



Activity Report 2016



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Summary

The year 2016 was for CAWTAR a year of transition from one work strategy to another, from a phase marked by a large number of achievements, successes, challenges and lessons learnt to a new phase that the Center is planning to start fully equipped with consistent experience and expertise, and with topics that will build on the past to invest in foundations already set towards more diverse horizons and more thorough fields of study, while coping with the characteristics and challenges of both the present and the future.

In this regard, CAWTAR worked on the execution of its workplan based on three main pillars: women's political, social and economic empowerment, achieving environment sustainability and reinforcing women's role in the management of water resources; in addition, to contribute to the development of gender-sensitive policies and legislations taking in consideration women's human rights; the Center also focused on improving its own performance, by designing its strategy for the 2017-2021 period, later shared with partners and experts for discussion, developing CAWTAR's communication strategy, and working on improving monitoring and evaluation tools in addition to ongoing efforts to set up an integrated data system complying with the most recent IT security and good performance standards. This system considerably reinforces the exchange, joint work and follow-up between the Center's working team.

CAWTAR's activities in the Arab Region and beyond produced considerable quantitative and qualitative outcomes. At the regional level, CAWTAR's regular territory, the Center studied factors affecting Arab women's political, social and economic empowerment and worked on sharing findings and facilitating their use through modern technology in various settings. The Center also used different possible forums to look for the support of planners and decision makers at various levels. Some of CAWTAR's projects covered remote areas in African countries.

The Center also chose to work at the local level, by supporting civil society organizations, mainly in light of transitions taking place in Arab countries over the previous six years and by empowering young generations to work locally with more efficiency. In monitoring countries' commitments with the 2030 SDGs, CAWTAR focused on issues related to the role of women in the management and control of water resources and in ensuring food security, through the execution of joint projects, adopting participatory approaches to work with the real local actors and right-holders in the design and execution of programs. CAWTAR also encouraged the media to further promote women's conditions and concerns, mainly at the local level.

At the institutional level, the capacity building approach adopted by the Center helped to develop its skills and abilities and to constitute a qualified and well trained team able to manage, execute and evaluate various projects; the staff also acquired considerable skills in training, planning and scheduling activities, and became experts in the region's developments, of women's conditions and challenges and of the role that CAWTAR can play in this regard. This adds value to the Center's human and institutional capacities further reinforcing the quality and efficiency of its operations.

CAWTAR will start next year and the next 2017-2021 phase with a commitment to join regional and international efforts aimed at reinforcing women's rights and involvement in development processes. CAWTAR will work on exploring new working areas and territories, by building new and deeper partnerships in order to contribute to the emergence of societies where women are much less discriminated and marginalized, and where they can enjoy justice, fairness and equal opportunities.

Main projects and programs in 2016 supporting CAWTAR's Reference Framework

CAWTAR is always looking to make the most value of its work, in terms of content, implementation and impact. This approach enabled the Center to become a major think tank in the Arab Region in the field of gender and development. CAWTAR's reputation was further reinforced this year through programs, knowledge sharing, online projects and networking by:

1. Adopting the notion of individual and collective change management, promoting and applying it as a modern tool of change and as a factor empowering groups and individuals;
2. Reinforcing CAWTAR's strategic partnerships; it was selected to be a partner in the "Women's access to employment" project, implemented by several European institutions;
3. Expanding CAWTAR's scope of work to Africa and inducing positive change on women;
4. Effectively launching the financial education project with CAWTAR's support to micro-credit institutions' capacities in specific phases of the project;
5. Practically engaging in the 2030 SDG and supporting the gender approach in rural development and sustainable food security and reinforcing women's role in the management and control of natural resources, mainly water;
6. Starting the interactive online platform on rural women GEMAISA, the first of its kind in the Arab Region;
7. Increasing investments in ICT and web technologies, promoting knowledge and launching the Online Arab Center to fight against gender-based violence, an interactive think tank and data center that will involve all stakeholders engaged in combatting all forms of violence;
8. The smart digital system for the online exchange of gender related data, a storage system of CAWTAR's different projects and activities that will be regularly and instantaneously supplied by the center's staff throughout the progress of the projects, logistically, content-wise and financially, which will ensure utmost transparency and efficiency.

SECTION ONE: Strategic work areas

CAWTAR continued to work on its strategic areas aimed at improving Arab women's rights and conditions, by focusing on new challenges induced by movements witnessed by the Arab Region.

First: Women's Full Empowerment reinforced in the political, social and economic domains

To ensure the full and inclusive empowerment of women and youth, CAWTAR focused on building leadership skills to reduce hurdles and obstacles impeding the participation of women and youth in public life, mainly including gender-based violence. CAWTAR considers that creating economic opportunities is a main tool to fully empower women and youth.

In this regard, CAWTAR's efforts focused on the following:

- 1- Reduce factors impeding the participation of women and youth in public life;
- 2- Women's economic participation and more opportunities for their involvement in the economic development;

1. Reduce factors impeding participation of women and youth in public life

1.1 Study the conditions of women and youth and opportunities for participation in public life

CAWTAR is greatly concerned about issues affecting women and youth and strives to increase their participation in public life, mainly at the level of research. This interest was further reinforced during the six years following the political and social turmoil affecting Arab countries and the emergence of youth as a key player in the Arab political arena.

In 2016, CAWTAR published various reports and policy papers, with the following conclusions:

- Presence of various impacts induced by the marginalization of youth, mainly including the absence of political tools and mechanisms to influence state management, the control of resources, ways to face challenges, the need to open up new horizons for non-violent civil participation of young men and women to play an important role in decision making and in public debates (comparative regional study on **“youth involvement in south Mediterranean countries”**).
- Gender based discrimination is the biggest obstacle still preventing the participation of women and youth in public life. The absence of reforms for youth employment and persistent inequalities also constitute obstacles facing the employment of young men and women in the region (paper addressed to policy debates on **“Opportunities open to women in Mediterranean countries”**).
- The necessity to adapt national policies to the needs and demands of the youth, reinforce the economic environment to create new jobs and reinforce the impact of programs targeting youth (paper addressed to policy debates on **“National policies for youth in Tunisia”**).
- Persistent gap between studies and the job market; women face many difficulties to get access to the job market due to the lack of opportunities offered to them (academic paper on **“Women, studies and labor in south Mediterranean countries”**).



These studies focused on the quantitative and qualitative analysis of several major problems such as labor, education, migration, mobility, youth opportunities, youth involvement, ... with the aim of defining the gender impact on reforms required to reduce inequalities.

CAWTAR published these reports when participating in the SAHWA project related to youth in five Arab countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean (Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria) funded by the European Union, bringing together 14 research centers and universities.

1.2 Strengthen knowledge and research about the fight against gender-based violence

CAWTAR's various studies and research papers on gender based violence stress the fact that this type of violence constitutes a major human right violation and an obstacle preventing the proper empowerment of women and girls. Therefore, CAWTAR reinforced its research on gender-based violence by investigating new topics such as:

- **"Cost of gender based violence"**: The Center produced five reports in Tunisia, Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt, in addition to a synthetic report. Five factsheets on the cost of gender-based violence were later produced with the support of USAID, in partnership with Banyan Global and ICRW.
- **"Women's role in the fight against violent extremism"**: A workshop was held jointly with the U.S. Embassy in Tunis to discuss the role of women in preventing extremism and also ICT role in shaping youth identity in religious spheres as well as the best practices used to fight against violent extremism, the role of women and culture in countering violent extremism (CVE) and the next steps that need to be carried out by various stakeholders in this regard.

CAWTAR also continued work on the following:

- **Promoting and developing tools and mechanisms in support of civil society organizations** aimed at eliminating all forms of violence; call for papers launched in the framework of a joint project with UNFPA;
- Promoting the UN Security Council's Resolution n. 1325 concerning Women, Peace and Security by publishing an awareness raising and educational video produced in partnership with the Canadian Embassy in Tunis.

1.3 Training materials to improve women's participation in public life

Research produced by CAWTAR in partnership with structures and organizations working in the field of Arab women's full empowerment contributes to the identification of women's needs in the field of training in order to reduce difficulties preventing them from actively participating in public life.

- Based on its experience in the field of gender-based violence, CAWTAR worked with UNFPA on **extending the scope for the use of their regional training manual by translating it into French**. The Guide will be available in 2017 in three languages (Arabic, French and English).
- Based on a study carried out by CAWTAR in 2015 on "Women's participation in the political and civil life: obstacles and ways to go beyond", published in 2016 with the collaboration of OXFAM, the notion of "Leadership for Change" has proven to be an innovative concept to reduce obstacles facing women in public life. The Center has worked since 2016 on designing a training manual about **Gender and Women's Tools for the Leadership for Change**, aimed

at further empowering women; it also held an experimental training session to further promote the manual and make it better match women's needs and skills.

2. Support women involvement in economic development

CAWTAR continues to invest in research on Arab women's economic participation and to increase opportunities for women's access in the structured job market by inciting them to start their own projects. In 2016, the Center extended the beneficiary area of revenue generating projects for rural women by including African countries (Senegal and Ivory Coast) and by improving financial education programs in favor of women and youth.

2.1 Reinforce knowledge about women's economic integration and its impact on women's rights and conditions

CAWTAR devoted research to the economic participation of women and girls by looking into opportunities and obstacles preventing their access to the labor market, and women's working conditions in the unstructured and informal sector.

- **Research on conditions for the integration of young women university graduates in the labor market**

CAWTAR conducted a qualitative research jointly with the Tunis UNDP- Office about "Young university graduate women getting job opportunities and developing projects" focusing on the vulnerable conditions of young women and the various obstacles and difficulties impeding their access to the labor market. This study is part of a joint work plan aimed at reinforcing women's integration in the labor market and encouraging them to launch projects and working on making the equal opportunity right true and effective in practices and opportunities.

- **Studying the difficulties that women face in entrepreneurship:** Concerned about the main opportunities and obstacles facing women entrepreneurs, CAWTAR worked on a study jointly with UNIDO about women entrepreneurs in six Arab countries (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia). This study aimed at looking into difficulties that women face when investing and starting businesses, the main challenges that their activities are faced with, and the economic environment that affects their projects including the legal and funding environment, training and networking sources...



- **Studying the social conditions of women working in the unstructured sector:** CAWTAR worked together with Ford Foundation on a study on **marginalized women working in the unstructured sector in Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt**. It included successful experiences in the reinforcement of women's economic and social rights and their integration in the structured market. The preparation of the study led to:
 - **The development of practical patterns for the protection of the rights of women working in the unstructured sector** by compiling 23 successful experiences from NGOs' initiatives to reinforce the access of women working in the informal sector to social security systems.
 - The design of an interactive electronic map about major institutions involved in the promotion of social and economic rights of women working in the informal sector.

2.2 Create economic opportunities in favor of rural women

- **Monitoring revenue-generating projects, women in Palestine and Tunisia**

In order to maintain the sustainability of revenue-generating projects launched in Palestine and Tunisia:

- CAWTAR completed **the assessment of Beit Duqqu women's economic empowerment in Palestine**, with focus on its impact on women and their living conditions and on the partner association. Measuring the impact aimed at providing an independent and objective vision about rural women's economic empowerment in Beit Duqqu and at measuring the impact of the project implemented by CAWTAR jointly with Assala association. This work will use evaluation results to help not only women but also project partners in future projects and programs.



- **Monitoring and coaching project managers working on vegetable and essential oil distillation in Oued Sbailia-province of Zaghouan and the olive oil extraction unit in Tbaïnia-province of Jendouba.** The center solved many issues related to management, financial and logistical aspects including: retraining rural compounds' members supervising the use of equipment provided by the project, financial education and good project management, or helping them to market their products by facilitating their participation in trade fairs, centralizing products, orienting them towards the most profitable products, and listening to their future needs to guarantee the sustainability of the project. Coaching and support provided by CAWTAR ensured the sustainability of the two projects and the continuity of their activity making them profitable for a number of women and families.



- **Revenue-generating projects to the profit of African women:** CAWTAR's African experience started two years ago aimed at creating economic opportunities for rural women in two countries: Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire. CAWTAR adopted an integrated approach combining the creation of opportunities for their economic participation and the improvement of their income, living conditions and human rights, citizenship principles and gender issues in order to increase awareness among women about their rights and the best ways to fulfill and practice them.

A. In Senegal:

The year 2016 knew the effective launch of two projects in a number of rural areas in Senegal following the projects' detailed study and execution requirements, including equipment and activities. Following the launch of several public information and training activities and after gaining the support of local communities and authorities and the acquisition of equipment, production started in the first project on **processing, canning and selling local agricultural products**, as well as in the second project on **the creation of a poultry farm**. 190 women with poor conditions benefit from these projects in five rural areas.

CAWTAR and its local field partners adopted an inclusive approach to develop the beneficiaries' awareness about their rights and to reinforce their skills to manage their projects, a major part of and a requirement for their success and professional integration.

It is important to note that the equipment bought for the purpose of training in the first project and production tools in the poultry farm in the second project will allow other women to get trained and to have local economic integration opportunities, which will contribute to the sustainability of these projects.

B. In Cote d'Ivoire:

Due to long distances, difficult distant- monitoring conditions and high transportation costs, CAWTAR thought about establishing and implementing revenue-generating programs in Cote d'Ivoire after the launch of Senegal projects, hence ensuring their efficiency.

The Center followed the same approach adopted in Senegal. It intensified connections with a number of local potential partners to look after field implementation, and it received a number of project proposals that will be studied and checked whether they are in line with the goals of CAWTAR and its supporting partners.

The center's project coordinator led an exploration mission and discussed with several interested associations to become CAWTAR's partners. He also had a number of meetings with national, local, tribal and religious authorities. CAWTAR's representative visited areas where suggested activities will take place in the country's jungles at about one thousand kilometers away from the capital.

The center has now a number of reliable associations and two feasible projects. It is currently working on completing preparatory stages for their effective implementation: building two tailoring and hairdressing shops for women, now in charge of their households, and the production, processing and marketing of local agricultural products. Both projects include training, support, and public information activities as well as the concentration of production units, providing services to about 160 women from Cote d'Ivoire's rural areas.

3.2 Financial education to the profit of women and youth

Financial education activities carried out by the center reflect its deep conviction that developing women's and youth's abilities in the financial management of their productive projects, whether launched by CAWTAR or others, and of their personal and family resources, would contribute to the success of these projects and activities and ensure their sustainability. Besides, job opportunities and chances to succeed in individual and collective initiatives increase with the acquisition of knowledge, albeit simple, about financial management and also when dealing with financial and credit institutions.

CAWTAR benefited from previous projects on financial education to the profit of women and youth, and started the execution of a project on **"supporting microfinance institutions' capacities in the financial education to the profit of women and youth"**. This included tailoring CAWTAR's training manuals, and establishing a strategic plan to the four institutions participating in the financial education program. The current project will allow participants to use the remote training platform for financial education, already developed in previous projects.



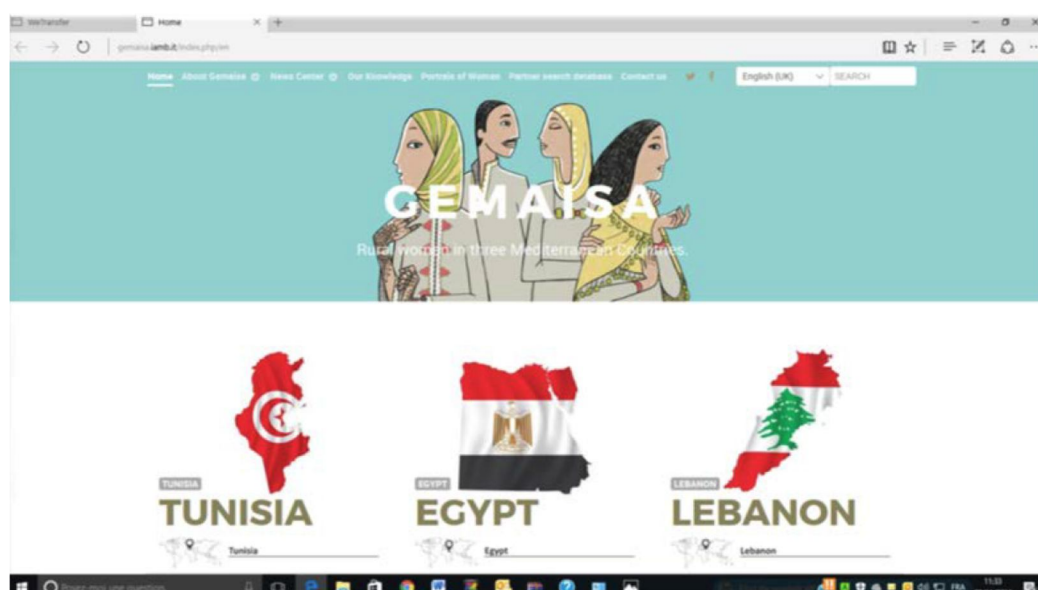
Second : Reinforce women's role in ensuring environmental sustainability with focus on their role in the management of water resources

In its second strategic pillar, CAWTAR believes that reinforcing women's role in maintaining environmental sustainability and managing water resources is a key entrance to empower women and facilitate their participation in decision-making especially at the local level. The 2016 programs of the center support efforts to:

- 1- Support gender integration in rural development
- 2- Build women's capacities in the management and control of water resources

1- *Support gender integration in rural development*

By the beginning of 2016, the first steps to implement a project to support gender integration in rural development and the sustainability of food security were taken, aiming at generating knowledge, data and means, and supporting research and experimental practices to empower rural women in the Mediterranean. The project was launched in Lebanon, Tunisia and Egypt.



In the framework of the project carried out by CIHEAM-IAM BARI, CAWTAR was in charge of **the development of an electronic platform on rural women**, which is considered to be a reference space for gender and rural development in the area. The platform contains additional information on projects in the three countries, defining major initiatives in the Mediterranean and the Arab region related to the empowerment of rural women, in addition to a database for experts and institutions working in the field.

The project enhances coordination and dialogue with rural development institutions, technical assistance at the local and central level, and advocacy of women's rights.

2- Build women's capacities in the management and control of water resources

In order to enhance women's role in the management and control of natural resources, CAWTAR worked jointly with the German Cooperation Agency on a project called "women leadership in water". It included the design of a training manual to the profit of water women ambassadors, chosen by the project to carry out advocacy and awareness raising campaigns in many rural areas. The number of beneficiary women was 20. They were selected out of 60 candidates to be leaders in their region.

The year 2016 witnessed the preparation and testing of training units, part of a series of integrated training courses. The manual includes special units about the techniques, the exploitation of water and the preservation of water resources, the situation of water in the world, in the Arab world and in Tunisia, gender integration, communication, advocacy and leadership.



Third: More encouraging context in terms of policies and institutions for women to fulfill their human rights

In its third strategic pillar, CAWTAR pays particular attention to defining the legislation concerning women's rights and advocates their improvement, which supports the enhancement of effective equality between girls, women and men. It therefore supports equality, justice and equal opportunities, and countries' commitment and involvement to the 2030 sustainable development plan.

This goes in line with the center's vocation, a space for governmental and non- governmental dialogue. It supports the work of civil society activists and the media and enhances opportunities for dialogue with decision makers to contribute to the creation of a more adequate environment for women to fulfill their human rights. After studying the needs of various groups concerned, CAWTAR primarily aims at:

- 1- Increasing knowledge about SDGs
- 2- Investing in knowledge to promote women's rights in Arab legislations
- 3- Building the capacities of civil society organizations to play an active role at the local level

1- Increase knowledge about the sustainable development plan and promote its goals

- **Begin the preparation of the 6th Arab Women Development Report**

CAWTAR started the elaboration of a reference document entitled "partnerships at the local and national level: the role of civil society in the implementation of the 2030 development agenda", in preparation of its sixth report on Arab women development; the report is entitled "civil society organizations and the 2030 development agenda".

The report will look into the crucial roles of civil society organizations in settling the sustainable development plan at the local level, and preparing the national context enabling civil society to effectively monitor the sustainable development plan. The report is part of a regional integrated project about "the role of civil society and the media in achieving the 2030 sustainable development goals", implemented by CAWTAR jointly with the Arab Gulf Program for Development. The project includes other training activities, to be implemented in 2017.

- **Supporting the sustainable development plan:**

CAWTAR continues its commitment to advocate the 2030 development plan by supporting efforts of civil society organizations. On the one hand, it continues its support of the regional coalition of organizations working on women issues, aiming at supporting the work program of the International Conference on Population and Development founded by CAWTAR jointly with the United Nations Population Fund in 2013. It was also involved in elaborating a strategy to the profit of local organizations and governmental institutions aiming at the implementation of the 2030 sustainable development plan, carried out by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia "ESCWA".

On the other hand, it was involved in the regional network supporting sexual and reproductive health and rights created by the Arab World's office for International Planned Parenthood Federation, to push forward related policies, legislations and experience sharing

between countries of the Middle East and North Africa, and follow up the implementation of goals 3 and 5 of the 2030 sustainable development plan.

2- Invest in knowledge to promote women's rights in Arab legislations

CAWTAR continued the implementation of its integrated program "Arab women and legislations". It concentrated its efforts in 2016 on promoting tools to raise awareness about legal and human rights of women and men: distributing documents on " legal systems" and brochures "calling for change" to the offices of the UNDP and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality as well as to governmental institutions concerned by women (ministries, commissions and boards) for reviewing, checking and validating them.

Providing electronically collected cognitive knowledge through an interactive platform and its integration Smartphone' to enable various groups of women and activists in the civil society to access legal references and resources, who have limited access to Internet.

The "Arab Women and Legislation" program was carried out jointly with the Arab Gulf Development Program, the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development OECD.

3- Build the capacities of civil society organizations to play an active role at the local level

CAWTAR believes in the central role of civil society organizations for pressure and support in order to promote women's human rights and put them into action, pushing towards the consolidation of a more equal and fair environment for women. Based on that, CAWTAR took upon itself the responsibility of accompanying civil society organizations and developing their staff's skills to carry out effective roles in improving women's situations and rights, and to recognize the principles of equity, justice and equality, and to contribute in changing governmental policies and programs to the profit of women and youth.



3.1- Towards the establishment of joint work mechanisms between civil society and local authorities

CAWTAR contributed through the activities that it carried out to the profit of civil society organizations to the creation of a space for meeting, discussion and joint work between civil society organizations and local authorities. It designed awareness and training programs aiming at **establishing working mechanisms with the coordination between civil society components and the media, and with local authorities**. A group of coaches/peers was formed to ensure effective interventions and to involve local stakeholders.

This was part of its project “**developing civil society coaching and conflict management skills**” where 18 partner associations directly benefited from the project (selected among over 50 associations) and 174 other associations indirectly benefited from the project, worked in 4 working groups on four axes:

- **Effective local governance through non-violent communication and conflict resolution mediation:** training 15 male and female journalists working in local radios and 194 activists in 76 local associations on non-violent communication, mediation for conflict resolution and leadership skills.
- Parity in local councils and effective local women leaders: training and educating associations and local authorities to gain their support for women’s participation in the political life at the local level, and training 84 young women to become active in public life. A campaign was carried out by 36 associations and organizations resulting in the adoption of horizontal and vertical parity in municipal elections law.
- **Active civil society in monitoring local communities and budgets:** discussing with local associations and authorities and training male and female activists from 33 associations to enable them to effectively participate in budget monitoring and influence local authorities when discussing and preparing local budgets.
- **Joint work of local and regional councils to carry out the non-operating projects:** working with male and female activists members of local authorities and associations to raise awareness about the importance of dialogue and joint work in monitoring the work of local councils for development and influencing decision making about local and regional projects especially the non-operating ones and looking for effective partnership ways to overcome difficulties to the region’s best.

Major results and achievements :

- Establishing municipal conciliation plan in Gafsa, a mediation body within the municipality, to be provided with the necessary skills for management and conflict resolution through communication so as to carry out its role effectively.
- Ratifying an Article of the legislation providing for vertical and horizontal parity, which will ensure women’s participation and success in municipal elections to be held in Tunisia in 2017.
- Signing partnership agreements between 3 local municipalities and associations and elaborating an action charter to reflect partnership between local authorities and civil society.
- One youth association that benefited from the project was considered as the number one local governance project for the project jointly implemented with CAWTAR out of 90 associations nominated from throughout the country.

-Printing the Constitution, CEDAW Convention and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Braille for the first time in the Maghreb.

3.2 Taking local initiatives to enhance gender equality

Considering that it is a founding member of the Euro-Mediterranean Women's Foundation, CAWTAR continues for the second year in a row, to coach organizations working on gender equality to take local joint initiatives and mobilize local activists to enhance gender equality.

In the first phase in 2015, after enabling policy-monitoring related to gender equal rights related to participation in the political, economic, civil and social arena, and collecting best practices, the project works in the second year on the implementation of projects ranging from enhancing women's entrepreneurship in green economy, increasing women's representation in political and public life, improving working conditions and fighting against women trafficking.

CAWTAR is supported by a Tunisian nongovernmental organization that works towards the creation of a center to empower women, offering training and education to the profit of leaders and local women.

The project is carried out jointly with the European Mediterranean Institute and is funded by the European Union and the French Government.



SECTION TWO: Reinforce the institutional capacity of the Center of Excellence

First : Media training center

The center continues the implementation of media programs to look into ways media address issues related to women and to build journalists' capacities to analyze and address these issues, in addition to the work on creating dynamic media that support women and pushing towards the consolidation of balanced processing.

1- Raise awareness about women's presence in the media

To monitor women's presence and image in the media, the research about different images on women being publicized and the way to address their issues has continued throughout the year.

In 2016, a regional study about women's presence in Arab local media was prepared, part of "enhancing women's presence in the media at the local level" carried out by CAWTAR jointly with AGFUND. The center drafted the methodological paper and selected the main researchers in six Arab countries: Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Palestine and Tunisia. The Center worked jointly with the researchers on choosing a sample and elaborating methodological tools: analyzing network, guide of interviews with journalists and the central debates guide. Researchers started to do required tasks in parallel with the preparation of a part related to the Arab media landscape locally.



2- Build the capacities of journalists and local leaders to increase women's participation at the local level

The media training center entirely supported by AGFUND focuses on building the capacities of journalists and increasing women's presence, especially leaders, in the media locally and nationally by developing their capacities in dealing with the media.

In this regard, CAWTAR held in September 2016 jointly with the Lebanese Democratic Women Assembly in Beirut a training workshop on "building the capacities of winners in municipal elections in dealing with the media". The workshop aims at helping women who won at the municipal elections better understand the legislative framework of municipal work in Lebanon, how to deal with the media and address the public. 24 women benefited from the training workshop; they represent the winners in the municipal elections in Lebanon, and women who support nominated women in information campaigns.

CAWTAR held a second training session in Muscat, the capital of Oman, in November 2016, aiming at building the capacities of 25 journalists to support candidates in the elections, jointly with the Ministry of Social Affairs in Oman.

It also started the elaboration of a **Women leaders manual** on how to deal with the media. The units' structure and content were tested in the training workshop held in Lebanon to the profit of women winning the municipal elections.

3- Support media dynamics

- **Najiba Hamrouni prize for the best newspaper article about Arab women's issues**

Recognizing its central role in the center's career, CAWTAR announced awarding the Najiba Hamrouni Prize (former Tunisian union activist) for the best newspaper article about Arab women's issues. This is a periodic competition that the Center launched in 2000 to select the best newspaper article about Arab women's issues and conditions. It celebrated its 14th anniversary in 2015.

- **"CAWTARIAT" periodical publication**

CAWTAR continues to publish its printed periodic publication "CAWTARIA" which in addition to dealing with the center's news and its major activities, addresses a series of cases and issues related to women's conditions and rights in the Arab region. A number of publications have been published along this year, with the support of the Arab World's office for International Planned Parenthood Federation.

- **Activating CAWTAR's charter for journalists from a gender perspective**

CAWTAR suggested as part of its integrated program related to gender and Arab media the design of a charter for journalists from gender perspective consolidating gender equality principles. The charter was adopted in 2016 in the context of "towards safe media net for women in the media", a campaign led by Women's news agency and was signed by 9866 people from inside and outside the Arab region.

- **Partnership and networking**

CAWTAR joined the group of technical and financial partners to support the media sector in Tunisia which activities are monitored by the African Center for the Training of Journalists and Communicators. The group is composed of international and regional organizations as well as embassies of the main countries that support the press in Tunisia. CAWTAR suggested the creation of a unit to deal with gender integration in the media, all partners agreed on it.

- The partnership of CAWTAR and the High Independent Commission for Audio-Visual Communication in Tunis witnessed major progress. The coordinated and joint work continues in all the commission's activities related to women and the media. In this context, after holding two training sessions on the media in addressing women's issues from a gender perspective, both institutions are in the process of drafting a methodological document about the way media deal with women's issues jointly with chief editors in all media institutions.
- CAWTAR joined the regional project carried out by the Swedish Media Development Center and the African Center for the Training of Journalists and Communicators about "enhancing media education among youth". The program aims at elaborating an interactive electronic training package designed for youth in order to improve their monetary skills and their way of heading to the media. This project is the first of its kind in the Arab world after the success of the "education on media" in the US and Europe.



Second : Online exchange of information about gender

1- *CAWTAR's clearinghouse for the exchange of information on gender*

The year 2016 witnessed the development of the clearinghouse's content by adding two new basic elements, answering priority fields and the central focus of the Arab region: gender and immigration, gender and extremism. This clearinghouse contains 12 basic elements that provide studies, research studies, documentation and audio-visual materials in order to include knowledge about gender issues in the region and make it available for researchers, interested persons, research centers and institutions working in the domain. The clearinghouse was changed to be in line with the updates of web design in order to attract as many internet users as possible. CAWTAR also signed a one year contract with MEDIANET to work on integrating the research center in the most efficient media indexation and be on top of search results on issues that it covers. The numbers of visitors of CAWTAR's clearinghouse amounted to 6500 and we are expecting an increase in the number of visitors in 2017 after changing the design and promoting it on the web.

The electronic map of civil society organizations and governmental institutions working in the field of fighting against poverty, economic empowerment and unorganized work of women is currently being designed for Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco.

2- *Arab center for information on gender-based violence*

In the context of the joint project between CAWTAR and UNFPA, the Arab platform for information on gender-based violence was launched on December 6th 2016 with representatives of UN regional offices, as well as on December 15th with UNFPA's office representatives. CAWTAR and UNFPA's regional offices are jointly running the Arab center for information on gender-based violence

The goals of the Arab platform for information on gender-based violence are:

1. Supporting the exchange of information about gender-based violence
2. Collecting published researches (Arabic, English and French) on gender-based violence since 2000.
3. Creating a community of practice for exchanging good practices and lessons learnt about gender-based violence.

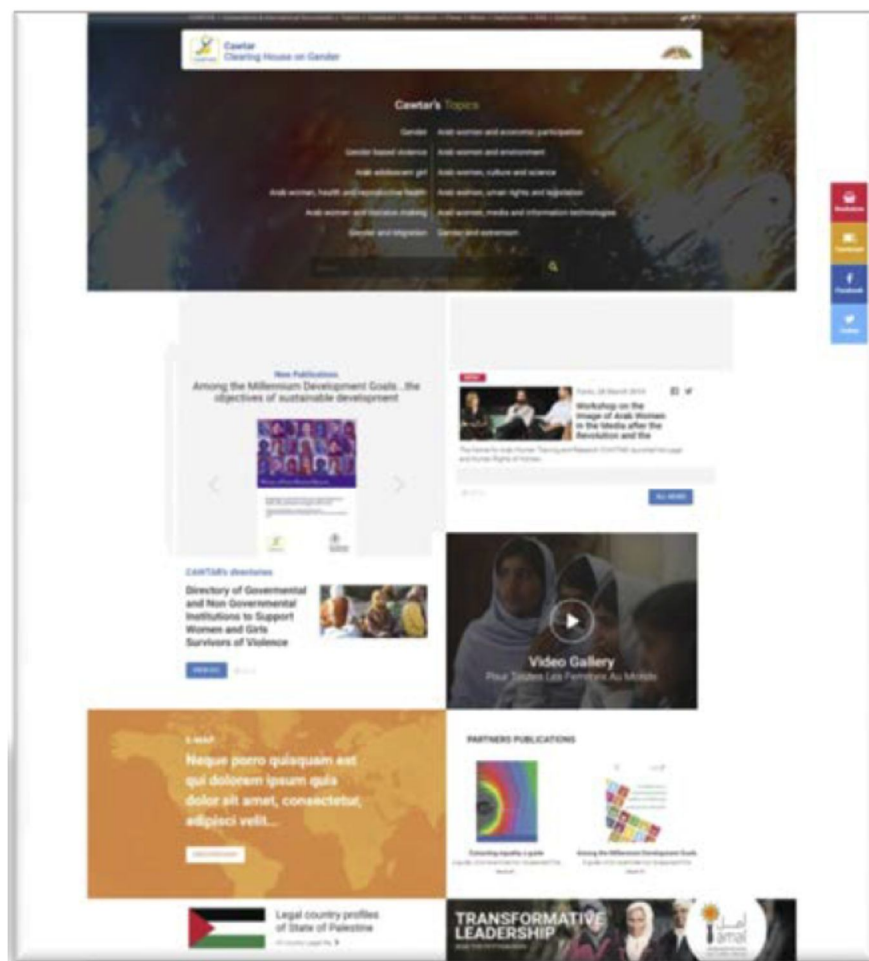
3- *Online system for men's and women's legal and human rights*

In the context of the celebration of International Women's day, CAWTAR announced the establishment of an online system for men's and women's legal and human rights: equality and gaps. It is an online means that aims at collecting laws about legal status and gender equality in 20 Arab countries that was established in the context of the regional project "Arab women and legislations". The portal is being continuously developed and updated by CAWTAR, and it currently provides information in Arabic and enables search in an interactive way (<http://www.arabwomenlegal-emap.org/>).

The portal also contains all means and products in the context of the "Arab women and legislations" project.

4- The new computer system: i-cloud

The new computer system “i-cloud” was launched by CAWTAR since June 2016. The digital system is an online platform which allows the immediate follow-up of various projects all at once by project coordinators and the Executive manager from anywhere in the world. The system aims at establishing digital smart management (zero document) based on information transparency and effective performance. A number of project coordinators were trained on the system and a team from CAWTAR was also trained on developing the system to enable rapid response in times of need for maintenance, development and solving urgent technical difficulties.



Third: Administrative and financial activity report

CAWTAR ensures respect and consolidation of transparency and profitability principles and compliance with rules and procedures. It also ensures proper administrative work and facilitates the implementation of programs and activities in optimal conditions and in full respect to the Center's procedure manual.

The administrative and financial unit is in charge of the logistic and financial supervision of all programs and projects (establishing budget estimates and elaborating financial reports, preparing contracts, preparations for the board of trustees' meetings and assistance in organizing demonstrations and conferences, paying bills, following all operations of exchange and payment...)



1- Administrative and financial follow up of various projects and programs

The following marked the most the center's administrative work in 2016

- Meeting of the center's board of trustees (February 2016 in Saudi Arabia) with the participation of members of the board and a number of international organizations, a meeting of the technical committee and a meeting for monitoring projects funded by AGFUND (May 2016, Tunis)
- Financial and administrative audit by a specialized external office, certified in 2015
- Elaboration of financial reports for completed projects
- Annual inventory of property, movables and stock.
- Continuous training of staff working in modern communication techniques and the continuous work to complete the technical study to link the center with the fiber optic network.

2- Design of the Center's Strategy for the 2017-2021 period

CAWTAR made progress in implementing its strategy for the next stage which covers the 2017-2021 period. The center held a series of internal brainstorming workshops that gathered the entire team of the center in order to determine the center's vision and its major areas of intervention accordingly with the requirements of the phase and the needs of various target groups. It was discussed by a number of experts in a workshop devoted to this purpose, and was presented to the technical committee and to major strategic partners in order to enrich it before showing it to members of the board of trustees for approval.

In this context, CAWTAR completed the development of its computer system strategy which aims at promoting the center on the local, regional and international levels. The center's visual identity manual was also developed to help adjust and standardize the use of communication materials by the center's team.

3- Build the capacities of CAWTAR's staff and employees

The center's employees took part in different training sessions that built their capacities and skills in monitoring and implementing projects, in addition to the participation of a number of the team's members in different sessions held by CAWTAR. The center's orientation supports the team capacity-building in different and various areas especially in leadership, connection and communication skills and result-based management...

The year 2016 also witnessed the training of the team on "building harmony between members of the team" and result-based planning for each project. It is important in a time when the center is preparing for its strategic orientations for the 2017-2021 period. This approach which supports the team's capacities contributed to the improvement of their performance and many of them became coaches in some domains.

In the same context, CAWTAR is working on developing a self-evaluation and an in-depth evaluation system for the team's efficiency and good performance.



Fourth: New Projects

With the support of its board trustees and partnership with many international and regional organizations, CAWTAR continues the implementation of different projects and is looking for possibilities to start new projects and programs and renew interest in domains that are of big importance to its work and areas of interest. The main areas of work in 2017 are the following:

- Supporting women working in the sector of justice to guarantee women's access to justice (jointly with IDLO)
- Women and media are key actors in local democracy (jointly with AECID)
- Building parliamentarians' capacities in transformational leadership (jointly with a federation forum)
- Enhancing women's participation in public life at the local level (jointly with MEPI)
- Challenges and opportunities for women entrepreneurs in Tunisia and Iran
- The border between culture and business (jointly with the Roman institution for business training in Italy)
- Financial inclusion of young men and women entrepreneurs in the Arab region (jointly with Assala association in Palestine)
- Building capacities of Tunisian micro-financing institutions in the context of financial education (jointly with SANAD Fund for financing small and medium projects)
- The second stage of "increasing gender integration in rural development and sustainable food security" project (jointly with CIHEAM BARI)
- The second stage of "CAWTER for the exchange of information about gender" project (jointly with AGFUND)