Interactive Session

Now What?

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Building Capacity for Accessing Disruptive Technologies for Improved Water Resources Management under Climate Change

14-15 January 2020, Beirut, Lebanon
Group Discussion I

Opportunities for using disruptive technologies for Informing decision making

*What are the key CHALLENGES that can be addressed better with disruptive tech?*

- Post-conflict context
- Filling Data Gaps (e.g. hydrological indices) esp given loss of monitoring systems (security issues) & for remote places; Enhance Reliability/Integrity of data
- Explore linkages in IWRM (e.g. water and agr, environment)
- Lack of Personnel (eg: retired) – get new skills (e.g. IT) – use of DT/AI
- Management practices; standardized approaches (unifying standards) with DT
- Enhanced communication (e.g. raising public awareness for key issues e.g. CC), Sharing Good Practices, Capacity Building
- Strategic planning (eg benchmarking)
- Transboundary Water Resources management (basins, aquifers) – data/analytics
What are the key types of disruptive technologies that could be helpful for your context?

- Web Portal – for data, knowledge, models
- Use of GIS, Remote Sensing – integrating WRM with Agr – how to access info on this?
- SCADA (e.g. for treatment stations); violations of water network (e.g. Disi pipeline)
- Cloud services; Web 3
- Using modern software (currently old/pirated) – esp online
- New generations trained on IT – don’t resist change!
- AI/ML – computerized algorithms for modeling
- Real-time monitoring and analysis systems
- Smart Agriculture (using least water); Microsheds/MicroFarming
Group Discussion II

Capacity development for different stakeholder groups based on identified opportunities

**What are the key Stakeholder Groups that we need to consider?** E.g.:

- Government – planning & real-time (e.g. sectors - agr, energy, industry)
- Academia – introduce DT in university curricula
- CSOs/NGOs/Private Sector
- Youth – future leaders
- End-users (farmers, etc.)
- Providers of the services (e.g. UN related agencies to facilitate access)
How can capacity be best developed in the coming year or two? E.g.:

- Mashreq Data Platform
- Interactive E-books
- Select appropriate people to train - Follow-up from Trainers
- Virtual Learning Series (topics)
  - E.g. using/validating data from satellites
  - How to access/extract data & who can do this
  - Hydrological and Climate Change Models
  - Good estimates of Loss/Damage/Degradation/Impact Assessment data
  - Flood Risk models
- Intensive Workshops
- Training of Officials (e.g. Engineers)
- Convince policy makers about need for Capacity Development
- Converge viewpoints across countries
- Concentrate on knowhow/capacity building/scholarships in key ministries
- AdHoc advice