

FIGURE ES.4: Water in the Shadow of Conflict

WATER IN THE SHADOW OF CONFLICT

Given the **unprecedented** levels of forced displacement and conflict in the **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)**, water policy needs to address the vulnerabilities of the forcibly displaced people and host communities. Water can exacerbate risks of conflict and forced displacement, but it can also create **opportunities for cooperation**.

1 THE COLLISION OF WATER SCARCITY, CONFLICT AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT IS UNPRECEDENTED

An estimated **7.6 million** refugees, around **2.7 million** of whom are hosted in the region, and **12.4 million** internally displaced people are fleeing the region's protracted armed conflicts.

1 person out of 4 in Lebanon is a refugee.



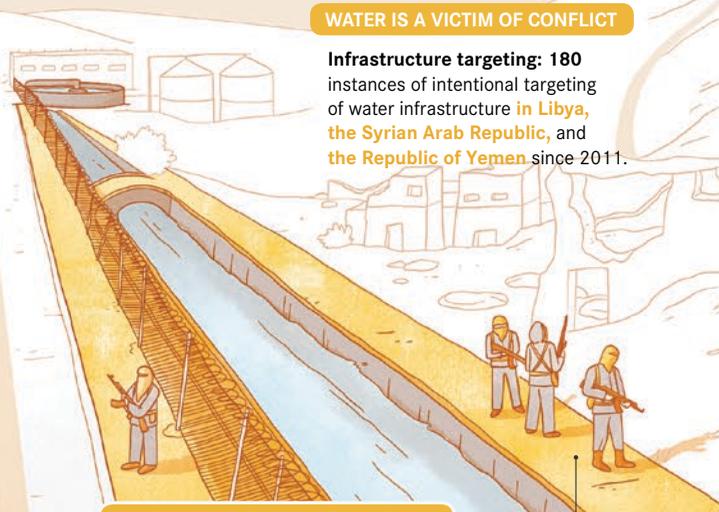
70% of MENA's GDP is generated in areas with **high or very high water stress** compared to 22% in the rest of the world.

2 WATER CAN BE A SOURCE OF CONFLICT... OR COOPERATION

Historically water has more often led to cooperation than conflict. However, the **relationship between water, conflict, and cooperation** may change in the future.

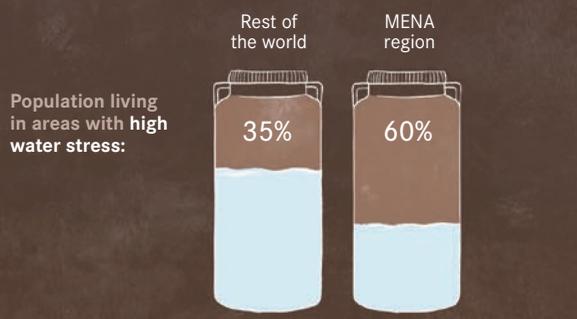
WATER IS A VICTIM OF CONFLICT

Infrastructure targeting: 180 instances of intentional targeting of water infrastructure in **Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Republic of Yemen** since 2011.

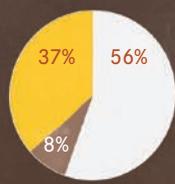


WATER IS A WEAPON OF CONFLICT

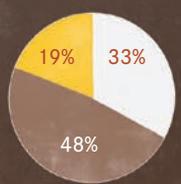
Armed groups take control of water infrastructure to threaten opponents and deliver basic water services to delegitimize state and complicate peacebuilding efforts.



INTERNATIONAL
Out of the 975 water-related events recorded in the region, most are **cooperative**.



DOMESTIC
Out of 1,317 water-related events recorded in the region, most were **cooperative** or **neutral**.



WATER IS A DAILY STRUGGLE FOR FORCIBLY DISPLACED PEOPLE AND THEIR HOST COMMUNITIES

IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS

In the Republic of Yemen, 2 out of 3 forcibly displaced people do not have access to a safe and functioning latrine.

25% of displaced people inside the Syrian Arab Republic share sanitation facilities with at least 6 people.

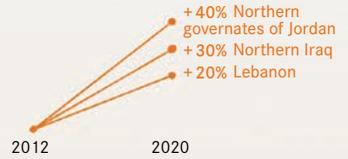
In the Republic of Yemen, 18 million people do not have access to safe drinking water supplies.

IN HOST COMMUNITIES

64% of Syrians in Jordan are highly vulnerable to water and sanitation risk.

In 50% of Libya's municipalities, forcibly displaced people find water to be unaffordable.

Demand for water since the arrival of Syrian refugees in 2012:



In Jordan, households with disability report lower rates of access to sanitation services.

1 in 4 international migrant in Libya does not have enough water to drink.

IN CAMPS AND INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

At least a quarter of all Syrian refugee households in informal settlements in Lebanon are accessing very highly contaminated drinking water.

Every year, flash flooding inflicts extensive damage to camps and informal settlements.

I am very concerned that water shortage will happen in Jordan. Since I arrived in Mafraq water cuts have happened constantly.

Rama, Syrian refugee in Jordan

COVID-19 has caused water shortages here, and now we have to buy more expensive water from water tankers.

Samar, Syrian refugee in Jordan

Water from the camp's taps is too salty to drink, especially in the summer.

Mohammad, Palestinian refugee in Lebanon

