

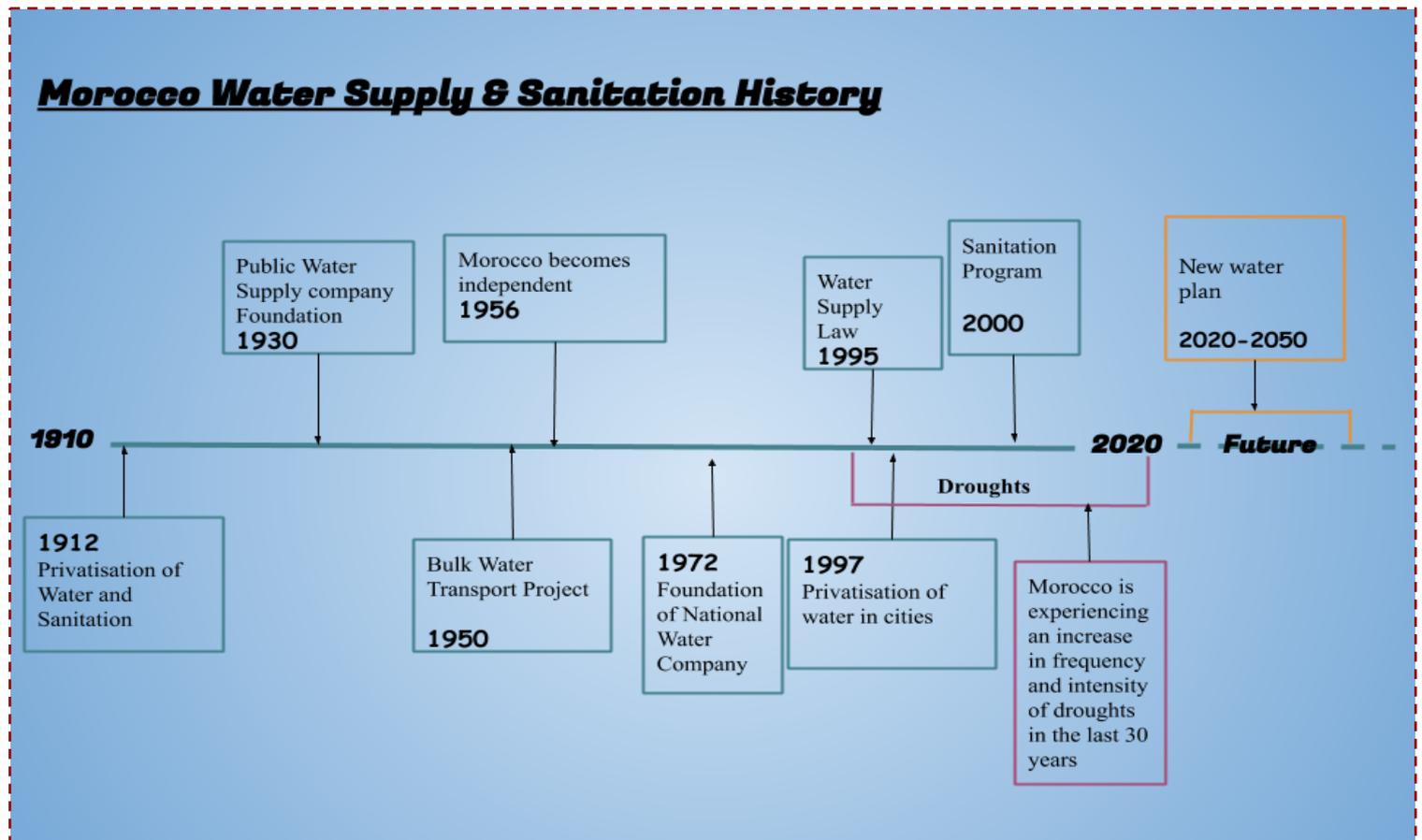
UN Sustainable Development

Blog - Morocco



This year as a part of our Global Perspectives course we (grade 10), we are planning a trip to Morocco, which has now sadly been cancelled due to recent events. Nevertheless, it was important for us to learn about the culture and way of life there. Our group chose to focus on the goal of clean water and sanitation. We chose this as we realized how privileged we are having running tap water, whereas elsewhere this is a rarity. Thus, we decided to focus on it, as we already knew that Morocco was suffering from frequent droughts but still working towards this goal.

Historical Development:



1912:

In 1912, under French Regime, the sanitation and water supply for many of the larger cities, usually located by the coast such as Casablanca and Rabat, were managed by a private French company called SMD.

1930:

The REIP, a public company, was formed, which later helped with the bulk water transfer project.

1950:

The bulk water transfer project: water coming from the Oum er-Rbia River was transferred to Casablanca; this type of transfer was known as bulk water supply. Bulk water transfer taking place to other cities, apart from Casablanca, was controlled by the REIP. This influenced the current situation in Morocco, as larger cities water is controlled by a private company, while the bulk water supply is by a public company.

1956:

Morocco became independent from France. The public companies, located in major cities, were given control over the water distribution system, as it began to grow and become more national.

1972:

The ONEP was formed, a national water supply company, which also now manages the country's bulk water supply.

1995:

Morocco had its first **water law**. This aimed at promoting effective ways of using water, better allocation, as well as keeping the water quality good. It allowed for river basin agencies to be formed, which managed the resource at the specific basins. In 1995, Morocco had its first **rural water supply program**, it was implemented in the hope of increasing the availability of water in rural areas.



Present State:

Morocco has diminishing groundwater reserves. Only 15 % of total agricultural land is irrigated, making it increasingly difficult for the country to achieve UN sustainability goals, specifically clean water and sanitation. Although Morocco has a well-developed infrastructure for the delivery of water and sanitation services, still over 1 million people lack access. In 2011, 58% of Moroccans had access to piped water in their house. Morocco has been using seawater desalination and river basins, to supply the water for domestic and industrial use. However, Morocco is currently working towards achieving the UN Sustainable development goal: clean accessible water for everyone. The government has implemented different strategies to help them achieve this goal:

- Building dams
- New desalination plants
- Sanitation plans(for schools & rural areas)

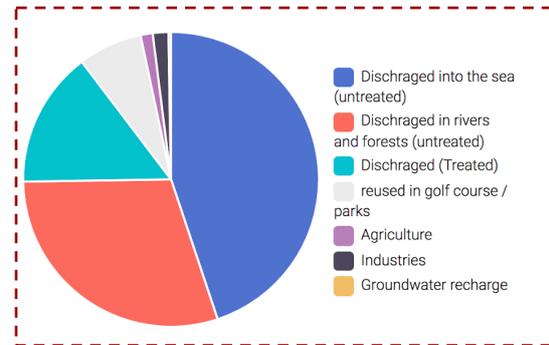
WATER	Urban	Rural	Total
Tap inside the house	82.6%	18.1%	58.3%
Tap in the yard	2.6%	1.7%	2.2%
Bottled Water	0.6%	0.3%	0.5%
Standpipe	10.8%	11%	10.9%
Protected wells	0.8%	13.5%	5.6%
Open wells	1%	26.6%	10.7%
Spring ^[12]	0.9%	17.2%	7.1%
River or creek	0.0%	5.4%	2.0%
Reservoir of a dam	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%
Rainwater harvesting	0.0%	4.0%	1.5%
Tanker truck	0.6%	1.5%	0.9%
Others	0.1%	0.4%	0.2%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

Future Aims:

In 2015, the Moroccan government developed a plan to help improve the provision of water and sanitation to the lower-income areas and less developed settlements in urban areas, in order to achieve the UN sustainable development goal. This plan was updated at the end of 2019 to now be a 30-year plan from 2020-2050. King Mohammad VI entailed that the plan includes building dams, irrigation, wastewater treatment and improving the transportation of drinking water to rural areas, and desalination of seawater. Furthermore, it is in place to help agriculture and preserve the ecosystem. While this might not completely solve the country's problem of water scarcity, it brings them one step closer to everyone there having access to water and sanitation.

Ethical Implications:

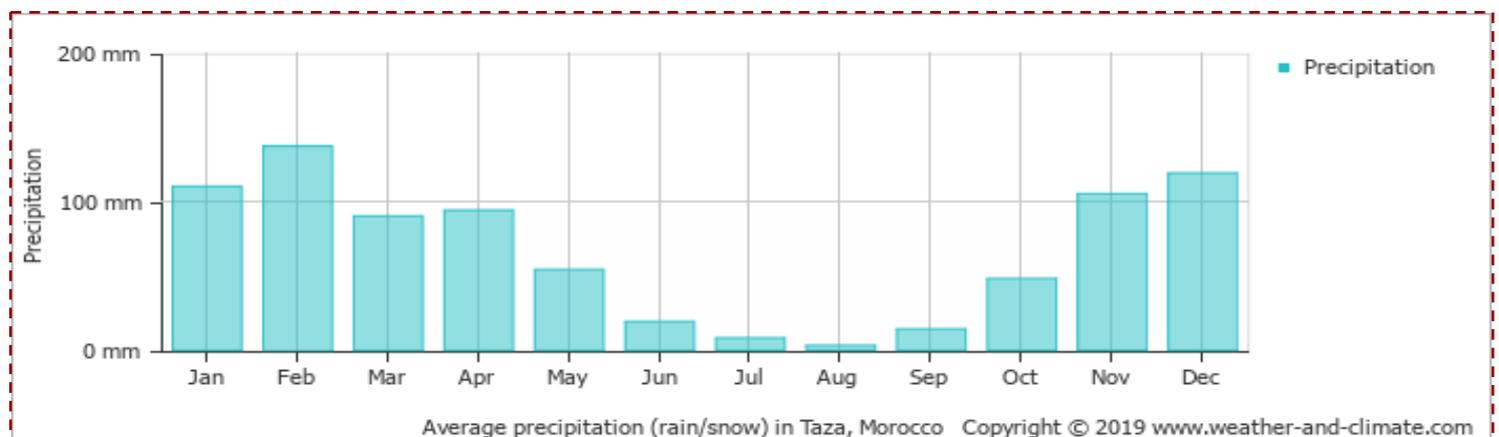
It is mostly ethical. Morocco has been working on the water supply and sanitation in the country. One focus is to bring clean water to more rural areas. This is ethical because it is going to help provide a clean source of water to lots of people that don't currently have access to water. Water supply service is continuous in most medium and large urban areas, for example, 'Laayoune', is served by a desalination plant, which supplies the entire city.



However, while Morocco is trying to improve their current situation only a small volume of wastewater is actually being reused with a capacity around 685,000 m³/day. It is mainly being dumped, untreated into the sea and rivers. This is unethical as it is harming the environment, causing the death of animals and plants.

Hindrance to Success:

1. Morocco is currently facing a drought, causing the water that is available to be used for irrigation of crops
2. All international flight and ferries have been canceled, causing a huge economic crisis, due to the spreading of the Coronavirus.
3. There is little water available, making it increasingly difficult to ensure that everyone has access to it. Morocco is also experiencing droughts in the last two decades, the intensity and frequency have increased. This causes a problem for the people, as they need water for drinking, cleaning etc. and the economy: agriculture and mining. Caused by little rainfall, an average of around 27.18mm monthly.
4. Morocco is a Leduc, meaning it can't spend as much money as other countries on developing sanitation or water supply without the help of foreign investors.



Interesting Facts:



1. In the southern part of countries, by the mountains, fog is “harvested” and used as a water source.
2. The tap water in Morocco is considered drinkable.

Word count: 893

Citations:

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