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CLIMATE-PROOF CITIES, CITIES FOR PEOPLE

Cities Alliance Strategy for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region

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CONTENTS

THE CASE FOR A STRATEGY FOR INCLUSIVE ADAPTATION IN MENA CITIES

Foreword

Climate change is one of the most significant global issues of the 21st century. Its impacts are felt by everyone, but they are not evenly distributed. **With its arid climate and water scarcity, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is particularly susceptible to the impacts of climate change.** Cities across Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, and beyond are grappling with rising temperatures, irregular weather patterns, and dwindling resources.

These climate realities extend beyond environmental concerns, encompassing socio-economic vulnerabilities that disproportionately affect marginalised communities, from women to refugees. The urgency to address climate adaptation in MENA cities is underscored by the profound effects of extreme weather events, water scarcity, and the potential for climate-induced displacement.

The Cities Alliance supports cities to deliver sustainable development and address urban poverty. It does so by promoting inclusive cities that engage all their residents – including women, children, and the elderly – and provide them with equal access to urban opportunities. Cities Alliance has been active in the MENA region since 2000, addressing issues such as climate-resilient and gender-sensitive infrastructure, challenges related to migration, inclusive city planning and informal settlements upgrading,conflict-sensitive development and innovative municipal financing.

The partnership has pioneered participatory frameworks and tools, notably Her4Climate and Her4Water, that are bringing women into the development process and highlighting their needs. Cities Alliance is working with partners to produce new evidence on climate-related urban migration and secondary cities through research and pilot programming.

With this strategy, Cities Alliance seeks to renew its commitment to supporting cities and communities in the MENA region to better respond and adapt to the impacts of climate change. This strategy is not only a response to climate challenges, but also a call to action to recognise the interdependence of urban resilience and inclusivity. It underscores the importance of building local capacity and empowering cities and communities to take ownership of their adaptation journey. It also recognises the need to integrate diverse perspectives and makes a commitment to including all residents, including women and marginalised communities, in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of climate adaptation initiatives.

Inclusive adaptation is not merely a matter of ethical imperative; it is a strategic necessity. This document outlines the climate change challenges in MENA cities, identifies key actors and partners for an integrated and coherent response, and provides a roadmap for the Cities Alliance's work on climate adaptation in the region.

THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MENA CITIES

Climate change is exacerbating desertification, water shortages, and land degradation in the MENA region, worsening food insecurity and increasing competition over resources.

The MENA[1] region is the most water-scarce place on Earth. Spanning an area of about 12.5 million km^2, it covers around 9.5 per cent of the world's land[2] and is home to roughly 5.4 per cent of the global population.[3] Yet, it holds only about 1 per cent of the planet's freshwater.[4]

These unique geographical and climatic characteristics make the region particularly susceptible to a range of adverse impacts that contribute to a complex web of interconnected challenges:

Water scarcity. Climate change-induced factors, such as prolonged droughts and irregular precipitation, contribute to dwindling freshwater resources. This amplifies the struggle for access to clean water for agriculture as well as human health and sanitation, further intensifying resource competition and potential conflicts.

Desertification. Rising temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns drive desertification and expand arid areas. This threatens productive land, worsening food security and sparking competition for fertile spaces.

Land degradation. Climate-triggered factors such as extreme weather and reduced soil moisture degrade land quality, which impacts agriculture and livelihoods and leads to loss of fertile soil.

Food insecurity. Desertification and land degradation reduce arable land, disrupting planting seasons and crop yields. As food production decreases, vulnerability to hunger and malnutrition rises.

Biodiversity impact. Climatic shifts affect unique ecosystems and alter species distribution, disrupting biodiversity and impacting pollination and nutrient cycling.

Resource competition. Combined effects intensify competition for limited resources (water, land, and food). Scarce supplies become sources of tension, potentially escalating conflicts.

1 Data from 19 Arab countries in the MENA region (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen).

2 FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations). 2022. Land area and estimated average for the MENA region. AQUASTAT Database. https://www.fao.org/aquastat/statistics/query/ index.html.

3 The World Bank. 2022.. Population growth (annual %). Estimated average for the MENA region. https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.GROW.

4 Kandeel, A. 2019. Freshwater Resources in the MENA region: Risks and Opportunities. Middle East Institute.

Amidst this backdrop, ongoing conflicts and humanitarian crises in the MENA region have resulted in substantial numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs)

58 per cent

of world refugees originate from the Arab region

(2016) of which 60 per cent remained to live there.[5] Conflicts in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen, have resulted in citizens and refugees from neighbouring nations seeking refuge in urban centres, intensifying urban growth. Most of these displaced individuals reside in vulnerable informal settlements or slums, which already encompass around 30.9 percent of urban dwellers in the MENA region, with variability across countries.[6]

These factors have contributed to population growth in the region, which has increased from 70 million in 1950 to 418 million in 2020.[7] Urbanisation has paralleled this growth;

73 per cent

of MENA's population (305 million) lived in cities

in 2020, exceeding the global average of 56 per cent.[8] Urban growth is expected to further accelerate, intensifying the demand on municipal water supplies for both migrant and host populations. For example, northern Jordan experienced a 40 % of water's demand increase in Jordan due to refugees due to Syrian refugees,[9] while in Lebanon, where 25 percent of the overall population are refugees, higher water demand compounds existing water supply issues.[10]

5 Arab Development Portal. 2017. Arab Region in Review 2017. https://www.undp.org/arab-states/publications/arab-region-2017-review.

6 UNFPA Regional Office for Arab States. 2020. Migration. https:// arabstates.unfpa.org/en/topics/migration-1. Accessed 23 August 2023.

7 The World Bank. 2022.. Population, total. Estimated percentage for the MENA region. https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL.

8 UN (United Nations). 2018. Urban population (% of total population). Estimated average for the MENA region. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Population Division. World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision. https://population.un.org/wup/Download/.

9 Borgomeo, E., A. Jägerskog, E. Zaveri, J. Russ, A. Khan, and R. Damania. 2021. *Ebb and Flow: Volume 2. Water in the Shadow of Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa*. Washington, DC: World Bank. https://doi.org/10.1596/978-1-4648-1746-5.

10 FAO. 2022. Total renewable water resources per capita. Estimated average for the MENA region. AQUASTAT Database. Available at https://www.fao.org/aquastat/statistics/query/index.html.

Among vulnerable groups, including those residing in informal settlements and refugee camps, women and girls experience the greatest impact of climate change, which can deepen pre-existing gender divides and expose women to new vulnerabilities. For instance, in Cairo, average annual temperatures are projected to rise around 5.6 per cent by century's end. This is a particular threat for pregnant women and mothers living in informal settlements who are trying to protect themselves and their children by cooling their homes and staying indoors during the daytime.[11]

In response to the climate crisis, countries including Egypt and the Arab Gulf nations are primarily focusing on top-down projects centred on renewable energy and green tech. However, a more comprehensive approach is needed, one that builds societies' capacity to adapt. This requires increased awareness, improved capabilities, and greater economic and political inclusivity.[12]

Cities, as hubs of population, economic activity, and innovation, are well positioned to drive this transformative change. Their success hinges on inclusivity and ensuring the voices, needs, and knowledge of all residents, particularly the most vulnerable, are heard. By doing so, cities can enhance their capacity to withstand the shocks of climate change and promote sustainable development pathways.

The shared challenges faced by MENA cities transcend geo-political boundaries, highlighting the importance of transboundary collaboration. Managing water resources, addressing food security, and developing resilient infrastructure requires a regional approach that allows cities, national governments, and international partners to exchange knowledge and resources, forging a unified, inclusive approach to climate change in the MENA region.

Cities Alliance's approach to sustainable and inclusive urban development is guided by key global frameworks such as the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. These frameworks prioritise Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 and related objectives, including climate action, economic growth, and reducing inequalities. Additionally, SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) underscore the importance of gender-responsive urban water management and climate adaptation.

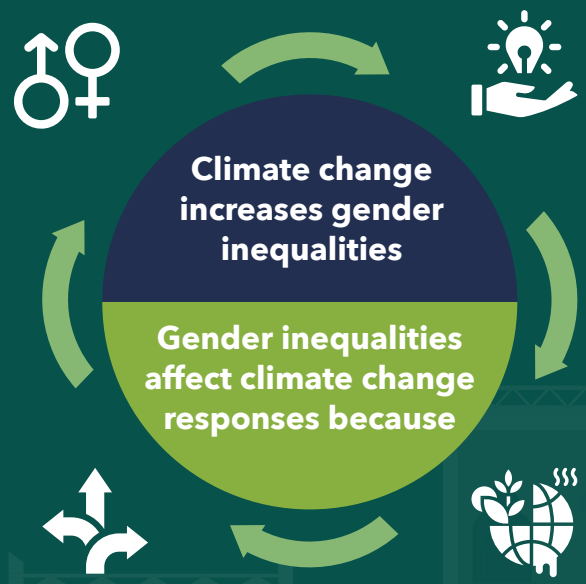
[11] https://health.bmz.de/toolkits/climate-health/vulnerability-assessments/a-vulnerability-assessment-in-cairo-egypt/.

[12] https://carnegieendowment.org/2023/07/06/climate-change-and-vulnerability-in-middle-east-pub-90089.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND GENDER INEQUALITY

Exacerbating existing gender inequalities and affecting women's roles in resource management and decision-making.

Increasing caregiving responsibilities for women, limiting their access to education and economic opportunities.



Gender disparities in decision-making hinder inclusive climate policy formulation and implementation.

Restricting women's involvement overlooks their valuable knowledge and contributions to climate solutions.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION

People are displaced due to sudden-onset disasters (e.g. floods, landslides and earthquakes) and slow-onset disasters (e.g. droughts, desertification and sea level rising), leading to internal and cross-border migration.

Impacting and diminishing resources, which can heighten competition and contribute to conflicts over land and waters.

Influxes of migrants into cities strains resources and infrastructure, increasing vulnerability to climate impacts.

Conflict can disrupt climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, diverting resources from environmental concerns.

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

In 2015, 196 nations signed the Paris Agreement to transition to a low carbon economy and reduce global temperatures. In the MENA region, however, the agreement has not translated into specific investments and concrete actions; only three countries (Morocco, Tunisia, and the UAE) have submitted their nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

Several initiatives in the region address urban climate resilience on a global, regional, national or local scale, each with different emphases. These include international networks, declarations and strategies in partnership with various organisations:

The United Nations:

- The United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP) 27 in Egypt and COP 28 in the UAE, as the meeting of the parties to the Paris Agreement.
- MENA Climate Week (MENACW), which provides a platform for policymakers, practitioners, businesses and civil society to exchange climate solutions.

The European Union (EU):

- The European Green Deal, a roadmap to make the EU's economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities.
- The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EUROMED) among 39 member states to promote economic activity and political stability, strengthen cultural ties, and protect the environment.
- The EU-funded Clima-Med supports the transition of south Mediterranean countries to a sustainable, low carbon and climate-resilient economy by enhancing their energy security and strengthening their adaptive capacity to climate change impact.
- The EU's Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), which brings together the EU states and 16 countries from the southern and eastern Mediterranean. It has recently launched the Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040 to improve the quality of life for all citizens by building better, more inclusive, climate-resilient communities.

Key regional strategies and forums that address climate change include:

The Cairo Declaration on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

The Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development 2030

The MENA Urban Housing Practitioners Hub (MENA-UHPH) is an open platform for the exchange and dissemination of knowledge and best practices on housing and urban issues including the need for increased resilience in the face of climate change.

The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) Arab Land Initiative

The Arab States Civil Society Organizations and Feminists Network

City-level initiatives and associations addressing climate change in MENA include:

	The MedCities association, which brings together 73 local authorities from the Mediterranean basin to promote sustainable urban development in the region.
	The Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) brings together 80 members from the EU and its Mediterranean partners to cooperate on concrete programmes, including those dealing with the environment. Members are mayors of major cities and representatives of regions.
	The Covenant of Mayors for the Mediterranean (CoM Med) is a climate change initiative supported by 122 local authorities in the southern Mediterranean driven by the recognition that local governments need to take the lead in climate action to develop tailored responses to local needs.
	United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG MEWA) is a local government association of 250 members in 16 countries. It aims to reflect the region's perspective in urban planning discussions, create synergies through sister city programmes, bring global agendas to the local level, and ensure representation of local governments from the region on international platforms.

There is a need for regional partnership on inclusive climate action in cities.

A quick review of these initiatives reveals that urban climate action in the MENA region lacks a comprehensive and inclusive approach, especially in terms of gender equality. While many initiatives mention women, it is often in a tangential manner, primarily addressing economic aspects or participation in development. **There is virtually no focus on the gender-specific consequences of climate change, especially at the local level, where these impacts are most acutely felt.**

Existing city networks also tend to reflect a North-South divide, and there is an associated lack of engagement and knowledge exchange. **MENA cities are often not represented in key climate-focused networks, and in turn MENA networks do not have a specific focus on climate.**

For example, the network ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is active in more than 2,500 cities and regions across the world, but it includes only a few cities from MENA. The C40 Cities, a global network of nearly 100 large cities seeking to halve their emissions within a decade, only has two cities from MENA. Of the 100 large cities that make up the Resilient Cities Network (R-Cities), only five or six are from MENA.

This degree of engagement transcends these specific networks and echoes in the wider set of transnational relations through which cities develop their local climate action plans. While there are networks at regional level, such as MedCities or UCLG MEWA, they do not have a main focus on climate.

As a result, cities in the MENA region have limited influence on regional city networks and global policy and decision-making processes such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Where they exist, climate efforts are fragmented and duplicated, and cities struggle to access public financing for transformative adaptation actions.

Climate change presents a global challenge that requires coordinated, bold action that is beyond the capacity of individual nations. MENA countries and cities share common challenges and opportunities, compelling them to collaborate across borders.[13] Transboundary water management agreements, such as the Jordan River Basin Agreement, exemplify the potential for regional cooperation to address water-related climate impacts.

Transnational city networks offer valuable opportunities for knowledge exchange and collaboration among cities confronting similar challenges and shared goals. They can help cities (and countries) develop a more coordinated, localised, collaborative, and gender-responsive approach to tackling the socio-economic impacts of climate change.

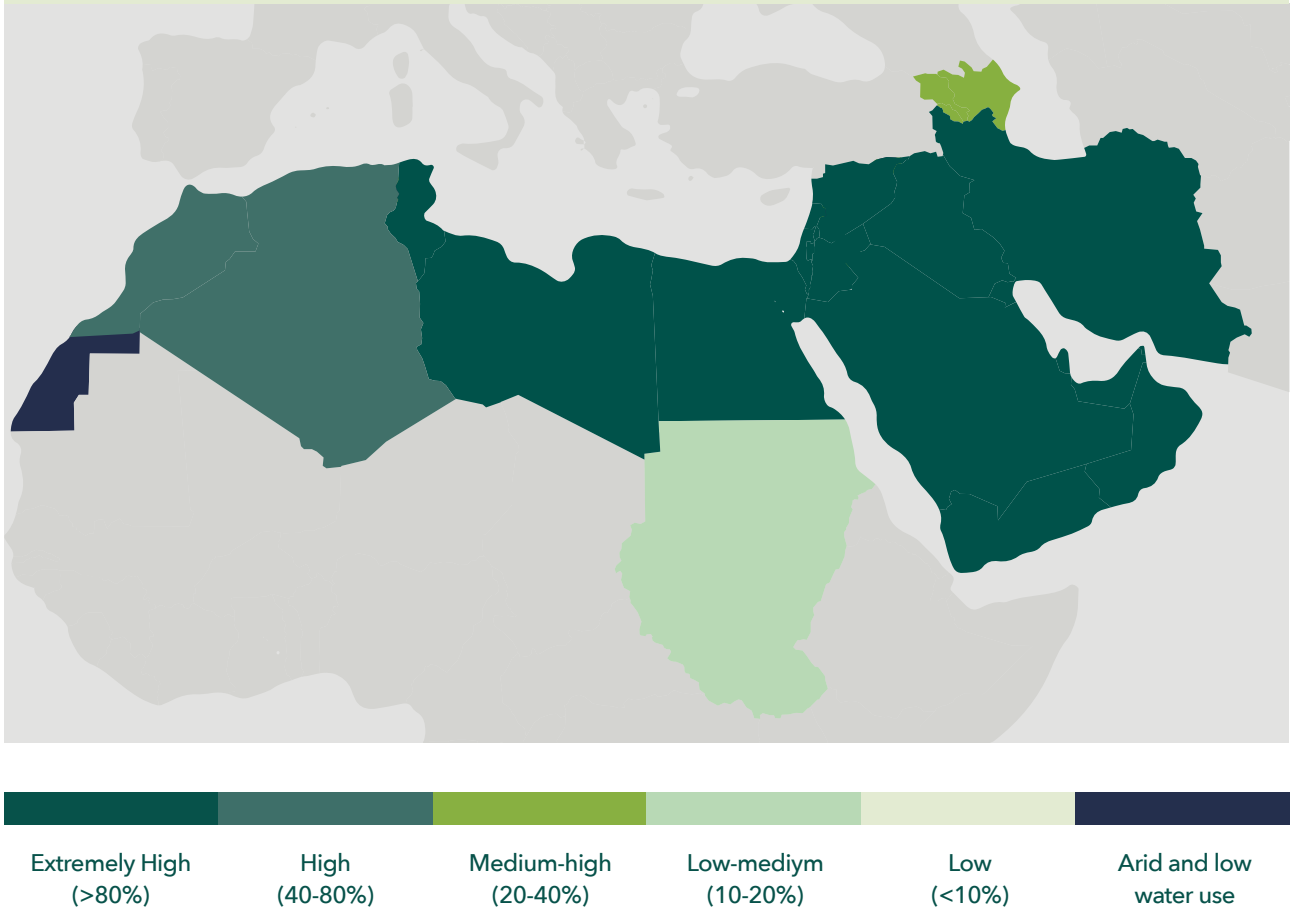
[13] Mualla, W. 2018. "Water Demand Management Is a Must in MENA countries… But Is it Enough?" Journal of Geological Resource and Engineering 6: 59–64.

MAPPING THE CLIMATE AND INCLUSIVITY NEXUS

Understanding the nexus of climate and inclusivity is critical in the quest for sustainable development and resilience. This regional mapping[14] provides a concise overview of significant climate and inclusion issues in three priority countries: Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia.

It identifies targeted activities and policies that address climate concerns, while guaranteeing inclusivity and equity in the face of environmental change. These data-driven insights underscore the urgency of the proposed regional strategy.[15]

MENA Region | Baseline Water Stress



Extremely High (>80%)	High (40-80%)	Medium-high (20-40%)	Low-mediym (10-20%)	Low (<10%)	Arid and low water use

Source: Daily News (https://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2023/08/30/climate-change-aggravates-water-stress-in-mena-region/)

[14] UN-Habitat. 2022. Regional Office for Arab States - Climate Change Strategy 2022-2025. https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2022/10/ccs_-_roas_-_final_-_a4_sheets.pdf.

[15] Weathering Risk. https://www.weatheringrisk.org/en/publications?page=2#views-exposed-form-list-publications-visuals.

JORDAN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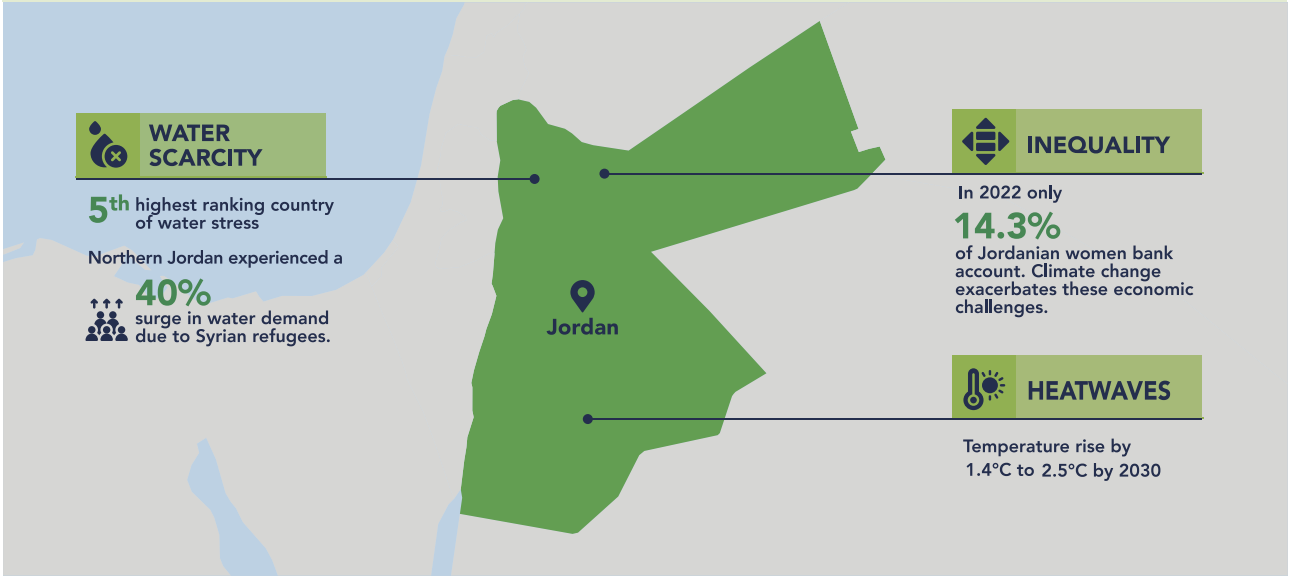
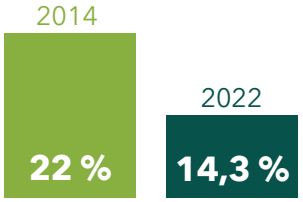
Key climate issues



Jordan has seen its per capita water resources decline significantly over the years as it grapples with water scarcity and extreme weather events. Displaced women and girls in Jordan are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change, such as water shortages. The country's water network already has an unequal distribution that is likely to increase, with refugees and those in rural communities most marginalised. There is evidence of rising tensions around water availability among households in the Azraq refugee camp, and as the situation worsens, water scarcity is projected to increase domestic and intimate partner violence.[16]

Another strange phenomenon is the fact that, despite significant efforts to enhance female workforce participation, rates have unexpectedly declined. In 2014, 22 per cent of Jordanian women were part of the workforce. By 2022, this figure dropped to 14.3 per cent[17], ranking Jordan among the world's most economically unequal countries[18]. Furthermore, only 27 per cent of Jordanian women possess a bank account, which is 11 percentage points below the regional average for women[19]. These economic challenges could potentially be exacerbated by climate change impacts, further affecting women's livelihoods and financial inclusion.



Jordanian women were part of the workforce

[16] UNFPA, Sama, King Hussein Foundation. 2022. Climate Change and Gender-Based Violence in Jordan. Research Brief. Available at: https://jordan.unfpa.org/en/publications/climate-change-and-gender-based-violence-jordan.

[17] Mays Ibrahim Mustafa. 2022. Jordan's female labour force participation rate stands at 14.3% – report. Jordan TImes.

[18] ILO. 2022. Gender Equality and Decent Work in Jordan 2022. Retrieved from: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms_843959.pdf.

[19] World Bank.Gender Data Portal: Jordan. 2021. Retrieved from: https://genderdata.worldbank.org/countries/jordan/.

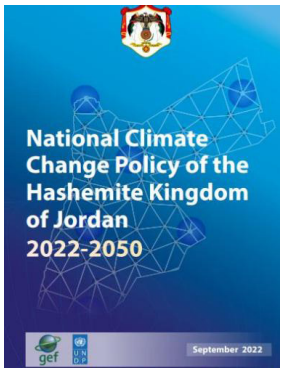
Key Trends and Data

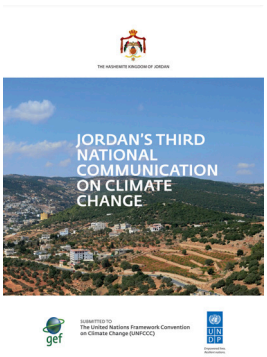
Jordan currently is the fifth-highest ranking country in terms of water stress. Water availability is already highly insufficient today, and when accounting for population growth, per capita water availability will decline to very low levels[20]. Renewable water supplies only meet around half of the total water consumption[21].

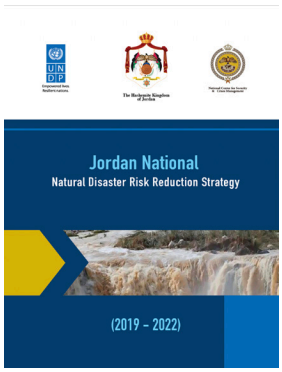
Water challenges will likely increase for refugees in both urban areas and refugee camps in Jordan[22]. As an already vulnerable population, refugees experience the strongest impacts of climate change already, such as poor water quality and rationed amounts of water in the Azraq refugee camp.

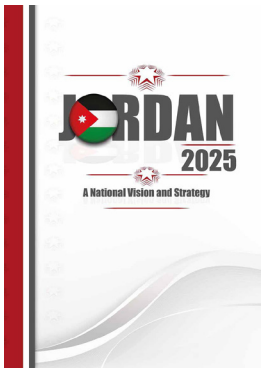
- Depending on the climate change scenario, temperatures in Jordan are projected to rise by between 1.4°C and 2.5°C by 2030, 1.7 and 3.1°C by 2050, and 1.7°C and 4.5°C by 2080.
- The annual number of days with a maximum temperature above 35°C is projected to increase across Jordan. The increase will be highest in the more populated north and northwest, with an increase of up to 71 "very hot"[23] days by 2080 compared to 2000.
- By 2080, annual per capita water availability is projected to range between 22 m^3 and 230 m^3 (multi-model median of 60 m^3), and between 15 m^3 and 206 m^3 (multi-model median of 44 m^3). The threshold for absolute water scarcity is below 500 m^3 per person per year.
- Annual rainfall will decrease between 2 mm and 20 mm by 2030, 13 mm to 23 mm by 2050, and 13 mm to 26 mm by 2080. Heavy precipitation events can be expected to decrease by some degree.
- As a result of increasing greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations, the air temperature over Jordan is likely to rise by between 1.7°C and 4.5°C by 2080, relative to 1876.
- Jordan's per capita share of annual renewable water resources will decrease from 61 cubic meters to 35 cubic meters in 2040.

Climate Adaptation Strategies









20 https://www.sdg6data.org/en/country-or-area/Jordan.

21 The Government of Jordan. 2021. The National Climate Change Adaptation Plan of Jordan. http://www.moenv.gov.jo/ebv4.0/root_storage/ar/eb_list_page/final_draft_nap-2021.pdf.

22 Salameh, E., and G. Abdallat. 2020. "The Impacts of Climate Change on the Availability of Surface Water Resources in Jordan." Journal of Geoscience and Environment Protection, 08(10), 52-72. DOI: 10.4236/gep.2020.810004.

23 "Very hot" days are those where the temperature exceeds 40°C.

Strategic focus areas for the Cities Alliance

Adoption of vernacular architecture

Integrating sustainable traditional building methods and materials into modern construction to enhance climate resilience. Utilize heritage-based architectural styles, such as incorporating mudbrick construction (like in the Jordan Valley) or utilizing architectural features like wind towers or shading techniques that are inherent to Jordan's cultural heritage. This approach not only preserves the historical identity of the city but also promotes sustainable and climate-resilient urban design practices.

Community-based water management

Engage local communities in managing water resources. Support water-saving initiatives, community-led water management practices, and awareness campaigns on responsible water use that address the specific roles and responsibilities of both genders. Fostering women's capacity in rural areas through targeted training on water governance, emphasizing efficient water use and recycling.

Urban agriculture and food security

Promote urban agriculture practices that conserve water and enhance food security recognizing the roles of both women and men. Encourage rooftop gardens, vertical farming, and community gardens to reduce dependence on water-intensive food sources.

Renewable energy integration

Facilitate the integration of renewable energy sources, such as solar panels and wind, in urban infrastructure to reduce energy consumption and GHGs in a manner that benefits all members of the community.

Refugee and displaced population resilience

Collaborate with municipalities to develop climate adaptation strategies acknowledging the different vulnerabilities and needs of women, men, girls, and boys. Support the establishment of essential services for forced migrants, including shelters, information offices, and health centres with a gender-sensitive lens. Additionally, work towards sustainable water and energy planning in areas with high forcibly displaced populations, ensuring that these efforts address the diverse needs of the entire displaced community. Cities hosting refugees can also receive support from the international community for municipal projects to cope with the influx of refugees, benefiting both the host and the new arrivals.

MOROCCO

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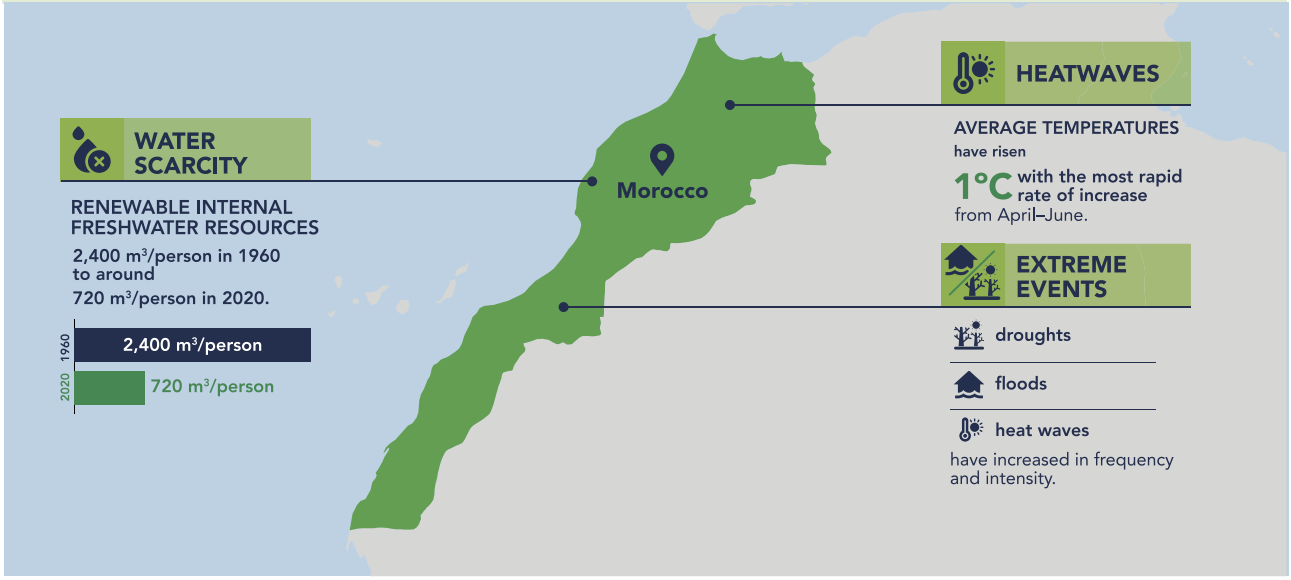
Key climate issues



Morocco is experiencing a notable decrease in its annual water resources,[24] and major urban centres including Marrakech and Casablanca are particularly vulnerable. Rising temperatures and water scarcity threaten the agricultural sector, which employs a substantial portion of the population. Innovative approaches, such as integrated water management and the adoption of drought-resistant crops, have emerged as essential strategies to bolster resilience and secure livelihoods.

These compounded challenges, especially evident in rural Morocco, hinder women's access to healthcare and education. Severe climatic conditions in flood-prone areas like Figuig, Ten Drara, and Bou Arfa jeopardise health services, impacting mental well-being. Additionally, despite progress, Moroccan women still lag behind men in literacy rates (as of 2021, Moroccan women lag behind men by nearly 20 percentage points), a gap likely to widen due to climate-induced school drop-outs among girls.

Historically, Moroccan women have been vital in rural development, especially agriculture, and male migration heightens women's vulnerability to climate risks. Combined with the existing gender disparities in access to education, employment, healthcare, and political representation, this positions women in Morocco, especially in rural areas, as a socially heterogeneous yet particularly vulnerable group to climate-related risks.[25]

[24] https://www.sdg6data.org/en/country-or-area/morocco.

[25] Briones Alonso, E., A. Alonso, E. Skrimizea, and C. Parra. 2022. The Development-Climate Change Nexus in Morocco Through a Cross-sectoral Lens. ADAPTtoDEVELOP Deliverable 2 of Policy Supporting Research (PSR) on "How to better integrate the environmental dimension in the Belgian development cooperation in Morocco - Nexus development/climate."

Key Climate Trends and Data[26]

Since the 1960s:

- Morocco's renewable internal freshwater resources decreased from 2,400 m^3/person in 1960 to around 720 m^3/person in 2020.
- Average temperatures have risen 1°C, with the most rapid rate of increase from April–June.
- The annual number of days (21) and nights (40) classified as "hot"[27] have increased.
- Precipitation has become more erratic and decreased overall.
- Seasonal rainfall patterns have shifted, with longer and more intense rain events in October and November that often cause floods and substantial reductions during the rest of the year.
- Extreme events (droughts, floods, heat waves) have increased in frequency and intensity.
- Due to the increasing sea levels, certain regions along the northern coast of Morocco are currently experiencing erosion at a pace of one meter annually[28].

In the future:

- Temperatures are expected to rise 1–1.5°C by 2050 (rate of warming faster in the interior).
- Average precipitation will likely decrease 10–20 percent across the country (30 per cent in the Saharan region) by 2100.
- There will be reduced snowpack in the Atlas Mountains.
- Drought conditions will increase, and sea levels are expected to rise between 18–59 cm by 2100.
- The number of days and nights classified as "hot" will continue to increase. In the summer, temperatures along the coast range from 18°C to 28°C and can reach up to 35°C in the interior. In the winter, temperatures along the coast range from 8°C to 17°C and can drop below 0°C in the interior mountain areas.

Climate Adaptation Strategies

Morocco's NDC to the Paris Agreement has five axes for climate change adaptation: governance, climate knowledge, vulnerability reduction, resource resilience, and economic sector protection. Key strategies include:

- **The Moroccan Climate Change Policy**. Designed as a dynamic, inclusive tool for a low-carbon, climate-resilient future, the policy focuses on knowledge enhancement, vulnerability reduction, and climate risk prevention.
- **The National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2030**. Issued in 2017, the strategy highlights resilience objectives, including a national plan for climate risk prevention.
- **The National Climate Plan 2020–2030**. Launched in 2019, the plan includes "building resilience towards climate risks" through water, agriculture, health, biodiversity, and transport infrastructure as one of its five pillars.

[26] The World Bank Group. 2021. Climate Risk Profile: Morocco.

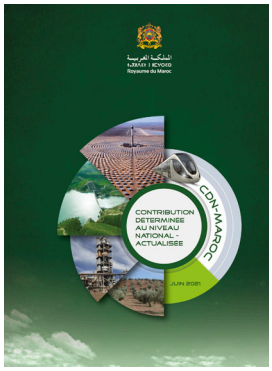
[27] A day is classified as "hot" when the daily maximum temperature is above the 75th percentile value of the historical temperature distribution in that country.

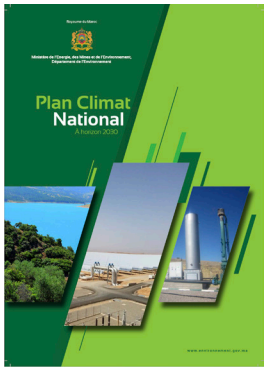
[28] Matuhe. 2001. Rapport sur l'Etat de l'environnement du Maroc. MATUHE/DE. Rabat - Maroc.

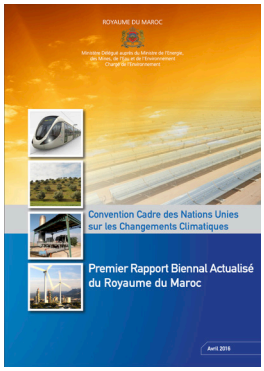
While climate policies focus on mitigation and energy security, the energy sector has been less emphasized in adaptation efforts, and a dedicated energy adaptation plan is essential. Such a plan could involve assessing climate impacts on the energy sector, creating specialised plans for high-risk areas, promoting diversified energy mixes, adopting water-efficient technologies, and enhancing resilience against extreme heat[29].

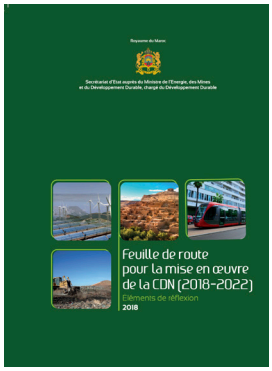
Morocco has disaster risk management strategies to support energy sector resilience, including the Monitoring and Coordination Centre (CVC) for disaster coordination, the Fund for the Fight against Natural Disasters (CAS-FLCN), and the National Strategy for Natural Disaster Risk Management 2020–2030. These strategies prioritise knowledge improvement, risk prevention, and preparedness for recovery and reconstruction at all levels.

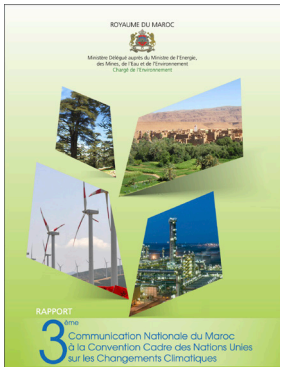
ALL NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND PLANS

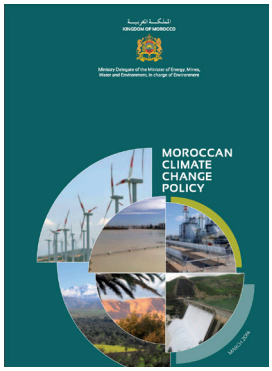


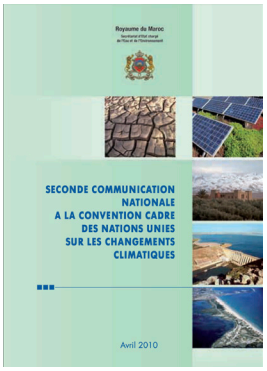


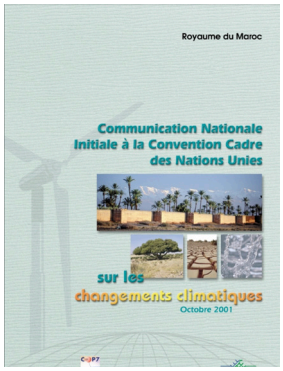












29 GIZ. 2016. Morocco Country Profile. Global Programme on Private Sector Adaptation to Climate Change (PSACC).

Strategic focus areas for the Cites Alliance

Climate-responsive urban planning
Support Moroccan municipalities in formulating and adopting climate adaptation plans with a keen focus on gender and social inclusion (GSI) considerations. Prioritize the development of green and inclusive infrastructure such as parks, urban agriculture, community gardens, and green roofs to enhance resilience in urban areas. Ensure that these initiatives not only mitigate the effects of urban heat islands but also address the specific needs and perspectives of women.

Sustainable mobility solutions
Develop and advocate for sustainable urban mobility plans that not only reduce carbon emissions and traffic congestion but also integrate the perspectives and needs of women and youth. Prioritize the creation of pedestrian-friendly environments, public transit, and cycling infrastructure. In planning public transit routes and non-motorized pathways, emphasize safety, accessibility, and affordability, considering the unique requirements of women and youth.

Upgrading informal settlements
Target the improvement of informal settlements by incorporating small-scale infrastructure enhancements. Integrate climate-resilient housing and improved water and sanitation services, paying special attention to the safety, livelihoods, and water needs of women and migrants within these communities.

Capacity-building in formulating, funding, executing, and overseeing climate adaptation initiatives at institutional and community levels
Focus on collaboration among public, private, and partnership stakeholders, ensuring the integration of gender considerations at both institutional and community levels. Enhance technical expertise to incorporate climate-resilient agricultural practices, improved water resource efficiency, and effective climate risk management with a gender-sensitive perspective across prioritized sectors.

Community-led energy transition
Provide information and training on renewables while actively encouraging citizens, with a particular emphasis on women, to organize and promote community energy projects in their neighborhoods. Collaborate with small businesses, governorates, and municipalities to ensure that community-led energy transition initiatives consider the diverse needs and perspectives of the entire community, fostering inclusivity in sustainable energy practices.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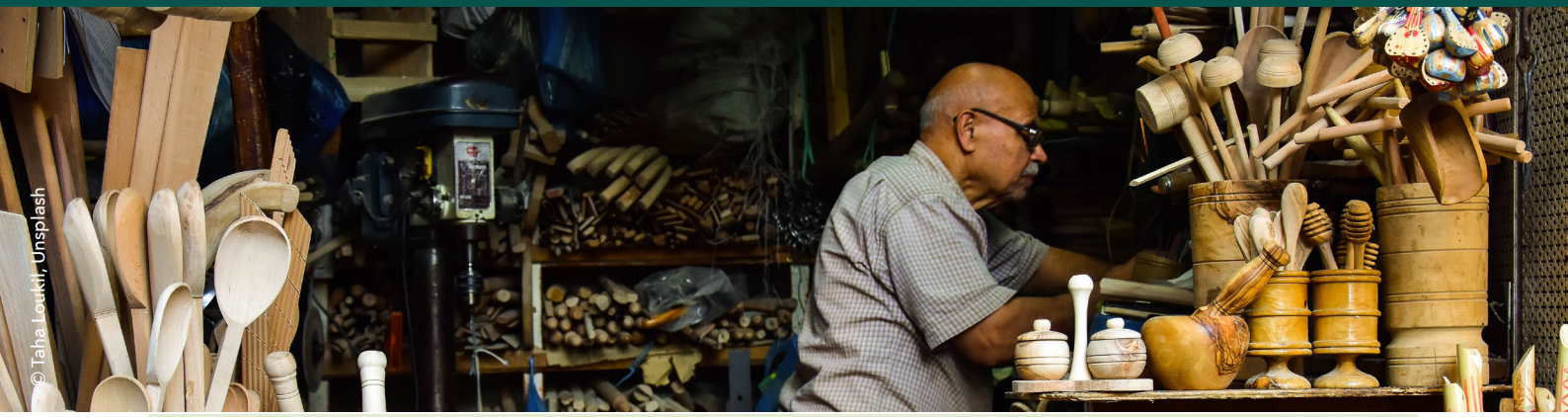
TUNISIA



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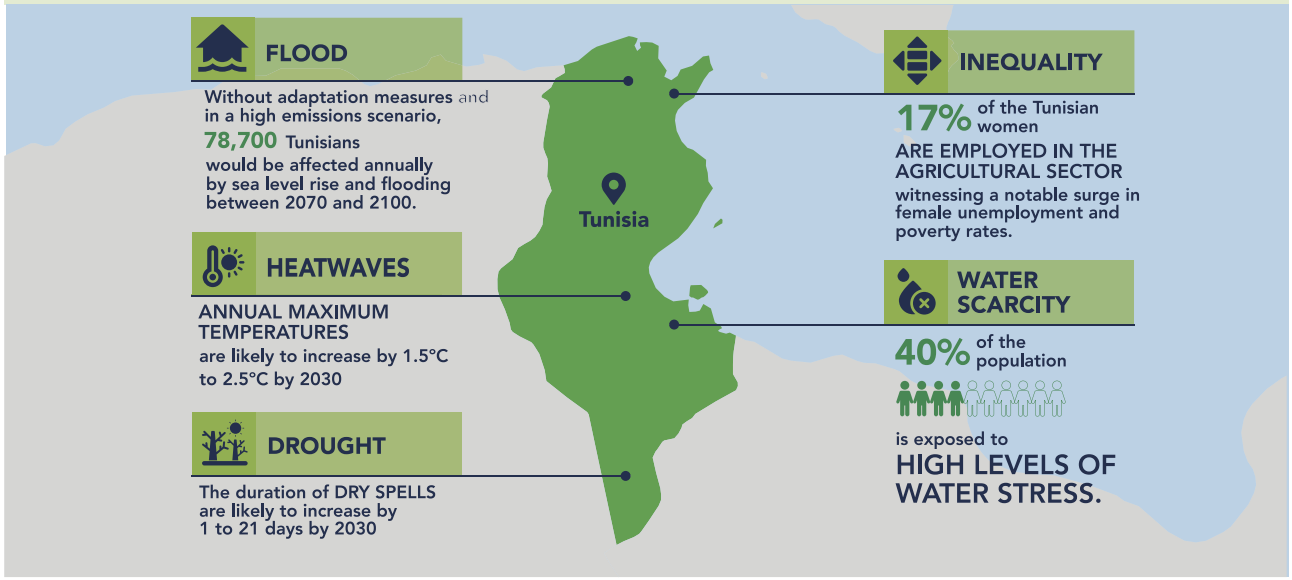
Key climate issues



Faced with rising temperatures and reduced rainfall, Tunisia has witnessed a decline in agricultural productivity and an increase in water stress.[30] The city of Tunis, a critical economic and cultural hub, is grappling with water scarcity and the impacts of climate change. The World Resources Institute indicates that 40 per cent of Tunisia's population is already exposed to high levels of water stress.

Tunisian female farmers face heightened vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change. Approximately 17 per cent of Tunisian women are employed in the agricultural sector, which is witnessing a notable surge in female unemployment and poverty rates. Furthermore, water conflicts are on the rise, especially during droughts. Rural areas relying on springs for drinking water face challenges as these sources dry up. Women are typically responsible for household water needs, which increases their vulnerability. The poorest, including those in rural areas, will be heavily affected, potentially intensifying social tensions between regions and leading to climate migration.[31]

30 https://www.sdg6data.org/en/country-or-area/Tunisia.

31 Tunisia's third communication as part of The United Nations Framework of Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (n.d).

Key Trends and Data[32]

Trends have been accelerating in recent decades:

- Temperatures have increased by an average of 0.4°C per decade over the past 30 years. Tunisia's mean average temperature rose by 1.4°C in the 20th century, with an even more significant increase of up to 2°C in the northern areas.
- The average annual precipitation has decreased by about 3% over the past 30 years, while *in aggregate* no significant change was observed from 1901 to 2013.
- Sea level rise across the Mediterranean Basin averaged roughly 3.1 mm per year between 1992 and 2011. In contrast, sea levels in the western Mediterranean averaged an increase of approximately 1 mm per year between 1945 and 2000.

In the future:

- Annual maximum temperatures are likely to increase by 1.5°C to 2.5°C by 2030 and 1.9°C to 3.8°C by 2050, while annual minimum temperatures are likely to rise from 0.9°C to 1.5°C by 2030 and from 1.2°C to 2.3°C by 2050.
- Sea level rise is a significant threat to Tunisia's nearly 1,150 km coastline. Without adaptation measures and with a high emissions scenario,

78,700 Tunisians
would be affected annually by sea level rise and flooding between 2070 and 2100.

- The number of hot days is projected to increase by about 1.3 days per year between 2020 and 2039. The duration of heatwaves is likely to increase by 4 to 9 days by 2030 and 6 to 18 days by 2050.
- All models project a likely decrease in overall precipitation by 2050, with most anticipating a minimum decrease of around 4 per cent and maximum decrease between 7 and 22 per cent. The duration of dry spells is likely to increase by 1 to 21 days by 2030 and 1 to 30 days by 2050.
- The decrease in precipitation is accompanied by an anticipated increase in the frequency and intensity of droughts and flooding.
- By 2090, sea level near Tunis is likely to rise between .2 m and .5 m under a low emission scenario, and .4m to .8m under a high emission scenario.
- The duration of cold spells is likely to decrease by 1 to 3 days by 2030 and 2 to 4 days by 2050.

Climate Adaptation Strategies

Tunisia has shown leadership by integrating climate change into its Constitution. While an official coordinating institution is pending, key entities including the Ministry of Local Affairs and Environment, the National Agency for Energy Management, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Water Resources and Fisheries spearhead climate change coordination. They also serve as the Designated National Authority for the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol. Additional sector-specific agencies also contribute to climate policies.

The government is proactive in addressing climate change, encouraging citizen participation, and investing in better decision making for social, economic, and environmental aspects. Collaborations with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Bank, and the United Nations have led to identifying extra adaptation measures. Notably, Tunisia's focus on wastewater management addresses water scarcity[33]. The National Water Council, founded in 2013, updates water policies.

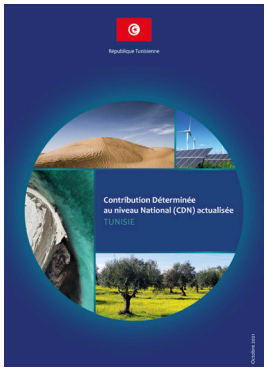
[32] The World Bank Group. 2021. Climate Risk Profile: Tunisia.

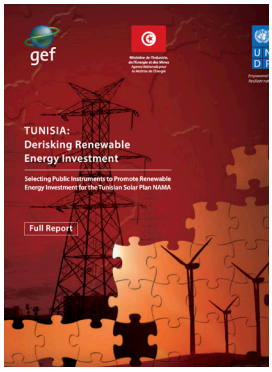
[33] Frascari, D., G. Zanaroli, M.A. Motaleb, G. Annen, K. Belguith, S. Borin, R. Choukr-Allah, C. Gibert, A. Jaouani, N. Kalogerakis, F. Karajeh, P.A. Ker Rault, R. Khadra, S. Kyriacou, W.-T. Li, B. Molle, M. Mulder, E. Oertlé, and C.V. Ortega. 2018. "Integrated Technological and Management Solutions for Wastewater Treatment and Efficient Agricultural Reuse in Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia." Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management 14(4): 447–462. https://doi.org/10.1002/ieam.4045.

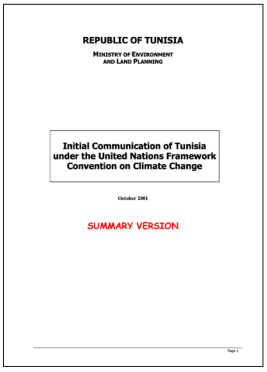
In terms of policy, Tunisia has submitted the Third National Communication (2019), Second Biennial Report (2016), and NDC (2016). These align with existing strategies including the National Climate Change Strategy (2012), the Energy Efficiency Strategy, and the Tunisian Solar Plan. Tunisia's commitment lies in enhancing adaptive capacity through renewable energy adoption, efficient technologies, and improved water management.

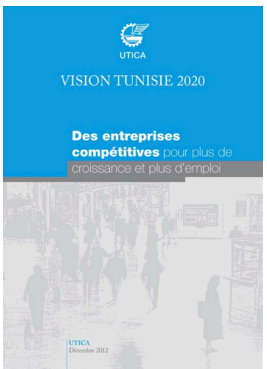
The Ministry of Environment has taken steps to tackle climate change. It is part of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) programme for environmental education in schools. Tunisia's NDCs, shared with the UNFCCC in 2016, cover mitigation, vulnerability, and adaptation. Working with the FAO, the World Bank, and the United Nations, Tunisia is analyzing its climate and setting adaptation goals to cut its carbon footprint. The government aims to decrease carbon intensity by 60 per cent by 2050. The National Water Council was created in 2013 to update water policies in an effort to prioritise wastewater management. Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects are in place for emissions reduction.

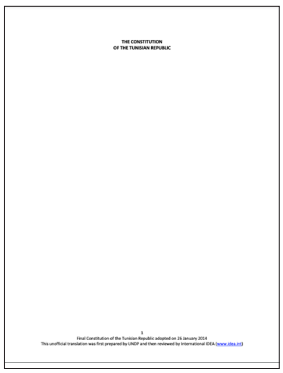
NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND PLANS











Potential Areas for Strategic Focus

Green and gender-equal homes

Facilitate participatory processes to create sustainable, eco-friendly housing and structures or rehabilitate existing housing stock in low income areas. The new design will incorporate safety, accessibility and energy-efficient measures.

Cultural heritage preservation

Incorporate climate adaptation measures and gender considerations into the preservation and restoration of cultural heritage in medinas to ensure their sustainable use and resilience against climate impacts. Incorporate traditional Tunisian construction methods, such as utilizing adobe or rammed earth construction, and traditional cooling strategies, including courtyard designs and shading techniques. Prioritizing the safety and preferences of women and men, and establishing adaptive governance structures that include diverse community perspectives in decision-making processes related to cultural heritage.

Local economic diversification

Encourage the development of green businesses and jobs related to renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and eco-tourism, with a deliberate effort to foster economic resilience among youth and promote gender equality. Ensure that opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship are accessible to both women and men, contributing to an inclusive and diversified local economy.

Community-led adaptation

Empower local communities to identify climate risks and co-create adaptation strategies emphasizing the active participation of both women and men. Support neighborhood-level initiatives and civil society that address specific vulnerabilities,promote community cohesion and gender equality, focusing in the interior regions, where gender dynamics may vary

Sustainable green waste management

Empower local authorities and waste management agencies to establish and regulate eco-friendly waste management programs, e.g. composting, anaerobic digestion, and green waste recycling initiatives, considering the different roles and responsibilities of women and men in waste management. . These entities should spearhead efforts to encourage both community and commercial engagement in sustainable waste practices, ensure the development of facilities and initiatives aimed at reducing landfill waste and promote the reuse of organic materials for soil enrichment and energy generation, ensuring that initiatives address gender-specific needs.

CITIES ALLIANCE'S STRATEGIC APPROACH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THEORY OF CHANGE

IF we foster awareness and capacity development of local government authorities, women's organisations, and community-based organisations in the MENA region on developing inclusive climate policies and projects through transboundary collaboration, collection of gender data, participation and piloting

THEN cities and countries in the region will deliver more inclusive, just and equitable climate outcomes for all.

MAIN OBJECTIVE

In its 2022–2025 Strategic Plan, Cities Alliance has renewed its commitment to improving the well-being, health, and livelihoods of the urban poor. In the MENA region, that means tackling the climate crisis, starting from the needs and solutions of women and the most vulnerable social groups.

To achieve this goal, Cities Alliance will develop a regional partnership mobilising inclusive climate actions in MENA cities over the next 2–3 years.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

The Cities Alliance will employ a two-pronged approach to effectively contribute to mobilising inclusive climate action in MENA cities. The two components of this approach are:

(i) serving as a regional exchange platform, and

(ii) providing in-country technical support.

A REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION

The Cities Alliance can act as a multi-partner knowledge exchange platform that convenes development agencies, governments, local authorities and civil society from around the MENA region to exchange ideas, discuss public policies, and identify regional inclusive approaches for advancing inclusive climate action.

As a UN organisation and in close collaboration with UCLG, Cities Alliance can also play an important role in supporting inclusive climate action in MENA cities by building on its experience and existing partnerships. Through its members, Cities Alliance is able to bridge the gap between international thematic networks and networks of local authorities, bringing together the key stakeholders to enable exchange of practices, approaches, commitment, and support.

In addition, Cities Alliance is able to bring together a mix of support focused on inclusive climate adaptation in cities, including funding and grants, technical assistance to support project preparation and implementation, and networking facilities. It can do this by:

- **Establishing regional partnerships.** The Cities Alliance can mobilise its members at the local and regional level (UN Habitat, Habitat for Humanity International, ICLEI, C40 and UCLG MEWA) by promoting a MENA model for tackling climate change. The model would be based on the common characteristics of MENA cities, taking into consideration their different realities, needs and starting points. Cities Alliance will build on and complement existing climate actions and help establish collaborations, harnessing current knowledge and sharing networks to avoid duplication.
- **Operating a regional fund for climate adaptation in cities.** Set up as a multi-donor fund mechanism, Cities Alliance can provide financial support to municipalities, NGOs, and research institutions to strengthen local leadership of climate response and further enhance localisation.
- **Establishing Inclusive Urban Climate Laboratories.** Develop tools/methodologies to promote inclusive climate actions across a series of topics (e.g. architecture heritage restoration, housing rehabilitation, mobility) and apply them in different cities through urban laboratories to stimulate evidence-based awareness and facilitate cross-linkages between actors and stakeholders.
- **Support diplomacy of MENA cities for climate.** Ensure the voices of local authorities and civil society from the MENA region are heard at influential political forums that target political processes related to climate action in urban areas, such as the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) urban focus working groups, ARLEM ministerial meetings, COP 28 and the MENA climate week. Propose key milestones and dates.

ENHANCED IN-COUNTRY TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Cities Alliance implements local projects through collaboration with its members, UNOPS country offices, and an increased local presence. This in-country action aims to develop and strengthen the capacities of local and national authorities to formulate new climate adaptation policies and projects and improve existing ones, with an inclusive and feminist perspective. The Cities Alliance will also support the implementation of climate solutions at the city level that are socially and technically feasible as well as locally appropriate.

Local activities will include:

- **Strengthening partnerships** with local and national governments, NGOs, and grassroots organisations to identify enabling policy and regulatory frameworks, resources, and further learning through local events and policy dialogues.

- **Enhancing understanding** of the local context with political analysis, climate and gender-sensitive data collection, and participatory assessments using Cities Alliance's proven tools and indicators.
- **Local capacity building** by training representatives of local authorities, NGOs and women-led groups on inclusive climate adaptation, disaster risk mitigation, and management of the environment and natural resources. Cities Alliance will also enhance the capacity and networks of youth leaders and empower them to educate their peers about climate action in their city and country.
- **Implementing demonstrative urban projects** with a cash-for-work system that targets vulnerable women, youth, migrants and uses gender-sensitive procurement by involving the local authorities in the capacity building process.
- **Creating an inclusive climate facility** in cities to co-design projects and conduct pre-feasibility studies that take into account climate, social and gender criteria.

TARGETED RESULTS

Through the targeted efforts and key themes of this strategy, Cities Alliance aims to achieve the following goals over the next 2 years:

Direct impact in Cities through gender responsive, resilient and inclusive solutions:
10 key urban interventions which embed inclusive and environmentally sustainable approaches completed
1000 people living in low-income areas with improved access to resilient and gender-responsive services or public spaces disaggregated by sex, age. [SDG indicators: 1.4, 6.1.1, 6.2.1]
300 individuals with improved climate resilient livelihood options, disaggregated by sex, age.
300 of women-led businesses with improved performance, increased business transactions and/or income generation [SDG goal: 5.5]
50% of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management [SDG indicator 6.b]
Indirect impact through the preparation and influence of larger scale investments, knowledge production and influence:
10 Cities adopting city development strategies and plans which incorporate gender-responsive solutions to climate resilience, mitigation and environmental restoration [SDG indicator 11.a.1]
4 millions $ leveraged for inclusive and gender responsive climate mitigation and adaptation city projects
10 tools, analysis, and knowledge products for inclusive and resilient city planning developed
20 cities sharing their experiences in regional or international high-level events.
Transformative impact through strengthening institutions:
20 urban institutions (regional, national, local authorities and civil society) with strengthened capacities in delivering gender-responsive climate resilience, mitigation and environmental restoration.
500 individuals from targeted cities participating in awareness raising, advocacy dialogues and peer-learning events, disaggregated by sex, age, city.

KEY VALUES IN PRACTICE

Data collection and analysis. Prioritise sex-disaggregated data that also considers socioeconomic status, age, and displacement for a comprehensive view of vulnerabilities in climate adaptation.

Local capacity building. Extend capacity building initiatives to cities and local authorities that emphasise climate adaptation and intersectional vulnerabilities to foster more inclusive and contextually relevant strategies.

Collaboration with NGOs and governments. Foster partnerships between cities, NGOs, and national governments to integrate expertise on gender, disability and socioeconomic issues into adaptation planning and implementation.

Transboundary collaboration. Encourage collaboration among MENA cities to jointly define regional priorities, pool resources, and amplify the impact of their climate adaptation efforts while considering intersectional vulnerabilities.

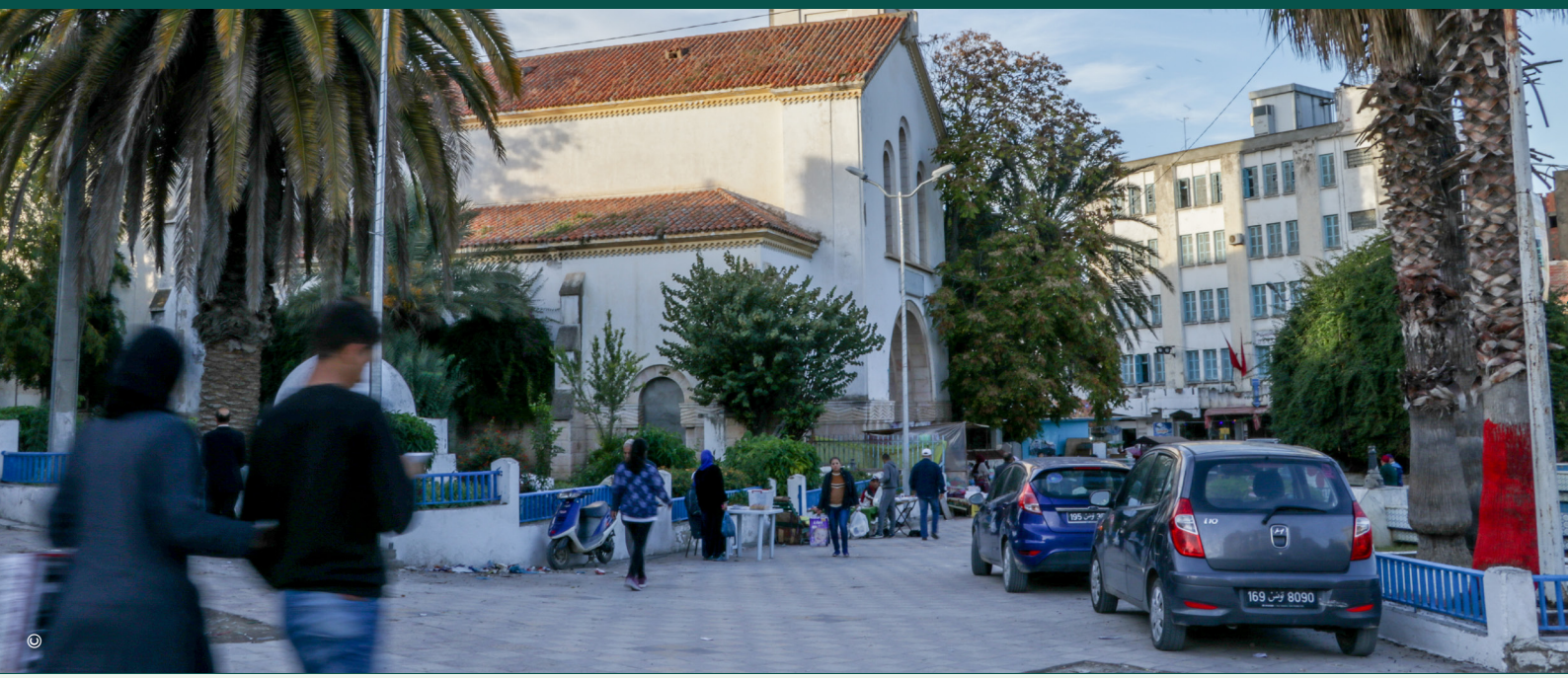
Transnational feminist approach. Integrate a transnational feminist approach that extends beyond gender to include age, socioeconomic status, and displacement for inclusive climate adaptation.

Equitable resource allocation. Allocate resources with an intersectional perspective to ensure that marginalised groups receive equitable access to adaptive measures.

Tailored awareness and education. Develop awareness campaigns using different languages, mediums, and formats to reach a broader audience, including those with varying education levels and abilities, as well as refugees and migrants.

Inclusive governance and participation. Promote inclusive governance by actively involving marginalised groups in decision making through meaningful participation platforms.

By incorporating an intersectional lens into these key priorities, Cities Alliance's strategy for inclusive climate adaptation in the region becomes stronger, recognising the interconnected complexities of vulnerabilities and ensuring adaptation efforts genuinely benefit all segments of society.



KEY ACTIVITIES IN 2024

To achieve these envisioned targets, Cities Alliance has developed a plan of key activities to conduct in 2024. These activities include regional events in MENA to engage and participate in, as well as knowledge products to create.

REGIONAL EVENTS

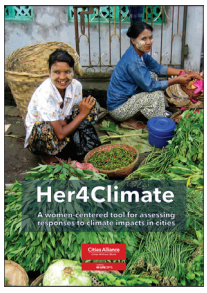
- 5th Mediterranean Water Forum
- Casablanca Smart City Symposium
- World Urban Forum
- Intangible Heritage, Cities and Communities
- MENA Climate Week
- ARLEM Week

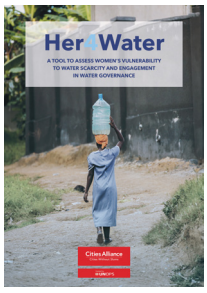
KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

1. MENA Strategy "Climate-Proof Cities, Cities for People"
2. MENA Strategy Brochure
3. Analytical Report: Inclusive Climate Action
4. Technical Workshop: Inclusive Climate Action in Informal Settlements
5. Manual based on the Workshop: Inclusive Climate Action in Informal Settlements
6. Cities Alliance Event: Inclusive Climate Action in Cities
7. Publication: Cultural Heritage and Tourism for Female Economic Empowerment
8. Exhibition on Heritage and Water at the MENA Climate Week
9. Event on Informal Settlement Upgrading at World Urban Forum
10. Publication: Informal Settlement Upgrading

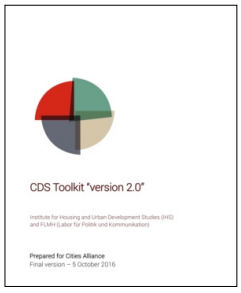
CITIES ALLIANCE: A PROVEN TRACK RECORD ON INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION

Cities Alliance has provided support to hundreds of developing cities over more than 20 years, linking environmental and socioeconomic development through integrated, inclusive planning. This includes support in developing tools and overall city strategic visions, down to local master plans and poor neighbourhood upgrading projects.





Her4 Climate[34] **and Her4Water**[35] are participatory tools that support the identification of women's vulnerabilities to climate change in urban areas and recognise women's response and ability to cope with climate change issues.



The integrated city development strategy (CDS) planning approach was designed by Cities Alliance to promote equitable growth in cities. It focuses on livelihoods, environmental quality, service delivery and energy efficiency, gender equality, financial resources, and governance. To date, CDSs have been undertaken in more than 140 municipalities, including cities in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen.

Climate-resilient urban expansion planning[36] **in the Horn of Africa** helps municipalities create a framework for adaptation and mitigation investments and guides growth away from high-risk areas by offering alternative sites.

34 https://www.citiesalliance.org/newsroom/news/results/her4climate-gender-mainstreaming-climate-adaptation-plans..

35 https://www.citiesalliance.org/resources/publications/toolkit/her4water-tool.

36 https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/citiesalliance_climate-resilienturbanexpansionplanning_2022_0.pdf

In Liberia, a series of gender mapping initiatives[37] resulted in the co-design and construction of women-managed water kiosks.#

Energy-efficient LED lights for improved energy efficiency and women's safety in public spaces implemented in three Tunisian cities.

The Cities for Women project[38] in Nepal is creating climate-responsive, inclusive public spaces in five municipalities by strengthening the systems that plan and implement municipal public infrastructure.

The Women and Sustainable Cities programme[39] in Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia is strengthening women's leadership in the decision making and management of scarce urban water resources.

The **Local Innovation for New Climate Realities initiative** is strengthening local adaptation in Bangladesh, Kenya, Myanmar, Somalia, and Uganda with a strong focus on women's groups.

CityWorks in Bangladesh provided skills training, employment matching through social enterprise, social safety, and financial services to unregistered women domestic migrants displaced due to natural disasters.

The Eco2 Cities Initiative in Vietnam designed green transport systems for two cities, valorising circular economy principles of mass transit and addressing gender-based transport accessibility needs and barriers.

Comprehensive solid waste management (SWM) strategies developed for the Greater Cairo cities of Khosoos and Khanka by building the capacity of local administrations, NGOs, and informal operators on sustainable and environmentally sound SWM methods.

37 https://www.citiesalliance.org/newsroom/news/results/liberia-gender-mapping-three-informal-communities.

38 https://www.citiesalliance.org/cities-women-nepal.

39 https://www.citiesalliance.org/regional-programme-women-and-sustainable-cities.

CITIES ALLIANCE'S PORTFOLIO IN MENA

For over two decades, Cities Alliance has worked in the MENA region to address urban issues including slum upgrading, urban planning, migration, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. Our expertise includes:

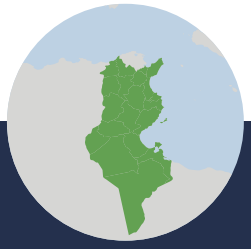
- Development of participatory and inclusive gender-sensitive urban planning, city development strategies, and communal investment programmes
- Support for municipalities in the development and implementation of infrastructure projects while strengthening their project management and capacity to leverage additional funding

We implement initiatives through:

- Technical assistance and capacity building to local and national governments
- Gender-sensitive procurement and direct project implementation
- Grants to civil society organizations, and international NGOs to collect data, engage local communities and implement specific actions

Cities Alliance has a regional office in Tunis, Tunisia to deliver projects and technical assistance at the local and regional levels.

PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHTS



TUNISIA

Cities Alliance has a Country Programme in Tunisia and has worked in Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Yemen.

- A National Urban Policy to serve as a framework for managing urban spread efficiently and coherently at the regional, national, and local levels.
- Mechanisms to advance inter-municipal cooperation to make local governance, public management, and municipal service delivery more sustainable and efficient.
- Spatial analysis of lagging areas to assess their potential for regional economic development.
- The Femmedina Inclusive City Programme to create safer public spaces that respond to the needs of women in Tunis.
- Madinatouna strategic planning and municipal initiatives for more inclusive, climate-resilient cities.
- Mainstreaming gender in municipal policy in Béja and Médenine.
- Supporting the economic integration of migrants in Jendouba and Kairouan.
- Supporting the seven municipalities of Greater Sfax to operationalise and implement the Greater Sfax Development Strategy.

OTHER MENA COUNTRIES

Cities Alliance has worked in Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Yemen.

- Migration profiling and assessments for cities in Lebanon (Beirut, Tripoli, Tyre).
- CDSs in Jordan (Amman, Mafraq, Karak, Zarqa and Tafilah), Egypt (Alexandria), Morocco (Tetouan), Syria (Aleppo), and Yemen (Aden, Hodeidah, Mukallah, Sana'a).
- Waste management in Cairo, Egypt.
- Slum upgrading in Egypt (Ismailia Governorate), Morocco (Tetouan), and Palestine (East Jerusalem).
- National dialogue on citywide slum upgrading in Iran.
- Strategic development and investment planning in Palestine.

Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums

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