



Symposium on Women and Water Security for Peacebuilding in the Arab Region

**Panel: Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies
for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to
Justice for All and Build Effective, Accountable
and Inclusive Institutions at All Levels**

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SDG16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).

Without peace, stability, human rights and effective governance, based on the rule of law - we cannot hope for sustainable development.

GOAL 16 TARGETS

- Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
- Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

GOAL 16 TARGET

- **Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels**
- **Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels**
- Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
- By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
- Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
- Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
- Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

Water Integrity and Transparency in Lebanon

- Several of the **water problems** in Lebanon stem from **poor governance and mismanagement of the sector**. Therefore, an improved governance system based on **integrity, transparency and accountability** in the sector's practices should be among the **main priorities** in the fight against existing challenges.
- In 2016 the **corruption perception index** for Lebanon was **28/100** on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean) while the country **ranked 136th among the 176** analysed (the ones holding the 176th place being considered the most corrupted), by Transparency International.

Water Integrity and Transparency in Lebanon

- **Positive development**, also for the **water sector**: approval by the Lebanese Parliament (**on 19 January 2017**) of the **Law for the public right to receive information**. This law forces every single institution to publish its budget, especially its expenditures and allows any person to request access to information from all public entities and some private entities.
- Still **drawbacks in the existing laws, regulations and measures for combating corruption and enhancing integrity** in the Lebanese governmental and non-governmental institutions such as: fragmentation of such documents and their inefficacy, e.g. **due to the lack of operational decrees** and the fact that they are often unclear, resulting in the **overlap in roles and responsibilities within and between institutions**.

Water Integrity and Transparency in Lebanon

- **Enforcement is poor**, due to
 - weak legal prosecution
 - absence of one entity that is responsible for following-up on violations,
 - Absence of accountability mechanisms within the monitoring agencies.
 - As a consequence, **citizens who do not comply** with existing laws and regulations, **might resort to bribery and political connections**. This practice has resulted, for example in the water sector, in the increase of **illegal wells or of illegal connections to the water network**, which are difficult to be identified by the responsible authorities.
- Transparency concerns, including **political interference in the appointment and hiring of human resources in the public sector**,
- Other important factors such as **low salaries**, discourages new applicants to potentially consider governmental jobs

Water Integrity and Transparency in Lebanon

A **set of initiatives are identified and suggested** in recent analysis and reports to assist in overcoming the challenges:

- **Endorse an anti-corruption Committee** to ensure clear accountability mechanisms and transparent procedures, including public participation and access to information, and investigation on corruption cases.
- **Undertake measures to review the wages of public** servants in order to prevent them from accepting bribes.
- **Minimize the interactions between citizens and public servants**, e.g. through online procedures.
- **Activate Article 19 of law 4517/1972** to oblige institutions to submit yearly reports documenting **their performance**.
- The **effective implementation** of the recently **ratified law for public access to information (19 January 2017)** would contribute to this endeavour.

Water Integrity and Transparency in Lebanon

- Define clear **criteria** for independent **recruitment** procedures for new positions in the public sector.
- Set-up a **transparent monitoring system** to **evaluate employees' performance**.
- Create a **National Water Council** to overlook the management of resources and be linked to the anti-corruption Committee above.
- Set up **accountable monitoring entities to help WSEs** control illegal connections to the network and the Ministry of Energy and Water control the illegal digging of wells, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities.
- Adopt a **metering system to further monitor water use** and to allow the application of volumetric charges.
- Adopt **measures to ensure increased water fees'** collection rates (outsourcing of collection of fees, providing incentives to collectors, etc.)

Stakeholders' engagement and public participation

Stakeholders' **engagement** and encouragement of public participation in the **decision-making** are currently poorly practiced in Lebanon and usually left to the initiative and commitment of the promoters/donors of a project.

The **approval of the law for public access to information** seems a key step forward to:

- Ensure a more active **stakeholder involvement** in the **discussions** pertinent to the water sector
- Enhance, citizens' trust towards the institutions

If applied properly, this could **improve the good management of water** and other natural resources.

Stakeholders' engagement and public participation

Awareness raising and dialogue with the stakeholders/consumers should also be further applied in the water sector, e.g **through** the preparation of a **well-designed communication strategy** aimed at raising awareness about key issues such as:

- The critical condition of the national water resources and the efforts needed for **water conservation**, gradual **enforcement** of **consumer metering**, use of more **efficient plumbing devices** etc.;
- **The financial sustainability of the sector**, including about the real cost of water and wastewater services;
- The **importance of tackling corruption** and illegal activities in the sector (a shared responsibility approach is needed here, since government and the public all need to contribute to tackling corruption and to strengthen trust in the legal system).

Stakeholders' engagement and the role of gender approaches

- **Awareness raising** should be complemented with **social analysis** to consider attitudes and behavioural patterns related to water management and services **with a gender perspective**, disaggregating results by sex, and to discuss why different stakeholders (female/male, youth) might have different perceptions and attitudes. Such information would make a **communication strategy more effective** and would allow targeted messages to the different stakeholders.

Stakeholders' engagement and the role of gender approaches

- **Women** often take the majority of household decisions (also in relation to payments of services) and are central to household water management and hygiene, consequently they **can provide critical feedback as customers to water suppliers and utilities (i.e. the WSEs)**.
- it is **essential to engage with women as well as men** as consumers and **to understand differences**, e.g in **affordability and willingness to pay motivation**, or even on **priority needs** e.g for water infrastructures, interventions etc.

Gender approaches and the role of women

- An increased **involvement of women** also at the level of decision making and of higher managerial positions – still largely dominated by men - should be promoted. This, as shown by many cases worldwide, could potentially **decrease water integrity challenges**, especially **if linked to tightening of control mechanisms and closing corruption-vulnerability in the systems**

Gender approaches and the role of women

- Women are not only more affected by these problems, but also **possess ideas and leadership to solve them**
- Women: **Transparency, moral, humanity, education, dedication**
- Women are better able to **express their demands and needs of the community** in the areas in which it has a strong role, such as the Children, Family and Social Affairs and other ...
- Women are often caretakers and water resource managers at household level, in case of scarcity they may need to **spend even more time on managing the resources instead of productive work**
- Water sector women and men have usually different priorities or needs and use infrastructural services in different ways
- This has **important consequences for investment policies and programme design in the sector and needs**, therefore, to be well understood and taken into account.
- A woman can not politically absent, to create a generation **believer in democracy, dialogue and acceptance of others, and are able to reform.**
- Role of Women in the political and administrative life reflects the community in recognition of their role and importance, and makes the **concept of justice and equality clearer and easier application.**





Women Role in Water management in Lebanon

- **Lebanese Institutions in General :**
 - Occupy positions in parliament (6 women), Council Of Ministers (1 woman)
- **In Water Domain:**
 - Ministry of Energy and Water:
 - Engineers as Head of services (three woman), Head of Departments (seven women),They are responsible to manage projects of large scales as dams and water supply networks ,Wastewater Networks and Treatment plants
 - Ten out of forty Engineers are Women
 - Head of Water quality monitoring section(one woman)
 - **15 women for twenty men administrative**

Women Role in Water management in Lebanon

- **In Water Domain:**

- Water Establishments:

- Head of Accounting Department (BMLWE) (one woman)
 - Head of Administration Department (BMLWE) (one woman)
 - Head of operation & maintenance section (NLWE) (one women)
 - Water quality officers and laboratory Analysts are mostly women

- Ministry of Public Health:

- Most of the Responsible for monitoring water quality are women

- **Ministry of Environment**

- More than five Head of Departments are Women

Women Role in Water management in Lebanon

- **Ministry of Agriculture:**
 - Head of Technical Services (two women)
 - Head of Technical Departments (five women)
 - Head of Administrative departments (three women)
- **Ministry of Tourism:**
 - General Director is Woman
- **Central Administration for Statistics in Council of Ministries**
 - (General Director is woman)
- **NGO,s:**
 - Women are the main active members in NGO,s especially those for whom water is their major objective

Fields where Gender is no more a problem in Lebanon

- United Nations organizations, at least 50% of the positions are occupied by women
- NGO'S In Lebanon more than 60% are women
- It was discussed in the draft Election Law in Lebanon to impose a certain percentage of MP,s Women
- In Civil Service Board recruitments there are no restriction to women candidates ,the only conditions are the skills and references
- Administrative High Institute is recruiting women ,at least constitute 50% of their total candidates
- In some Ministries some positions filled already with women, as we have mentioned above

Recommendations

- Government, non-governmental and donor organizations involved in water management **should address gender issues in their water programs, through their policies, procedures and personnel and through laws as applicable.**
- **Set ambitious target percentages of women in governance/ management** to qualify for grant funding, appropriations, or access to services. Revise these as necessary over time.
- **Elaborate gender sensitive indicators** to measure the achievement of water programme objectives
- **Providing technical skills for women** for helping her in implementing and maintaining water projects

Declining Gender Disparities

- To open positions to all without discrimination
- To **change women behavior and encourage them to compete with men in all positions** especially in water domain where it's participation is determinant
- Create specific **fellowship opportunities or prizes to encourage women to study the relevant sciences.**
- **Gender equality capacity building training for staff.**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**