



# Activities Report 2017



# Content

## Introduction:

### **First strategic pillar: the comprehensive empowerment of women is enhancing politically, socially and economically**

#### **1. Enhancing the participation of women and youth in public life and the dynamics of local mobility**

1.1. Supporting women's participation and media in policies for better local governance

2.1. Developing leadership skills in the public life for women at the local level

#### **2. Prevention of gender-based violence for women and girls**

1.2. Capacity-building to implement Resolution 1325

2.2. Developing the role of women and youth in combating violence and consolidating peace and security

#### **3. Creating economic initiatives and promoting education and financial inclusion of women and youth**

1.3. Education and financial inclusion for young women and men in Tunisia and Palestine

2.3. Promoting and developing economic projects and entrepreneurship in Africa

### **Strategic Pillar II: Enhancing women's role in achieving environmental sustainability by focusing on their role in water resources management**

**1. Promoting gender mainstreaming in rural development**

**2. Developing women's skills in water resources management and control**

### **Strategic Pillar III: an encouraging environment at the political and institutional level for women's exercise of their human rights.**

**1. Women professionals in the justice sector are a key element in consolidating the rule of law and gender-based legislation.**

## **2. Strengthening legislation guaranteeing women's rights**

**3. Supporting the skills of civil society structures to advocate gender-equality supportive legislation.**

## **Pillar 4: Strengthening strategic partnerships, producing and disseminating knowledge and fostering good governance and integrated information management**

### **1. Media Training Center**

1.1. 6<sup>th</sup> Arab Women Development Report: Arab Women and 2030 Development Strategy in Local Media

2.1. A wall chart on issues related to women in Arab countries

3.1. A practical guide for women leaders on the skills of dealing with the media

4.1. Capacity-building of media professionals to promote women's participation at the local level

5.1. Nejiba Al Hamrouni's Award for Best Press Article

6.1. Periodic publication "Cawtaryet"

7.1. International workshop on social networks and freedoms

### **2. Electronic exchange of information on gender**

1.2. Gender Clearing House to exchange information related gender

2.2. Gender-Based Violence Hub

3.2. Portal of legal and human rights of women and men

4.2. New information system «I cloud»

### **3. Administrative and financial performance**

### **4. New projects**

## Executive Summary

### Executive Summary

The year 2017 was marked by the start of the implementation of a new five-year plan of action that will continue through 2021. CAWTAR has made of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy with its 17 goals and three main dimensions (economic, social and environmental) its general frame of reference.

Within the framework of this plan, CAWTAR has identified priorities for its work and interventions to include, in particular, achieving a better positioning as a gender reference institution towards achieving its mission of further supporting advocacy programs to change the legislative and institutional framework to make it supportive to women and girls' issues and provide a true and unambiguous picture of the roles and situations of women in the Arab region and beyond.

CAWTAR was able to implement a series of projects within its three main lines of action:

**First Pillar: the comprehensive empowerment of women is enhancing politically, socially and economically**

**Second Pillar: Enhancing women's role in achieving environmental sustainability by focusing on their role in the management of water resources**

**Third Pillar: an encouraging environment at the political and institutional level for women's exercise of their human rights.**

This was achieved thanks to the support that CAWTAR receives from its Board of Directors and its partners (AGFUND, IPPF, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, IDB, UNDP and UNFPA ...), and the efforts of its executives whose experience has enabled them to set up the mechanisms of the Gender Clearing House, the Media Training Center and the Financial Education Center.

In 2017, CAWTAR's activities and projects covered Arab countries, with the opening up to two sub-Saharan African countries. It has activities within Euro-Mediterranean networks and research centers on gender issues and empowerment in many countries, such as Spain, Italy and Norway...

One of the highlights of the Center's performance during 2017, which reflects the recommendations of its Board of Directors, is the Center's embracing of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy to which Arab countries has committed, by including in its projects and activities the vision and objectives of the Strategy in all its goals.

One of the most important outcomes of this orientation was the completion of the sixth Arab Women Development Report on the theme of Arab Women and the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 in the local media: monitoring and studying the situation of six Arab countries: Tunisia, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Egypt and Palestine.

The report was marked by the contribution of the members of the Arab Network for Gender and Development (ANGED) as researchers and experts who presented critical readings on it.

Moreover, the seventh report on the theme "The role of women and civil society in achieving sustainable development goals at the local level" was launched.

In its capacity as a research and studies, CAWTAR produced knowledge related to the status of women, rights and development, and worked in partnership with prestigious scientific and research institutions and structures.

In 2017, five issues were added to its record of publications and releases which reached over 100.

As a training center, capacity-building activities included over 500 civil society activists, women and girls, female and male media professionals and representatives of government structures through workshops and training courses on gender and development, comprehensive empowerment of women and girls, financial inclusion and addressing gender-based violence, quantitative and qualitative development of the political and societal participation of women and the role of women in achieving the sustainable development goals and in contributing to the establishment of security and peace ...

Thanks to its experience, the Center has provided technical support in the areas of its competence to many partners and national and regional institutions in the region (research reports, workshops and training courses ...).

**Indicative figures:**

52 training courses

12 studies/reports/training manuals/

15 seminars and workshops

565 female and male trainees

6 videos and radio spots

- At the level of the first pillar, **the comprehensive empowerment of women politically, socially and economically**, the Center has intensified its work to promote the comprehensive empowerment of women, especially as the Arab region is still ranked in the bottom, according to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2016.

In 2017, CAWTAR completed many programs and activities to contribute to the advancement of Arab women's participation in economic and social life and their active involvement in the management of local and national affairs, most notably training activities and encouraging running for decision-making positions in elected local bodies.

CAWTAR continued to focus on addressing all forms of gender-based violence through research, training and advocacy activities.

It is in this context that also fall its activities to introduce Resolution 1325 and to activate the role of women in the establishment of peace and security.

The United Nations Women - Tunis Office entrusted CAWTAR with the task of capacity-building of the Committee responsible for preparing the National Plan of Action for the implementation of Resolution 1325.

The economic empowerment of women and girls was also one of the focal points of the Center's work during 2017, through both monitoring and support of previously completed projects such as projects in Palestine and Tunisia, and through carrying on its existing projects in a number of Arab and non-Arab African countries.

Financial inclusion is considered one of the foundations of economic empowerment, and the Center has paid due attention to it and implemented two projects in this area for the benefit of women and youth in Palestine and Tunisia.

- At the level of Pillar II, **enhancing the role of women in achieving environmental sustainability by focusing on their role in water resources management**, the Center continued its two projects: 1. "Women Water Ambassadors" by pursuing the preparation of the training manual prepared in the framework of its joint project with the German Technical Cooperation Agency, and 2. **The Platform for Rural Women (GEMAISA)**, given the important role of rural women in the conservation of natural resources.

- Within Pillar III, **an encouraging environment at the policy and institutional level for women's exercise of their human rights**, CAWTAR focused on the role of professional women in the judiciary, in partnership with the International Development Law Organization (IDLO). It also engaged in strategic initiatives and partnerships aimed at strengthening legislation guaranteeing the rights of women and girls, including the participation of CAWTAR in the process of drafting and enacting the Basic Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in Tunisia by presenting the experiences of Arab countries in this field.

CAWTAR has been working on the development of **its supportive institutional mechanisms** and has developed the CAWTAR Gender Clearing House, thanks to the support of the Arab Gulf Development Program (AGFUND). The Gender Clearing House is an umbrella for the two electronic platforms: the Electronic Portal of Human Rights of Legal and Human Rights for Men and Women and the "Gender-Based Violence Hub, designed and developed with the support of the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Women's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund.

It also continues work and advocacy within specialized Arab and regional networks such as the International Planned Parenthood Network, the Arab Council for Social Sciences, the Euro-Mediterranean Women's Foundation (FFEM) and the Francophone University Association (AUF).

### **Main areas of action in 2018:**

In 2017, it developed three new programs with other partners, the Canadian Federations Forum ("Empowering Women for Leadership Roles ") and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) (Gender Empowerment in Economic Policies and Trade Agreements) and the Open Society.

In addition to its ongoing projects, CAWTAR will implement its programs in 2018 on the basis of its own reference defined in its five-year strategic plan which is the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030. This was through the axes:

- The situation of displaced and refugee women, especially the Syrian ones, and contributing to their access to a range of basic services and addressing the violence inflicted on many of them.
- Progress in the achievement of the seventh report on the development of Arab women "The role of women and local civil society in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals". As well as mobilizing for the achievement of sustainable development goals through capacity-building and the dissemination of successful experiences.
- Further disseminating CAWTAR's experience in implementing income-generating projects for poor women by launching two new projects in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.
- Climate change that threatens many people and negatively affects their quality of life, their abilities and sustainable development.

It should be recalled in conclusion that all the programs and projects of CAWTAR aim at contributing to the creation of a safer environment for women and girls, where all actors strive to reduce conflicts and conflicts, and women assume more important roles in bringing peace and security with to the participation of men.

Out of its belief in the importance of this goal, CAWTAR crowned the 2017 achievements by joining the Med 21 initiative to launch the Lysistrata Prize for the Peaceful Settlement of Conflicts through Mediation, which is awarded annually to people who have contributed through mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes in the Mediterranean countries and in the rest of the world.

"The character of" Lysistrata" symbolizes the importance of the role of women throughout the ages in fighting wars and resolving conflicts by peaceful means.



## **First strategic pillar: the comprehensive empowerment of women is enhancing politically, socially and economically**

CAWTAR aspires to promote the equal and local participation of women and youth in political and public life, to integrate policies and programs against violence in local and national agendas and to develop opportunities for economic empowerment for women and young people towards their further integration into the formal sector.

Within this context, the Center's efforts focused on:

1. Promoting the participation of women and youth in public life and the dynamics of local mobility
2. Preventing gender-based violence against women and girls
3. Creating economic initiatives and promoting education and financial inclusion of women and youth

### **1. Promoting the participation of women and youth in public life and the dynamics of local mobility**

#### **1.1. Supporting women's participation and media in policies for better local governance**

The Center has built on the outcome of previous projects in strengthening the mechanisms of joint action between the civil society structures and the local media and authorities (especially its project "Civil Society Capacity Building and Leadership Development for Community Conflict Resolution", which was implemented in partnership with OSF / Open Society Foundations) to develop its work to further strengthen the participation of women and media in local politics and public administration in the governorates of Tunisia (Gafsa and Gabes and Bizerte. This was through two partnership projects with the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID): women's participation and media, basis for better local governance. "

In this context, the CAWTAR center provided for female and male members of local associations and journalists in local media a capacity-building program that included eight training courses in gender, gender-based local policies, (community budget), interpersonal communication and negotiation skills

The participation of female and male media professionals in these courses has enabled the production of media content that is supportive of local policies and promoting gender mainstreaming in the preparation of local budgets.

- The training program targeted 54 people among female and male activists from 27 local associations and 30 female and male media representatives from about 15 local media outlets.

In addition to training, CAWTAR is preparing:

- A field study on "Women's participation in public life" aimed at assessing the services of local stakeholders in order to improve the conditions of women's participation and livelihood at the local level.

- Education and awareness-raising film on the importance of preparing gender-responsive community budgets. The Center will make this film available to civil society organizations and the local authorities. It will also be screened in the workshops organized by the Center in various regions.

## 2.1. Developing leadership skills in the public life for women at the local level

The Center continued its efforts to reduce obstacles to women's participation in public life and implemented an integrated program in partnership with the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) aimed primarily at strengthening the skills of local women leaders in the Gafsa and Medenine governorates of southern Tunisia.

The project monitored the most important civil society organizations, political parties, unions and local authorities in order to determine the status of women within these structures and monitor the obstacles facing them in participating in public life, documenting the most important changes recorded in local participation and achieving involvement of new stakeholders in the process of establishing good governance principles.



### **Among the most important results achieved:**

- Conducting a survey on the most important civil society organizations, political parties and local authorities in the two governorates.
- Organization of 80 training courses on gender and women's human rights, leadership and communication skills and enhancing self-confidence for 61 women civil society activists representing 14 NGOs, 5 political parties and 4 local authorities.
- Organization of a "national meeting for policy dialogue" bringing together the various stakeholders at the national and local levels.
- Preparation of advocacy tools:
  - Production of three radio spots to raise awareness about the importance of municipal elections and the role of women in participation in public life at the local level. They were broadcast in most of the national and regional radio stations.
  - Production of a documentary video on women leaders put on CD-ROM, and placed in the CAWTAR Clearinghouse on Gender.
  - Production of awareness posters on participation in public affairs (1,200 copies were printed).
  - Preparation, release and distribution of a publication on "Women's Participation in Public Life in the Governorates of Gafsa and Medenine" (Southern Tunisia).

This year saw important preparations in the direction of strengthening the Center's reference in many issues, including women's leadership, including:

- Preparation of a new regional project (to be launched in 2018) on "Empowering women to assume leadership roles in the Middle East and North Africa" in partnership with the Forum of Federations.

It is a project based on building the capacity of women in civil society organizations, women parliamentarians and female and male media workers, as well as research on the paths of women leaders at the local level.

## **2. Prevention of gender-based violence**

The Center's efforts focused on strengthening the technical and legislative capacities on the prevention of violence for the benefit of those involved in the field and on further work on new topics related to gender-based violence and the consolidation of peace and security.

## 1.2 Capacity-building for the implementation of resolution 1325

As part of the implementation of the project "Development of a national action plan for UN Resolution 1325, under the auspices of the Ministry of Women, Family and Child Affairs, with the support of the United Nations Women's Fund, the CAWTAR Center has played a role in strengthening the capacity of the Tunisian Government to develop its national plan on Security Council Resolution 1325.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Women, Family and Child Affairs in Tunisia and the UN Women, three training courses were held for the members of the National Committee for Resolution 1325 and representatives of a number of Tunisian governmental institutions and civil society structures.

**- The total number of female and male beneficiaries was 42.**

## 2.2 Developing the role of women and youth in combating violence and consolidating peace and security

CAWTAR chose to work on new issues and initiatives in the region related to its areas of intervention, especially in the area of combating violence and seeking to consolidate security and peace and reduce conflicts.

1- Launch of the "2017 Lysistrata Prize for the Peaceful Settlement of Conflicts through Mediation", which highlights the valuable contribution of physical or moral persons who have contributed through mediation to the peaceful settlement of conflicts in the Mediterranean countries and in the rest of the world. It is awarded to persons who dedicated their lives to the pursuit of mediation or conflict prevention, out of a desire to live together in peace. The award was launched in partnership between CAWTAR, the Institute for Prospective and Security in Europe (IPSE), the Guillaume-Hofnung Institute, the Center of Disputes Analysis and their Methods of Solutions (CADMOS) and the Tampere Peace Research Institute (Tapri).

2- Sharing best experiences in the fight against violent extremism, in partnership with the Embassy of the United States of America through workshops and producing an educational and awareness-raising film on the subject and moving towards the launch of a "Network against Violent Extremism", which brings together the various stakeholders, including institutions and NGOs and female and male activists in the field.

3. Raising awareness of the principle of "due diligence to eliminate violence against women" by presenting the findings of the Middle East and North Africa Report on "The Principle of Due Diligence to Eliminate Violence against Women" in a workshop held in cooperation with the Human Rights Initiative.

4. Participation in discussions on a draft model convention to combat violence against women in the Arab world within the work of the coalition of Arab women MPs to combat violence against women.

### 3. Generating economic initiatives and promoting education and financial inclusion of women and youth

CAWTAR contributes to increasing opportunities for women to be integrated into the formal labor market and encouraging them to launch private projects for the economic empowerment of women and youth. At this level, it focused on:

- Launching economic projects and initiatives for rural women
- Building the capacity of women and youth leaders and entrepreneurs as well as financial and non-financial service providers in the field of financial education and culture.

#### 1.3. Financial education and inclusion for young women and men in Tunisia and Palestine

Since 2013, CAWTAR has focused on issues related to the access of women and young people to financial services enabling them to create and run economic projects and initiatives that achieve their financial integration and involvement in various economic tracks.

In addition and in building on the experience gained by the center in that direction, the **Project Financial Integration for Women and Youth in Tunisia and Palestine** was an opportunity for the center to invite its partners, including micro-credit institutions and former female and male beneficiaries to participate in the implementation of this project and benefit of its components related to capacity-building and support for some projects.

The project is benefitting and co-implemented by Tunisian and Palestinian MFIs and associations affiliated with it, as well as the Ministry of Women, Family and Child Affairs in Tunisia as part of its economic empowerment program for women.

These partner institutions have benefited from training courses (2) to strengthen their capacities in financial education, support, follow-up and evaluation.

Female and male beneficiaries (178) of the project received an integrated training program that included a total of 14 direct training courses and a support program to present their projects and business plans for funding. Moreover, 209 female and male beneficiaries of the project received remote training in financial education.

To date, 73 beneficiaries have been able to launch and develop their projects in multiple areas and to obtain the necessary funding.

In order to measure the effectiveness of the training courses, the support sessions, changes in the level of knowledge and the attitudes and behavior of female and male beneficiaries, the Center has developed an electronic tool for follow-up and evaluation.

In addition to training and support, CAWTAR is preparing a study to assess the linkages between non-financial services (training and support) and financial services (savings, insurance and lending), and to measure the social and economic impact of the financial integration of female and male entrepreneurs, by focusing on the reality of financial integration in Tunisia.

### 2.3. Promoting and developing projects and economic initiatives in Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire

#### **a. For rural women in Senegal through income-generating activities**

Based on the low status of rural women in many African countries, whether in terms of capacity, community participation, the exercise of rights or living conditions, the two projects on the economic empowerment of rural women in Senegal which initially benefitted about 200 women and girls continued throughout 2017. Within the framework of two projects on the processing and marketing of agricultural products and operation of a poultry plant the following was carried out:

- 13 training courses were held for three groups of women on grain processing and vegetables and fruit packaging and processing, financial education and entrepreneurship, and economic empowerment of women.
- Holding of 3 training courses on poultry raising, processing and marketing of poultry products, and on financial education and marketing techniques, for the benefit of women beneficiaries.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Holding of a training course for media professionals and civil society on advocacy for women's empowerment.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Holding two information and awareness forums on women's empowerment and enhancing their financial independence.</li> <li>- Printing and distributing leaflets and flyers introducing the two projects.</li> <li>- Completing the construction work of poultry breeding spaces in the farm and service premises (storage and guarding).</li> <li>- Building and equipping water reservoirs and starting to improve and maintain the well in the poultry farm.</li> <li>- Providing electricity to the poultry farm through the contribution of a private company and through solar energy.</li> <li>- Buying poultry breeding equipment, outfitting spaces dedicated to it, buying chicks and feed, prevention and treatment.</li> <li>- Preparing the French version of the remote training system in the field of financial education and providing to partner associations 80 remote training licenses in the financial education of its agents and local partners and a number of women beneficiaries.</li> <li>- Carrying out 8 monitoring actions for the two projects by the local partner associations and a mission of field monitoring and supervision by the "CAWTAR" Center and another one by the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa.</li> <li>- Conducting two internal evaluation missions by partner associations and two final assessment missions on the impact of the two projects by external experts and reporting thereon</li> <li>- Buying equipment and means of production and distributing them to women beneficiaries of the project for the processing and marketing of agricultural products, while providing groups of economic interest in the three concerned areas with collective equipment.</li> </ul>

**Key findings:**

- The capacities of rural women and girls benefiting from the projects have been strengthened in the areas of processing and marketing of local agricultural products (120 women) and in poultry farming and marketing (70 women).

- Women beneficiaries of the two projects are aware of their rights to participate and work and their role in local development.
- Women beneficiaries of the projects are able to run small projects and proper financial management.
- Two training and production units have been set up and are now operational and productive according to national standards, the first in the processing of agricultural products, and the second in poultry farming.
- The two units allow the training and involvement of other women and girls since the projects enjoy factors for their sustainability (building and equipment...).
- The two units have entered the production stage and the women participating in the projects have income from their production.
- Women beneficiaries of the two projects joined "economic interest groups" in the villages where they live and benefit from their services.
- The living conditions of women beneficiaries of the two projects and their families have improved and this will be measured accurately through the final evaluation of the impact of the two projects, which will be launched following the final phase of implementation.
- The local community supports the two projects and calls for their expansion.

As for the two similar projects in Côte d'Ivoire that are to be launched:

- **Project "Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls in the Region of Danané, Western Côte d'Ivoire, through income-generating activities"**, benefiting 72 rural women in the first stage. Among its components: production and marketing of vegetables, extraction and marketing of palm oil, poultry breeding and marketing.
- **Empowering women and girls heads of households in Dabou in Abidjan's largest province through income-generating activities in tailoring and hairdressing.** They benefit primarily and directly 40 female heads of household. Among its components: teaching beneficiaries a trade (tailoring or hairdressing), equipping a workshop of tailoring and another of hairdressing, providing the beneficiaries at the end of the project with means of action to start their own activities while supporting them in the early stages and using the workshops to replicate the experience with other delegations of women and girls.

### **3.3. Sharing experiences and cooperation at the international level**

- **Promoting knowledge and sharing experiences on the challenges faced by women Entrepreneurs:** during a meeting with women entrepreneurs, CAWTAR presented the results of a regional study conducted in five Arab countries on the opportunities and obstacles women face in entrepreneurship. A number of studies and testimonies were presented on the reasons for the decline in the percentage of women in the private sector, with the participation and attendance of the President of the Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Women, where she presented her personal experience and her country's experience in the field of entrepreneurship.

- **Building the capacities of young craftswomen in the field of entrepreneurship and launch of craft projects:** For four months, the Center has accompanied 10 young women from Tunisia and Italy (18-35 years). The project was based on non-traditional training for women beneficiaries in professional craft institutions in both countries, as well as workshops in the fields of jewelry, clothing and ceramics. This was part of the project "Heritage between Culture and Entrepreneurship", which was implemented by "CAWTAR" in partnership with the Italian agency "Forma Camera".

- **Promoting the employment of women and young people by supporting them in launching sustainable and safe local projects:** The CAWTAR Center and the Agency for International Cooperation and Local Development in the Mediterranean (ACIM) have signed a partnership agreement to implement the program "**Supporting Actors in the area of accompaniment towards investment**", the implementation of which will start in 2018.

The program provides for holding focused dialogues to identify the most important difficulties encountered by female and male entrepreneurs and formulate relevant recommendations, holding training sessions to build the capacity of beneficiaries and support them in the area of entrepreneurship and project delivery and enhancing their access to the formal economy.

## Strategic Pillar II: Enhancing women's role in achieving environmental sustainability by focusing on their role in water resources management

The second strategic pillar of the Center's Plan of Action 2017-2021 is a key entry point for empowering women and facilitating their participation in decision-making, particularly at the local level. The Center's programs at this level contribute to the development of the contribution of women, especially rural women, to achieving food security and water management and control, and to modernizing development projects specific to the poorest and most marginalized rural areas.

### 1. Promoting gender mainstreaming in rural development

CAWTAR seeks continuously and by its own means to ensure **the sustainability of its two projects for the distillation of oil and vegetable oils and the unit of olive oil extraction** in Zaghouan and Jendouba governorates.

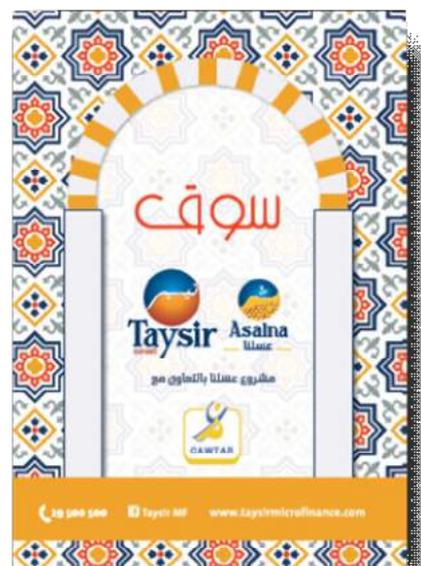
The Center continuously intervenes for the benefit of those involved in these projects in order to help them overcome the technical and administrative difficulties and problems they face. It also helps them promote their products by facilitating the participation of women involved in both projects at trade fairs.

This support and assistance from the CAWTAR Center helps to ensure the sustainability of the projects and their continued activity and make sure that a number of women and their families continue to benefit from them, besides encouraging them to make the most of natural resources and develop the contribution of rural women to achieving food security.

CAWTAR was keen to get in touch with the Asala Association in Jerusalem, which implemented a project to produce and market grapes for a number of women in the region and to contribute to the sustainability of the project.

CAWTAR is also keen to engage in various initiatives that secure a link between its past and future projects, as it is the case with the Center's participation in the work of a regional workshop in Bratislava on social and intellectual innovations in rural areas.

The workshop is part of a Euro-Mediterranean project on social innovation in marginalized rural areas, funded by the European Union's Research and Innovation Program. It aims at promoting



understanding innovation and innovative governance in agriculture and rural development and sharing best practices in social innovation in marginalized rural areas.

The project allows the CAWTAR Center to learn about similar experiences of projects it has already undertaken in the area of knowledge production and data collection to empower rural women, and to discuss possible avenues of cooperation in the future.

## 2. Developing women's skills in water resources management and control

In 2017, the Training Manual for Women Water Ambassadors, which was developed by CAWTAR and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), was prepared as part of a joint project on Women Water Leaders.

The Manual was tested in 2016 as part of a series of integrated training courses. In 2017, the necessary modifications were made to its various modules and later published.

The two project partners consider ways of implementing the project in other Arab countries, particularly on the basis of the importance of enhancing the role of women in the management and control of water resources.



## **STRATEGIC PILLAR III: more encouraging environment in policies and institutions for women's exercise of their human rights**

Under the third strategic pillar, CAWTAR pays special attention to advocating for a change in the legislative framework to support women and girls' issues. Indeed, the region is still at the very bottom of the ranking in the world in gender equality according to international and regional reports.

This fits into its efforts to support the work of civil society organizations and the media, particularly at the level of strengthening commitment to the 2030 Strategy for Sustainable Development plan 2030 and enhancing the opportunities for dialogue and networking with decision-making to promote a more conducive environment for women's exercise of their human rights.

### **1. Professional women in the justice sector: A key element in consolidating the rule of law and gender-based legislation**

In order to promote women's access to fair justice, and to contribute to the advocacy and promotion of the professional participation of professional women in the judiciary, CAWTAR has conducted, in partnership with the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), a study on "Women's Professional Participation in the Justice Sector: Obstacles and Opportunities".

The study provides data on the reality of women's access to justice, the status and place of professional women in the justice sector, the obstacles to their professional integration and the impact of feminization of the judiciary on professional practices in this field.

The study will lead to the development of an integrated program of advocacy and monitoring needs and building the capacity of professional women in the judiciary.

Among the study results:

- The feminization of the justice sector has not affected the issue of women's access to justice,
- The access of women in fragile situations living in marginalized areas to justice institutions remains extremely difficult,
- Civil society organizations and women's associations play an important role in defending the human rights of women (women victims of violence, women without housing ...)
- Progressive legislative policies supportive of equality have not brought about a full accountability of the male model.

## 2. Enhancing legislation guaranteeing women's rights

CAWTAR is keen to engage in all initiatives aimed at promoting legislation guaranteeing women's rights. Therefore, the Center played a key role with all partners and actors in Tunisia in the process of drafting the Basic Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women in Tunisia, which was led by the Ministry of Women, Family and Child Affairs.

In addition to being a member of the drafting team, CAWTAR also presented the Assembly of People's Representatives with a comparative reading of the various Arab legislation related to combating violence, based on its fifth Arab women development report "Arab Women and Legislation", in the process of its preparation and drafting CAWTAR has collected more than 400 Arab legal texts.

The ratification of this law was therefore the result of a participatory dynamic between government institutions and non-governmental organizations, launched more than five years ago to combat violence against women. It started with the National Consultation on Family Violence carried out by the National Board for Family and Population in Tunisia and in which CAWTAR was partner.

The law contained unprecedented new preventive and dissuasive provisions for all forms of abuse against women and children regardless of their perpetrator and in any field without discrimination on the basis of birth, color, race, religion, thought, age, nationality, economic and social conditions, civil status, health, language or disability.

The Center also engaged in other regional initiatives, the most important of which are:

- Accession to the Women's Economic Empowerment Forum in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), with an initiative from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OCDE), as CAWTAR is a member of the Organization's Advisory Council responsible for gender within the Governance Program.

The Forum aims to monitor developments in the political and regulatory actions taken by the countries of the region to promote equality and non-discrimination and to integrate women economically and socially.

It is also one of the recommendations of the Economic Cooperation Organization's 2017 report on economic empowerment of women in the Middle East and North Africa, which was carried out in six Arab countries (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia).

It includes an analysis of the legal frameworks related to the economic situation of women to close the gender gap in the field of economics.

- Organizing a session on "gender, privacy and personal data" as part of the International Conference on "Privacy, Personal Life and the Flow of Information" held in May

by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, under the auspices of the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy.

### 3. Supporting the skills of civil society structures to advocate legislation in support of gender equality

The Center supports the efforts of civil society organizations to promote gender equality and develop the commitment to the 2030 Strategy for Sustainable Development. It strengthens the capacity of its executives to play effective and efficient roles to promote the status and rights of women and to uphold the principles of equality, equity and justice and therefore push for changing government policies for women and young people. Within this context, the Center has:

- Made progress in the implementation of the Seventh Arab Women Development Report on "Civil Society Organizations and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which examines the roles that civil society organizations can play in nationalizing the Sustainable Development Strategy at the local level and supporting environment that enable civil society to monitor the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy.
  
- Building the capacity of civil society organizations in the Arab region (especially members of ANGED) in advocacy for the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030, under the project "the Role of Civil Society and Media in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals", in partnership with and funding from the Arab Gulf Program for Development (AGFUND).
  
- Educating a number of civil society structures about the dangers of new forms of violence, including extremism, and help them launch the "Anti-violent Extremism Network" to implement local anti-extremism programs and activities within the program "Women's Role in Prevention of Violent Extremism" implemented in partnership with and funding from the Embassy of the United States of America and Tunisia.
  
- Supporting a number of civil society organizations to launch local participatory initiatives to mobilize local actors to promote equality between women and men within the Euro-Mediterranean Women's Foundation (FFEM), funded by the European Union and the French Government.

This year, CAWTAR has accompanied, in the framework of this project, a local association to implement its program to promote the participation of women in marginalized areas in public and political life.

A field study was conducted to monitor women's relationship with the public affairs and the obstacles to their participation in public life. The year 2018 will see the launch of Phase III of the project.

**Pillar 4: Strengthening strategic partnerships and supporting good governance and integrated data management**

The fourth strategic objective combines research and training programs for women leaders, media and civil society organizations, the development of CAWTAR Gender clearing house and smart administration as well as technical and institutional capacity-building for auditing, monitoring, evaluation and accountability.

**1. Media Training Center**

Through its media programs in 2017, the Center chose to promote research and training for local media, in line with the development of the local media landscape in the Arab region through the rapid spread of community media and the emergence of new trends within local communities to raise awareness about their concerns and communicate with other groups.

These programs were implemented with the support of both the Arab Gulf Program for Development and the International Planned Parenthood Federation - the Arab World Region.



## 1.1. 6<sup>th</sup> Arab Women Development Report: Arab Women and 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy in Local Media

CAWTAR completed its regional report on Arab Women Development which deals with the theme of Arab women and the 2030 Strategy in the local media.

This report covers six Arab countries: Palestine, Sudan, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Egypt.

The report offered a reading of the reality of the local Arab media in order to learn how to deal with the content and concerns related to sustainable development and the position of women therein.

The study of women's participation in the local media in relation to the sustainable development goals and their participation therein through production and subject has a special importance. This is due to the importance of the study of issues related to women and local affairs because of the importance of the local realities on the one hand and the importance of women's action therein, on the other hand whether socially, culturally or economically, as it was indicated in the goals and indicators adopted by the sustainable development goals.

Among the key findings of the report:

- The increasing presence of community media in Tunisia, the service media in Egypt, the cultural media in Lebanon, the official development media in Sudan and the political media in Palestine, and the predominance of the central media in Saudi Arabia.
- Lack of clarity of the concepts of sustainable development goals and the absence of media treatment that takes into account specific local concerns.
- The issue of women as a subject has not occupied an important space in the local media content, and they continued to be absent as source. They did not stand out evenly with men. Thus, the marginalization of the position of women in the local media is, in fact, a reflection of the lost opportunities in the participatory management of local affairs, which presupposes the use of all available resources in society.

**Main outputs:** Sixth report on Arab women development and the local media

Six national reports on women in the local media scene

Six national quantitative monitoring reports

An electronic system to incorporate monitoring data

## 2.1. A wall chart for media professionals / on issues related to women in Arab countries

In order to provide practical guidance related to keeping up with issues and problems related to women in the Arab region and combating the stereotypes associated with the status and roles of women, CAWTAR has prepared a wall Chart on the media treatment of issues related to women.

The wall chart included the most important issues related to women in the Arab countries and a number of important tips and guidelines for media professionals working in the written, electronic, audio and visual media. The preparation of this wall chart helped collect the data of 22 Arab countries, that can be built upon nationally at a later stage.

## 3.1. Practical guide for women leaders on the skills of dealing with the media

CAWTAR has capitalized on its training materials in the field of training women leaders and civil society activists in order to develop a practical guide for women leaders at the local level on the skills of dealing with the media and addressing print, visual, audio and electronic press masses.

## 4.1. Building the capacity of media professionals to enhance women's participation at the local level

During the year 2017, the CAWTAR Center held two training courses for local female and male media professionals on "Enhancing women's presence in the media at the local level" in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Mauritania.

Sixty-five female and male media professionals representing local media from television, radio, print and electronic press participated in the sessions. The two courses produced press articles related to the issue of women's electoral participation in relation to the local dimension.

## 4.1. Nejiba Hamrouni's Award for Best Press Article on Arab Women Issues



In May 2017, the Center announced the results of its periodic competition of best press article on Arab women's issues in its fourteenth session, which focused on the theme "Decentralization and its impact on the situation and rights of Arab women", with the support of the International Planned Parenthood Federation-Arab region.

Three journalists from Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen received the Nejiba Al Hamrouni's Award for Best Press Article. Female and male journalists from nine Arab countries:

Syria, Egypt, Sudan, Palestine, Algeria, Yemen, Iraq, Tunisia and Morocco participated in the competition.

The awards were presented by an Arab jury formed by the CAWTAR Center to evaluate participating articles. It included media figures and academics from Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq, Tunisia and the UAE.

## 6.1. Periodic newsletter "CAWTARYAT"

The newsletter "CAWTARYAT" continues to be published on a periodic basis (Issues No. 64, 65 and 66 were published in 2017) in order to contribute to the dissemination of the various programs and activities of the Center and monitoring the development of women's rights in the Arab countries. The newsletter is published with support from the Office of the International Planned Parenthood Federation Arab World Region.

## 7.1. International Workshop on Social Networks and Freedoms: Challenges of the Maghreb

CAWTAR, in partnership with the Journalism and Media International Center (JMIC) at the University of Oslo, Norway, held an international workshop on "Social Networks and Freedoms: Challenges of the Maghreb" in November 2017 in Hammamet, Tunisia.

The workshop provided an opportunity for fruitful exchange of experiences in the field of information and communication among participants and for measuring the impact of social networks on access to information and freedoms in the Maghreb countries as well.



## 2. Electronic exchange of information on gender: from innovation to outreach

2017 is the year of renewal and outreach in the management of the electronic platforms of CAWTAR center. Efforts have been intensified to:

- Further disseminating these platforms on a wider scale in various events held by the Center or its partners.
- The Center joined new trends for better visibility in social media. During this year, the Center worked on developing its pages in both Facebook and Twitter networks.
- Continued action to update and develop the Gender Clearing House and the new information system.
- Ensuring that the year 2018 is a year of efficiency in smart management, in order to enable the whole team to operate remotely and access various documents electronically.

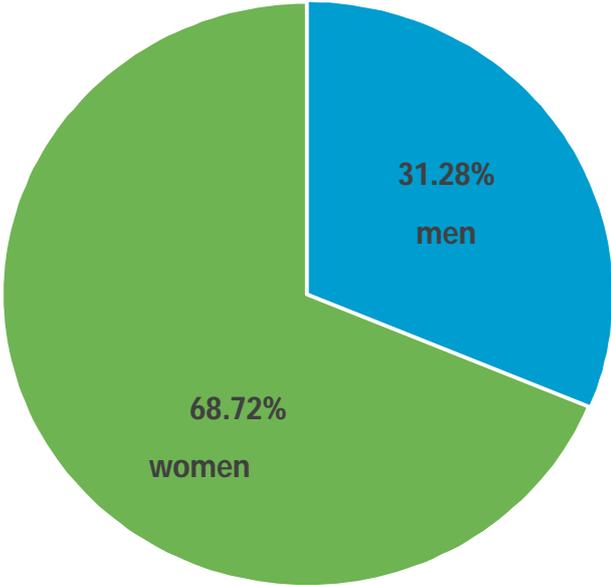
### 1.2. Gender Clearing House

The year 2017 witnessed the development of the content of the Gender Clearing House through the addition of two new pillars in response to the priority areas of the Arab region: gender, migration, gender, extremism and violent extremism. Thus, the Gender Clearing House includes 12 pillars that provide studies, research, documents and audio and visual materials, bringing together comprehensive knowledge production on gender issues in the region. The design of the Gender Clearing House has been adapted to the latest developments in website design to attract as many users as possible.

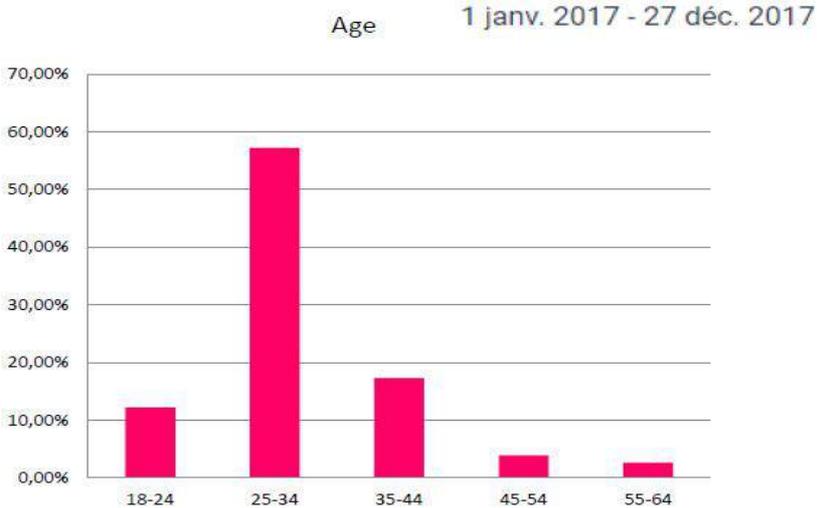
During the year, the website was provided with 880 new entries of studies, reports, films, related to the themes of Arab women and political participation, Arab women and economic participation, Arab women and decision-making, combating gender-based violence. Moreover, two new pillars were added: women and the fight against violent extremism and women and migration, bringing the number of documents to 3500 references up from 2620 references in 2016.

Moreover, the database of resource institutions, experts and persons in the field of gender and development (in Arabic and English) was enriched with 880 distributed between institutions and experts, while the number of entries increased from 16,275 in 2016 to 17,025 in 2017. The database feeds all the guides and the electronic map in the Gender Clearing House.

Rate of visitors of "CAWTAR" Gender Clearing House by sex



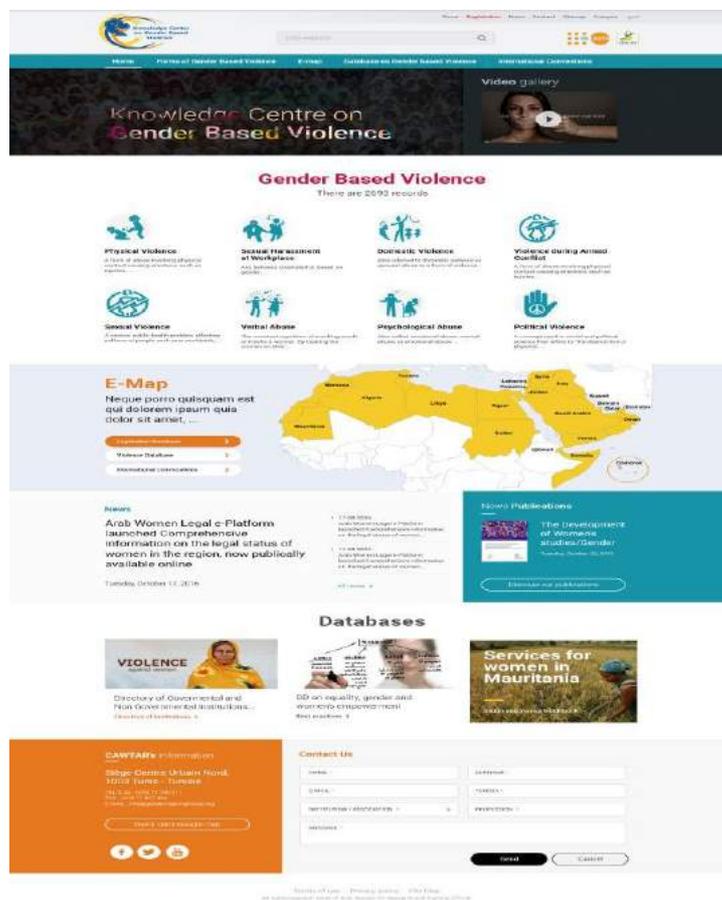
This year, the number of visitors to the CAWTAR Gender Clearing House was the same as the previous years. The number of visitors of the CAWTAR Gender Clearing House reached **6,697** in 2017, **80** percent of visitors were aged between 25 and 44, the majority of whom were young people and women, representing **68.7** percent of all visitors, **55** percent of whom are loyal visitors to the site.



## 2.2. Gender-Based Violence Hub GBV HUB

As part of the CAWTAR-UNFPA project, which began in 2015 with the development of a regional platform on gender-based violence issues, the Platform was launched on December 10, 2017 in Amman at the regional meeting of UNFPA and a number of UN and regional organizations. It was also launched in Cairo on December 12, 2017 during the regional meeting on the package of services for women and girls exposed to gender-based violence.

CAWTAR and the UNFPA Arab States Regional jointly manage the Arab Knowledge Platform on Gender-Based Violence, which currently has 1244 references on various issues of violence against women and girls.





### 3. Administrative and financial performance

The Administrative and Financial Affairs Unit supervises the logistics and finances of all programs and projects (budgeting and preparing financial reports, preparation of contracts, preparation of meetings of the Board of Trustees, assistance in organizing events and seminars, billing and follow-up of all disbursements and payments).

The most important feature of the administrative work of the Center during the year 2016:

- The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Center (February 2017 in Tunis) was held with the participation of members of the Board, a number of international organizations, along with a meeting of the Technical Committee.
- Coordination between AGFUND and the Ministry of Women, Family and Child Affairs in Tunisia on their joint project "Early Childhood System Development Program".
- Performing the financial and administrative audit by the competent external office and obtaining the patent certificate for the year 2016.
- Preparation of the financial reports of completed projects and those in progress.
- Work on preparing the budget for the year 2017
- Conducting the annual physical inventory of property, movables and stocks.
- Continuing training of the members of the Administrative and Financial Unit team in the areas of: modern communication techniques, gender and transformational leadership, and gender-responsive budgets.



### Seventeenth Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the "CAWTAR" Center

The twenty-seventh meeting of the members of the Board of Trustees of the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) was held on February 20, 2017 in Tunis, under the chairmanship of HE Yousef Al Bassam, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of the Saudi Fund for Development and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees, to discuss the progress of the Center's programs and projects in the years 2017-2021.

The meeting discussed the progress of the Center's programs and projects in the region, which were adapted by CAWTAR in light of the mobility and dynamics experienced by the Arab region. CAWTAR also reviewed its five-year strategy for the next phase, which runs from 2017 to 2021, based on the continuation of work within the core areas of action, while keeping abreast with the changes and situation in the region (migration, asylum, peace and security ...) and the gender and human rights-based approaches in all programs and projects.



That strategy will be based on the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy as a frame of reference for its overall orientations.

The meeting was attended by members of the Council representing the Arab Gulf Development Program, the Tunisian Government, the League of Arab States, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Program and the International Planned Parenthood Federation, as well as a number of representatives of Arab and foreign partner institutions and donors, namely the World Bank, the Saudi Fund for Development, the Islamic Development Bank and the German Technical Cooperation Agency.

## Capacity-building of the Center's staff

The Center team benefit from continuous programs to enhance their capacities and skills in project follow-up and implementation, besides the participation of a number of team members in various courses organized by CAWTAR within its various programs.

The Center seeks to build the capacity of the team in its various fields of intervention, particularly in the areas of leadership, communication skills and results-based management... besides their participation in training programs organized by the Center and by partners in the Arab region.



The CAWTAR team received training in a variety of areas including:

- Enhancing coordination and joint work among team members and results-based planning
- Financial control according to the gender perspective
- Sustainable Development Goals and Development Strategy 2030
- Gender mainstreaming in budgets

## 4. New projects

With the support of its Board of Trustees and in partnership with various international, UN and regional organizations, CAWTAR continues to implement its various projects. It equally seeks to explore the possibilities of implementing new projects and programs and renewing interest in areas that are at the heart of its work and areas of concern. The main areas of work for 2018 are as follows:

- Economic empowerment of women in the MENA region through mainstreaming gender in economic policies and trade agreements **(SIDA)**
- "Empowering women to take leadership roles in the Middle East and North Africa"**Forum of Federations"**
- Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Côte d'Ivoire **IDB-BADEA**
- Capacity-building of members of the Arab Network for Gender and Development (ANGED) on achieving the sustainable development goals **AGFUND**
- Financial Education (Women's Economic Empowerment) **AGFUND**
- Gender Clearing House (Phase 3) **AGFUND**
- Syrian Refugee Women Support Program, Saudi Fund for Development **SFD**
- Phase II of the project "Promoting gender mainstreaming in rural development and sustainable food security" **CIHEAM - IAM BARI**