represents a revision of the original Project Document, which was PAC approved in 2018. The revision was undertaken upon request by Sida to accommodate an additional \$1.45 million in funding, thereby expanding on cross-cutting components such as Climate-Security and Climate Finance. At the same time, project activities were revised to reflect any COVID-19 impacts, where applicable, and to add dedicated activities to respond to COVID-19 in the context of climate security. Informed by in-depth consultations with all project partner organizations, the additional funding was allocated, and revisions of existing activities undertaken, as follows:

- (a) Climate-security pillar: Several activities were added or expanded, based on consultations with AWC, LAS, WFP and UNDP, as follows:
  - i. Added new Activity 1.3.5 Technical assistance to enhance regional capacity to coordinate and implement climate-security nexus agenda, including support to Arab Water Council to strengthen linkages and synergies between climate-security research and policy-making;
  - ii. Added new Activity 1.3.6 Design and launch Climate-Security Platform to facilitate knowledge exchange among practitioners, academics, research think-tanks and regional and international initiatives related to climate-security, including to provide technical assistance to policy makers on related areas;
  - iii. Added new Activity 2.1.3 Designing the Arab Geographical Information Room (AGIR) structure to share data and results information with relevant stakeholders and the climate-security network.;
  - iv. Expanded existing Activity 3.1.1 Technical assistance to national partners to pilot climate services and early warning mechanisms to inform interventions, including to scale up national social protection and safety net programmes mechanisms that address climate risks to food/water security and reduce social vulnerability, with special focus on co-benefits for gender equality and women's empowerment;
  - v. Removed country grant for Syria and, in turn, added new Activity 3.2.4 in Jordan: Technical assistance to assess risks of climate change on Syrian refugee populations and their host communities in Jordan, and develop policy innovations and pilot solutions to address the nexus of climate change, displacement, energy and natural resources management to support post-conflict climate security.
- (b) Climate finance pillar: Several activities were revised based on consultation with UNEP-FI, while new activities were added as follows:
  - i. Added new Activity 3.3.5 Convene private sector roundtables and public-private marketplace forum to foster commitment to climate-security finance and facilitate match-making between private investors, multi-lateral development banks, project developers, NGOs, industry and public authorities;
  - ii. Added new Activity 3.3.6: Establishing alliances of climate-security champions in the region, including a collation of Finance Ministers, regulators, and others as relevant;
  - iii. Added new Activity 3.3.7: Development of country climate investment opportunity case studies in select countries arising from the market study;
  - iv. Added new Activity 3.3.8: Detailed investment theses developed for targeted market segments, such as for off-grid decentralized solar in crisis and post-crisis contexts and insurance for enhanced climate resilience, to serve as guidance for public-private partnerships and for private investments.
- (c) Dedicated budget for gender expert(s) was added based on agreement among partner organizations for gender to be a priority in the context of climate impacts in the Arab region and given the need to develop dedicated gender-responsive climate-security response options;
- (d) Travel budget was partially reduced to reflect impact from COVID-19;
- (e) Cross-cutting UNDP advisory budget was partially reduced and reallocated to the expanded and newly added activities to better reflect partner organizations' priorities;
- (f) Unused budget originally foreseen for a Knowledge Management Specialist for the first year of implementation, was repurposed to include a new activity in the project aimed at implementing the items delineated in the new Communications Strategy, including to provide capacity building for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and media.

In addition, during the first year of implementation, the focus of original Activity 3.3.5, 'Technical assistance to help countries de-risk low-carbon sustainable energy investments under the new Arab Sustainable Energy Strategy', has been unpacked into new Output 2.4, given its regional focus, which aligns better with regional-level Outcome 2 rather than country-level work under Outcome 3.

## 1. Regional Context

A key finding of regional prioritization process in the Arab States has been the growing recognition among League of Arab States (LAS) members that, in line with the vision of the 2030 Agenda, development can no longer be thought of as a linear process. A deeper understanding is needed of the root causes of vulnerability, including the growing role of climate change in generating new levels of human insecurity. Development pathways in the region require risk-informed approaches in order to adequately meet the needs of the most climate vulnerable communities, preventing people from falling back into poverty due to slow-onset climate impacts on resource security as well as other crises and shocks. The nexus of climate change and displacement is particularly important, with growing resource insecurity converging with and exacerbating challenges of conflict and displacement.

The project helps address this regional priority by developing capacities of regional and national partners for new risk-informed approaches to mainstream climate risk into development and crisis prevention/recovery strategies, thereby helping to generate integrated approaches for implementation of the SDGs, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sendai DRR Framework. This includes ways to take integrated approaches and facilitate cross-thematic synergies to achieve existing regional strategies across various thematic issues, which are often implemented in silo or sectoral approaches, including strategies for poverty, water, food, land, environment, urban development and other issues.

The vision for integrated solutions promoted by the 2030 Agenda calls on regional entities and international partners to go beyond conventional siloed approaches and take a nexus approach to development interventions, thinking through connections and looking for synergies and/or dividends across areas of work. Development in the Arab region is inherently complex, non-linear, and affected by natural and man-made shocks and stresses. Achieving the SDGs in an era of climate disruption will be impossible unless countries and communities are able to address risks from a range of factors and with systems that are able to anticipate and adapt to challenges facing the region.<sup>2</sup> Yet, much of development policy making in the region remains focused on sectoral and linear approaches that fail to engage the complexity of converging risks and challenges.

As countries move forward with efforts to achieve the SDGs, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sendai DRR Framework, a number of main priorities have arisen which serve as the focus of this project:

- i. To promote more **integrated solutions** for climate action that brings benefits across SDGs and for crisis prevention/recovery goals;
- ii. To enhance **coherence in the implementation** of the nexus between climate change, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development
- iii. To scale up **partnerships and finance** towards that end.

In this regard, a new LAS Department for Sustainable Development and International Partnerships was established in 2017, to lead efforts on these and related priorities. This is coupled with the annual organisation of the Arab Sustainable Development Week which convenes national, regional and international stakeholders to prioritize challenges and solutions for the region. Of particular significance is the establishment of the LAS Arab Sustainable Development High Level Committee made up of Member State representatives engaged on the 2030 Agenda. The design of the current project takes root in the regional priorities identified out of these dialogues and processes. The project has been designed through extensive consultations with the LAS, the main

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<sup>2</sup> **Adaptive capacity:** The ability of social systems (for example households, communities or States) to adapt to multiple, long term and future risks, and also learn and adjust after a disaster. It describes the capability to take deliberate and planned decisions even when conditions have changed or are about to change to achieve a desired state. **Anticipatory capacity:** The ability of social systems to anticipate and reduce the impact of shocks through preparedness and planning. This is seen in the proactive actions taken before an event to avoid upheaval, either by avoiding or reducing exposure, or minimizing vulnerability to specific disturbances and **Absorptive capacity:** The ability of social systems to absorb and cope with the impacts of shocks and stresses. This is similar to coping capacity and refers to the ability of social systems manage and recover from adverse conditions using available skills and resources.

intergovernmental body in the Arab region, which has officially endorsed the project as one of its strategic partnerships for implementing the 2030 Agenda. The partnerships with LAS and the Arab Water Council (AWC) have been an important value-added in positioning this Project as one of the key regional initiatives to contribute to the 2030 Agenda.

Among these, one of the key priorities is to develop capacities of regional and national stakeholders to manage multi-dimensional risk, particularly the complex drivers of change from climate change to food, water and ecosystem fragility, and to broader challenges of poverty, conflict and displacement as noted earlier above. The region is increasingly defined by the multi-dimensional nature of risk, and the need for integrated responses that build resilience of communities and ecosystems is paramount. Countries in the region face a wide range of risks, shocks and crises, ranging from localized, short-term events like rapid onset of climatic hazards, to protracted crises from multi-year droughts. Failing to address multi-dimensional risk and take integrated approaches to these converging stressors is having adverse impacts on poverty and social cohesion, reversing development gains in some cases, and calling into question the ability of the region to recover from crisis and resume a positive development pathways towards the SDGs 2030 targets.

Building on regional dialogues on priorities for SDG achievement and consultations among partners, a set of priority SDG-climate nexus points have been identified for focus of activities.

*Table 1: SDG-Climate Nexus Priorities in the Project*

<b>SDG-Climate Nexus Priorities in Focus in the Project</b>	
<b>SDG 1: No poverty</b>	Poor and vulnerable communities across the region are on the frontlines of climate risk. Climate change threatens to derail poverty reduction gains and potentially push people back into poverty unless adaptive measures are accelerated. Protecting the rights of the most vulnerable is a key element of taking climate action in a way that leaves no one behind. In the Arab region, those displaced by drought and conflict are among the poorest and most vulnerable in the region, and a major focus of the project.
<b>SDG 2: Zero hunger</b>	The Arab region is the most food import-dependent in the world. and with temperatures rising faster than the global average, agricultural productivity could decline even further in coming years. Some estimate that agricultural output across the region could decrease 21% in value terms by 2080, with up to 40% decrease in some parts of the region. Food insecurity is a key determinant of poverty and human insecurity in the region, generating fragility and instability at community and regional levels. Climate adaptive social protection, climate risk insurance and other solutions are increasing in focus.
<b>SDG 5: Gender equality and women's empowerment</b>	Climate change disproportionately impacts women, for instance through reduced levels of natural resource security and lack of access to clean energy. Enhancing gender equality is key to improving actions to mitigate impacts of climate change, and gender-sensitive approaches – where women are taking on key decision-making roles - are thus key to reducing poverty and enhancing human security. This includes women's voice in decision-making and ensuring climate actions achieve goals of women's empowerment. This is particularly important for the poorest and most vulnerable communities in the Arab region, including those displaced by drought and conflict, of whom a majority are female.
<b>SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation</b>	The Arab region is the most water-insecure region on the planet, and by 2030 climate change may reduce renewable water resources by a further 20% as declining precipitation reduces water supplies, climbing temperatures boost demand, and rising sea levels and groundwater overexploitation increase seawater intrusion into aquifers. Poor and marginalized communities are especially at risk, with nomadic communities forced into increased competition, and rural communities pushed into urban areas. While climate induced water poverty is a growing source of displacement, water security is also critical for communities seeking to recovery from crisis.

<b>SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy</b>	Energy security is key to address poverty and human security in the region, with solar solutions now among the most cost-effective solutions. The region hosts the planet's highest levels of solar radiation, but only 7% of the region's energy mix is from solar. While new energy investments arise, new capacity does not necessarily translate into gains for poverty reduction and human security. An important segment needing attention is the unprecedented numbers of communities displaced by conflict across the Arab region, for whom increased access to solar supports basic needs, livelihood regeneration and access to health and education services.
<b>SDG 10: Reduced inequalities</b>	Climate change has emerged as a threat multiplier and exacerbating factor in the onset of displacement and forced migration, as extreme events, rising sea levels, and fragility of ecosystems trigger a new wave of internal and cross-border mobility. Without effective preventive solutions or responses, displaced communities face challenges in re-establishing livelihoods and other aspects of human security. This is particularly important in the Arab region, where more frequent and severe droughts have triggered protracted situations of displacement in recent years, often converging with conflict and other drivers of vulnerability.
<b>SDG 15: Ecosystems</b>	Fragility of land and ecosystems has serious implications for poverty and human security. While ecosystems and communities have adapted historically to changes in the climate, the rate of change being seen is stretching the ability of socio-ecological systems to cope. Dryland ecosystems for example make up about 80% of the region, where climate risks are high, where populations are growing rapidly, where biological productivity is least, and where poverty and conflict is highest.
<b>SDG 17: Partnerships</b>	Achieving climate resilient approaches to SDGs and crisis prevention/recovery required scale-up of international partnerships and innovative finance, building on the role of public actors and funds, but expanding collaborations with the private sector and the role of civil society

The focus on the nexus approach in this project engages the reality that climate change is inextricably linked to various SDGs and to crisis prevention/recovery. It focuses on developing capacities of regional and country partners for integrated approaches to climate action across sectors and scales, moving beyond conventional decision-making 'silos' towards an approach that manages trade-offs, capitalises on innovation and opportunities, and builds resilience through synergies across thematic areas. Through a nexus approach, new investments into climate action can bring multiplier effects across SDGs as well as dividends for peace and security.

## 2. Theory of Change

The design of the project benefited from a theory of change exercise undertaken by UNDP in which key development challenges and programmatic solutions were identified. This was driven by system-analysis and reflection on the root causes of development challenges, based on available evidence and learning on what works and what does not in the diverse and crisis-affected contexts which characterize the Arab region. These were drawn from experiences of the regional bodies, UN and development agencies, country partners and civil society organizations. The process helped identify solutions to effectively address the causes of problems that hinder progress, and guide decisions on which approaches should be taken in the project, considering each Partner's comparative advantages, effectiveness and feasibility of proposed activities, and various risks that are part of any change process. Based on an analysis of challenges and root causes, a set of solutions have been developed which serve as the core set of outputs and activities under this project. A summary of the theory of change for the project is seen below.

### Climate change as a driver of poverty and human insecurity

Through the project development process, poverty and human insecurity were identified as an overarching development challenge in the Arab region, with climate change identified as a top contributing factor. Human insecurity can be understood in terms of the exposure and risks to an

individual or community's well-being, emerging from food insecurity, water scarcity, loss of livelihoods, health epidemics, natural disasters, and conflict, among others, all of which can be exacerbated by the impacts of climate change. The nexus between climate action and human security is thus the overarching theme of the project. As elaborated through data and trend analyses in the theory of change process, climate change has emerged as a complex and increasingly important phenomena exacerbating poverty and human insecurity in the Arab region. In catalyzing greater levels of water insecurity, reduced agricultural productivity, and fragility of land and ecosystem services, climate change is now increasing social vulnerability, exacerbating conflict and triggering displacement in the region. Growing risks to food, water and ecosystem services in the natural sphere (drought, ground water scarcity, land degradation) and in the social sphere (poverty, social instability, displacement) are being exacerbated by rising temperatures and increased climate variability. The current and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is likely to put additional burdens on the ability of the state, host communities of internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugee communities to cope with the fall-out from this global crisis.

The nexus of climate action, poverty and human security has gained prominence in recent years, as countries seek to ensure that scaled up climate action under the Paris Agreement on climate change can help achieve results across the SDGs and build resilience to crisis. This is reflected for instance in the 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report (AR5) of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). AR5 included for the first time a dedicated chapter on climate change and human security, elaborating risks to social vulnerability, conflict and displacement. It noted how climate change has emerged as a threat multiplier and exacerbating factor in the onset of conflict and displacement, as extreme events, rising sea levels, and fragility of ecosystems are expected to trigger a new wave of forced migration, both internal and cross-border.

This reflects a growing consensus that climate change is no longer just a global environmental phenomenon, but is also a major development challenge and a growing threat to peace and security especially in the Arab region where fragility is already high and social coherence undermined by various other factors.<sup>3</sup> "Reduced access to water and extreme weather events negatively affect food security and undermine the livelihoods of vulnerable households and communities. Growing natural resource scarcity may then lead to local competition which becomes unmanageable in the absence of institutions for conflict resolution. Fragile states and communities with a history of conflict are the most vulnerable. Migration that is influenced by climate-related events is predominantly domestic"... But climate-related effects will grow in magnitude with consequences in space and time that are difficult to predict."<sup>4</sup>

Forging this nexus of climate action to poverty reduction and human security is particularly important for the Arab region – the only region to have witnessed a significant rise in poverty levels in recent years, alongside one of the most dramatic escalations of conflict and displacement in modern history. Climate change is playing an exacerbating force in these trends, and unless actions are taken to build resilience to climate change, it will emerge as a key barrier to recovery from crises, resume development pathways, and achieve the SDGs by 2030. For example, studies now show that the recent waves of droughts affecting the region from 2007-2017 have been exacerbated by climate change and have been among the most severe in the past one thousand years, emerging as one exacerbating factor in the rise of resource insecurity and internal displacement trends in recent times. According to a recent analysis by ESCWA, the pandemic and its associated fall-out in the economic and social sectors may push as many as 8.3 million people below the poverty line due to a loss of employment and livelihood options, as well as a decrease in access and availability to social services due to a shrinking of fiscal space.<sup>5</sup>

With regard to climate impact on resource security and livelihoods, the Arab region is already the world's most water-scarce, food-import dependent region, and with temperatures in the region rising faster than the global average, climate change could well push people back into poverty, disrupt development pathways and threaten the achievement of various SDGs. The region could see

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<sup>3</sup> See SIDA (2018) "The Relationship between Climate Change and Conflict", SIDA, Stockholm.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, at 4.

<sup>5</sup> UN ESCWA, Impact of the Global COVID-19 Pandemic on the Arab Region, March 2020.



temperatures rise of 2°C by 2030 and 4°C by 2100. AR5 models indicate that food and water productivity may decline a further 20% in the Arab region as climate impacts amplify by 2050 and beyond. Meanwhile, while hosting the world's largest levels of solar radiation, only 7% of power in the region today is from renewable energy, a lost opportunity for building resilience of communities, through greater energy independence and reducing the fiscal strain from imported fossil fuel. This situation is unlikely to improve without some concerted efforts given that the renewable energy sector is also likely to be affected by the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic, with a decrease in demand, as well as a slow-down in the global supply chain.

At the time of revising this project document, the COVID-19 pandemic has created additional and unprecedented challenges for the region. In addition to millions of people losing their jobs and income, food security being at risk due to the breakdown of the supply chain, the population of conflict affected countries, are likely to be particularly vulnerable to the effects of the disease, as well as to outbreaks of the disease. A recent analysis by the International Crisis Group stressed that “places where the global health challenge intersects with wars or political conditions that could give rise to new crises or exacerbate existing ones.”<sup>6</sup>

In a region that is characterized by very large numbers of refugees and IDPs, the vulnerability of those groups is particularly acute as basic hygiene, access to sanitation and water are inadequate, if not non-existent, further aggravated by low access to healthcare. The high risks of the virus continuing to spread has a high probability in fragile contexts, as well as densely populated urban areas, slums, and refugee/IDP camps.

Against this background, there is a very real risk that the focus of national governments in the Arab States, as in other regions, and their international development partners will be on responding to the immediate emergency. While this is a prerogative given the current global crisis, it will be important to retain the focus on longer-term goals and global commitments to ensure that in the event that shocks such as these re-occur – whether health, natural hazards, or the various impacts of climate change - countries have put in place more resilient and effective systems to manage the risks and minimize the impacts. Progressing on global commitments will lay the foundation and ensure that countries are better able to respond to future crises, especially for those who are the most vulnerable in such scenarios.

### **Reduced agricultural productivity and food security**

With regard to food security, the region is already the world's largest net importer of cereal, more prone than other regions to climate change. From 1990-2015 cereal yields increased only 15% in the region, while it rose 25% worldwide. The region has a net cereal import of approximately 58.2 million metric tons, with more than 50% of caloric intake already dependent on imports. The Arab region is the first where grain production has peaked, while import dependence may increase 64% by 2030 if trends continue, moving to 84 million metric tons by 2030. This import dependence will be tested further as the global COVID-19 pandemic will hit food producing countries' supply chain, and their ability to meet global demands.

Agricultural yields, especially in rain-fed areas, are expected to fluctuate more widely over time and lead to lower long-term averages. Some estimate that for the Arab region as a whole, agricultural output could decrease by 21% in value terms by 2080, with up to 40% decrease in parts of North Africa. In countries dependent on subsistence agriculture, climate change could lead to crop failures and could contribute to future events of malnutrition and famine. Recent years have seen record temperatures and serious impacts of droughts on production of various crops. Food security emerged as a key driver of Arab instability in the lead up to the revolutions in 2011, with the combination of unemployment, surging food prices and inflation exacerbating calls for reform. Statistics showed well in advance of the 2011 events that an excessive proportion of household incomes in many Arab countries, more than 35% in countries like Tunisia and Egypt, were allocated to purchase food items. These types of events are expected to multiply as climate change takes on

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<sup>6</sup> COVID-19 and Conflict – seven trends to watch. International Crisis Group, 24 March 2020, <https://www.crisisgroup.org/global/sb4-covid-19-and-conflict-seven-trends-watch>

greater force during the course of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with more frequent droughts expected to trigger even greater levels of internal and cross-border displacement.

While increasing incomes and purchasing power of the poor remains the best way of combating food insecurity, more specific pro-poor strategies are needed to enhance food security, including enhanced social safety nets and increased agricultural productivity which adapts to climate change. Cash transfer programmes have also been a critical response, with Governments in some countries providing direct cash support to the poor to buffer rising costs of food and thereby minimize social instability. Social safety nets are also needed to buffer the poor from price shocks, given that the poor in the region spend 35-65% of their income on food. Another major means of enhancing food security is the expansion of public and private investments into agricultural productivity and adaptation to climate change.

### **Growing levels of water insecurity**

Water security is also being critically affected by climate change. The Arab region receives rainfall well below the world average with a per capita access of just one-eighth the renewable water that the average global citizen enjoys. The region is also home to 14 of the world's 20 most water-stressed countries. With more than 5% of the world's population and about 10% of its area, the region receives only 2.1% of average annual precipitation and contains 1.2% of annual renewable water resources. Renewable groundwater supplies are limited, and non-renewable supplies are threatened by unsustainable use patterns. Meanwhile, water demand in the Arab region is expected to increase by 85 billion cubic meters (Bcm) by 2030, representing a 47% increase from 2005.

The region has only 1,110 m<sup>3</sup> of renewable water per person per year, far below the world average of 6,617 m<sup>3</sup>, while water problems cost the region between 0.5-2.5% of GDP per year. Furthermore, the Arab region has a 37-53% rate of efficiency in use of water across various sectors in the region. The available surface water resources in the region are estimated at 277 Bcm per year, with only 43% of that originating within the region itself, making the Arab region the most dependent on external sources of water. By 2030 the effects of climate change will have reduced renewable water resources by another 20 per cent as declining precipitation reduce water supplies, climbing temperatures boost water demand, and rising sea levels and continuing groundwater overexploitation increase seawater intrusion into coastal aquifers. Based on projections, the region's water deficit could increase from 28.3 Bcm in 2000 to 75.4 Bcm in 2030.

Poor and marginalized communities are especially at risk, with nomadic communities forced into increased competition with neighbouring communities, and rural communities increasingly pushed into urban areas. While climate induced water poverty is a growing source of displacement, water security is also critical for communities already displaced by conflict or other factors. Left unaddressed, tensions over water scarcity are likely to lead to social unrest and violence.<sup>7</sup> For communities facing protracted displacement, water is a critical factor in stabilization, needed for basic cooking needs, for health, sanitation, and rural livelihood generation, and has a particular impact on the ability to recover from crisis for women and girls. Likewise, with the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, the essential role of water to improve hygiene and contain the spread of the virus and epidemics in general has been further underscored.

### **Growing fragility of land and ecosystems**

Fragility of land and ecosystem services is also seeing major impacts from climate change, with serious implications for poverty reduction and human security. While ecosystems have contributed to gains in poverty reduction and human well-being in the Arab region and have adapted for millennia to changes in the climate, the rate of climate change is stretching the ability of socio-ecological systems to cope. Already the region has 1000 threatened species of which 24% are fish, 22% birds

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<sup>7</sup> Water wars: Early-warning tool uses climate data to predict conflict hotspots. The Guardian, 8 January 2020, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/jan/08/water-wars-early-warning-tool-uses-climate-data-to-predict-conflict-hotspots>

and 20% mammals. Beyond the value of species in their own right, ecosystems such as marshlands, oases, wetlands and drylands provide a broader role of services to communities through sustaining livelihoods, food and water provision and other values. While Arab countries have made efforts to preserve their biodiversity and ecosystems, the 2019 Global Assessment of the International Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) notes how climate change is emerging as a top driver of ecosystem disruption, placing new levels of pressure on communities and human security.

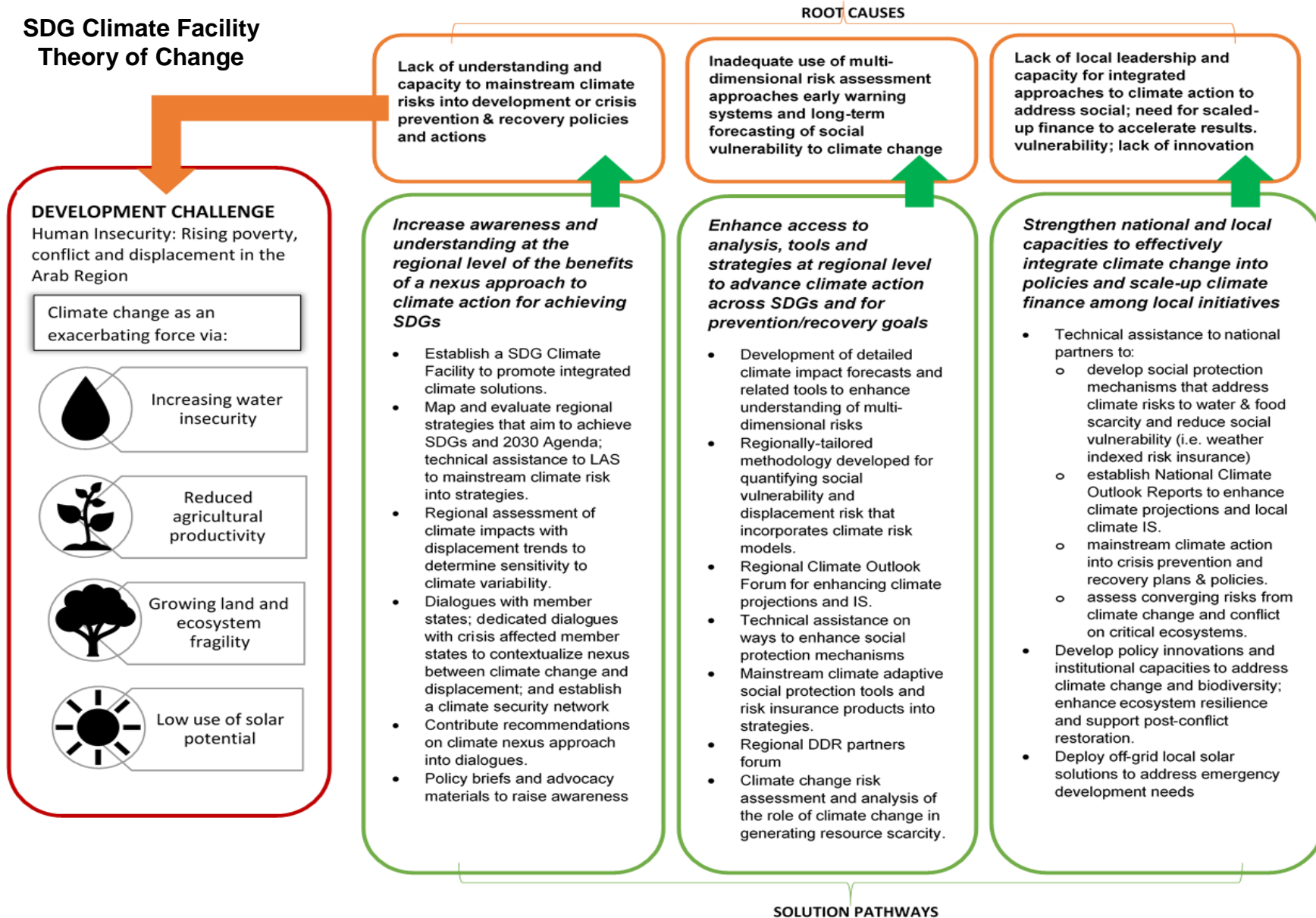
Dryland ecosystems for example make up about 80% of the region, where climate risks are high, where populations are growing rapidly, where biological productivity is least, and where poverty and conflict is highest. Climate change accelerates land degradation, becoming a major barrier to achieving resilience-based approaches to development and recovering from conflict. It also contributes to destabilise communities across the Arab region. The 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UN Biodiversity Convention (COP14) held in 2018 was, for the first time, organised in the Arab region, with the role of climate-induced ecosystem disruption and the consequential impact on poverty and human insecurity a top issue in focus.

### **Closing the solar gap to empower communities**

Energy security is also a vital element to address poverty and human security in the region, with low carbon solutions emerging as among the most cost-effective development solutions for the poor. The region leads the world with the planet's highest levels of solar radiation, however most Arab countries have yet to develop these potentials. Renewable capacity remains low, at only about 7% of the overall energy mix, despite ambitious national policy targets that have emerged in most countries. While new energy investments arise, new capacity does not automatically translate into gains for poverty reduction and human security, with renewable energy expansion often bypassing the poor.

An important segment of the poor needing attention is the unprecedented numbers of communities displaced by conflict across the Arab region, who are among the most vulnerable communities. In crisis contexts, destruction or disruption of energy capacities is a critical issue, with dire situations for both the displaced communities themselves, and host communities where the influx of displaced populations places extra pressures on already vulnerable states of energy insecurity. Factoring solar solutions into crisis recovery policies has become an important priority, with off-grid, decentralized solar solutions an option with benefits across the SDGs - support basic needs for cooking, water, heating and lighting, generating new livelihoods and small business, and social services such as health and education.

# SDG Climate Facility Theory of Change



## **2. STRATEGY**

The complexity of the issues at a hand requires a strong emphasis on enhancing synergies and cross-linkages among them – this is also the value-added of the project. To enable these synergies, the following overarching frameworks will guide the activities and implementation of the project across each outcome, each of them underscored by strong partnerships. As mentioned earlier in the document, the interventions and initiatives will focus both on regional level activities, as well as country level support in order to provide a comprehensive offer of services and assistance.

### **1. Climate-Security Focus**

With its attention to addressing overall challenges of climate change, poverty and human insecurity in the Arab States, the project will have particular focus on generating results in crisis affected areas. The interconnectedness between climate and security has become an increasingly important agenda for policy makers in the Arab region and beyond. Understanding the interface between the two, and their impact on critical challenges such as increasing displacement and migration induced by resources scarcity are necessary for effective responses, and to enable resilient and sustainable development. Yet, there is limited knowledge and proven successful approaches to taking climate action in such contexts, resulting in a need for greater attention by international and regional partners. Through both regional activities and local country level initiatives, the project will help identify and pilot solutions that bring together climate actions with crisis prevention/recovery goals, with particular benefits for communities in areas affected by protracted crisis, which are often hotspots of both climate risk and conflict. These activities will generate important tangible benefits for local communities, as well as models intended for possible replication and upscaling through the regional platforms and activities supporting the project, in particular the planned SDG-Climate Facility.

About half of the countries in the region are crisis contexts experiencing conflict, a resurgence of poverty and unprecedented levels of displacement, while also standing as hotspots for climate impacts. With large-scale investments expected in coming years to help countries recovery from conflict in the region, an opportunity exists to mobilize climate finance as a means to help conflict-affected communities 'build-back better' so communities can withstand future climate impacts and other related shocks which may contribute to further instability unless properly managed. The project will aim at integrating climate factors into local crisis prevention policies and plans, as well as ensuring that recovery and reconstruction approaches are climate resilient.

To enable this, the ability of regional and national stakeholders, both public and private, to take into account climate-related risks in decision-making need to be supported, including by mainstreaming those considerations in crisis/recovery plans/policies, as well as in investment decisions. This can be facilitated by the application of emerging analyses and research outputs. Such outputs will be useful to the extent that they unpack the concepts of climate-security from a human development perspective, including the impacts on existing social vulnerabilities, especially for those who are marginalised, or traditionally left behind. In the Arab States, this is especially relevant for vulnerable communities that are prone to climate-induced displacement, as well as refugee communities, internally displaced people and their host communities. Technical assistance at the country level to develop initiatives geared towards addressing those challenges will be a cornerstone of the strategy. Identifying the right partners in the implementation of initiatives, especially at the local level can also ensure inclusive, responsive and locally sustainable results.

As climate-security becomes an increasingly important agenda item for policy makers in the Arab region and beyond, and to strengthen coherence and coordination between various international initiatives related to climate-security, the project seeks to establish a Climate-Security Platform. This will serve as a dedicated regional platform to advance, codify, and disseminate knowledge and lessons from projects and initiatives, and also enable inter-regional exchanges to promote the lessons learned in the Arab States. It will also support countries to revise, enhance or develop



adequate crisis response/recovery plans and policies in multiple participating countries. It will benefit from the network of practitioners initiated by AWC, and link up with relevant regional and global initiatives, such as climate-security assessments and regional social vulnerability analyses led by AWC, the Planetary Security Initiative, climate-environment-water research initiatives hosted at the American University in Beirut, the Stockholm Climate Security Hub, among others. The Climate-Security Platform, which will contribute to the SDG-Climate Facility, will convene like-minded stakeholders in the area of climate security to form an alliance that will elevate the topic on the agenda of policy-makers, research and think-tanks and the private sector in the region. In this manner, the Platform will also help to inform activities being considered under the umbrella of the Climate Investment Forums (see below). By designing and launching the Climate-Security Platform, the project will facilitate knowledge exchange among academics, research think-tanks and national and international initiatives related to climate-security, including to provide technical assistance to policy makers related to climate-induced displacement.

The project will further foster dedicated climate security dialogues with crisis-affected member states to contextualize the nexus between climate and displacement, and support a regional climate security assessment on the nexus of climate impacts with current displacement trends to determine sensitivity to climate variability. These activities are expected to provide recommendations for regional strategies to minimise the impact of climate change as an exacerbating force on conflict, displacement and gender inequality.

While many activities make an explicit reference to climate security, there are others which are also contributing to the knowledge and evidence base about the way in which climate change can increase insecurity, including, for examples the WFP led development of multi-hazard early warning information systems, which will be an important factor in addressing climate-security risks.

## 2. Climate-Finance Focus

The availability of climate finance for vulnerable countries, especially those that are experiencing some degree of crisis or fragility is lower than average. A recent analysis conducted by WaterAid suggest that climate finance is not reaching the most vulnerable. For example, [Yemen](#) received about \$1.17 for each of its people per year on average between 2010 and 2017, despite the country being ranked at 29th in the world's most vulnerable to the impacts of climate.<sup>8</sup>

In addition to insufficient public resources, there are additional barriers that disincentivize the private sector to flow more effectively. Existing key barriers to scaling up private climate finance in the region include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Perceived or actual risks of investing in developing countries generally, and crisis-affected countries specifically, including lack of long-term market stability or predictability, frequent high-level political turnover, and actual or perceived potential for conflict;
- Difficulties in transferring technologies and solutions to fragile contexts, including barriers to market entry and deployment due to outdated regulatory frameworks and policies, bureaucratic and trade barriers, and currency volatility;
- Low awareness among investors about climate-security nexus solutions, including resilience, adaptation and low-emission solutions that are effectively deployable in crisis-affected contexts and which are financially viable to deliver return to investors;
- Lack of access to finance for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises that offer tailored climate-security solutions in developing countries generally, and fragile and conflict-affected situations in particular.

The Climate Finance Pillar of the project therefore becomes a critical part of the overall response to address and explore financing opportunities for the SDGs-Climate-Security interface. In response

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<sup>8</sup> Analysis shows climate finance not reaching the most vulnerable, The Guardian, March 5, 2020.  
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/mar/05/analysis-shows-climate-finance-not-reaching-most-vulnerable>

to some of these barriers, the project will support the design and establishment of a Climate Investment Forum (CIF), jointly led by UNDP, UNEP-FI, and other relevant partners, building on their respective strengths and competitive advantages. The objective of the CIF will be to inform and catalyze public and private investments to address and respond to climate-security in fragile and conflict-affected areas and countries in the Arab region by:

- Conducting market research, intelligence and analyses, and developing investment theses and investment opportunity country case studies to reduce perceived and actual risks to investors;
- Providing technical assistance to design a pipeline of bankable projects, and support regulatory reforms and policy frameworks to enable market entry and investments at scale; and
- Enabling public-private partnerships and catalyzing private capital by convening private sector roundtables, establishing a regional coalition of finance ministers and regulators on climate security, and facilitating match-making between private investors, multi-lateral development banks, project developers, NGOs, industry and public authorities through regular investment forums.

The work generated through the Climate-Security pillar will be a key source of knowledge to inform potential interventions to scale up climate finance, and the country level focus of the project will provide the necessary conduit to pilot integrated initiatives by channelling increased climate finance, from both public and private sources. By convening a multi-stakeholder alliance of actors with expertise in these areas, the CIF will build on their individual competitive advantages and provide effective and tailored support to countries. The CIF's technical assistance mechanism will further aim to assist countries to de-risk low-emission sustainable energy investments through tailored regulatory frameworks reforms. It may also conduct financial analyses and studies aimed at identifying, testing and demonstrating suitable finance models for non-energy related climate-security needs, such as enhancing ecosystem resilience, sustainable water resources management, decreasing land degradation and ensuring food security.

This is a unique model as it is focused on a key emerging issue for the region, i.e. climate security, and focusing in particular on crisis contexts, an underserved area when it comes to climate and resilience finance. There is an emerging consensus also among the international community of environmental drivers of instability and reduced social cohesion, an issue that has not been addressed by other climate investment platforms/networks.

### **3. Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Empowerment**

Benefits for achieving SDG 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment is a top priority within all project activities. UNDP conducted a global review in 2016 to assess the degree to which countries (I)NDC plans under the Paris Agreement recognized and/or integrated gender equality. The analysis found that of the 161 INDCs submitted globally at that time, 40% (65 countries) made at least one reference to gender equality and women's empowerment. Those references were primarily related to the role of women in adaptation, but without specific mention of key sectors or women's roles. Only a few countries recognized the role of women in mitigation. UNDP and SIDA have made the nexus between climate action and SDG 5 a top priority as part of their cooperation globally and within this regional project. To that end, and with a view to results in Arab region, this project will focus on seven entry points:

- Analyse region-wide context for gender trends and sex-disaggregated data on climate risks and opportunities, and differing situations of women and men
- Identify key sectors, strategies and mechanisms to enhance the nexus of climate action and SDG 5;
- Assess gender equality frameworks and coordination mechanisms in the region, including the integration of women's leadership and inputs into climate policy and programming
- Integrate actions that support and accelerate women's empowerment into climate policy and planning instruments

- Support capacity development of women's organizations, and female representatives of government at national and subnational levels;
- Engage multi-stakeholder participation in the project with women and women's organizations;
- Monitor and evaluate the project results using sex-disaggregated data and indicators where feasible
- Make new climate finance mechanisms and innovative financing tools gender-responsive including priority focus on benefits for women's enterprises.

The project recognizes and supports the role of women as active agents in climate change mitigation and adaptation, and that insufficient women's involvement, including in political and project related decision making, presents a barrier to successful climate action and full achievement of the SDGs. The Project has earmarked funding to integrate gender needs into all regional outputs and country activities as highlighted in the work plan and results framework below. This will build on methodologies and approaches utilized in past initiatives by UNDP and SIDA around the world, and the expertise and past success stories generated by UNDP to integrating gender equality, women's participation, empowerment and leadership into climate action.

#### **4. Poverty Reduction**

Contributing to reducing poverty and reducing social vulnerability is a core element of the project. Under outcome 1, activities under output 1.2/1.3 will support mainstreaming of climate risks and solutions into the broader SDG and poverty reduction strategies. The poverty-climate nexus is also a key focus under output 1.4 where awareness will be raised on the role of climate change as a barrier to SDG achievement, potentially reversing development gains and pushing people back into poverty unless action is taken. Likewise, under outcome 2 activities on multi-dimensional risk analysis and early warning systems will have a core focus on helping regional bodies and countries anticipate risks from climate change to SDG achievement with a focus on poverty, displacement and social vulnerability. Similarly, under outcome 3, activities have a very strong focus on poverty reduction and social vulnerability, with countries in focus facing high risk of climate induced growth in poverty in coming years. Under output 3.1 activities focus on climate adapted social protection measures for the most vulnerable such as weather-indexed insurance for poor farmers. Under output 3.2, the main beneficiaries would be poor communities displaced by conflict who will benefit from solar solutions for basic needs and recovery goals, as well as poor and vulnerable communities most at risk of climate induced displacement who would benefit from adaptation capacity development. Likewise, under output 3.3, activities on scaling up climate finance would focus on solutions that bring benefits not just for climate results but for co-benefits across SDGs including poverty reduction.

#### **5. Climate Justice: Inequality and a Human-Rights Based Approach**

Beyond being an issue of global environmental sustainability, climate change has emerged in recent years as a key driver of inequality in the world, jeopardizing the ability of the poor and vulnerable in society to attain development goals, to achieve the right to food, right to water and indeed for many the right to life as climate change brings existential risks to the very survival of communities. As expressed above, this project has a core focus on addressing climate risks from the perspective of poverty reduction and human security, helping to safeguard the rights of the most vulnerable people in the Arab region while helping mobilize international partnerships to address the disproportionate burdens of climate change felt by the poor and displaced. In doing so, it helps address concerns for climate justice, linking rights-based and human-centred approaches to climate action.

#### **6. Country-level action**



As part of Arab countries' renewed efforts and commitments to achieve the SDGs hand in hand with the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework, countries need to tackle increasing levels of volatility, uncertainty and complexity as elucidated in Section I on Development Challenge. The interconnectedness and complexity of the underlying socio-economic and environmental root causes of insecurity and fragility in the region requires concerted action at the regional level, yet must be underpinned by innovation and bottom-up climate-security nexus solutions to generate models that are effective on the ground and which can be replicated and scaled up later. Local action must also go beyond business as usual and address emerging risks on the horizon.

As seen in Annex 3, countries' priorities as expressed through their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, comprise climate adaptation as a top priority for most countries in the region, with a large number of initiatives identified to ameliorate climate impacts on poverty and human insecurity. For example, climate resilient food and water systems, and ecosystem-based adaptation are key to reduce climate risks to natural resources degradation, livelihoods and displacement, while solar solutions to expand energy access for the poor and vulnerable is also a major priority across the region and can have multiple benefits. The project will support these efforts through financial and technical assistance, in particular with the roll-out of the *Resilience Grants for Planet, Peace and Prosperity*, which will enable national stakeholders to generate innovative policy, technology and finance solutions that build climate resilience while enabling co-benefits across SDGs and for crisis prevention/recovery goals.

The objective of the Resilience Grants is to:

- **Build leadership and capacities of key national stakeholders**, including at the sub-national level for innovative and transformational change by integrating climate measures in development and crisis prevention/recovery policies and actions. These are aimed at making development and crisis prevention/recovery efforts more risk-informed and resilient, as well as more gender sensitive.
- **Enable actions at the national and sub-national level** to catalyze and accelerate innovative solutions for vulnerable communities to take climate action in an integrated approach to mainstream climate action across SDGs and crisis prevention/recovery goals. These are expected to help mobilise additional climate finance from both public and private sectors, and link closely with the activities within the Climate-Finance pillar.

With the intention of Leaving No One Behind, the grants will target the most vulnerable communities, including among others, IDPs, refugees, and other marginalised communities who are more susceptible to potential climate-induced displacement, and who can benefit most from resilient forms of recovery. The grants will pursue a gender-responsive approach and engage women as agents of change.

Likewise, a number of other country level case studies, and pilots will be undertaken by AWC, WFP, and UNEP-FI across different activities in Outcomes 1 and 3. The lessons derived from these pilots and case studies may be further developed or upscaled with the intention to catalyse other financing through the mechanisms provided by the CIF, and the SDG-Climate Facility.

## 7. Regional Level Action and Initiatives

The LAS is the leading multi-lateral entity in the region, bringing together Member States across the region to address common challenges and pursue joint responses.

In this regard, a new LAS Department for Sustainable Development and International Partnerships was established in 2017, to lead efforts on these and related priorities. This is coupled with the annual organisation of the Arab Sustainable Development Week which convenes national, regional and international stakeholders to prioritize challenges and solutions for the region. Of particular significance is the establishment of the LAS Arab Sustainable Development High Level Committee

made up of Member State representatives engaged on the 2030 Agenda. The design of the current project takes root in the regional priorities identified out of these dialogues and processes.

Among these, one of the key priorities is to develop capacities of regional and national stakeholders to manage multi-dimensional risk, particularly the complex drivers of change from climate change to food, water and ecosystem fragility, and to broader challenges of poverty, conflict and displacement as noted earlier above.

A key focus at the regional level will be on developing the 'Arab region profile' for taking action on climate change and the SDGs, bringing out the unique nature of converging risks in the region, with implications of climate action for issues of poverty, conflict and displacement, and its role in the humanitarian-development nexus. The project will help improve the use of science and complex adaptive systems theory in decision-making, develop capacities of forecasting, foresight and early warning systems, and build connectivity between existing networks of practitioners between social and environmental fields in the region. For example, gaps exist in use of climate forecasts for decision-making in social and humanitarian spheres, with development and humanitarian actions often not aligned to the shifting context of food, water and land insecurity owing to climate change.

## 8. The SDG-Climate Facility

Underlying all of the above initiatives and objectives is the intention to establish an *SDG-Climate Facility*, which will take forward the nexus approach and agenda beyond the life-cycle of the project.

The SDG Climate Facility will be a new multi-partner platform to scale-up innovative finance and partnerships on the road to the 2030 targets under the SDGs and Paris Agreement. The Facility will have a special focus on the climate-security nexus, helping countries address multi-dimensional risk and generate innovative partnerships and finance across climate change, development and humanitarian sectors and actors. It will enable maximum impact across different sectors through a nexus approach, and in doing so, will be expected to bridge global agendas and local priorities related to: i) **National capacity** for integrated policy solutions across climate, development and humanitarian spheres; ii) **Innovative finance and partnership** models to accelerate climate investments with SDG and crisis prevention/recovery benefits; and iii) **Building resilience** of communities and ecosystems in hotspots of climate fragility and multi-dimensional risk across the region.

The Facility will provide the umbrella under which components such as the Climate-Security Platform, the Climate-Finance Forum, as well as the various Technical Assistance Mechanisms are likely to converge under. Likewise, the vast amount of knowledge, evidence, analysis and information generated and/or consolidated by the project will have a repository within the SDG-Climate Facility knowledge platforms. As such, they may form key pillars of the SDG-Climate Facility until the latter is established and operational.

## 3. PARTNERSHIPS AND RESULTS

### 1. Partnerships

Harnessing collaborative expertise across international, regional and national partners will be critical to generate integrated solutions, building on good practices and models across countries and from other regions.

At the regional level, the project has been designed through extensive and close consultation with the LAS which serves as the main inter-governmental body in the Arab region, and which has officially endorsed the project as one of its strategic partnerships for implementing the 2030 Agenda. In particular the project partners with the LAS Department for Sustainable Development and International Cooperation, newly established with the mandate of expanding strategic partnerships

in the region for the 2030 Agenda. The department coordinates the processes among Arab leaders on a range of SDG matters including the nexus of climate action and SDG achievement in focus in the project. Through the LAS partnership, the project will contribute to the effectiveness and dialogues of the new Arab Sustainable Development Committee in terms of developing capacities of Member States on ways to take climate action in a way that brings benefits across all SDGs.

This includes strategic partnerships with expert entities, including the AWC which is a non-governmental Regional organization engaged in technical activities in the region on various aspects of climate change including the nexus to food, water and land insecurity, aiming to create effective partnerships that harness cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder cooperation and collective approaches across international, regional and national actors towards strengthening integrated solutions and tangible implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. LAS and AWC have been partners to UNDP for several years on regional programming. Their key role in the conceptualisation of the project and its development has been recognised as a key value-added to the project by different partners.

UN partners engaged in this initiative recognize that addressing complex and integrated development challenges requires bringing knowledge and expertise together from across the development community and from regional and local institutions. In helping to convene the project alongside sister UN agencies, UNDP engages the strengths from its multi-dimensional approach and its strong country presence. As per the UN Secretary General's Report on Strengthening the UN Development System, "UNDP's comprehensive mandate and track-record on multidimensional poverty, capacity development and institutional strengthening, positions it as a vehicle to support an integrated, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach".

The project design has benefited from a mapping undertaken by LAS, the AWC, UNDP and UN agency partners of past and ongoing regional climate change and related programming. This has enabled the identification of gaps, and addressing the capacity needs required for taking climate action in a way that synergizes with emerging regional and country priorities to implement the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. The exploratory and consultative process of project formulation was enabled by \$160,000 of preparatory grants by UNDP and WFP to support dialogues, prioritization and analyses on climate risks and nexus to social vulnerability in the region, including a mapping of past and ongoing initiatives on which this project is meant to build.

Meanwhile, the project supports greater coherence among UN partners, bringing together regional offices from five UN agencies (UNDP, UNEP-FI, UN-Habitat, UNDRR, WFP) prioritizing ways to achieve the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework in an integrated manner. The project formulation process also engaged a broad group of UN system partners with further expansion of membership into the project expected after inception. The project thus serves as a platform to mobilize the UN system to achieve the new global UN Resilience Framework led by the Office of the Secretary General, aligning it with the aspirations of communities for risk informed, climate-resilient and inclusive forms of development.

The project has also been designed as a platform for achieving greater levels of synergy and partnerships among UN agencies active on the climate adaptation/DRR and climate mitigation/energy agenda in the Arab region. This builds on the new UN Common Strategy to Climate Change and the new UN Resilience Framework led by the Office of the UN Secretary General. Through UNDP's convening role, the project brings together UNDP, UNEP-FI, UN-Habitat, UNDRR, and WFP towards achieving the envisaged outcomes. The inclusion of new partners will be discussed and reviewed by the Project Board as relevant. This process brings to regional and country partners the expanse of the UN system expertise on achieving SDGs, Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework in an integrated manner, and brings together lead UN entities leading both development and humanitarian cooperation in the region, to help partners mainstream climate action into SDG achievement as well as crisis prevention and recovery efforts.

Some of the initiatives included a number of flagship UN regional initiatives that have taken place since the UNFCCC was enacted. The ESCWA-led RICCAR project, and the in-depth analytic base

it has produced in relation to climate trends and implications for social vulnerability is particularly noteworthy, in addition to other important regional reports on environmental trends by CEDARE, UNEP, FAO, World Bank and other agencies.

The project design also benefited from the UNDP regional reports and policy briefs in recent years on topics such as climate change, water security, gender, human development, crisis prevention and recovery, governance and other topics. An in-depth review of over \$100 million of UNDP climate change projects at the country level across the region in recent years, which highlighted the continuing capacity gaps at regional and national levels was an important input to the design process.

Lessons derived from LAS and AWC from implementation of regional strategies on climate change, water, energy, environment and other thematic topics, and country initiatives on climate action by national partners were also used as lessons to inform the design of the project. A key basis for the project design was the alignment with the Climate Risk Nexus Initiative led by LAS, and in partnership with the AWC, and multiple UN agencies, which has served as a framework of action between LAS and participating UN agencies. The objectives and focus of the current project contribute to that framework.

Private sector partnerships are also a key focus of the project. With the focus on scaling-up finance and galvanizing partners from the private sector, partnerships will be established with leading private sector entities active in green finance (lending, insurance, and investment). It will engage the role of banks, insurance companies and investors in accelerating results through instruments such as green sukuk, green bonds, public private partnerships, loan guarantees for climate resilient infrastructure, climate index-based insurance, and more.

In terms of donor partnerships, SIDA is the founding partner to the project. Climate change is an issue of high priority for the Swedish Government and UNDP, particularly in terms of cooperation to support implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on climate change. A particular focus of both Sweden and UNDP is on generating climate action in a way that can achieve benefits across SDGs. As noted in its global policy framework for development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, a particularly priority of Sweden is also on addressing the nexus of climate change and security in crisis contexts, as “climate change increases the risk of conflicts, poverty and hunger, undermines human rights and is a growing cause of forced migration.”<sup>9</sup> The issue of climate change as a security risk has lately been given increasing attention by Sweden as part of global processes, and this aspect of SIDA’s climate cooperation is a particularly relevant factor for this current cooperation project, helping implement climate cooperation in a way that addresses the unique challenges and converging drivers of change in the fragile and crisis contexts of the Arab region.

The project is fully aligned with the Regional Strategy for Sweden’s Development Cooperation with the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) 2016–2020<sup>10</sup>. It contributes to the priority area on “environmental improvement, reduced climate impact and increased resilience to environmental impacts, climate change and natural disasters” by developing resilience to climate change and related risks to ecosystem resilience, and it supports the goal of “encouraging investment and innovative solutions in the field of renewable energy and capacity building” through expanding access to renewable energy in poor and vulnerable communities.

In line with the SIDA MENA Strategy, activities will contribute to the development of regional networks, to the sharing of knowledge and experiences, to shaping opinion and to increased accountability, as well as to the development of more effective regional cooperation and collaboration and more effective organisations. It will bring together under one framework a climate perspective, a poverty perspective, a conflict prevention/recovery perspective and a gender equality perspective, as elaborated earlier above.

UNDP has submitted this proposal for SIDA’s consideration to expand the already solid and longstanding partnerships in other thematic areas. The ongoing partnership between UNDP and

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<sup>9</sup> SIDA (2018) *The Relationship between Climate Change and Conflict*, SIDA, Stockholm, at 4.

<sup>10</sup> Regional Strategy for Sweden’s Development Cooperation with the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) 2016–2020

SIDA in the Arab region has mainly been based on two important collaborations in the field of regional economic integration and elections. First, since 2014 UNDP and SIDA have been partnering to strengthen Arab connectivity and linkages through the promotion of crossing borders operations and to promote regional trade policy reform and enhance capacity of Economic Sector of the League of Arab States. This project achieving significant results in its first phase 2014-2017 and considering the successful completion of the first phase, the partnership was renewed and expanded until end of 2019. Since 2013, SIDA has also been supporting UNDPs Regional Electoral Assistance project with an overall objective to enhance the credibility, transparency, effectiveness and sustainability of electoral institutions and processes in the region.

Given the positive partnership to date, UNDP seeks through this project to expand collaboration in the area of climate resilience, supporting an integrated approach to achieve SDG 13, the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework. Similar to past cooperation, UNDP will prioritize project coordination with SIDA and the provision of the appropriate donor visibility. The project will invite SIDA to attend Project Board meetings and welcomes any regional and country-specific discussions between SIDA, UNDP, partner UN agencies and regional/national partners at any stage of the process. The project will report to SIDA as defined in the SIDA-UNDP agreement. Regular meetings will be undertaken to discuss any emerging issues from project implementation in addition to official project board meetings. The project will invite SIDA to important events and ceremonies related to the project. It will also be invited to join activities and field missions to observe the results being achieved and interact with project beneficiaries reflecting with them on related cooperation.

## 2. Results: Outcomes, outputs, and activities

Focused on the nexus between climate action and human security, the project seeks to enhance the capacity of regional and national institutions to effectively take climate action in a way that brings benefits across SDGs and for crisis prevention/recovery efforts. In doing so, it aims to support a scaling up of climate finance for innovative local solutions.

Three interrelated outcomes will support the achievement of the overarching objective of the project.

- **Outcome 1:** Enhanced knowledge and coordination on climate-security among key stakeholders at the regional level to achieve climate action with co-benefits across the SDGs, and crisis prevention/recovery goals.
- **Outcome 2:** Enhanced access to analysis, tools and strategies at the regional level to support a climate nexus approach to achieving SDGs and prevention/recovery
- **Outcome 3:** Strengthened national and local capacities to effectively integrate climate change considerations into development and crisis prevention/recovery policies and to scale-up climate finance for local innovative solutions with co-benefits across the SDGs

**Outcome 1: Enhanced knowledge and coordination on climate-security among key stakeholders at the regional level to achieve climate action with co-benefits across the SDGs, and crisis prevention/recovery goals.**

Outcome 1 seeks to increase awareness and understanding at the regional level about the benefits of a nexus approach to climate action for achieving benefits across the SDGs as well as for crisis prevention/recovery efforts. It will include:

- Mapping regional and national strategies in the Arab region with goals related to water and food security, land management, social empowerment and peace and security, and ways climate actions under SDG 13 and NDCs can help achieve co-benefits across the SDGs.
- Building bridges among development and humanitarian goals, actors and initiatives, by bringing forth added-value of climate action for crisis prevention and recovery efforts

Advancing an integrated, nexus approach raising awareness and sensitization of what such an approach implies in the unique contexts of the Arab region. This outcome seeks to set an enabling environment for other outputs and activities, by strengthening the understanding of the nexus approach among policy makers and other stakeholders. It will help foster regional dialogue to prioritize key policy development processes where the opportunities and value-added of the nexus approach are greatest. This will be achieved through a set of integrated outputs.

**Output 1.1) Establishment of a SDG Climate Facility as a multi-partner regional platform for accelerating climate action in a way that generates benefits across SDGs and for crisis prevention/recovery goals**

The Facility will be a new multi-partner platform for the Arab States to scale-up innovative finance and partnerships on the road to the 2030 targets under the SDGs and Paris Agreement. The Facility will have a special focus on the climate-security nexus, helping countries in the region address multi-dimensional risk and generate innovative partnerships and finance across climate change, development and humanitarian sectors and actors. It will enable maximum impact across different sectors through a nexus approach, and in doing so, will be expected to bridge global agendas and local priorities related to: i) **National capacity** for integrated policy solutions across climate, development and humanitarian spheres; ii) **Innovative finance and partnership** models to accelerate climate investments with SDG and crisis prevention/recovery benefits; and iii) **Building resilience** of communities and ecosystems in hotspots of climate fragility and multi-dimensional risk across the region.

The SDG Climate Facility will be a critical output of the project, and will have as its founding members representatives from LAS, AWC, UNDP, UNEP-FI, UN-Habitat, UNDRR, WFP along with other partners to be engaged during the life of the project and to be determined during the design phase. The Climate-Security Platform and Climate-Investment Forum are expected to be key pillars of the Facility, at least in its initial phases.

The technical advisors and experts mobilized through this project as part of the Project Office will constitute the embryonic staff of the Facility and will support activities to design the structure and set up of the Facility and mobilize partners for its membership, as elaborated in the project Multi-Year Work Plan provided further below. By the end of the project, it is expected the Facility would emerge as an entity independent from the project, with continued support by a broader group of partners to take forward further outcomes beyond the life of this project. The Facility thus serves an important function for future sustainability of results.

Once established, the Facility will serve as a long-term platform to catalyse regional and country actions on the road to 2030, helping partners align global instruments, regional strategies and local initiatives, and to do so in a way that response to the rapidly evolving situations of fragility and crisis across the Arab region, capturing emerging good practices and innovative solutions out of the project to replicate successes across the region. It will focus on identifying how climate action can help achieve results across the SDGs for poverty reduction, gender mainstreaming, food and security, land and ecosystem resilience, inequality, and peace and security, and will help engage opportunities from public-private partnerships to scale-up finance and local innovative solutions. The Climate Security Network and the Climate Investment Forum mentioned above will be contributing pillars to the SDG-Climate Facility.

As part of its operational focus, the Facility will ensure that that country experiences and best practices will be utilised to inform and influence regional strategic initiatives, and that local models can be replicated across the region. Support provided through the Facility will also help to address underlying vulnerabilities that reduce social instability and reduce the risk of conflict, thereby contributing to peace and stability in the region.

**Activities under this output include:**

<b>Activity 1.1.1.</b>	Comparative analysis of multi-partner platforms in existence in terms of roles in generating innovation, business models for engaging broad ecosystem of actors, and financing models to engage various strands of public and private finance.
<b>Activity 1.1.2.</b>	Development of options for design and structure of the Facility for review by Project Board members
<b>Activity 1.1.3.</b>	Roundtables and consultative meetings facilitated between existing partners under the project and potential expanded members of the Facility
<b>Activity 1.1.4</b>	Endorsement by the Project Board of the selected model for the Facility and launch event with participating members

**Output 1.2) Improved regional policies and actions that generate co-benefits from climate action for SDG achievement and crisis prevention/recovery goals**

Advancing climate action and related targets in the Arab region requires a better understanding of how climate action can serve as a barrier to SDG and crisis prevention/recovery goals, and if well-targeted can also serve as an accelerator of positive change. While there have been analyses in the region on specific SDGs, there is a need to further strengthen cross-thematic linkages including the nexus of climate action and key SDGs such as 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 15 and 16. Applying a climate change lens is particularly relevant as it can reinforce and link strategies together, and by doing so support more resilient outcomes across many of the SDGs.

Activities will be facilitated by LAS and AWC, to map regional strategies aligned to the various SDGs, building on efforts that have already been undertaken, and support the development and revision of key strategies to factor in climate change risks and opportunities. This will include regional strategies on water, climate, energy, food security, urbanization, and others building on forthcoming LAS dialogues on SDG achievement. This will bring forth analyses on climate risks across the SDGs into formulation of new or amended regional strategies, and set a way forward for member states to a nexus approaches to achieve regional goals. This output will include region-wide analysis on ways to achieve climate action for crisis prevention/recovery goals, including future risks for displacement, convergence of climate and conflict trends, and recommendations to prevent the role of climate change as an exacerbating force.

**Activities under this output include:**

<b>Activity 1.2.1</b>	Support to map regional strategies under development to achieve the SDGs and 2030 Agenda, evaluation of results by ongoing regional strategies on water, climate, urbanization, energy, etc, and technical assistance to LAS on ways to mainstream climate risks into new strategies on road to 2030 targets. Special focus on climate security, ways to address needs of fragile and crisis contexts in the region, and on ways climate mainstreaming can promote women's empowerment
<b>Activity 1.2.2.</b>	Undertake a regional climate security assessment of the nexus of climate impacts with current displacement trends to determine i) sensitivity to climate variability; ii) forecasts of future climate displacement risks; and iii) recommendations for regional strategies to prevent the role of climate change as an exacerbating force

**Output 1.3) Policy dialogues undertaken with regional and national stakeholders to highlight how policies and actions on climate change can contribute to SDG achievement and crisis prevention/recovery goals**

The project will support events, roundtables and facilitate discussions to be convened by LAS and AWC to bring stakeholders from international, regional and national partners together on the generation of climate action to achieve the SDGs and promote crisis prevention/recovery. These

efforts will focus on sharing experiences and building a community of practice, most notably through the Climate-Security Network, across the region on approaches to managing multi-dimensional risk, taking climate action in fragile and crisis settings, and good practices of how climate action can support the humanitarian-development nexus. It will support capacity needs assessment for achieving a nexus approach to climate action, by identifying capacity gaps at various levels and providing models to strengthen cross-sector and inter-disciplinary modes of action. These will be complemented by actions taken within Outcome 3, which focuses on Technical Assistance and Grants to selected countries to pilot integrated approaches.

Technical assistance will also contribute to existing networks and coordination mechanisms across the region including the new LAS High-level Committee on Sustainable Development and related sub-committees recently established for SDG implementation support, as well as new series of annual Arab Sustainable Development Week gatherings. These and other dialogues hosted by the League of Arab States, including Arab Coordination Mechanisms for issues of poverty, gender, crisis, water, environment and various topics, as well as the Science and Technology Advisory Group in the Arab region.

**Activities under this output include:**

<b>Activity 1.3.1</b>	Dialogues with member states to assess gaps and capacity needs for generating climate action in a way that brings benefits across the SDGs in line with national 2030 strategies, makes synergies between SDGs and NDCs, and brings particular benefits for women’s empowerment.
<b>Activity 1.3.2.</b>	Organise regular and dedicated climate security dialogues with crisis-affected member states to: i) contextualize nexus between climate and displacement; ii) raise awareness on climate risks to crisis prevention/recovery; and iii) establish a climate-security network among practitioners and think-tanks to initiate regional policy research and capacity development agenda on managing multi-dimensional risks and building resilience.
<b>Activity 1.3.3</b>	Convene special sessions on climate security and the nexus of climate action with social vulnerability and crisis prevention/recovery at during the annual Arab Sustainable Development Week organised by LAS with member states and partners
<b>Activity 1.3.4</b>	Contribute recommendations on climate nexus approach into dialogues convened by the new Arab Sustainable Development Committee, Science and Technology Advisory Group, other regional fora
<b>Activity 1.3.5</b>	Technical assistance to enhance regional capacity to coordinate and implement climate-security nexus agenda, including support to Arab Water Council to strengthen linkages and synergies between climate-security research and policy-making
<b>Activity 1.3.6.</b>	Design and launch Climate-Security Platform to facilitate knowledge exchange among practitioners, academics, research think-tanks, regional and international initiatives related to climate-security, including to provide technical assistance to policy makers on related areas.

**Output 1.4) Advocacy and communication materials on the SDG-Climate-Security nexus to inform policy reforms and changes**

A key part of enabling the reforms of relevant policies, strategies and other regional roadmaps will be to advocate for such changes with the effective use of information and knowledge generated through the research and analysis activities (see above). The project will produce high-level policy briefs and reports on the state of multi-dimensional climate risk trends in the region, capturing findings of social vulnerability and nexus to crisis prevention/recovery agendas that are unique to the profile of the Arab region. This will promote ways to better mitigate multi-hazard risks and support inter-disciplinary actions between natural and social sciences that can help improve the role of the



climate science in decision-making. This will include for example, policy briefs on specific aspects of the nexus between climate action and the SDGs including SDG 1 on poverty, SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 6 on water, SDG 15 on ecosystems, and SDG 16 on peace and security. The communication materials will provide timely assessment of the emerging risks from climate change, identifying recurrent high impact, extreme climate events, water insecurity outlook, implications of climate risk for land and ecosystem resilience in crisis-affected contexts and other topics.

This will include capacity development for decision-makers across the region, and learning from best practices in other regions to better innovate, communicate and deliver on climate action agendas in ways that manage risks across disciplines, and deliver results for community resilience and security in varied contexts. This output will also support the development of different media outputs related to specific climate scenarios and risks to SDG achievement and crisis prevention/recovery goals, as easily accessible means to understand how risks interact with poverty and human insecurity.

**Activities under this output include:**

<b>Activity 1.4.1.</b>	Develop policy briefs and communication materials for deployment through various communication channels, as well as through regional dialogues to raise awareness on 2030 climate risk scenarios in the region, risks for generating social vulnerability and poverty with a particular focus on emergence of climate change as a root cause of resource insecurity, conflict and displacement, and special risks for gender inequality
<b>Activity 1.4.2</b>	Infographics on 2030 climate scenarios in the region for deployment in social media and regional dialogues to raise awareness, with emphasis on climate risks for social vulnerability, crisis and displacement, and special risks for gender inequality
<b>Activity 1.4.3</b>	Targeted capacity development activities to media and CSO stakeholders at the regional, and country level to advocate for the nexus approach

**Outcome 2: Enhanced access to analysis, tools and strategies at the regional level to support a climate nexus approach to achieving SDGs and prevention/recovery**

Outcome 2 seeks to strengthen regional cooperation by making available research and analysis to equip stakeholders with the necessary tools to apply and operationalise the nexus approach. It will include:

- Strengthening regional cooperation and inter-disciplinary knowledge networks
- Responding to gaps in climate science and data needed to better understand and manage trends and risks of resource insecurity, conflict and displacement.

The project will undertake analyses on examining existing gaps in knowledge to better understand the risks from climate change to SDGs and crisis prevention/recovery goals. This includes use of adaptive complex systems theory and systems approaches to help decision-makers determine specific needs, and support for new tools and services that can support improved decision-making across the region to deliver results for resilience and human development.

**Output 2.1) Better characterization of multi-dimensional risk, and baselines established on state of climate security, social vulnerability and adaptive capacity needs across the region**

At the base of a risk-informed approach to decision-making is the need for better evidence and information on the nexus of climate impacts with development and crisis prevention/recovery

priorities. Enhancing the use of climate science and combining it with community experiences can provide a powerful foundation for better decision-making and policy setting in a region defined by increasing complexity and greater need for systems-based thinking and decision-making. Efforts have been made to use scientific climate data to describe these complexities, however critical gaps still exist to predict with more reliability temporal and spatial distribution of risk, particularly in fragile environments and in areas affected by conflict and unrest. Remote sensing, additional in situ measuring systems, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Management Information Systems (MIS) will be utilized to forecast severity and frequency of climatic events, evapotranspiration, droughts, floods, etc. The Arab Geographical Information Room (AGIR) hosted by the Arab Water Council is one partner that will be engaged to expand such capacities in the region.

The project will also focus on better characterizing hazards, vulnerabilities and exposure for policy, programme and monitoring purposes. Increased synergies between data sets will be sought as well as enhanced quality and uptake of climate impact and disaster loss databases for better prevention and as a foundation for decision-making. Analyses will seek to provide better evidence of how emerging climate risks interact with development and crisis prevention/recovery challenges, while promoting better mitigation of multi-dimensional risks and support inter-disciplinary actions to improve the use of climate science in decision-making.

One specific area of work will be to enhance the understanding of the nexus between climate change and displacement in areas of the region that are both climate risk and displacement hotspots. The project will provide forecasts regarding future climate induced displacement and forced migration patterns. It will also help to identify push and pull factors, and the role of climate change as a root cause forcing people to move both internally within countries and across borders, while characterizing these movements and their interdependencies with resource insecurity, conflicts, and gender inequality – which is a cornerstone of human insecurity

**Activities under this output include:**

<b>Activity 2.1.1</b>	Development of detailed climate impact forecasts using GIS, MIS and related tools to enhance understanding of multi-dimensional risks in countries that are hotspots of converging climate, social vulnerability and displacement risks.
<b>Activity 2.1.2.</b>	Regionally tailored methodology developed for quantifying social vulnerability and displacement risk that can be incorporated into climate risk models for use by decision-makers; and technical assistance to improve use of climate science and data for decision-making on SDGs and crisis prevention/recovery.
<b>Activity 2.1.3</b>	Designing the Arab Geographical Information Room (AGIR) structure to share data and results information with relevant stakeholders and the climate-security network.

**Output 2.2) Early warning services, tools and risk assessments strengthened for better decision making**

Building on an improved base of scientific data and information, the project will enhance the use of technology for early warning and decision-making by relevant stakeholders. Decisions meant to build resilience should focus on measures that ensure all investments consider risks posed to development from climate and disaster trends. This includes improved monitoring and assessment capacities to track emerging risks from climate change across the SDGs, and converging risks from climate change, resource insecurity, conflict and displacement.

One important focus will be integrated risk assessment tools and methodologies to better understand converging risks from climate and disaster trends, dryland expansion and food/water insecurity to social vulnerability, conflict and displacement in the Arab region. In a region facing momentous change, risk assessments help to account for spatial and temporal changes in climatic

hazards, as well as the evolving social vulnerabilities in the region. This will include better communication of risk information and reliable warnings to potentially affected communities and the poor in particular. This includes hazard monitoring, early warning, forecast capabilities and use of risk assessment methodologies in agricultural advisories, drought and flood risk monitoring, social assistance programmes etc. Activities will be implemented by UNDRR, WFP and UN-Habitat, drawing on their expertise and parallel initiatives underway across the region on related issues.

**Activities under this output include:**

<b>Activity 2.2.1.</b>	Enhancing regional strategies and implementation mechanisms for managing climate risks to cities and building resilience to manage multi-dimensional risks for sustainable urban development
<b>Activity 2.2.2</b>	Development of information systems for multi-hazard early warning at local and country level and climate services to inform decision making and early action, particularly focusing on scale up of social protection and safety net mechanisms in the face of shocks and stressors in fragile and crisis contexts
<b>Activity 2.2.3</b>	Establishing regional baselines for risk transfer mechanisms including crop insurance, forecast based finance systems, sovereign risk insurance, as well as integrated risk management approaches at community level, based on existing lessons learned, with a focus on fragile/crisis contexts.
<b>Activity 2.2.4</b>	Establish a regional DRR partners forum as a platform for identifying and scaling up innovative solutions on risk governance, early warning for climatic disasters and enhanced generation and use of data and indicators in line with the SDGs and Sendai Framework and ensuring equal gender representation.

**Output 2.3) Strategic risk assessments produced on nexus of climate change to SDG achievement and crisis prevention/recovery goals to promote integrated SDG solutions at the regional level**

Technical assistance will be provided to assess climate risks to long-term resource scarcity in areas of high social vulnerability in the region, and ways future trends of conflict and displacement will be implicated. This will support efforts to reach a consolidated, long-term regional vision for climate resilient forms of development and crisis prevention/recovery in the Arab region. These efforts would also seek to support identification of regionally relevant indicators, and propose examples on means of implementation, identifying lessons learned, highlighting common challenges and solutions, and promoting learning. This will also support efforts in countries affected by crisis, for which SDG achievement and climate action is particularly challenging. The strategic assessments will elaborate how longer-term opportunities exist to combat climate risks and social vulnerability in protracted crises. This will focus on prioritization of key SDGs in crisis contexts to promote most benefit and return on investment to address current vulnerability and prevent future crises.

It is well recognized that most of the SDGs are interlinked to climate action, and that addressing climate challenges will contribute to achieving multiple other goals. Similarly, there are important contextual factors for achieving SDGs in fragile and crisis contexts for which climate action is important to enhance synergies and address multi-dimensional nature of risks. By assessing goals and targets in an integrated way, the nexus approach will support a multiplier affect with results across a range of targets.

There are also important trade-offs between targets which would be elaborated in strategic risk assessments. For example, an increase in agricultural land-use to help end hunger can result in biodiversity loss and loss of carbon capture potential, as well as in overuse and/or pollution of water resources and downstream (and likely negative) effects on marine resources, which in turn could

exacerbate food security concerns over the longer term. Land degradation neutrality under SDG 15 and sustainable consumption and production patterns under SDG 12 could bring increases in efficiency of resource use with benefits for climate change. By carefully analysing and recognizing the ways in which policies and actions can create synergies and add further impetus to achieving the SDGs, action in the Arab region has the potential to achieve progress on climate action. By tapping into the common ground across the SDGs and their targets, the project will seek to identify ‘win-win’ solutions where there are particularly strong nexus potentials around the climate action agenda and that can be the focus of local capacity development and innovative solutions under the project.

**Activities under this output include:**

<b>Activity 2.3.1</b>	Climate-security risk assessments analyzing the role of climate change in generating long-term resource scarcity in areas of protracted crisis, exacerbating situations of conflict and displacement in the region, with particular focus on risks to women.
<b>Activity 2.3.2</b>	Dialogues to develop capacities of national partners to assess multi-dimensional risks, role of climate as a root cause of resource scarcity in areas of protracted crisis, and trigger exacerbating situations of conflict and displacement.

**Output 2.4) Regional analyses of opportunities to increase access to renewable energy in the Arab States, with a particular focus on crisis settings and fragile contexts completed**

A better understanding of sustainable energy needs of displaced communities is needed to help scale-up support to affected communities across the region, putting in place the type of policies, finance, partnerships and sustainable energy technology solutions needed to close the energy gap. This would also help achieve the goals of the Arab Sustainable Energy Strategy (ASES) enacted by the League of Arab States and member countries across the region to chart the path to a more sustainable energy pathways in the region, with a key focus on accelerating SDG 7 achievement for the vulnerable in society. It will also contribute to the Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement (GPA), a multi-stakeholder framework launched in 2018 with UNDP and other partners to accelerate progress towards the vision of “safe access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy services for all displaced people by 2030.” As GPA moves from global dialogue to local action, a key focus is on having lead members like UNDP initiative regional and country initiatives to take action.

**Activities under this output include:**

<b>Activity 2.4.1</b>	Expert review of current initiatives, experiences, and entry points on Sustainable Energy for Displaced Communities
<b>Activity 2.4.2</b>	Develop innovative regional concept note(s) and project outline(s) that will serve as initial project ideas to be considered for financing at the climate investment forum
<b>Activity 2.4.3</b>	Support the development of special issue of energy access in crisis and fragile countries in the context of COVID-19
<b>Activity 2.4.4:</b>	Regional workshop to refine and validate concept note(s) and project idea(s) developed under 2.4.2 with relevant stakeholders
<b>Activity 2.4.5</b>	Enhance the annual AFEX publication, and integrate focus on crisis/fragile contexts

**Outcome 3: Strengthened national and local capacities to effectively integrate climate change considerations into development and crisis prevention/recovery policies and to scale-up climate finance for local innovative solutions with co-benefits across the SDGs**

Outcome 3 will facilitate the application of a climate-security nexus approach at the country level in two ways. Firstly, by enabling demonstrative pilots in selected countries through the roll out of Resilience Grants. Secondly, it will enable the scaling up of climate finance by developing a strategic approach for the region to mobilise public-private partnerships and catalyse private finance to support integrated approaches at regional and national levels. The Climate Finance pillar referred to earlier will guide this work.

The project supports the mainstreaming of climate change into development and crisis prevention/recovery policies and measures. It will enhance and expand early warning systems for risk-informed development approaches, supporting innovative community-based solutions, and creating platforms for de-risking scaled-up climate investments. In doing so, it will capture emerging practices and models for ways to take climate action in crisis contexts as part of the humanitarian-development nexus. These efforts will draw from regional dialogues, analyses, tools and assessments generated under Outcomes 1 and 2, and the lessons learned on the ground through pilot initiatives will feed back broader regional dialogues to generate opportunities for replication and scaling up good practices. A core group of countries in focus for the below outputs have been identified based on initial discussions with local UN offices and local partners with more detailed elaboration of activities for grants to be confirmed during the activity design phase.

Outcome 3 seeks to support changes on the ground and realise results through country level pilots, grants, and innovative financing. It will focus on:

- Building leadership and capacities at the country level for innovative, transformational change by integrating climate measures in development and crisis prevention/recovery policies and actions to enable more risk-informed and resilient responses
- Identify, pilot and demonstrate innovative local climate-security solutions for that advance climate action on the ground in an integrated manner with benefits across SDGs and for crisis prevention/recovery
- Facilitate the scaling-up of climate finance to achieve climate change ambitions with SDG co-benefits by enhancing partnerships with the private sector through the establishment of a Climate Investment Platform, expanding innovative sources of finance to address the SDG-Climate-Security nexus.

**Output 3.1) Leadership and capacities of national and sub-national stakeholders enhanced to integrate climate change into development and crisis prevention/recovery policies and plans**

The project will build capacity of emerging stakeholders at the national and sub-national level, from both government and civil society, on ways that climate action can help achieve SDGs and crisis prevention/recovery goals. This will include stakeholders who have a role to play in guiding and coordinating the development of national policies and plans, including those related to crisis and recovery. This will include capacities of national and sub-national partners on ways to mainstream climate and disaster risks into development and crisis prevention/recovery policies and plans.

This will be led by all partners with lead facilitating roles by UNDP, WFP and UN-Habitat, and connect to policy processes underway at the country level, such as national development planning and SDG reviews, generation of new crisis and resilience frameworks. It will have a special focus on crisis contexts where recovery and stabilization policies and processes are complex and where a balance is needed between immediate needs and longer-term resilience pathways for which climate risks come into play. Special emphasis will be placed on elaboration of gender-sensitive, climate-resilient approaches and solutions.

A particular focus of capacity development activities will be on sub-national actors. Strengthening the capacity of local stakeholders – government, as well as CSOs where appropriate – to formulate and implement policy and programmatic frameworks that support climate resilient development, focusing in particular on the nexus of climate action to maximize humanitarian-development linkages. Activities will support stakeholders who can innovate, communicate and deliver on climate change and related agendas, manage risks across gender, land, food, water and ecosystems, and deliver results for peace and security.

**Activities under this output include:**

<b>Activity 3.1.1</b>	Technical assistance to national partners to pilot climate services and early warning mechanisms to inform interventions, including to scale up national social protection and safety net programmes mechanisms that address climate risks to food/water security and reduce social vulnerability, with special focus on co-benefits for gender equality and women’s empowerment
<b>Activity 3.1.2.</b>	Technical assistance to national partners to mainstream climate resilient solutions into new urban development processes as well as recovery and reconstruction processes in cities affected by crisis
<b>Activity 3.1.3</b>	Technical assistance to national partners to mainstream climate action into crisis prevention and recovery plans and policies, including use of foresight methodology, complex adaptive systems theory and approaches to understand and managing multi-dimensional risks

**Output 3.2) Resilience grants to advance integrated, country-driven solutions**

The project will provide grants to selected countries to support local climate-security solutions. The Resilience Grants have been devised to enable countries to develop initiatives that demonstrate innovation and scalability in achieving a nexus between climate action, SDGs and crisis prevention/recovery. The grants offer an opportunity to address multi-dimensional challenges that entail benefits across multiple SDGs, while at the same time, addressing the effects of climate change, reducing the vulnerability of communities affected by conflict, and in some cases, reducing the risk and impacts of conflict.

The grants will be developed in consultation with key national stakeholders, who will be encouraged to prioritise vulnerable environments and communities with activities that can demonstrate how solutions to climate change challenges can positively impact country specific development and crisis prevention/recovery challenges. The consultations will include different UN partners, government stakeholders, LAS and AWC focal points at country level, and bilateral donor representatives at the country level, including SIDA representatives. The Resilience Grants supported through the project will serve as pilots to illustrate and operationalise the nexus approach advocated through the project. The intention is for the pilots to serve as catalysts for further financing, both from other development partners, as well as private sector and other sources of innovative finance to the extent possible. Furthermore, the successful stories and lessons learned from the implementation of these grants are expected to lead to the formulation of similar initiatives that can be considered for financing through the Climate Investment Forum, as well as through the SDG-Facility once it becomes operational. The Climate Investment Forum will also consider select sectors or pilot initiatives supported under this Output for in-depth financial analysis and the preparation of investment theses that can be presented to potential private capital providers or other sources of financing. In this way, the links between country level initiatives undertaken from various partners and the regional outputs such as the SDG-Climate Facility will be facilitated and ensured.

The identification of the selected countries was based on an initial mapping and assessment of local challenges and opportunities during project design, and extensive experience of UNDP and sister UN agencies at the local level across the region. The following countries were selected for on-the-

ground pilots: Egypt, Iraq, State of Palestine, Tunisia, and Yemen. In addition, activities will also take place in Jordan as a response to the effects of the Syria crisis, both on Syrian refugees and their Jordanian host communities.

During the inception phase, the Project Office developed a set of guidelines which will guide the development of proposals for the use of the Resilience Grants. In line with the partnership driven approach, the Resilience Grants are expected to meet a number of criteria, starting with how climate action will bring benefits across the SDGs, and/ or help to mitigate/prevent conflict and recovery efforts. Other criteria include that the specific concerns of women, and the differentiated impact on female populations be considered clearly. Country grants need to incorporate women as agents of change, and not only beneficiaries of the proposed approach. The Grants are expected to articulate comprehensive approaches and results that have the potential to lead to longer-term, sustainable results, and not focus on a finite set of interventions. Likewise, partnership with other relevant UN agencies is strongly encouraged, and interventions are expected to be in line with the UN Cooperation Framework.

UNDP Country Offices will submit grant proposals for the selected countries on behalf of country partners, and will be responsible for the execution of the project, under the oversight of the Project Team at regional level. The resulting country pilot activities will serve as a catalyst for broader partnerships and finance and seek to identify and demonstrate how climate action can support broader development and crisis prevention/recovery priorities in the region. Towards this end, the Resilience Grants are expected to support countries in testing new approaches, technology, and business models, and galvanize new public-private finance opportunities for scaling up and replication of results beyond the lifetime of the project.

Country grant proposals are subject to in-depth consultations at the national level, with various national and sub-national authorities, to ensure a country-driven and bottom-up approach. Once cleared by the Project Office, grant proposals will be shared with the Project Board and the SIDA MENA focal point for final review ahead of implementation launch. Synergies will be sought with other project partner organizations' initiatives and activities under the project, including for example with the socio-economic vulnerability studies to be undertaken by the AWC, the climate investment and private sector activities by UNEP-FI, and the early warning and anticipatory actions-related activities by WFP.

Given the energy gap in crisis contexts and the degradation of eco-systems across the region, the country level initiatives may address those challenges as entry points to design and implement the Grants. As such, some of the nexus points to be prioritized in local solutions will be the nexus between SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 7 on energy access, SDG 13 on climate action and SDG 16 on peace and security. Lack of access to energy is a barrier to stability and recovery for those displaced by conflict, and for the resilience of communities hosting them. This has been identified as a common UN agenda of critical importance in the region, in line with the new UN Global Plan of Action on Energy for Displaced Communities. For communities suffering from conflict, lack of energy leads to a lack of water, food, livelihoods, health and education facilities. Expanding access to energy is thus an enabler of resilient recovery in communities affected by crisis. This is particularly vital for women, who often constitute the majority of displaced communities and those suffering the most during and after crises hit.

Likewise, biodiversity and ecosystems have been a foundation of stable water access as well as agriculture and fisheries livelihoods for communities in the Arab region for millennia, but climate change is now stretching the ability of communities and ecosystems to cope. From 2007-2017 the region saw its worst drought cycles in the last one thousand years, leading to dryland expansion, water scarcity and the rise of social vulnerability and displacement. Meanwhile in situations of protracted displacement, recovery of ecosystem services is vital, including restoration of ecosystem services for regeneration of livelihoods. The cumulative impact of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystems is a grave threat to the ability to achieve the SDGs. The project will also support critical assessments and restoration measures for critical ecosystems impacted by conflict. Such interventions will bring co-benefits across SDGs 5, 6, 13, 15 and 16.

A guiding principle and focus of the Resilience Grants will be on understanding, assessing, and positively impacting the differentiated needs of women when it comes to the effects of climate change, and their unique experiences in crisis/conflict contexts.

## Background on Selected Countries under this Output

- In **Yemen**, the ongoing conflict has resulted in more than 4 million *IDPs*, an unprecedented situation and now the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Yemen already had one of the Arab region's lowest energy access rates at 40%, and this has been heavily exacerbated by the conflict. A lack of energy access is hindering the ability of communities to access clear drinking water, exacerbating the world worst cholera outbreak, the ability of schools and clinics to function and provide vital services, and is a serious impediment to irrigation pumping needs for agricultural livelihoods given the loss of access to standard diesel supplies. Lack of energy affects ability of *IDPs* to achieve basic levels of water access, health, education and livelihoods. Solar solutions can help expand access to emergency development needs and set the foundation for recovery once the conflict ends.

Based on the presence of the UN Country Team and extensive support of UNDP and sister UN agencies to the Government for crisis response and resilience of affected communities, energy has been identified as a major need and opportunity for supporting communities. The project will provide grants to pilot and demonstrate innovative off-grid decentralized waste-to-energy solutions that entail benefits for employment and livelihoods in Hodeidah, Sanaa, Taiz, Lahj, Aden, Marib and Hadramout. This will be coordinated with, among other initiatives, the 'Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security in Yemen' project (ERRY II). The grants will strengthen the waste to energy value chain and help expand businesses, thereby creating livelihood diversification opportunities through the engagement of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Microfinance institutions (MFIs) and banking institutions will be included as an integral part of the project approach to enhance the grants' catalytic effect for transformational change. A particular emphasis will be on using energy access for empowerment of crisis-affect women and girls.

Based on initial consultations with national stakeholders in Yemen, the project will also seek to support to pilot nexus approaches to enhance food security by addressing unsustainable Gat production, promote income generating activities for famers beyond Gat, as well as other activities addressing challenges around water-scarcity which impact food production and food-security. Gat currently uses most of the water and arable land in Yemen, while producing negligible nutrition. The political economy context behind Gat production will be assessed prior to any potential support to on-the-ground activities, and will build the foundation for any intervention in this area to ensure buy-in from relevant stakeholders and practical feasibility.

- In the **State of Palestine**, communities face some of the worst challenges of energy access, and communities suffer high levels of social exclusion, poverty, one of the world's highest unemployment rates, and insufficient infrastructure to meet their basic needs. The lack of access to energy hinders these and other developmental needs and has emerged as a crisis in its own right. The State of Palestine receives an abundance of solar radiation, with 320 days of sunshine per year. To this end, UN Country Team and the UNDP Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People have identified critical needs for expanding access to solar energy in schools that have a dual function, serving as both emergency shelters, as well as for health services, improving the reach of key social services to women, children and vulnerable populations impacted by the crisis.

Until today, Palestinians make up the highest number of forcibly displaced people in the region, with Jordan and Lebanon hosting a vast number of Palestinian refugees. It is deemed critical to strengthen resilience in the most vulnerable communities within the State of Palestine to reduce potential for further displacement and future flows of refugees into neighbouring countries. Grants under the project will be used to address the energy gap, especially in the most



vulnerable communities, and to empowered them through activities and support focused on improved livelihoods, water access, health and education services for women and girls. The grants will be provided with a focus on scalability and bankability of innovative public-private partnership models that aim to catalyse additional funding, in particular in areas where other donor financing for renewable energy is not currently available such as Area B and C where the project will operate.

- **Jordan** remains the second-largest refugee host globally and contributes to hosting about 1.3 million Syrian refugees, including 0.66 million registered with UNHCR. At the same time, it is one of the world's most energy insecure countries, with an expensive import bill covering 97% of its local energy needs alongside a decrease of energy subsidies in recent years for basic household needs. With approximately 80% of refugees residing outside of refugee camps, additional energy demands have resulted in an increased pressure on public expenditures, entailing risks for fiscal stability and national resilience, as well as potentially creating social tensions between host and refugee communities. Owing to the systemic risks arising from increasing energy demands, the National Response Plan to the Syrian refugee crisis includes a chapter on energy, developed with support of the UN Country Team including a lead role of UNDP, with a focus on expanding sustainable energy solutions in ways that help expand energy access while reducing the energy and fiscal burden on the country of growing energy demands.

Additional consultations with national stakeholders in 2020 have identified ecotourism, sustainable housing and sustainable food value chains as potential alternative options for support under the project, to create jobs, livelihood diversification and to strengthen social coherence for refugees and host communities, contributing to a green economy based on sustainable natural resources management. Focusing on villages, towns and rural communities hosting Syrian refugees in Irbid, Mafraq, Ashloun and Zarqa, the project will apply adaptive management to focus on the most suitable and tailored solutions across off-grid decentralized sustainable energy, ecotourism and other livelihood diversification options, and sustainable and inclusive food value chains for both refugees and the host community. Activities will focus on the most affected governorates where converging pressure from refugee influx and baseline levels of energy, income and food insecurity are highest.

- In **Iraq**, ecosystems have played a foundational role in the emergence of human civilization over millennia. In particular, the Marshlands in southern Iraq, is a unique ecosystem, and once the largest wetland ecosystem in the Middle East. It has provided local inhabitants with an essential source of habitat and livelihoods for millennia, but climate change is now triggering rapid change. The UN recognized the global importance of the marshlands, providing it world heritage designation in 2016. Not only are the Marshlands an important heritage and ecological area, but they will continue to play a vital role in the long-term resilience of the people of Iraq. Based on dialogues with Government on climate risks to the Marshlands and community resilience at Paris COP21 and Marrakesh COP22, the project will provide grants to local partners to undertake a comprehensive climate risk assessment of the Marshlands and their communities, capacity development for integrated policies across climate change, biodiversity and community development priorities, ecosystem based climate change adaptation measures, and enhance early warning systems to manage multi-dimensional risk.

Ecosystems in Iraq are also critical for the 3 million Iraqis that became internally displaced from the conflict with the Islamic State (IS) in recent years. Among the critical issues identified by local UN Country Team and UNDP Country Office cooperation has been the toxic impact of the conflict on key ecosystems and related risks to long-term recovery of communities through continued impacts on health, livelihoods from toxic land, water, etc. Iraq already had high levels of ecological vulnerability before the onset of the crisis, including toxicity from prior conflicts, more frequent and severe impacts from climate change and drought, growing land degradation and water insecurity, and numerous other factors.

Another critical challenge identified by the UN Country Team and UNDP Country Office has also been the lack of energy security, now a major obstacle for communities seeking to recover following the fall of the Islamic State (IS) and the ongoing return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their communities. Initial assessments conducted by the Government with UN Country Team and UNDP Country Office support elaborate the large energy access gap in Iraq, and the scope for expanding solar solution as a means of national stabilization and resilience. The project will provide grants to support urgent efforts to comprehensively assess the energy gaps and deploy solar solutions for water purification, eco-tourism and related livelihood needs, for regular power needs of schools and clinics, and for basic needs of reconstructed buildings and homes in the Marshland areas, thereby creating a relevant connection between the different activities to be supported by the Grants.

- In **Egypt**, delta, oasis and aquifer ecosystems have been major foundations for human development over millennia, and continues today to act as a source of productivity for agricultural and fisheries sectors at the base of the country's poverty reduction and SDG efforts. However, these critical ecosystems that have sustained social and economic well-being and livelihoods for generations are increasingly under threat. Owing to their low-lying nature, Delta systems face particular risks from climate change, including rising sea-levels, rising temperatures, and more frequent and severe climatic disasters. Among the most ecologically productive systems in the Middle East, the Delta, oasis and aquifer systems of Egypt continue to support complex social and ecological systems, but the resilience of such systems is deteriorating owing to heightened pressures. In addition, climate-induced sea level rise is threatening the Nile Delta including its ecosystems and indigenous people. Ecosystem resilience as a key pillar of the country's SDG vision, as growing fragility of the ecosystems now create negative effects on many aspects of human well-being: rising food and water insecurity, more insecure livelihoods, and growing risks of displacement for over 7 million people in Egypt.

The Resilience Grants will support pilot interventions that aim to reduce vulnerability to climate impacts of the most exposed and disadvantaged communities in the Nile Delta. The local grants will target the most vulnerable people and communities based on vulnerability assessments carried out as part of a Green Climate Fund project, to utilize synergies of various funding streams on the ground. Based on the vulnerability assessment, tailored locally viable bottom-up solutions will be supported to enhance climate security and reduce potential climate-induced displacement.

- In **Tunisia**, ecosystems play an important role in plans for achieving the SDGs. The country's development strategy has included a strong focus on achieving social and ecological resilience especially for areas of the countries facing convergence of high risks from poverty and climate change. To achieve the 2030 vision for a new balance between people and ecosystems, a new systemic, integrated approach is required to replace traditional natural resource use models, with a particular need to factor in emerging climate trends, risks of rural displacement and ensure more climate-resilient forms of resource management. In this regard, the over exploitation of aquifers, especially in agricultural activities has led to an increased level of soil salinity. Marine and coastal ecosystems are at risk of exploitation due to their unsustainable use. As a result of some of these challenges, public authorities in Tunisia, both at the national and local levels are becoming increasingly aware of the actual and potential risks in coastal areas. The project will provide grants to generate new innovative means of addressing climate risks to fragile ecosystems such as the coastal areas in Ghar El Melh and Kallaat El Andalous. The grants may support the ability of the local governments to better integrate climate induced risks in local planning process, as well as to identify livelihood opportunities and alternatives that can benefit from a more effective management of coastal areas.

**Activities under this output include:**

<b>Activity 3.2.1</b>	<b>Yemen:</b> Deploy off-grid local solar solutions for innovative waste-to-energy nexus approaches and pilot innovative food-security solutions to address
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	unsustainable Gas production to address emergency development needs and expanded access to health and education services for IDPs in war-affected areas of Yemen to achieve co-benefits across SDGs including women's empowerment
<b>Activity 3.2.2</b>	<b>The State of Palestine:</b> Deploy decentralized solar solutions for emergency needs and expanded access to health and education services for crisis-affected communities in the State of Palestine, with emphasis on innovation to achieve co-benefits across SDGs women empowerment
<b>Activity 3.2.3</b>	<b>Iraq:</b> Deploy solar solutions to address sustainable energy needs and drinking water supply for communities prone to displacement in the Iraqi Marshlands, and support pilot climate security nexus solutions that address biodiversity, enhance ecosystem resilience and support post-conflict restoration with emphasis on women empowerment
<b>Activity 3.2.4</b>	<b>Jordan:</b> Technical assistance to assess risks of climate change on Syrian refugee populations and their host communities in Jordan, and develop policy innovations and pilot solutions to address the nexus of climate change, displacement, energy and natural resources management to support post-conflict climate security
<b>Activity 3.2.5</b>	<b>Egypt:</b> Technical assistance to assess climate risks to critical ecosystems in Egypt such as delta, oases and aquifer systems, and develop policy innovations, institutional capacities and pilot interventions on climate resilience in Delta systems, in follow-up to CBD COP14
<b>Activity 3.2.6</b>	<b>Tunisia:</b> Technical assistance to develop institutional capacities, policy response and community action for mainstreaming climate risks into sustainable coastal management, and identify resilient livelihood opportunities.

**Output 3.3) Access to innovative finance and private partnerships is facilitated and scaled up through market analyses, mechanisms like Climate Investment Forums and others**

Under the Climate Finance pillar, a number of activities will be implemented towards meeting the objective of scaling up climate finance in the region, including the organisation of Climate Investment Forums. These Forums will be a key contributing element to the overarching SDG-Climate Facility.

Activities will be geared towards creating a common agenda among relevant stakeholders, including line ministries, central ministries and private sector stakeholders. For this purpose, the project will support the design and establishment of a Climate Investment Forum. The objective of the Forum, jointly led by UNDP, UNEP FI, and potentially other relevant partners, and building on their respective strengths and competitive advantages, will be to inform and catalyze public and private investments for climate-security in fragile and conflict-affected areas and countries in the Arab region by:

- Conducting market research, intelligence and analyses, investment theses and investment opportunity case studies to reduce perceived and actual risks to investors;
- Providing technical assistance to design a pipeline of bankable projects, and support regulatory reforms and policy frameworks to enable market entry and investments at scale; and

- Enabling public-private partnerships and catalyzing private capital by convening private sector roundtables, establishing a regional coalition of finance ministers and regulators on climate security, and facilitating match-making between private investors, multi-lateral development banks, project developers, NGOs, industry and public authorities through regular investment forums.

This is a unique model as it is focused on a key emerging issue for the region, i.e. climate security, and focusing in particular on crisis contexts, an underserved area when it comes to climate and resilience finance. There is an emerging consensus also among the international community of environmental drivers of instability and reduced social cohesion, an issue that has not been addressed by other climate investment platforms.

The project through lead role of UNDP will also partner with and provide technical assistance to existing regional initiatives focused on de-risking sustainable energy finance, renewable energy policy reform and market transformation. Some of these initiatives could include the new Arab Sustainable Energy Strategy led by LAS, the new Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) Middle East Hub hosted by Islamic Development Bank, and the PACE platform led by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). It will likewise synergize with existing initiatives to scale up climate finance taking place at the country level through the support of development agencies and public lending and finance institutions, including guarantee instruments. Another important focus will be on maximizing the effectiveness of climate finance through steps to reduce the potential for corruption. Tackling climate change and fighting corruption go hand-in-hand, both major challenges that weaken progress towards the SDGs. In undertaking the above activities to strengthen capacities for climate finance, the project will help build more transparent and accountable financial processes and mechanisms where needed, building on the expertise of UN partners to the project on the nexus of climate finance and corruption.

By convening a multi-stakeholder alliance of actors with expertise in these areas, the Forum will build on their individual competitive advantages and provide effective and tailored support to countries. Moreover, the technical assistance mechanism will aim to assist countries to de-risk low-emission sustainable energy investments through tailored regulatory frameworks reforms. It may also conduct financial analyses and studies aimed at identifying, testing and demonstrating suitable finance models for non-energy related climate-security needs, such as enhancing ecosystem resilience, sustainable water resources management, decreasing land degradation and ensuring food security. The Climate Finance pillar will rely on working with, and mobilising support from all countries in the Arab States region, including the Gulf Cooperation Council members.

The Climate Investment Forum will also consider select sectors or pilot initiatives supported under the UNDP-led country grants under Output 2.4, such as off-grid, decentralized solar initiatives, for in-depth financial analysis and the preparation of investment theses that can be presented to potential private capital providers or other sources of financing. A similar approach will be applied to pilot initiatives emerging out of country level case studies, analyses and pilots undertaken by other project partners.

With activities implemented by the UNEP Finance Initiative, the project will engage key financial sector actors for transforming the financial system to become sustainable, with a focus on market transformation towards sustainable finance among private finance institutions which are critical players for the transition to a low emission, sustainable economy. Technical assistance, awareness-raising and capacity building will be directed to support these sectors and institutions to ensure the impacts and benefits of a transition to a sustainable financial system are realized. The project will work with and stimulate financial sector actors for protecting the stability of the financial system from risks related to climate change and the environment and aligning banking, insurance and investment with climate-resilient, sustainable economic development in countries like Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia and the Gulf. A key focus will be on mobilizing banks, insurers and investors, as partnerships with institutional investors and the private sector, including the growing role of Arab partners, will be necessary to meet the implementation challenge under SDGs, Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework. The insurance sector, for example, can help communities manage climate and disaster

risk, stimulate investments in resilient infrastructure as well as support broader risk reduction and transfer mechanisms.

Awareness raising and technical assistance will be provided by the project (i) for banks, insurers and investors to apply international best-in-class methodologies to assess climate-related risks and opportunities using a forward-looking, scenario-based approach for the period 2020 to 2040. This will include consideration of financial institutions’ strategic positioning for the transition to a low-carbon economy and positioning for risks and opportunities related to the physical impacts of climate change, such as a decrease in precipitation in the region; (ii) for banks to apply international best-in-class methodologies to evaluate exposure to climate and environmental risks, and (iii) for banks to benchmark and build internal capacity to ensure progress in integrating sustainability across core business activities. Commercial financial institutions will receive technical assistance to develop financial products or services that support financing for climate mitigation and adaptation and for the SDGs through an impact-based approach to both the demand (companies, projects, public authorities) and supply side (banks and investors) of finance. This will include jointly identifying approaches to removing internal barriers to developing related products and services and help banks’ clients transition to low emission, climate resilient business models.

The project will focus on mobilizing green finance (lending, insurance, and investment), accelerating instruments such as green sukuks, green bonds, climate risk insurance and other instruments, engaging the financial sector in opportunities such as green Islamic finance, identifying and mapping emerging financing needs and opportunities, and supporting innovations in these sectors. This work will also help countries understand how to enhance readiness for scaled up climate finance under the Paris Agreement.

The project will also support efforts to build a sustainable finance agenda in the Gulf. In 2020, Saudi Arabia will take on the G20 Presidency, and as such has the potential to support the further development of the G20 Sustainable Finance Study Group, for which UNEP has served as the Secretariat. The G20 Group’s progress report in 2017 outlined how green finance has been incorporated into the G20 agenda; bringing together the world’s leading economies to promote strong, sustainable and balanced growth. The Group is tasked to develop options on how to enhance the ability of the financial system to mobilize private capital for green investment. Under Argentina’s G20 Presidency in 2018, the group has been given a broader mandate of sustainable finance, focused on areas including policy frameworks, cross-border investment in sustainable bonds, knowledge sharing on environmental and financial risk and measuring sustainable finance. Through the role of Saudi Arabia as G20 President in 2020, potential exists to shape the global sustainable finance agenda, and to take forward the green finance agenda in the Gulf.

The mainstreaming of climate-finance in sustainable development policies, including recovery and resilience plans – which will be prioritised in the post COVID phase – will require for the nexus approach to take centre stage in policy discussions. In this regard, the involvement and participation of Ministers of Finance from the region in specific roundtables are planned with the aim of establishing an alliance of champions for the Arab States region which may link up to the global Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Change.

**Activities under this output include:**

<b>Activity 3.3.1</b>	Technical assistance to conduct market research, intelligence and analysis in the Arab region to establish baseline of finance institutional landscape, map existing barriers to scaling up climate finance, identify potential policy and market-based sustainable finance innovations, and establish knowledge platform on financing the climate transition in MENA.
<b>Activity 3.3.2</b>	Technical assistance to commercial financial institutions to develop financial products and services that support financing for climate mitigation and adaptation and for SDGs through an impact-based approach.

<b>Activity 3.3.3</b>	Technical assistance to design pipeline of bankable projects for consideration by potential investors.
<b>Activity 3.3.4</b>	Mobilize private sector readiness for sustainable finance processes by holding side events at UNFCCC meetings, G20 and other relevant global and regional fora
<b>Activity 3.3.5</b>	Convene private sector roundtables and public-private marketplace forum to foster commitment to climate-security finance and facilitate match-making between private investors, multi-lateral development banks, project developers, NGOs, industry and public authorities
<b>Activity 3.3.6</b>	Establishing alliances of climate-security champions in the region, including an alliance of Finance Ministers, regulators, and others as relevant
<b>Activity 3.3.7</b>	Development of country climate investment opportunity case studies in select countries arising from the market study
<b>Activity 3.3.8</b>	Detailed investment theses developed for targeted market segments, such as for off-grid decentralized solar in crisis and post-crisis contexts and insurance for enhanced climate resilience, to serve as guidance for public-private partnerships and for private investments

#### **Output 3.4) Good practices, lessons-learned and models captured for replication and scale-up**

The project will support partners in capturing and sharing experiences generated under this Outcome in applying a nexus approach through local innovative solutions. The intention is to promote results to enable replications, as well as future scalability through broader partnerships and finance beyond the life of the project. This will include communicating results through a video series of local results and innovation, and submission of success stories to regional media, global channels of communication in social media, and UN global platforms for capturing success stories on climate action. The output will also include a final project evaluation.

#### **Activities under this output include:**

<b>Activity 3.4.1</b>	Report capturing results under country innovation grants and climate finance pillar to extract lessons learned and good practices
<b>Activity 3.4.2</b>	Short films capturing success stories of local results in achieving climate action in a way that brings benefits across the SDGs and for crisis prevention and recovery
<b>Activity 3.4.3</b>	Development of communication activities including blogs, op-eds and social media contributions in leading media platforms to share success stories
<b>Activity 3.4.4</b>	Final evaluation of the project

### **3. Communications**

Dedicated communication staff from UNDP and partners will support this project, to ensure awareness and visibility on actions, especially vis-à-vis beneficiaries and local and national authorities. In order to accord proper acknowledgement to the donor(s) for providing funding, donor logo(s) will appear on all relevant donor-funded project publications and the website, including among others, project hardware and vehicles purchased with donor(s) funds. Any citation on publications regarding projects funded by the donor(s) will also accord proper acknowledgment to the donor(s). The logos of all UNDP and all partners to this project will also appear, upon request,

on related publications of this project, if these partners contribute to these publications. Information will be disclosed in accordance with relevant policies notably the UNDP Disclosure Policy.

The project will provide donor visibility in all important and strategic project activities of the projects, invite SIDA representatives to important regional and national activities of the project as Guest Speakers; promote project on social media, project and UN/UNDP websites, UNDPs Regional Programme Knowledge Platform, and other relevant partners websites; develop communication material, including videos, on project activities and achievements, recognizing contributions from SIDA; and ensure activities of the project are captured in publications of UNDP and other partner UN agencies.

#### **4. Risks and Assumptions**

As noted in Annex 2 Risk Analysis table, there are a number of risks to be mitigated. This spans from commitment of partners to achieving results, to adequate levels of funding, and finding effective expertise to recruit into the project office. The recent emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic will prove to be a significant bottleneck to implementation of many activities, and could also deter, at least for some initial months the focus of government priorities. Linked to this is the fragile and sensitive crisis profile of the Arab region. Building resilience to such risks is a core objective of the project, while the challenging situation faced in the region can also pose risks for project delivery. To that end, mitigation measures have been taken to address all these and other risks, as elaborated in the Risk Analysis matrix. A particular set of mitigation actions were taken during project design, building strong ownership, partnership, trust and commitment among regional and UN system partners to jointly achieve outcomes. Addressing the risk of inadequate human resources to constitute the project office will be mitigated through the expert rosters already in place within UNDP and partner entities. In terms of local activities, risks are mitigated by the strong local presence and partnerships of UNDP Country Offices in all countries. The legacy of UNDP partnerships and systems used for programming over past fifty years across the region will serve as an important basis for achieving results under this project and minimizing risks to output delivery.

#### **5. Stakeholder Engagement**

In addition to the strong partnerships developed during project formulation with regional entities and UN system partners, as elaborated in the above Partnership section, the formulation of the project is also based on outreach to a broader group of stakeholders in the region. A series of consultative roundtables were held in 2016-2017 during project design, with inputs from stakeholders from government, CSOs, academic institutions and other stakeholders a valuable part of conceptualization of project objectives and activities. To maintain this participatory process, a broad group of stakeholders will continue to be invited to all regional events convened, while local CSOs and partners will likewise be an important part of the country level activities. Stakeholder engagement at the country level will build on UNDPs long standing Country Office presence and partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders from community level representatives, environmental NGOs, women's organizations, local government and parliamentary representatives, etc. As elaborated in the above Partners section, this also includes strong engagement with local private sector partners which will be critical for achieving stated project outputs and catalysing broader finance for long-term resilience.

#### **6. Knowledge**

As elaborated in the stated project outputs, ensuring effective knowledge generation on the nexus of climate action with SDGs and crisis prevention/recovery goals project will serve as a core function of the project. As such a dedicated capacity is envisaged in the project office for knowledge management, as expressed in the Project Governance and Management section below. A key focus will be on bringing forth good practices globally for the benefit of partners during capacity development activities, and equally importantly to capture and document emerging policies and practices from within the region itself including results achieved via the support of the project. Results and lessons learned will be reviewed and documented in the form of reports as well as videos to communicate and reach a broader audience across the region. This includes a dedicated budget for communication and visibility activities to promote the important contribution of partners

and donors to the project in elaborating climate solutions across the SDG and for the unique regional-specific challenges of crisis prevention and recovery. At the same time, efforts will be dedicated to strengthening the capacity of regional CSOs and media to report on the nexus issues, and to advocate for change and reforms necessary for the successful achievement of Agenda 2030 in the region.

## **7. Ownership, Sustainability and Scaling Up Results**

Regarding the ownership of the project, its design was undertaken through extensive consultations with regional partners and agencies and a series of stakeholder dialogues to jointly identify regional priorities, outputs and activities in the project. Through such process, strong ownership has been built within the League of Arab States, the Arab Water Council and UN system partners UNEP-FI, UN-Habitat, UNDRR, and WFP. The high levels of partnership, trust and commitment evidenced during project design process is now an important base for joint achievement of the project outcomes. The priorities identified, outputs and activities selected, and management arrangements established for the project were all designed jointly by these partners, with all partners feeling strong co-ownership. The Steering Committee as described further below will be the formal basis for continuing this strong level of cooperation and joint ownership of project results during the life of the project.

The establishment of the SDG Climate Facility as a basis for continuing to take forward and scale up results achieved during the life of the project will be the main mechanism to ensure sustainability of results and action. Coupled with this, the project will develop institutional capacities and policy instruments under Output 3.3 to scale-up finance and galvanize partners from the private sector and IFIs to scale up climate finance to partners beyond the life of the project.

The project will also ensure sustainability of results through broader measures including i) capturing of lessons learned to enhance knowledge management related to nexus approaches and good practices; ii) drawing on evidence based results from project implementation iii) extensive stakeholder ownership and participation in all activities iv) building on the existing network of climate service providers in the region and global centres; and v) participation of leaders from private sector including financing institutions with tailored capacity building and networking support will be fostered to ensure continuity of finance beyond this initial phase of support.

## **8. Anti-corruption and transparency**

Anti-corruption measures are integrated throughout the project from two different perspectives:

a) *Ensuring that the project does not fuel corruption and is based on accountable and transparent processes.* Throughout the inception phase, the project will carry out a conflict analysis of conflict sensitivity which will also consider any potential risks related to corruption. This particularly applies to the provision of local grants for devising innovative solutions. From a procurement and resource management perspective, the existence of a dedicated Programme Support Unit (PSU), UNDP sound and transparent procurement regulations, and the ATLAS financial management system will ensure the highest standards of transparency and accountability. In addition, multi-level monitoring systems will be applied to minimize potential for corruption. The project will be implemented following UNDP's Policy against Fraud and other Corrupt Practices.

b) *Promoting the inclusion of mechanisms of transparency and accountability throughout project implementation.* In undertaking the activities to strengthen capacities for climate finance, the project will help build more transparent and accountable financial processes and mechanisms where possible. This will include for instance the provision of dedicated training sessions to local leaders on anti-corruption practices and tools (under output 3.1), applying UNDP global tools and frameworks to assess and prevent corruption in climate finance when supporting the establishment of climate investment platforms (under output 3.3.). Such work will benefit from the advice and expertise of the UNDP Anti-Corruption Initiative in Arab Countries, a project that works to promote transparency and integrity in various sectors. Such collaboration, which will be further discussed during the inception phase, can help better identify areas for the integration of anti-corruption measures throughout project implementation.



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## **4. PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

### **Cost Efficiency and Effectiveness**

The project will be managed by the UNDP Regional Programme Team, which is housed as an integral part of UNDP's Regional Hub for Arab States in Amman. All project management arrangements will be in accordance with standard UNDP policies and procedures utilized in all of UNDP's programmes around the world. UNDP standard procedures will be applied for project assurance and tracking the implementation of the project in accordance with the work plan below, as per the agreed activities, indicators and targets.

To ensure effectiveness of project delivery, a dedicated project office will be formed during the inception of the project (initial 3-6 months) to implement the project workplan and coordinate activities of Implementing Partners, including a team of professionals in areas of project management and administration, climate change and the nexus to SDG achievement and human security, and other needs as elaborated in the Governance and Management section below. The establishment of such a team will be carried out in a cost-effective manner, establishing mid-level positions to match the stated outputs in the project while maintaining UNDP's quality assurance standards.

Project management support will be provided from UNDP's Regional Hub, which has offices in Amman and Lebanon, to ensure cost-efficiency and effectiveness in work plan implementation. This will include UNDP's Regional Programme Team for effective management and oversight of the project, supported by its Management Support Unit (MSU) based in Beirut for results and resource management through its consolidated delivery mechanism. UNDP's Climate Change, DRR, Energy and Environment Team will support project coordination and policy support to partners in achieving outputs. At the country level, UNDP Country Offices will take the operational lead in implementing local activities under the project.

## 5. RESULTS FRAMEWORK

**Intended Outcome as stated in the Regional Programme Results and Resource Framework:** Accelerate structural transformation of productive capacities in a sustainable and inclusive manner

**Outcome indicators as stated in the Regional Programme Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets:**

RP Outcome indicator: Level of access to sustainable energy (SDG 7.1.1 adapted)

RP outputs: 1.3.1 Risk-informed development policies and plans, that incorporate integrated solutions to reduce disaster risks, enable climate change adaptation and mitigation

1.4.1 Regional capacities for climate-resilient use of natural resources and transformation to clean energy and zero-carbon development

Output Indicators:

1.3.1.1 Number of countries enabled through regional exchange to link prevention policies and early warning systems, and to integrate climate risks, Baseline: 0/Target: 4

1.4.1.1 Number of countries with increased access to sustainable energy solutions through cross-country collaboration, Baseline: 0/Target: 4

1.4.1.2 Number of regionally supported national strategies that take integrated approaches for climate resilient ecosystem management, Baseline: 0/Target: 4

1.4.1.3 Number of countries with increased access to climate finance, Baseline: 1/Target: 5

**Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan:** Outputs 1.3, 1.5, 2.3, 2.5, 3.3, 3.5

**Project title and Atlas Project Number:** SDG Climate Facility – Climate Action for Human Security (00111749)

EXPECTED OUTCOMES	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)					DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS	
			Value	Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	FINAL		
<b>Outcome 1</b>											
Enhanced knowledge and coordination on climate-security among key stakeholders at the regional level to achieve climate action with co-benefits across the SDGs, and crisis prevention/recovery goals.											
<i>Output 1.1.</i> Establishment of a SDG Climate Facility as a multi-partner regional platform for accelerating climate action in a way that generates benefits	a. Existence of the SDG Climate Facility	Project Office	0	2018	0	1	2	3	3		<i>Annual reports; consultant reports and other related deliverables; Project Board minutes</i>

across SDGs and for crisis prevention/recovery goals											
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**NB: 1.1.a. Where 0 = no existence; 1 = comparative analysis and options for consideration presented; 2 = Project Board agrees on one option and efforts underway to establish Facility; 3 – the Facility is developed and begins operations**

Related activities:

Activity 1.1.1. Comparative analysis of multi-partner platforms in existence in terms of roles in generating innovation, business models for engaging broad ecosystem of actors, and financing models to engage various strands of public and private finance.

Activity 1.1.2. Development of options for design and structure of the Facility for review by Project Board members

Activity 1.1.3. Roundtables and consultative meetings facilitated between existing partners under the project and potential expanded members of the Facility

Activity 1.1.4. Endorsement by the Project Board of the selected model for the Facility and launch event with participating members

Output 1.2 Improved regional policies and actions that generate co-benefits from climate action for SDG achievement and crisis prevention/recovery goals	a. Number of regional strategies and SDG goals against which gaps and opportunities for climate action identified	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	0	2	3	3		Reports from strategies reviewed; actual deliverables
	b. Level of enhanced understanding of nexus approach to climate action and SDGs	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	Low	Low	Medium	High	High		References to SDG-CC nexus in presentations, statements, background materials and others
	c. Number of reports and analysis on the linkage between SDG5 and climate action	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	1	2	3	3		Actual reports produced.

**NB: 1.2.b. Where Low = references to SDG-CC nexus is limited; Medium = references to SDG-CC nexus is more frequent in regional discussions/forums; High – references to SDG-CC nexus is regular and consistent in various forums**

Related activities:

Activity 1.2.1: Support to map regional strategies under development to achieve the SDGs and 2030 Agenda, evaluation of results by ongoing regional strategies on water, climate, urbanization, energy, etc, and technical assistance to LAS on ways to mainstream climate risks into new strategies on road to 2030 targets. Special focus on climate security, ways to address needs of fragile and crisis contexts in the region, and on ways climate mainstreaming can promote women's empowerment

Activity 1.2.2.: Undertake a regional climate security assessment of the nexus of climate impacts with current displacement trends to determine i) sensitivity to climate variability; ii) forecasts of future climate displacement risks; and iii) recommendations for regional strategies to prevent the role of climate change as an exacerbating force

<p><i>Output 1.3. Policy dialogues undertaken with regional and national stakeholders to highlight how policies and actions on climate change can contribute to SDG achievement and crisis <u>prevention/recovery goals</u></i></p>	<p>a. Number of nexus dialogues held with member states, and level of involvement of women, CSOs</p>	Implementing partner/ Project Office	0	2018	1	1	2	3	3		<i>Dialogue reports; Annual progress reports</i>
	<p>b. Minimum percentage of women participants and panellists in regional dialogues on climate action</p>	Implementing partner/ Project Office		2018	0	0	30	30	30		<i>Workshop participants, including speakers and participants</i>
	<p>c. Number of recommendations on climate-nexus presented to the Arab Sustainable Development Committee, the Science and Technology Advisory Group and other regional fora</p>	Implementing partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	0	1	1	1		<i>Recommendation papers presented at various forum; project annual reports</i>
	<p>d. Capacity of AWC in addressing climate-security issues is strengthened</p>	Implementing partner/ Project Office	Low	2018	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High		<i>Studies, analyses, and other materials produced</i>
	<p>e. Climate-Security Platform organises at least two regional/interregional exchanges</p>	Implementing partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	0	1	2	2		<i>Workshop reports</i>

NB: 1.3.d. Where Low = AWC has limited technical capacity on climate-security; Medium = AWC addresses climate security in its work and activities; High = AWC is one of the leading regional organisations with knowledge, research and analysis on climate-security

Related activities:

Activity 1.3.1: Dialogues with member states to assess gaps and capacity needs for generating climate action in a way that brings benefits across the SDGs in line with national 2030 strategies, makes synergies between SDGs and NDCs, and ensure gender equality in participation and decision making.

Activity 1.3.2: Organise regular and dedicated climate security dialogues with crisis-affected member states to: i) contextualize nexus between climate and displacement; and ii) raise awareness on climate risks to crisis prevention/recovery; and iii) initiate a climate-security network among practitioners and think-tanks to initiate a regional policy research and capacity development agenda on managing multi-dimensional risk and building resilience.

Activity 1.3.3: Support to Convene special sessions on climate security and the nexus of climate action with social vulnerability and crisis prevention/recovery at during the annual Arab Sustainable Development Week organised by LAS with member states and partners

Activity 1.3.4: Contribute recommendations on climate nexus approach into dialogues convened by the new Arab Sustainable Development Committee, Science and Technology Advisory Group, other regional fora

Activity 1.3.5: Technical assistance to enhance regional capacity to coordinate and implement climate-security nexus agenda, including support to Arab Water Council to strengthen linkages and synergies between climate-security research and policy-making.

Activity 1.3.6: Design and launch Climate-Security Platform to facilitate knowledge exchange among practitioners, academics, research think-tanks, regional and international initiatives related to climate-security, including to provide technical assistance to policy makers on related areas.

Output 1.4. Advocacy and communication materials on the SDG-Climate-Security nexus to inform policy reforms and changes	a. Number of advocacy and communications material	Project Office	0	2018	1	2	3	4	4		Advocacy materials finalised and published
	b. Capacity development needs of CSOs/media identified and support implemented	Project Office	0	2018	0	1	2	3	3		Communication strategy work-plan implementation; Annual Progress Reports

NB: 1.4.b. Where 0 = no needs identified; 1 = needs identified; 2 = support road map identified and agreed; 3 = support implemented

Related activities:

Activity 1.4.1. Develop policy briefs and communication materials for deployment through various communication channels, as well as through regional dialogues to raise awareness on 2030 climate risk scenarios in the region, risks for generating social vulnerability and poverty with a particular focus on emergence of climate change as a root cause of resource insecurity, conflict and displacement, and special risks for gender inequality.

Activity 1.4.2 Infographics on 2030 climate scenarios in the region for deployment in social media and regional dialogues to raise awareness, with emphasis on climate risks for social vulnerability, crisis and displacement, and special risks for gender inequality.

Activity 1.4.3 Targeted capacity development activities to media and CSO stakeholders at the regional, and country level to advocate for the nexus approach

**Outcome 2**

**Enhanced access to analysis, tools and strategies at the regional level to support a climate nexus approach to achieving SDGs and prevention/recovery**

<p><i>Output 2.1. Better characterization of multi-dimensional risk, and baselines established on state of climate security, social vulnerability and adaptive capacity needs across the region</i></p>	<p>a. Number of impact forecasts produced in draft or final form</p>	<p>Implementing partner/ Project Office</p>	0	2018	0	0	1	1	1		<p><i>Output delivered by Implementing Partner</i></p>
	<p>b. Number of data sets on nexus between climate impact development and crisis prevention/recovery priorities made available</p>	<p>Implementing partner/ Project Office</p>	0	2018	1	2	3	4	4		<p><i>Data sets produced and available</i></p>
	<p>c. Methodology for quantifying social vulnerability is available for decision-makers in selected countries</p>	<p>Implementing partner/ Project Office</p>	0	2018	0	1	2	3	3		<p><i>Reports from project partner; final product</i></p>
	<p>d. AGIR structure is updated, and links with relevant other platforms</p>	<p>Implementing partner/ Project Office</p>	0	2018	1	2	3	3	3		<p><i>TOR for structure assessment; options for structure update; updated AGIR (delivery of output)</i></p>

NB: 2.1.c Where 0 = no methodology; 1 = methodology development in progress; 2 = methodology consulted and validated; 3 = methodology finalised

NB: 2.1.d Where 1 = AGIR structure exists; 2 = updated structure options are developed and presented; 3 = updated structure is applied and links to other platforms

Related activities:

Activity 2.1.1: Development of detailed climate impact forecasts using GIS, MIS and related tools to enhance understanding of multi-dimensional risks in countries that are hotspots of converging climate, social vulnerability and displacement risks.

Activity 2.1.2.: Regionally-tailored methodology developed for quantifying social vulnerability and displacement risk that can be incorporated into climate risk models for use by decision-makers; and technical assistance to improve use of climate science and data for decision-making on SDGs and crisis prevention/recovery.

Activity 2.1.3: Designing the Arab Geographical Information Room (AGIR) structure to share data and results information with relevant stakeholders and the climate-security network.

Output 2.2. Early warning services, tools and risk assessments strengthened for better decision making	a. Information systems for multi-hazard early warning and climate services are established	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	0	1	1	1		Annual project progress reports; actual deliverables
	b. Regional baselines for risk transfer mechanism are established	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	1	2	3	3		Annual project progress reports; actual deliverables
	c. An online Disaster Risk Reduction Partnership forum established and regularly updated.	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	1	2	2	2		Annual project progress reports; actual deliverables
<p><u>NB: 2.2.a, Where 0 = no baseline; 1 = baseline assessments are taking place; 2 – baseline assessments are consulted and validated; 3 = baseline for risk transfer are established and used</u></p> <p><u>NB: 2.2.c Where 0= no online platform exists; 1= online platform is discussed and design options considered; 2 = online platform is operational and regularly updated</u></p>											
<p><u>Related activities:</u></p> <p>Activity 2.2.1.: Enhancing regional strategies and implementation mechanisms for managing climate risks to cities and building resilience to manage multi-dimensional risks for sustainable urban development</p> <p>Activity 2.2.2: Development of information systems for multi-hazard early warning and climate services to inform decision making and early action, particularly focusing on scale up of social protection and safety net mechanisms in the face of shocks and stressors in fragile and crisis contexts</p> <p>Activity 2.2.3: Establishing regional baselines for risk transfer mechanisms including crop insurance, forecast based finance systems, sovereign risk insurance, as well as integrated risk management approaches at community level, based on existing lessons learned, with a focus on fragile/crisis contexts.</p> <p>Activity 2.2.4: Establish a regional DRR partners forum as a platform for identifying and scaling up innovative solutions on risk governance, early warning for climatic disasters and enhanced generation and use of data and indicators in line with the SDGs and Sendai Framework</p>											
Output 2.3 Strategic risk assessments produced on nexus of climate change to SDG achievement and crisis prevention/recovery goals to promote integrated SDG	a. Number of regional analyses and policy briefs on role of climate change on long-term resource scarcity is completed and disseminated	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	1	1	1	1		Annual project progress reports; actual deliverables
	b. Number of climate related dialogues on climate as a root cause of resource scarcity and trigger for displacement, with a particular focus on women	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	0	0	1	1		Annual project progress reports; workshop reports; actual study reports

solutions at the regional level											
<p><u>Related activities:</u>  <b>Related Activities:</b>  Activity 2.3.1: Climate-security risk assessments analyzing the role of climate change in generating long-term resource scarcity in areas of protracted crisis, exacerbating situations of conflict and displacement in the region, with particular focus on risks to women.  Activity 2.3.2: Dialogues to develop capacities of national partners to assess multi-dimensional risks, role of climate as a root cause of resource scarcity in areas of protracted crisis, and trigger exacerbating situations of conflict and displacement.</p>											
<i>Output 2.4:</i> Regional analyses of opportunities to increase access to renewable energy in the Arab States, with a particular focus on crisis settings and fragile contexts completed	a. Regional assessment undertaken and completed	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	1	2	2	2		<i>Draft and final versions of regional assessment reports</i>
	b. Recommendations to address identified needs are captured through project ideas and concept notes pitched for financing	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	1	1	2	2		<i>Drafts and final versions of recommendations and concept notes</i>
NB: 2.4.a Where 0 = no assessment; 1 = assessment framework is developed; 2; assessment is completed NB: 2.4.b Where 0 = no recommendations are made; 1 = recommendations and ideas are developed; 2 = project ideas are pitched for financing											
Activity 2.4.1 Expert review of current initiatives, experiences, and entry points on Sustainable Energy for Displaced Communities Activity 2.4.2 Develop innovative regional concept note(s) and project outline(s) that will serve as initial project ideas to be considered for financing at the climate investment forum Activity 2.4.3 Support the development of special issue of energy access in crisis and fragile countries in the context of COVID-19 Activity 2.4.4: Regional workshop to refine and validate findings, and agree on way forward for the initiative Activity 2.4.5 Enhance the annual AFEX publication, and integrate focus on crisis/fragile contexts											
<b>Outcome 3</b> Strengthened national and local capacities to effectively integrate climate change considerations into development and crisis prevention/recovery policies and to scale-up climate finance for local innovative solutions with co-benefits across the SDGs.											



Output 3.1. Leadership and capacities of national and sub-national stakeholders enhanced to integrate climate change into development and crisis prevention/recovery policies and plans	a. Number of national stakeholders who are piloting climate services and early warning mechanisms	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	0	1	2	2		Annual project progress reports, including a breakdown on engagement of women
	b. Number of crisis prevention and recovery plans that use diverse methods to manage multi-dimensional risks	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	0	1	2	2		Annual project progress reports; examples of recovery plans that have integrated CC and other risks
	c. Guidelines to mainstream climate change in recovery processes in cities affected by crisis	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	1	1	2	2		Annual project progress reports; finalised guidelines
<p>NB: 3.1.c Where 0 = no guidelines; 1= guidelines are developed; 2: guidelines are disseminated</p> <p><u>Related activities:</u></p> <p>Activity 3.1.1: Technical assistance to national partners to pilot climate services and early warning mechanisms to inform interventions, including to scale up national social protection and safety net programmes mechanisms that address climate risks to food/water security and reduce social vulnerability, with special focus on co-benefits for gender equality and women's empowerment</p> <p>Activity 3.1.2.: Technical assistance to national partners to mainstream climate resilient solutions into new urban development processes as well as recovery and reconstruction processes in cities affected by crisis</p> <p>Activity 3.1.3: Technical assistance to national partners to mainstream climate action into crisis prevention and recovery plans and policies, including use of foresight methodology, complex adaptive systems theory and approaches to understand and managing multi-dimensional risks</p>											
Output 3.2 Resilience grants to advance integrated, country-driven solutions	a. Number of local solar solutions (disaggregated by country)	Project Office	0	2018	0	2	2	4	4		Resilience grants proposals and pro-docs
	b. Number of women led initiatives managing local solar solutions										
	c. Number of people benefiting from increased access to energy, diversified livelihoods or enhanced climate security (disaggregated by gender)	Project Office	0	2018	0	0	tbd	tbd			Resilience grants proposals and pro-docs
	d. Number of country grants that have at least one activity that tackles gender inequality	Project Office	0	2018	0	3	6	7	7		Resilience grants proposals and pro-docs

	e. Number of assessments and restoration measures for critical ecosystems implemented (disaggregated by country)	Project Office	0	2018	0	0	1	2	2		<i>Resilience grants proposals and pro-docs</i>
<p><u>NB: Targets for number of people benefitting from increased access to energy, diversified livelihoods, or enhanced climate-security (disaggregated by gender) will be identified during the project design phase.</u></p>											
<p><u>Related activities:</u></p> <p>Activity 3.2.1: Yemen: Deploy off-grid local solar solutions for innovative waste-to-energy nexus approaches and pilot innovative food-security solutions to address unsustainable Gat production to address emergency development needs and expanded access to health and education services for IDPs in war-affected areas of Yemen to achieve co-benefits across SDGs including women's empowerment</p> <p>Activity 3.2.2: The State of Palestine: Deploy decentralized solar solutions for emergency needs and expanded access to health and education services for crisis-affected communities in the State of Palestine, with emphasis on innovation to achieve co-benefits across SDGs women empowerment</p> <p>Activity 3.2.3: Iraq: Deploy solar solutions to address sustainable energy needs for returnees of conflict in areas of Iraq liberated from IS, with emphasis on women empowerment, and technical assistance to mainstream solar solutions into broader crisis recovery policies and investments planning</p> <p>Activity 3.2.4: Jordan: Technical assistance to assess risks of climate change on Syrian refugee populations and their host communities in Jordan, and develop policy innovations and pilot solutions to address the nexus of climate change, displacement, energy and natural resources management to support post-conflict climate security</p> <p>Activity 3.2.5: Technical assistance to assess converging risks from climate change and conflict on critical ecosystems in Iraq, such as the marshland, oases and aquifer systems, and develop policy innovations and institutional capacities to address the nexus of climate change and biodiversity, enhance ecosystem resilience and support post-conflict restoration</p> <p>Activity 3.2.6 Egypt: Technical assistance to assess climate risks to critical ecosystems in Egypt such as delta, oases and aquifer systems, and develop policy innovations, institutional capacities and pilot interventions on climate resilience in Delta systems, in follow-up to CBD COP14</p> <p>Activity 3.2.7 Tunisia: Technical assistance to develop institutional capacities, policy response and community action for mainstreaming climate risks into sustainable coastal management, and identify resilient livelihood opportunities.</p>											
Output 3.3. Access to innovative finance and private partnerships is facilitated and scaled up through market analyses, mechanisms like Climate Investment Forums and others	a. Baseline of sustainable finance landscape in the region	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	1	2	3	3		<i>TOR of baselines study; baseline reports</i>
	b. Online knowledge platform launched	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	1	1	2	3		<i>Actual online platform and its content</i>

	c. Capacity of select stakeholders, such as commercial financial institutions to develop climate-related financial products and services is strengthened	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	Low	Low	Medium	High	High		<i>Introductory materials in financial products; workshop reports;</i>
	d. Number of private sector roundtables organised	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	1	2	3	3		<i>Roundtable reports; project annual reports</i>
	e. Coalition of Arab Finance Ministers for Climate Change	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	0	1	2	2		<i>Annual project progress reports; workshop reports</i>
	f. Number of bankable projects/viable investment propositions ready for financing	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	0	1	2	2		<i>Actual outputs</i>
	g. Number of a country case studies	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	0	2	3	3		<i>Case studies completed</i>
	h. Number of investment theses developed for targeted market segments	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	0	2	4	4		<i>Investment theses completed</i>

NB: 3.3.a Where 0 = no baseline; 1 = baseline surveys underway; 2 = baselines undertaken and validated; 3 = baseline used regularly by other stakeholders

NB: 3.3.b Where 0 = none; 1 online platform is ready; 2 = online platform is launched; 3 = online platform is regularly updated

NB: 3.3.c Where Low = information and knowledge about financial products is minimal; Medium = exposure to some available financial products; High = relevant stakeholders are able to develop their own products

NB: 3.3.e Where 0 = Absence of Coalition; 1= Coalition discussions under-way; 2 = established

Related activities:

Activity 3.3.1: Technical assistance to conduct market research, intelligence and analysis in the Arab region to establish baseline of finance institutional landscape, map existing barriers to scaling up climate finance, identify potential policy and market-based sustainable finance innovations, and establish knowledge platform on financing the climate transition in MENA.

Activity 3.3.2. Technical assistance to commercial financial institutions to develop financial products and services that support financing for climate mitigation and adaptation and for SDGs through an impact-based approach.

Activity 3.3.3: Technical assistance to design pipeline of bankable projects for consideration by potential investors

Activity 3.3.4 Mobilize private sector readiness for sustainable finance processes by holding side events at UNFCCC meetings, G20 and other relevant global and regional fora

Activity 3.3.5 Convene private sector roundtables and public-private marketplace forum to foster commitment to climate-security finance and facilitate match-making between private investors, multi-lateral development banks, project developers, NGOs, industry and public authorities;

Activity 3.3.6: Establishing alliances of climate-security champions in the region, including a collation of Finance Ministers, regulators, and others as relevant.

Activity 3.3.7: Development of country climate investment opportunity case studies in select countries arising from the market study

Activity 3.3.8: Detailed investment theses developed for targeted market segments, such as for off-grid decentralized solar in crisis and post-crisis contexts and insurance for enhanced climate resilience, to serve as guidance for public-private partnerships and for private investments

Output 3.4. Good practices, lessons learned and models captured for replication and scale-up	a. Number of reports and materials capturing lessons learned and best practice	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	0	1	3	3		TORs for intended publications; lessons learned policy briefs, and other publications
	b. Number of films about country cases disseminated	Implementing Partner/ Project Office	0	2018	0	0	1	2	2		TORs for intended outputs; completed outputs

Related activities:

Activity 3.4.1: Report capturing results under country innovation grants and climate finance platform to extract lessons learned and good practices

Activity 3.4.2: Short films capturing success stories of local results in achieving climate action in a way that brings benefits across the SDGs and for crisis prevention and recovery

Activity 3.4.3: Development of communication activities including blogs, op-eds and social media contributions in leading media platforms to share success stories

Activity 3.4.4: Final evaluation of the project

## 6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the following monitoring and evaluation plans:

### Monitoring Plan

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Cost (if any)
<b>Inception report</b>	Review initiation steps to launch the project during the first six months, including	Six months after start of project	Project Manager	N/A
<b>Track results progress</b>	Progress data against the results indicators in the Work Plan will be collected and analysed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs. At the start of the project, this will include an inception report at the six months mark, tracking status of project office recruitment, agreements between UNDP and Implementing Partners, and other elements of the work plan.	Quarterly	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by Project Manager /CTA with support of UNDP Regional Hub as needed.	N/A
<b>Monitor and Manage Risk</b>	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of results. Identify, monitor risk management actions using a risk log. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may have been required as per UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by Project Manager/CTA and actions are taken to manage risk, with support of UNDP Regional Hub. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken.	N/A
<b>Assess and Manage Procurement Risks</b>	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of results under country grants, as related to procurement processes. This includes assessment of	Quarterly	Risks are identified by Project Manager/CTA and actions are taken to manage risk, with support of UNDP Regional Hub. The risk	N/A

	capacities for undertaking effective procurement processes.		log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken. Where necessary to mitigate risks, UNDP Regional Hub may provide direct procurement services to country partners to achieve results.	
<b>Learn</b>	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	Annually	Relevant lessons are captured by the Project Manager/CTA and used to inform management decisions by the Project Board.	N/A
<b>Annual Project Quality Assurance</b>	The quality of the project will be assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision making to improve the project.	Annually	Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed by Project Manager/CTA and used to inform decisions to improve project performance by the Project Board.	N/A
<b>Review and Make Course Corrections</b>	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.	Annually	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality captured by the Project Manager/CTA and discussed with the Project Board to make course corrections.	N/A
<b>Project Report</b>	An annual progress report will be developed at start of each year by the Project Manager/CTA presented to the Project Board, consisting of progress data showing results achieved in the previous year against pre-defined annual targets, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk log with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.	Annually, and at the end of the project (final report)	The Project Board to make course corrections as needed.	N/A
<b>Project Review (Project Board)</b>	The Project Board will hold regular meetings every 6 months to assess the performance of the project and review	Annually	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed by the Project Board and	\$15,000 (Project Board annual meetings)

	the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over life of the project. In the project's final year, the Project Board shall hold an end-of project review to capture lessons and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize results and lessons learned with relevant audiences.		management actions agreed to address the issues identified.	
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### Evaluation Plan

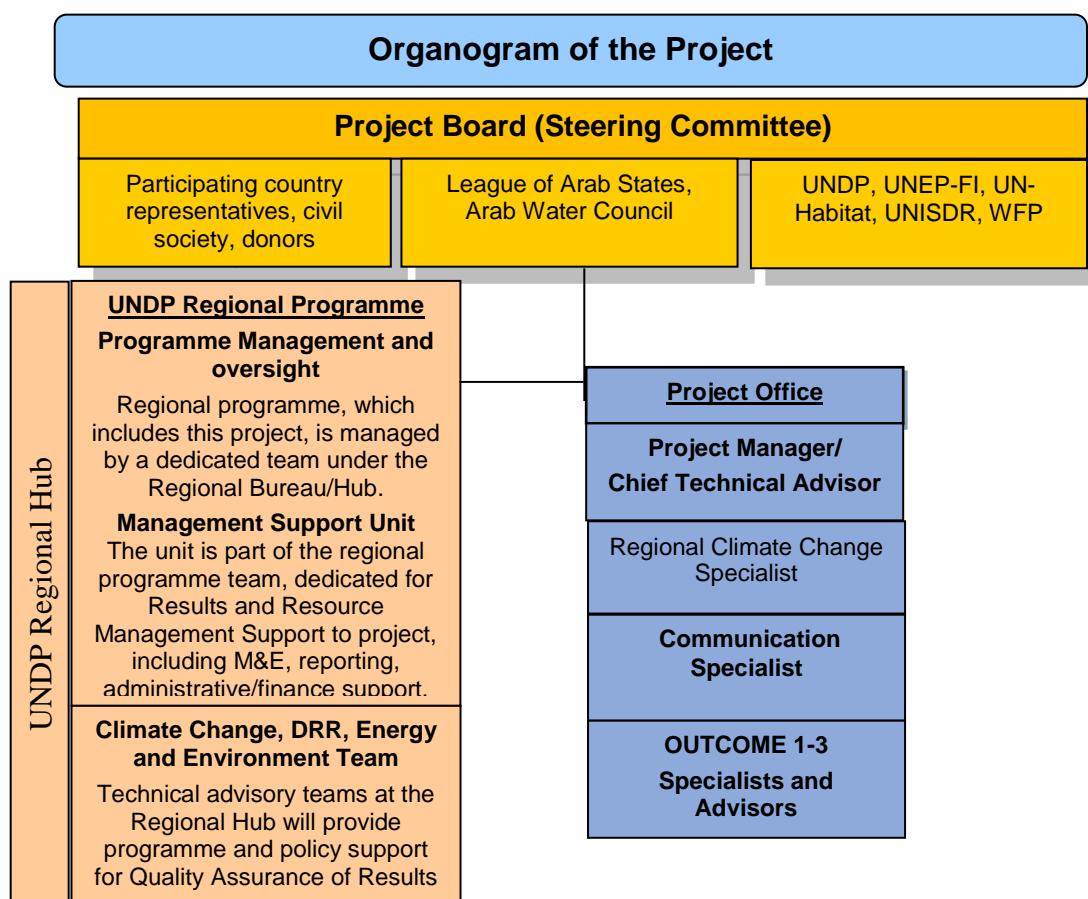
<b>Evaluation Title</b>	<b>Partners (if joint)</b>	<b>Related Strategic Plan Output</b>	<b>RPD Outcome</b>	<b>Planned Completion Date</b>	<b>Key Evaluation Stakeholders</b>	<b>Cost and Source of Funding</b>
Final Project Evaluation	LAS, AWC, UNDP, UNEP-FI, UN-Habitat, UNDRR, WFP	1.3, 1.5, 2.3, 2.5, 3.3, 3.5	1	Sept 2021	LAS, country partners	\$50,000 (SIDA)

## 7. MULTI-YEAR WORK PLAN (2019-2022)

The details of the multi-year work plan/budget with cost elements of the project over three years is presented in Annex 4. The project will have an initial set of activities during its first six months of inception activities, including recruitment of project office staff, development of agreements with Implementing Partners, and other key activities under the project workplan.

## 8. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The project will be executed by UNDP, with overall management of the project by UNDPs Regional Programme Team. The policy and programme support by UNDPs Climate Change, DRR, Energy and Environment Team, and implementation support by UNDPs Management Support Unit, all integral parts of the UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States. Activities under the project will be implemented by the partners to the project as elaborated further below, with specific roles for UNDP, LAS, AWC, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNISDR and WFP and selected institutions in partner countries for local activities.



### Executing Agency

This project will be implemented under Direct Implementation (DIM) modality whereby UNDP will serve as Executing Agency for the programme, directly implementing its outputs and activities. UNDP Regional Programme for Arab States will have overall responsibility and oversight of project work plans and intended results. A consolidated Management Support Unit will provide implementation support services, while technical advisory teams will provide advisory support services for quality assurance as noted in project work plans on cost recovery basis. The UN Country Teams and UNDP Country Offices will support local implementation of individual country



components of the project in concert with national partners. UNDP will ensure that all activities including procurement services are carried out in compliance with UNDPs rules and procedures. UNDP will be responsible for the following activities, required to achieve the project objectives and outputs:

- Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring and reporting
- Procurement of goods and services, including human resources
- Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets, as indicated in the Project Document and/or revised by the Project Office and approved by the Project Board

### **Responsible Parties for Implementation**

UNDP is the executing agency and implementing partner for the project. It is therefore ultimately accountable for the results and resources managed through the project. To implement specific activities or outputs, UNDP is envisaged to enter into agreements with responsible parties such as LAS, AWC, UNEP-FI, UN-Habitat, UNDRR and WFP. These activities are specified in the Multi-Year Workplan (Annex 4). This will be managed through implementation agreements to be entered between UNDP and each partner during the project inception or at the time when the activity will start. There are UN wide approved modalities of interagency agreements that define allocation of management fees (GMS) that also provide guidance to charge direct project costs. Initial estimations were provided in the Multi-Year Workplan, which will be refined during the inception phase when better estimates could be made. The definition of roles has been the result of consultation among partners to the project during the project design process, with elaboration of roles meant to bring out the comparative advantages of each agency to achieve overall outcomes. Partners have defined roles, aligned with the Workplan:

- **League of Arab States (LAS) and Arab Water Council (AWC):** partners for delivery of activities with a regional focus under Outcomes 1 and 2, including regional policy actions, roundtables and activities related to the Arab Sustainable Development High Level Committee under Outcome 1, and various assessment and analytic activities under Outcome 2, as noted in the Workplan. AWC role is based on its technical capacities, experiences and past cooperation as a technical partner to LAS, as well as its past cooperation with UNDP and other UN partners. The financial contribution from the project for AWC implemented activities will be determined through relevant implementation agreement(s) to be signed between UNDP and AWC during project inception.
- **UN agencies** will play key implementation support roles for activities under Outcomes 2 and 3. As discussed among partners during project formulation and reflected in the Workplan, UNDRR, WFP and UN-Habitat will support implementation of activities related to risk management, early warning systems and urban resilience under Outcome 2. The financial contributions from the project for the UN agency implemented activities will be determined through relevant interagency agreements during project inception.
- **National stakeholders** will be identified in the process of developing the Resilience Grants. The grants will be developed in consultation with key national stakeholders, who will be encouraged to prioritise vulnerable environments and communities with activities that can demonstrate how solutions to climate change challenges can positively impact country specific development and crisis prevention/recovery challenges. The consultations will include different UN partners, government stakeholders, LAS and AWC focal points at country level, and bilateral donor representatives at the country level, including SIDA representatives. UNDP Country Offices will submit grant proposals for the selected countries on behalf of country partners, and will be responsible for the execution of the project, under the oversight of the Project Team at regional level.

## Project Board

The Project Board (also called Project Steering Committee) is the main oversight mechanism for the project, involving the key partners to the project as elaborated in the above diagram. It meets at least once every six months to review status reports from Project Manager/CTA against the planned activities set in the work plan, and is responsible for providing guidance when required to the Project Manager/CTA. This includes recommendations for UNDP approval of project plans and revisions, and addressing any project level grievances. In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability as Executing Partner of the project, Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition. In case a consensus cannot be reached within the Board, final decision shall rest with UNDP as the Executive. Specific responsibilities of the Project Board include:

- Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints;
- Address project issues as raised by the Project Manager/CTA;
- Review and approve proposals for addition of new Implementing Partners and donors to the project;
- Provide guidance on new project risks, and agree on possible countermeasures and management actions to address specific risks;
- Review the project progress, and provide direction and recommendations to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans;
- Appraise the annual project implementation report, including the quality assessment rating report; make recommendations for the workplan;
- Assess and decide to proceed on project changes through appropriate revisions.

### The composition of the Project Board includes the following roles:

**Executive:** The Executive (also called Project Director) is an individual who represents ownership of the project who will chair the Project Board, to be appointed by UNDP's Regional Programme for Arab States. The Project Board will also include the donor agency(-ies), LAS, AWC, UNEP-FI, UN-Habitat, UNDRR, and WFP, along with representatives from participating countries, CSOs and academia. The Executive is ultimately responsible for the project, supported by the Senior Beneficiary and Senior Supplier. The Executive's role is to ensure that the project is focused throughout its life cycle on achieving its objectives and delivering outputs that will contribute to higher level outcomes. The executive has to ensure that the project gives value for money, ensuring cost-conscious approach to the project, balancing the demands of beneficiary and supplier. Specific responsibilities include (as part of the above responsibilities for the Project Board):

- Ensure that there is a coherent project organization structure and logical set of plans;
- Set tolerances in the AWP and other plans as required for the Project Manager;
- Monitor and control the progress of the project at a strategic level;
- Ensure that risks are being tracked and mitigated as effectively as possible;
- Brief relevant stakeholders about project progress;
- Organise and chair Project Board meetings.

**Senior Supplier:** The Senior supplier (also called Development Partners) is an individual or group representing the interests of the parties concerned which provide funding and/or technical expertise to the project (designing, developing, facilitating, procuring, implementing). The senior supplier's primary function within the Project Board is to provide guidance regarding the technical feasibility of the project. The Senior Supplier role must have the authority to commit or acquire supplier resources required. UNDP will serve as the supplier, managing the project funds, along with other partners, providing financial as well as technical resources to the project. Specific responsibilities (as part of the above responsibilities for the Project Board) include.

- Make sure that progress towards the outputs remains consistent from the supplier perspective;
- Promote and maintain focus on the expected project output(s) from the point of view of supplier management;
- Ensure that the supplier resources required for the project are made available;
- Contribute supplier opinions on Project Board decisions on whether to implement recommendations on proposed changes;
- Arbitrate on, and ensure resolution of, any supplier priority or resource conflicts.

**Senior Beneficiaries:** The Senior beneficiaries are a group representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project such as Member States in the region, governments, civil society, etc. The senior beneficiary's primary functions within the Project Board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. The senior beneficiaries are representatives of the League of Arab States to ensure that services are relevant to regional needs and country benefits. The senior beneficiary representative is responsible for validating the needs and for monitoring that the solution will meet those needs within the constraints of the project. The senior beneficiary role monitors progress against targets and quality criteria. Specific responsibilities include (as part of the above responsibilities for the Project Board):

- Prioritize and contribute beneficiaries' opinions on Project Board decisions on whether to implement recommendations on proposed changes;
- Specification of the Beneficiary's needs is accurate, complete and unambiguous;
- Implementation of activities at all stages is monitored to ensure that they will meet the beneficiary's needs and are progressing towards that target;
- Impact of potential changes is evaluated from the beneficiary point of view;
- Risks to the beneficiaries are frequently monitored.

## **Project Office**

UNDP Regional Hub houses a Regional Programme Management Team and a Climate Change, DRR, Energy and Environment Team, which will jointly support overall project coordination and oversight. Under their guidance and supervision, a dedicated Project Office will be established to be led by a Project Manager/CTA to coordinate day-to-day implementation of the project by the Implementing Partners. As elaborated in the above Organogram, the Project Office will be staffed with the following positions: Project Manager/CTA, Regional Climate Change Specialists, and short and long-term SDG-Climate Advisors for leading activities under Outcomes 1-3, as elaborated under the Organogram above. A dedicated staff, funded by UNDP, will perform knowledge management functions and related communications tasks.

The Management Support Unit (MSU) under UNDP's Regional Programme Management Team will provide operational and project management support, housing strong results-based management (RBM) support, system, and tools, which enable it to ensure delivery and capture of programme-wide results, their monitoring, including financial information, and ensure project based coherence and corporate compliance. The MSU is responsible for monitoring, tracking, and reporting of results under all UNDP regional projects, through a Regional Programme Dashboard and Annualized Monitoring Framework. The MSU consists of M&E, ICT and Administrative functions through dedicated staff.

## **Project Manager/Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)**

The Project Manager/Chief Technical Advisor has the authority to run the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the Project Board. The Programme Manager/CTA is responsible for providing technical guidance and team management; developing and advocating for innovative policy mechanisms and approaches; identifying and developing cutting edge strategic programmes, projects and activities; producing development impacts and results for key partners; and ensuring learning, knowledge management and self-development. The Project Manager/CTA's prime

responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document and its work plans, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost.

## **Project Assurance**

Project Assurance is the responsibility of each Project Board member. This role will be supported by the regional programme management as well as through existing capacities available at the regional hub through the programme and policy support teams. The Project Assurance role supports the Project Board by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. This role ensures appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed. The Project Office will be supported by the UNDP Climate Change, DRR, Energy and Environment Team at the Regional Hub through policy support, programme coordination and quality assurance functions on cost-recovery basis under the project. There are also numerous parallel UNDP regional projects on issues of trade, gender, anti-corruption, social cohesion and other topics, with which the project will liaise through support of UNDPs Regional Programme, ensuring coordinated and harmonized approaches.

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## **9. LEGAL CONTEXT AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

### **LEGAL CONTEXT STANDARD CLAUSES**

This project forms part of an overall programmatic framework under which several separate associated country level activities will be implemented. When assistance and support services are provided from this Project to the associated country level activities, this document shall be the "Project Document" instrument referred to in: (i) the respective signed SBAA's for the specific countries; or (ii) in the [Supplemental Provisions](#) attached to the Project Document in cases where the recipient country has not signed an SBAA with UNDP, attached hereto and forming an integral part hereof. All references in the SBAA to "Executing Agency" shall be deemed to refer to "Implementing Partner." This project will be implemented by the agency (UNDP) ("Implementing Partner") in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures only to the extent that they do not contravene the principles of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP. Where the financial governance of an Implementing Partner does not provide the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition, the financial governance of UNDP shall apply.

### **Risk Management Standard Clauses**

1. The responsibility for the safety and security of the Implementing Partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the Implementing Partner's custody, rests with the Implementing Partner. The Implementing Partner shall: (a) put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried; (b) assume all risks and liabilities related to the Implementing Partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of this agreement.
2. The Implementing Partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via [http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq\\_sanctions\\_list.shtml](http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq_sanctions_list.shtml). This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.

3. Consistent with UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures, social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (<http://www.undp.org/ses>) and related Accountability Mechanism (<http://www.undp.org/secu-srm>).
4. The Implementing Partner shall: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.
5. All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.

### **Conflict Sensitivity**

The project is implemented in the Arab region, where many countries face dynamic social and political contexts, protracted situations of conflict and displacement, and disruption of development pathways. In implementing the project in a conflict sensitive manner that adapts to these complex situations, during project inception and during life of the project, partners will:

(i) review the operational environments and circumstances in countries where the project may operate during its lifetime, and operational modalities the project can utilize for delivering activities. This is based on the extensive experience of UNDP and other implementing partners in implementing development cooperation in crisis contexts of the Arab region. UNDP has extensive experience in achieving results in crisis contexts, with over \$800 million of ongoing programming in contexts such as Iraq, Lebanon, the State of Palestine, and Yemen, with strong conflict sensitivity methodologies and operational frameworks from which this project will benefit.

(ii) review of project outputs and activities and possible adjustments resulting from shifting political situation in partner countries, aimed at optimizing interventions while at the same time avoiding any negative effects that may result from changing external environment.

In ensuring conflict sensitivity, the project has been designed based on an understanding of the evolving nature of crises in the region, and in particular the converging drivers of crisis owing to both climate change and conflict. The project also bases its design and planned activities on the institutional arrangements and experiences already in place through the role of UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States in leading crisis prevention, response and recovery cooperation crisis contexts across the region, with over \$800 million of ongoing programming in contexts such as Iraq, Lebanon, the State of Palestine, Syria and Yemen. This includes numerous in-depth conflict analyses undertaken by UNDP Country Offices in these and other countries in the region, regularly updated, shared and disseminated as a means of equipping programming with adequate information and preparations to face any challenge. The project will also leverage standard practices of other partner UN agencies as well as the Sida Manual of Conflict Analysis.

A detailed analysis of conflict sensitivity of project results would form part of the project inception report. A conflict sensitive form of project implementation implies that defined activities will be implemented in a way that does not unintentionally cause, or exacerbate tensions, and it will leverage on positive opportunities and constructive behaviour for policy dialogues on ways that conflict prevention and recovery can be aided by climate action. This will be undertaken by all partners to the programme, and benefit from UNDPs teams of experts at its Regional Hub for Arab States which conducts regular analyses of the crisis context in the region. One such analytical tool is a Regional Conflict Analysis which includes an overview of the background and history of conflicts in the region, identification of key stakeholders, and interacting mechanisms among them. The analysis provides a detailed understanding

of root causes to ongoing conflicts, offering positive options for ways that programming can help prevent further crisis or support recovery from crisis.

UNDPs Regional Hub for Arab States also implements crisis related programming that continuously generates data, information, and knowledge on ongoing conflicts in the region and various types of risks, political, economic, and social, affecting the development context at the local level. Some of this information is available at <http://rbas-knowledgeplatform.org>. One particular knowledge product that has been produced by UNDP is the Social Cohesion Index, a tool allowing the organization to generate a multi-dimensional analysis of all the risk factors affecting a particular context. UNDP is in the process of implementing this index that will collect data and produce analysis on risks. The project will be guided by the findings of this tool on a continuous basis during implementation.

The project will also benefit from specific institutional mechanisms that UNDP uses to monitor conflict situations and to mitigate impacts risks to project results. One such mechanism is the Project Board/Steering Committee, by which Members of the Board will monitoring regularly the progress of implementation, observe any factors in crisis contexts that may impact delivery of project activities, and scrutinize ways in which activities can support crisis prevention and recovery goals. Throughout project implementation, UNDP engages as needed its network of UNDP regional security advisors as well as UNDP country level security specialists posted across the 18 UNDP country offices present in the Arab region, to alert UNDP management of any action that may be necessary. Through this process, UNDP ensures that project implementation is informed of security risks to take the necessary mitigating actions.

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## **ANNEXES**

1. Social and Environmental Standards
2. Risk Analysis
3. Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement

## Annex I - Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

<b>Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks</b>		
<b>Principles 1: Human Rights</b>		<b>Answer (Yes/No)</b>
1.	Could the Project lead to adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	No
2.	Is there a likelihood that the Project would have inequitable or discriminatory adverse impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups? <sup>11</sup>	No
3.	Could the Project potentially restrict availability, quality of and access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups?	No
4.	Is there a likelihood that the Project would exclude any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups, from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	No
5.	Is there a risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project?	No
6.	Is there a risk that rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	No
7.	Have local communities or individuals, given the opportunity, raised human rights concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process?	Not Applicable
8.	Is there a risk that the Project would exacerbate conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	No
<b>Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</b>		
1.	Is there a likelihood that the proposed Project would have adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	No
2.	Would the Project potentially reproduce discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	No
3.	Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process and has this been included in the overall Project proposal and in the risk assessment?	No
4.	Would the Project potentially limit women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services? <i>For example, activities that could lead to natural resources degradation or depletion in communities who depend on these resources for their livelihoods and well being</i>	No
<b>Principle 3: Environmental Sustainability:</b> Screening questions regarding environmental risks are encompassed by the specific Standard-related questions below		
<b>Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</b>		
1.1	Would the Project potentially cause adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services? <i>For example, through habitat loss, conversion or degradation, fragmentation, hydrological changes</i>	No
1.2	Are any Project activities proposed within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	No

<sup>11</sup> Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, gender, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority. References to "women and men" or similar is understood to include women and men, boys and girls, and other groups discriminated against based on their gender identities, such as transgender people and transsexuals.

1.3	Does the Project involve changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? (Note: if restrictions and/or limitations of access to lands would apply, refer to Standard 5)	No
1.4	Would Project activities pose risks to endangered species?	No
1.5	Would the Project pose a risk of introducing invasive alien species?	No
1.6	Does the Project involve harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	No
1.7	Does the Project involve the production and/or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	No
1.8	Does the Project involve significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? <i>For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction</i>	No
1.9	Does the Project involve utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development)	No
1.10	Would the Project generate potential adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No
1.11	Would the Project result in secondary or consequential development activities which could lead to adverse social and environmental effects, or would it generate cumulative impacts with other known existing or planned activities in the area?  <i>For example, a new road through forested lands will generate direct environmental and social impacts (e.g. felling of trees, earthworks, potential relocation of inhabitants). The new road may also facilitate encroachment on lands by illegal settlers or generate unplanned commercial development along the route, potentially in sensitive areas. These are indirect, secondary, or induced impacts that need to be considered. Also, if similar developments in the same forested area are planned, then cumulative impacts of multiple activities (even if not part of the same Project) need to be considered.</i>	No
<b>Standard 2: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</b>		
2.1	Will the proposed Project result in significant <sup>12</sup> greenhouse gas emissions or may exacerbate climate change?	No
2.2	Would the potential outcomes of the Project be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change?	No
2.3	Is the proposed Project likely to directly or indirectly increase social and environmental vulnerability to climate change now or in the future (also known as maladaptive practices)?  <i>For example, changes to land use planning may encourage further development of floodplains, potentially increasing the population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding</i>	No
<b>Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions</b>		
3.1	Would elements of Project construction, operation, or decommissioning pose potential safety risks to local communities?	No
3.2	Would the Project pose potential risks to community health and safety due to the transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	No
3.3	Does the Project involve large-scale infrastructure development (e.g. dams, roads, buildings)?	No
3.4	Would failure of structural elements of the Project pose risks to communities? (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)	No
3.5	Would the proposed Project be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme climatic conditions?	No
3.6	Would the Project result in potential increased health risks (e.g. from water-borne or other vector-borne diseases or communicable infections such as HIV/AIDS)?	No
3.7	Does the Project pose potential risks and vulnerabilities related to occupational health and safety due to physical, chemical, biological, and radiological hazards during Project construction, operation, or decommissioning?	No

<sup>12</sup> In regards to CO<sub>2</sub>, 'significant emissions' corresponds generally to more than 25,000 tons per year (from both direct and indirect sources). [The Guidance Note on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation provides additional information on GHG emissions.]



3.8	Does the Project involve support for employment or livelihoods that may fail to comply with national and international labor standards (i.e. principles and standards of ILO fundamental conventions)?	No
3.9	Does the Project engage security personnel that may pose a potential risk to health and safety of communities and/or individuals (e.g. due to a lack of adequate training or accountability)?	No
<b>Standard 4: Cultural Heritage</b>		
4.1	Will the proposed Project result in interventions that would potentially adversely impact sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: Projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	No
4.2	Does the Project propose utilizing tangible and/or intangible forms of cultural heritage for commercial or other purposes?	No
<b>Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement</b>		
5.1	Would the Project potentially involve temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement?	No
5.2	Would the Project possibly result in economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation)?	No
5.3	Is there a risk that the Project would lead to forced evictions? <sup>13</sup>	No
5.4	Would the proposed Project possibly affect land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	No
<b>Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples</b>		
6.1	Are indigenous peoples present in the Project area (including Project area of influence)?	No
6.2	Is it likely that the Project or portions of the Project will be located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.3	Would the proposed Project potentially affect the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the Project is located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the affected peoples, or whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question)?  <i>If the answer to the screening question 6.3 is “yes” the potential risk impacts are considered potentially severe and/or critical and the Project would be categorized as either Moderate or High Risk.</i>	No
6.4	Has there been an absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	N/A
6.5	Does the proposed Project involve the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.6	Is there a potential for forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources?	No
6.7	Would the Project adversely affect the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	No
6.8	Would the Project potentially affect the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No
6.9	Would the Project potentially affect the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?	No

<sup>13</sup> Forced evictions include acts and/or omissions involving the coerced or involuntary displacement of individuals, groups, or communities from homes and/or lands and common property resources that were occupied or depended upon, thus eliminating the ability of an individual, group, or community to reside or work in a particular dwelling, residence, or location without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protections.

<b>Standard 7: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</b>		
7.1	Would the Project potentially result in the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	No
7.2	Would the proposed Project potentially result in the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	No
7.3	Will the proposed Project potentially involve the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous chemicals and/or materials? Does the Project propose use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs?  <i>For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Stockholm Conventions on Persistent Organic Pollutants or the Montreal Protocol</i>	No
7.4	Will the proposed Project involve the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	No
7.5	Does the Project include activities that require significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No

## Annex II: Risk Analysis

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Consequence (C) and Likelihood (L) 0 = none 4= very high	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update
1	Consequences of COVID-19 pandemic on all activities  Project revision phase	Strategic, Operational, and Financial	Significant delays in the implementation of activities due to lockdown	(C) 4 (L) 4	UNDP is committed to retain flexibility in the implementation of the activities. Together with the Implementing Partners, UNDP has begun to reshuffle timelines, and focus on activities that are desk-based.  Further adaptation to the situation as and when more clarity emerges will be taken into account, and adjustments made accordingly, including relying on virtual consultations, delays in workshops/consultations, and any other measures that can be adapted.	UNDP Project Team	Revision of project in light of expected top-up, March 2020	Start of project
2	Adequate level of funding for effective implementation	Formulation stage	Operational and Financial	Funding constraints may limit ability to achieve outcomes C = 3; L = 2	Extensive discussions held with lead donor to prioritize objectives of the project and adjust outputs and activities according to match funding prospects.	UNDP Regional Programme	UNDP Regional Programme	Start of project
3	Political instability/conflict and unfavourable operational circumstances for country based activities	Formulation stage	Organizational and strategic	Local complexities may limit ability to achieve country level results C = 3; L = 2	Extensive UNDP country office presence in all countries of the region, including crisis contexts and the specific countries in focus in the project. UNDP has large ongoing portfolio of over \$800 million of crisis prevention and response projects in the countries of the region, with strong analytic and operational capacities for undertaking project	UNDP Regional Programme	UNDP Regional Programme	Start of project

					activities, including through support of UNDP Country Offices.			
4	Insufficient commitment from regional entities and partner agencies to mainstream climate action with SDG and crisis prevention/recovery measures	Formulation stage	Strategic	Lack of buy in by regional bodies and partners may limit ability to achieve nexus approaches C = 3; L = 2	Extensive consultations and joint design of all project activities with LAS, AWC, UNEP-FI, UN-Habitat, UNDRR, WFP and others, with agreement on prioritization of regional challenges, feasibility of project goals, and strong commitment for joint achievement of results	UNDP Regional Programme	UNDP Regional Programme	Start of project
5	Duplication with other regional initiatives	Formulation stage	Strategic	Lack of clear niche of the project will reduce its added value to partners C = 3; L = 2	Mapping and review undertaken during project design of other regional initiatives to specify niche of the project and ways to meet regional needs/gaps	UNDP Regional Programme	UNDP Regional Programme	Start of project
6	Availability of competent national consultants or specialized experts	Formulation stage	Organizational	Lack of effective project staff may hamper implementation C = 3; L = 2	Tapping on UNDP regional roster of experts and expert networks of partner UN Agencies. Coaching and reinforcing technical capacity of recruited experts	UNDP Regional Programme	UNDP Regional Programme	Start of project
7	Potential corruption and financial irregularities	Formulation stage	Organizational	Lack of transparency in procurement processes and potential corruption/financial irregularities C = 3; L = 1	All procurement and financial procedures will be directly handled in accordance to the UNDP Policy against Fraud and other Corrupt Practices; and multi-level monitoring systems will be applied to minimize potential for corruption.	UNDP Regional Programme	UNDP Regional Programme	Start of project
8	Potential risks to effectiveness of procurement processes	Formulation stage	Organizational	Lack of effectiveness in procurement processes affecting delivery of results	All procurement procedures will be implemented in full accordance with UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures; and multi-level monitoring systems will be	UNDP Regional Programme	UNDP Regional Programme	Start of project

				C = 3; L = 1	applied to minimize potential for delivery challenges. Where necessary, UNDP will provide implementation support to procurement.			
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### Annex III - Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement

Country	Climate change mitigation (CCM)	Climate change adaptation (CCA)	Investments envisaged	Other information
<b>Algeria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GHG reduction target of 7-22% by 2030, compared to BAU- scenario, conditional on external support</li> <li>• Renewable Energy target to reach 27% of electricity production from renewable sources</li> <li>• Energy efficiency targets of reducing 9% of energy consumption by 2030</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecosystems resilience to adapt to climate risks including flooding and drought</li> <li>• Land rehabilitation to combat soil erosion and desertification</li> <li>• Integrate climate risks into national strategies and plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific investment figure provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 50 million hectares at risks of desertification</li> <li>• Great green dam initiative with 1200km x 20km forest cover as a significant carbon sink</li> </ul>
<b>Bahrain</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific GHG emission reduction targets</li> <li>• No specific EE and RE targets</li> <li>• EE measures includes Motor Vehicles Standards; and efficient lightening initiatives</li> <li>• RE measures: PV for electricity generation</li> <li>• Carbon Capture and Storage</li> <li>• Actions with mitigation co-benefits through diversification of economy away from dependence on oil &amp; gas, focusing on financial, manufacturing and tourism sectors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal Resilience to Sea-Level Rise</li> <li>• Climate-resilient and integrated water resources strategy</li> <li>• Recovery of local fish stocks for food security</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific investment figure provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bahrain is an archipelago of low-laying islands</li> </ul>
<b>Djibouti</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GHG emissions reduction target of 40% by 2030 compared to BAU- scenario</li> <li>• RE measures includes PV, geothermal</li> <li>• EE measures includes efficient lightening in buildings</li> <li>• Reforestation and motor vehicle standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building resilience to drought risks</li> <li>• Coastal resilience from Sea Level Rise</li> <li>• Improved water management</li> <li>• Conservation of biodiversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US\$3.8 billion to implement 40% non-conditional GHG emission target by 2030.</li> <li>• US\$1.6 billion to implement additional 20% conditional GHG emission reductions by 2030.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The adaptation projects currently being implemented account for a budget of nearly €100 million which represents just 12% of total adaptation investment needs under the 2°C Scenario, and a mere 7.5% under 4°C Scenario.</li> </ul>
<b>Egypt</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diffusion of locally-appropriate low-carbon energy production</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal resilience from Sea Level Rise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately US\$73.04 billion of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural productivity of 2 major crops -</li> </ul>

	<p>technologies, with substantial reductions in energy intensity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the use of RE as alternative to non-renewable energy sources</li> <li>• Reform energy subsidies</li> <li>• Energy efficiency measures to reduce energy demand growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water sector resilience including through efficient irrigations</li> <li>• Agriculture sector resilience for food security</li> <li>• Health sector resilience</li> <li>• Tourism sector resilience</li> <li>• Energy sector resilience especially hydraulic power production</li> </ul>	<p>investments required for implementing INDCs for adaptation and mitigations by 2030.</p>	<p>wheat and maize –projected to decline by 15% and 19%, respectively, by 2050 due to increasing temperature, irrigation water deficit and disease outbreaks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate induced SLR of 50cm can inundate low-lying lands of Delta and highly populated cities of Alexandria and Port Said.</li> </ul>
<b>Iraq</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GHG emissions target of 15% below BAU for years 2020 through 2035</li> <li>• GHG emissions reduction target of 2% by 2030 compared to BAU as non-conditional contribution, and 13% GHG emission reduction target as conditional target contingent on international support</li> <li>• Mitigation measures include Carbon Capture and Storage; and transition to compound electrical turbines</li> <li>• RE measures includes PV technology</li> <li>• EE measures includes efficient lightening in buildings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resilience of critical ecosystems to climate impacts</li> <li>• Water sector resilience</li> <li>• Agriculture sector resilience for food security</li> <li>• Health sector resilience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific investment figure provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water and agricultural sectors are the most vulnerable to climate risks</li> <li>• Climate and human security risks</li> </ul>
<b>Jordan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GHG emissions target of 14% below BAU by 2030 with 1.5 as maximum non-conditional contribution.</li> <li>• Increase renewable energy share in the total energy mix by 11% in 2025</li> <li>• Expanding use of solar energy for water heating</li> <li>• Green building codes</li> <li>• Introduction of the Zero Emission Electric Vehicle (ZEV)</li> <li>• Low-emission public transport</li> <li>• Reduce solid waste disposal in landfills from 80% to 60% in 2025 and increase treated and re-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water sector's adaptation</li> <li>• Health sector adaptation</li> <li>• Biodiversity, eco-systems, and protected areas adaptation</li> <li>• Agriculture/food security adaptation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US\$ 5,157,250,000 is the total investments required to achieve 14% GHG emission reduction target by 2030</li> <li>• US\$ 542,750,000 is investment required to achieve non-conditional 1.5% GHG emission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The influx of Syrian refugees into Jordan has increased the demand for energy and electricity</li> </ul>

	used solid waste from 20% to 40% in 2025		reduction target	
<b>Kuwait</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific GHG emission reduction targets</li> <li>• Ambitious to move to a low-carbon economy on a voluntary basis through implementation of projects and enacting laws and regulations</li> <li>• Energy production from municipal solid waste</li> <li>• Energy production from renewable sources (photovoltaic energy - solar thermal energy - wind energy)</li> <li>• Mass transit systems project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen coastal resilience</li> <li>• Adapting to lack of water resources: using higher efficiency systems</li> <li>• Food security by development of the agriculture sector</li> <li>• Dust management to reduce dust storms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific investment figure provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temperature increase is one of major climate risks in Kuwait.</li> <li>• The annual average temperature increases by 1.6 °C during 2010 to 2035 to reach highest average record of 28.7 °C.</li> <li>• Dust fallout rate is equivalent to 55 tons / km<sup>2</sup> per year in total around one million tons of dust falling annually.</li> </ul>
<b>Lebanon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unconditional GHG emission reduction of 15% compared to BAU scenario in 2030</li> <li>• Unconditional 15% of the power and heat demand in 2030 is generated by renewable energy sources</li> <li>• Unconditional 3% reduction in power demand through energy-efficiency measures in 2030 compared to BAU scenario</li> <li>• Conditional GHG emission reduction of 30% compared to the BAU scenario in 2030.</li> <li>• Conditional 20% of power and heat demand in 2030 is generated by renewable energy sources.</li> <li>• Conditional 10% reduction in power demand through energy-efficiency in 2030 compared to the demand under the BAU scenario.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity resilience</li> <li>• Forestry and agriculture resilience</li> <li>• Water sector resilience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific investment figure provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temperatures expected to increase by around 1°C on the coast and 2°C in the mainland by 2040, and by 2090 they will be 3.5°C and 5°C higher, respectively.</li> <li>• Rainfall is projected to decrease by 10-20% by 2040 and 25-45% by the year 2090.</li> </ul>
<b>Libya</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INDC not submitted to UNFCCC</li> </ul>
<b>Morocco</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 32% GHG emission reduction target by 2030 compared to BAU scenario</li> <li>• Unconditional 13 % GHG emissions reduction by 2030 compared to BAU scenario</li> <li>• Additional conditional 19% GHG emission reduction target by 2030 compared to BAU scenario</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water sector resilience including through desalination and efficient irrigation technologies</li> <li>• Protection of climate-sensitive production systems such as agriculture,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US\$ 45 billion is the total investments required between 2015-2030 to achieve GHG emission reduction targets by</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over the period 2005-2010, Morocco devoted 64 % of all climate-related spending in the country to adaptation, which represents 9 % of overall investment expenditures</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reaching over 50% of installed electricity production capacity from renewable sources by 2025</li> <li>• Reducing energy consumption by 15 % by 2030</li> </ul>	tourism and high-risk infrastructures	2030 of which US\$ 35 billion is conditional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morocco expects to dedicate at Least 15% of its overall investment budgets to adaptation to climate change</li> <li>• Morocco has set up Morocco Centre For Climate Change</li> </ul>
<b>Oman</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2% GHG emissions reduction target by 2030 relative to BAU with mitigation potential of around 88,714 gigagram CO2e</li> <li>• Mitigation measure includes increasing of renewable energy contributions to the energy mix, energy efficiency of industrial projects</li> <li>• Reducing gas flaring from oil industries</li> <li>• Climate policies to support transition to low-carbon development paths</li> <li>• Low carbon transport initiatives</li> <li>• Methane recovery from solid waste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal resilience from tropical storms</li> <li>• Water sector resilience</li> <li>• Health sector resilience</li> <li>• Agriculture and fishery sectors resilience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific investment figure provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tropical cyclone, coastal erosion and Sea Level rise are major climate risks in Oman</li> </ul>
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributions through measures with mitigation co-benefits ambitions of up to 130 MtCO2e reduction target annually by 2030 including through increasing renewable energy share in the energy mix, contingent on continuing growing economy with diversified portfolio of investments</li> <li>• Measure that generate mitigation co-benefits and contribute to economic diversification includes EE, RE, Carbon Capture and Utilization/Storage, Utilization of gas, methane recovery and flare minimization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water and waste water management</li> <li>• Urban planning</li> <li>• Marine Protection</li> <li>• Reduced desertification</li> <li>• Integrated coastal zone management planning</li> <li>• Early Warning Systems (EWS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific investment figure provided</li> <li>• No specific investment figure provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic diversification with mitigation co-benefits</li> <li>• The implementation of Saudi Arabia's NDC is not contingent on international financial support, but Kingdom of Saudi Arabia recognizes the role for technology cooperation and transfer as well as capacity building for NDC implementation</li> </ul>
<b>Somalia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific GHG emission reduction targets</li> <li>• RE potentials including solar energy, hydroelectric and wind energy to achieve sustainable development and to contribute in GHG emission reduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate resilient water management strategies for sustainable livelihoods including through integrated water</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recurrent climate induced drought triggers massive human security risks</li> <li>• Illegal charcoal trade ignites conflict and accelerate</li> </ul>

		resource management • Sustainable forestation and rangeland management		environmental change and deforestation
<b>Sudan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific GHG emission reduction targets but objective set out to implement low-carbon development strategies targeting three sectors including energy, forestry and waste</li> <li>• Renewable energy target aiming to integrate 20% RE share in the power system by 2030</li> <li>• Energy efficiency including through efficient lighting and labeling systems</li> <li>• Electricity thermal generation using Natural Gas</li> <li>• Afforestation and reforestation</li> <li>• Waste management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water sector resilience including through integrated management of the water resources</li> <li>• Agriculture sector resilience including rain-fed agro-pastoral adaptation</li> <li>• Coastal and health sectors resilience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total US\$ 12.88 billion, of which US\$ 1.2 billion for adaptation and US\$ 11.68 billion for mitigation</li> <li>• \$4.3 billion renewable energy</li> <li>• \$350 million for EE measures</li> <li>• \$ 2.9 billion thermal power</li> <li>• \$3.2 billion afforestation, reforestation</li> <li>• \$930 waste management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drought and floods are the most recurrent climate risks Sudan is facing</li> </ul>
<b>Syria</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INDC not submitted to UNFCCC</li> </ul>
<b>Tunisia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall objective is to reduce carbon intensity by 41% compared to 2010 targeting energy; industrial processes; agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU); waste sectors</li> <li>• unconditional contribution corresponds to a 13% reduction in carbon intensity compared to 2010, or around 1/3 of the overall objective</li> <li>• Conditional contribution aims to achieve 28% reduction in carbon intensity relative to 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water sector adaptation</li> <li>• Coastal resilience</li> <li>• Agriculture sector resilience</li> <li>• Ecosystem resilience</li> <li>• Tourism sector adaptation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately US\$17.5 billion of investment is required to achieve the mitigation objectives, and US\$ 1.9 billion for adaptation.</li> <li>• In terms for mitigation, around 85% of funding needs to be mobilized for energy sector: 40% for EE and 45% for RE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea Level Rise is major climate risk for coastal tourist infrastructure</li> <li>• The coastline vulnerability to SLR has various consequences including loss of approximately 16,000 hectares of agricultural land in low-lying coastal areas</li> </ul>
<b>UAE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific GHG emission reduction targets</li> <li>• Implement measures with mitigation co-benefits</li> <li>• Increasing clean energy contribution to total energy mix from 0.2% in 2014, to 24% by 2021</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sustainable management of water resources including water conservation and desalinization</li> <li>• Wetlands, Coastal and Marine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific investment figure provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic Diversification with Mitigation Co-benefits</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements in Energy Intensive Industries and the Oil and Gas Sector to improve efficiency and reduce emissions</li> <li>• Carbon capture, usage and storage</li> <li>• Reduce energy and water demand including through tariff reform, and building and efficiency standards</li> <li>• World-class traffic and transport systems</li> <li>• Improvement in waste management</li> </ul>	<p>Environment Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve food security through agriculture projects</li> <li>• Innovation and Research &amp; Development</li> </ul>		
<b>Yemen</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14% GHG emission reduction target by 2030 below BAU which includes 1% unconditional target and 13% conditional target</li> <li>• Energy Power Generation through RE sources including solar, and wind energy</li> <li>• Fuel switching to natural gas</li> <li>• Energy-efficiency programs through establishing energy efficiency standards, energy use regulations and labelling and public awareness</li> <li>• Improving energy use efficiency in transportation sector.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water sector resilience</li> <li>• Agriculture sector resilience</li> <li>• Integrated coastal zone and marine resource management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific investment figure provided but implementation of adaptation and mitigation would need international support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water and resources scarcity drive growing human security risk increasingly triggered by climate change</li> </ul>