

كوثر



Center of Arab Women for Training And Research



Regional Conference on Water Governance
Sharing experiences between OECD and Arab Countries
Tunis, 8-9 July 2009

CAWTAR's Programme on:
**Gender & Water Resources
Management**

CAWTAR

- **The Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) is a regional Arab NGO established in 1993 as a direct response to a long-felt need in the Arab region for a center specialized in promoting Gender to meet development challenges and dedicated to the empowerment of Arab women as a critical social capital for good governance and prosperity in the region.**

CAWTAR's Mission

Generate knowledge and enhance the capacity of Arab institutions to use this knowledge in ways that enable Arab women to become fully empowered and to exercise their rights to participate in the development of their communities

Gender & Water Resources Management: Critical Issue for Good Governance

- Good governance plays a significant role in improving the livelihoods of people
- Weak water management impacts negatively on poor men and women through unreliable services, limited access to services, and higher costs for inefficient and ineffective services which often subsidise the rich
- There is a correlation between weak water governance, persistent poverty and inadequate access to water for vulnerable groups, leading to stunted development (GWA, 2006)
- Improved water governance can lead to equitable water resources development and access for all (UNDP, 2002)

Gender & Water Resources Management: Critical Issue for Good Governance

- Poor water governance is among the main obstacles identified facing equitable access and control of water resources, as well as sustainable development that takes into account all stakeholders
- Water governance is particularly limited in its consideration and inclusion of gender dimensions.

Water governance, is the “range of political, social, economic and administrative systems that are in place to regulate the development and management of water resources and provision of services at different levels of society” (GWA, 2006)

Gender & Water Resources Management: Critical Issue for Good Governance

- Despite women's important role in the water sector, as the main users and managers of the resource, they have continued to be excluded from the decision making and planning process.
- Governing bodies and structures have failed to recognize women's particular needs and contributions in the use and management of water resources, resulting in policies and programmes that do not take into account gender dimensions nor reflect women's realities, concerns, and priorities.

Gender & Water Resources Management: Critical Issue for Good Governance

- Fair and effective water governance can be ensure through:
 - Incorporating gender dimensions in policies, projects,
 - ➔ and programmes relating to water management
 - Representative and inclusive decision-making
 - ➔ mechanisms and politics
 - Consultative planning approaches
 - ➔ Identification and integration of gender sensitive
 - ➔ analysis into development policies.

GSI for AQUASTAT Project

Developing Gender Sensitive Indicators for the Food & Agriculture Organization's global information system on water and agriculture, AQUASTAT



**Bureau Sous-Régional pour
l'Afrique du Nord (SNEA)**

aider à construire un monde libéré de la faim



Overview

- A pilot project that aims at assisting the FAO in developing, in its first phase, methodological tools for developing Gender Sensitive Indicators (GSI) in water management, particularly in the agriculture sector for the North Africa sub-region.
- Covers three countries in North Africa : Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.
- The methodology proposal will be integrated in FAO's global information system on water and agriculture, AQUASTAT.

General Objective of the project

- Development of Gender Sensitive Indicators (GSI) for AQUASTAT in the North Africa sub-region.

Gender Sensitive Indicators (GSIs) require the production of data that is disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, and other socio-economic variables relevant to the project or programming context. By pointing to changes in gender relations in society over time, GSIs support gender mainstreaming in planning and implementation and, more importantly, in monitoring evaluation of activities. They also contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of sustaining development and eliminating poverty. (source FAO pamphlet on “GSIs for Natural Resources Management)

Specific Objectives

- To compensate knowledge gap on information, data on gender in AQUASTAT
- To enhance capacities of intermediary workers
- To systematize the institutional data process in Gender Sensitive Indicators

WHY GSIs?

- Importance of women in the provision, management and safeguard of water
- Difference in roles and responsibilities attributed to men and women in the management of natural resources in general and water resources in particular
- The necessity of a holistic and systematic approach to water management (Integrated Water Resources Management-IWRM), which takes into account social equity, economic efficiency and environmental sustainability
- Social equity and economic efficiency is achieved by taking into account women and men's needs in water management during the identification, formulation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation processes of water management projects and programs by all stakeholders (end-users, planners and policy makers)
- Lack of sufficient data and available comparable GSI indicators in relation to the management of water resources.

Expected Results

- Filling the knowledge gap ensures that monitoring progress towards gender equality in the water sector will deliver more efficient and sustainable projects and programs,
- Information based on sex-disaggregated data is a necessary tool to address gender equality issues,
- Availability of gender quantitative and qualitative data will contribute to better understand and analyze the situation at national, regional and international levels,
- Contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially MDG 3 (promote gender equality and empower women) and MDG 7 (ensure environmental sustainability).

Expected Outcomes of the Project

- **1/ Desk review reports**

The goal of the desk review reports is to compensate the knowledge gap on information, data on gender in water, particularly in the agriculture sector. The reports provide a comprehensive knowledge base on gender dimensions in water management for the global information system (AQUASTAT).

- **2/ Methodology kit on developing Gender Sensitive Indicators in the water sector.**

The proposal on the methodology for developing Gender Sensitive Indicator will

- a) shed light on key questions presented in the methodology, and
- b) develop a methodology on Gender Sensitive Indicators in the sub region once a common understanding is reached.

- **3/ Sharing experience on practical ways to implement the methodological tools to develop GSIs**

A regional workshop will be organised to bring interested stakeholders from the region to share good practices and lessons learned around gender issues in water management, particularly in the agriculture.

GEWAMED Project

Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions Into
Water Resources Development and
Management in the Mediterranean
Region



EC- DG Research



6th Framework Programme



CIHEAM
MAI BARI



CAWTAR



GEWAMED

Why a project like GEWAMED?

- Lack of coordination mechanisms among relevant institutions and related bodies
- Lack of institutional support for information dissemination
- Lack of coordination among women programmes
- Insufficient knowledge among men and women about their own rights
- Scarce access to information and technology (particularly in the sanitation area)
- Few initiatives undertaken to ensure women's participation in water-related decision-making
- Lack of skills and knowledge in promoting gender mainstreaming in integrated water resources management

GEWAMED General Objectives

Contribute to the mainstreaming of gender dimensions in the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the Mediterranean Region, by promoting a dialogue among the countries of the region and establishing regional and national information networks and coordination structures to promote the adoption of gender sensitive policies and build a common knowledge base.

GEWAMED Specific Objectives

1. Building a national and regional shared knowledge base on gender issues, policies, actions and measures to support gender mainstreaming in all processes related to IWRM.
2. Enhance the cooperation and dialogue among Mediterranean countries but also within each country.
3. Contribute to the adoption of national policies and other related instruments for mainstreaming gender dimensions in IWRM.

S.O.1: Building Shared Knowledge Base

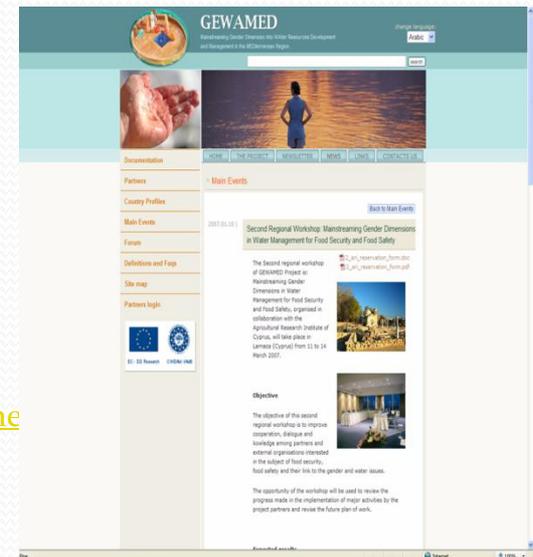
- Establishment of a regional web site:

<http://www.gewamed.net>

- Establishment of a national web sites:

- Algeria: www.gewamed-algerie.com
- Egypt: www.nwrc-egypt.prg/GEWAMED
- Jordan: <http://gewamed.ju.edu.jo>
- Lebanon: www.rmfi.org.lb/economy/women/gewamed
- Palestine: www.gewamed.ps
- Tunisia: <http://gewamed.cawtar.org>
- Syria: www.gewamed-syria.com

- Development of a structured national information system on gender issues related to water resources development and management in each of the participating countries in the project and made available to all potential web site users. This includes the development of gender sensitive indicators.



S.O.2: Enhancing Cooperation and Dialogue

- Cooperation among partners and external organizations interested in this subject through the participation in regional workshops and national seminars
- The coordination and dissemination of information at a national level by establishing a National Central Focal Point in the SEMR countries
- A greater awareness of the society in general and the agricultural sector in particular of the importance of gender issues in the water sector.
- Dissemination of the results of the project to larger audiences

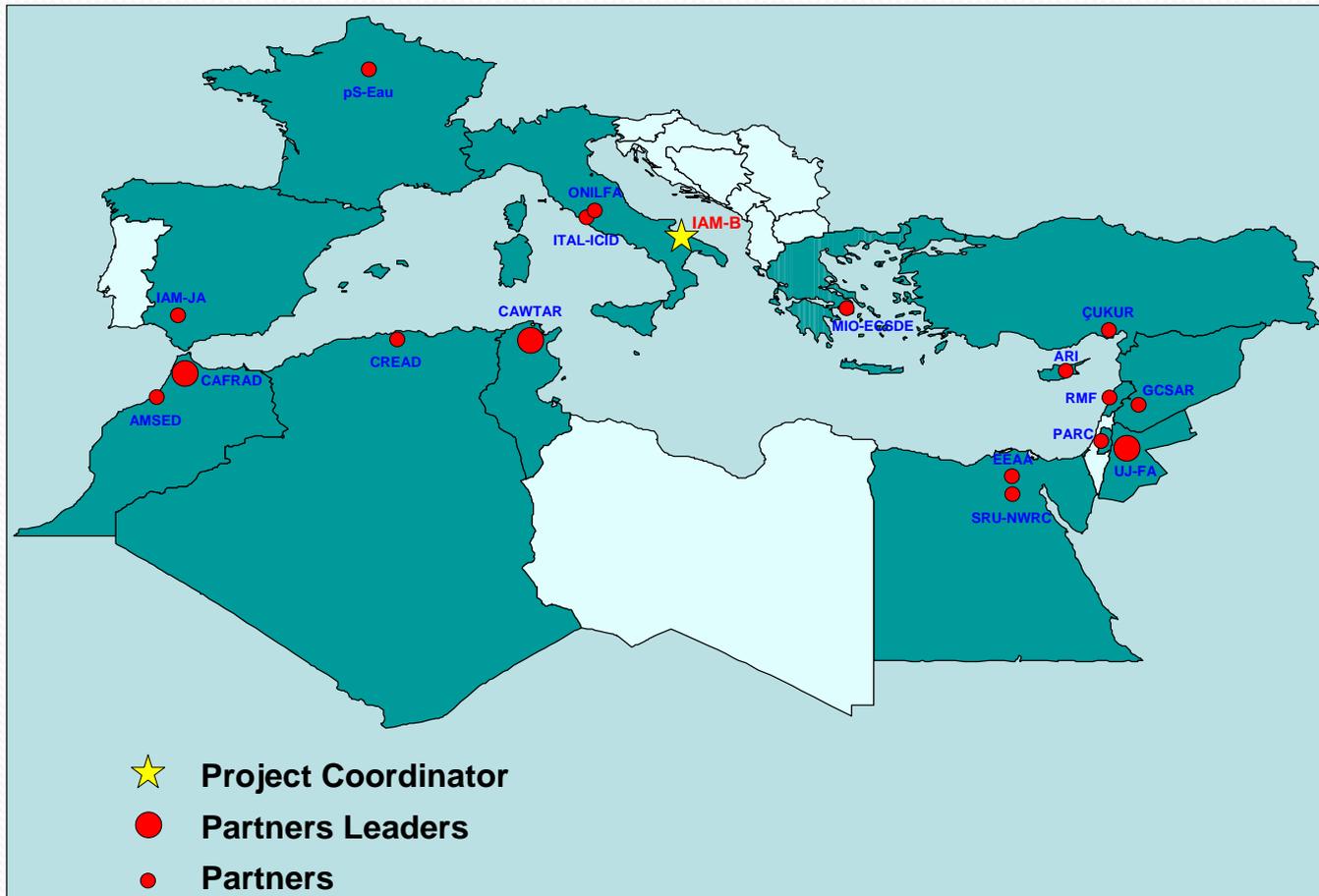
S.O.3: Contribute to the Adoption of National Gender Policies

- Promote gender mainstreaming in the planning, development and management of water resources
- Involve decision makers and politicians in the processes of mainstreaming gender dimensions in IWRM

Project Partners

- A total of 18 institutions from 14 Mediterranean Countries of which:
 - 9 Governmental institutions
 - 2 International organizations
 - 7 NGOs
- 9 Countries of the SEMR and 5 EU countries
- Some institutions have good experience in water and others in gender but few in both

Project Partners



Benefits in promoting participation of women in water resources management

- **Effectiveness:** Resources would be used more rationally and a greater number of persons would benefit from it.
- **Efficiency:** More responsible towards resources, women and men would make use of it more efficiently.
- **Development:** A social process would guarantee servicing, production, positive impacts on the environment for an improved sanitation for all.
- **Sustainable use of water resources:** Direct participation of men and women in selection and implementation of project would increase flexibility and creativity in response to environmental insecurity in water resource.
- **Equity:** All stakeholders would benefit equally.

➔ **Mainstreaming Gender** increase project efficiency, ensures a sustainable environment, promote social and economic approaches, and highlight importance of equity issues

Final Remark

- Women's participation in development is still poorly acknowledged. This is particularly true in water resource management despite the fact that women have been at the center of water activities for ever. Today more than ever women should be recognized as such, the main actors in the water sector.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**