AFED 2015 Report

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION FOR BETTER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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Co-editor
Aims

- Raise public awareness and trigger informed policy debate
- Collect and disseminate first hand data on consumption and production patterns
- Identify barriers to sustainable production and consumption
- Recommend policy measures to bridge the current gaps
Report Structure

- Overview
- Regional Contexts of SCP
- Driving forces for demand
- The water, Energy, Food nexus
- Patterns of consumption and resources efficiency
- Conclusions and recommendations

Three Background Papers
- A public Opinion Survey
- Four Annexes
Public Opinion Survey
• 31,000 participants
• 22 Arab countries.
Gloomy outlook on state of the environment, and negative evaluation of government performance
MAIN ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

- SOLID WASTE
- TRAFFIC CONGESTION & TRANSPORT SYSTEMS
- INEFFICIENCY IN WATER & ENERGY
Regional Contexts of SCP

The Arab Regional Strategy for SCP was adopted in 2009 by the LAS.

A regional Roadmap for Implementation of the 10YFP on SCP was adopted in 2013

Weak implementation of both the strategy and the roadmap at the national levels.
Driving Forces for Demand

- Socio-economic contexts
- Level of development
- Regional heterogeneity
- Disparities
- Population growth
- Rate of urbanization
- Scarcity of water resources
- Harsh climate conditions
- Pricing policies

Population growth
Rate of urbanization
Scarcity of water resources
Harsh climate conditions
Pricing policies
Level of development
Socio-economic contexts
Region heterogeneity
Disparities
Pricing Policies

- Subsidies as part of the social contract.
- Subsidies are promoting political stability.
- Pricing water has been a contentious issue due to perceived cultural and religious considerations.
- Public survey results underline the fact that rich are benefiting most from subsidies.
Pricing Policies: Survey highlights

Only 6% of the respondents consider heavy subsidy as the main reason of energy and water inefficiency.
### Pricing Policies: Survey highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>10%</strong></td>
<td>Of the family income goes to food for 62% of the survey respondents</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4%</strong></td>
<td>Of the respondents spent more than 10% of the family income on water and electricity.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>77%</strong></td>
<td>Of the respondents agree to pay more for water and energy if compensated with additional social benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GCC</strong></td>
<td>Residents of the GCC pay the lowest percentages of their family income for electricity</td>
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Majority of People accept to pay more for water and energy
Subsidies is not the major reason of overconsumption

Subsidies scored lower as main cause of high consumption
Disparities of Consumption

Fig. 1: Energy consumption per capita (TOE)

Fig. 2: Electricity consumption per capita (2012)
Per capita domestic water consumption and GDP per capita
Consumption Patterns: Energy

A major energy demand center.

Government policies influence consumption behaviors.

The lowest percentage of those who buy electrical appliances based on efficiency was recorded in Qatar (9%) and the highest in Tunisia (57%) and Jordan (56%).

Purchasing criteria when Buying Appliances

- Price: 21%
- Brand Name: 37%
- EE: 42%
Consumption Patterns: Water

One of the world’s most water-stressed regions.

Average fresh water per capita 800 cubic meter
World Average is 7240 cubic meter
Consumption of Water: Highlights from the Survey

- **72%**
  - Aware of the water scarcity situation

- **77%**
  - Aware that per capita water consumption is high

- **50%**
  - Only of the respondents from the UAE use water saving devices
Consumption Patterns: Food

- Agricultural production and food distribution are major concerns to prevent extreme hunger and famine.
- Improvements in food value chain made food more available and affordable.
- These developments have negatively impacted diets, making food less diverse, less healthy and less sustainable.
Per Capita Food Consumption (Kcal/Capita/day)

Per cent increase (1965-2011)

Yemen: 19%
UAE: 24%
Lebanon: 29%
Tunisia: 40%
Morocco: 53%
Egypt: 60%
KSA: 68%
Libya: 80%
Algeria: 102%

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Arab’s Nutrition Transition

Traditional food
- Seasonal more diverse
- rich in whole grains, fruits, and vegetables

Westernized food
- high in refined cereals, animal protein and Fats
- sugar, and salt.

10% • Of the total population are undernourished

65% • Of the adults are overweight or obese

One third • Of the population are anemic
### Stages of the Arab’s Nutrition Transition

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Countries</th>
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| **Advanced Nutrition Transition**          | • GCC countries  
• Tunisia                                                                |
| **Early Nutrition Transition**             | • Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria                 |
| **Significant Under Nutrition**            | • Djibouti, Iraq, Yemen, Tunisia  
• subgroups in GCC, Palestine (Gaza)                                     |
| **Emergency**                              | • Somalia  
• Sudan                                                              |
84% ready to change dietary habits to save water and energy
99% ready to change dietary habits to improve personal health

health benefits should be the communication message to change dietary habits

Figure 15: Are you ready to change your dietary habits to save water and energy resources?
Policy coherence on Water-Energy-Food, and climate Nexus

- Energy rich, water poor, and large food importer.
- Fossil fuels play a critical role in meeting water demand.
- Climate change would worsen water scarcity leading to more carbon emissions.
- Policy fragmentation.
Conclusions

Weak National Development and implementation of SCP

Driving forces for demand are different across countries

Consumption patterns vary accordingly.

Governments’ interventions influence purchasing decisions and patterns of consumptions.

Subsidies promote wasteful consumption behavior, and do not ease burdens on the poor.

People agree to pay more for water and energy if compensated with better social benefits.

The Arabs are experiencing a nutrition transition.

A need for adoption of the nexus approach to ensure policy coherence
Current Enabling Conditions

- good governance
- integrated policy planning
- sound regulatory regime
- use of market-based instruments
- capacity development,
- access to finance and investments,
- research and development
- public awareness, and
- green procurement

Recommendations
Thank You

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