



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

An overview on main donors and key
stakeholders' contributions
in the Euro-Mediterranean region



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List of abbreviations

AECID Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional y Desarrollo	SDGs Sustainable Development Goals
CIHEAM Centre international de hautes études agronomiques méditerranéennes	SEMED Southern and Eastern Mediterranean
EBRD European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	UfM Union for the Mediterranean
EU European Union	UfMS Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat
GE Gender Equality	UN United Nations
M&E Monitoring and Evaluation	UNDP United Nations Development Programme
MENA Middle East and North Africa	UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
NGOs No governmental organisations	WE Women Empowerment
OECD Organisation for Economic Co- operation and Development	WEE Women Economic Empowerment
OSCE Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe	WG Working Group

Foreword

It is widely agreed that sustainable and inclusive development can only be achieved through long-term investments in economic, human and environmental capital. Strong evidence shows that better use of the world’s female population could increase economic growth, reduce poverty, enhance societal well-being, and help ensure sustainable development in all countries.

In the Mediterranean region, many countries have recorded progress in human development, including improvements in infant mortality and life expectancy, female health and education. There are positive trends in women’s participation in economic life, in politics and decision-making. Countries have taken measures to combat violence against women and gender-based violence by establishing national plans and strategies. However, despite notable progress, the educational gains achieved by women are yet to translate into greater empowerment and participation of women in social and economic life. Discriminatory practices, social barriers and insufficient institutional protections continue to prevent women from progressing. Statistics on violence against women remain high and women’s economic and public participation remains the lowest in the world.

Such persistent gender inequalities incur high costs for the region and hamper the ability for sustainable economic growth and good governance. The OECD estimates that gender inequality costs the region at least 25% of its GDP.

Promoting the role of women in the Mediterranean is the top priority of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). This priority has been confirmed by the 43 UfM’s Ministers during the 4th Ministerial meeting on strengthening the role of women in society that was held on 27 November in Cairo, Egypt, who have committed to promote women’s and girls’ participation on an economic, social and political level.

The UfM Secretariat has been actively engaged over past years in developing, in close cooperation with countries and key stakeholders in the region, a regional and specific action plan, that will be explained later in the document, to foster the participation of women and encourage cooperation between actors in this regard. This will be achieved by focusing on specific priorities agreed between countries, through privileged strategic partnerships and by strengthening the cooperation and the coordination with key stakeholders in the region, in order to enhance the coherence between actions and to increase the impact thereof.

The essential contribution of women to communities, societies and economies, as well as the high costs of gender inequality need to be fully recognised, especially within the context of economic crises, and specific and strategic measures should be undertaken. This is one of the keys, among others, for the development of the region.

Nasser Kamel
UfM Secretary General

Introduction

The positive contribution of women to economic growth, poverty reduction and societal well-being has been well documented in many studies. In the Euro-Mediterranean region, significant progress has been made in the region in relation to the rights of women and girls, and overall, gender issues have gained significant momentum. Yet, the region continues to face considerable obstacles and challenges regarding the achievement of gender equality, and a clear gap divides the legislative efforts from actual implementation. Discriminatory practices, social barriers, insufficient institutional protections and unequal access to services and resources continue to prevent women and girls from progressing. A lot remains to be done in terms of legislation, policies, programming and planning to create an environment in which women and men can fulfil their full potential on an equal footing to achieve prosperity, stability and peace.

While fostering gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is primarily the responsibility of the government, national, regional and multi-lateral organisations play a crucial role in this process: they provide important financial and non-financial resources to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. The key challenge for donors and multilateral organisations is to ensure that gender is, and remains, a development priority in an era of "priority overload" in development policies. Gender is often a cross-cutting theme in development programmes, to be mainstreamed among a range of others (including environment, human rights, and/or HIV/AIDS). This can sometimes result in gender being "mainstreamed out".

In the UfM region, gender equality and women's empowerment are a priority for many donors and international organisations. However, data from the field and recent reviews and assessments note that progress has been very slow and that the gender equality goal remains unfulfilled. In general, donors and international organisations supported the same priorities and implemented parallel interventions and programmes, sometimes with the same local partners and government bodies, with very little coordination between the interventions which led to a lack of coherence and complementarity and drastically reduced the impact on women and girls.

It is challenging to gain a comprehensive overview about who are the main actors are, which programmes they operate in which countries and for which specific beneficiary groups. Rather than claiming to be comprehensive, the publication tried to provide a representative overview on the main programmes and financing mechanisms aimed at gender equality and women's empowerment of the main donors and stakeholders in the Mediterranean region.

With this publication, the UfM aims to inform practitioners in the field of women's empowerment and gender equality, women's organisations, NGOs, female entrepreneurs and other interested parties on relevant programmes and financing schemes that support organisations and individuals to drive positive change for more equal and inclusive societies.

Selection criteria for donors and stakeholders include:

- Size/ volume of the programme / financial contribution
- Duration of the programme / financing scheme (long-term rather than short-term)
- Geographical scope (regional rather than single country)
- Topics/ issues that the stakeholders address, in line with UfM's Ministerial Declaration priority areas (women's economic empowerment, women's participation in public life and decision-making, combating violence against women and girls, eliminating gender stereotypes in education and media)

12 donors and stakeholders have been included, representing international organizations and multilateral financial institutions, some bilateral cooperation agencies.



Gender equality and women's empowerment, as a priority to address the root causes of the current challenges faced by the Euro-Mediterranean region, is at the heart of the UfM Secretariat strategy. The Ministerial Conferences on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society (Istanbul 2006, Marrakech 2009, Paris 2013 and Cairo 2017) as well as the 3rd UfM Ministerial Conference on Employment and Labour (Jordan, 2016) further reinforced the UfM Secretariat's mandate to promote and strengthen the role of women in society, both in terms of rights and opportunities, as an essential condition to foster regional stability and socio-economic development. Furthermore, the UfM Roadmap for Action adopted by UfM Ministers in 2017 confirmed this important agenda and mandated the UfM Secretariat to develop the appropriate strategy

and initiatives to achieve this objective.

The UfM strategy on promoting gender equality and women's empowerment has been progressively built and structured over the past years in close coordination with the UfM countries and the key stakeholders operating in the region, including local authorities, international organisations, donors, civil society and private sector. It aims to enhance the regional cooperation as women's empowerment constitutes a common and shared value and priority between countries from both shores of the Mediterranean.

The strategy is implemented through an integrated approach articulated around 3 key Pillars that constitute the UfM working Methodology:



This approach promotes and allows the building of strategic and complementary partnerships and cooperation between public bodies and international organisations, civil society, women networks, private sector and local authorities which contribute to increasing the impact on women and girls.

For the next three years (2018-2020), the UfM will prioritize four priority areas identified by the UfM countries and regional stakeholders, and confirmed by the fourth Ministerial Declaration on strengthening the role of women in society adopted on 27th of November 2017 in Cairo:

1. Increasing women's economic participation by fostering their labour skills and promoting equal access to the labour market and by creating and enabling an environment for female entrepreneurs.
2. Strengthening women's access to leadership positions in the public and private sector.
3. Combating violence against women and girls including contexts of conflict and post-conflict.
4. Combating gender stereotypes and fighting against social norms that hinder the full participation of women.

Within these priority areas, countries and stakeholders agreed to pay particular attention to women and girls in specific contexts: women migrants and refugees, women in contexts of conflict and post-conflict, women in rural areas and women with disabilities. Attention will also be paid to the development of knowledge, research and data production on gender equality and women's empowerment in the Mediterranean region.

The strategy objective seeks to contribute to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular: to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies (SDG16); to protect human rights and to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (SDG5); to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all girls and boys, women and men and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG4); to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (SDG3), to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, and equal pay for work of equal value, as well as to protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants (SDG8).

Specific objectives

The specific objectives are as follow:

- Establish a multi-stakeholder and regional follow-up/assessment process to monitor and assess the implementation of country and stakeholders interventions and policies in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment and provide recommendations and corrective measures to improve the impact.
- Promote a learning-based approach between countries and stakeholders through the exchange of knowledge, experiences, good practices and innovative approaches, and build the abilities of countries and stakeholders in somekeyspecificskillstoimproveimplementing the gender equality policies and interventions.

- Strengthen the regional cooperation and coordination between countries and with and between other key stakeholders in the field of gender equality and women's empowerment including civil society organisations, to foster the complementarity and strengthen the coherence between the different interventions.
- Identify and promote relevant mechanisms to gather reliable gender-sensitive data and statistics as well as impact indicators on gender equality, as a tool for improving stakeholder accountability and gender impact assessment.
- Identify and promote specific regional programmes and joint initiatives which will contribute to States' efforts at the national level aiming at meeting the challenges that hinder gender equality in the region.

Promoting Regional Dialogue Platforms

International experience shows that, to be effective, gender strategies need to be integrated with a measurement framework and monitoring and evaluation efforts in order to understand the impact and implementation of gender equality initiatives and to assess areas that need improvement. The co-ordination and monitoring mechanisms are essential for keeping gender reforms and strategies moving forward and to ensure that individual initiatives are aligned with the broader gender vision and strategies. It also helps to understand the kinds of initiatives required and ensure that the current initiatives are on track and generate the desired impact on women, girls, men and boys.

The UfM Regional dialogue aims to review country commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment, strengthen the coherence and complementarity between stakeholder interventions, facilitate networking and partnership building and the development of joint and specific interventions and projects.

During the upcoming programming period, the action-oriented regional dialogue will continue through the Working Group meetings co-chaired by UfM countries and international organisations. The working groups, constituted by government representatives, international and civil society organisations, business associations, donors and national cooperation agencies, are mandated to review the progress made in each priority and to provide recommendations for policy makers. They have also to follow-up the operationalisation of the Ministerial recommendations related to the regional agenda and to identify “what works”, share lessons learned and promote best practices and a peer-to-peer learning approach (South-South and North-South). Working Groups (WG) are open to all UfM Members (MS) and stakeholders and are flexible. Membership of a working group is on a voluntary basis and is based on interest expressed by concerned MS and stakeholders.

The period will also be dedicated to designing and implementing the Ministerial follow-up mechanism provided by the Cairo Ministerial Declaration through the agreement of regional indicators, the appropriate tools for implementation, the role of each stakeholder involved and the complementarity/synergy with the existing mechanisms in the region. The objective of the mechanism will be to review country and stakeholder commitments, to evaluate

the gap and to provide concrete recommendations to stakeholders and policy makers to advance the gender equality agenda in the region.

The UfM Regional projects and initiatives

The UfM will continue promoting and developing concrete regional projects and initiatives to foster women's empowerment and participation, in partnership with key stakeholders. 8 projects are currently labelled in the specific field of women's empowerment and women and girls are also direct beneficiaries at the same level as men and boys in other 26 labelled projects. The main priority areas targeted by the project are:

- Promoting women's economic participation including job creation and access to labour, women entrepreneurship, vocational training and skills development for girls and women,
- Fostering women's access to leadership and participation in social changes.
- Promoting women's access to social services including education and health.

Labelled projects on women empowerment

Project	Targeted countries
Promoting women's empowerment for inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the MENA region, promoted by UNIDO	Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia
Skills for success: employability skills for women, promoted by AmidEast	Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia
Developing women's empowerment, promoted by the Euro-Mediterranean Women Foundation	Mediterranean countries
Growing and scaling small and medium sized businesses, promoted by CEED Global	Albania, Morocco and Tunisia
Women of the Mediterranean: next generation of leaders, promoted by Sciences Po-Paris	MENA countries
Women's Right to Health- The WoRTH Project, promoted by CPO and World Health Organisation	Albania, Montenegro and Morocco.
Forming responsible citizens, promoted by Ideaborn	Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia
Young Women as Job Creators, promoted by AFAEMME	MENA
Enhancing the civic and social engagement of women and youth in preventing violence and extremism promoted by British Council	Morocco and Tunisia

Building Strategic Partnerships

Beyond the policy process, dialogue and labelling process, other partnerships around specific actions and initiatives are explored with strategic organisations operating in the region. Over the past three years, the UfM has developed solid institutional relationships and partnerships with key stakeholders working on women's empowerment in the region. In the next three

years, the UfM will work to better structure the relationships with these partners based on joint action plans. This would concern, but not be limited to: the EU, UN Women, UNDP, UNIDO, OECD, OSCE, SIDA, Norway, CIHEAM, AECDI and WHO. On the other hand, the UfM will continue developing partnerships with new actors to further advance the women's empowerment agenda in the region.



The European Union's Strategic engagement for gender equality in external relations



Website:

<https://ec.europa.eu>

The new European Consensus on Development, adopted in May 2017, highlights the European Union (EU) as a global leader in promoting gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in its external relations, particularly through the comprehensive EU Gender Action Plan for the period 2016-2020 (referred to as GAP II). Under the new Consensus, the EU and its Member States will step up efforts to promote the economic and social rights, the empowerment of women and girls; ensuring that their voice is heard; and address all types of violence against them.

The Joint Staff Working Document (SWD) of September 2015 provides the framework for results-oriented measures and for coordinated action for "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020". It was endorsed on 26 October 2015 by the Council, which confirmed, in its conclusions, that gender equality is at the core of European values and enshrined within the EU's legal and political framework. The Council further stated that the EU and its Member States are at the forefront of the protection, fulfilment and the enjoyment of human rights by women and girls.

The EU's objectives for working with partner countries to promote gender equality and women's empowerment are laid out in the GAP II and cover three thematic priorities:

1 Ensuring girls' and women's physical and psychological integrity. Preventing and combating all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG), e.g. through access to justice and strengthening child protection systems; ending sexual violence and gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict contexts and in humanitarian crises; providing support to survivors of violence and their communities; increasing access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health services and sex education;

improving girls and women nutrition levels; fighting the phenomenon of gender-based sex selection, female infanticide and son preference; and ending child, early and forced marriages.

2 Promoting the economic and social rights/empowerment of girls and women. Increasing the number of girls and women receiving quality primary, secondary and tertiary education, including education in science, technology and engineering, and receiving vocational, professional and/or entrepreneurial training; improving access by women to decent work and to national social protection systems; promoting equal access to financial services for women, and to the use of and control over land and other productive resources, and providing support to women entrepreneurs; fostering girls' and women's access to, use of, and control over clean water, energy, information and communication technology and transport infrastructure.

3 Strengthening girls' and women's voices and participation. Promoting women's increased participation in policy, governance and electoral processes at all levels; empowering girls' and women's organisations and human rights defenders; supporting agents of change working to shift negative social or cultural norms, including the media, women's grassroots organisations and the active involvement of men and boys; increasing the participation of women in decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues.

In addition to these thematic priorities, the GAP II provides a fourth, horizontal pillar: shifting the institutional culture, to deliver more effectively on EU commitments.

How it works

The EU uses a wide range of modalities, to better reach women and girls, such as budget support, support to civil society organisations and thematic interventions. Although in many cases, gender is mainstreamed in interventions, a number of targeted activities are to be funded within the current EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 through which an indicative amount of EUR 6.17 billion is allocated for achieving the targets related to gender equality and women's empowerment in the EU's internal and external policies.

For 60% of the external actions funded by the Commission under EU geographic and thematic funding instruments, gender equality is the main or an important and deliberate objective. The objective is to reach 85% by 2020.

Under all these instruments, the EU provides funding in the form of grants or procurement contracts and provides general or sector budget support.

Grants are direct financial contributions provided to non-state actors, mainly civil society organisations, and to international or regional organisations to implement development projects. The Commission awards the grants through calls for proposals. For more information on grants: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/about-grants_en.

Procurement contracts are awarded through tendering procedures to purchase services, supplies or works. For more information on procurement contracts: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/about-procurement-contracts_en.

Budget support is an important tool to finance partner countries' development strategies. It consists in financial transfers to the national treasuries. It also involves policy dialogue and measures to assess how these funds are used. Budget support helps to deliver aid adapted to the

needs identified by the countries themselves. For more information on the budget support policy: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/eubudgetsupport_en.

The so-called 'sector approach' increases the effectiveness of aid by supporting government-owned strategies. The funding can come in the form of sector budget support, grant and contract funding, or 'common basket funding' pooling resources from different donors. For more information on sector support: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/guidelines-sector-supportprograms_en.



Project example: The Regional Campaign to Prevent and Combat Violence against Women and Girls in the Southern Neighbourhood Countries

Overall indicative budget: EUR 3,600,000

Type of funding: Grant under the European Neighbourhood Instrument

Duration: 2019-2021

Targeted countries: The campaign is mainly aimed at the Southern Neighbourhood countries. However, the participation of non-EU UfM countries (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mauritania, Montenegro and Turkey) may be envisaged.

Specific objectives: (i) to support national stakeholders in developing and implementing practical and targeted information, awareness-raising and education activities, aimed at preventing and combating violence against women and girls (VAWG) in the Southern Neighbourhood countries; (ii) to develop the capacity of civil society organisations in the Southern Neighbourhood countries, notably women's organisations, promoting legislation criminalising VAWG; (iii) the establishment of a civil society mechanism to follow the achievements on VAWG made by the national governments in the Southern Neighbourhood countries.

Expected results: The regional campaign will aim to contribute to:

- Changing perceptions, attitudes and behaviours towards violence against women and girls, with the overall objective of preventing it from happening;
- Encouraging men and boys to challenge sexism and gender norms which promote or enhance acts of violence against women, and actively engage in the fight against violence against women;
- Informing victims, including victims along the migration routes and victims of human trafficking, about their rights and the existing support services and protection measures available in their country or country of transit/destination.

The capacity development activities targeting civil society will aim to:

- Increase the capacities and number of civil society organisations, and notably women's organisations, that promote legislation criminalising VAWG and its implementation, particularly the Istanbul Convention;
- Support the building of political will, towards legal and policy change favouring women's rights and gender equality.

The civil society monitoring mechanism aims to:

- Monitor the implementation of the recommendations on combating all forms of VAWG and the recommendations on Women, Peace and Security, as well as the prevention and resolution of social conflicts, violence and extremism contained in the UfM Women Ministerial Declaration adopted on 27th of November 2017 by the UfM Ministers.



SIDA's strategy for the promotion of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment



Website:
www.sida.se

Sweden's longstanding commitment to gender equality in development cooperation was strengthened by the launch of the Feminist Foreign Policy. SIDA uses a three-pronged approach with targeted support to gender equality efforts per se, integration of a gender perspective in all operations and highlighting gender equality and women rights in the dialogue with partner countries and stakeholders.

SIDA's support to targeted interventions on gender equality and women rights focuses on five aspects:

- Women's Political Participation and Influence;
- Women's Economic Empowerment and Working Conditions;
- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights;
- Girls' and Women's Education;
- Women's Security, including Combating All Forms of Gender-Based Violence.

Gender equality and the rights and empowerment of women are priorities throughout all SIDA funded development cooperation. The Swedish government has recently adopted its strategy for gender equality in development, covering the period 2018 to 2022. With this strategy, it aims to address a wide range of issues, from normative frameworks for gender equality, to strengthening organisations working on gender equality, along with targeted interventions such as improving capacity for generating and using gender disaggregated data. The government has earmarked US\$122 million (SEK1 billion) for the strategy, to be implemented by SIDA.

How it works in the Mediterranean region

SIDA has a regional strategy for the period 2016-2020 for working with Southern Mediterranean countries, by focusing on the rights of women, children and young people, as well as renewable energy and good working conditions. Cooperation is addressed to the following UfM countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia.

To strengthen democracy, gender equality and human rights, SIDA builds the region's civil society organisationcapacity to advocate, being accountable and shaping opinion. SIDA also works with public institutions, to promote the rule of law, gender equality and the rights of women and children in society; supports regional cooperation between organisationsand institutions for greater transparency, knowledge exchange and learning; helps the media to strengthen its capacities to raise awareness on gender equality and human rights and to scrutinize government and society on these issues.

Apart from the initiatives that directly aim at improving gender equality and women's empowerment, SIDA systematically integrates a gender equality perspective in all of its projects and programmes in the region. In the area of renewable energy for example, it ensures that both women and men are stakeholders and beneficiaries of SIDA's interventions and have equal access to sustainable energy, which improves their living conditions. It contributes to women's employment and economic empowerment, especially in rural areas.

Project example: SIDA support to the UfM agenda on gender equality and women's empowerment

Overall indicative budget: EUR 1,200,000

Type of funding: Grant

Duration: 2017-2020

Targeted countries: MENA Countries

Objectives:

To develop of a multi-stakeholder and sustainable framework for dialogue, mutual accountability, learning-based process and regional Cooperation between governments and key stakeholders involved in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment in the MENA region with the objective to monitor country and stakeholder commitments and to facilitate coordination and cooperation, exchange of knowledge, experiences, good practices and opportunities between key actors involved in the field of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Expected results:

1. A regional follow-up and monitoring mechanism on gender equality and women's empowerment is established.
2. Regular progress reports are produced on the status of the participation of women in the.
3. New commitments and corrective measures are adopted by countries within the framework of the fourth UfM Ministerial meeting.
4. The regional coordination, cooperation and networking between governments, and international organisations, donors, and civil society organisations, are improved.
5. Good practices and successful country/regional and innovative approaches in promoting gender equality and women's participation will be identified, shared between countries and stakeholders and promoted. Peer-to-peer exchange will be encouraged and promoted.
6. A specific policy dialogue on promoting women's entrepreneurship is promoted.
7. Capacities of Business Women Associations and of individual women entrepreneurs will be strengthened.

EBRD's strategy to promote Gender equality and Women's empowerment 2016-2020

Website:

www.ebrdwomeninbusiness.com

EBRD's Strategy for the Promotion of Gender Equality for the period 2016-2020 focuses on three specific objectives:

- i) Access to finance and business support for women-led businesses,
- ii) Increasing access to employment opportunities and skills for women
- iii) Improving access to services for women.

The Strategy also supports EBRD's commitment to mainstream gender equality into its operations by 2020. While the gender strategy will apply to all EBRD countries, it prioritises those countries with the largest gender gaps in Central and Eastern Europe, along with the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (SEMED).

How it works

In line with the Bank's operations, the strategy uses investments, technical cooperation and policy dialogue as its main instruments. Regarding access to finance, the Bank strengthens female entrepreneurship and access to finance through a large "Women in Business" Programme, across 18 countries. The programme assists women-led businesses to access finance, knowhow and advice, through products including dedicated women in business credit lines, strengthening of partner financial institutions and business advisory services, including online platforms and digital tools. To increase access to employment opportunities and skills, the EBRD offers advisory services and technical assistance to its clients to improve gender-sensitive HR policies and practices, strengthen gender equality and increase diversity in supply chain and production networks, and encourage targeted measures to support the participation of women, e.g. through the introduction of child care services. To improve access to public services and infrastructure,

such as transport, water and energy, the Bank structures its investments, wherever possible, to consider gender-differentiated barriers, both to access and use public services with respect to issues such as availability, safety, reliability and/or affordability. It provides its clients with recommendations and training, to incorporate gender issues and perspectives into the planning, provision and resourcing of services.

In all of these areas, the EBRD engages in policy dialogues with national governments, clients and other stakeholders to address and discuss country specific gender gaps and to support the development of an enabling environment for women as employees and business owners. The Bank also addresses gender inequalities as part of the assessment of projects, ensuring that projects will not have disproportionate social and/or environmental impacts on either men or women.



Case study: The EBRD Women in Business Program - WiB

Overall financial volume: Over EUR 450 million disbursed with 30+ partner financial institutions to over 35,000 beneficiary women-led SMEs

Duration: Since 2014

Targeted countries:

For now, WiB operates in more than 18 countries, including the following seven UfM member countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Montenegro, Morocco and Turkey. The programme is expected to expand to other UfM Countries.

Objectives:

As the main instrument to achieve the first objective of the Gender Strategy, the WiB offers access to finance, business mentoring and advice to help female entrepreneurs gain the skills, knowledge and resources they need. WiB is focused on women-led small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), meaning businesses with fewer than 250 employees and less than €50 million in annual turnover or with a balance sheet total of less than €43 million. WiB provides partner banks with finance, often in the form of credit lines, to be on-lend to women-led SMEs. In addition, it provides tailored technical advice to partner banks, from collecting gender-disaggregated data to product development, marketing and strategic planning, to ensure that the offer matches the demands of the women-led SME market. It also offers risk mitigation products to enable banks to increase lending to viable enterprises that might not otherwise have met standard lending criteria. WiB also works closely with local women's business associations and other stakeholders in each country.

Expected results:

The EBRD expects to increase the number and volume of loans disbursed to women-led SMEs through its partner financial institutions, as well as an improved product offer targeted at women's needs.

How to benefit from the program:

For a business to qualify for WiB, overall operational management responsibility for the company must be held by a woman, who also partially or wholly owns the business. WiB works with women-led businesses in almost every sector and industry, except for banking or financial services, military products or services, gambling or tobacco. To request access to finance and other support services, female entrepreneurs need to contact the partner banks of EBRD in the respective country. For information about partner banks: www.ebrdwomeninbusiness.com/?s=countries.

Website:

www.aecid.es

AECID's strategy to promote GE and WE

AECID's work for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in development cooperation, as laid out in its Master Plan for the period 2018-2021, is based on its "Gender in Development" strategy from 2007, with which the agency made GE and WE one of its sectorial priorities. Furthermore, it integrates the SDGs, as well as the EU's Gender Action Plan for 2016-2020. The agency aims to mainstream GE at the institutional level and in its operations as a crosscutting issue on the one hand, and to implement specific programmes and projects in the following priority areas:

- Elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls. Promoting legislative frameworks, to protect women and girls from violence, strategies for awareness raising, as well as programmes for the prevention of violence and assistance for victims of violence. Supporting the implementation of strategies addressing femicides, and supporting the fight against female genital mutilation.
- Support for the full participation of women and the equality of opportunities. Promoting legal and institutional frameworks, which include gender equality in public policies and societies, capacity building and awareness raising to support the empowerment of women and their participation and leadership in public life, and supporting women's access to economic and financial resources and assets, as well as decent work.

In addition, gender aspects are to be integrated in other thematic areas of the Spanish development cooperation and especially in the area of promoting peace and security. One priority is to prevent violence against women and girls, especially sexual violence and exploitation, and to give women a voice in peace building processes.

How it works in the Mediterranean region

The Southern Mediterranean region is one of AECID's priorities. Initiatives focus on Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan and Palestine. AECID works with a range of instruments and modalities to deliver its cooperation programmes, including financial and technical support. Regarding the promotion of gender equality, the organisation puts a strong thematic emphasis on democratic governance, which includes the strengthening of human rights and gender equality in public institutions and policies, as well as capacity building of civil society organisations to be better able to claim women's rights. The elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls is another focus area, as illustrated by the following programme example.



Program Example: Support for the implementation of the Socio-Cultural Shelter Centre Side Ali Azouz for women victims of gender violence in Tunisia

Overall indicative budget: EUR 94,702

Type of funding: Grant

Duration: 2018 - 2019

Targeted countries: Tunisia

Objectives:

AECID's contribution aims to support the start-up of the Socio-Cultural Shelter Centre Side Ali Azouz, located in the Medina of Tunis capital, for women victims of gender violence. The Centre will:

- a) Support women, victims of gender violence in the process of their recovery of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, through consultation and legal guidance;
- b) Provide temporary housing for women victims of violence, by helping them in their economic and social integration and at the same time through professional training and income generating activities;
- c) Strengthen the empowerment of women through supporting them to participate in the life of their community;
- d) Recover the social bonds of civic solidarity in the urban environment of the historic centre of the Medina of Tunis, and provide local development and decentralised management.

Expected results:

- Provide a response to the housing, shelter and protection needs of women victims of gender violence, discrimination and exclusion;
- Increase women's capacity for political, economic, social and cultural inclusion;
- Contribute to raising the awareness of the citizens on gender violence, by placing the centre in the Medina of Tunis.

AICS's strategy to promote Gender Equality and Women's empowerment



Website:

www.aics.gov.it

Based on its commitment to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, gender equality and the empowerment of women is one of AICS's focus areas. The agency's approach is to implement specific initiatives as well as to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment as crosscutting activities in all of the AICS's other action areas. Its key priorities are:

- Promotion of the political, economic and social inclusion of women. Through its activities, AICS aims to support the ability of women to decide for themselves, to participate in public life and have access to economic opportunities and decent work. Women's economic empowerment is fundamental to women's ability to move out and stay out of poverty. Unfortunately, women economic empowerment is more than a question of material resources: it is also fundamental to women's ability in order to enjoy all other human rights. Nonetheless, the economic dimension is hardly connected to other dimensions. To this end, AICS' vision on women economic empowerment is based on a multidimensional and inter-sectorial approach, which shall consider the complexity of women's life and all discriminations, barriers, obstacles affecting their empowerment process;
- Fighting against gender violence in all its forms. AICS pays special attention to fighting violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, harmful practices such as mutilations and early and forced marriages;
- Fighting against gender discrimination. In this area, AICS promotes women access to and use of health services, education and training systems, economic and social independence and the rejection of traditional stereotypes.

How it works in the Mediterranean region

The Mediterranean region is one of AICS's priority geographic areas, focusing on Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan. Thematic priorities for the region include the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, good governance, democracy and rule of law, economic and rural development, poverty reduction, social cohesion, and job creation, especially for young people in rural areas. In these areas, with a current portfolio of EUR 29 million, AICS promotes the empowerment of women through political dialogue and advocacy work, also in partnership with other development actors from the public, private and civil society sectors. In addition, it provides technical assistance to government institutions, to be effectively able to integrate gender mainstreaming in public policies and planning processes, as well as in the analysis, monitoring and evaluation of national plans and interventions. AICS also offers direct support to women and women's organisations in the form of skills building and training, in order to increase women's skills and voice and enable them to adopt leadership positions, create their own businesses, or empower them to protect and claim their rights.

In line with the SDG 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" and SDG 2 "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture", AICS is financing a regional programme, "Enhancing gender mainstreaming for sustainable rural development and food security - GEMAISA", implemented by CIHEAM Bari. It promotes the role of women in rural development in six target countries (Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon, Tunisia, Palestine and Jordan) in order to foster gender mainstreaming capacity building of partner institutions.



Case Study: "Enhancing gender mainstreaming for sustainable rural development and food security – GEMAISA"

Overall indicative budget: EUR 2,304,000

Type of funding: Grant

Duration: 3 years (2018-2020)

Targeted countries: Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia, Jordan, Morocco and Palestine

Strategic approach: The approach is based on a multi-dimensional empowerment, which takes into consideration different aspects of the multi-faceted life of rural women. The multi-dimensional empowerment promotes linking the public sphere and the private sphere of the lives of women, which directly affects the household's division of labour, as well as social roles division between sexes in rural areas. Multi-dimensional empowerment merges awareness of women's rights and political empowerment, together with economic empowerment. To this end, the programme identifies and addresses specific value chains, where women are already involved, to strengthen their participation in paths of socioeconomic sustainable development, directly linked to the active role of women in economy and society.

Objectives: enhance women's role in targeted rural areas, through context-based pilot initiatives carried out with a multidimensional approach to empowerment.

Expected results:

- Improvement of the conditions of rural women, through vocational training, delivery of ad hoc equipment, training to promote women's rights awareness, accessing information on available local resources, creation of local networks and implementation of economic activities through a value chain approach;
- Development of a systemic approach by mapping and selecting existing human and organisational resources, building strong partnerships at all the three levels of governance (micro/local, meso/intermediate governmental institutions and macro/central institutions/ministries) as well as cooperating with specialised civil society organisations;
- Promotion communication flows among all these actors through ad hoc structures and workshops constantly engaged in monitoring and comparing the new practices and their impacts and validating innovative training tools and evaluation mechanisms through the tool of knowledge value chains.

Beneficiaries:

The direct beneficiaries are women in rural territories and the Gender Units of the Ministries of Agriculture in the six Countries involved.

The government of Norway's strategy to promote GE and WE



Website:

www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/foreign-affairs/development-cooperation/id1159/

The government of Norway launched its latest gender strategy and action plan called "Freedom, empowerment and opportunities" in 2016, based on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The action plan for women's rights and gender equality in Norway's development policy covers the period 2016-2020, with the overall aim of increasing the opportunities available to women and girls, promoting their right to self-determination, and further their empowerment. The Norwegian government also sees boys and men as important allies and agents of change for achieving gender equality. The action plan focuses on five key topics:

- Education for girls and boys. Ensuring that boys and girls have equal access to primary and secondary education, including vocational training, in a secure and supportive learning environment; improving the quality of education methods, content and materials to promote gender equality, including sex education, and to strengthen the position of girls and women in society;
- Women's political empowerment. Increasing the representation of women in political processes and bodies at country level, including an increase in the number of women taking part in peace processes and negotiations; promoting the development and implementation of non-discriminatory legislation; and supporting organisations working to protect and strengthen the capacity of women human rights defenders;
- Women's economic empowerment. Promoting the effective implementation of gender mainstreaming in multilateral financial institutions' programming and reporting; integrating gender equality and women's rights into Norway's private sector investments in developing countries; supporting UN agencies focusing on women's economic empowerment;

engaging in developing and/or reforming norms and legislation to ensure women and men have equal economic rights and access to resources;

- Sexual and reproductive health and rights: Improving access to and the quality of women's, girls', and adolescents' health services, including access to contraception and sex education; promoting legal and safe abortion; promoting the integration of sexual rights as an integral part of human rights; and protecting the human rights of lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, including ensuring equal treatment in legislation and in practice; and supporting international efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation;
- Prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. Strengthening normative efforts and supporting organisations to combat violence against women, including engaging men and boys as allies and agents of change; fighting sexual violence in conflict affected countries and supporting humanitarian organisations, which protect women against sexual violence; supporting international and national efforts to fight child and forced marriage.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the missions abroad, NORAD and other public bodies, which administer Norwegian funds and implement Norway's foreign and development policy, implement this action plan. The aim is to mainstream the gender perspective in all initiatives, but targeted programmes and projects for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment are also implemented.

How it works in the Mediterranean Region

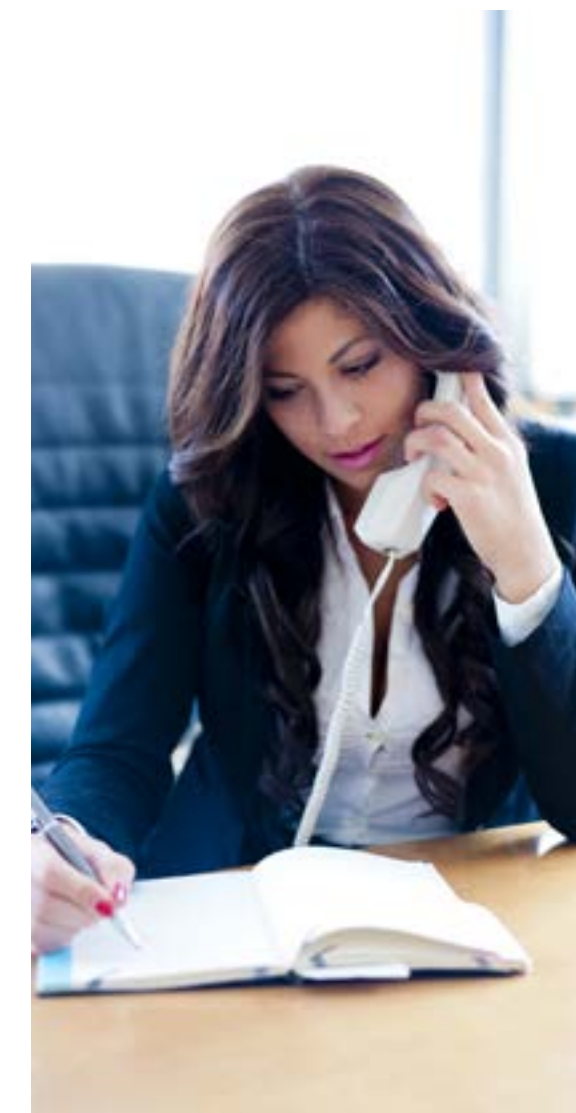
Norway maintains strong collaborations with multilateral organisations – mainly UN agencies – as well as Norwegian civil society organisations, to which it provides funding for implementing relevant initiatives. A smaller share of Norway's development cooperation funding goes to national programmes implemented by Norwegian embassies and the Norwegian development cooperation agency NORAD. In the Mediterranean region, Norway focuses on Lebanon and Palestine, where it promotes women's rights in the broader context of humanitarian assistance. Particular emphasis is placed on ensuring equal and inclusive education for girls and boys, access to healthcare, and protection from violence. In Palestine, this includes financing the extension and better equipment of existing schools as well as the building of new schools for both sexes.

Norway also channels funding to strengthen national and local civil society organisations working on human rights, including women's rights, and education for girls and boys, including health and hygiene. In the cooperation with its partners, the Norwegian Embassy in Beirut strongly focuses on women and gender equality. A gender lens is applied to all projects which receive Norwegian support. Key areas are the support to Syrian and Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, and support to peace building and reconciliation efforts of the Lebanese government.

In line with its strategy to channel funding to civil society organisations, Norway has launched two grant scheme allocations with a focus on women's rights for the period 2018-2020. One focuses on efforts supporting the follow-up of UN resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, with the Middle East and North Africa (with special emphasis

on Syria and Palestine) as one regional focus area. The other one aims at promoting women's political and economic participation and empowerment, and is open to a broader range of countries including the following UfM member states: Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Morocco, Moldova, Montenegro, and Tunisia.

For more information on funding schemes: www.norad.no/en/front/funding/.



The OECD strategic engagement for gender equality



Website:

www.oecd.org/gender/

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment are crosscutting topics in OECD's work. The Organisation aims to adopt an inclusive and multidimensional approach to policy dialogue, looking also at the social dimensions such as gender inequality. The OECD implements several initiatives to promote gender equality and women's empowerment among its member states, as well as in partner countries. Its main initiatives and activities are the following:

- Gender Initiative. In 2010, the organisation started its Gender Initiative with the aim of examining barriers to gender equality in education, employment, and entrepreneurship. A dedicated website monitors the progress made by governments in promoting gender equality in both OECD and non-OECD countries and provides good practices based on analytical tools and reliable data. Within this initiative, the Gender Data Portal includes selected indicators shedding light on gender inequalities in education, employment, entrepreneurship, health and development.
- International Programmes. The OECD has initiated several international programmes to support gender equality and women's empowerment in public life and the private sector through policy discussions, experience exchanges and data monitoring.
- OECD Gender standards and tools. The OECD draws up and commissions a wide range of reports and studies on gender equality and women's empowerment to foster knowledge generation and share of best practices. These include policy recommendations such as the 2013 Recommendations on Gender Equality in Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship, and the 2015 *Recommendations on Gender Equality in Public Life*, along with the *OECD Toolkit for Mainstreaming and Implementing Gender Equality* to implement the 2015 Recommendation.

How it works in the Mediterranean region

The MENA-OECD Initiative for Governance and Competitiveness for Development seeks to build up an innovative approach to address some of the most pressing policy issues and advancing a transformational reform agenda, which will benefit economies and people in the MENA region. The Initiative places particular emphasis on supporting key policy priorities supporting inclusive growth by mobilising several policy tools and instruments. The Initiative also seeks to further engage in the regional policy for a, as well as with non-governmental actors from the region, starting with the private sector and civil society organisations.

Thematic priorities and activities on women's economic empowerment, defined in the 2016-2020 Work Programme of the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme, include:

- Providing advice and inputs to the Working Group on SME and entrepreneurship policy so that women's entrepreneurship policies are an integral part of the Working Group's activities, particularly in key matters such as improving business environments for women entrepreneurs, easier access to finance, access to business development services and business networks, etc;
- Raising awareness, within the context of the Working Group on Investment and Trade, that sound investment and trade frameworks and trade facilitation can have an important effect on women's economic empowerment by providing greater opportunities for enterprise creation and employment;
- Considering the need to enhance the role of women on boards under the activities of the Working Group on Corporate Governance;
- Identifying women's specific economic needs in fragile state situations in preparation for the Economic Resilience Task Force discussions. On the one hand, women are disproportionately

affected by conflict, but at the same time, supporting women can have exponential benefits. For instance, women play a critical role in post-conflict rebuilding efforts, as they are often the only breadwinners left;

- Mapping institutions involved in women's economic empowerment as well as those that may require to be involved in discussions on gender equality;
- Raising awareness and work with countries towards adapting their national legal frameworks related to or affecting women's economic empowerment to international and constitutional commitments;
- Working with countries towards producing gender-sensitive disaggregated data by strengthening the statistical system and reporting of statistics.

For more information: www.oecd.org/mena/competitiveness/women-empowerment.htm.

The thematic priorities and activities on women political empowerment and their participation in public life, based on the 2015 Recommendations on Gender Equality in Public Life, include:

- Strengthening governance frameworks, mechanisms and practices of gender mainstreaming and capacity to measure the impacts of gender-based policies, programmes and budgets to be able to deliver gender equality results;
- Empowering (potential) women parliamentarians and local councillors and strengthening their capacity and skills to run for and succeed in elections, and be effective policy makers through capacity building sessions and train-the-trainer seminars;

- Improving public consultation capacity of parliaments and women's civil society organisations in law-making processes for more gender-sensitive laws;
- Promoting policy dialogue and exchange of good practices on women's political representation and leadership, equal opportunities and political voice among MENA and OECD countries through an annual regional policy dialogue;
- Assessment of the legal and institutional framework and practices to promote equal representation of women in the public administration, including in leadership positions;
- Encouraging governments to ensure that women have easy and effective access to justice and support the enforcement of the legislative provisions;
- Promoting the development of action frameworks to combat violence against women to ensure maximum effectiveness of governmental VAW responses;
- Strengthening national statistical systems to produce gender-disaggregated data on women's participation in public life.

Engagement example: MENA-OECD Competitiveness Program: Women's Economic Empowerment Forum (WEEF)

Duration: Launched in October 2017 in Cairo. Yearly meetings of the Forum foreseen.

Targeted countries: MENA countries

Objectives: To support MENA countries in tapping the considerable potential of women to generate strong and inclusive growth.

Expected results:

- Provide a regional network among government and non-government representatives from OECD and MENA economies to foster discussions on advocacy and exchanges of good practices regarding methods and actions, which further enable economic equality among men and women;
- Monitor country policy actions and regulatory developments, taking into account policy recommendations and standards to advance equality, non-discrimination and women economic and social inclusion;
- Identify strategic data collection needs, to assess women's economic empowerment and provide support for strategic gender data development and collection;
- Ensure gender mainstreaming in critical policy areas such as investment, trade, employment, skills, entrepreneurship or support to conflict affected economies;
- Collaborate with regional instances advocating for gender equality, most notably: The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), UN Women, and the Union of Arab Banks.

Engagement example: MENA-OECD Governance Program: Women in Government Platform

Duration: Active since 2009, regional conferences are taking place annually in the framework of G7 Deauville Partnership MENA Transition Fund Regional Project on Women's Political Participation

Targeted countries: MENA countries

Objectives: Fostering inclusive growth and good governance by leveraging open government policies and promoting Women's participation in parliaments and policy-making, public administration and local elected councils.

Expected results:

- Provide a forum for policy dialogue and capacity building for representatives of governments, parliaments, local councils, academia and civil society organisations from MENA and OECD countries;
- Take stock of major trends and good practices in enabling equal access to politics for women and men;
- Encourage knowledge transfer and exchange of experience on how to tackle barriers to women's political participation and public leadership;
- Ensure gender mainstreaming in the design of legal and institutional frameworks to promote women's participation in politics on national and local level and in the public administration.



UN Women's strategic engagement for gender equality



Website:

www.unwomen.org / arabstates.unwomen.org/en

UN Women is the UN organisation dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. With its partners, UN Women implements programmes and technical assistance to support gender equality and women's empowerment through the effective implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, in line with global and regional frameworks to promote and protect fundamental human rights, including the fundamental rights of women and girls. UN Women provides technical assistance to the elaboration of regulations, policies and standards at the regional and national levels to support advocacy and reporting to lift reservations to CEDAW, including the identification of good practices in legislative, policy and institutional reform measures that promote gender equality. UN Women engages in the following thematic areas:

- Political participation and leadership. Advocating for legislative and constitutional reforms to ensure women's participation in, and leadership of, political spheres;
- Economic empowerment. Supporting women's access to decent jobs and accumulation of assets, driving advocacy for institutional capacity-building and elaboration of effective public policies;
- Ending violence against women. Partnering with multiple stakeholders to advocate, address and end violence, increase awareness of the causes and consequences of violence and build national institutional capacity;
- Peace and security. Driving forward policy implementation of commitments to women, peace and security as well as fostering women's participation and influence in processes to address and prevent conflicts;

- Humanitarian action. Working in crises prevention and response to reduce vulnerabilities, address risks, promote resilience and promote women leadership through policy development and programmes on the ground.

UN Women adopts an inclusive approach to stakeholder engagement. In the Arab States region, UN Women also prioritises engagement with youth as a key stakeholder group in light of the regional demographic context.

How it works in the Mediterranean region

Key areas focused by UN Women in the Mediterranean region are: ending violence against women; peace, security and humanitarian action; economic empowerment, as well as governance and national planning. With the launch of the Africa Strategy in 2018, UN Women will engage with its partners to address the impact on women and girls of migration and human trafficking in North Africa and the Mediterranean region.

In the Mediterranean region, UN Women runs the Regional Office for the Arab States (ROAS); the Morocco Multi-Country Office (MCO), which implements programmes in Morocco and Algeria, together with Country Offices in Egypt and Libya, the latter presently being located in Tunis. By the end of 2018, the Libya Country Office will also oversee a programme presence to be based in Tunis. Country programmes respond to national priorities identified in consultation with national stakeholders and partners, including government and civil society.

Regarding leadership and political participation, UN Women manages country programmes for example in Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, or Tunisia, where it works with governments and civil society to support advocacy work and capacity building for gender equality and women's participation, as well as networking and monitoring of laws and policies affecting women's rights. At the regional level, UN Women supported the creation of the Arab Female

Parliamentarian Network for Equality, to enhance women's political participation and representation.

To end violence against women in the region, UN Women works with UN agencies, civil society, governments, intergovernmental bodies and research institutions to address, respond to, and prevent violence against women and girls, including through the implementation of relevant legal frameworks. Awareness raising and advocacy to address the negative social stereotypes, which contribute to the social acceptance of gender-based violence, complement this work. The Men and Women for Gender Equality programme (2015-2018) in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine aims at better understanding the root causes of negative attitudes that contribute to gender inequalities, while strengthening the capacities of young gender advocates to address these causes.

In the area of peace, security and humanitarian action, UN Women works at the regional and country levels to monitor and promote the implementation of commitments of governments to several UN resolutions and conventions, which ensure women's active role in peacebuilding, as well as the protection of their fundamental rights in a context of conflict. In several countries including Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon and Tunisia,

UN Women also provides direct support to women and girls affected by conflict and displacement, through economic empowerment combined with protection and psychosocial services.

UN Women works both at regional and national level with policy-makers as well as with individual women to foster women's economic empowerment. At the policy level, it advocates for gender mainstreaming, while at the micro level, it supports women's networks and provides capacity building to strengthen women's financial inclusion, leadership and employment.

Finally, to strengthen public policies, which reduce the gaps between men and women in accessing human rights, UN Women focuses on gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) to ensure that governments allocate resources to actions likely to increase gender equality. Several GRB initiatives have been launched at country level, including in Morocco, Egypt, Jordan and Palestine. UN Women also facilitates regional knowledge sharing, to improve national governments capacities.



Programme example: Men and Women for Gender Equality

Overall indicative budget: Funded by SIDA

Duration: 4 years 2015-2018

Targeted countries: Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine

Objectives: The programme seeks to understand the root causes of gender inequalities and to address them through an innovative bottom-up approach, more specifically to contribute to the following:

- Understanding the root causes of gender inequality to develop tools and conduct evidence-based advocacy for policy change;
- Strengthening the capacities and networks of GEWE civil society organisations, with a focus on the sustainability of new and emerging movements, such as youth groups;
- Developing community-based solutions to promote gender equality based on innovative approaches and South-South exchange.

Expected results:

- Perception surveys and research with men and women on masculinities and gender equality carried out in the four countries;
- A mapping and analysis of women's rights in Muslim family laws in addition to an in-depth research on spousal economical roles and parental care;
- A capacity building and mentoring component of the programme is carried out through established INGOs/NGOs in the four countries;
- Selected youth from 11 countries in the region will become agents of change and community leaders by developing and implementing innovative projects on SDGs under the pillar of Gender Equality;
- An advocacy and communications toolkit will be developed for youth-led organisations, with a focus on engaging men and boys for GEWE;
- Develop South-South exchanges to duplicate and contextualize successful solutions.



UNIDO's strategic engagement for gender equality



Website:

www.unido.org

UNIDO engagement for gender equality and women's empowerment is guided by UNIDO's "Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women" Strategy 2016-2019. The goal of UNIDO gender strategy is to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in all UNIDO programmes, policies and organisational practices, to create inclusive, sustainable and resilient economic and industrial growth for sustainable development. UNIDO applies a two-fold approach towards gender equality and the empowerment of women:

1. gender mainstreaming
2. gender specific interventions,

by focusing in three priority areas:

- Creating shared prosperity. Development of agro-industries, increasing the participation of women and youth in productive activities, and human security in post-crisis situations;
- Advancing economic competitiveness. Promoting economic empowerment of women through the development of entrepreneurial skills and business development support, including helping enterprises, especially SMEs, improve productivity and innovation, and achieve systemic competitive advantages;
- Safeguarding the environment. Ensuring that women have equal access to and benefit from the development of green industries, clean technologies, efficient and renewable energy, and sustainable water sources.

UNIDO provides technical cooperation activities with partners across the UN system, the private sector and at the country level, to advance gender equality and women's economic empowerment. Key actions to ensure the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment include, among others:

- The collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data and the implementation of studies to better understand gender aspects related to UNIDO's thematic areas;
- The systematic integration of gender analysis in programme planning;
- Strategic partnerships to leverage resources and advocacy support;
- The development of gender indicators at the country, programme and project levels, to stimulate and track gender outcomes.

To learn more about UNIDO's gender strategy, see www.unido.org/our-focus/cross-cutting-services/gender-equality-and-empowerment-women.

How it works in the Mediterranean region

In the Mediterranean region, UNIDO focuses on inclusive and sustainable industrial development and the economic empowerment of women in a range of countries including Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. Specifically, UNIDO supports the development of female entrepreneurs, including in rural areas. This is carried out:

- At the policy level, working with governments and other relevant actors for creating an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs, for example by granting them access to land and other productive resources;
- By improving financial services and investment opportunities for women;
- On the other hand, UNIDO provides capacity building and networking support for women and women's organisations, to help them to build their skills and to strengthen the role of women business associations in delivering quality services to women entrepreneurs.

Programme example: Promoting women's empowerment for inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the MENA region

Overall indicative budget: EUR 1,424,000 by the Italian Government

Duration: 2015-2018. A second phase of the programme is currently under development as a joint initiative with FAO and UN Women (estimated budget is approx. EUR 13 million)

Targeted countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia

Objectives: The project aims at helping women to strengthen their economic independence through entrepreneurial activities. The project is implemented by women business associations in the target countries, in partnership with the national Ministries of Industry. Its specific objectives are:

- On a macro level, to support policy dialogue between key stakeholders with the objective of producing recommendations and action points to promote women entrepreneurship in the region;
- At a meso level, to strengthen the capacities of national professional women's associations so that they are able to provide female entrepreneurs with high quality services to support the creation and growth of their businesses, and effectively promote an environment, which is more conducive to the development of women's entrepreneurship;
- On a micro level, to promote promising women-led businesses through training, coaching, identification and facilitation of business partnerships opportunities and access to finance.

Achieved results by end of phase I:

The knowledge and policy dialogue on women entrepreneurship in the MENA region enhanced:

- an international benchmarking of the best practices in promoting female entrepreneurship;
- a Technical paper based on the survey of 1,210 women entrepreneurs of the region;
- 8 Regional conferences and round tables on "Women Economic Empowerment in MENA Region" in Cairo, Milan, Amman, Rome, Beirut, Berlin, Barcelona, New York (approx. 1600 attendees);
- Recommendations formulated;
- Country action plans to be drafted.

The role of women's associations in supporting female entrepreneurship development has been reinforced, through capacity building in several fields (financial analysis of investment projects, investment promotion, strategic planning, communication for advocacy), in order for them to offer more adequate business development services to female entrepreneurs, and to contribute more efficiently to the policy dialogue on women economic empowerment at national and regional level;

Since the start of the project, the national women's associations have registered a 42% increase (on average) in registered membership; the number of women supported with services to facilitate access finance was multiplied by 8; the number of those supported in terms of business linkages promotion and networking has increased by 278 %, while the percentage of assisted entrepreneurs who have created/expanded their businesses has increased by 175%;

Selected women-led investment opportunities were identified, formulated and promoted, according to UNIDO's investment Promotion methodology. Access to finance was facilitated by increasing women's financial literacy and capacity at formulating bankable business plans: 276 women entrepreneurs assisted in the formulation of their business proposals in the manufacturing and service sectors; 170 projects promoted in Europe; 118 women coached throughout their business creation/growth process and writing a business plan; 64 Business Plans were finalized; 550 B2B meetings organised for 120 MENA entrepreneurs throughout Milan Expo 2015 and MEDAWEEK 2017; 6 partnerships were concluded (technology transfer and market access) and 25 business negotiations are ongoing as a result.

Towards phase II:

The overarching goal of "Promoting Women's Empowerment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development in the MENA Region" phase II, developed in collaboration with FAO and UN Women, is to enhance women's economic empowerment in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia by consolidating and expanding the results from phase I.

Phase II has four objectives: (i) building a more conducive environment for female entrepreneurship development (ii) alleviating the financial barriers to female entrepreneurship development; (iii) improving market access for female entrepreneurs; and (iv) increasing business opportunities for women-led businesses in selected value chains.

The project is being implemented in close cooperation with UN Women and FAO, which have strong presence in the MENA region, with extensive experience in working with women in various sectors: from policy and advocacy to advancing women's rights at all levels, to providing more specific technical support to female beneficiaries, in terms of improving their productive practices, thus expanding their economic opportunities.



UNDP's strategy to promote GE and WE

Website:

www.undp.org

One of UNDP's key commitments is to strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. In support of its Strategic Plan, UNDP has developed a Gender Equality Strategy which sets out UNDP's commitment to: strengthen interventions tackling structural changes that accelerate gender equality and women's empowerment, integrate gender equality into UNDP work on environment, energy and crisis response and recovery; and to ensure the centrality of gender equality and women's empowerment to the achievement of sustainable development. Gender equality is an essential aspect of "leaving no one behind," one of the guiding principles of the 2030 Agenda. UNDP aims to mainstream gender equality across all SDGs. The specific GE and WE issues that UNDP addresses are:

- Women's economic empowerment. UNDP provides policy advice and support for capacity building with governments, private sector organisations and civil society to take effective measures to promote equality in the economic sphere. This includes addressing barriers women face in accessing and controlling assets and resources in urban and rural environments, promoting measures to reduce women's unpaid work and ensure their access to decent employment opportunities, and working with the public and private sector to reduce gender gaps and promote equality in the workplace;
- Women's participation in decision-making. UNDP works with different partners to support advocacy, policy and legal reforms to achieve equal participation of women in decision-making at all levels, from the household level to global fora. This includes promoting women's participation as voters and candidates in electoral processes and supporting women's representation in public institutions;
- Gender-based violence. Along with other UN entities, UNDP supports national partners to develop and implement legal and policy frameworks to combat sexual and gender-based violence. This includes improving access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence, ending impunity for perpetrators and providing survivors of violence with adequate support and services. UNDP also supports awareness-raising and behaviour change campaigns and is working to better integrate GBV response into livelihoods programming;
- Gender, climate and disaster resilience. UNDP supports partners to engage women in initiatives on climate change and disaster resilience. This includes ensuring women's access to clean energy and securing their rights and tenure to land, water, forests, housing and clean and green alternative livelihoods. It also includes building capacities of women's organisations to participate in the drafting and implementation of policies, programmes and strategies especially at community level and building capacities of relevant institutions to integrate gender perspectives;
- Gender and crisis response and recovery. UNDP works to strengthen women's participation in post-conflict and post-disaster decision-making and to promote women's involvement in economic recovery. This includes promoting community level participation in decision-making and promoting women's involvement in cash for work, access to employment and economic empowerment programmes;
- Youth leadership and young women's entrepreneurs. Since 2015, through one of its flagship initiatives, the Youth Leadership Programme (YLP), UNDP has been successfully supporting the building of a generation of young leaders, thinkers, innovators and change-makers in the Arab Region, catalysing their capacity and energy to act as drivers and owners of development. The Arab Region is home to the youngest population in the world,

with more than 60% of the population under the age of 30. Despite their potential, youth in the Arab Region are insufficiently represented in the public sphere. This marginalization based on age bias is further hindered by a gender bias. Since 2015, YLP has supported young women, strengthening their competencies and skills in the areas of leadership, social innovation and entrepreneurship, and digital technologies, while also providing a regional platform for knowledge sharing.

How it works in the Mediterranean region

UNDP is present in 11 UfM member countries - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Turkey in the Eastern Mediterranean; Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Palestine in the Southern Mediterranean.

In the Eastern Mediterranean, UNDP works with partners such as UN Women, UNFPA and ESCWA to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. It addresses economic inequalities between women and men by working on the policy level, doing advocacy work and supporting public policies that empower women economically. The organisation also provides grants, business development and mentoring support to women-led businesses and implements programmes that aim to create decent jobs for women and men, including in the green economy. UNDP also supports women's political participation and works on the prevention of gender-based violence. UNDP integrates gender equality measures in national planning to build community resilience, as well as in post-disaster recovery plans. It also implements initiatives to provide women and men with equal access to renewable energy technologies and sustainable agriculture practices.



Programme Example: Youth Leadership Programme

Overall indicative budget: \$3.3 million

Type of funding: UNDP, bilateral, multilateral and private sector

Duration: 2019-2021

Targeted countries: Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Lebanon

Objectives:

- Innovative thinking and leadership among youth is strengthened, promoted and supported;
- Networks of young women and men who are able to create change and positive sustainable impact in their communities, countries and region, are strengthened;
- Awareness and dedicated work of youth organisations on SDGs is increased;
- Local and national organisations foster, incubate and support youth-led solutions for achieving the SDGs.

Expected results:

YLP is expecting to directly support around 100,000 young people and 150 youth serving organisations from the Arab Region over the next three years. Benefits will not only be for participating youth, but through their development solutions they will also create a broader positive sustainable development impact in their societies, thereby contributing to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

How to benefit:

Our YLP participants and stakeholders, specifically youth and youth-serving organisations, benefit from the process, engagement and mentoring that YLP provides. YLP youth led initiatives are supported at the regional, national and local levels; UNDP provides, expert mentoring, opportunities for financing, conference and visibility opportunities as well as access to a growing YLP Alumni community. YLP donors and stakeholders are invited to take part in discussions during YLP regional forums to share their own expertise as well as see first-hand the innovative potential that our youth leaders have brought to the Arab Region.



CIHEAM's strategy to promote Gender Equality and Women Empowerment



Website:

www.ciheam.org

In line with the UN SDGs for 2030 and with the CIHEAM Action Plan for the Mediterranean (CAPMED 2025), the CIHEAM gives prominence to issues of capacity building and empowerment of women in agriculture, fisheries and more generally in rural Mediterranean areas.

Identified as priority n°10 in the CAPMED 2025, gender equality and women's empowerment are crosscutting issues. The organisation supports women by implementing targeted programme, by promoting social, technical and economic innovations by women and by encouraging gender research.

CIHEAM also supports the participation of women in its research networks and encourages young girls to choose scientific studies in the fields of food security and nutrition, natural resources management and energy, rural and coastal development, climate change adaptation and mitigations strategies, animal and plant health and agricultural markets. These issues are all at the heart of the Mediterranean challenges.

How it works

CIHEAM works through the following instruments:

- Education and training. CIHEAM offers Masters Programmes and Short Specialised Courses aimed at female post-graduate students, officials and professionals of agro-food sectors in the Euro-Mediterranean region. These include courses fostering the participation of vulnerable groups;
- Research and innovation. CIHEAM provides substantial research on topics related to gender equality and women's empowerment in rural and agricultural areas;
- Cooperation projects and technical assistance. CIHEAM participates in a wide range of technical

assistance and cooperation projects related to its thematic priority areas, including projects to promote women's economic empowerment in rural areas. In other thematic areas, CIHEAM pays attention to mainstreaming gender perspective;

- Policy Dialogue and Partnerships. CIHEAM facilitates political dialogue among its 13 Member States: Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. In addition, it works in partnership with numerous international, regional and national organisations from the public, private and civil society sectors, as well as education and research institutions to foster synergies and implement projects, including those related to gender equality and women's empowerment;
- Publications. With its rich multifaceted expertise and an extensive international network, the CIHEAM contributes to the debate of ideas by producing knowledge and carrying out scientific and technical analyses. The CIHEAM's publications aim at facilitating decision-making processes for political, economic and agricultural stakeholders, but also to provide students, researchers, journalists and other civil society players with the essential keys to understanding the Mediterranean. Several articles and reports on the following issues were published: Women in Agriculture; Gender Dimensions in Water Management for Food Security and Food Safety; Women in the Family Farms; Women and Science; Women Status in the Mediterranean; Women Entrepreneurs in Rural Areas etc.

Programme Example: Enhancing Gender Mainstreaming in sustainable rural development and food Security (GEMAISA)

Overall indicative budget: GEMAISA Phase I: EUR 869,910

Type of funding: Grant, funded by Italian Cooperation and implemented by CIHEAM-Bari

Duration: 2015-2020 (phase I & II)

Targeted countries: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia

Objectives: Empowering women in rural areas by promoting natural resources management, food security, economic empowerment, equal access to resources and capacity building of partner institutions

Expected results:

- Pilot actions in the target countries are carried out at the national level (local action), involving relevant Ministries in the selected actions (Ministries of Agriculture), as well as the representatives of national (Women, Social Local Affairs, Economic Development Ministers) and local institutions (Provinces, Municipalities), Universities, the civil society, women associations, along with the private sector;
- In collaboration with a Technical Scientific Committee involving experts from all the target countries, a gender mainstreaming approach is developed and applied in pilot activities at the national and regional level;
- Improvement of the conditions of rural women, through vocational training, delivery of ad hoc equipment, training to promote awareness of women rights, accessing information on available local resources and the creation of local networks and implementation of economic activities through a value chain approach;
- A systemic approach is developed by mapping and selecting existing human and organisational resources, building strong partnerships at all the three levels of government (micro/local, meso/intermediate governmental institutions and macro/central institutions/ministries) as well as cooperating with specialized civil society organisations;
- Communication flows among all the concerned actors are promoted through ad hoc structures and workshops, constantly engaged in monitoring and comparing the new practices and their impact, validating innovative training tools and evaluation mechanisms through the tool of knowledge value chains.

For other CIHEAM programmes and activities in the field of gender equality and women's empowerment: www.ciheam.org/uploads/attachments/736/COM_CIHEAM_WOMEN_GENDER_12_02_2018_V9.pdf

The OSCE's strategy to promote GE and WE



Website:

www.osce.org

The OSCE's Gender Action Plan from 2004 states that the OSCE will actively promote gender equality and the empowerment of women by assisting participating States in implementing their commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment and focusing on the following priority areas under the overall mandate of fostering security, conflict prevention and peace building processes:

The politico-military dimension: Enhancing the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; supporting reforms in the security sector, training of police and border service personnel; and promoting women's participation in armed forces and arms control activities.

The economic and environmental dimension:

Analysing persisting challenges to women's equal economic participation, and developing projects to assist women in fulfilling their potential. This includes activities in the environmental area designed to address discrimination in access to and control over natural resources, and to enhance women's participation in disaster risk reduction.

The human dimension: Preventing violence against women, ensuring non-discriminatory legal and policy frameworks, and promoting women's participation in political and public life.

Since 2006, the OSCE has issued an annual progress report on gender issues to follow up on the 2004 Gender Action Plan and to assess its implementation. The OSCE's Gender Section assists with the integration of a gender perspective into the Organisation's policies and programmes, implements thematic activities and develops operational tools, guidelines and capacity building materials to assist staff members and participating States. The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) implements programmes on increasing the participation of

women in the political and public arena, capacity building of women's networks, combating violence against women and the involvement of women in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. In addition, the Parliamentary Assembly has appointed a Special Representative on Gender Issues to follow the gender situation within the OSCE institutions and field operations, to mainstream gender issues in the Assembly's decisions, reports and resolutions, and to promote the discussion of gender issues within the OSCE and the Parliamentary Assembly.

Every year the Chairperson-in-Office appoints a Special Representative on Gender Issues. In line with the six priorities identified in the OSCE's 2004 Gender Action Plan, the Special Representative focuses on supporting participating States in the implementation of their existing OSCE commitments and on undertaking specific measures to advance gender equality and women's rights.

How it works in the Mediterranean region

In the Mediterranean region, the OSCE works mostly in the Eastern Mediterranean countries, including the following countries that belong to the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM): Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro. In all of them, the promotion of women's participation in public and political life is a priority. In Albania, the OSCE works with public institutions at the national and local levels to improve the implementation of gender-related legislation. The organisation also engages in training women leaders. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, it focuses on political parties to improve gender equality principles in policies and programmes, as well as to promote gender responsive budgeting at the local level. Another key issue is fighting violence against women, especially domestic violence. To this end, the OSCE works closely with the police to support the implementation of laws and the action plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. In Montenegro, the Mission concentrates on awareness raising and capacity building activities with public institutions

and civil society organisations. It helped to support the development of the Action Plan for the Gender Sensitive Parliament - the first of its kind in the region - and works on its implementation. The

Mission also engages in gender mainstreaming of the security sector, including the exchange of best practices among women police officers from the region.



Project example:

OSCE Survey on the well-being and safety of women

Overall indicative budget: 2,5 million Euro

Type of funding: The project is funded for 80 per cent by the European Union's Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP). Other donors include UNFPA, UN Women, Austria, Finland, Italy and Norway

Duration: Three years (2016 – 2019)

Targeted countries: The project targets seven countries in South East Europe and Eastern Europe: Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania. The survey will also be conducted in Kosovo.

Objectives:

The goal of this project is to contribute to a reduction of violence against women in the targeted regions, and have better services for survivors and higher security for women.

The project aims to provide high quality data and evidence for policy formulation and advocacy.

Expected results:

This project links gender-based violence against women, peace and security work by measuring physical, sexual and psychological violence against women in a region which encounters political turbulences and post-conflict issues and has gone through different conflicts.

The OSCE study is the first comparable representative survey carried out in South East Europe and Eastern Europe and it is the first time in this region that women will be systematically asked about their experiences of violence in armed conflict. The research will provide comparable data for national decision-makers, international stakeholders and also for main donors for evidence-based policy drafting and programming.

More information on the project can be found on the website:
<https://www.osce.org/projects/survey-on-the-well-being-and-safety-of-women>



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ufmsecretariat.org



Palau de Pedralbes | Pere Duran Farell, 11 | 08034 Barcelona, Spain
Phone: 00 34 93 521 4100 | Fax: 00 34 93 521 4102



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