Close to Adrar in the Touat region of southern Algeria, people are turning to a traditional approach to improve their resilience to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of desertification.

### Context
- **Population growth:** 1.5% per annum
- **Intensification of agriculture and over-cultivation:** move towards monoculture and cash crops, leading to increased use of fertilisers and machinery
- **Modern water pumps:** removing water direct from groundwater supplies

### Causes
- **Climate change:**
  - Less rainfall (total amounts and reliability, increased drought (frequency and intensity))
  - Higher temperatures, increased evaporation, reduced condensation

- **Change in farming:**
  - Increase in livestock numbers
  - Farmers forced to change traditional methods of land use as more land needed for food crops (grass ploughed up)
  - Overcultivation: reduced soil fertility, soil left exposed
  - Overgrazing: soil depleted of nutrients, land stripped of its protective grass cover

- **Population growth:**
  - High birth rates
  - Refugees from civil wars and droughts
  - Increased demand for wood for cooking, heating, building

### Responses
- **Collaboration between NGOs and the Algerian government:** to protect the oasis ecosystems of the region, which were once effectively used to survive in the hostile arid environment
- **Four oases were selected:** to rehabilitate and preserve traditional irrigation practices – foggaras
- **A water assembly:** was set up to decide on the quantities of water used
- **Workshops for locals:** on saving water, combating desertification and preserving palm trees and foggaras
- **Trickle-down effect:** of the knowledge obtained at workshops to the rest of the community

(Flowchart diagram showing the processes of desertification and the responses to it)