



Drought Risk Management

A collaborative program to build greater resilience to drought and to mitigate its scourges on societies and economies

FAO's work on drought aims to build societal capacities for drought risk management globally with emphasis on drought-prone regions.

The programme's objectives are:

- to improve the understanding and importance of drought risk management;
- to characterize drought and its management in different regions;
- to develop region-tailored guidelines to initiate drought strategies and plans; and
- to support countries in elaborating and walking through the process, on-demand.

What we do

We help to build national capacities on drought risk management through **regional training workshops** in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, Asia and Pacific, Southern and Eastern Africa, Western Africa and Near East and North Africa.

We conduct **studies on drought characterization** and management at national and regional levels in Latin and Central America, The Caribbean, Central Asia, Southern Africa, Eastern Africa, Near East and North Africa, India and China.

Attention is given to raising awareness at decision-making level through the organization of a High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy attended by ministers and heads of development organizations, financing agencies, research centers and other stakeholders. FAO produces guidelines, policy and technical materials to support member countries in the process of elaborating and implementing pro-active drought management strategies.



Expected Outputs (at national, regional and global levels)

- Increased awareness of the economic and social added-values of drought risk management
- Enhanced technical and managerial capacity to cope with drought
- Better knowledge of current drought characteristics, impacts and management
- Guidelines for the elaboration and adoption of drought risk management.

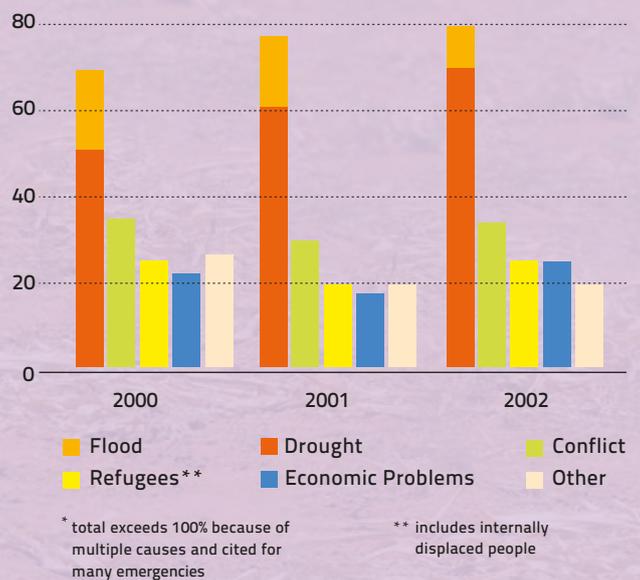


Background

Drought is a natural phenomenon that has drastic implications on human lives, food insecurity and natural resources degradation. Drought leads to water shortages affecting agriculture, with social consequences such as famine, hunger, and migration. Climate change is gradually exacerbating droughts through increased frequency and severity in many parts of the world.

While drought is difficult to forecast, its impacts can be significantly mitigated. This can be achieved through a more proactive, risk-based management approach. The latter increases societal resilience to better cope with drought impacts and has become possible thanks to recent scientific and technological advances in drought and water-scarcity management.

Percentage of food emergencies in developing countries



Partners

The multi-disciplinary nature of the programme cuts across all technical and cooperation departments of FAO and also builds a strong partnership with specialized organizations and research centers from outside FAO. The collaborating partners include the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), UN Water Decade on Capacity Development (DPC), as well as the Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute and the National Drought Mitigation Center of the University of Lincoln-Nebraska, USA. Moreover, the programme is coordinated with several national research centers and regional networks concerned with drought issues.

The Drought Risk Management programme addresses actual priorities of Member Countries in the field and responds to concrete needs in all regions. It falls within FAO Strategic Objectives SO2 and SO5 is led by NR (NRL, NRC) and carried out jointly with Regional Offices (RAP and RNE), Sub-regional Offices (SFS, SEC, SLC, SNE), and Country Offices (FAO-Brazil, FAOR-Guyana, FAOR-Laos, FAOR-Morocco, FAOR-Vietnam). Others are expected to join in 2015.

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MORE INFORMATION

http://www.fao.org/nr/water/news/drought_initiative.html