

UfM Water Agenda

UfM Water Task Forces on Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus (4th Meeting) & Water-Employment-Migration (5th Meeting)

Joint Meeting

Thursday, 23 July 2020
On line, 13.30-15.30 CET

Concept Note

1. Background

Advancing the development of the UfM Water Agenda, contents of the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus and Water-Employment-Migration (WEM) Framework Programmes (FPs) were elaborated through an engagement process that during 2019 involved dedicated meetings of the related UfM Task Forces (TFs), the Water Expert Group (WEG) meeting, the WEM Lab and the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM). More specifically:

- the 3rd Meeting of the UfM Water TF on WEM (15-16 April 2019, Rome) and the 3rd Meeting of the UfM Water TF on WEFE Nexus (17 April 2019, Rome), were organised back-to-back and hosted by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; were presented with, gave positive consideration on and provided guidance for further developing an outline of the UfM WEM and WEFE Nexus Framework Programmes, respectively; and, suggested these as input to the 10th UfM Water Expert Group (WEG) Meeting. WEM contents presented at the Rome meeting had been informed by a number of inputs, including the WEM Lab 1 (30 October 2018, Barcelona), organised by GWP-Med and the European Partners for Environment (EPE) in the UfM Water Agenda framework.
- The 10th UfM WEG Meeting (13-14 June 2019, Brussels, hosted by the European Commission), among other decisions, considered positively the suggested outline of the UfM WEM Framework Programmes. The WEG proposed that the UfM WEM and WEFE Nexus Framework Programmes operationally synergise and requested that a proposal to do this be presented in more detail at the next WEG Meeting (originally scheduled for March 2020, Athens). The WEG 10 Meeting was also briefed on progress of the WEFE Nexus and WEM Work Plans 2018-2019.
- The WEM Lab II (19-20 November 2019, Istanbul), organised by GWP-Med and UfM, and hosted by the Turkish Water Institute (SUEN), deepened contents and tested ideas towards the WEM FP in synergy with the WEFE Nexus one. Furthermore, the 4th Meeting of the UfM TF on WEM (20 November 2019, Istanbul, hosted by SUEN) considered positively WEM Lab II suggestions.
- The UfM SOM was updated on related progress and outputs, including on progress on the thematic Work Plans 2018-2019 and the FPs, at its meeting of December 2019.

With regarding the UfM WEFE Nexus & WEM FPs, WEG 10 guided that these should be:

- Responsive: to national priorities, regional agendas, international commitments.

- Synergetic and out of the water-box: reach out & partner / cooperate, based on capacities and feasibility; engage non-water partners; mobilize the range of financing.
- Integrating: build on, align to, cooperate with and utilize lessons learned from the plethora of related programs/projects and funding lines.
- Tangible & gradual: from pilots > replication > upscaling > mainstreaming > market: a 10+ year implementation horizon.
- Engaging and focused: youth, including female.
- Aligned: operationally linking particular action lines of the UfM WEM and the WEFE Nexus FPs as well as those, as pertinent, of Water and Climate Change Adaptation (WCCA) and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) thematic FPs.

Based on these, while the ‘bigger picture’ provides for the long-term development of individual thematic UfM FPs for WEF and WEFE, the WEG 10 Meeting agreed to advance on a set of selected action lines that make a combination of interlinked activities, towards achieving early tangibles that will substantiate contents of the WEFE Nexus and WEM agenda and demonstrate its added value. Such interlinkages could be schematically presented as follows:

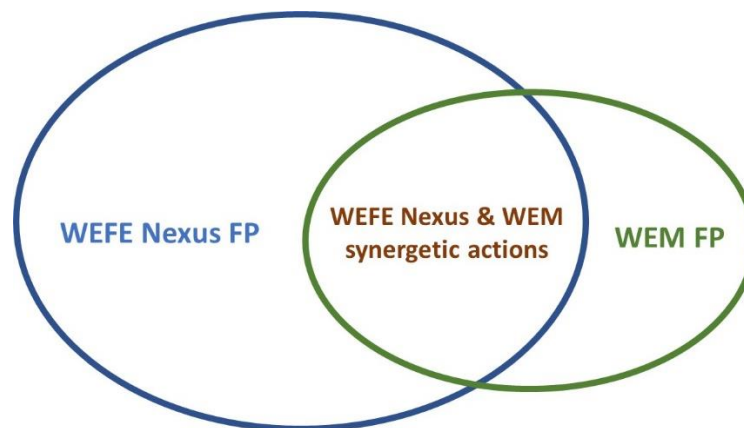


Fig. 1 WEFE Nexus & WEM synergetic actions

Considering the need to focus on delivering feasible and tangibles results tailored to available fundraising opportunities, priorities for synergetic actions of the WEFE Nexus and WEM FPs were technically elaborated, presented, and received positive consideration at the on-line Informal WEG Meeting, 9-10 June. These include the following objectives:

1. Implement at scale practical and pilot local (urban, rural, coastal) water efficiency and WEFE Nexus interventions, including through promoting innovation, and upscaling them for water security and climate resilience, through Youth engagement
2. Promote employability and entrepreneurship related to WEFE Nexus fields for Youth and Women, including for migration mitigation objectives
3. Promote knowledge sharing, including interlinking related regional & national projects

Regarding the elaboration of thematic Work Plans for 2020-2022, initial contents of these were to be discussed at the 11th UfM WEG Meeting (scheduled for end March 2020, in Athens). However, following COVID-19 restrictions, the meeting had to be postponed and related progress has been slow. Hence, it is suggested that initial contents of the WEFE Nexus and WEM Work Plans be discussed at the joint upcoming meeting.

2. Purpose and modalities of the joint 4th Meeting of the UfM TF WEFE Nexus and 5th Meeting of the UfM TF WEM

The following table presents the main objectives of the Joint Meeting, linking these with available background documents and expected inputs by the TF participants. The purpose of combining the two TFs' meetings is to jointly identify priorities of the WEFE Nexus and WEM Work Plans 2020-2022 as well as to provide further guidance on the synergetic actions of the related thematic FPs. The outcomes of these discussions should assist UfM Member States towards meeting water-related socio-economic challenges, promoting climate resilience responses while assisting women and youth towards job creation as a contribution for improving livelihoods and tackling migration impacts.

No	Objective	Background documents and inputs expected by TF participants
1	Present and discuss the document 'UfM Framework Programmes for Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus & Water-Employment-Migration: Note on Synergetic Actions' (attached) as well as elements of its implementation	<i>An introductory technical presentation by GWP-Med will elaborate on elements of the document, indicate operational capacities (secured and under exploration) and suggest synergies</i> <i>Tour de table:</i> Participants are requested to review and prepare comments/inputs on the document, including considering related financial and implementation capacities as well as suggest additional action lines and activities that could be integrated into that
2	Share initial suggestions for the UfM WEFE Nexus and WEM Work Plan(s) 2020-2022 and receive guidance by TF Members and feedback by regional partners	<i>An introductory technical presentation by GWP-Med will elaborate on suggested elements of the Work Plan(s) 2020-2022</i> <i>Tour de table:</i> Participants will be requested to provide initial comments
3	Present related on-going and up-coming WEFE Nexus and WEM activities in the Mediterranean, including by outlining possible operational synergies with the related UfM agenda at regional, sub-regional and national level	<i>Presentations by regional partners</i> <i>Tour de table:</i> Participants will be requested to provide initial comments while responses will be provided to eventual questions
3	Suggest next steps	UfMS with GWP-Med technical assistance will outline follow up actions, including highlighting possible synergies

The Meeting is addressed to members of the UfM WEFE Nexus and WEM Task Forces as well as to invited stakeholder organisations.

The Meeting will be co-chaired by Lebanon, Italy and Turkey. It will be facilitated by UfMS, with technical inputs and assistance by GWP-Med. The Meeting is supported by Sida.

English/French simultaneous translation will be provided.

3. Draft Agenda (some speakers to be confirmed)

Thursday, 23 July 2020, 13.30 – 15.30 CET

- 13.30-13.40 Welcome remarks by the UfM Co-Presidencies & UfMS (3 min each)
Moderator: Mr. Almotaz Abadi, Managing Director, UfMS
- *Eng. Mohammad Al Dwairi, Secretary General Assistant for strategic Planning, Ministry of Water & Irrigation, Jordan*
 - *Mr. Andrew Murphy, Senior Expert, DG Environment*
 - *Mr. Isidro González Afonso, Deputy Secretary General for Water, Environment and Blue Economy, UfMS*
- 13.40-14.00 Introduction and Purpose of the Meeting
- *Representatives of Lebanon, Italy, Turkey (3 min each)*
 - *Ms. Yosra Albakkar, Regional Program Manager, MENA Unit, Water Cooperation, and Natural Resources Programs, Sida (3 min)*
 - *Mr. Mohammed Elrazzaz, Economic Development and Employment Division, UfMS (3 min)*
 - *Mr. Almotaz Abadi, Managing Director, UfMS (3 min)*
- 14.00-14.12 Operationalising the UfM synergetic Framework Programmes for Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus & Water-Employment-Migration, and initial suggestions for WEFE Nexus & WEM Work Plan(s) 2020-2022
Mr. Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med (12 min)
- 14.12-14.25 Tour de table: Feedback by Member States and stakeholders, including suggestions on synergies (3 min per intervention). Member States and Organisations are requested to comment on the synergetic framework programme and the initial suggestions of the Work Plan(s) 2020-2022
- 14.25-15.10 Inputs by UfM partners
Moderator: Ms. Nuria Hernandez-Mora, Technical Assistance to DG Environment, European Commission
- *Speaker to be confirmed, UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (5 min)*
 - *Mr. Frederic de Dinechin, Senior Knowledge Management Officer, Center for Mediterranean Integration, The World Bank - Marseille Office (5 min)*
 - *Mr. Bernd Gawlick, European Commission, DG Joint Research Center (5 min)*
 - *Mr. Oriol Barba Sunol, Director, MedCities (5 min)*
 - *Mr. Marwan Alraggad, Executive Director, Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management (INWRDAM) (5 min)*
 - *Mr. Nizar Zaied, Global Lead Water, Social Infrastructure Division, Economic & Social Infrastructure Department, Islamic Development Bank (5 min)*
 - *Mr. Andre Oosterman, Senior Sector Economist, European Investment Bank (5 min)*
 - *Mr. Anders Jägerskog, Senior Water Resources Management Specialist, World Bank Group (5 min)*



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15.10-15.25 Tour de table: Interventions by Member States and stakeholders, including suggestions on synergies among ongoing activities and initiatives with the WEFE and WEM Work Plans and Framework Programmes (3 min per intervention)

15.25-15.30 Summary of conclusions
by Ms. Anthi Brouma, UfM TA Team Leader

Next steps & Closure