

Factors contributing to increased flood impact



Construction in flood-prone areas: Building homes and infrastructure in areas with a history of flooding or on natural floodplains.



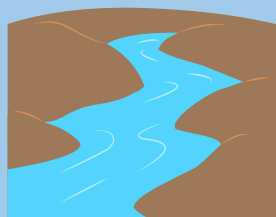
Deforestation/urbanization: The clearing of forests and expansion of impermeable surfaces like concrete reduce the ground's ability to absorb rainwater, leading to increased runoff and more severe flooding.



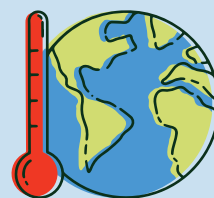
Existing building stock: While building codes exist that can enhance a structure's resistance to flood damage, many existing buildings were not constructed according to these standards.



Inadequate drainage systems: Poorly designed and badly maintained drainage systems exacerbate flooding.



River flow management: Failure to implement measures to manage river flow and prevent excessive meandering and erosion can worsen flood events.



Climate change: Climate change acts as a risk multiplier, intensifying the frequency, severity and unpredictability of flooding through altered precipitation patterns, the rise of sea levels, glacial melt and extreme weather events.



World Health Organization

Eastern Mediterranean Region

