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## Desertification (JC Geography)

### What is Desertification?

- **Desertification** means turning land into desert.
- It occurs when desert conditions spread into areas that were once fertile.
- The areas most vulnerable to desertification are those at the edge of existing deserts.
- **The Sahel** for example, a region at the southern edge of the Sahara Desert was once a region of fertility but overtime, it has desertified.

### Causes of Desertification

#### 1. Climate Change

- Rainfall is unreliable
- Higher temperatures
- Severe and longer droughts
- Rivers dried up

#### 2. Human Factors

- Overgrazing of the land
- No fertilisers
- Deforestation

### Results of Desertification

- Hundreds of thousands of people have **died** as a result of **famine**.
- Millions of people were forced to **migrate** in search of food or aid. Many of these still live in **refugee camps**.
- Many people moved into **urban areas**, leading to the growth of **slums**.
- Millions of **animals** have **died**.
- Vast areas of land are now unable to support **agriculture**.
- Towns and villages have been swallowed up by the advancing sands.

## **Solutions to Desertification**

- Slow down soil erosion by **planting trees** as shelter belts.
- Bind the soil particles by **planting grasses** that are resistant to droughts.
- Dig deeper wells to find water for **irrigation**.
- Introduce **new breeds of animals** to produce more milk but with smaller herds.