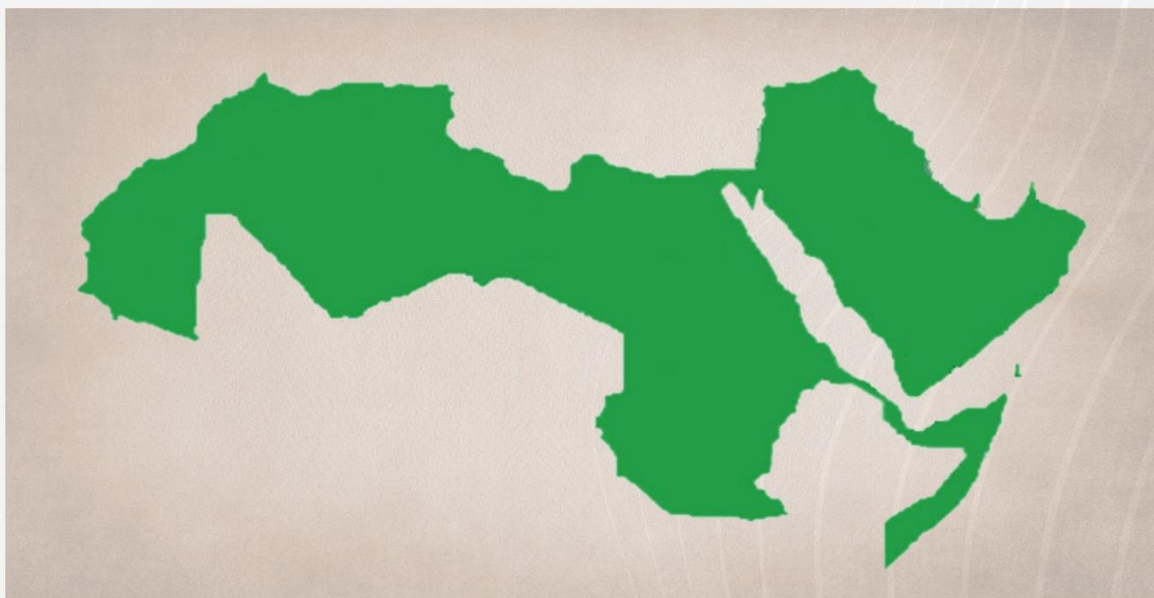




# "Periodical"

## Arab Countries Efforts to Leave No One Behind: Evaluation of 2024 SDGs

3rd issue: Climate Action



March 2024

Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights

## Introduction

The realities of sustainable development in the Arab region, reflect persistent efforts to achieve its goals at its various levels: environmental, social, and economic. Additionally, it demonstrates strenuous efforts to accelerate the pace of implementation and reach its goals and indicators, with annual reviews of its successes at a High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

In line with global and national efforts to periodically review sustainable development performance and indicators, and in alignment with **Maat for Peace, Development, and Human Rights'** commitment to sustainable development goals; Maat is launching a monthly research periodical titled "Arab Countries Efforts to Leave No One Behind: Evaluation of 2024 SDGs." The third issue of the Periodical is entitled "**The Realities of Climate Action between the Entitlements of Objectives and the Pressures of Challenges.**" The third issue of Maat's periodical focuses on the reality of Goal 13 of the SGDs on climate action in all regions of the Arab world, focusing on assessing the extent to which those countries meet the requirements and objectives of Goal 13, providing an evaluative reading of the requirements and objectives of goal 13 within the Arab countries. Additionally, it outlines a general vision of the realities of climate action and climate change within the Arab region and its challenges, concluding with a set of recommendations presented to Arab governments to enhance climate action in the Arab region during 2024.

### This issue

The report provides an evaluative vision of the Sustainable Development Goals scheduled for review in 2024 at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Specifically, it focuses on Goals 1, 2, 13, 16, and 17, as the Forum's mechanism entails reviewing and evaluating five goals each year.

In line with Maat's interest in the Sustainable Development Goals and its periodic participation in the high-level political forum, Maat launches periodic research to monitor and evaluate the developmental goals under review in the Arab region, during February and July 2024. The periodic research consists of five issues; each issue addresses one of the five development goals under review through monitoring and evaluation in the Arab region, outlining the features of the goal in the Arab region, especially in light of international and regional changes. The issue concludes with an analytical vision of the performance of Arab countries for each goal under review. Based

on the performance and indicators, the publication includes a future-oriented outlook on the opportunities and challenges that may arise for development goals in the Arab region in 2024, particularly during the period of national preparations for the voluntary review in the next session of the High-Level Political Forum.

### Monitoring mythology

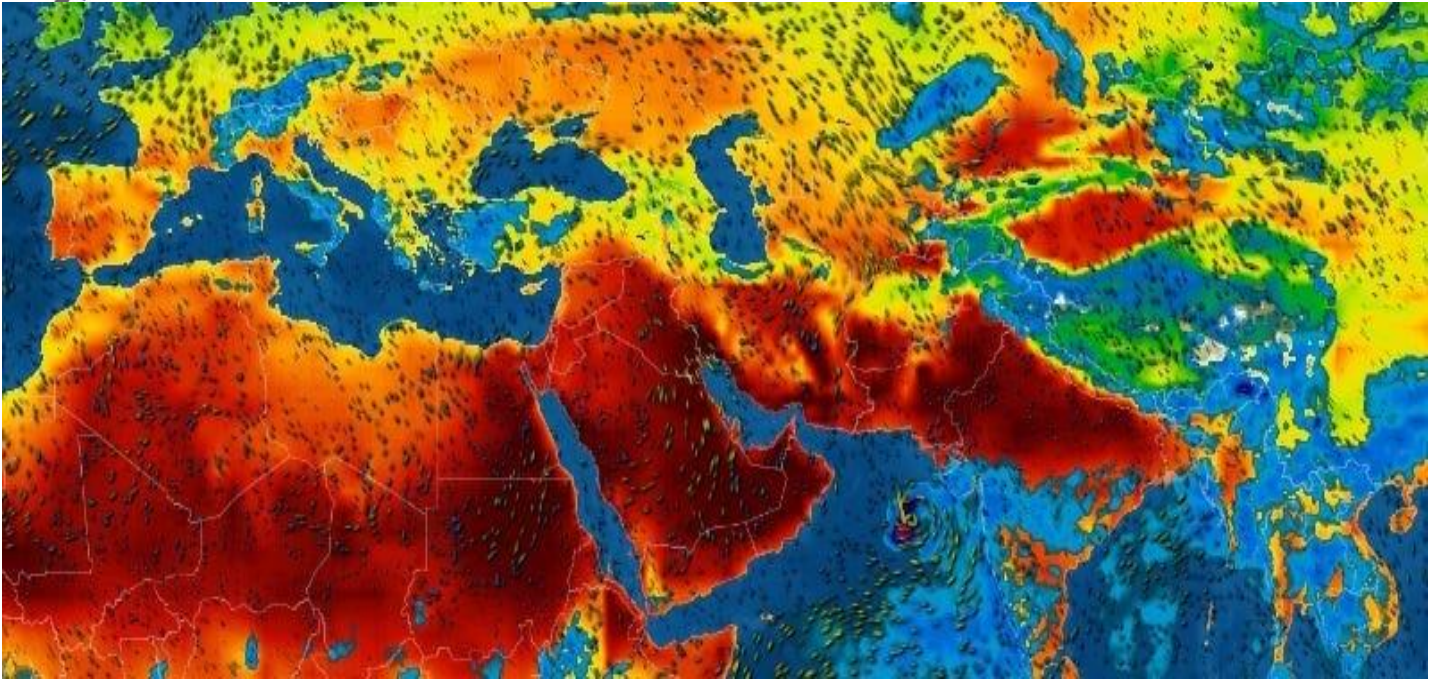
The Periodical adopts a methodology that involves direct monitoring of government efforts, as reported in both Arab and Western media, to promote development work. It relies on various secondary research sources, including open sources such as the internet, and reliable and credible news sites that monitor the reality of development in Arab countries and developmental paths in general.

Additionally, the Periodical draws from information and data published by Arab ministries responsible for sustainable development on their official websites. It also considers reports from electronic newspapers and print media that highlight the efforts of Arab governments in achieving sustainable development goals and the challenges they encounter, intending to shed light on these issues.

In addition, the journal takes into account the annual Climate Performance Index and its four main categories: greenhouse gas emissions, climate policies, renewable energy, and energy use. The issue also takes into account the targets of Goal 13, especially those related to resilience, integration of climate change measures, and implementation of action pledges. Climate of the Arab region: international and regional.

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### Axis I: Monitoring Reality of Goal 13 “Climate Action” in the Arab Region

In light of the extreme diversity of the climate reality in the Arab countries, the climate events and negative changes witnessed by various countries in the region have similarly varied. This is revealed by monitoring the climate crisis as follows:

#### First: countries of the North African

##### 👉 Egypt

The Egyptian government is monitoring increasing interest in climate change, its impacts, mitigation plans, and adaptation. In line with this, it launched the National Climate Change Strategy as part of the COP26 climate change conference, then hosted the COP27 conference at the end of 2022. Concurrently, it directed its efforts towards launching a series of green projects totaling around 691 projects at a cost of 447 billion Egyptian pounds. Assessments of Goal 13's progress indicate that Egypt is among the lowest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, with a rate of 0.6% of total global emissions, or less than 1%. As a result, in 2024, it achieved the 22nd position out of 67 countries in the Climate Change Performance Index for that year<sup>1</sup>.

##### 👉 Libya

<sup>1</sup> Egyptian streets, NEWSEgypt's Sisi Calls for International Community to Support Africa's Climate Action at COP26 Conference, 3 November 2021, <https://bit.ly/3xc2noB>

As Libya accelerates its efforts in the climate file with the aim of fulfilling adaptation, mitigation and flexibility requirements; the reality of the climate crisis reveals that Libya is one of the most affected countries in the world by the effects of climate change. On 24 December 2023, the United Nations revealed the death of more than 5,000 Libyans due to floods, while more than 10,000 others remained missing as the floods continued for days. By October 2023, the losses suffered by Libya due to the floods accompanying the storm "Daniel" in the east were estimated at around 4.3 billion dollars<sup>2</sup>.

### 👉 Tunisia

Tunisia is making extensive efforts to support climate action and achieve the targets of Goal 13. Tunisia's combined adaptation and mitigation strategies are projected to boost the gross domestic product by 8.8% by 2030<sup>3</sup>. However, the country's swift climate changes indicate a continual rise in sea levels, which could impact about a quarter of Tunisia's coastal regions by 2050. This could increase the risk of catastrophic floods by about ten times, potentially costing the country around 277 million dollars by 2050<sup>4</sup>.

### 👉 Algeria

The Algerian government is implementing ambitious policies and measures to achieve Goal 13, in line with its climate action commitments<sup>5</sup>. The Algerian National Plan for Dealing with Climate Change includes 155 projects, 76 of which focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and 63 projects related to climate change adaptation. Through these projects, the Algerian government aims to produce 2 million tons of green hydrogen between 2030 and 2040, with total investments in the green hydrogen sector estimated at 25 and 30 billion dollars<sup>6</sup>.

### 👉 Morocco

To achieve Goal 13, Morocco raised its nationally determined contribution ceiling in 2021 from 42% to 45.5%, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and increase climate investments to around \$78 billion in current dollar value by 2050<sup>7</sup>. As a result of these efforts, Morocco ranked ninth globally, and first in the Arab world in the Climate

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<sup>2</sup> Al-Wasat Gate, international estimates: \$4.3 billion in losses from Storm "Daniel" in Libya, October 2023, <https://shorter.me/eDazo>

<sup>3</sup> World Bank, World Bank report: Climate action will strengthen the Tunisian economy, November 2023, <https://shorter.me/TnrLq>

<sup>4</sup> World Bank: Climate action will strengthen the Tunisian economy, December 2023, <https://www.firstbankeg.com/20061>

<sup>5</sup> Energy, a former official warns of the dangers of climate change in Algeria, April 2022, <https://shorter.me/6zodH>

<sup>6</sup> Al Ain News, Algeria's adaptation plan... national solutions that challenge climate change, August 2023, <https://shorter.me/Ssoxz>

<sup>7</sup> Energy, Morocco outperforms Algeria in confronting the effects of climate change, November 11, 2021, <https://shorter.me/2vfbg>

Performance Index in December 2023. Despite these extensive efforts, Morocco continued to suffer from the impact of climate change, experiencing 20 major floods over the past two decades, leading to estimated annual losses of around \$450 million<sup>8</sup>.

### 👉 Mauritania

Assessments of Goal 13 in the Mauritanian contexts illustrate the official commitment of the Mauritanian government to climate action obligations. It is a party to the Framework Convention and the Paris Agreement, and is committed to reporting requirements, national reviews, and nationally determined contributions. However, Mauritania faces significant challenges in adapting to climate change due to rainfall, fluctuations, and coastal erosion, resulting in an annual loss of approximately 85 billion ouguiyas, or about \$327 million<sup>9</sup>.

### Second: countries of East African

#### 👉 Sudan

The requirements of Goal 13 seem unattainable currently in the Sudanese context. Sudan is currently experiencing the severe negative effects of climate change, with the country's temperature rising at a rate equivalent to twice the global average. Approximately 72% of Sudan's area is covered by desert and semi-desert regions. Drought threatens around 19 million hectares of arable land, specifically in Kordofan, Darfur, and the Northern States, posing a danger of famine and water scarcity.

#### 👉 Somalia

Monitoring the climate situation in Somalia reveals growing and increasing challenges, reflected in the fact that Somalia is the second most climate-affected country in the world. Estimates indicate the possibility of Somalia becoming uninhabitable by 2080 due to climate crisis effects, threatening agricultural activities, livestock, and its developmental contributions, estimated at around 70% of the total GDP<sup>10</sup>. Furthermore, tracking climate change in Somalia during 2024 reveals catastrophic consequences from floods and heavy rains that negatively affected approximately 1.7 million people<sup>11</sup>.

#### 👉 Djibouti

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<sup>8</sup> World Bank, A new World Bank report confirms that climate investments will give Morocco significant benefits, November 2023, <https://shorter.me/6itxv>

<sup>9</sup> Al-Ittihad, Mauritanian Minister of the Environment to the “Al-Ittihad”: COP28 resolves climate issues, November 20, 2023, <https://shorter.me/ys6ww>

<sup>10</sup> ICRC, in our latest pieces exploring the link between climate change and conflict..., 13 September 2021, <https://bit.ly/3bkPIWm>

<sup>11</sup> WFP, From drought to floods: climate extremes drive Somalia hunger crisis, 14 November 2023, <https://shorter.me/CyaVU>

Goal 13 on climate action in the Djiboutian context has witnessed a set of developmental efforts to achieve it, including: submitting the second national review in 2014 and submitting the national contribution to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change in 2016. Djibouti was also able to take serious steps towards achieving Goal 13; Carbon dioxide emissions resulting from the combustion of fuel and cement production were only about 40 tons, and 41 tons during the period 2016-2019. Furthermore, carbon dioxide emissions from the import sector reached about 0.14 tons in 2015, while carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel exports have nearly reached zero since 2019<sup>12</sup>.

### 👉 Comoros

Indicators on climate action in Comoros show that there is an increase of 0.2% in temperature per decade, coinciding with a decrease of 10-15% in rainfall. Likewise other island countries, the Comoros also experiences frequent rises in sea levels, in addition to the occurrence of floods, and changes in rainfall and hurricanes<sup>13</sup>.

### Third: Levant countries

#### 👉 Jordan

Jordan is one of the most prominent Arab countries that are making important efforts in the field of climate action, as its efforts over the past 8 years reveal ambitious management of the climate file. In March 2023, Jordan launched 86 projects aimed at green growth to protect the environment at a cost estimated at one billion and 800 million dollars. It is expected to implement the National Energy Strategy, which aims to generate 31% of electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030. Despite this, indicators confirm that 88% of the population feels the effects of climate change in their daily lives<sup>14</sup>. The lack of funding remains a major challenge for implementing climate change adaptation projects<sup>15</sup>.

#### 👉 Syria

Syria is experiencing an increasing risk after more than a decade of war that destroyed infrastructure and is already witnessing a significant rise in temperatures, with the annual average expected to rise by 2-4 degrees Celsius by the year 2050. Therefore, Syria

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<sup>12</sup> Climate Change Portal, Djibouti, Access date April 28, 2024, <https://shorter.me/zvjk6>

<sup>13</sup> UNEP, When the Rain Comes: Fighting climate change with forecasting in the Comoros, October 2018, <https://shorter.me/hOi8W>

<sup>14</sup> Jordan News Agency, Jordan confronts climate change with 86 green growth projects, March 2024, <https://shorter.me/JT2rh>

<sup>15</sup> Carnegie, Climate Change in Jordan is a Threat to Societal Security, April 2023, <https://carnegieendowment>



has ranked among the top 10 countries in the world most vulnerable to climate disasters and global warming<sup>16</sup>.

### 👉 Palestine

Palestine is making important efforts to combat the phenomenon of climate change, as it signed the accession document to the United Nations Framework Convention and subsequently ratified the Paris Agreement on climate change. Palestine also updated its national contributions report and initiated projects from national climate action plans, like the \$24 million water abundance project for the agricultural sector funded by the Climate Fund. However, political, security, and economic challenges in Palestine make it one of the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change<sup>17</sup>.

### 👉 Lebanon

Monitoring the facts and targets of Goal 13 reveals that Lebanon ranks 161 out of 192 countries worldwide in terms of readiness to confront climate change. As a result, climate change in Lebanon is expected to reduce the country's growth potential by 2% annually by 2040, with anticipated annual losses reaching 250 million US dollars<sup>18</sup>.

### 👉 Iraq

Iraq is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change impacts, due to the doubling of carbon emissions over the past decade; it has recorded one of the highest rates of carbon emissions intensity. According to 2024 statistics, reports indicate that Iraq needs investments worth about \$233 billion by 2040 to be able to close priority development gaps and embark on a comprehensive green growth path<sup>19</sup>.

## Fourth: Arab Gulf countries

### 👉 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Government of Saudi Arabia is implementing climate action commitments on mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. It is working to reduce carbon emissions by 278

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<sup>16</sup> Syria TV, Syria is among them... Three Arab countries witnessing environmental degradation and climate change, May 2023, <https://shorter.me/0aVHN>

<sup>17</sup> Wafaa, Ramallah: Recommendations to enhance joint action in the field of climate to develop environmental and economic sustainability, May 2023, <https://www.wafa.ps/pages/details/72177>

<sup>18</sup> Al-Modon, Lebanon at the Climate Summit: Environmental Promises and International Prejudice, December 12, 2023, <https://shorter.me/VuTzR>

<sup>19</sup> World Bank, Failure to address climate change in Iraq puts social stability and economic development prospects at risk, September 2022, <https://shorter.me/k60mV>



million tons annually by 2030, aims to generate 50% of electrical energy from renewable sources by 2030, and plant 10 billion trees over the coming decades<sup>20</sup>.

### 👉 **United Arab Emirates**

The UAE has established a set of policies, goals, and procedures related to climate action, considering it one of the most serious goals of the 2030 agenda. It launched its national climate change plan from 2017: to 2050, and hosted the COP 28 of the Parties concerned with climate change<sup>21</sup>. As a result, the UAE became the first Arab country to use nuclear energy and ranked among the top 20 countries globally in eight climate change indicators in 2020<sup>22</sup>.

### 👉 **Kuwait**

Like other Gulf countries, Kuwait has shown great interest in climate action and the targets of Goal 13. In November 2023, Kuwait launched the Kuwait Carbon Reduction Strategy 2050, which aspires to reach carbon neutrality in 2026. However, Kuwait still has high greenhouse gas emissions, projected to reach 20.7 million tons from all agricultural, industrial, waste, and energy sectors by 2060<sup>23</sup>

### 👉 **Bahrain**

In the context of Goal 13, Bahrain presents a set of relevant policies, most notably: the Bahrain National Strategy for Environment, and a national strategy on disaster risk reduction, in addition to its declaration of zero carbon neutrality by 2060 on 24 October 2021<sup>24</sup>. However, it remains among the most vulnerable countries in the Arabian Gulf to climate change; as the rise in sea levels threatens to submerge between 27 % to 56 % of its area by 2100<sup>25</sup>.

### 👉 **Oman**

The Sultanate of Oman prioritizes Goal 13 on climate action, especially by ratifying international agreements on climate affairs, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement in 2016. Additionally, Oman has launched a national strategy for adaptation and mitigation, as well as a draft strategy for the gradual elimination of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs).

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<sup>20</sup> Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia sets an annual day dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of environmental work. Access date: April 2024, <https://shorter.me/e0V7J>

<sup>21</sup> AL Ain, The UAE... and climate action in the Arab world and internationally, 3 November 2021, <https://bit.ly/3EJsOzQ>

<sup>22</sup> AL Ain, Climate action strategy in The UAE.. an investment for the Future 2 November 2021, <https://bit.ly/2ZV1fcg>

<sup>23</sup> Al-Jarida, "Environment" launches Kuwait's low-carbon strategy 2050, November 2023, <https://www.aljarida.com/article/45134>

<sup>24</sup> Al -Ain news, Bahrain targets Zero Carbon neutrality by 2060, 24 October 2021, <https://bit.ly/3HiiCFg>

<sup>25</sup> Kingdom of Bahrain, Supreme council for environment, nationally determined contribution of The kingdom of Bahrain under UNFCCC, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3qIA6ol>

## 👉 Yemen

Yemen faces enormous challenges and difficulties resulting from climate change, rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and volatile weather phenomena that cause environmental destruction and affect livelihoods and individuals' health. According to statistics from December 2023, the country is projected to lose \$93 billion cumulatively of its GDP by 2060 due to climate change. Additionally, over 36 years, climate change is expected to result in more than 121,000 deaths in the country<sup>26</sup>.

## 👉 Qatar

Qatar is making great efforts to combat climate change, as one of the four pillars of the Qatar National Vision 2030. It is currently implementing the National Environmental Strategy for Climate Change aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by % by 2030. In line with that, it has established many projects and initiatives to reduce the impact of Climate change, including the establishment of the Al-Kharsaah solar power plant to provide the equivalent of 10% of the country's electricity<sup>27</sup>.



<sup>26</sup> Middle East, UN estimates: Climate change may kill 120,000 Yemenis within 3 decades, December 2023, <https://shorter.me/bNtOX>

<sup>27</sup> Qatar Ministry of Environment, speech by His Excellency the Minister of Environment and Climate Change before the Conference of the Parties (COP28), December 2023, <https://bitly.co/Pabo>

## Axis 2: “Evaluation of the objectives of the third goal in the Arab region during 2024.”

In recent years, the Arab region has been experiencing rapid and unprecedented climate change, accompanied by severe catastrophic repercussions, within its Asian and African countries. The rate of temperature increase is reaching 4 degrees Celsius, surpassing the estimated limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius set in the Paris Agreement<sup>28</sup>.

**In the context of climate action in the Arab region**, it can be said that climate and development reports consider the region a hotspot with temperatures 20% higher than global averages. Climate changes also threaten the region with high economic losses, estimated at approximately 6%: 14% of its total GDP<sup>29</sup>. Over 80 to 100 million people in the region are experiencing stress and water scarcity<sup>30</sup>, while 6 to 25 million people will be exposed to coastal floods, particularly in Benghazi, Algiers, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, and Egypt<sup>31</sup>. Some areas are expected to see an increase in drought and forest fires, while others are prone to flash floods, exacerbating social, economic, and environmental impacts, thus posing a threat to security and stability<sup>32</sup>.

**After analyzing the climate performance indicators in December 2023**, it was revealed that Morocco ranks ninth globally and first in the Arab world in terms of climate performance. The Kingdom of Morocco received “**medium**” ratings in both renewable energy and climate policy, and “**high**” in greenhouse gas emissions and energy usage. Following Morocco, Egypt ranked 22nd globally among **medium-performing countries**. While Algeria **dropped 6 ranks**, placing 54th among countries with “**very low**” performance. The UAE entered this year’s index ranked 65th, being one of the countries with the “**lowest performance**,” achieving a “**very low**” level in the categories of greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy, and energy usage. **Lastly, Saudi Arabia** ranked 67th in the Arab world, making it the “**lowest-ranked**” country in the index, obtaining a “very low” level in all four index categories<sup>33</sup>.

<sup>28</sup> Brookings, Climate change may devastate the Middle East. Here’s how governments should tackle it, 14 march 2022, <https://brook.gs/3UzLb7u>

<sup>29</sup> World Bank Blogs, Transforming Climate and Development Country Report Recommendations on Water Scarcity into Action in the Middle East and North Africa Region, June 29, 2023 [https://shorter.me/7\\_sK2](https://shorter.me/7_sK2)

<sup>30</sup> CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL, Cascading Climate Effects in the Middle East and North Africa: Adapting Through Inclusive Governance, 24 February 2022, <https://bit.ly/3htVfjA>

<sup>31</sup> Al-Ahram Center for Strategic and Political Studies, The Climate Change Crisis and Its Impacts on Developing Countries, November 2022, <https://acpss.ahram.org.eg/News/17670.aspx>

<sup>32</sup> UN-ESCO, Financing Climate Action, Needs and Flows in the Arab Region, September 2022, <https://shorter.me/Pqbl0>

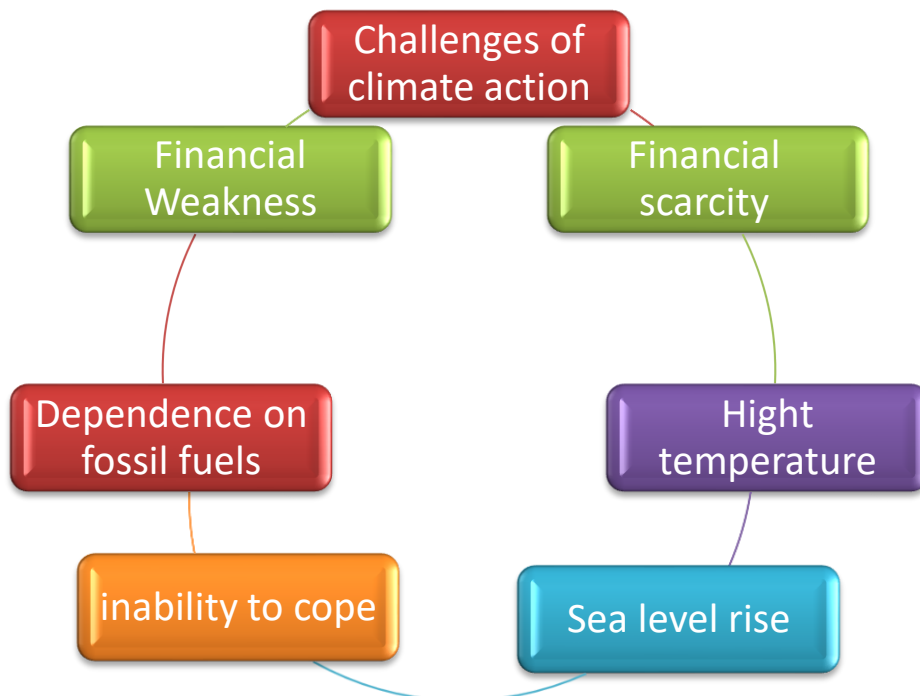
<sup>33</sup> Egyptian streets, NEWSEgypt’s Sisi Calls for International Community to Support Africa’s Climate Action at COP26 Conference, 3 November 2021, <https://bit.ly/3xc2noB>





**Axis 3: Challenges of achieving the goal in the Arab region**

Monitoring and tracking the reality of the Arab region reveals several challenges that hinder the activation of goal 13 related to climate action, and they can be monitored as follows:





## A- Water scarcity

Water scarcity is one of the challenges resulting from climate change. In the Arab region, 19 out of 22 Arab countries suffer from water scarcity. Additionally, around 50 million people in the Arab region lack access to basic drinking water<sup>34</sup>. This scarcity poses a threat of around 14% loss in the region's GDP and a 30% decline in agricultural productivity by 2050<sup>35</sup>.

## B- High temperatures

High temperatures in the Arab region are a consequence of climate change. Estimates indicate that the region will experience an increase of 1-2 degrees Celsius by 2050 and 4-6 degrees Celsius by 2100. It is expected that by 2075, the region will become uninhabitable<sup>36</sup>.

## C- Sea level rise

Rising sea levels are classified as one of the main factors and growing challenges facing climate action in the Arab region. Therefore, there are estimates that about 12% of the Gulf population will face the risk of mass displacement from their homes in the future due to rising sea levels caused by climate change.

## D- Inability to cope

The Arab region continues to be exposed to dust storms and hurricanes. Over the past few years, countries such as Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Yemen have been hit by deadly floods, similar to the storm Daniel and the accompanying floods that occurred in Libya in October 2023, with estimated losses of around 4.3 billion dollars<sup>37</sup>.

## E- Dependence on fossil fuels

It is the primary factor behind the climate crisis, accounting for over 80% of global carbon dioxide emissions. In the Arab region, the UAE is considered one of the largest oil producers in the world, causing one of the highest rates of individual greenhouse gas emissions, which exacerbates the climate crisis.

## F- Financial Weakness

There is no doubt that it represents the main challenge for climate action. By 2030, the Arab region needs financing of more than \$570 billion to enhance its ability to adapt to

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<sup>34</sup> Arab Development Portal, Gender, access date December 16, 2023, <https://shorter.me/pcf5z>

<sup>35</sup> UNDP, Rising to the challenge: Climate action in the Arab region, 28 September 2023, <https://shorter.me/2Atzs>

<sup>36</sup> World Bank, Driving the Transformation Forward: A Roadmap for Climate Action for the Middle East and North Africa, January 2022, <https://shorter.me/xLzhO>

<sup>37</sup> Al-Wasat Gate, international estimates: \$4.3 billion in losses from Storm "Daniel" in Libya, October 2023, <https://shorter.me/eDazo>

the effects of climate change. This necessity escalated after the region's public debt rose in 2020 to a historic level of \$1.4 trillion, alongside the pressures resulting from rising inflation rates and the consequences of the war in Ukraine<sup>38</sup>

## Recommendations

After observing and monitoring the climate change events within the Arab region and the extent of their interaction with climate action, in the context of supporting the efforts of Arab countries to achieve the targets of Goal 13, Maat presents a set of recommendations as follows:

- Maat urges the governments of Arab countries to update climate strategies and policies and to launch a common climate vision under the slogan "Working for the climate within the framework of education and mobilization of actions," to support transformation, public participation, international and regional cooperation, and enhance institutional and administrative capacities.
- Maat calls on the governments of Arab countries to open the general climate for civil society organizations and other young stakeholders, to contribute to the fight against climate change, and to focus their abilities on shaping and monitoring nationally determined contributions and implementing climate policies.
- Maat recommends that the governments of Arab countries launch strategies to support climate and environmental awareness, including the strategy of establishing spaces for training, education, and awareness, and providing a database of information about climate work for local citizens.
- Maat urging the governments of Arab countries to enhance preparedness for climate change, especially by modernizing the legal and legislative system concerned with environmental protection, and developing and introducing monitoring, evaluation, early warning and disaster forecasting systems.
- Maat calls on the Arab countries' governments to encourage relevant scientific research and innovation related to climate action and adaptation measures, increase investments in clean energy, sustainable consumption and production, and support sustainable resource management.
- Maat recommends that the governments of Arab countries protect the environment in all its dimensions, rehabilitate it, and limit environmental

<sup>38</sup> Abu Dhabi Environment Network, ESCWA: Arab countries need more than \$570 billion to finance climate action, November 2022, <https://shorter.me/tnlg1>

degradation by restoring healthy ecosystems, such as stopping cutting down forests, soil erosion, and urban sprawl, developing wetlands capable of absorbing greenhouse emissions, and restoring coastal ecosystems.