A UN-WATER INITIATIVE ORGANIZED BY:

WMO | UNCCD United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification | FAO | Convention on Biological Diversity | UN WATER

Capacity Development to Support National Drought Management Policies

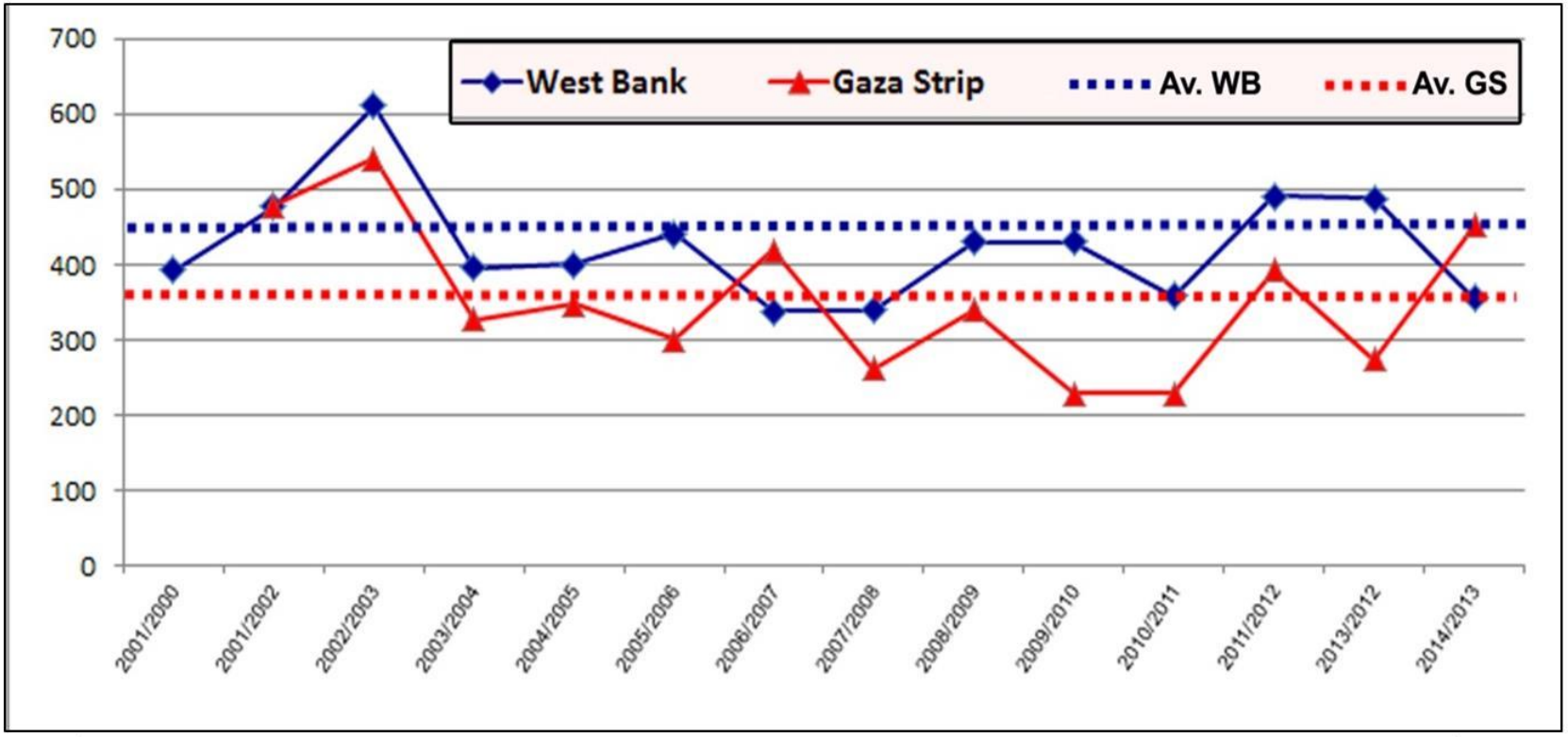
Regional Workshop for Near East and North Africa region

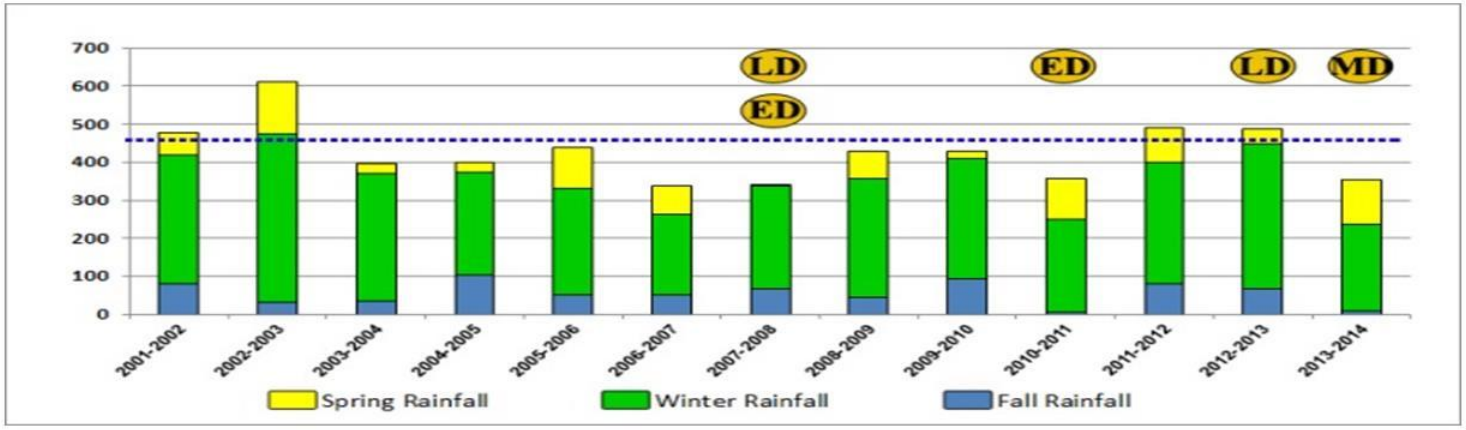
17-20 November 2014 - Cairo, Egypt

Drought conditions and management strategies in Palestine

Kasim M. Abdo

Annual average rainfall of WBGS (2000 – 2014)



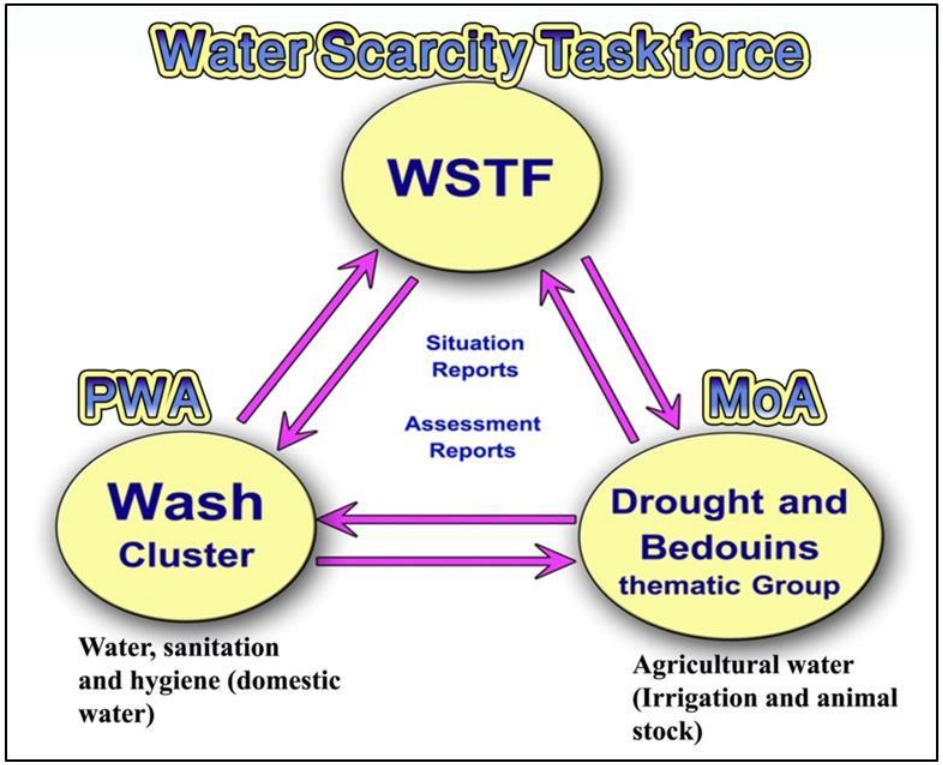


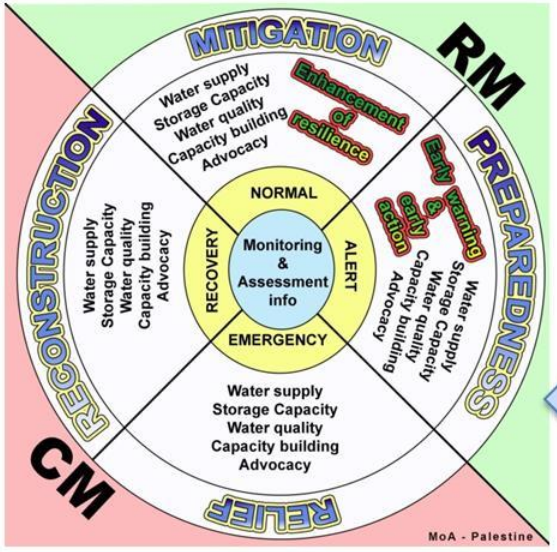
The current situation

1) **Political, legal, institutional , technical and infrastructure Constraints.**
2) **lack of data and information for historical records.**
3) **The existing database does not support comprehensive data sharing and analysis to monitor and to predict drought effectively.**
4) **No decision making support system .**
5) **EWS in MoA.**

Institutional framework

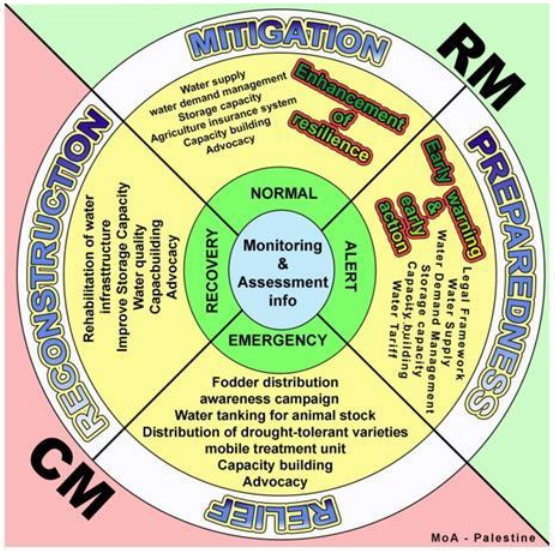
Water Scarcity Task Force





For Agricultural Sector

For Water Supply and sanitation



Vulnerability of Palestine

- **Israeli occupation and sovereignty on natural resources**
- **Natural resources and agricultural sector are very vulnerable.**
- **Fragility of rural communities and Bedouins in Area C**
- **Fragility of economy (water and agricultural sectors).**

Emergency relief and drought response

Practices to alleviate drought impacts

In water Sector

- Develop and sustain water resources (supply and demand management)
- Harvest Water (micro and macro-scale)
- Improving groundwater recharge.
- Use of alternative resources: purchased water, desalination, reuse of nonconventional water and reallocation management.
- Conduct public awareness to control and rationalize water demand

In Agricultural sector

- Enable the institutional and legal environment.
- Watch to safeguard (build the technical and institutional capacities, implement sectorial and inter - sectorial strategies, link EWS to FS Information Systems, and being more predictable to climatic uncertainty
- Control volatility in agricultural commodity markets and soaring food prices.
- Enhance innovative and indigenous practices (Climate smart sustainable agriculture , conservative agriculture , …. etc)
- Build resilience and improve adaptive capacity of farmers.

The need for knowledge and skills on drought management:

1) Building technical , institutional , and legal capacities.
2) Adopting proactive drought risk reduction strategies.
3) Formulation the comprehensive disaster risk reduction has to start with risk assessments and vulnerability analysis and to end with effective preparedness, response and recovery processes.
4) Institutional reforming, adoption of good governess (willingness and commitments).
5) Securing financial resources and priorities of donors and funds agencies.
6) building the capacities at organizational, methodological, and operational. Monitoring and early warning.
7) Formulating a good preparedness plans will lead to greater institutional capacities to cope with drought events through the improvement of information flow and coordination between and within different levels of stakeholders.

Issues to be considered in Agricultural Drought

- Drought and the margin of failure in the WRM.
- Crises management (cost and benefits).
- Social – water conflicts.
- EWS and drought declaration (compensations and subsidies).
- Technical context and infrastructure.
- The enhancement of research capabilities.
- The sustainability issues and mitigation measures.
- Political situation (restrictions to accessibility).
- Reallocating water shares among user and the utilization of non traditional water in intensive agriculture to meet the demand for food and to replace the reallocated portions (sustainability).

THANK YOU
FOR ATTENTION