

Jana Gheuens¹, Nidhi Nagabhatla^{1,2} and Duminda Perera¹

¹United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) Hamilton, Canada

²School of Geography and Earth Science, McMaster University, 1280 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON L8S 4L8, Canada

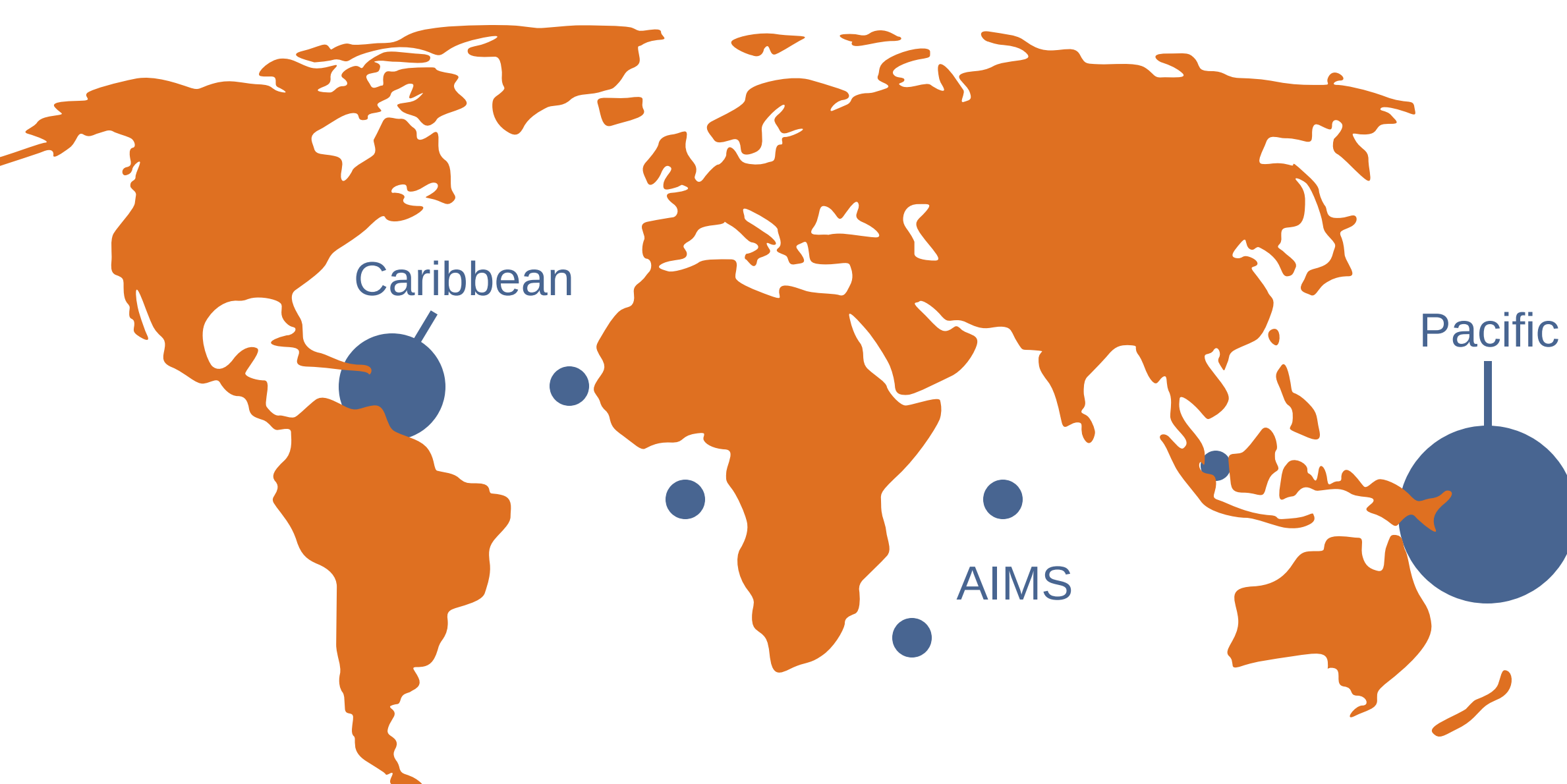
What Are SIDS

High Vulnerability

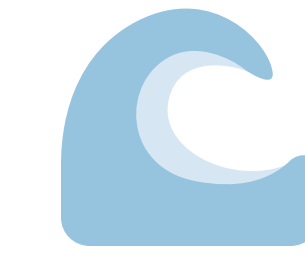
- small size
- remoteness
- vulnerability to external (demand and supply-side) shocks
- limited resource base
- exposure to global environmental and climatic challenges

38 UN Member States¹

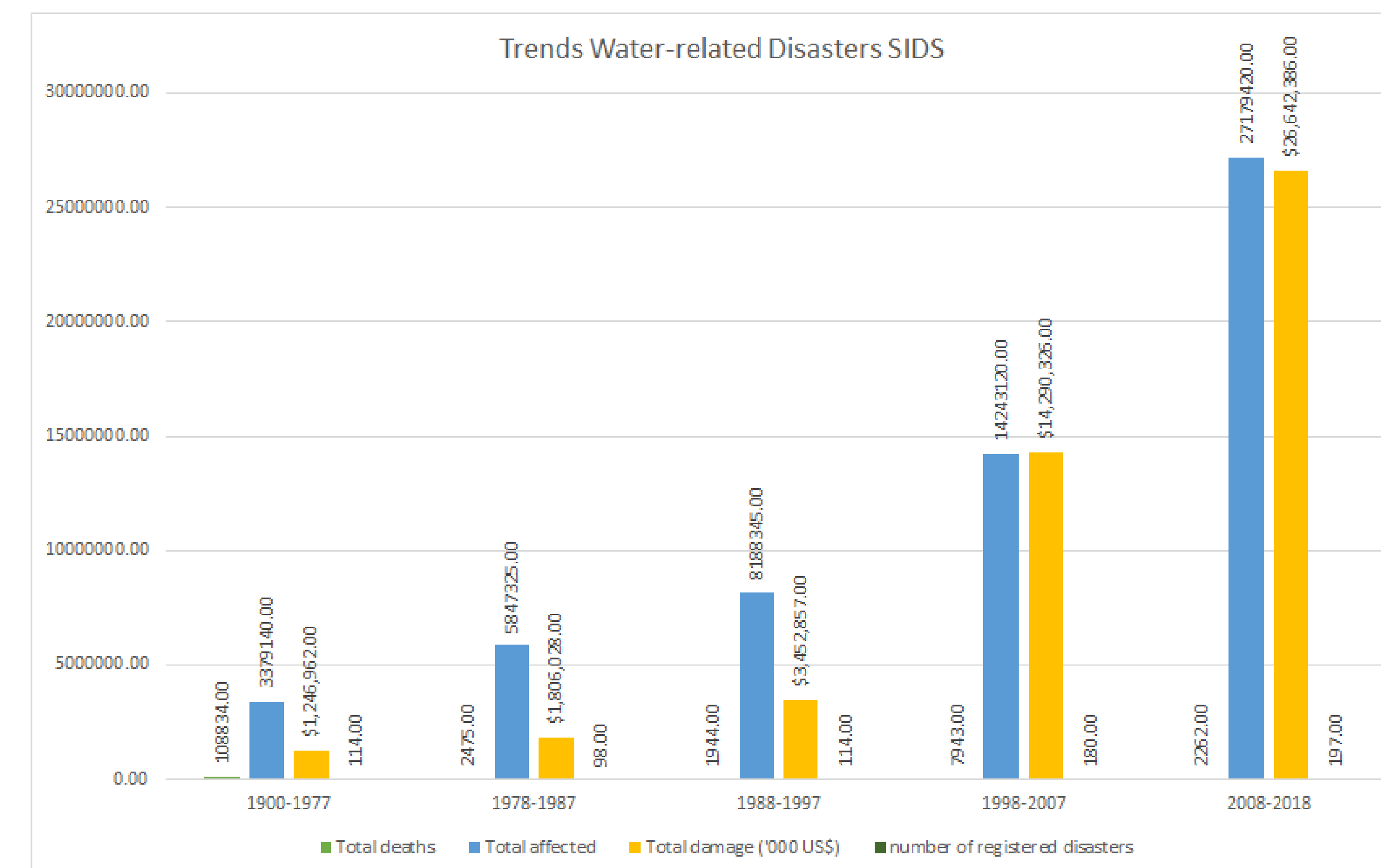
- Caribbean (16)
- Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS) (9)
- Pacific (13)



Disaster Risk



Natural Disasters



- Increase in disasters of 178% in period 1998-2018 compared to 1978-1997 , global increase of 151%.²
- Caribbean, especially Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Cuba most affected.
- Most frequent disasters: storms, floods, droughts, and tsunami's.
- Impacts on economy, society and environment.

Climate Change

- Increase frequency and intensity of disasters.
- Additional issues such as sea-level rise.

Challenges

- Lack of capacity and data availability.
- Financing.
- Without integration of policies, risk of duplication and conflicts between policies is high.



Water Security



WASH*, Adaptation, Economic Development

- Most have access to basic improved drinking water.
- Lower percentage of the population with access to improved sanitation services.
- Low groundwater volumes in most SIDS.
- Threatened ecosystems that affect SIDS' adaptive capacities.
- Limited economic resources combined with high debt levels.
- Tourism can both be beneficial and detrimental to SIDS.

Enabling Environment

- Partnerships between SIDS and regions for water cooperation.
- Official Development Aid and funds to increase resilience.
- Youth unemployment rates as high as 50%.
- Women as main domestic water provider but often limited in capacities.
- Climate change and natural disasters affect water availability

Challenges

- Limited resources (financial and technological).
- Traditional and customary laws.
- Lack of proper institutions and good governance.

*: WASH: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

¹ SDG Knowledge Platform. (2018). Small Island Developing States. [online] Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sids> [Accessed 2 Nov. 2018].

² EM-DAT. (2018). EM-DAT | The international disasters database. [online] Available at: <https://www.emdat.be/> [Accessed 14 Nov. 2018].