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Nota di contenuto	Front Cover -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Executive Summary -- Abbreviations -- Chapter One: The Unprecedented Collision of Water Scarcity, Conflict, and Forced Displacement -- Key Highlights -- Introduction -- Focus of the Report -- Note -- References -- Chapter Two: Why and in What Contexts Does Water Contribute to Conflict and Forced Displacement? -- Key Highlights -- Introduction -- What Is the Evidence on the Links between Water Risks and Forced Displacement? -- What Is the Evidence on the Links between Water and Conflict? -- Does Forced Displacement Catalyze Conflict and Tensions over Water? -- Looking Ahead: Soaring Demand, Climate Change, and the Changing Nature of Conflict -- Conclusions -- Note -- References -- Chapter

Three: Least Protected, Most Affected -- Key Highlights -- Introduction -- Who Are the Forcibly Displaced Populations and Their Host Communities? -- Where Do the Forcibly Displaced Populations Live and What Water Risks Do They Face? -- COVID-19 Exacerbates Existing Vulnerabilities and Creates New Challenges -- Conclusions -- Notes -- References -- Chapter Four: Water: An Opportunity for Protecting the Most Vulnerable and Building Resilience -- Key Highlights -- Introduction -- From People's Grievances to Regional Dynamics: An Integrated Framework to Respond to Water Risks during Protracted Forced Displacement -- The Path Not Taken: Trade-Offs between Short-Term Gains and Long-Term Sustainability Shape Success -- References -- Appendix A: Definitions of Selected Terms Used in This Report -- Appendix B: Water Conflict and Cooperation Event Data Sets -- Appendix C: Interviews with Key Informants -- Appendix D: Interviews with Refugees in Jordan and Lebanon -- Boxes -- Box 1.1: Climate Change, Population Growth, and the Middle East and North Africa's Water Crisis.

Box 2.1: Influence of Water Risks on Migration and Conflict Relative to Socioeconomic and Political Factors -- Box 2.2: Climate Change in the Syrian Arab Republic -- Box 2.3: Complementary Approaches to Study the Links between Water-Related Variables, Migration, and Conflict -- Box 2.4: Basra: A Hot Spot of Water Scarcity and Fragility -- Box 2.5: Combined Impact of Conflict and Climate-Related Water Risks: Evidence from Lake Chad -- Box 3.1: Water Challenges in the Shatila Refugee Camp, Beirut, Lebanon -- Box 3.2: A Syrian's Access to Water in the Zaatari Camp -- Box 3.3: Water Risks and Those Left Behind -- Box 3.4: What Has COVID-19 Meant for Refugees' Water Security? Tales from Syrian Refugees in Jordan -- Box 4.1: Bridging Humanitarian Response and Development in Uganda: The Integrated Water Management and Development Project -- Box 4.2: Emerging Lessons from the Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project in the Horn of Africa -- Box 4.3: Controlled Environment Agriculture for Forcibly Displaced Populations and Host Communities -- Box C.1: Expert Elicitation Themes and Questions in Key Informant Questionnaire -- Box D.1: Topics and Questions on Impacts of COVID-19 and Water Security Questionnaire -- Figures -- Figure ES.1: Framework to Examine the Interplay of Water, Conflict, and Forced Displacement in the Middle East and North Africa -- Figure ES.2: Approach for Development Actors to Promote Water Security for Forcibly Displaced People and Their Host Communities -- Figure ES.3: Decision Points in Response to Water Risks Faced by Forcibly Displaced People and Their Host Communities -- Figure ES.4: Water in the Shadow of Conflict -- Figure 1.1: Framework to Examine the Interplay of Water, Conflict, and Forced Displacement in the Middle East and North Africa.

Figure 2.1: Reasons for Leaving Place of Origin and Coming to Current Location among IDP Communities in Libya, June 2020 -- Figure B2.1.1: Factors that Influence Migration in the Middle East and North Africa, by Influence and Uncertainty -- Figure B2.1.2: Ranking of Factors That Most Influence Armed Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa -- Figure B2.1.3: Changes in the Influence of Water Risks on Migration Rates under Increasing Climate Change -- Figure 2.2: Number of Domestic Events Related to Water Quality/Quantity in the Middle East and North Africa Displayed on a Conflict/Cooperation Scale, 1997-2009 -- Figure 2.3: Number of International Water Events in the Middle East and North Africa Displayed on a Conflict/Cooperation Scale, 1948-2008 -- Figure 2.4: Instances of Water Infrastructure Targeting in the Middle East and North Africa, 2011-18 -- Figure 3.1: Countries and

Economies of Origin of Forced Displacement, 2020 -- Figure 3.2: Number of Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Palestinian Refugees Hosted, by Country and Economy, 2020 -- Figure 3.3: Share of Refugees and Asylum Seekers with Disability Status, by Country in the Middle East and North Africa, 2019 -- Figure 3.4: Three Displacement Settings and Related Characteristics -- Figure 3.5: Access to Drinking Water and to Improved Unshared Sanitation Facilities by Area of Residence in West Bank and Gaza, Including Camps and Source of Water, 2014 -- Figure 3.6: Access to Services among Syrian Arab Republic Refugees in Three Locations in Jordan, by Household with Disability, 2018 -- Figure 3.7: Primary Humanitarian Needs of IDPs and Returnees in the Republic of Yemen, 2019 -- Figure 3.8: Main Sources of Water among IDPs, Returnees, International Migrants, and Host Communities in Libya, 2020.

Figure B3.3.1: Gaps in Networked Water Supply and Sanitation Services between Capital City and Other Areas -- Figure B3.3.2: Water Risks Are Associated with Higher Spatial Inequality in the Middle East and North Africa Region -- Figure 3.9: Share of International Migrant Population by Frequency of Access to Public Drinking Water Supply -- Figure 3.10: Percentage of Lebanese Households Exposed to E. coli at Point of Consumption and Distribution -- Figure 3.11: Access to Sanitation Services for Syrian Refugees, by Host Country and Location, 2017 -- Figure 3.12: Water Quality Trends and Number of Refugees in Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon -- Figure 3.13: Performance Data for Selected Utilities in Kurdistan Region of Iraq, 2011 and 2017 -- Figure 4.1: Approach for Development Actors to Promote Water Security for Forcibly Displaced People and Their Host Communities -- Figure 4.2: Decision Points, Pathways, and Water Security Outcomes for Forcibly Displaced People and their Host Communities -- Tables -- Table 2.1: Examples of International Water Events in the Middle East and North Africa, Ranked on a Conflict/Cooperation Scale, 1948-2008 -- Table B.1: Number of Events Recorded in the WARICC Data Set by Event Type for Different Samples of the Full Data Set -- Table B.2: Countries Involved and Number of Events Recorded in the Transboundary Freshwater Dispute Database by Event Type for Different Samples of the Full Data Set -- Table C.1: Key Informants Interviewed as Part of This Study.

Sommario/riassunto

The Middle East and North Africa Region encapsulates many of the issues surrounding water and human mobility. It is the most water-scarce region in the world and is experiencing unprecedented levels of forced displacement. *Ebb and Flow: Volume 2. Water in the Shadow of Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa* examines the links between water risks (harmful outcomes related to water, from droughts and floods to lack of sanitation), conflict, and forced displacement. It aims to better explain how to address the vulnerabilities of forcibly displaced persons and their host communities, and to identify water policy and investment responses. Contrary to common belief, the report finds that the evidence linking water risks with conflict and forced displacement in the region is not unequivocal. Water risks are more frequently related to cooperation than to conflict at both domestic and international levels. But while conflict is not necessarily a consequence of water risks, the reverse is a real and concerning phenomenon: conflict amplifies water risks. Since 2011, there have been at least 180 instances of intentional targeting of water infrastructure in conflicts in Gaza, Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Republic of Yemen. Forcibly displaced persons and their host communities face myriad water risks. Access to safe drinking water is a daily struggle for millions of forcibly displaced Iraqis, Libyans, Palestinians, Syrians, Yemenis, and

international migrants in the region, heightening public health risks. Tanker trucks often help fill the gap; however, significant issues of water quality, reliability, and affordability remain. Host communities also face localized declines in water availability and quality as well as unplanned burdens on water services following the arrival of forcibly displaced persons. The reality of protracted forced displacement requires a shift from humanitarian support toward a development approach for water security, including structured yet flexible planning to deliver water services and sustain water resources for forcibly displaced persons and their host communities.
