



GEWAMED

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

Newsletter
October, 2010



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New dates for GEWAMED Sub-regional Training course in Lebanon

GEWAMED Sub-regional training course "How to mainstream gender in water management: Experiences and Challenges", which was supposed to be held in Beirut from 18-22 October 2010, **has been postponed** to the week of 29 November till 2nd December.

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Options to strengthen the gender perspective in the land and water legislation of Portuguese-speaking countries



This study is the result of the activities carried out by the legislative committee of the Regional Project GCP/INT/052/SPA "Capacity Development on the Integration of Gender Analysis in Water and Land Tenure Management"

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Historic recognition of Human Right to Safe Drinking Water & Sanitation at UN

The 3rd Commission of the 64th General Assembly of the United Nations made history last 28th July by overwhelmingly adopting the draft resolution proclaiming the Human Right to Safe drinking Water and Sanitation. Presented by Bolivia and 34 other States, the resolution received 122 voted in favour with no votes against and 41 abstentions.

>>> (read more at page 2)



Equal Access to Water Rights Session at WPJ MENA Rule of Law Conference

The World Justice Project (WJP) held its first major Conference in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region on June 25-26, 2010, in Ifrane, Morocco.

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"ENPI-MED CBC: Call for strategic projects announced"

The Joint Management Authority announced that the call for proposal on strategic projects for Cross-Border Cooperation in the Mediterranean will be launched in December 2010.

>>> (read more at page 6)



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➤ CIHEAM Watch Letter No. 14



The interview with Wafa'a Dikah Hamze (Consultant to the National Observatory for Women in Agriculture and Rural Areas - NOWARA-) recently published in CIHEAM Watch Letter No. 14

➤ Trends in Bilateral and Multilateral Funding

This publication is part of the 2009-2010 FundHer Research Update brief series, produced by AWID's "Where is the Money for Women's Rights" Action-Research Initiative.



Click on the titles to find out more



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New dates for GEWAMED Sub-regional Training course in Lebanon

Please be informed that due to organizational reasons **GEWAMED Sub-regional training course "How to mainstream gender in water management: Experiences and Challenges"**, which was supposed to be held in Beirut from 18-22 October 2010, **has been postponed** to the week of **29 November till 2nd December**. The venue will be the same.

For further details on the course, please see issue No 16 of GEWAMED Newsletter or visit our regional website www.gewamed.net. The agenda of the course is under preparation and will be sent to participants as soon as it is finalized.

Historic recognition of Human Right to Safe Drinking Water & Sanitation at UN

The 3rd Commission of the 64th General Assembly of the United Nations made history last 28th July by overwhelmingly adopting the draft resolution proclaiming the Human Right to Safe drinking Water and Sanitation. Presented by Bolivia and 34 other States, the resolution received 122 voted in favour with no votes against and 41 abstentions.

The resolution that was adopted "declares the Right to Safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights"

It also "calls upon States and international organisations to provide Financial resources, capacity building and technology transfer, through international assistance and co-operation, in particular to developing countries, in order to scale up efforts to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all."

Whereas another UN resolution on the 'right to development' set a precedent by acknowledging the Right to food and to clean water 10 years ago, this marks the first time a resolution entirely dedicated to the Right to water and sanitation is adopted and by such an important number of countries, including industrialized. It also goes further than the previous resolution by proclaiming sanitation a human right and by clarifying the Right to water.

While the resolution only needed support from a majority of the States present, the fact that no State opposed the resolution also sets an encouraging precedent in the advancement of the realization of these Rights.

The United Nations estimates that nearly 900 million people live without clean water and 2.6 billion without proper sanitation. At least 4,000 children die every day from water-related diseases. These numbers demonstrate the importance of the step taken today towards the realization of this Right.

For more detailed information please visit the following link
<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2010/ga10967.doc.htm>





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Options to strengthen the gender perspective in the land and water legislation of Portuguese-speaking countries.



This study is the result of the activities carried out by the legislative committee of the Regional Project GCP/INT/052/SPA "Capacity Development on the Integration of Gender Analysis in Water and Land Tenure Management", which, thanks to the support of FAO and the Spanish Cooperation, was implemented in Angola, Cape Verde and Mozambique in 2008-2009.

Main objective of the Project was to strengthen the national capacity to develop and disseminate participatory approaches and strategies in the management of the productive resources with a focus on gender equality, remove legal obstacles and propose legal means to strengthen gender equity.

In the initial phase, the study focused on the analysis of the national and international legal framework of the

three examined countries as far as rural women's access to and management of land and water is concerned. Three national consultants analyzed the current legislative frameworks and their applicability in their respective countries, and to this end they developed case studies dealing with the integration of the gender dimension in the legal instruments (Constitutions, Civil, Family, Employment Codes, land and water legislation and other natural resources laws, Customary Law, government policies and programs), and in local communities, civil society organizations and NGOs. These case studies highlight the weaknesses in both written and customary laws with regard to gender equality and recommend measures which could be adopted in Portuguese-speaking countries to support women's rights to land and water access and management.

In the second phase of the study, the preliminary recommendations made in the initial phase as well as the application of a methodology to identify the obstacles to gender equality were presented during a Regional Workshop on the Integration of Gender Analysis in Projects and Programmes dealing with Land and Water Access and Management. The workshop was held in Praia, Cape Verde, from 22-26 June 2009 and it was attended by representatives of the institutions dealing with land and water of Angola, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, and East Timor, as well as by FAO officers and national and international consultants of the Project. The objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of participants to incorporate gender analysis into national and local development planning concerning agricultural development and specifically land and water access and management.

The preliminary recommendations were reviewed, analyzed and discussed during the workshop, taking into account the different proposals and positions of the participating countries. As a practical result of the Regional Workshop, the participating countries agreed on the identification of a number of legal options to strengthen the gender perspective in the domestic legislation regarding access to land and water.

As a further result of the project a methodology was proposed to facilitate the analysis of the existing national legislation and customary practices and identify the legal obstacles to gender equality and a number of legal options as possible solutions to the problems and obstacles identified with regard to reform of the law, institutions, and other technical interventions.

Methodology to identify legal obstacles to gender equality

The following questions have been developed on the basis of FAO Legislative Study "Gender and Law" (2007) to facilitate and guide the analysis of the national legal framework and systematically identify any obstacle to gender equality, be it legal or related to the institutional framework and administration of the law. Moreover, the following questions aim at identifying possible opportunities either legal or related to the legal framework to ensure gender equality.



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It needs to be emphasized that the analysis should be completed examining the constitution of a given country, its family law, inheritance law, labor law, agricultural law, water rights, as well as its customary law and administrative and judicial practices. Once all the relevant legal instruments have been identified, the research should focus not only on a content analysis, but also on the analysis of the practices and impacts of the administration and application of the law. To this end, interviews with officers and stakeholders could be conducted both at central and local levels.

Identification and analysis of the relevant instruments within the national legal system

Constitution

- Is there an explicit prohibition of gender discrimination?
- Are there affirmative action provisions (principles to guide the implementation of policies and legislation)?
- Are there explicit provisions addressing the issue of discriminatory practices / customs?

General law (family law, inheritance law, labor law):

- Is there some limitation on the legal capacity of women (to sign contracts, access to justice, etc.)? For example, do women need the permission of their husband / father / brother?
- Is there a regulation that gives priority to the will of the husband in the organization of the household, management of the family income and businesses?
- Are there any provisions constraining women's inheritance rights? Is there a large degree of testamentary freedom so as to allow the exclusion of women from inheritance?

Agricultural law, in terms of:

- Access to land: are there special rules that favour men over women in case of inheritance, marriage, divorce?
- Land reforms: does land ownership or redistribution favour only men or family heads and formal workers who are actually men (indirect discrimination)?
- Cooperatives: is there any limitation on the legal capacity of women to participate in cooperatives? Is there indirect discrimination, for example, when the land ownership is required as a condition for participating in the cooperative and women tend not to have title?
- Agricultural credit: is there indirect discrimination when the land ownership is required or direct discrimination when women require their husband's permission?
- Vocational training: are there provisions giving priority to women in a number of services?

Water rights, in terms of:

- Access to water: is there indirect discrimination if the access depends on the ownership / access to land or on the head of the family / community?
- Participation in decision making: is there a lack of consideration of gender equality and / or of women's participation in the institutions and in public consultation mechanisms?
- Participation in water management committees: is there a lack of consideration of gender equality and / or of women's participation in the mentioned committees?

Customary law

- Are there discriminatory practices in land and water access and management?
- Are there other discriminatory practices that result in limitations on women's access to and management of land and water?

Judicial decisions

- Are there discriminatory decisions concerning land and water access and management?
- Are there judicial decisions that interpreted the law so as to ensure gender equality?



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Detailed question for the analysis of land and water laws

- Are there (explicit or implicit) discriminations against women in the land and water legislation?
- Is the formulation of the land and water legislation neutral in terms of gender? What effects does this have on women's rights?
- Are there explicit regulations prohibiting discrimination against women in the land and water legislation?
- Are there explicit affirmative provisions protecting women's rights in the land and water legislation? For example:
- Is gender equality included in the objectives of the land and water legislation?
 - Is gender equality included in the duties / tasks of the institutions responsible for land and water management?
 - Is the gender dimension considered in land and water management?
 - Is special support given to women who use land and water? (e.g. grants, technical support, etc.)
 - Are there laws regulating agricultural credit which prohibit discrimination against women or give priority to women in the access to credit?

Are there explicit provisions that guarantee the participation of women in land and water management decision-making?

Is an "adequate" gender representation in the institutions responsible for land and water management or in public consultation mechanisms required;

Is a percentage of the members of agricultural cooperatives or water management committees reserved for women / a minister authorized to include women in cooperatives and water management committees to ensure equal gender representation.

Have the existing laws been implemented?

Are there rules of customary law that discriminate against women in access and management of land and water?

The above legislative study intends to be a technical tool which includes a practical and methodological guide expected to be useful for legal advisors, government officials, legislators, and decision makers in the field of gender issues related to land and water access and management. Although the study has been carried out within the framework of a FAO Project implemented in three Portuguese-speaking countries, we believe that the methodology suggested, or at least part of it, might be followed also in the countries examined by the GEWAMED Project.



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Equal Access to Water Rights Session at WPJ MENA Rule of Law Conference



The World Justice Project (WJP) held its first major Conference in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region on June 25-26, 2010, in Ifrane, Morocco. With the convergence of an unparalleled number of regional leaders, the MENA conference represented an unprecedented opportunity to encourage regional commitment to rule of Law, promote interdisciplinary understanding of Rule of Law and Access to Justice issues in the broadest sense (legal, political, social, and economic); and develop the cross-fertilization of different ideas among participants through the prism of national, regional, and international standards.

Equal Access to Water Rights Session brought together leading stakeholders including business, government, academics, and civil society in concerted efforts to strengthen fair regulatory systems, share best practices, and ensure effective service delivery. The Key Rule of Law Identified Issues were:

1. Harmonization of MENA water laws: Water laws toolkit;
2. Good water resource governance;
3. Training on water law issues;
4. Raising water awareness and promote access to water as a human right issue;
5. Negotiation skills on transboundary waters.

Further information on The World Justice Project (WJP) at <http://www.worldjusticeproject.org/>



"ENPI-MED CBC: Call for strategic projects announced"

The Joint Management Authority announced that the call for proposal on strategic projects for Cross-Border Cooperation in the Mediterranean will be launched in December 2010. These projects will involve a minimum of four partners representing four different countries, of which at least one EU Mediterranean Country and one Mediterranean Partner Country. Their budget range from a minimum of 2 million up to a maximum of 5 million. Budget announced for this call about 37 million. Water management will be one of the priority topics with 2 sub-themes: i) Quantity and quality of supply, with a focus on alternative water supplies and wastewater re-use; ii) Efficient use of water resources, with a focus on agricultural use. The following partner countries have signed a Financing Agreement with the European Commission : - Egypt - Israel - Jordan - Lebanon - Palestinian Authority - Syria - Tunisia. These countries are now fully eligible to receive Programme funds. All the Financing Agreements have been countersigned by the Joint Managing Authority.



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▶ CIHEAM Watch Letter No. 14



The interview with Wafa'a Dikah Hamze (Consultant to the National Observatory for Women in Agriculture and Rural Areas -NOWARA-) reported here, has been recently published in CIHEAM Watch Letter No. 14, which has been completely dedicated to Mediterranean rural women in agriculture.

CIHEAM has been publishing the three-monthly Watch Letter since 2007. The publication, available in French and English, is usually focused on the major issues related to food and agriculture in the Mediterranean, and provides a general overview of the current CIHEAM activities.

This interview is a valid tool for better understanding, through the direct words of a leading female personality of Lebanon, women's condition in the Country, as well as the strategies to improve such condition, among which is the National Observatory, whose programs are starting to benefit rural women.

In addition to this contribution, CIHEAM Watch Letter No. 14 contains other relevant articles about women in agriculture and the rural environment. Particularly interesting are the articles prepared by Veronica Navarra (ONILFA), and Rosanna Quagliariello (MAI-B). The first one deals with women and the diversification of the rural economy in Italy, while the second focuses on women and water resources management in the Mediterranean Region, with special attention to the GEWAMED Project, strongly committed to producing a common understanding of gender issues in the field of sustainable rural development among players at both national and regional levels.

To read the full articles you can download the Watch Letter No. 14 at www.ciheam.org ("publication" section). <http://portail2.reseau-concept.net/Upload/ciheam/fichiers/WL14.pdf>



Source: www.mincomes.it

Interview

Wafa'a Dikah Hamze

Consultant to the National Observatory for Women in Agriculture and Rural Areas (NOWARA). Former Lebanese Minister

Q Which political and social initiatives or strategies implemented in Lebanon better succeeded in improving women status? Which of them, if any, were less successful and why?

The national campaigns led by the Women's movement in Lebanon during the last decade and support from international and bilateral donor countries, coupled with a minor presence of supportive political leaders has succeeded in mobilizing government initiatives since 1995 i.e. after the Beijing conference and at many levels in policy making and field programs.



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I will mention few examples:

- The National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW), established in 1998 under the Jurisdiction of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers as the first official body responsible for the preparation of women strategies, which holds consultative status vis-à-vis the government, and the coordination of tasks with public Administrations and Institutions for women's advancement and gender equality.

This commission was able to coordinate a national dialogue and actions related to women legislation, awareness campaigns, training and capacity building through the different activities implemented in cooperation with concerned women organizations. The NCLW can definitely double its output with a fully operational body furnished with proper human and financial resources and full government commitment.

- The adoption of the quota system by the Lebanese Cabinet in the last Municipality draft law still under discussion in the Parliament - likewise for the electoral law: such initiatives have created a momentum among the Lebanese different communities and raised awareness on the importance of women's political participation. But unfortunately it did not lead to the aspired change and increase women's participation in high-level decision making positions, policy formulation and political life.

- Cabinet statements since the year 2004 included commitments on women's advancement which were used as a pressure tool for women leaders but did not translate as a priority issue in national strategies and actions.

- Economic and social Programs and development projects financed by international donors such as the Italian government, EU, UN agencies, international and local organizations.

In our area of interest there are many successful initiatives, which the Nowara project will be highlighting on its website. But I should say the impact of such initiatives is measured by its sustainability, the degree of its integration and consistency with national policies and programs, and the extent of the changes made in the targeted areas or with the targeted groups.

Q - Do you think there are concrete synergies among South Mediterranean countries to foster gender rights protection?

Despite all efforts, advances in gender rights are still slow. These countries of South Mediterranean are all members of the Arab Women's Organization established in 2003. This body can be considered a channel for better synergy and coordination together with national women's mechanisms set up in each country. Spreading awareness on this issue is still crucial and is an ongoing requirement for growing generations. So we need to trigger societies by improving NGO's mobility to act as pressure groups to make governments translate their promises and commitments into real actions. Networking and sharing experiences is essential as well.

Q About NOWARA, what are the main activities carried out by the project and the services offered? Which are the most successful and the most demanded?

NOWARA is a new institution, still acting as a program with the support of Italian cooperation programs, CIHEAM-MAI Bari and Puglia Region. Its main activities are implemented in this framework and the focus mainly is on creating a data base on women in rural areas in Lebanon through collection of information, making profiles on successful stories of women entrepreneurs



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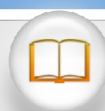


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and conducting local studies. We believe that women as producers or labourers are still hidden and neither addressed in national statistics, nor in national studies, with the exception of very minor and project-based studies. One of NOWARA's objectives is to create a momentum towards women in rural areas, which will involve policy makers, women themselves and other concerned stakeholders, such as service providers, donors and development agencies.

Another activity is training and capacity building. In the framework of the TerCom project in 2008, 12 women had the chance to travel to Italy, get training at MAI Bari and visit the Puglia region's different rural projects and women producers. I believe that such interaction and sharing of experiences among Mediterranean countries is one of the most important services NOWARA could offer. Why? Because women after this trip understood their own capabilities, the possibility of developing their business, the importance of their role as economic producers as well as raised self esteem for their family. Another training program is being prepared for Nowara. 10-15 coordinators in outreach in the framework of the project "Strengthening women's role in the Lebanese rural areas", financed by the Puglia Region and implemented jointly by Nowara and MAI Bari. This program aims to provide the proper training in local community development and the creation of opportunities in local products and territorial valorization as well as information and technology, and the necessary information tools and internet access for its newly identified focal points in 10 rural areas, enabling trainees to succeed as Nowara local animators. Another activity: promotion and recognition through the Annual Award for best rural women economic initiative. Preparations are in progress to announce this award for the first time in September 2010.

As to the most demanded activities, I would say those relevant to our main target group i.e. women in rural areas or other concerned actors who benefit from Nowara. Women mainly demand technical support and market access. I should add that with this type of training we are offering women the opportunity they miss most of the time either because they are neglected as producers or they don't have the means. As for concerned actors such as NGO's, development agencies, etc, the data base and information on women producers are very important. So NOWARA I believe was established as a need-driven tool for many players.

Q How did CIHEAM and MAI Bari in particular support the creation of NOWARA?

If one wants to be fair I would say without MAI Bari technical support and their full commitment to assist in identifying financial resources Nowara's creation wouldn't have been possible. Its true there is the national commitment and strong will from Lebanese actors, but CIHEAM-MAI Bari role was instrumental through TerCom's activities and also through assisting Nowara in preparing other projects to sustain its activities.

Q - The Observatory was launched in 2008. So far, even if this is a short period of time, is it possible to see some impacts on Lebanese rural areas?

The Observatory is implementing very small activities as a program, given its assigned objectives and tasks at national level as stated in the Decree, ie the official document which is not yet officially issued.

It is early to talk about impacts in rural areas but we can talk instead about women's reaction to the establishment of Nowara and its activities. I cite snaps of what a group of women from different rural areas in Lebanon wrote after learning of Nowara and participating in one of its activities:



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"I received strength from others' experiences on how I can continue to persevere since I needed someone to trigger my sleeping mind";

"Even if I don't have the funds to establish a business, after this training I will start-up a small activity for me and my family";

"There is an urgent need for an institution to support us to sustain our lands";

"And support women entrepreneurship, empower us for decision making in business as well as in family affairs, particularly decisions pertaining to educating our girls".

Q In your opinion, which are Nowara's hardest goals to reach and future challenges? How do you see Nowara's future?

Still early to talk about "hard to achieve" since we are at the beginning of our journey. To tell you the truth the hardest part might have been establishing the Observatory but it is operational now. Although the legal instrument is not yet officially issued, Nowara is a functional program and should continue to achieve its goals whether as governmental institution through issuance of the Decree or maybe as an NGO with official recognition from the government.

I admit challenges are numerous but more important are the great potentialities for Nowara's role, now and in the future. This Observatory represents a first occasion in the Arab Mediterranean countries to integrate gender issues in the agricultural and rural sectors, and a dynamic tool to mainstream gender in policies and practices oriented towards rural areas and targeting agriculture and related fields. In this framework Nowara's future role was defined in the Round table organized on the occasion of its launch in Beirut on 28 October 2008. With participants from local authorities, Lebanese experts, university professors and NGO representatives of CRTDA and Lebanese women producers, representatives from CIHEAM-MAI Bari, ONILFA, AWO, IFAP, and the Italian Embassy in Beirut.

One of the important potentialities outlined is Nowara's ability to animate a debate at national level in order to enhance a lobby movement for the promotion of agriculture and rural areas in Lebanon, integrating civil society and professional organizations. Equally important Nowara Observatory is considered as a tool for spreading the policies of the Ministry of Agriculture and promoting initiatives that could support the establishment of young persons' and women's entrepreneurship; in this orientation the participants of the round table recommended the support of the Governmental authorities for the sustainability and action of this institution. In addition, it is imperative to utilize this model to foresee the establishment of similar structures in other countries as expressed by participants of the round table and many Arab country representatives who knew about Nowara and hence create a network of experience-sharing among the Mediterranean and Arab countries. Finally for many of the small producers the Nowara Observatory stands as an important reference institution to support their cause, provide guidance and bridge the gap with policy makers.

Interview by CIHEAM-MAI Bari



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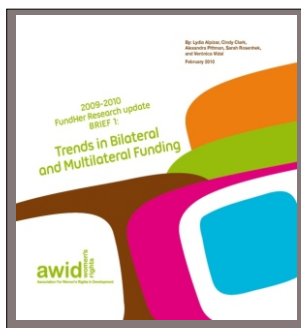
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PUBLICATIONS

▶ Trends in Bilateral and Multilateral Funding

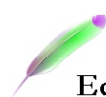


awid women's rights

This publication is part of the 2009-2010 FundHer Research Update brief series, produced by AWID's "Where is the Money for Women's Rights" Action-Research Initiative. The purpose of the series is to provide up to date information on important trends in different funding sectors, including preliminary data on the impact of the financial crisis and economic recession and to explore the implications for resource mobilization for gender equality and women's organizing.

The research presented in this brief series draws on interviews held with relevant actors from various donor sectors, desk research and comparative analysis from past AWID surveys of women's organizations regarding the funding landscape. It presents some key trends in funding for gender equality and for civil society organizations from bilateral and multilateral agencies, as well as a more detailed look at some of the donors and specific funds that are providing significant support for women's organizing. It also looks at how the current financial crisis and economic recession seems to be impacting ODA (Official Development Assistance) levels and donor priorities, and what this context means in terms of available resources for women's organizations.

You can have a quick access to the publication here:
<http://www.awid.org/eng/About-AWID/AWID-Initiatives/Where-is-the-Money-for-Women-s-Rights/What-s-new-from-this-initiative/Brief-1-FundHer-Research-Update-Brief-Series>



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