

# Global WarmingPLAGO

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### Abstract

The problem of global warming continues to be a great challenge not just in the Middle East and Africa but to the entire world. This is no longer an issue that people read on magazines or hear it on news outlets, it is now with us and everyone is experiencing it. Everywhere in the world, the effects of global warming are being experienced but its worse in the Middle East and Africa. The Middle East is one of the areas that are heavily affected by global warming and statistics show that it is likely to worsen in the next few years. It raises serious concerns when deserts start experiencing flooding, this is quite unexpected but currently, it's happening. People in the Middle East are experiencing the consequences of climate change more than any other population in the world starting with floods in Jeddah and the ever-rising sea levels. Raising sea level in the Mediterranean is a big concern to the Middle East because it puts the coastal cities at risk (Uğurlu, 2019). There are other concerns associated with global warming some of which are unique to this region while others are common to the entire world. Taking a good look at the Middle East, it is possible to estimate the most likely outcome of global warming in the region in the next 30-50 years. The essence of this paper is to deeply analyze the issue of global warming in the Middle East including the causes, effects, and possible solutions.

### Introduction

For the past 50 years, there have been numerous discussions on the various ways to handle or control global warming. When these discussions started many countries and key stakeholders did not take the issue seriously since it was never a priority. Global warming is a threat to humankind as we speak and is more likely to wipe out the entire population sooner than expected. Experts believe that by 2050 temperatures are likely to be as high as 40c and above. Going by the current statistics this is likely to happen sooner unless much is done to reduce pollution. It is clear that something has to be done to address the issue of global warming and most amazingly the solutions to this issue are known and applicable. Looking at the problem of global warming one gets to understand how ignorant people can be, there are so many things that we do each day that contribute to this problem which is likely to wipe us all. It is not possible to understand the extent of this problem unless one has had experience in this. The people of the Middle East and Africa understand better the effects of global warming. These two regions have been hit hard for the last 10 years by extreme weather changes and unpredictability which put people's lives in danger (Bayram, & Öztürk, 2019). The Middle East, for example, is experiencing a wave of climatic changes which are very severe.

### Understanding global warming

Global warming occurs when Carbon dioxide and other pollutants and greenhouse gases collect in the atmosphere and absorb sunlight and solar radiation that have bounced off the earth's surface. The radiations can possibly escape into space this is different from the pollutants which keep haunting the earth. These pollutants are what makes the earth to become hotter each year in what experts refer to as greenhouse gases. Without pollution the problem of global warming will be a non-issue but is not likely to happen any soon (Zhao, Yao, & Dong, 2018) First, it is important to note that the fact that the Middle East is experiencing adverse effects of global warming does not mean that the region emits more pollutants than any other

region. The region itself cannot handle the issue of global warming since this is a collective responsibility for everyone. Global warming is at times considered as an avoidable problem since it has conflicting interest with economic growth and this is why the problem is likely to stay with us for long.

### **Cause of global warming and possible solutions**

Burning fossil fuel has been identified as the main cause of global warming. This is a very difficult problem to handle considering that cars and industries run mostly on fossil fuels. It is this fuels that release Carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. A report released in 2017 indicated that electricity generation a prolific contributor to pollution and accounts for more than 73%. This is because many electricity generation plants in the region are operated using burning coal and the remaining with burning gas. The use of renewable energy to operated electricity generation plants is very expensive and at times it can be unreliable although they are very efficient. The emission of carbon dioxide has been increasing and is believed to have doubled for the last decade. To handle this problem, it is important to reduce the reliability of coal on electricity generation. The Middle East should focus more on using available clean energy sources and more so renewable sources.

Deforestation and tree-clearing is also a dominant cause of global warming. Trees are important since they absorb carbon dioxide and as a result, they reduce carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere. Forests are the carbon sinks and experts believe that planting trees can result to reduce and maintain global warming to 1.5c. The Middle East does not have much vegetation cover and there are no as many trees like any other part of the world (Osipov & Stenchi, 2018). It is important to do whatever is possible and necessary to plant trees. Deforestation as well as pollutes the environment and this is why tree-clearing is discouraged. It is estimated that up to one-fifth of greenhouse gases are as a result of vegetation clearing.

Agriculture and farming also play a key role in global warming. As indicated earlier, understanding the whole concept of global warming minimizes the changes in handling it. Global warming is here to stay and some causes cannot be addressed. Methane is a greenhouse gas and livestock produce it. This might be a big issue in the Middle East since there is no much farming activities and livestock rearing but still, it remains to be a great concern. This can be reduced by using different stock feeds.

### **1 Is global warming too big of a problem for me to help tackle?**

Currently, the problem of global warming seems to be getting out of hand and there is no definite answer of whether it is able to control it or not. For example, it is not possible to rule that fossil fuels should not be used and this is the main cause. If it's not possible to face the causes and deal with them, then it is prudent to rule that global warming is getting out of hand. Climate change needs to be addressed with seriousness just like the issue of world peace since they both pose a similar threat. Arab countries are really suffering and global warming has proven that it has the capacity to destroy the entire region. The only that should be done is to ensure that emissions are reduced to acceptable levels and that strict policies are put in place to control emissions. If for the last one-decade carbon dioxide emissions and other greenhouse gases has doubled, then it is possible that global warming will strike big very soon. It is estimated that the world might not be able to control global warming if this rate continues to increase. The good thing is that many countries in the Middle East understand the seriousness of this problem and have put measures to control pollution. With this rate of pollution control, then there is a possibility that the threat can be eliminated by 2040.

### **Impacts of global warming in the region**

There would be no need for alarm if global warming would not have any effects on people. It is important to understand that each country struggles to ensure that its people get employment and this is why it is important to establish industries (Lin & Wang, 2019). Climate change is likely to jeopardize the development of the global economy mainly employment and income. If the effects of climate change continue to be experienced in the Middle East, it is more likely that millions will lose jobs because of drought. This will be the same case in the urban areas if flooding continues. As it stands more than 500,000 jobs have been lost in the last seven years after all which can be attributed to climate change. Coastal areas are the main economic hubs in the Middle East and every small change or disruption results to huge losses. The flooding which is being experienced in coastal areas is a major threat to the stability of the region. The agricultural sector in the Middle East has also been greatly affected and continues to be threatened by droughts. A combination of these factors is making life very challenging in the Middle East and threatens the region's economy.

It is amazing to note that the Middle East is the largest oil producer in the world and relies on oil to drive their economies. This means that it is not possible to just drop their oil drilling projects in the name of addressing climate change. The region heavily relies on oil and oil is the greatest pollutant, this is why I earlier indicated that this is a problem that is going to remain with us for long. The benefits of oil in this region outweighs the effects of global warming. In 2018, experts noted that flooding in the Middle East is likely to affect more than 26 port cities which are very important in the region. This is the same case in Africa but the Middle East is likely to suffer more. If this happens and it will happen, more than 2 million people will be displaced and are also likely to result in huge losses. An estimated \$35 billion losses will be experienced including land, infrastructure, and other valuable property. This includes cultural and historic assets.

### **Rising heat, rising seas**

Many low living communities might soon be forced to leave if the current rate of rising sea levels continues. This has been associated with temperature raising which has caused the Antarctic ice to melt at a very high level. Soon the case of Alexandria might be repeated and many more cities might be washed by the sea. The 2015 events that left seven people dead and thousands displaced is not an isolated incident and more are likely to follow. It should be remembered that in the same year there were more than six storms that left cities in the Middle East heavily flooded and even submerged houses for several years. The region expects worse each day and there is very little that can be done to handle the problem unless the issue of climate change is completely looked into. There are many other effects of sea levels rising and not just flooding of cities. Some countries in the Middle East have experienced building collapsing and now it's just a regular occurrence. People who are living in the coastal regions in the Middle East live under constant fear of being swept away and there is very little that they can do with their only one option of evacuating (Dogar et al, 2018).

It should also be remembered that in 2013 more than 22 people lost their lives in Alexandria's poorer neighborhood after an eight-storey building collapsed. This is what awaits

many coastal regions in the Middle East and will soon happen. Earlier this year there were similar incidences of residential buildings collapsing and ended up leaving many people injured. It is also on record that a gigantic chunk of polar ice has been melting and the concern is when the effects will start to be seen. The sea level in the Middle East is soon expected to rise and this is likely to affect the region more. The issue of rising heat has also made headlines for some time now and it is expected that the temperatures will keep increasing each time. In 2018 alone many of the temperature records were smashed and in the Middle East, alone temperatures went as high as 52c.

### **How to adapt to climate change**

It is not possible to evacuate the people in the Middle East irrespective of the threat and effect of global warming. The most important thing is to come up with various ways through which the problem can be addressed and how people can adapt to changes. This is what many other parts of the world is also trying to do with Japan leading. There might be very little that can be done to address the problem of global warming but there are various ways of adapting to this. This is also part of the solution to global warming; the most important thing is to focus on various ways of balancing short term priorities with vulnerabilities of climate change in the long run. This has been a major contributor to global warming with industries prioritizing profits and ignoring all other considerable factors. There should be a balance between development priorities and the possible impact on climate change. For the last five years, the World Bank has been partnering with Africa and the Middle East to drive the adaptation agenda (Zittis, Hadjinicolaou, & Lelieveld, 2017).

The adaption agenda is infrastructure investment, all development projects and any other relevant project should be designed to withstand a test of time. There should be investments tailored to address the effects of global warming such as drought and flooding. It reaches a point where adaptation becomes necessary and now it's necessary for the Middle East. There is a need to invest in reliable and sustainable water projects. It is not advisable to heavily rely on nature as the region has done for decades. The second adaptation policy is knowledge strengthening and this had to do with timing and response of disasters. Lastly, policy reform is key to ensure that there is an efficient and effective use of water and energy resources.

### **Addressing climate change in the Middle East**

It is now clear that the Middle East is more vulnerable to climate change than any other region in the world and is more likely to start experiencing the worst of global warming soon. There has been already some occurrences and warmings that can be used to explain what is likely to happen in the near future. The Middle East is the world's driest region and has been experiencing water scarcity for decades now. It is for this reason that the regions largely relies on climate-sensitive agriculture to feed its population. The coastal region is very important in the Middle East and much of the region's economic activities are concentrated around these areas and this is what makes this region very vulnerable to climate change. This is a very flood-prone area and cities are under constant threat of flooding and so the people have to adapt. Even with this flooding and the threats, the region is under pressure as well to adapt to water scarcity and extreme heat (Rana, Vinoba, & AlHumaidan, 2018).

There are global efforts to ensure that the problem of global warming is addressed but the most discouraging part is that this is likely to take long considering there are conflicting interests. The solutions to this problem are known but implementation is almost impossible. The only thing that can be done is to start controlling pollution by all means possible. There is reportedly increasing the level of awareness in the Middle East on the various ways through

which pollution can be reduced and possible alternatives. This is a reflection of what is happening globally with each day relevant agencies raising standards to be met by industries and more so car manufacturers. This, however, does not mean that there will be immediate change or that the problem of flooding, drought, and water shortage in the region will be solved. Global warming has done so much damage so far and it is almost impossible to enjoy what was once the pride of this world. The air we breathe will remain contaminated for decades and this applies to drought and flooding.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the issue of global warming in the Middle East is considered a serious threat to the entire region. This is one of the regions in the world that has been affected a lot by global warming and has experienced serious effects. It is important to note that global warming is a problem that is likely to take ages to solve and so the effects are here to stay. Countries in the Middle East are experiencing flooding, temperature rise, and persistent drought which has threatened their economic stability. There are several causes of global warming including the use of fossil fuels, livestock and agriculture, and lastly deforestation and vegetation clearing. Each of these causes has its own solutions with some having easy to apply solutions while others proving to be difficult to deal with. This is a region that for the last two years has experienced deadly storms and there is still no relent with each day people living with the fear of the worst.



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