



Special Session 10 Climate-resilient water solutions for communities hosting displaced people Thursday, 7 March 2024, 3:30–5 p.m. Beirut time

Background and objective

Some cities in the Arab region are facing the dual challenge of increased water scarcity due to climate change impacts and increasing water demand following an influx of displaced persons from neighboring conflict. This special session is informed by work in progress on a UN-Habitat led project supported by ESCWA and UNICEF, "Resilient Water Solutions Against Climate Change," funded by the Adaptation Fund, which offers both policy interventions and concrete technological solutions to address water scarcity and ease tension around the use of water resources in cities hosting displaced persons in Jordan and Lebanon. The session also includes panelists working on similar water projects in Iraq and at the nexus of climate change, conflict, and displacement with an aim to provide an overview of regional efforts to increase climate resilience in complex and fragile contexts. It will highlight effective strategies for improving water supply access in cities hosting displaced persons as well as the importance of inclusive governance and resilience-building measures to reduce water-related tensions in crisis situations.

Questions to be addressed

- What are the unique challenges that cities in the Arab region face in terms of climate change, water scarcity, and displacement?
- What are the best practices and lessons learned from concrete water supply interventions in crisis-affected areas in the region?
- How can the suggested water supply interventions be made scalable and sustainable?
- What models of inclusive governance can be followed with respect to supporting water access, peace, and justice?

Moderator

- **Ms. Carol Chouchani Churfane**, Cluster Leader for Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability, ESCWA, Lebanon

Opening Remarks

- **Ms. Taina Christiansen**, Head of Country Programme, UN-Habitat, Lebanon

Panelists

- **Ms. Sara Al Haleeq**, Head of Adaptation Unit, Ministry of Environment, Jordan (Virtual)
- **Dr. Salem Darwich**, Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture, Lebanon
- **Mr. Anjam Mohammed Ameen Sabir**, Mercy Corps/ WASH Transition Coordinator, Iraq
- **Ms. Lea Mascaro**, Consortium Coordinator – HawkaaMaa – EU, ACTED, Lebanon
- **Mr. George Saade**, WASH and Environmental Engineer, UN-Habitat, Lebanon
- **Mr. Mohamed Amara**, WASH and Environmental Engineer, UN-Habitat, Jordan

Rapporteur

- **Ms. Sara Hess**, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA, Lebanon

This Special Session will be organized as a hybrid event. To participate over Zoom, please [register here](#). Those physically present at the UN House can attend the session in Committee Room 1 (CR-1), B1 floor.

