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Asia Water Forum 2022

8–11 August 2022 • Online

Focus Area : 1 – Water as a sustainable resource

Session Title: 1C – Governance and planning for water security

Schedule: [10 August 2022 | 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 a.m. (GMT+08)]

WaterGuide: Setting a path to improved water management / use under scarcity

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A I T H E R

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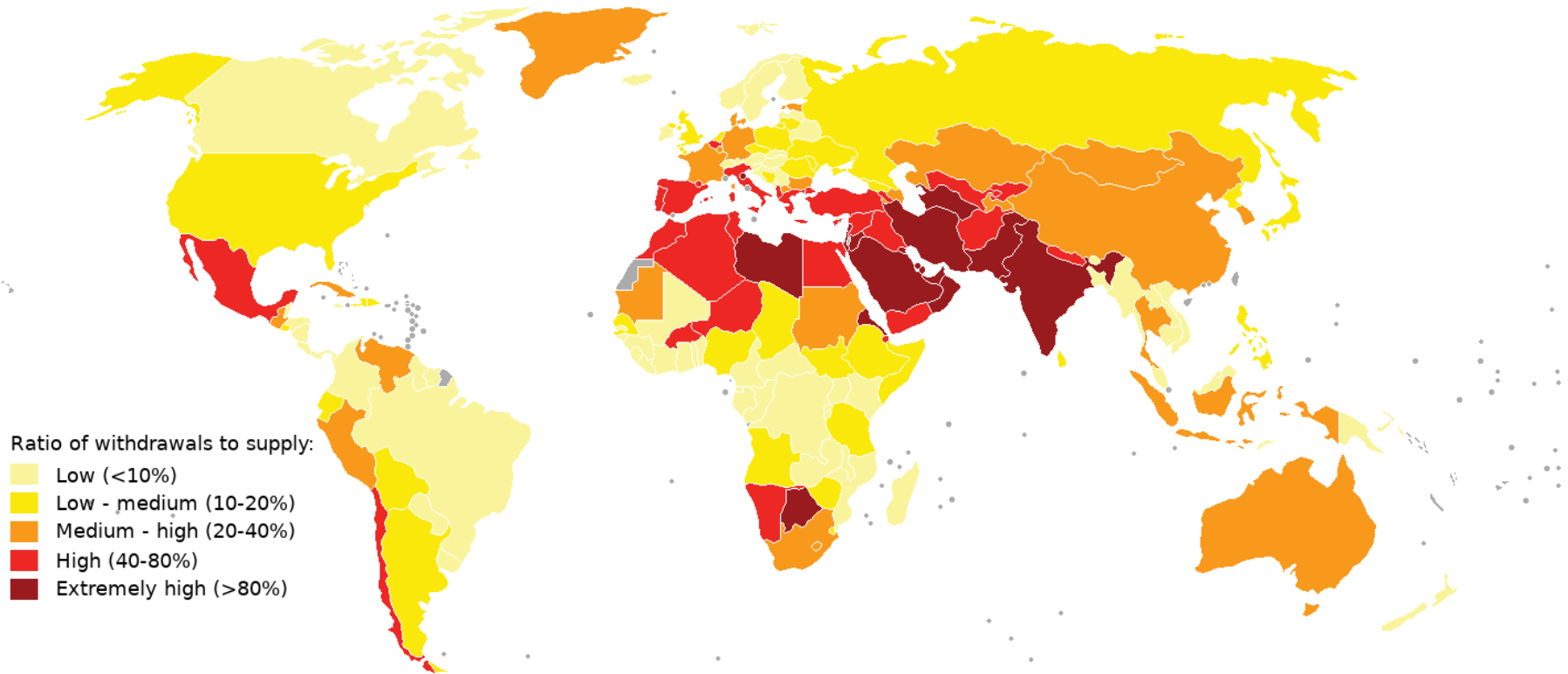


Figure 1 - World water scarcity

Source: Water Resources Institute [Aqueduct](#) 2019



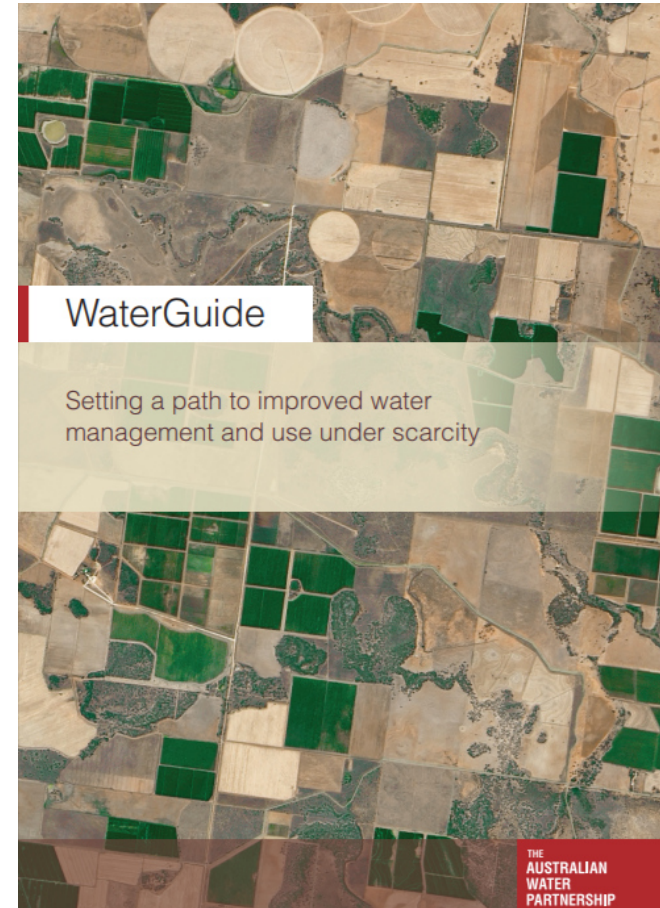
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WaterGuide – a pathway, not a prescription

- WaterGuide is a framework for improved investment, allocation and use of scarce water resources
- For use by governments wanting to better diagnose problems, understand options and implement solutions
- WaterGuide is not a prescription. It recognises that water reform is difficult and context specific, and focusses on
 - understanding and delivering on local needs
 - practical action to accelerate progress



WaterGuide framework – six elements of improved water management and use

1 Confirm a vision for water management and the value of water

2 Understand changing water availability and demand over time

4 Ensure effective water policies and institutions



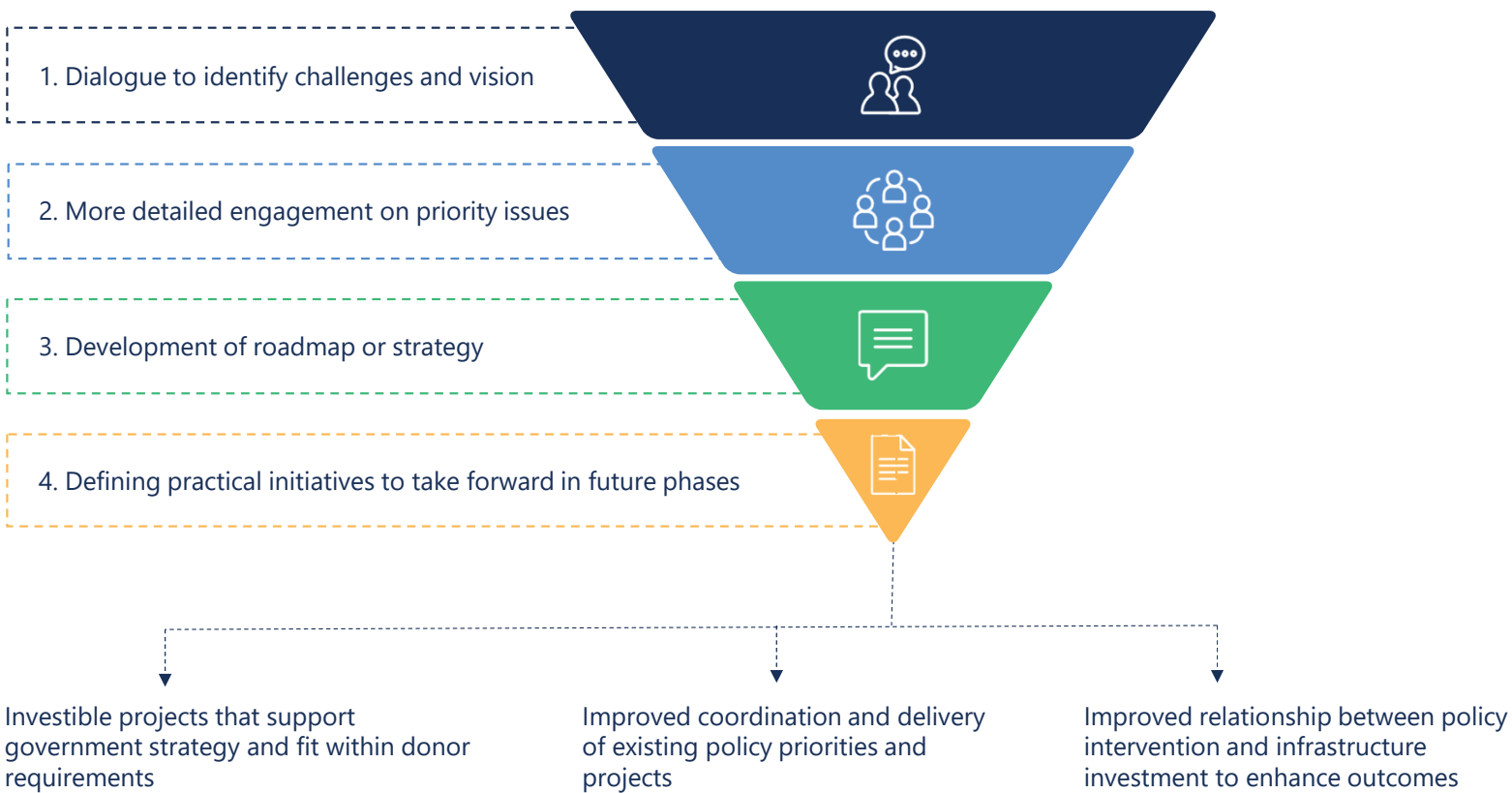
6 Pursue increasingly efficient water management and use

5 Develop resilient water infrastructure and services

3 Allocate water between different uses



Application process - from inclusive dialogues to practical initiatives



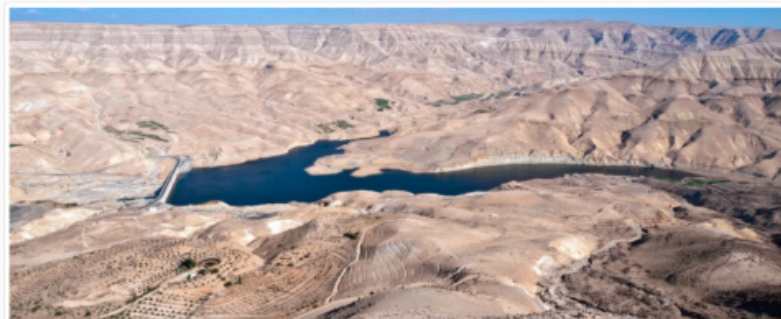


WaterGuide application – Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Jordan



Jordan WaterGuide Dialogue

POSTED ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2017 CATEGORIES: DROUGHT, JORDAN, WATER SCARCITY NO COMMENTS YET



AWP Partners and DFAT recently conducted a mission to Jordan on the topic of managing water scarcity that involved the first application of the recent AWP publication WaterGuide. WaterGuide, published in March 2017, was prepared by Huw Pohlner and Will Fargher of Aither for AWP at the request of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as a part of AWP support provided to the World Bank/UN High-Level Panel on Water.



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Uzbekistan's National Water Strategy 2030

- Supporting Uzbekistan's Ministry of Water Resources to develop a national water sector strategy for the period 2020-30
 - June 2019 – October 2019: Initial policy dialogue with Uzbek partners to discuss and confirm water-related challenges and priorities; development of 2030 Water Development Concept
 - November 2019 – January 2020: Second policy dialogue; finalization of Concept; development of the Strategy
 - February 2020 – July 2021: Development of specific action plans for achieving Uzbekistan's short- and long-term objectives and desired outcomes as identified in the Strategy



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Pakistan urban water security roadmaps

- Assisting Pakistani decision makers to identify and effectively implement priority actions for improving urban water security
 - 2018: Pakistan’s Ministry of Water Resources selected urban water as a focus area for attention under an MoU with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
 - February 2020 – May 2020: Preparation of diagnostic reports that identify and assess urban water management challenges and opportunities in Karachi and Lahore
 - June 2020 – April 2021: Engagement with key Pakistani stakeholders to inform a roadmap document for each city, outlining priority action areas for improving water security
 - April 2021 – August 2021: Development of supplementary implementation plans for specific actions



Common challenges – rising pressures from water insecurity



Unsustainable surface water and groundwater use



Pressure of growing demand from population growth and migration



Cities, towns and industries experiencing interrupted supply



Significant environmental assets at risk or in terminal decline



Agriculture a significant user and under pressure to transform



Need for flexible reallocation of water within and between sectors





Common barriers – trade-offs, governance, politics



Inability to balance competing demands or deal with trade-offs



Gaps in information, data and reporting



Limitations in capacity to finance solutions



Complications of transboundary water management



Lack of compelling narrative for reform



Political and/or institutional constraints





Operationalising WaterGuide through dialogue - moving from 'why' and 'what' to 'how'

- Countries are struggling with 'how', not 'what'
 - how to build and maintain political will and support for action
 - how to engage with the full spectrum of stakeholders
 - how to ensure water users value of water, and understand trade-offs
 - how to collect useful water information and use it
 - how to develop a narrative in support of improved water management
- WaterGuide implementation shows promise for engaging stakeholders and developing practical pathways



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