Climate Change and Health

Dr. Rola Alemam and Dr. A. Basel Al-Yousfi

World Health Organization
Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office
Regional Center for Environmental Health Action
(WHO/EMRO/CEHA)
Arab Strategy on Health and the Environment (2017-2030) and Guideline of Action

• Support Arab countries in their concerted multi-sectoral efforts to reduce the toll of morbidity and premature mortality caused by environmental risks (including more than 628,000 deaths/year and 24 million Disability Adjusted Life-Years (DALYs) lost each year) in the Arab Region.

• Outlines nine health and environment priorities: 1- Water, sanitation and health; 2- Air pollution; 3- Food safety; 4- Chemical safety; 5- Wastes management and environmental health services; 6- Environmental health emergency management; 7- Climate change and health; 8- Sustainable development and health and 9- Occupational health and safety.
Health impacts of climate change

THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE INCLUDE:
- Extreme weather events
- A decrease in access to safe water
- A decrease in air quality
- A decrease in food security
- Disease vectors

Health effects:
- Heat stress
- Water and food-borne diseases
- Respiratory diseases
- Malnutrition
- Death and injuries
- Mental Health Illness
DALYs Attributable to Climate Change by WHO Regions

- Western Pacific
- South East Asia
- Europe
- Eastern Mediterranean
- Americas
- Africa

2nd Worst impacted!
Goal

Enhance the capacity of health systems to protect health and improve population health in an unstable and changing climate by:

• Reducing vulnerability
• Increasing capacity and improving opportunities to respond

Reduce mortality from climate-sensitive diseases by 10%

- Undertake **awareness and advocacy** within and outside the PH sector on the health effects of CC and the need for collective action to protect health from CC

- Assess the **vulnerability** of PH to CC and identify the current and future health effects of CC

- Develop PH system response strategies, plans and projects; and integrate adaptation and mitigation into national health strategies

- Establish early warning systems for the health effects of CC
The climate change and health framework (2017–2021)

- Governance, policy and leadership
- Monitoring, early warning and management
- Engagement of other sectors

Adaptation and mitigation
Climate-resilient health systems
Thank You!