

Bimonthly Publications Review

Produced by the UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC), every two months this review brings you the latest publications produced by United Nations agencies and programmes on issues related to water and sanitation. Publications presented here in alphabetical order are freely accessible from the web

Issue 19. November 2013

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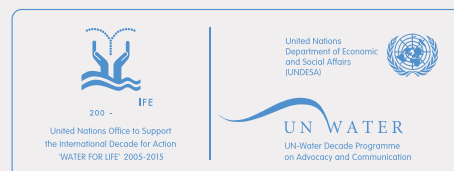
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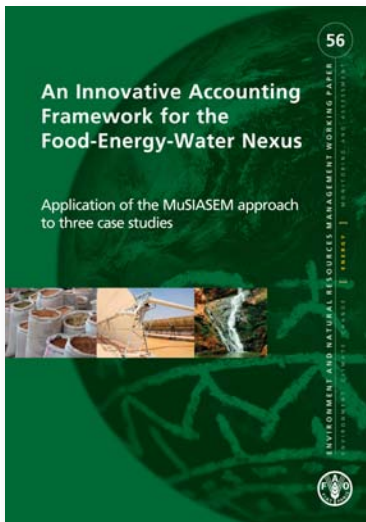
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A Decade for Water, a Decade for Life

United Nations Office to Support
the International Decade for Action
'Water for Life' 2005-2015



Latest publications



An Innovative Accounting Framework for the Food-Energy-Water Nexus. Application of the MuSIASEM approach to three case studies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). October 2013

<http://bit.ly/17sNZ7G>

This report presents the results of the application of an integrated analysis approach, the Multi-Scale Integrated Assessment of Society and Ecosystem Metabolism (MuSIASEM), to three case studies: (i) An analysis of the option to produce biofuel from sugarcane in the Republic of Mauritius; (ii) An exploration of the future of grain production in the Indian state of Punjab; (iii) An assessment of two alternative energy sources to produce electricity in the Republic of South Africa. The report provides a summary of the final results and is organized in three sections: chapter 1 provides a general description of the multi-scale integrated assessment of society and ecosystem metabolism applied to the food-energy-water nexus-assessment; chapter 2 illustrates the application of the developed approach to the three case studies; and chapter 3 summarizes lessons learned in terms of strength and weakness of the proposed tool.

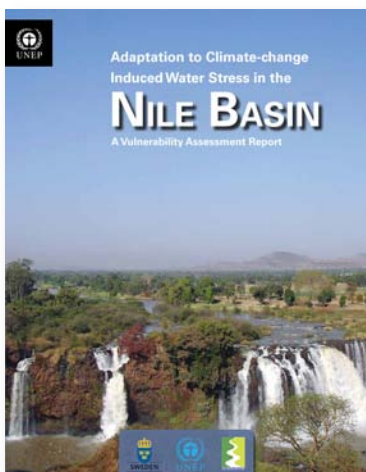


Accelerating progress, sustaining results. The MDGs to 2015 and beyond

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). September 2013

<http://bit.ly/1jMSMqi>

This report details the success of the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF), a tool developed by UNDP in 2010 to guide collaborative national efforts to identify and overcome bottlenecks slowing country progress towards achieving priority MDG targets. The report also highlights how the MAF has built partnerships within more than 50 countries to re-focus existing policies and programmes into national action plans to hasten progress towards priority MDGs, and connect humanitarian efforts to longer-term results. Chapter 2.4 is dedicated to the issue of water and sanitation.



Adaptation to Climate-change Induced Water Stress in the Nile Basin: A Vulnerability Assessment Report

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). 2013

<http://bit.ly/188VK33>

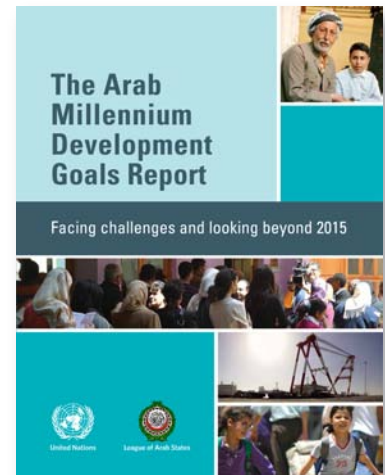
This publication presents an overview of the people and places vulnerable to water stress related to the impacts of climate change in the Nile Basin. Satellite and other images provide striking visual evidence of the environmental changes taking place in each of the vulnerable regions identified. Data and information from detailed research provide evidence for the assessment. The report also includes analysis derived from multi-dimensional tools used at various geographic and political levels, from sub-national, national, and sub-basin to the entire Nile Basin area. These include scientific tools, such as scenario analyses and modeling, to improve our understanding of the likely impacts of climate change on the Nile River's water systems.

(The) Arab Millennium Development Goals Report. Facing challenges and looking beyond 2015

United Nations, League of Arab States. August 2013

<http://bit.ly/1bqzx6y>

The Fourth Arab Report on the Millennium Development Goals 2013 highlights the progress made by Arab countries in achieving MDGs since 1990 and underlines ongoing development challenges which should be addressed in any post-2015 development framework. The report points out lack of access to water, water scarcity and lack of improved sanitation in rural areas as three limiting factors in the region.



Climate Change 2013. The Physical Science Basis

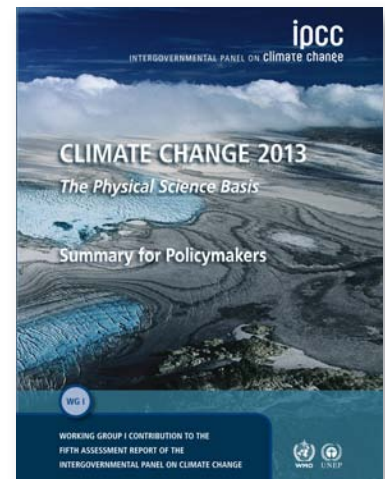
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). September 2013

<http://bit.ly/1fLnSkH>

Summary for policy makers:

<http://bit.ly/18JHxxl>

This report from Working Group I is a contribution to the IPCC 5th Assessment Report. It spells out what the most up-to-date measurements and observations around the planet tell us about the extent of climate change and mankind's role in causing it. In particular, it documents multiple lines of evidence for emerging changes in climate in the atmosphere, ocean, ice, and land.

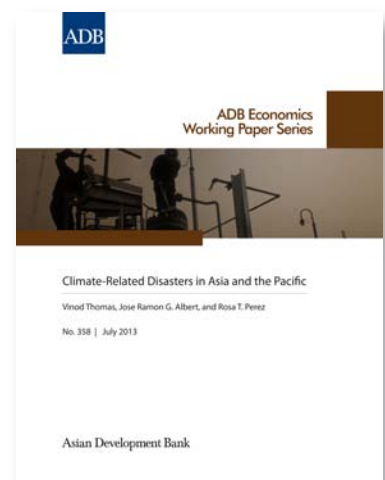


Climate-Related Disasters in Asia and the Pacific

Asian Development Bank (ADB). July 2013

<http://bit.ly/1cyoqFp>

This document explores whether there is a statistical relationship between changes in climate variables such as temperature and precipitation and the frequency of intense natural disasters. The paper is structured as follows. Section II sets out a framework for analysis, based on the IPCC's disaster risk framework, focusing on the key idea that natural disaster risk is affected by hazards, exposure to those hazards, and vulnerability to their effects. Section III presents an overview of natural disaster data and trends globally, and in Asia and the Pacific. It notes that the overall trend of increasing disasters is largely due to greater frequency of intense hydrometeorological events (floods and storms), rather than geophysical events. Section IV uses the disaster risk framework presented in Section II to examine how the risks of intense climate-related disasters in Asia and the Pacific might be connected to demographic factors, socioeconomic and environmental degradation, and climate anomalies. Section V complements the regional review with a description of the likely impact of climate and disasters in the Philippines. The final section presents some implications.

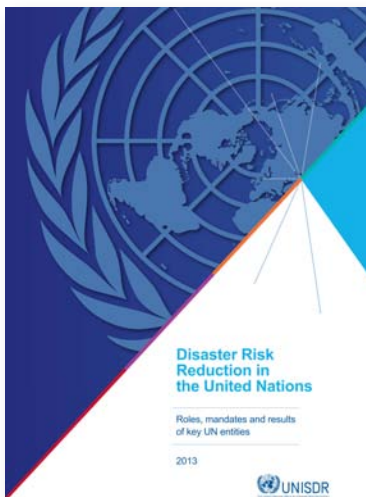


Latest publications



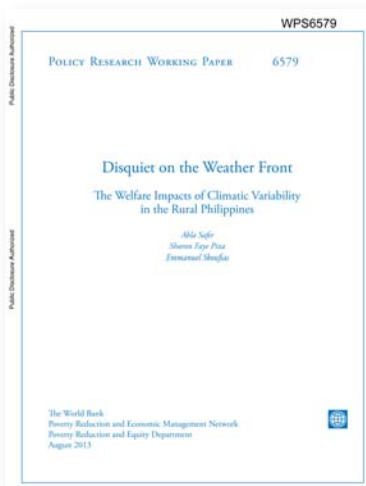
Devolution in Kenya: Opportunities and Challenges for the Water Sector
World Bank Water and Sanitation Program (WSP). September 2013
<http://bit.ly/lu4vxG>

Devolution, or the delegation of power by central government to local or regional administration, is by far the most significant initiative in governance that Kenya has undertaken since independence. Under the Constitution of Kenya (2010), devolution has wide-ranging implications for the water sector. The Constitution recognizes that access to safe and sufficient water is a basic human right. It also assigns responsibility for water supply and sanitation provision to 47 newly established counties. Effective implementation of the new devolved framework now requires the water sector to focus on the emerging opportunities and to address a number of challenges. This policy note targets the policy and advocacy audience at national government and county levels involved in the implementation of devolution under the new Constitution. The aim is to identify key transition issues, stimulate debate, and inform decision-making in the water and sanitation sector to achieve sustainable delivery of improved water services under the new dispensation.



Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nations. Roles, mandates and results of key UN entities
United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). 2013
<http://bit.ly/lb0DagK>

This report provides an overview of roles, mandates and areas of work of United Nations agencies, along with the World Bank, to support local, national and regional efforts to reduce disaster risk.



Disquiet on the Weather Front. The Welfare Impacts of Climatic Variability in the Rural Philippines
World Bank. August 2013
<http://bit.ly/1cyoAg5>

This paper carries out an analysis of the welfare impacts of climatic variability in the rural areas of the Philippines. One of the main objectives of this study is to quantify the extent to which unusual or erratic weather has any negative impacts on the welfare of Filipino households. Erratic weather may affect agricultural productivity which, depending on how effective was the portfolio of ex ante and ex post risk management strategies employed, may translate into reduced income and reduced food availability at the household level.

(The) Equitable Access Score-card: Supporting policy processes to achieve the human right to water and sanitation

Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). November 2013

<http://bit.ly/1gkTtqQ>

This publication provides an analytical tool designed to help Governments and other stakeholders to establish a baseline measure of the equity of access to water and sanitation, identify related priorities, discuss further actions to be taken and evaluate progress through a process of self-assessment. The publication contains recommendations on how to plan for the self-assessment and provides concrete examples of the benefits of using the score-card in different settings. Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health and other stakeholders can use the Equitable Access Score-card to support the definition of targets to bridge the existing gaps in access to water and sanitation and thus to achieve the human right to water and sanitation.

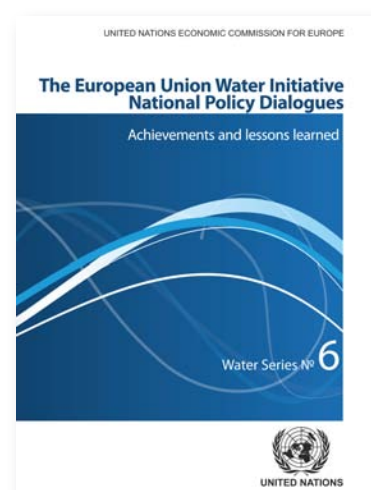


(The) European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues. Achievements and lessons learned

Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). 2013

<http://bit.ly/1dCTHMu>

The European Union Water Initiative takes a partnership approach with national Governments, donors, the water industry, nongovernmental organizations and other stakeholders. Through National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, the Initiative aims to strengthen coordination and cooperation between sectors to improve water management and facilitate more effective development assistance in the water sector. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, through the secretariat of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, is the strategic partner of the European Union to support NPDs on Integrated Water Resources Management. This publication describes the activities and achievements of the NPDs, as well as plans for their future development. It aims to inspire further progress in developing effective partnerships and enhancing multi-stakeholder cooperation for the improvement of water policies.



Forests Challenge Badge

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). October 2013

<http://bit.ly/1iqhVK>

The Forests Challenge Badge is designed to help educate children and young people about the crucial role that forests play for life on our planet. It explains how forests provide essential ecosystem services such as clean air, water, and climate change mitigation. It also describes various forest resources and explains how millions of people worldwide rely on forests for their livelihoods. The badge describes the threats to our planet's forests and what is being done to protect them. This material is appropriate for use in school classes, Guide or Scout groups or youth meetings generally. It includes a wide range of activities and ideas to stimulate learning about the importance of forests, while motivating children and young people to help protect forests and become aware of the impacts of their actions on the environment.



Latest publications

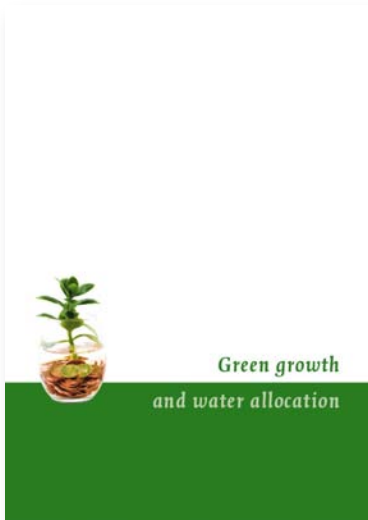


Global Sustainable Development Report. Executive summary: Building the Common Future We Want. Prototype edition

United Nations. September 2013

<http://bit.ly/17YLl9Z>

The prototype Global Sustainable Development Report illustrates potential content, approaches and ways to engage policy makers and scientists, with the aim of facilitating Member States' deliberations on the final approach and scope. The summary includes seven sections representing planned report chapters: sustainable development assessments; a review of progress from 1950 until 2050, with the aim of putting economies and society onto a sustainable development path; the consequences of continuing a course of incremental progress until 2050; sustainable development scenarios; measuring sustainable development progress; the climate-land-energy-water-development nexus (CLEWD), including a pilot assessment in Mauritius and a global model; and future issues to consider. The final version of the report will be published in December 2013.

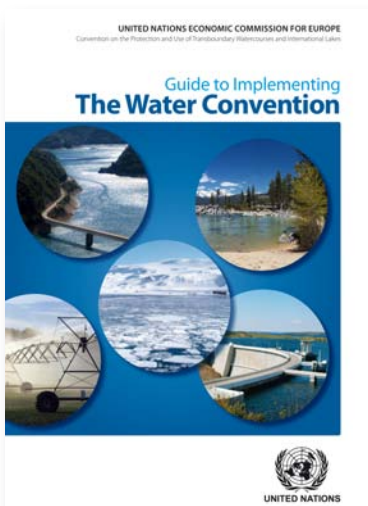


Green growth and water allocation

Netherlands National Committee of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP-HWRP), Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO. 2013

<http://bit.ly/lqih8c>

This publication contains contributions from many of the speakers of a 2-day workshop on water allocation and green growth held on 22–23 November 2012 in Wageningen, the Netherlands.



Guide to Implementing the Water Convention

Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). September 2013

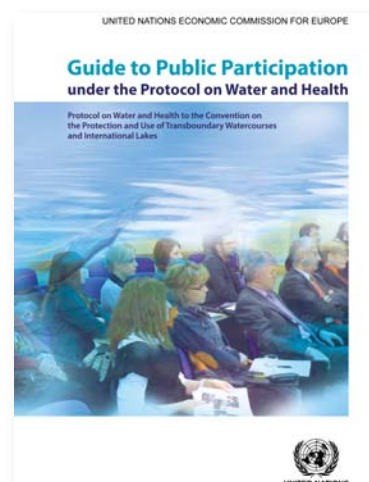
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The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) was adopted in 1992 and entered into force in 1996. It brings together almost all countries sharing transboundary waters in the pan-European region, and is expected to achieve broader participation with its global opening to all United Nations Member States. This Guide constitutes a commentary to the Convention's provisions, providing explanations of the legal, procedural, administrative, technical and practical aspects of the Convention's requirements for appropriate implementation. It aims to strengthen the understanding of the Convention among current and future Parties, international partners, non-governmental organizations and academia.

Guide to Public Participation under the Protocol on Water and Health Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). November 2013

<http://bit.ly/1gkTDOV>

This guide offers explanations of legal obligations with regard to public participation and access to information under the Protocol on Water and Health and other international frameworks. It can be used as a tool to help improve the planning and carrying out of the public-participation process. It contains recommendations and examples to support Parties and members of the public to better assert their rights and fulfil their obligations in organizing or taking part in the public-participation process.



Guidelines for national waste management strategies. Moving from challenges to opportunities

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). 2013

<http://bit.ly/17YLJL6>

Poor waste management can lead to some significant environmental and health hazards. For example, leachate from waste can contaminate soil and water, open burning of waste can cause air pollution, and a failure to use recycled materials from waste means an acceleration of the depletion of 'raw' materials. In June 2012 the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development adopted, as part of the main outcome document, "The Future we Want", a call for countries to develop and enforce comprehensive national and local waste management policies, strategies, laws, and regulations. These guidelines set a conceptual and methodological framework for national planning that countries may adapt to their particular circumstances.



Health and environment: communicating the risks

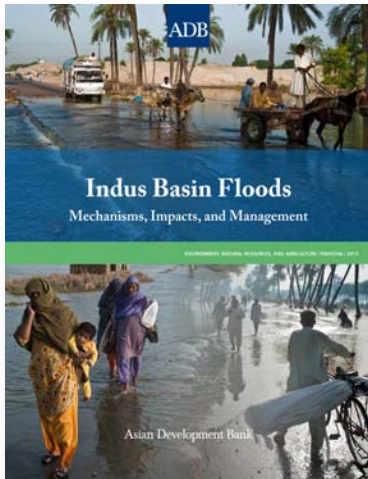
World Health Organization (WHO). 2013

<http://bit.ly/1aXpGDq>

The WHO Regional Office for Europe organized a workshop in Trento, Italy, to enable participants to share experience in the management and communication of environmental risks such as those related to the lack of water and sanitation. This report builds on the presentations and discussions from the workshop and presents a series of key messages useful to regional and local authorities, as well as to risk managers in general.



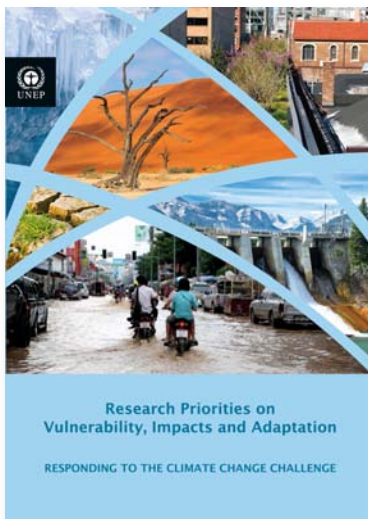
Latest publications



Indus Basin Floods: Mechanisms, Impacts, and Management
Asian Development Bank (ADB). October 2013

<http://bit.ly/1etbuC6>

The Indus River is a major transboundary river in Asia with nine tributaries. More than 138 million people in the Indus River Basin in Pakistan depend on irrigated agriculture. But rising population pressures, climate change, and the continuous degradation of ecosystem services have resulted in increased flood risks, worsened by inadequate flood planning and management. This report proposes a holistic approach, applying scientific assessments that take people, land, and water into account. It also includes planning and implementation realized through appropriate policies, enforceable laws, and effective institutions.

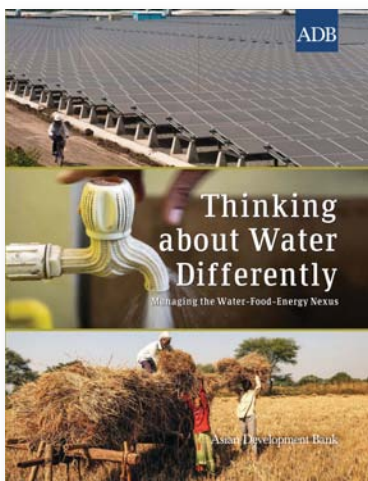


Research priorities on vulnerability, impacts and adaptation. Responding to the climate change challenge

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). 2013

<http://bit.ly/1ca5kqT>

Climate variability and change affect virtually all physical, biological and human systems on the planet. A major challenge of the research community is to provide relevant information to policymakers on vulnerability, impacts and adaptation in the context of a changing climate and to do so in a coherent and coordinated way. This report consists of 33 topics presented in three sections: Information to Support Policymaker Decisions, Systems and Regions and Emerging Topics. Each of the 33 topics includes a description of why the research is needed, followed by several paragraphs describing specific activities that respond to that need. Chapter B.1.2 is dedicated to water systems and chapter C.4 to the Food-Water-Energy-Security Nexus.



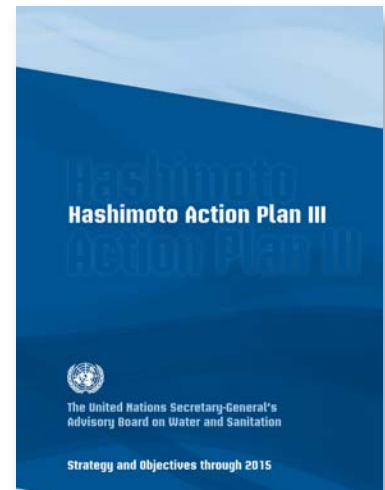
Thinking about Water Differently: Managing the Water-Food-Energy Nexus
Asian Development Bank. September 2013

<http://bit.ly/1dthWIE>

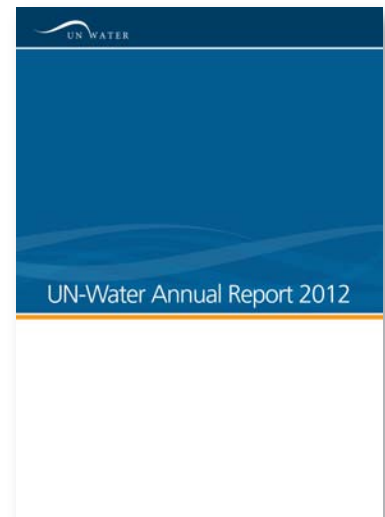
This publication is the result of a scoping study initiated by the Asian Development Bank to better understand the issues associated with the water-food-energy nexus in Asia and the Pacific. It provides high-level guidance on the choices available to address the region's water security issues.

Third Hashimoto Action Plan**United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Sanitation (UNSGAB). October 2013**<http://bit.ly/188W7dS>

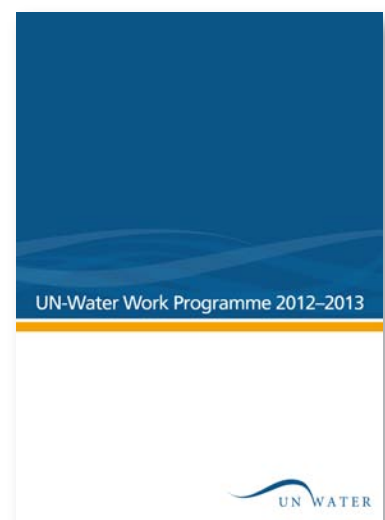
The Third Hashimoto Action Plan (HAPIII) outlines UNSGAB's 2013-2015 strategy for shaping global water and sanitation policy. The Plan calls for a final push to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on water and sanitation, noting that the sanitation target is among the most off-track, and advocates for including water and sanitation objectives in the post-2015 development agenda.

**UN-Water Annual Report 2012****UN-Water. September 2013**<http://bit.ly/1fLopmE>

The 2012 UN-Water Annual Report highlights UN-Water's key activities and achievements related to the post-2015 agenda but also to the World Water Day campaign, the release of flagship reports, main products from UN-Water programmes, thematic priority areas and task forces and other thematic work.

**UN-Water Work Programme 2012-2013****UN-Water. September 2013**<http://bit.ly/liqrwf>

This document presents the UN-Water Work Programme 2012-2013, which is divided into three parts: (1) UN-Water's strategic outlook; (2) Activities in each of UN-Water's five Result Areas; (3) An overview of UN-Water and its governance structure. Annexes include a Result-Oriented Framework for UN-Water and an indicative budget for 2012-2013.

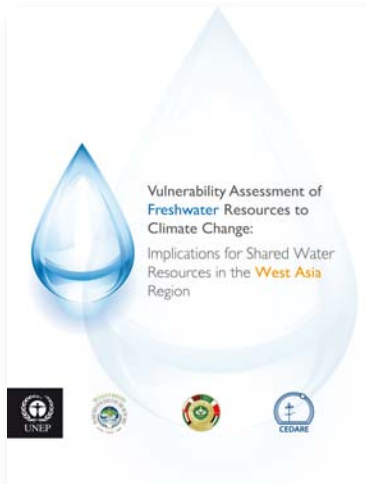


Latest publications



Updated WHO/WEDC Technical Notes on WASH in Emergencies
World Health Organization (WHO), Water Engineering Development Centre. 2013
<http://bit.ly/1dCTTez>

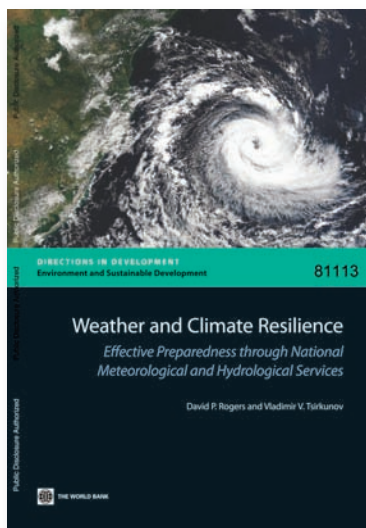
These four-page illustrated notes, originally prepared in 2011 and updated in 2013, provide practical, evidence-based recommendations in responding to immediate and medium-term water, sanitation and hygiene needs of populations affected by emergencies. The notes are relevant to a wide range of emergency situations, including both natural and conflict-induced disasters. They are suitable for field technicians, engineers and hygiene promoters, as well as staff from agency headquarters.



Vulnerability Assessment of Freshwater Resources to Climate Change: Implications for Shared Water Resources in the West Asia Region
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). 2012

<http://bit.ly/17X1dx5>
 Executive summary
<http://bit.ly/1gkTY46>

West Asia countries have been experiencing different degrees of natural and anthropogenic water risk affecting the sustainability of their limited water resources and preservation of the ecosystem equilibrium. The fragile arid environment and its resiliency to cope with external natural and anthropogenic activities, including the expected impacts of climate change, present a major challenge to decision-makers who must achieve adequate, safe and dependable water and food supply in the future to improve human well-being in their societies, and to meet the requirements of future generations. This document provides a useful tool for decision-makers to identify potential risks to freshwater resources in the region from the impacts of climate change. The overall objective of this study is to carry out a national and regional vulnerability assessment of freshwater resources to better understand the existing status of water under the prevailing conditions and to ascertain the most dominant factors that influence vulnerability.



Weather and Climate Resilience. Effective Preparedness through National Meteorological and Hydrological Services
World Bank. September 2013
<http://bit.ly/1fLove5>

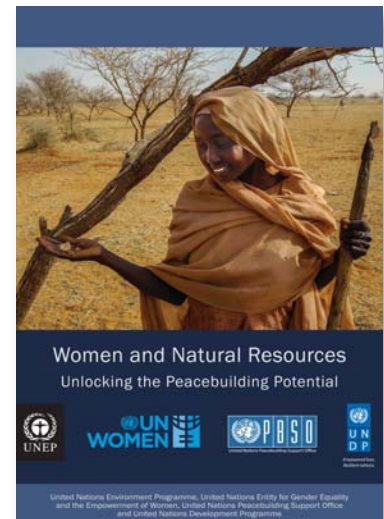
This report underscores the urgent need to strengthen National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), especially those in developing countries, and provides cost-benefit estimates of the return that countries can hope to achieve. It also offers a recommended approach that has been tested and implemented in Europe, in Central and South Asia, and countries in other regions.

Women and natural resources: Unlocking the peacebuilding potential

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equity and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO). November 2013

<http://bit.ly/1ca5qie>

This report aims to: (i) improve the understanding of the complex relationship between women and natural resources in conflict-affected settings, and (ii) make the case for pursuing gender equality, women's empowerment and sustainable natural resource management together in support of peacebuilding. Part 1 provides an analysis of the relationship between women and natural resources in peacebuilding contexts, reviewing key issues across three main categories of resources, including land, renewable and extractive resources. Part 2 discusses entry points for peacebuilding practitioners to address risks and opportunities related to women and natural resource management, focusing on political participation, protection and economic empowerment.

**World Development Report 2014. Risk and Opportunity—Managing Risk for Development**

World Bank. October 2013

<http://bit.ly/1eCru5r>

The World Development Report (WDR) 2014 focuses on the process of risk management, addressing some of the most pressing questions. Why is risk management important for development? How should it be conducted? What obstacles prevent people and societies from conducting it effectively? How can these obstacles be overcome? What role should the State take in helping people manage risks? When should this role consist of direct interventions and when should it consist of providing an enabling environment? How can governments improve their own risk management, and what happens when they fail or lack capacity as in many fragile and conflict-affected countries? Through what mechanisms can risk management be mainstreamed into the development agenda? How can collective action failures to manage systemic risks be addressed, especially those with irreversible consequences? This report provides policy makers with insights and recommendations to address these difficult questions. It should serve to guide the dialogue, operations and contributions from key development actors.



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You can also keep abreast of the latest UN publications on water and sanitation on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/undcws>

Previous issues available at: <http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/bimonthly.shtml>

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