

Water scarcity in the MENA region

The Arab region is projected to face severe water shortages as early as 2015, when annual per capita water availability will be less than 500 cubic metres. This is less than one-tenth of the world's average (currently estimated at over 6,000 cubic metres), according to a 2010 report by the Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED).

All but six countries in and around the region (the Comoros, Iraq, Lebanon, Somalia, Sudan, and Syria) face water scarcity, which is defined as less than 1,000 cubic metres of water per person per year.

The region accounts for 3 percent of the world's population, 10 percent of its land, but only 1.2 percent of the world's renewable water reserves.

The MENA region is most at risk, with the most water-stressed countries being

- Bahrain (1)
- Qatar (2)
- Kuwait (3)
- Libya (4)
- Djibouti (5)
- UAE (6)
- Yemen (7)
- Saudi Arabia (8)
- Oman (9)
- Egypt (10)

(Maplecroft Water Stress Index 2012)

The region faces the worst water scarcity in the world – up to 100 million people could be under water stress by 2050.