



GEWAMED

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

Newsletter
April 2009

ISSUE n° 12



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GEWAMED NEWSLETTER, NEW VERSION!

Dear Readers,

We have slightly modified the graphic presentation of our Newsletter and added an introductory focus on the main articles. We hope that you will find it more enjoyable and easy to read.

Juan Antonio Sagardoy, GEWAMED Project Manager, IAM-Bari

National Seminar on “Key Policies to Mainstreaming Gender in water Management”.

The seminar was organized by GEWAMED project's partners in Egypt, Strategic Research Unit-National Water Research Center-Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation in collaboration with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency...

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Conference on “Strengthening Women Capacities in Administration, Governance and Leadership”, Tangier (Morocco).

The Conference on “Strengthening Women Capacities in Administration, Governance and Leadership” was organized by CAFRAD in Tangier (Morocco), on the 23 to 25 March 2009...

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GEWAMED at the Civil Society Meeting preceding the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water.

A Civil Society Meeting took place on the 21st of December 2008 at the Dead Sea in Jordan preceding the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water organized on the following day. The aim of the Civil Society Meeting, attended by 80 participants ...

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Southeastern Anatolia Development Project GAP

The Southeastern Anatolia Development Project is a multi-sector oriented integrated project managed by GAP Regional Development Administration based in Ankara and responsible for its planning, monitoring, evaluation and coordination...

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The 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul - Turkey

The 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul is reported to be the largest event ever held on water with the attendance of more than 33 000 persons from 193 countries. The IAM of Bari together with other regions of Italy had put a stand in the Water Fair that was widely visited...

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Sixth African Development Forum to Focus on Gender Issues, 19-21 November 2008

The Forum gave prominence to eliminating violence against women as a major impediment to social and economic development on the African continent and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)...

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National Seminar On Key Policies to Mainstreaming Gender in water Management 18th January, 2009 Cairo House EEAA-Egypt



On the 19th of January 2009, a national seminar On Key Policy to Mainstreaming Gender in Water Management was held in Egypt. The seminar was organized under the auspices of Dr. Mahmuod Abu-Zeid, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation and H.E. Maged George, Minister of State for Environmental Affairs.

The seminar was officially opened by Professor Dr. Shaden Abdel-Gawad, President, National Water Research Center, Dr. Mawaheb Abouel-Azem, CEO, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, and Dr. Samia Gerges, member of the Shura Council and the National Council for Women. The seminar was organized within the framework of the GEWAMED Project by the project's partners in Egypt, namely: The Strategic Research Unit-National Water Research Center-Ministry of Water Resources and The Irrigation in collaboration with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency. The Seminar was attended by a number of members of the National Council for Women, many researchers dealing with the various water aspects and representatives of civil societies.

The objective of this seminar was to discuss the policy issues related to the mainstreaming of gender in the water resources management and come up with a set of recommendations to be forwarded to politicians and decision makers for their consideration. The seminar dealt with and highlighted the importance of the role of men and women at all levels in the integrated water resources management.

The seminar programme included a series of presentations from all the project's partners about the objectives, activities and structure of the GEWAMED project, the developed national data base, the Egyptian GEWAMED web site and the methodology of developing Egyptian gender-sensitive indicators to measure gender mainstreaming in water resources management. The manager of the GEWAMED project, Professor Juan Antonio Sagardoy, made a presentation on the need of gender indicators. Other sessions were organized during the seminar, regarding the current policy on the integration of gender in water management, the role of both men and women in the preservation of the environment and women empowerment in water user associations.

In addition, the plenary session focused on the current policies and their adequacy to ensure the integration of gender and the application of the principle of gender equality in the management of water resources at all levels (national level - the ministries local). Mechanisms to be activated in order to strengthen the channels of communication and cooperation among the various stakeholders to integrate gender in the management of water resources were also discussed.

The Conference resulted in many recommendations and policy proposals for the inclusion of gender in water resources management. The most important recommendations of the seminar refer to the need for the participation of all ministries and organizations concerned in the development of policies for the integration of gender in water resources management, emphasis on strengthening dialogue and exchange of information between them, and the need to improve and strengthen the capacity of women beneficiaries and partners in decision-making.

Alaa E. Abdin
Director, Strategic Research Unit / National Water Research Center

The full report of the seminar can be downloaded at: <http://www.gewamed.net/index.php?mod=documents&cidp=52>



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Conference on “Strengthening Women Capacities in Administration, Governance and Leadership”, Tangier (Morocco).

The Conference on Strengthening Women Capacities in Administration, Governance and Leadership was organized by CAFRAD in Tangier (Morocco), 23-25 March 2009. The Conference was attended by participants from Morocco (6), South Africa (2), Gambia (4), Central African Republic (1), Madagascar (1) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) (1). Ms. Lizette Michael, Programme Coordinator, was in charge of the organization of this activity.

One of the main objectives of the Conference was to upgrade knowledge in certain areas of leadership and governance and to allow for the exchange of experiences and exposure to the new trends in this field.

More specifically, the objectives were:

- To increase the understanding of senior government officials involved in public personnel policy-making and training in respect of the major factors, obstacles and techniques in the advancement of women in management positions in public administration.
- To sensitize senior government officials concerning the increased role of women in management positions in public administration.
- To discuss career development of women in management within public sector organizations; factors and issues for strengthening women's capacities and competences in leadership, policy development and policy-making.
- To come out with forward-looking strategies urging governments to increase the role of women in management and decision-making processes at the national, state and local levels to an impressive degree.

The Conference themes were:

Theme I: National Trends in applying Public Management Techniques to the advancement of Women:

Under this theme, and through resource persons' presentations and reports from several countries, participants examined the extent to which women are in managerial/professional positions in which they participate in decision-making in public management. Through discussion, they identified constraints to the increased participation of women and compared the strengths and weaknesses of current government policies and programmes which influence managerial women's career development. Participants also discussed existing training opportunities and identified needs for innovative personnel programme management techniques.

Theme II: Career Development of Women within Public Sector Organizations: Factors and Issues:

Considering resource persons' presentations and review of some cases, participants identified organizational issues/problems which serve as barriers to women's career advancement. They shared examples of successful strategies discussed and identified key organizational characteristics responsible for success in women's upward mobility. Participants also discussed how organizations evolve and change, especially in response to increased numbers of women at decision-making levels.

Theme III: Barriers to Women's advancement in the Public and Private Sectors:

Resource Persons and participants identified and analyzed specific personnel practices which affect the full utilization of women at senior decision-making levels, including posting and mobility patterns. There are special attitudinal barriers when women hold high level jobs, with leadership and direction, travelling, interaction, hazards, and being away from home. To break barriers, women need to be aided; they must develop not only qualities for management competence, but also skills for working with men.

Within the civil service, political constraints do adversely affect women and in order to overcome constraints, strategies such as sensitizing men, removing gender stereotyping, formulating more requests to governments, and developing more self-confidence among women need to be put in place.



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Conference on “Strengthening Women Capacities in Administration, Governance and Leadership”, Tangier (Morocco).

It should be asserted that women need to be channelled into more challenging tasks, especially those that would prepare them for leadership roles. Here, participants gave concrete examples of recent developments in their countries that favour women, such as, the formation of a National Women Promotion Committee, training for leadership roles, creation of women's upward mobility opportunities, quota systems, efforts to eradicate barriers to women's advancement, etc.

Theme IV: Capacity-building and Networking towards Strategic Partnerships for the advancement of Women:

Discussions under this theme focused on the need for training and retraining, upgrading of expertise knowledge and improvement of skills to bring about change in both behaviour and attitudes. Opportunities should be availed to women to encourage them to be assertive, to analyze their own behaviour and attitudes to act rationally and to dare to make decisions. More specifically, attention should be given to the adaptation of training programmes to meet the needs of women with senior responsibilities in administration in general and in leadership positions in particular.

Discussion, under this theme focused on women networking. Women must establish networks and contacts to assess needs, coordinate dialogue involving government bodies, task forces and interested groups, establish priorities, evaluate alternatives and formulate strategies on issues, such as, retirement circumstances, promotion, sexual harassment, career planning, etc.

Theme V: Gender with focus on results-based management

This theme focused on the fact that both men and women share the same beliefs, dreams, hopes and joy, but most of all, they all share the same future. It reviewed the key events that have taken place on the roadmap to women's empowerment since 1948, the time of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to present. Under this theme, gender disaggregated data of the achievements by African Governments were presented and discussed. The resource person for this theme and participants attempted to address the following key concerns:

- What the implementation of the declarations on gender equality and women's empowerment has achieved, the outputs and the impact.
- What can be done to scale up “what is working and the best practices shared across Africa.
- The practical things the governments and civil societies should do to ensure long term achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment in all sectors.

The issues arising from presentations and discussions were captured, examined and categorized into (a) Progress Made, (b) Constraints preventing women from reaching and holding leadership positions, (c) Suggested strategies and (d) The Way Forward.

The conclusions and recommendations of this conference will be reported in the next GEWAMED Newsletter N° 13.

Lizette Michael, CAFRAD

The full report of the conference can be downloaded at:
http://www.gewamed.net/share/img_documents/53_report_rev_women__09_eng.pdf





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GEWAMED at the Civil Society Meeting preceding the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water.

A Civil Society Meeting took place on the 21st of December 2008 at the Dead Sea in Jordan preceding the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water organized on the following day. The aim of the Civil Society Meeting, attended by 80 participants from over 60 Mediterranean organizations, was to provide Ministers with concrete proposals on their expectations from the civil society perspective:

- the ongoing and future processes, programmes and project implementation;
- the renewed long-term strategy for water in the region.

MIO-ECSDE was one of the co-organizers along with RAED, GWP-Med (regional partners) and JOHUD (local Jordanian organization).

After an introduction to the objectives of the meeting as well as to the framework and modalities leading to its main outcome, the Civil Society Statement to the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water, participants split into 4 thematic working groups focusing respectively on:

- 1) Promoting public participation and effective stakeholder involvement in IWRM and WSS
- 2) Working on appropriate water solutions through research, technology & know-how transfer and pilot applications
- 3) Enabling awareness raising, education and information management on water in the region
- 4) Building synergies for sustainable, affordable and efficient water financing

The GEWAMED project was presented by Ms. Barbara Tomassini from MIO-ECSDE in the session dedicated to "Promoting public participation and effective stakeholder involvement in IWRM and WSS".

The presentation focused in particular on:

- Lessons learnt through the project, e.g. what worked well and could be replicated but also what would need adaptation and further improvement;
- Recommendations for replication, adaptation, further research/work that could be useful for the work of other stakeholders on the national and international levels;
- Open questions and future challenges we face when it comes to the impact of our work, approaches and strategies, potential new partners in water and cross-national/regional cooperation.

Based on the presentations a discussion followed, during which recommendations for inclusion into the draft Civil Society Statement were formulated.

The recommendations from all parallel sessions were merged into a final draft document that was discussed, further elaborated and finally adopted in the plenary.

The Statement was read to the Ministers at their meeting of the 22nd of December 2008.

Barbara Tomassini
MIO-ECSDE

The final version of the statement can be downloaded at:
www.mio-ecsde.org/filemgmt_data/files/statement%20of%20civil%20society_22_12_2008.pdf
or from the GEWAMED website using the following link:
<http://www.gewamed.net/index.php?mod=events&cid=1&idp=45>

For information on the Ministerial meeting you can visit:
[Www.medaquaministerial2008.net](http://www.medaquaministerial2008.net)



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Southeastern Anatolia Development Project GAP

The Southeastern Anatolia Development Project is a multi-sector oriented integrated project managed by GAP Regional Development Administration based in Ankara and responsible for its planning, monitoring, evaluation and coordination. This article is based on two valuable papers prepared by Ms. Aygül Fazlıoğlu, General Coordinator responsible for the human and social development department in the GAP Regional Development Administration since 1994.

This Project is Turkey's most important and ambitious regional development program, covering Southeastern Anatolia, implemented in nine provinces (Adıyaman, Batman, Diyarbakır, Gaziantep, Kilis, Mardin, Siirt, Şanlıurfa, Şırnak) and mainly financed by the Turkish Government.

In the last 15-20 years this region experienced a rapid and intense immigration from rural to provincial areas that brought about an increase in the existing unemployment rate as well as employment and poverty problems in the provincial areas.

In such a context the GAP Project target groups are economically disadvantaged people who live in urban and rural areas as well as farmers, urban poor, young people, women and children living in the Southeast Anatolia. Objective of the Project is to increase the income level of people living in the region and to overcome regional development disparities in the country by developing land, water and human resources in the region. The project was originally envisaged as an infrastructure and irrigation initiative. Then, in 1989, it assumed the character of a multi-sector and integrated development project and then, in 1995, it was transformed into a “sustainable human development project.”

At the initial phase, a series of field surveys were carried out in the region to depict the profile of local women including their ways of thinking, tendencies, potentials, social relation patterns and problems. Then Multi-purpose Community Centers (ÇATOMs) have been established in urban poor neighborhoods and centrally located rural settlements to make women agents of development in the region improving their individual, social and economic skills and ensuring their participation to the socio-economic life either directly at these centers or through their outreach activities thus building the basis of a gender-balanced development. After the opening of ÇATOMs home visits are made to introduce those centers to local families and to learn about their basic problems, needs and expectations. Programmes are then developed in the light of this information. Family visits are also functional in building relations between ÇATOM and the local community and facilitating its adoption by local people.

ÇATOMs were first launched in 1995 and at present there are 30 centers in the region. From the late 1995 to June 2005, about 100,000 persons either directly took part in ÇATOM activities or benefited in some way from these activities.

Target group of these programmes are females above age 14 and children. Basically, the programmes are eight:

1. *Education-Training Programmes*
2. *Health Programmes*
3. *Income and Employment Generating Programmes*
4. *Pre-school education programmes*
5. *Children's Reading Rooms*
6. *Social Support Programmes*



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Southeastern Anatolia Development Project GAP

Relevant are also three sub-projects financially supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and carried out in the region within the framework of GAP programme: the first one deals with the socio-economic empowerment of women and the main aim is to conduct vocational training to improve women's skills such as sales, fashion design and marketing techniques; set up marketing infrastructure to market women's products; and establish market links for women's products that have significant marketing potential. Beneficiaries/target groups of this project component include ÇATOMs and civil society organizations active in similar fields. Relevant is the contribution of such programme to income generating activities launched by ÇATOMs and other organizations.

The second programme deals with the rehabilitation of children working in streets in the provinces of Batman, Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa with the main aim of protecting children aged 6-18, supporting their social and psychological development, enrolling school-aged children to school, and improving the living conditions of working-age ones by providing them with vocational training. In this regard, “Action Committees”, including representatives of public institutions, private sector and local administrations, have been setup in the three provinces under the supervision of Vice-Governors. The programme was effective in reducing the number of hours that children spend working in streets and contributed to the self confidence and psychological development of children mainly through social, cultural and sportive activities.

Since young people are the most dynamic group of the society and represent its future trend and since people in the age group 15-24 stand for 23% of the population in the GAP region, the third programme dealt with the socio-economic development of the youth, with the main aim of increasing their social and economic skills and heightening their sensitivity to social issues in order to promote their role as the fundamental force for social development.

Within the framework of this project, various capacity building, employment-focused and socio-economic activities were conducted, social sensitivity, introductory and information meetings were held, and exchange programs were organized in Youth and Culture Houses.

Vittoria Pinca, GEWAMED-IAMB Water Team

For further reading about these Projects and programmes you can download the two interesting papers by clicking on the following link:

[Http://www.gewamed.net/index.php?mod=documents&country=10§or=12&type=0](http://www.gewamed.net/index.php?mod=documents&country=10§or=12&type=0)



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The 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul - Turkey



The 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul is reported to be the largest event ever held on water with the attendance of more than 33 000 persons from 193 countries. A Forum is not a technical congress but a place where interested parties meet and discuss important issues. Hence participants included any possible category from Presidents of countries to children and they all had their space.

Certainly most of the meetings were of technical nature to discuss the 6 technical issues that the Forum was set to address.

After hundred of hours of presentations and debates for each topic some conclusions and recommendations were drafted and they can be retrieved at:

<http://content.worldwaterforum5.org/index.php/home>.

Relevant documents were prepared before the Forum by the responsible teams in the different topics of the Forum and they often represented an outstanding “state of the art”. They can also be retrieved at the mentioned website.

The Forum was well organized and there is no doubt that the Turkish Government has made a huge effort to make the Forum a success. Of particular relevance was the effort made to involve politicians in the Forum through the “political process” to support the recommendations of the water experts. 19 Prime Ministers and Presidents, 90 ministers, and more than 330 parliamentarians have participated in the process. The mechanism worked well to some extent but politicians often have their own agenda that do not necessarily coincide with experts' recommendations. Nevertheless this idea of working in parallel politicians and technicians was innovative and positive and has produced some relevant statements.

The IAM of Bari together with other regions of Italy had put a stand in the Water Fair that was widely visited. Also the Institute hold a Side Event on “Integrated Water Resources Management under Climate Change: the Needed Capacity Building in the Mediterranean Region.”. The event was attended by His Excellency Dr. Mahmoud Abu Zeid, former Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources of Egypt, Dr. Cosimo Lacirignola, Director of the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, other senior staff of the Institute and other senior invited speakers. The event had a very large audience and was followed by a vivid discussion.

The 5th WWF was much more geared to technical issues of water than those of social nature. Therefore the time and space dedicated to gender issues was relatively modest. One of the most relevant events was a Preparatory Conference for the Major Group of Women organized by The Gender Coalition on the 14th and 15th of March. The event was hosted at the Technical University of Istanbul. Dr. Bülent Özekici, from the Cukurova University participated in the Preparatory Conference and presented the GEWAMED Project experience. Within the Forum, one Plenary Session was dedicated to gender equity issues within sanitation programmes. In the Working Sessions the presentations related to water and gender were few and mostly done by Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) team.

Besides the participation in the Preparatory Conference the GEWAMED the IAMB team tried to organize also a side event on the subject of “Gender, Water and Empowerment” in collaboration with the GWA and the Arab Water Council but no meeting room was available since the request for “side events” was several times larger than the number of meeting rooms available. Consequently the session was moved to the stand of the Arab Water Council in the Fair but location and other organizational problems made attendance limited. The film on “Women and Water” prepared by the GEWAMED and MELIA projects was projected continuously in the two pavilions of Italy and many positive comments received. A CD was prepared with several of the publications of Dr. Atef Hamdy on Gender Mainstreaming in Water Management and was widely distributed.

Juan Antonio Sagardoy, GEWAMED Project Manager, IAMB



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Sixth African Development Forum to Focus on Gender Issues, 19-21 November 2008

The Sixth African Development Forum (ADF VI) was convened on the theme “Action on Gender Equality, Empowerment and Ending Violence against Women in Africa” from 19 to 21 November 2008, in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).

The Forum was jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Union (AU) and the African Development Bank (ADB). It was attended by over 800 participants who came from all corners of the world.

The Forum gave prominence to eliminating violence against women as a major impediment to social and economic development on the African continent and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Other themes that the forum discussed with regard to gender equality included: HIV and AIDS, health and reproductive rights, education, training and skills development, migration, governance, conflict, peace and security, employment, markets and trade, food security, land and property rights, climate change, water, sanitation and energy, financing for gender equality and ICT.

The Forum among other things came up with a Plan of Action that provided clear recommendations for African States and development partners to accelerate the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment. CAFRAD, the African Training and research Centre in Administration for Development, GEWAMED Project partner, was represented in the Forum.

Lizette Michael, CAFRAD



Editors: *Juan Antonio Sagardoy*
Rosanna Quagliariello
Vittoria Pinca
Chiara Ciannamea



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The Consortium of GEWAMED



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- * Egypt (2)
Strategic Research Unit (SRU), National Water Research Centre (NWRC)
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- * Palestine (5)
Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC)
- * Egypt (6)
Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)
- * Tunisia (7)
Center for Arab Women Training and Research (CAWTAR)
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