

Water Security, Gender Equality, and Youth Inclusion for a Sustainable Future in the Arab World

CIHEAM and ARAB WATER COUNCIL*18 November 2024**12:50 - 13:50 (CET, BAKU TIME +3H)**(ONLINE) Interactive working sessions-developing concrete solutions*

1. Objectives of the interactive session

PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION: Key issues and pressing obstacles

- **Water Scarcity and Climate Change:** The Arab region is one of the most water-stressed globally, exacerbated by climate change and rising demand.
- **Lack of Gender-Disaggregated Data:** Limited availability of sex-disaggregated data hampers tailored interventions for youth and women.
- **Underrepresentation of Youth and Women:** Youth and women have limited involvement in decision-making processes regarding water management.
- **Barriers to Technological Innovation:** Regulatory challenges hinder the adoption of technologies like IoT and blockchain for water management.
- **Overconsumption and Wastage:** Inefficient practices and low awareness aggravate water shortages.

SOLUTION BRAINSTORMING: innovative and youth-led solutions to the challenges

Enhancing Data Collection and Sharing:

- Generate gender-specific data to assess the differential impact of water crises.
- Integrate this data into evidence-based policymaking.

Building Capacities and Inclusive Governance:

- Train youth and women in sustainable practices and water governance.
- Mandate their inclusion in decision-making bodies related to water.

Promoting Technological Innovation:

- Support youth-driven technological initiatives, such as AI-powered water systems.
- Leverage blockchain for transparent resource management.

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Encouraging Social Entrepreneurship:

- Support enterprises led by youth and women focusing on sustainable water solutions.
- Establish incubators and funding mechanisms for local projects.

Reducing Water Waste:

- Launch community awareness campaigns on responsible water usage.
- Promote the adoption of water-efficient technologies, such as smart irrigation systems.

ACTION PLANNING: Create an action plan, identifying next steps, partnerships and resources to implement the solution.**Analysis and Diagnosis**

- Conduct regional workshops to collect gender-disaggregated data.
- Identify regulatory barriers to technological adoption and propose reforms.

Capacity Building

- Develop STEM-based training programs tailored for youth and women.
- Partner with institutions like UNESCO and the Arab Water Council to create internship opportunities.

Mobilization and Awareness

- Implement community-driven campaigns to advocate for sustainable water use.
- Organize regional forums for youth and women to share innovative ideas.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Support

- Establish regional incubators dedicated to water innovation.
- Facilitate funding through public-private partnerships and microfinance programs.

Implementation and Monitoring

- Pilot community projects utilizing blockchain for resource tracking.
- Use predictive models powered by AI for continuous progress assessment.

Necessary Partnerships

- Policy Makers: Ministries of Water, Environment, and Youth Affairs
- Technology Innovators: Startups specializing in IoT, blockchain, and AI
- Financial Institutions: World Bank, social impact funds, microfinance institutions
- Educational Institutions: Regional and international universities
- Civil Society: Local organizations driving community awareness

2. Panel discussions

- Amel Azab (Arab Water Council)
- Manal Benani (Africa Europe Foundation)
- Doha Zamel (UfM)
- Bilal Derardja (CIHEAM Bari)
- Aymen Sawassi (CIHEAM Bari)
- Manel Hedhli (CIHEAM Chania)

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- Luca Tancredi (SCPS)

3. Date and Venue

18 November 2024 |15:50 –16:50

Online/ The Mediterranean Pavilion, Blue Zone, F1B - COP 29