INTEGRATED DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Integrated Drought Management Programme Implementation Plan 2026-2028

Together for a drought resilient world

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP

Contents

I. Foreword

Droughts continue to increase globally, not only in intensity and frequency but also in their unpredictability. This trend is placing ever greater strain on governments, communities, and ecosystems. At the same time, global policy processes are becoming more complex, while climate change and its impacts risk losing prominence amid competing priorities. Together, these developments make the work of the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) more necessary than ever.

The Drought Resilience +10 (DR+10) conference marked a true landmark for IDMP and for the wider drought community. Held during IDMP's 2023–2025 implementation phase, it required significant collective effort and proved to be a powerful catalyst for change. The conference helped to set the agenda and reaffirmed the relevance of integrated drought management at a critical moment. DR+10 was also directly linked to global drought policy processes, symbolically bridging Geneva and Riyadh, and provided important input to the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP16), held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. While negotiations on drought-related issues at COP16 were constrained and no formal decisions could be reached, several important initiatives were advanced. These included the establishment of the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership (RGDRP) and the continued mission of the International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA), both of which IDMP actively supports and contributes to.

In the next phase of joint IDMP implementation, we will build directly on the key themes and outcomes of DR+10. We will also strengthen our support to the abovementioned international processes, within which IDMP and its partners are increasingly being called upon to provide knowledge, tools, and guidance. This support aims to assist countries in strengthening drought risk management, preparedness, and resilience. Key priorities include recognizing drought as a growing global threat while mitigation and adaptation actions lag behind; reinforcing political will and coordinated, multiscale action; and advancing innovative risk assessment, forecasting, and impact-monitoring systems. We also reaffirm the importance of whole-of-society and government-wide approaches, addressing the root causes of vulnerability, safeguarding ecosystems, protecting human health and well-being, and better understanding the true economic costs of drought. Above all, DR+10 highlighted the need for transformative solutions, sustained capacity development, and unprecedented global collaboration.

These priorities will guide the implementation of IDMP in the coming three-year phase (2026–2028). The programme will continue as a joint effort between the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Global Water Partnership (GWP), with both organizations, together with their partners, united in their commitment to further strengthen IDMP and its impact.

On a personal note, with the conclusion of the current phase, my own journey with IDMP comes to an end as I enter retirement. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to colleagues, partners, and friends across the community for their collaboration, dedication, and shared purpose over the years.

I am confident that IDMP and its community are well equipped to meet the challenges ahead and to continue advancing drought resilience worldwide. I wish you all the very best at this crucial moment and every success in the work to come.

Robert Stefanski

Former Chief of the Applied Climate Services Unit & Co-lead of the
Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) Technical Support Unit

II. Urgency

Drought is among the most pervasive and damaging natural hazards affecting societies and ecosystems worldwide. Its impacts extend far beyond temporary water shortages: drought is disrupting food production, degrading land and ecosystems, undermining water security, and threatening human health, livelihoods, and social stability. Climate change is fundamentally altering drought regimes by increasing temperatures, intensifying atmospheric evaporative demand, shifting precipitation patterns, and amplifying the frequency, severity, spatial extent, and simultaneity of drought events. At the same time, population growth, land degradation, unsustainable land and water use, and rising water demand are compounding drought risk, particularly in already vulnerable regions.

Recent decades have demonstrated that drought is no longer a slow-onset, isolated phenomenon. Flash droughts, compound drought–heat events, and prolonged multi-year droughts are becoming more common, often overwhelming traditional crisis-response approaches. These evolving drought dynamics expose critical weaknesses in sector-based and reactive management strategies and highlight the urgent need for anticipatory, coordinated, and systems-oriented responses that address drought risk before impacts escalate.

Against this backdrop, integrated drought management (IDM) has emerged as an essential approach for building long-term drought resilience. IDM recognizes drought as a socio-ecological challenge shaped by interactions among climate, land, water, ecosystems, and governance systems. The Drought Resilience +10 Conference, held in late 2024, marked a critical milestone in reviewing progress over the past decade and in bringing together the global drought community to jointly discuss priorities for the coming years. The conference reaffirmed drought as a central global risk under climate change and emphasized the need to shift from reactive crisis response toward proactive drought risk management, strengthened early warning and climate services, and more integrated land, water, and ecosystem approaches. The DR+10 recommendations also reaffirmed the IDMPs role as not just a knowledge institution but also as a potential global interagency coordination mechanism on drought to promote multilevel and multisectoral collaboration with international, regional, and national organizations while playing a key role in the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UNCCD as well as other global drought resilience coordination and financing mechanisms.

What was heard clearly at Drought Resilience +10 in Geneva, and again in subsequent dialogues, is that many countries cannot afford to wait. They are already experiencing severe and recurrent drought impacts, often while simultaneously responding to floods, heatwaves, or other compounding hazards.

At the global level, a range of complementary processes is advancing drought resilience, including ongoing efforts under the UNCCD, work through the International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA) and the International Drought Resilience Observatory (IDRO), and emerging partnerships such as the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership. IDMP, together with GWP and WMO, actively supports and contributes to these processes, including through technical inputs, science–policy engagement, and support to implementation, while aligning its activities with UNCCD decisions and guidance, including work under the Science–Policy Interface.

This 3-year implementation plan of IDMP responds directly to these priorities. It translates the principles of integrated drought management and the outcomes of the Drought Resilience +10 Conference into concrete actions, focusing on strengthening institutional coordination, improving drought monitoring and early warning, promoting sustainable land and water management, and embedding drought resilience within broader climate adaptation and development frameworks. By doing so, the plan aims to support countries and partners in moving decisively toward more resilient social–ecological systems in an increasingly drought-prone world.

III. The Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP)

The Drought Resilience +10 Conference (DR+10), held in late 2024, demonstrated the strength and maturity of the global drought-resilience community. Convened through the sustained efforts of the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) and its partners, the conference brought together governments, international organizations, scientists, practitioners, and development partners to review progress and identify priorities for the decade ahead. Discussions highlighted important advances, but also persistent gaps between planning and implementation, reinforcing the need for coordinated, long-term, and integrated drought risk management. In this context, the continued relevance of IDMP's three-pillar approach was strongly reaffirmed. This approach provides a flexible and proven framework for drought risk management by integrating drought monitoring and early warning, risk and impact assessment, and preparedness, mitigation, and response. The framework has evolved to align with contemporary climate-risk and disaster risk reduction (DRR) approaches and remains central to IDMP's support to countries and partners.

This gathering reflected more than 13 years of continuous community building by IDMP. Since its inception, IDMP has provided a trusted and neutral platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaboration across disciplines and sectors, linking policy processes with scientific expertise and practical implementation. This convening role has been central to IDMP's effectiveness and explains its ability to mobilize and sustain a diverse global community of practice.

IDMP was established in response to the High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP) held in Geneva in 2013, which called for a shift from reactive drought response toward proactive drought risk management. In response to this mandate, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Global Water Partnership (GWP) jointly established IDMP to support countries through policy guidance, technical assistance, and the sharing of scientific knowledge and best practices for Integrated Drought Management (IDM). The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has been a close partner from the outset and one of the founding partners of the programme, reflecting the strong alignment between IDMP and the UNCCD mandate on drought and land degradation.

IDMP is implemented through a Technical Support Unit (TSU) hosted at WMO in Geneva and guided by advisory and management committees composed of its partners. Over time, the programme has grown into a partnership of more than 45 organizations, including UN agencies, governmental institutions, research organizations, universities, civil society organizations, and private-sector actors. At the core of IDMP's work is a people-centered, whole-of-society approach, with particular attention to vulnerable groups, including women. IDMP promotes drought management within the framework of

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and aligns its activities with climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR) agendas.

Implementation on the ground is a defining feature of IDMP. Regional programmes in Central and Eastern Europe, West Africa, East Africa, and more recently Central Asia and the Caucasus, provide sustained support beyond typical project cycles and foster regional communities of practice. Experience from these regions informs IDMP's global work and supports continuous learning, adaptation, and refinement of approaches.

Complementing regional activities, the IDMP HelpDesk, established in 2017, provides access to knowledge resources, connects stakeholders with partners and initiatives, and delivers tailored technical support. Hosted on www.droughtmanagement.info , it has responded to hundreds of requests and continues to grow in use.

The role of IDMP has been formally recognized within the UNCCD policy framework. At UNCCD COP15 and COP16, Parties encouraged the development and implementation of integrated drought risk management through existing communities of practice. In particular, Decision 16/COP.16 explicitly invites IDMP—together with its cooperating partners, as well as WMO and GWP—to contribute, within their respective mandates, to strengthening drought and aridity monitoring, developing science-based standards and guidelines, and supporting knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and community-based approaches to drought resilience.

Building on more than a decade of experience and the momentum reinforced by Drought Resilience +10, this 3-year Implementation Plan translates IDMP's three-pillar framework into targeted, coordinated action. It provides a strategic roadmap for supporting countries and partners in moving from policy and planning toward sustained implementation, strengthening drought resilience through integrated, proactive, and people-centered approaches.

Our Vision: Everyone is resilient to drought

Our vision remains a world in which everyone is resilient to drought. Achieving this vision has become increasingly challenging and urgent. While the impacts of climate change and the global water crisis continue to accelerate, recent shifts in the global security environment have significantly altered international priorities. In many contexts, political and societal attention as well as financial resources have been redirected toward security and rearmament, resulting in reduced support for climate adaptation and mitigation as well as development efforts in general. This trend is counterproductive, as insufficient investment in adaptation including drought resilience further exacerbates vulnerability and long-term instability.

In this context, the need to scale up IDMP and its impact is more critical than ever. Addressing drought effectively now requires stronger coordination, clearer prioritization, and more efficient use of available resources. This underscores the importance of consolidating partnerships at the global level while strengthening linkages between global support mechanisms and regional, national, and subnational implementation of IDM.

The Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) is founded on the principle of translating global support into concrete, actionable outcomes on the ground. The programme therefore aims to play a catalytic role in advancing IDM by supporting the implementation of integrated and sustained drought management frameworks and institutional arrangements, providing practical technical guidance, strengthening stakeholder capacities, and fostering collaboration and dialogue across the global drought community.

(1) The first goal focuses on improving drought management practices, putting IDM into practice to help countries towards growth, water security, and climate resilience, by supporting an integrated approach, good governance, appropriate infrastructure, and sustainable financing.
(2) The second goal focuses on providing demand-driven guidance on specific topics of IDM to stakeholders and build capacity by sharing knowledge and provide trainings to support improved drought management.
(3) The third goal takes into account that it the only way to achieve drought resilience where nobody is left behind is through cooperation. Therefore, it focuses on facilitating and strengthening collaboration and dialogue within the global drought community.

The three objectives of the IDMP Implementation Plan are closely interlinked. Enhanced collaboration through strengthened partnerships (Objective 3) enables more effective knowledge generation, exchange, and learning (Objective 2), which in turn informs and supports the implementation of Integrated Drought Management in practice (Objective 1). Cross-cutting priorities—including youth engagement, strategic communication,

knowledge dissemination, and inclusiveness—are embedded across all objectives to ensure broader reach, sustainability, and long-term impact.

This Implementation Plan outlines, for each objective, priority activity areas designed to support the urgently needed scaling up of IDM under evolving climate and security conditions. It focuses on translating global guidance into regional, national, and local action, while strengthening coherence across levels and sectors. The Plan further describes how the IDMP programme will evolve to deliver these objectives by reinforcing institutional resilience and effectiveness through strong partnerships, sound governance arrangements, strategic communication, and systematic performance monitoring to support learning and improve the programme's financial sustainability.

A dedicated section on programme implementation describes how IDMP will deliver these objectives through projects, its regional programmes, the IDMP HelpDesk, and the Technical Support Unit, ensuring responsiveness to country needs and alignment with partner initiatives.

For each priority activity, indicative metrics of success and estimated resource requirements are provided. These are intended to support progress tracking and learning within IDMP, while also offering transparency for partners and potential donors regarding the level of investment required. Further details on budget estimates and performance indicators are presented in the final section of the Implementation Plan.

1. IDMP Goals

1.1 Support the Implementation of Integrated Drought Management and Catalyze Change

1.1.1 The Application of the Three Pillars of Integrated Drought Management

Metric of success	Number of countries supported in integrating the IDM Three Pillars in drought policies/plans/strategies	
Budget estimate	USD 240,000 (for 3-years)	Provision of technical support to apply the Three Pillars of IDM (see IV. Budget Estimate)
	USD 150,000 (for 3-years)	Further development of Global Drought Mosaic (see IV. Budget Estimate) (see IV. Budget Estimate)

The three-pillars approach is not a static framework but evolves with development of the individual pillars in science and practice. The simple concept is flexible and can be applied as a whole or by focusing on specific pillars or aspects of pillars. Due to its simplicity and flexibility, it is the most-used standard approach in drought management around the globe. IDMP will continue to be the custodian of the Three Pillar Approach and adapt it further in response to advances in research and application.

Pillar1: Monitoring, Forecasting and Early Warning

Metric of success	Number of drought information systems improved or established

The first pillar of IDM focuses on drought monitoring, forecasting, and early warning systems. Many national and regional drought monitors and alerts exist or are currently being established. There is a strong need to fill the remaining gaps and to ensure effectiveness, efficiency, and sustained maintenance through harmonizing the

approaches on a regional and global level. Continuing efforts in line with WMO SERCOM and Executive Council resolutions around drought monitoring, the IDMP will continue to support countries and regions to implement basic and robust drought monitoring using indicators such as SPI and SPEI, and where possible the CDI or other suitable indicators. Getting a better understanding of the global status of droughts by combining various regional and national drought monitors into a new product called IDMP Global Drought Mosaic, will also be a focus. The Global Drought Mosaic of IDMP integrates regional drought monitors into a coherent global picture, supporting consistent monitoring, early awareness, and informed decision-making on drought. This bottom-up approach ensures the use of regionally appropriate indicators, rather than a one-size-fits-all global product, with national drought monitors to be integrated in a subsequent step.

Drought forecasting presents particular challenges, as it requires longer lead times, typically in the sub-seasonal to seasonal range, which are inherently more complex than short-term forecasts used for other hazards. To date, relatively few operational drought forecasts exist. While some countries and regions have developed seasonal drought forecasting capabilities, there remains an urgent need to strengthen drought forecasting at the sub-seasonal scale in order to support anticipatory and preparatory action, safeguard food security, and enhance early warning capacities. During the strategy period, IDMP will take on a coordinating and enabling role in scaling up drought monitoring and forecasting capacities, with a specific emphasis on impact-based forecasting. This will include supporting the integration of new approaches and tools, including advances in mid-range forecasting and machine learning, to better capture evolving drought dynamics and societal impact.

A further central role of IDMP under this pillar is to raise awareness and promote action on the "last mile" of early warning systems. Drought EWS and associated drought plans are often designed in ways that do not adequately address the needs of the most vulnerable populations, including women, poor communities, displaced people and refugees. IDMP will strengthen its efforts to promote people-centred and inclusive EWS, ensuring that all relevant stakeholders are meaningfully engaged across the full EWS value chain, from risk knowledge and monitoring to communication and response. In parallel, IDMP will continue to engage in discussions and initiatives related to Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS), with particular attention to opportunities for better integrating drought into multi-hazard and hydro-climatic risk frameworks, including in the context of the UN-led Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative.

In line with the outcomes of the Drought Resilience +10 (DR+10) Conference held in late 2024, drought monitoring and early warning efforts must increasingly account for emerging and evolving risk dimensions, including flash droughts, cascading impacts, and compounding hazards. At the same time, impact monitoring needs to be significantly strengthened in order to improve understanding of drought impacts on societies,

ecosystems and economies, and to better capture the interactions among different types of droughts, including meteorological, agricultural, hydrological, ecological and socio-economic drought. Addressing these challenges will be a priority for IDMP under this pillar, supporting more risk-informed, anticipatory and effective drought management.

Pillar 2: Risk and Impact Assessment

Metric of success	Number of drought risk assessments supported

Strengthening drought risk and impact assessment remains a priority area for IDMP. Progress under this pillar over the past decade has been uneven, particularly regarding the systematic monitoring and analysis of drought impacts. At the same time, new concepts and approaches to drought risk quantification have emerged in recent years, including advances reflected in initiatives such as the World Drought Atlas published by UNCCD, IDRA and the European Commission with technical support through IDMP. These developments provide important opportunities to improve how drought risk is measured, communicated, and acted upon, and will need to be further operationalized at country and regional levels. Drought risk assessments are typically undertaken as baseline inputs to drought policies, plans, and strategies. IDMP promotes the widely recognized Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) risk framework, consistent with approaches used by the IPCC (IPCC, 2021), which integrates hazard, exposure, and vulnerability dimensions. However, in the context of accelerating climate change, increasing hazard interactions, and rapidly evolving socio-economic conditions, drought risk assessments can no longer be treated as static, one-off exercises. Instead, they should be updated periodically to support adaptive management and continuous policy adjustment, including consideration of humanitarian dimensions alongside physical risk factors.

In the past implementation cycle 2023-2025, IDMP has made significant progress in developing the knowledge base for drought impact monitoring, including the Baseline Assessment of Drought Impact Monitoring and the accompanying Guidelines for Drought Impact Monitoring. The priority for the 2026–2028 period will therefore shift from methodological development toward operational rollout and country implementation. Particular emphasis will be placed on supporting partners to apply the guidance in practice, including through IDMP-supported projects, capacity development activities, and integration into national drought monitoring and early warning systems.

In implementing this pillar, IDMP will continue to support stakeholders in embedding risk and impact assessment within drought policy development and implementation

processes. The programme will further strengthen collaboration across public institutions, civil society, academia, and—where increasingly relevant—private-sector actors, recognizing that comprehensive drought risk management requires multi-actor engagement and shared data ecosystems.

Pillar 3: Risk Mitigation, Preparedness & Response

Metric of success	Number of activities supported focusing on risk mitigation, preparedness and response

Pillar 3 of Integrated Drought Management addresses the full drought continuum by explicitly accounting for three complementary time horizons and action areas: ongoing and long-term risk mitigation, preparedness measures undertaken in advance of drought, and response and recovery actions during and after drought events. Together, these dimensions aim to reduce vulnerability, limit impacts, and support faster recovery, recognizing drought as a recurrent and evolving risk rather than a one-off disaster.

The stocktake conducted through the Drought Resilience +10 Conference made clear that significant progress has been achieved over the past decade, particularly in the development of drought policies, plans, and preparedness frameworks. With support from a wide range of partners, many countries have established national drought policies and plans that address elements of risk mitigation, preparedness, and response across different time horizons (see list of existing drought plans: www.droughtmanagement.info/drought-policies-and-plans/).

Despite this progress, the implementation of measures across all three action areas remains uneven. In many cases, drought policies and plans have not yet been fully translated into sustained, operational action. Scaling up Pillar 3 therefore requires a stronger focus on supporting implementation, with particular emphasis on enabling countries to operationalize long-term risk mitigation measures, preparedness activities, and response mechanisms at national and subnational levels (as further described in Section 2.3 on strengthening the implementation of drought policies).

Beyond direct implementation support, there is also a need to strengthen enabling conditions that cut across all three time horizons. These include participatory approaches to planning, effective stakeholder engagement, and alignment of drought-related measures with climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, water resources management, land-use planning, and other relevant policy frameworks.

In this context, IDMP supports Pillar 3 by developing practical guidance, documenting and promoting good practices, and facilitating knowledge exchange. These efforts help countries and partners operationalize risk mitigation, preparedness, and response measures in an integrated manner, strengthening drought resilience before, during, and after drought events.

Demonstrating the benefits of proactive drought management, especially with regard to the costs of inaction, creates a strong argument for taking anticipatory action. However, the availability of sufficient data about the social economy, the accounting for indirect or intangible impacts, and the often qualitative nature of social impacts render this rationale complex. Therefore, the IDMP has developed a framework on the "Benefits of Action and Costs of Inaction (BACI)" in collaboration with the World Bank (WMO and GWP, 2017). In a next phase, the establishment of pilot cases will help to develop the methodology further and support creating political attention to the benefits of implementing proactive drought risk mitigation measures.

Despite all efforts in regard to risk mitigation and preparedness there will always remain a residual risk. Therefore, the contingency planning methodologies used in drought action plans need to be developed further and IDMP will play a leading role collecting and making current plans and methodologies available. There is a need for a stronger connection between humanitarian actors and anticipatory planning and early warning approaches in order to increase the sustainability of response actions. IDMP will increase its engagement with humanitarian agencies within and beyond its partner base in response to this need. Another approach to tackle residual drought risks are innovative and cost-effective forms of drought index-based insurances, particularly for the agricultural sector. IDMP will promote drought insurances as integral to the measures and actions portfolio of the third pillar.

1.1.2 Supporting Country Implementation of Integrated Drought Management through Projects

Metric of success	Number of projects supporting country implementation of Integrated Drought Management	
Budget estimate	USD 450,000 (for 3-years)	Project development (see IV. Budget Estimate)

Project-based support has proven to be a key mechanism through which the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) translates global guidance and technical expertise into concrete action on the ground. Through projects, IDMP supports countries and regional partners in operationalizing Integrated Drought Management (IDM) across the full drought continuum, from long-term risk mitigation and preparedness to response and recovery.

WMO and GWP have, through the IDMP, established a growing project pipeline mainly funded through the Adaptation Fund, with a current overall funding request of over USD 200 million supporting more than 30 countries. The preparation of several projects is supported through a close collaboration with the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). These projects contribute to translating drought policies and plans into implementable actions, strengthening institutional capacities, and improving coordination among relevant stakeholders.

Building on this experience, IDMP will continue to support countries in identifying, designing, and implementing IDM-related projects aligned with national priorities and regional needs. The IDMP Technical Support Unit plays a central role in coordinating project development, supporting proposal preparation, and ensuring coherence with regional IDMP programmes. These efforts are closely linked to strengthening the IDMP Technical Support Unit which needs to grow to support this pipeline (see Section 2.6) and to the implementation of regional IDMP programmes (see Section 2.1). Project activities also provide opportunities to pilot innovative approaches, test guidance materials, and generate lessons learned that can be scaled up or replicated in other contexts.

Through this project-based approach, IDMP supports tangible implementation outcomes while contributing to a sustainable pipeline of IDM investments that strengthen drought resilience at country and regional levels.

1.1.3 The Implementation of Drought Policies

Metric of success	Number of drought policies/plans/strategies supported	
Budget estimate	USD 150,000 (for 3-years)	Support countries in implementing drought policies and establish related legislation (see IV. Budget Estimate)

A central finding of the Drought Resilience +10 conference was that, while significant progress has been made over the past decade in the development of national and regional drought policies and plans, implementation has too often lagged behind. In many countries, drought policies remain largely "on the shelf," with implementation delayed, slowed, or never initiated. This persistent gap between policy formulation and action was identified as a critical barrier to achieving meaningful drought resilience.

Building on its long-standing collaboration with partners—particularly through UNCCD's Drought Initiative—IDMP has played an important role in supporting countries and regions in the development of drought policies and planning frameworks and will continue to do so where appropriate. However, in direct response to the findings of DR+10, IDMP will place increased emphasis on strengthening the implementation of existing national and regional drought plans, shifting the focus from policy development alone toward operationalization and delivery.

To support this shift, IDMP is finalizing a new guidance product on drought legislation, which will be published shortly. This guidance will, first, provide a clear taxonomy to clarify and differentiate terms that are often used interchangeably—such as drought policy, drought plan, drought strategy, and drought law—thereby improving conceptual clarity and institutional coherence. Second, it will offer concrete examples and practical guidance on how to translate drought policies and plans into legally grounded text, including options for embedding drought management responsibilities, decision triggers, and coordination mechanisms within legal and regulatory frameworks.

This guidance will form a key basis for future IDMP support to countries in further strengthening drought governance, ensuring that drought monitoring and forecasting systems are effectively linked to predefined actions. By reinforcing the legal and institutional foundations for drought management, the guidance aims to help countries move from monitoring and early warning to timely, coordinated, and enforceable action across the full drought continuum.

1.1.4 Finance for Integrated Drought Management

Metric of success	Total value of investments from government and private sources influenced that contribute to drought management	
Budget estimate	USD 150,000 (for 3-years)	Support access of countries to funding for drought work building on BACI approach (see IV. Budget Estimate)

The lack of adequate and predictable finance is consistently identified as a major bottleneck hindering the implementation of Integrated Drought Management (IDM) at the scale required. Addressing this financing gap is therefore essential to advancing proactive drought management and strengthening drought resilience.

IDMP has successfully supported regional programmes in accessing climate finance for integrated drought management and will scale up its efforts to support countries and partners in navigating the increasingly complex climate finance landscape (see 1.1.2). Through its HelpDesk (see Section 2.2) and Community of Practice (see Section 1.2.2), IDMP provides guidance on funding opportunities, proposal development, and access modalities, and will continue to strengthen these support functions. Targeted support measures, such as webinars and training activities focused on translating project ideas into fundable proposals, will be further explored.

To provide a clearer picture of the economic benefits of the proactive drought management that the IDMP encourages, the IDMP TSU will also revise the "Benefit of Action Cost of Inaction (BACI)" approach, developed jointly with the World Bank in 2019. This framework is intended to be translated into actionable tasks in the upcoming reporting period to provide guidance to partners on how adaptive action can be assessed from measurable indicators on broad economic welfare. It is currently planned that the BACI assessments as part of IDMP strategy will be tested and piloted in upcoming projects.

The persistent financing gap for drought is also recognized under international frameworks, including the Paris Agreement, which highlights slow-onset events such as drought under Loss and Damage. In this context, emerging initiatives are helping to address the long-standing under-financing of drought management.

In the previous years, many promising initiatives have been established to address the ongoing under-financing of drought management. The establishment of the Drought Resilience Investment Facility (DRIF) of Luxembourg, the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership (RGDRP) and FAO's engagement in pushing a dedicated drought finance mechanism are important signs for a sustainable drought finance environment. IDMP will continue to support and IDMP will follow the process closely and explore opportunities for additional access to funding for drought management.

1.1.5 Gender-Transformative Approaches and Social Inclusion in Integrated Drought Management

Metric of success	Number of initiatives that mobilise underrepresented groups (incl. gender and youth) to engage with drought management

Budget estimate	USD 75,000 (for 3-years)	Support of a gender expert and develop and implement new actions for gender integration into IDM (see IV. Budget Estimate)

IDMP will continue to advance guidance, capacity development, and knowledge exchange on integrating gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) into Drought Management Plans (DMPs) and related drought policies. This will include promoting gender-transformative and socially inclusive approaches that recognize differentiated drought impacts and leverage the knowledge, agency, and leadership of women, youth, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups, thereby strengthening inclusive, resilient, and sustainable drought management outcomes.

Drought impacts are not experienced uniformly across societies. In many contexts, women and marginalized groups are disproportionately affected due to unequal access to land, water, finance, information, and decision-making processes. These structural inequalities not only heighten vulnerability to drought but also limit the effectiveness and sustainability of drought management interventions when they are not adequately addressed.

Despite the critical roles that women, indigenous peoples, and local communities play in managing water, land, and food systems, their knowledge and perspectives remain insufficiently reflected in drought planning, investment decisions, and institutional frameworks. Drought management processes often continue to reproduce existing power imbalances rather than actively challenging them, resulting in missed opportunities to build more effective and equitable resilience.

To address these challenges, IDMP will promote gender-transformative and socially inclusive approaches across all stages of Integrated Drought Management (IDM), from planning and decision-making to implementation and institutional strengthening. This includes supporting the integration of indigenous and local knowledge systems, fostering inclusive participation, and enabling leadership by women and youth in drought-related processes. Through these efforts, IDMP aims to reduce structural barriers, strengthen social equity, and enhance the overall effectiveness of IDM interventions.

This work will be guided by the principles of the GWP Gender Action Piece and aligned with the GWP Water, Climate, Development, and Gender Investments Programme (AIP WACDEP-G). By building on these frameworks, IDMP will support transformative change in the norms, roles, power relations, and institutional arrangements that shape drought governance, ensuring that drought management systems are not only technically sound but also socially just and sustainable.

1.2 Generate and Manage Knowledge

1.2.1 Guidance on new topics

Metric of success	Number of knowledge products on new drought related topics produced or influenced by IDMP	
Budget estimate	USD 150,000 (USD 50,000 per product)	Development of new knowledge products including dissemination (see IV. Budget Estimate)
	USD 75,000 (USD 25,00 per product)	Updating of existing knowledge product. (see IV. Budget Estimate)

To advance Integrated Drought Management (IDM) beyond its current state, IDMP must systematically embrace emerging technologies and evolving thematic areas. Artificial intelligence (AI) is a cross-cutting enabler that is already transforming many aspects of IDM, most prominently drought monitoring and early warning under Pillar 1, but increasingly also risk assessment, impact analysis, preparedness planning, decision support, and response coordination across the full drought continuum. Harnessing these advances requires targeted guidance, capacity development, and partnerships to ensure that new tools translate into operational value for countries.

Alongside technological innovation, a range of critical drought-related topics is rapidly evolving. IDMP will support the development, consolidation, and dissemination of knowledge in these areas, working in close collaboration with partners that are leading their advancement. These topics include, but are not limited to:

- Flash droughts
- Urban droughts
- Ecological droughts
- Artificial Intelligence in Pillar 1
- Nature-based solutions
- Community-based IDM
- Compound events, including interactions between drought, heatwaves, wildfires, and floods
- Drought and health

A key area of IDMP's current and future engagement is the integration of drought and flood management through Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The outcomes of the DR+10 Conference called for a whole-of-society and systems-based approach that embeds drought management within these frameworks and climate change adaptation strategies, while mainstreaming Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) and gender-responsive approaches.

In response, IDMP will strengthen collaboration with its sister programme, the Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) to better exploit synergies between drought and flood management. This cooperation will build on the EPIC Response framework (Enable, Plan, Invest, Control, Respond), developed by the World Bank and Deltares, as well as the joint IDMP/APFM/FAO/UNCCD publication showcasing practical examples of integrated drought and flood management.

Building on this integrated foundation, IDMP will also expand partnerships with organizations working across land, water, and climate domains. These partnerships aim to streamline approaches, reduce fragmentation, and strengthen assessments of compound and cascading events that can significantly amplify the socio-economic impacts of drought. Through these coordinated and forward-looking efforts, IDMP seeks to support countries in addressing increasingly complex risk profiles in a more coherent, anticipatory, and resilient manner.

1.2.2 Sharing of Knowledge and Communities of Practice

Metric of success	Number of active users participating in drought-related Communities of Practice	
Budget estimate	USD 75,000 (3-years)	Maintain and grow CoP and organize events to share knowledge within the CoP framework (see IV. Budget Estimate)

IDMP has always functioned as a Community of Practice (CoP), bringing together practitioners, policymakers, scientists, and partners to exchange experience and advance the implementation of IDM. In 2024, this long-standing collaborative approach was further strengthened through the launch of an online knowledge and exchange platform, now hosted on WMO's Water and Climate Communities website: https://waterclimatecommunities.info/

The platform has proven highly successful, with more than 350 registered members, active engagement across thematic areas, and a steadily growing user base. It provides a shared space for accessing tools, resources, and lessons learned, while enabling direct interaction among members of the global drought community. IDMP actively encourages partners generating new knowledge and practical guidance to make these resources openly available through the platform.

Looking ahead, IDMP will continue to strengthen the knowledge sharing within the community through its online platform and convening activities, the programme will support CoPs on priority IDM topics, including drought planning, early warning systems, financing, and gender equality and social inclusion. Emphasis will be placed on peer-to-peer learning, South–South exchange, and strengthening linkages across national, regional, and global drought knowledge networks, while ensuring accessibility and inclusive participation.

In this effort, IDMP works closely and complementarily with the UNCCD Communities of Learning and Practice (CLP), which operate at a broader scale and include strong regional chapters: https://droughtclp.unccd.int/clp/home
This collaboration helps ensure coherence across global and regional knowledge networks, avoids duplication of effort, and strengthens pathways for practitioners to engage at multiple levels, depending on their needs and contexts.

As part and to complement the IDMP's CoP activities, IDMP will continue to convene regular Virtual Exchanges on drought as a well-established platform of knowledge sharing. Over the previous implementation period, participation in these exchanges increased from around 30 participants per session to more than 200, reflecting growing demand and relevance. The exchanges foster collaboration, support the sharing of lessons learned and best practices, and provide space to explore innovative and emerging topics relevant to IDM, including new technologies and cross-cutting issues identified by the community.

1.3 Strengthening Partnerships

1.3.1 Strengthening of the Partner Network

Metric of success	Number of new IDMP Partners	
Budget estimate	USD 60,000 (3-years)	Engage in partner initiatives and resources to grow network (see IV. Budget Estimate)

A defining strength of the IDMP lies in its diverse and expanding partner network, which brings together actors working on Integrated Drought Management (IDM) from multiple perspectives, including National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, academia, international organizations, the private sector, and other stakeholders. This diversity is essential for fostering meaningful exchange, enabling mutual learning, identifying synergies, and reducing fragmentation across IDM-related initiatives. The partner network also forms the backbone of key IDMP services, including the IDMP HelpDesk.

During the previous implementation period, collaboration with UNCCD was further strengthened, and new strategic partnerships were developed. These partnerships were reinforced through the DR+10 process, which provided a platform to align priorities, deepen cooperation, and raise the visibility of IDM across policy, technical, and operational communities. Maintaining and expanding this network of strategic partnerships remains a core priority for IDMP.

Looking ahead, IDMP will continue to consolidate its role as a trusted partner network and global reference point for IDM implementation. The programme will use its convening power to support strong, continuous collaboration among UN agencies and other organizations, enabling more coherent messaging and coordinated action on IDM.

At the same time, IDMP will actively pursue the broadening of its partner base to include new institutional partners, countries, and regional organizations, as well as actors from climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR) communities. As part of this effort, IDMP will also seek to strengthen engagement with the finance sector, including development finance institutions, insurance and reinsurance companies, and other financial actors, recognizing their critical role in enabling sustainable financing and investment for drought risk management.

IDMP will place increased emphasis on active partner engagement, including through joint projects, coordinated capacity development activities, and collaborative initiatives that translate shared knowledge into action. Through these efforts, IDMP will continue to facilitate a dynamic Community of Practice, enabling structured exchange, peer learning, and collaboration among partners to address increasingly complex drought risk challenges.

1.3.2 Supporting the UNCCD Political Process for drought resilience

Metric of success	Number joint activities and support to UNCCD and its Parties

Budget estimate	USD 60,000 (3-years)	Support UNCCD activities and engage in its constituent body meetings (see IV. Budget Estimate)

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was a co-organizer of the High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP) in 2013, a landmark event that laid the foundation for a more coordinated global response to drought. Following the HMNDP, the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) was established, with UNCCD as a partner from the very beginning. Since its inception, IDMP and UNCCD have worked in close and complementary collaboration, strengthening drought management through numerous joint initiatives. This partnership brings together UNCCD's policy mandate with IDMP's role as a central convening platform for the drought management community and custodian of the integrated, three-pillar approach.

This strong collaboration was reaffirmed in 2024, ten years after the HMNDP, through the joint organization of the Drought Resilience +10 (DR+10) Conference by IDMP and UNCCD together with other partners. The DR+10 Conference took stock of global progress on drought resilience, fostered new partnerships, identified emerging challenges, and significantly boosted global momentum on drought resilience, including within UNCCD processes. Importantly, DR+10 further consolidated the role of IDMP as a trusted interface between science, policy, and implementation, supporting countries in enhancing and operationalizing drought-related policies and programmes, particularly in alignment with UNCCD priorities.

While IDMP partners have long contributed to the international drought policy framework under the UNCCD, attention to drought increased substantially at COP15 and COP16. During these sessions, Parties encouraged the development and implementation of integrated drought risk management through existing Communities of Practice and explored the possibility of a binding drought protocol, comparable in ambition to the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC. The importance of IDMP was again formally recognized in Decision 16/COP.16 on the Science–Policy Interface, which explicitly invites IDMP—together with its cooperating partners, as well as WMO and GWP—to contribute, within their respective mandates, to strengthening drought and aridity monitoring, developing science-based standards and guidelines, and supporting knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and community-based approaches to drought resilience.

IDMP has embraced this call and will continue to actively support UNCCD processes, including the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC). In addition, IDMP will contribute to other global drought-related initiatives, such as the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership

(RGDRP) and the International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA) and one of its main initiatives, the International Drought Resilience Observatory (IDRO).

During the previous implementation period, IDMP also strengthened its collaboration with the UNCCD Global Mechanism. In line with the Global Mechanism's mandate to support countries in mobilizing finance and implementing the Convention, IDMP and the Global Mechanism initiated closer cooperation on the joint development of practical tools and processes to help countries operationalize integrated drought management and scale up investments in drought resilience (see 1.1.2). This collaboration further enhances coherence between policy guidance, technical support, and financing pathways under the UNCCD.

Over the next three years, IDMP will continue to play a key convening and knowledge-brokering role by synthesizing lessons learned from country and regional experiences to inform UNCCD deliberations, supporting coherence with complementary initiatives, and strengthening the visibility of integrated drought management as a core pillar of land restoration and sustainable development. Through expanded policy engagement, regional coordination, knowledge exchange, and capacity development, IDMP will further position itself as a core technical partner to the UNCCD—supporting the translation of global drought commitments into country-level outcomes, and elevating country needs and priorities into international commitments and action.

Adequate and predictable resourcing of the IDMP Technical Support Unit will be essential to enable IDMP to fulfil this role effectively and to meet the growing expectations placed upon it by the UNCCD and the broader international community.

2. Programme Management And Means Of Implementation

2.1 Regional IDMP Programmes

Metric of success	Number of joint global/regional activities by IDMP on integrated drought management, which lead to demonstrable follow-up actions by mandated actors	
Budget estimate	USD 75,000 (3-years)	Establish new Regional IDMP programmes (see IV. Budget Estimate)

The regional programmes of IDMP in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), the Horn of Africa (HoA), West Africa (WAF) , and Central Asia and the Caucasus (CACENA) are important component of IDMP's work. These programmes serve as regional platforms for applying and testing IDM approaches, generating lessons that inform and strengthen IDMP's global guidance and policy support.

Anchored in existing Global Water Partnership (GWP) regional structures, the programmes enable sustained engagement beyond short-term project cycles and play a key role in implementing and promoting IDM at regional and national levels.

During the past implementation period, financial constraints limited the ability of IDMP to expand its regional programmes. In the next phase, and subject to the availability of adequate and predictable resources, IDMP will strengthen its existing regional programmes and pursue the establishment of new ones, including in Latin America and the Caribbean and additional regions in Asia and Africa.

Regardless of scale, the regional programmes will continue to support countries in integrating drought risk management into national policies, planning processes, and investment frameworks, including through the development of drought plans and the mainstreaming of integrated drought management into national adaptation and development planning.

2.2 The IDM HelpDesk

Metric of success	Number of requests for support received through the IDMP Service Desk	
Budget estimate	USD 30,000	Technical updates and improvements for the Service Desk (see IV. Budget Estimate)

Through the WMO Water and Climate Community platform and an initiative led by the Standing Committee on Hydrological and Climate Services of WMO, a joint effort was undertaken to consolidate several existing support mechanisms into a single, integrated ServiceDesk. This initiative brought together the HelpDesks of the Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM), the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), the GWP IWRM Service Desk, and a newly developed Agrometeorological Service Desk into one joint ServiceDesk. The consolidation enables easier and more coherent access for users while fully preserving the functionality and expertise of the individual HelpDesks.

User feedback on the support provided through the joint ServiceDesk has been consistently positive, while patterns in demand indicate a qualitative shift in the types of requests received. In particular, the increasing availability and use of artificial intelligence tools has led to a marked decline in simple technical queries, such as questions related to the calculation of specific indices. This trend is also reflected in the overall request profile and is viewed as a positive development, as it suggests that users are increasingly able to access basic technical support through readily available digital tools.

At the same time, more substantive requests—such as support for project development, programme design, and the application of integrated drought management approaches in policy, planning, and investment contexts—have continued and in some cases increased. A key priority for the next phase will therefore be to raise awareness of the ServiceDesk as a platform for higher-value technical assistance and strategic support.

To further enhance effectiveness and accessibility, improvements will be made to the classification and management of requests and user profiles, including simplified input forms on the IDMP website designed to lower access barriers and improve request routing.

2.3 Capacity development

Metric of success	Number of people trained in IDM	
Budget estimate	USD 60,000 (USD 30,000 per additional module)	Produce with partners additional modules for online courses (see IV. Budget Estimate)

Strengthening technical capacity is central to the mandate of the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) and underpins all of its activities, including regional programmes, project implementation, and the operation of the HelpDesk. IDMP supports stakeholders at national, regional, and local levels by equipping them with the knowledge and skills required to apply integrated drought management (IDM) in policy, planning, and practice.

Since its establishment, IDMP has delivered a wide range of capacity development activities covering the three pillars of IDM through in-person, hybrid, and online formats.

These efforts have progressively evolved toward more scalable and accessible approaches, reflecting both stakeholder demand and advances in digital learning.

Building on earlier work, IDMP has developed an online for Pillar 2 in cooperation with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). In parallel, training materials for Pillar 3 are under development and will be integrated into the IDM training framework.

IDMP will continue to prioritize technical staff within national and local authorities and decision makers as its main audience for capacity development, while also engaging additional groups such as university students, civil society organizations, community leaders, and youth. A strong emphasis will be placed on online courses and modular training materials to maximize reach and facilitate adaptation across different regional and national contexts. Potential new modules could focus on managing floods and droughts together, drought policy and legislation development, institutional coordination etc.

Training materials will be designed to support multiple entry points, including capacity development activities, project implementation needs, and responses to HelpDesk requests. Where possible, IDMP will draw on and disseminate relevant materials developed by partner organizations, including UNCCD, FAO, WMO, GWP, and others, ensuring complementarity and efficient use of existing knowledge. All materials developed under IDMP will be informed by the expertise and inputs of its partner network.

2.4 Communication

Metric of success	Social Media channels growth	
	Website visits	
Budget estimate	USD 72,000 (3-years)	Communication and promotion of IDM and knowledge management (see IV. Budget Estimate)

Effective communication is essential to increase the visibility, uptake and impact of Integrated Drought Management (IDM). Given the growing complexity of drought risks and the increase in frequency and intensity of droughts, there is a need for clear, accessible and targeted communication to ensure that knowledge (including guidance, tools and

lessons generated by IDMP and its partners) reaches decision-makers, practitioners, academia and communities that can translate it into action. Strategic communication also plays a key role in positioning IDMP as a trusted reference on drought management, consolidate a recognizable brand, and building and sustaining an engaged audience interested in drought, water, climate resilience and related topics.

During the 2026-2028 period, IDMP will continue to strengthen its communication activities with a strong focus on digital channels. IDMP's social media presence has been growing rapidly and will be further leveraged to disseminate resources, promote events and initiatives, highlight collaborative work, and amplify key messages related to integrated drought management. In parallel, IDMP will prioritize the optimization and renewal of its website to improve usability, accessibility and visibility of knowledge products, services such as the HelpDesk, and communities of practice.

These efforts aim not only to increase outreach but also to build a sustained and active audience that interacts and engages with IDMP's work and contributes to knowledge exchange and collaboration.

2.5 Youth

Metric of success	Number of youth-related events/products created	
	Number of submitted proposals for the Global Integrated Flood and Drought Management Competition for Youth-Led projects	
Budget estimate	USD 120,000 (3-years)	Funding for administrative positions and support of Youth-led projects (see IV. Budget Estimate)

Engaging youth is essential for building long-term flood and drought resilience and ensuring the sustainability of integrated drought management efforts. Young people bring innovation, new perspectives and strong motivation to address climate and water-related challenges, while also representing the future generation of practitioners, decision-makers and community leaders.

IDMP will continue to strengthen its engagement with youth through collaboration with the Water Youth Network (WYN) and other youth-led initiatives/bodies. This includes

- supporting youth participation in IDMP activities through webinars/workshops

- creating communication and awareness-raising products (such as podcasts, videos and social media campaigns) that are youth-focused
- carrying out other activities as needed, aligning youth engagement with the WMO Youth Action Plan.

In addition, IDMP will continue implementing the Global Integrated Flood and Drought Management Competition for Youth-Led projects, supporting projects that promote drought resilience worldwide. Through these actions, IDMP aims to empower young professionals and advocates, foster a community of engaged youth actors, and embed youth perspectives across its technical, communication and implementation activities.

2.6 The Technical Support Unit (TSU)

Budget estimate	USD 300,000 (3-years)	Staffing costs to provide technical assistance (see IV. Budget Estimate)

To implement the full ambition of this strategy, significant reinforcement of financial and human resources is required at both the regional level and within the IDMP Technical Support Unit (TSU), which serves as the programme's core delivery, coordination and knowledge hub. Anchored at WMO and staffed with a combination of only part time and seconded WMO and GWP staff, the TSU plays a critical role in translating global drought commitments and policy signals, such as those emerging from the UNCCD process and related international initiatives, into concrete technical support, country engagement and operational guidance. Demand for IDMP services continues to grow rapidly, yet the TSU currently operates with a minimal core capacity, which, despite its effectiveness, is increasingly under strain and at risk of erosion without sustained funding.

During the 2026–2028 period, IDMP will actively pursue a strengthening and stabilization of the TSU's core capacity as a prerequisite for implementation at scale. Initial steps have already been taken to embed additional technical capacity within project proposals, and this approach will be systematically applied across future initiatives. In this context, an important positive development is the support provided by Germany, which from 2025 is financing a Joint Professional Officer (JPO) through WMO, jointly assigned to WMO and IDMP. This contribution provides valuable additional technical and coordination capacity and represents a significant reinforcement of the TSU's ability to deliver across its growing portfolio. In parallel, the TSU will proactively mobilize partner secondments, linking with aligned projects, and structured engagement of early-career professionals and youth

networks, including through the IDMP partner the Water Youth Network. More broadly, partners acknowledge the need for the TSU to function as a more integrated, multi-partner platform, drawing on complementary expertise across all IDMP partners.

Securing predictable and adequate core funding for the TSU will be essential to safeguard its institutional capacity, ensure continuity and leadership, and enable IDMP to respond effectively to the growing global call to action on drought resilience articulated by the UNCCD and the wider international community.

IV. Budget Estimate

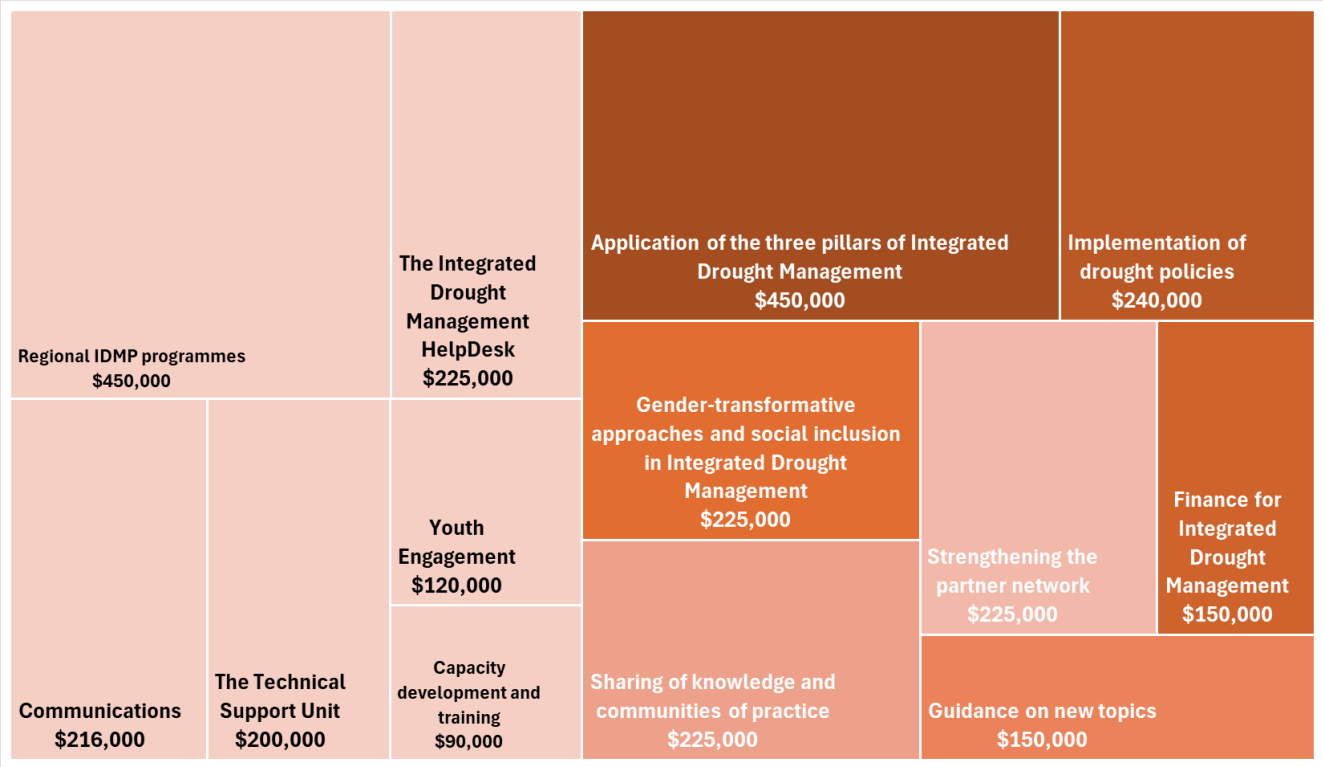

Figure 1 Projected IDMP cost until 2028

The IDMP financial outlook is provided as a project-based cost estimate for the upcoming three-year period. The estimates are based on historical project costs. A large fraction of projected costs is associated with the support of regional IDMP programs and putting the three pillars of drought management into practice. The costs are associated with the provision of ongoing technical assistance to regions, countries and partners developing drought monitoring and early warning systems, encompassing capacity-building workshops, technical assessments, system design, proposal development and related services. As in the past, IDMP aims to continue its effort to implement the three pillar IDM approach by provide targeted, large-scale support for 2-3 countries over the three-year strategy, funded case-by-case. The precise costs will depend on the number of new

projects started and implemented with the support of the IDMP TSU. The next highest factor are implementation drought policies that aim to support the implementation of drought policy. The projected costs capture the support to countries to establish the political momentum to codify and implement drought policy as legal instruments. Gender transformative approaches to IDM supports gender experts on a part-time basis to implement targeted actions to integrate gender into IDMP activities through participation of women experts in conferences or targeted capacity building for women. Some funds are also dedicated to strengthening and expand the partner network of IDMP and to share knowledge within the communities of practice. This shall particularly promote IDM and establish better connections to partners. The occurring costs are associated with staffing costs for a knowledge management expert on a part-time basis. Similarly, IDMP aims to continue to diffusion of relevant information through a part-time communications expert as well as part-time youth focal point. Some funds are budgeted for the support and operating expenses of the Technical Support Unit of the IDMP HelpDesk with plans to accelerate the implementation of the strategy with additional experts. IDMP aims to continue to create and maintain online modules for training and to create one or two additional e-learning courses in the next three years.

Regarding guidance on new topics, IDMP plans to develop two to three new knowledge products over implementation period of the strategy. The topics will be identified annually based on partner needs and knowledge gaps, identified through various interactions including at the annual IDMP meeting. The projected costs reflect the average cost of establishing a knowledge product on a new topic and its dissemination, including for example costs for consultants, meetings or production of texts. Finally, IDMP aims to expand their support to increase access to funding for developing countries for drought work. This includes regional capacity building workshops, support in proposal writing, initial workshops etc. and is an average, given the very different country needs.

With potential expansion and the continuous effort of IDMP there might be a projected cost increment. As shown in the figure below taking only the core functionality of IDMP (the HelpDesk, the TSU, regional IDMP programme/focal points and finance) the core budget is with an expected fixed costs of 200,000 USD small in comparison to the almost 2.5 million in project-related costs (variable costs given they depend on number of projects). Thus, the fixed operating cost percentage is around 9% of the total projected costs. If in the upcoming years, more projects are expanded, the expected staffing and organizational costs also increase. The internally computed expected rise in fixed costs over the medium 3-year term rises to 16% given that higher administrative costs arise from an increase in implementing projects, building capacity, and expanding guidance.

Position	Budgeting Factor	Planned 3-year Budget
Three Pillars of IDM	Provision of technical support, planning and develop drought monitoring, workshops, technical assistance, targeted large scale country support with mixed financing	$ 450 000
Implementation of Drought Policies	Projects supporting countries in establishing and implementing drought policies	$ 240 000
Finance for Drought Management	Support access to funding for drought work in developing economy including workshops	$ 150 000
Gender Transformative Approaches and Social Inclusion in IDM	Support of gender expert and develop and implement new actions for gender integration into IDM	$ 225 000
Guidance on New Topics	Development of knowledge products including dissemination and personal costs	$ 150 000
Sharing Knowledge and Communities of Practice	Organization of events to share knowledge within CoP framework	$ 225 000
Strengthening Partner Network	Resources needed to retain and grow partner network through workshops	$ 225 000
IDMP Focal Points	Establishment and communication with focal points	$ 0
Regional IDM Programs	Targeted capacity building and running costs as well as pot. Expanding IDMP regional nodes	$ 450 000
The Integrated Drought Management HelpDesk	Expert-guided technical support and growth of IDMP HelpDesk	$ 225 000

Capacity Development and Training	Creation of online training modules of at least 1-2 online courses	$ 90 000
Youth Engagement	Funding for administrative positions and support of Youth-led projects	$ 120 000
Communications	Communication and promotion of IDM and knowledge management	$ 216 000
The Technical Support Unit	Expansion of HelpDesk with additional personnel to support and expand TSU functions	$ 200 000
TOTAL		$ 2,966,000

V. Metrics of success

The IDMP will monitor its advancement towards achieving its Implementation Plan by assessing progress annually against a series of impact, outcome and output indicators.

The IDMP impact relates to the socio-economic and environmental benefits derived from better drought management and related governance in the countries and regions where IDMP is active. IDMP's main outcomes lie in the governance improvements introduced by actors at all levels where IDMP is active. IDMP's outputs reside in the services and products delivered by the IDMP which foster sustainable governance improvements of the drought-related systems (via influenced boundary actors).

Metrics of success	
1.	Total value of investments influenced which contributes to drought management
2.	Number of drought information systems improved or established
3.	Number of drought risk assessments formally being used by drought managers and decision-makers

4.	Number of drought policies/plans/strategies supported
5.	Number of countries supported in integrating the IDM Three Pillars in drought policies/plans/strategies
6.	Number of activities supported focusing on risk mitigation, preparedness and response
7.	Number of initiatives that mobilize underrepresented groups (incl. gender and youth) to engage with drought management
8.	Number of knowledge products on new drought related topics produced or influenced by IDMP
9.	Number of users of drought-related Communities of Practice
10.	Number of new IDMP partners
11.	Number of joint global/regional activities by IDMP on integrated drought management, which lead to demonstrable follow-up actions by mandated actors
12.	Number of requests for support received through the IDMP ServiceDesk

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