FACTSHEET
Nexus Regional Dialogue in the Middle East and North Africa

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name: Nexus Regional Dialogue in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Joint Co-financing: German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), European Union (EU)

Duration: July 2020 – June 2023

Project Location	Implementing Agency	Partner
MENA Region	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	League of Arab States (LAS)

NEXUS CHALLENGES

The Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA) is the most water scarce region in the world, holding only 1.4% of the world's freshwater resources. It is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, affecting water availability and food security. The region is endowed with half of the world's known oil and gas reserves, and increasingly pressured by decarbonisation policies and low-carbon technology developments. Overexploitation of natural resources, climate change effects and lack of intersectoral coordination further underlie the need for integrated natural resources management.

> **Vision:** *Inclusive water, energy and food security on the path to a climate resilient and resource efficient future for all*
>
> **– Vision of the Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme**

The Middle East and North Africa is the most **water scarce** region in the world[1]

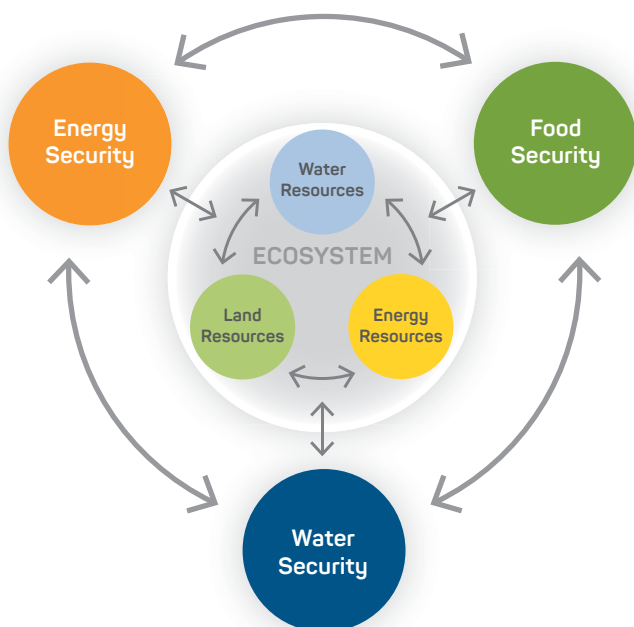Agriculture in MENA is responsible for more than **80%** of overall water use[2]

Primary energy demand in the region is forecasted to increase consistently at a rate of **1.9% per year** until 2035[3]

[1] World Bank (2017); [2] UNICEF (2021); [3] World Bank (2018)

SOLUTION: WEF NEXUS APPROACH

The Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus approach addresses this complex reality and recognises that water, energy and food security can only be achieved through safeguarding, protecting and upholding natural resources. It contributes to a better understanding of the deep interconnectedness between natural resources and their planning, management and consumption. For example, pumping to irrigate crops can lead to over-exploitation of water resources. The cultivation of biofuel crops, while they provide renewable alternatives to fossil fuels, can compete with food production for land and water.

At its heart, the WEF Nexus promotes a holistic and integrated way of thinking and acting to ensure inclusive water, energy and food security in a sustainable way. It draws attention to opportunities: untangling trade-offs, inspiring compromises and uncovering synergies. It further promotes policy coherence and multi-sectoral cooperation at all levels.

OBJECTIVES AND KEY ACTIVITIES

Building on the results of Phase I, the Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme Phase II aims to institutionalise the WEF Nexus approach in national and regional governance structures and investment decisions and engage public and private investors for WEF Nexus projects through:

- Policy dialogue
- Investment facilitation
- Demonstration projects
- Communication
- Capacity development
- Impact assessment

MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE NEXUS REGIONAL DIALOGUE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

The approach of the Nexus Regional Dialogue MENA includes the following activities:

- Supporting cross-sectoral coordination in natural resources management at municipal and national governmental level.
- Implementing demonstration projects and conducting impact assessments (i.e. cost-benefit analyses, etc.).
- Showcasing the added-value of WEF Nexus solutions to mobilize financing and influence policy recommendations.
- Providing trainings and webinars on WEF Nexus case studies and best practices, focusing on their financial viability.
- Promoting the integrated approach at national, regional and international events.