



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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PRESENTATION

By the end of 2016, the current strategic program of the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research « **CAWTAR** » reaches its end with a number of achievements and initiatives. The program aimed at empowering women and young people and improving their knowledge and skill capacities in many Arab countries. This included a culture of citizenship, equality and non segregation; it also includes political and economic empowerment, the reinforcement of civil society capacities and valuing its role as well as other areas ...

However, the report about the Center achievements during the past years, within its strategy 2012 – 2016, would be incomplete and partial if we do not consider some of the region characteristics, its conditions and « **CAWTAR** » Center strategic choices, the main ones being :

- The three components of the strategy have been implemented (1. « Reinforcing women independence at the social, political and economic levels », 2. « Strengthening women role in achieving environmental sustainability and their role in water resources management », 3. « Providing a legal and associative environment supportive of social gender »), during this period of violence and disorder in the Arab region. Indeed, many economic, social and political principles have been shaken in a big number of Arab countries with protests and armed conflicts replacing security and stability. This affected rapidly and noticeably poverty indicators as well as development, equality, independence.

Furthermore, exodus and asylum seekers reached alarming levels. Women and children were the main victims of this situation by impoverishment, homelessness, segregation and denial of their rights.

- The implementation of the three strategy elements was indeed in line with « **CAWTAR** » vision and orientations, as the center adopted an approach that does not only consist in simply applying the activities but claimed durability and operating the real concrete change relating to the capacities of the beneficiaries of the various projects and programs even after the end of the projects in terms of administration, budget and training. The Center is ambitious about ensuring sustainability to women economic independence projects through income-earning projects and complementarity between research and education as well as opening new horizons and challenges, which were not included in the previous project.
- As an example, within the first strategy related to « Reinforcing women social, economic and political independence », the Center realized, in collaboration with the World Bank, a synthetic publication of «a collection of research studies related to the analysis of economic studies about economic independence, together with a complementary work based on the results of the studies, which relates to GERPA and social gender ». This was followed by the launch by UNIDO through women investors, in collaboration with the United Nations Organization for Economic Development, income-earning projects in favor of rural and vulnerable women in some Arab countries. Furthermore, all the past projects came out with the elaboration and implementation of a training project about «Financial education » for women, young people

and civil society.

- In line with this, the studies accomplished within the project « Strengthening leadership skills among women, ability to participate in the decision-making process and political participation » implemented by the Center, in collaboration with the International Institute for Training and Research and Women Emancipation UN-INSTRAW, confirmed that women economic vulnerability is an obstacle to their political participation. On this basis, a project was elaborated and implemented, which reinforces civil society capacities and role because of its educational and monitoring role. This also helped to oversee the real impact of violence based on social gender and to organize (the Center) many projects and activities related to this area at the national and regional levels.
- Concerning the second area of the strategy « Reinforcing women capacities to achieve environmental sustainability and their role in water resources management », the Center started with the Mediterranean Arab project about « Strengthening women role in the preservation of water resources », then elaborated social gender indicators to provide content to the world program for water and agriculture AQUASTAT, within Food and Agriculture Organization FAO, following this came the project « Social gender and water resources management » in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program Regional Office UNDP. This program, which showed concern in women participation in providing food security including water, forest and agricultural resources and reinforcing their capacities in terms of promotion and support, was backed up a common project between the German Agency for Cooperation GIZ and

« **CAWTAR** » about water ambassadors ; and another common project about integrating the concept of social gender in rural development. The project is being implemented in Lebanon, Egypt and Tunisia with the International Center for Mediterranean Higher Agricultural Studies CIHED.

- Within the third area of the strategy about « Creating the appropriate legal and institutional environment supportive of social gender », the Center devoted a number of its projects and activities to train civil society and reinforce their capacities as well as the competences of the actors so that they should be able to conduct effective negotiations, deal with difficult situations and endorse the concepts of Law and social gender. This followed the studies and research studies accomplished, which proved their role in modifying many attitudes and trends as well as providing accompaniment and support to vulnerable social categories in order to improve their ability to take advantage of public services more easily. « **CAWTAR** » Center used collaboration and partnership as a way to ensure co-ordination and complementarity between field actors and exchange success stories and expertise. In line with this, started « My paper » (a project implemented with the United Nations Development Program, which aims at improving knowledge acquisition among women and civil society most specifically by means of procedural and legal texts related to the situation and the rights of women, children and family). This project was a prelude to a wider and more thorough study, which consisted in the realization of a full program about « Women and Arab Laws ». Its main results were used in the Fifth Arab Women Development Report, which was launched in the beginning of 2015 under the patronage of His Excellence the Prince Talal IBN ABDELAZIZ and which includes 20 Arab countries.

In addition to the report « Women in Public Life: Social Gender, Laws and Policies in the Middle East and North Africa », which was elaborated in collaboration with the Development and Co-operation Organization (OCDE). Furthermore, to provide a practical and specific aspect for the project, the Center elaborated country profiles in order to improve Arab regulations related to women rights and independence. The Center also produced a flyer for each of the Arab countries included in the project. Besides, the Center is carrying on its activities and is trying to create partnerships with most Arab countries for research, follow up and upgrading. To do so, the Center will use its information and documentation system «**CAWTAR** » Reference Home for Information Exchange ».

The Center of Arab Women for Training and Research succeeded in the realization of the expected results set in its strategic plan in compliance with its road maps, approved by the Council Members and which consisted mainly in:

- ✚ Improving its constitutive capacities as a home of support



and expertise, which provides research and practical services.

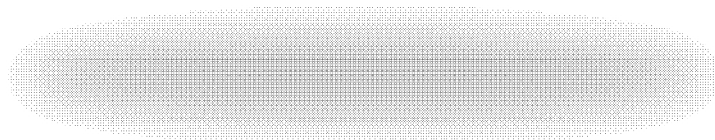
- ✚ Upgrading the capacities of its executive staff through the acquisition of more knowledge and specialization in the issues of women empowerment and development based on law and social gender even though they are now recognized as competences at the national and regional levels.
- ✚ Widening partnerships and networking within the countries and at the Mediterranean and regional levels. Indeed, the Center succeeded to establish itself among many Arab research centers and institutions such as the Euro-Mediterranean Women Organization – FFEM ; the Euro-Mediterranean Institute – IEMED ; the Francophone University Association – AUF ; the Common Center for European Universities of Human Rights and Democracy – EIUC ; the International Development and Law Organization – IDLO ; the World Program on Media and Women – GMMP ... The Center is also called to transfer its expertise and experience to some African Non-Arab countries.

Presently, « **CAWTAR** » Center, strong with its experience and its regional and international location, is in the preparation process for the elaboration of its new strategy for 2017 – 2021, using its success stories and the lessons learned from its past experience, whether positive or negative. For example, the Center is planning the launch of the « Center of Excellence in Financial Education », which will be a tool for the materialization of the recommendations in a number of studies related to providing information and competence to women and young people who plan to launch their own economic projects and also to civil society associations so that they can improve at the institutional as well

as the personal levels. This center will be a new basis of work added to the existing tools used by « **CAWTAR** », which are : « **CAWTAR** » Reference Home for Information Exchange, « **CAWTAR** » Center for Training journalists and the Arab Network of Social Gender and Development « **ANGED** ».

OVERVIEW :

- The Center Fifteenth Secretaries Council meeting was organized with the participation of the Board Members and some of the strategic partners, which highlighted the achievements of the Center in terms of progress (January 2015 – Morocco)
- Participation in the fifth meeting of the High Committee for reinforcing development partnership between the associations of « **AGFUND** » and their partners (January 2015 – Morocco).



- Reception in the Honor of the Center Executive Director during the Arab Women Day, within the activities of Arab Women Commission at the Head Office of the Arab League (February 2015 – Egypt)



- Partnerships with Mediterranean or regional organizations and joining them as members to reinforce the position of the Center as a Home of Expertise in women issues and social gender in the Arab region. The Center, represented in the person of its Executive Director is:
- A member in the Advisory Board of the Arab Association for Social Sciences

- A Founding Member and Deputy President of the Euro-Mediterranean Women Association -FFEM

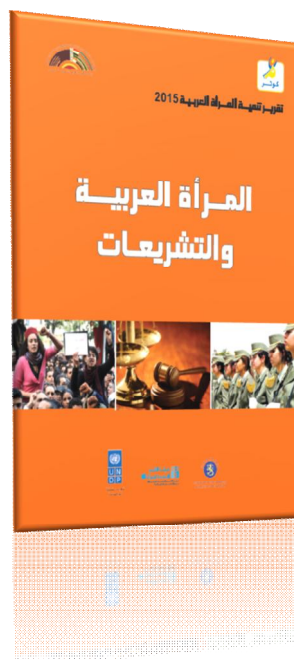


- Election of the Center Director as a Member of the Advisory Board of the World Organization for Law and Development – IDLO during its last meeting in Rome (November 2015) ; this latter is a national government organization based on the dual patronage of law and development, aiming at ensuring a respectful life for all through the dissemination of justice culture.
- President of the Commission of the Francophone Leading Women Network in the Universities and Research Centers for the Francophone University Agency – AUF.



SECTION ONE: CHAPTERS OF THE STRATEGY

On the basis of the amount of knowledge accumulated in terms of women participation in public and political life, « **CAWTAR** » Center concluded that women economic vulnerability is one of the main obstacles to women effective and durable participation in public and political life. Furthermore, women in the Arab region are victims of juridical illiteracy, which handicaps them from enjoying their rights. In addition to this, women live in a juridical environment with many gaps at the level of achieving equality between the two sexes, which calls for greater efforts to inform them about their rights and make important reforms.



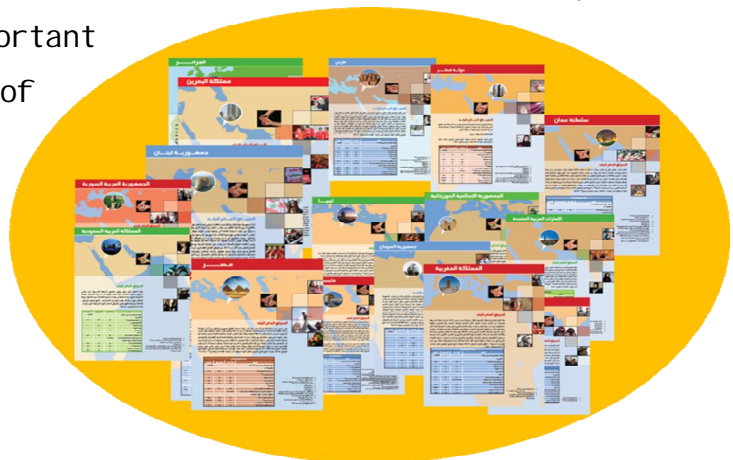
I. LAWS POLICIES AND WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC LIFE

1. Endorsing the participative approach for a better knowledge about Arab Women and Laws

The project « Arab Women and Laws » was implemented on the basis of the participative approach in analyzing and comparing rights in one single country. During its implementation, the project gained the commitment and support of the Arab Gulf Development Program – AGFUND ; the United Nations Development Program – UNDP ; the United Nations Organization for Gender equality and women empowerment –

UNWOMEN ; the United Nations Development Program – UNDP and the Organization for Economic Development – OCDE. The Arab League also participated and specifically in the debate of the preliminary results of the report « Arab Women and Laws » within two seminars organized in Oman and Cairo.

The program « Arab Women and Laws » was followed by a full inclusive program which included in addition to the **Report on Arab women development – AWDR**, the elaboration of **country profiles and flyers** (in both English and Arabic) related to areas of equality for women and gaps in the Laws in twenty Arab countries ; they are also related to developing **an interactive platform for declarations about the laws**, which is related to women rights and will include an important comprehensive amount of Arab laws.



In the beginning of 2015, was issued the **Fifth Report on Arab Women Development** on the topic **Arab Women and Laws »**

Under the High Patronage of His Excellence the Prince Talal IBN ABDELAZIZ, President of the Secretaries General Council ; this was in Collaboration with the Arab Council for Childhood in the Egyptian Capital Cairo.

Furthermore, a debate was organized concerning the country profiles and the flyers within training workshops axed around the dialogue of policies in order to reform and change, which took place in Egypt and Jordan.

The conclusions of the program « Arab Women and Laws » are based on the analysis of Arab women situations, their legal rights as per the constitutions and related to political, civil and economic rights and family and child laws as well as laws related to penalties ... to draw similarities in rights and gaps, in terms of :

Rights and liberties and public and political participation

Right to education and training

Women rights in the family

Right to healthcare, protection from violence based on social gender

Right to a decent job and related social rights

Right to sue and get justice

International Conventions and Agreements

Procedures and strategies to enforce international commitments

2. « Transformation leadership » : a new concept towards alleviating obstacles and providing opportunities for women public and political participation

A regional qualitative study which examines a newly-designed concept « Transformation leadership » in four countries (Tunisia, Palestine, Morocco and Yemen).

In fact, the concept « Transformation leadership » appeared as one of the strategies used by effective women

to face the obstacles meeting them in public life. Hence, the study highlights

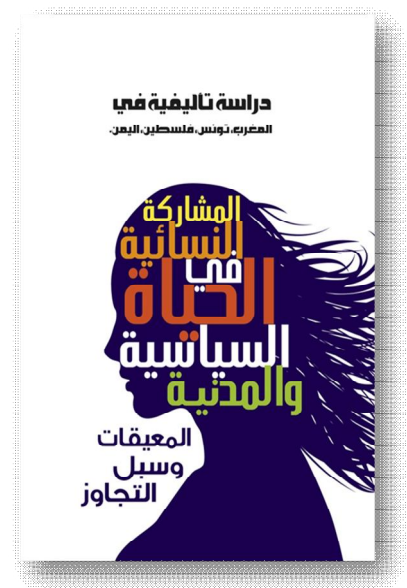
new models of ordinary women who operated transformation in their societies.

The study, which will be published in 2016 is included within a whole project related to women

transformation leadership in The Middle East and North Africa « AMAL », Which is undertaken by « **CAWTAR** » in collaboration with OXFAM Organization.

Furthermore, the Center endeavored to publicize the project and create around it a momentum that includes varied target categories through :

- Launching an electronic forum and a page on the social communication site Facebook to exchange information about transformation leadership and various activities of the



partners at the regional level. The objective of the forum is to develop dialogue relating to « Women Transformation Leadership » as it is a newly- designed concept.

- Issuing an electronic magazine « Transformation Leaders », which will include news about the project with portraits of women leaders and information about women transformation leadership, with the participation of members from « **CAWTAR** » **network** for journalists (within 'ANGED' network)
- Launching the competition for the best documentary film about « Leadership and women participation in public and political life ». The Center received ten films; the first prize was granted to a film entitled « Salma » from Tunisia by the film director Mohamed BEN ATTIA ; the second prize was granted to the film entitled « Meriam » from Palestine by the film director Abderrahmane ELHAMRANE ; the third prize was granted to the film « Outside the frame » from Palestine by the film director Riham GHAZALI.

II. ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE FOR WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The activities of « **CAWTAR** » Center granted increasingly greater attention to the issue of women economic independence and variety at many levels, the selected topics as well as intervention areas and target categories.

1. Developing knowledge in the area of economic research

One of the first concerns of « **CAWTAR** » Center in terms of women economic participation was the integration of the social gender in the economic research studies, this was through the initiative « GERPA », which was launched in partnership with the World Bank and with the end, this year, of the publication that includes 19 research studies within 27 other research studies realized in the

framework of this initiative.

Integrating the social gender in economic studies GERPA

« Initiative of Economic Research Studies Concerned with Social Gender and Policy Analysis » « GERPA » is a common initiative of the World Bank and « **CAWTAR** » Center, which is implemented in the form of a research competition mainly and is the first of its kind in the Arab world. Indeed, it is the first competition between researchers specialized in economics in the Arab region. It aims at encouraging social and economic research concerned with social gender. The participants are researchers (men and women) at doctorate and post-doctorate level within a participative evaluation process. The two institutions insisted that each step of the project should be translated into tools, which aim at making the research results known to decision-makers and the academic community in and outside the region. The project provided the researchers with necessary mentoring to guarantee a high level that corresponds to international research methods and tools. Hence, the scientific committee included the elite among Arab and international experts and was chaired by Professor Gary Baker, Nobel Prize of economics.

The series of competitions succeeded in recruiting 60 research participations from different countries in the region with over ninety researchers (men and women). 27 of them were selected for support and were debated in many scientific events in Tunisia, Egypt and the United States of America. 19 of the best research studies were selected to be compiled in a book published by Routledge, a leading edition in terms of economic research.

« **CAWTAR** » Center renewed its partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization UNIDO to produce a study about women investors in six Arab countries. Furthermore, the Center, in

collaboration with the Mediterranean Institute of Agricultural Sciences in Bari, elaborated another study about rural women investors.

The results and recommendations of the research studies, realized by the Center in terms of women economic empowerment thanks to support from AGFUND, World Bank and other partners, highlighted the importance of boosting financial education for women and young people as well as women investment and creating economic initiatives. The Center is working hard now on the launch of a center for training and expertise in terms of financial education.



2. Financial education as a tool to reinforce citizenship and women and youth empowerment

In line with its strategic objectives, the Center is undertaking a project about « Promoting Women and Young People Financial Inclusion in North Africa and the Middle East » with funds from the World Bank WB in Tunisia, Egypt and Morocco.

Financial education has a crucial role in the achievement of financial inclusion, i.e. accessing and using financial services. This helps the individual to make sound financial decisions and positive interaction with the providers of the financial services. This also gives fund providers more capacity to meet people's financial needs, most particularly in managing economic crises, launching economic initiatives and accessing investment. The Center orientation to deal with this area stems from its belief that every citizen (men and women) from all categories and all ages has the right to a decent financial education as one of citizenship components.

The project achieved many important results at three crucial levels :



a/ Needs analysis

- Three qualitative studies about the obstacles handicapping women's and young people's access to micro-credit services in Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt,
- A personalized study of the situation in terms of financial inclusion in Tunisia,
- A personalized study related to initiatives about financial education in Tunisia,
- A study about upgrading digital finance to promote financial inclusion in Tunisia.

The main conclusions of these studies:

- Limitations within financial services that correspond to launching or backing small projects,
- Target categories' lack of information related to existing financial services and institutions and difficulty to deal with them as well as lack of information about the tools to make sound financial decisions such as planning and savings,
- Absence of a national strategy for financial education in Tunisia or any other tool to co-ordinate and upgrade this sector at the national level. Nevertheless, many actors started to implement initiatives related to financial education targeting various categories (women, young people, immigrants, credit institutions' agents ...) using traditional tools and support means as well as new ones in some cases,
- Financial inclusion opportunities seem to be huge in Tunisia. However, many challenges still need to be dealt with, in addition to short-term planning.

b/ Capacity building

- Elaboration of a platform for financial E-learning
- Training 63 trainers in the area of financial education in Tunisia and Egypt
- Achieving 38 training sessions in Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco, with 760 beneficiaries from various categories (micro-credit institution clients, craftswomen, job seekers ...)
- Training 35 employees from micro-credit institutions in Tunisia and Egypt in trainer training in the area of



financial education.

c/ Exchanging experience and expertise

- Supporting the participation of 6 trainers from Egypt and Morocco in the annual Conference SANABEL in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, in September 2014.
- Elaboration of many sensitization tools in terms of financial education (videos, radio announcements),
- Organization of a regional Conference in Tunis (April 2015)

under the title « Boosting Financial Education to Promote Financial Inclusion in the Middle East and North Africa », with 90 participants from the Arab region and elsewhere.

One of the important results of the project is that the Center has become a specialist in the area of financial education, through the specialization of the team working on the project in terms of trainer training and the creation of financial education tools and also thanks to trainers working with the Center (who have been trained), who are ready to provide help. Lately, the Center received many requests from various parts (Micro-credit banks, associations ...) relating to the implementation of some of the Center activities in terms of financial education.

3. Launching income-earning projects for rural women

a/ Income-earning projects for women in Tunisia :

Despite the end of the period planned for the implementation of the two projects of Wadi Sbaihia and Ghedir in the Governorates of Zaghouan and Jendouba in the north of Tunisia (targeting 250 women and their families) and the disbursement of the budgets reserved for the projects, « **CAWTAR** » Center insisted on following them up and ensuring the continuation of their gains, the Center accomplished:

- visits to check and evaluate both projects in order to identify the difficulties facing them and participated by providing financial and technical support to help them overcome these difficulties and sustain their advantages for the women concerned.

- An external evaluation operation about the impact of the project in the area of 'Ghedir' on the beneficiaries and their families.

- Repairing some of the tools and providing necessary facilities for production, commitment to support their participation in the

annual national agricultural fair in Tunis (October 2015) ; this helped to promote their produce.



b/ Economic Independence Project for women in Palestine

Women economic independence project in Duqqu, Palestine (70 marginalized rural women and their families took advantage of it) is in its last stages; an evaluation operation of the project will be undertaken in the near future. The project consisted in technical support and supervision of the installation of the press unit and buying equipment for women in Beit Duqqu, Palestine.

Therefore, women were able to produce, in 2014, 1000 kg of grape mix and realized a profit of 13000 American Dollars for the press unit.



c/ Economic independence for rural women in Senegal :

Provided the expertise gained by the Center in terms of economic empowerment for rural and poor women, thanks to the success realized through the projects undertaken in this area in Mauritania, Soudan and Yemen (OFID). Tunisia, Palestine (OXFAM and the Islamic Bank of Development) and in compliance with its Executive Board recommendations, the Center started transferring its experience to Senegal by launching two income-earning projects for over 200 women in four rural areas in Senegal (a project of processing and marketing agricultural production ; a project to launch a chicken farm).

This initiative is in its last preparation process steps after the official agreement of the two strategic partners, the Islamic Bank of Development and the Arab Bank for Development in Africa. « **CAWTAR** » Center made a field visit to Senegal to examine the situation and identify the challenges and opportunities. A second visit was made to the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa in Khartoum, which was crowned with agreement to fund projects in Senegal and Ivory Coast.

III. FIGHTING VIOLENCE BASED ON SOCIAL GENDER TO REINFORCE WOMEN AND YOUNG GIRLS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE

Violence based on social gender is one of « **CAWTAR** » Center's central topics, which is dealt with in different ways and methods ; the Center is trying to improve its activities relating to this area through many partnerships and within many projects as violence represents a handicap towards women and young girls economic and political independence.

Within this framework, several achievements were made during 2015 :

- **At the level of sensitization :** A sensitization film « Sexual violence against women and young girls in the Arab countries in times of peace or conflicts.

The film Deals with the various aspects of sexual

violence (rape, Sexual harassment, forced marriage of girls, female Circumcision ...) as well as the Conventions and Legal Documents related to it.

The film was broadcast to celebrate the International

Women Day in the presence of representatives from

associations involved in fighting violence against

women and journalists.

- **At the level of training :** Elaboration of a **training guide** relating to the decision of the United Nations 1325 and fighting violence based on social gender in times of peace and war, for the use of civil society associations, police, media and religious leaders ; this was in collaboration with Economic and Social Commission of West Asia – ESCWA. The guide included sensitization messages



elaborated with the participation of religious leaders.

« **CAWTAR** » Center was keen to reinforce the capacities of civil society and media activists as well executives from the Home Office in the area of archiving cases of violence against women and protesting against the Home Office relating to violence based on social gender in collaboration with AGFUND and ESCWA.



IV. Reinforcing young people and local associations capacities



Reinforcing young people and civil society capacities was one of « **CAWTAR** » Center's crucial areas of activities, aiming at supporting them to endorse a central role in inclusive human resources development and to establish principles of freedom, good governance and democracy. The Center is continuing to reinforce young people capacities and civil society activists in various area on the basis of the their needs on the one hand and the requirements of the period on the other hand.

1. Upgrading civil society capacities

The Center endeavored to meet the needs of various categories among effective associations within civil society structures in terms of training and accompaniment. It launched programs aiming at peaceful management of conflicts, encouraging women investment and reinforcing economic rights of working women...

Furthermore, the Center holds tools for collaboration and exchanging expertise and experiences among executives within civil society, in addition to its efforts to **strengthen women eligibility to leadership positions and their participation in the community development**. This was within a common project with the American Association of Development HANDS, which allowed 11 young people (girls and boys) from Tunisia in counterpart of 8 young girls and two boys from the United States to go on study journeys, during three years. Another project presented a capacity building opportunity for 171 executives from associations active in the area of women investment. This was within an inclusive training program about « **Leading women and women investment** » in collaboration with the Mediterranean Agency for investment.

Accompaniment and peaceful management of conflicts : In society,

conflicts are varied and numerous as they stem from the varied and numerous social frameworks and cultural specifics that link social groups together. Today, civil society components are aware about the conflicts and disputes within their local environments. They consider that settling these conflicts is one of the issues calling for civil society interfering to alleviate their impacts. Accordingly, within a study carried out by « **CAWTAR** » about « The capacities of Tunisian civil society associations in the post revolution period and their role in settling local social conflicts », the civil society expressed its need for training and capacity building in terms of mediation and conflict management between the various local actors (local authorities, civil society, institutions, individuals ...). To meet this, « **CAWTAR** » selected, among 42 local organizations, 13 non governmental organizations and 168 of their executives to reinforce their capacities in terms of accompagnement and peaceful management of conflicts. In a second step, these organizations transferred their acquisitions in terms of learning to 97 partner organizations through training in one of the following specialization : communication techniques between individuals, leadership skills and the art of rhetorics and making presentations ... in collaboration with the Open Society Foundation – OSF.

Safeguarding the rights of women working in the informal sector :

Women working in the informal sector are victims their ignorance about their rights, the difficulty to access their rights, and the lack of social protection and social dialogue ... Achieving equality between the two sexes in the working environment and overcoming the obstacles to make equality a reality to the benefit of all, is considered as an urgent and priority issue. This is why the regional project accomplished in partnership with Ford Foundation

– FF participates in upgrading practical models in order to protect the rights of women working in the informal sector. This is done through capacity reinforcement of 3 civil organizations in Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt and the creation of a space for dialogue, co-ordination and exchanging expertise in additions to the compilation of success stories in terms of protecting working women rights, improving their work conditions and publicizing this. The project also aims at increasing awareness among 200 women working in the informal sector (women working in farming, crafts, trade ...) about their rights, labor law, social security and financial education ...

Launching a local initiative to reinforce equality between men and women : Provided its status of founding member within the Federation of Euro-Mediterranean Women – FFEM, « **CAWTAR** » Center assisted seven organizations from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon ; Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia, which are active in the area of achieving equality between the two sexes, in order to launch local participative initiatives to recruit local actors with the objective of reinforcing equality between men and women. The project allowed, in its first phase throughout 2015, to identify the policies related to equality between men and women related mainly to participation in political, economic, civil and social life and to compile successful practices in this area. The project partners are preparing for the second phase to design new programs and initiatives to fill the gaps identified during the first phase. The program is achieved in partnership with the Euro-Mediterranean Institute – IEMED and is financed by the European Union and the French State.

2. Empowering Arab young people

« **CAWTAR** » Center is keen to accompany and analyze the momentum Arab young people undergo and its impacts on them and the way it

affects their representations and visions relating to many issues. In this concern, « **CAWTAR** » is

Undertaking a regional project over two years (with the support of the European Union and in partnership with 123 research centers in countries around the Mediterranean countries and under the supervision of (CIDOB) about empowering Arab



young people in the North and East Mediterranean. The project is called « SAHWA » and includes various components aiming at a better understanding of the reality of Arab young people today.

The implementation of the project started in 2015 and progress is ongoing in terms of implementing its components :

- Execution of a qualitative study about « Visions and representations of young people within the political, economic and demographic transformations » and a quantitative study with about ten thousand young people (girls and boys) in five Arab countries (Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Lebanon and Algeria). The study helped to compile and provide an important amount of declarations and data related to the real situation of Arab young people.
- Progress in the realization of a biography and a documentary film, which gave the opportunity to young people to express their visions and representations and which reflects the variety of their situations and careers.



V. ENFORCING WOMEN COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND TO THEIR PROGRAMS

« **CAWTAR** » Center has always been committed to enforcing women commitment to the work and objectives of international conferences, which are related to the Center areas of activity and interference.

The Center is also keen to keep inline with the engagements of the international community in terms of promoting women and young people issues as well as their empowerment, rights and fighting segregation, exclusion and marginalization.



Within this framework, the Center endeavored, during the past year, to support the role and executives of civil society organizations aiming at enforcing and backing the commitment of the countries towards International Conferences and their programs (International Conference on Population and Development after 2014, World Conference on Women 20+, Objectives of the Millennium 15+ ...). In this context, the Center organized preliminary advisory and evaluation meetings relating to commitment implementation progress and to reinforce the commitment of civil society and media executives in terms of supervision and follow up of the achievement progress. It is also backing up the efforts aimed at support and approval for the inclusion of the objectives agreed internationally within national development plans. In this context, the achievements were :

1. Reinforcing Arab organization commitment to support the international conferences programs

Arab organization commitment to support population and development issues, established in 2012, which the Center continues to support and supervise, includes a programa that is being implemented at the national level before and after the extraordinary meeting of

the United Nations Organization, which was devoted to adopting that program and its objectives, 25 – 27 September 2015 :

- Creation of working groups from civil society in some Arab countries (Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco, Palestine, Soudan, Djibouti ...) who elaborated information and support activities at the national level. The various events came out with recommendations calling mainly for the need to include sustainable development objectives within national development plans in compliance with the challenges in each country and women situations at all levels.
- Increasing and organizing the participation of the alliance members to continue the preparation of the program for 2030 and the objectives of sustainable development, among these :
 - ✓ Participation of the alliance members and « **CAWTAR** » Center in the activities of the High Level Arab Conference on « Progress achieved in the implementation of Beijing declaration after twenty years (organized in Cairo in February 2015, by the Arab League and ESCWA). The delegation participated in the elaboration of civil society declarations calling for reinforcing policies and programs aimed at women empowerment, upgrading partnership with civil society executives and the necessity to focus on the difficult situation of Arab women in the areas of conflicts, wars and occupation.
 - ✓ Participation of « **CAWTAR** » Center to the activities of the Parliament Members Conference on population and 2030 sustainable development objectives, which was organized by the European Union Commission for family organization – Regional Office for the Arab world (Jordan, November 2015). The participation consisted in presenting recommendations,

which could improve the Arab regulatory systems and this would improve women situation and rights and guarantee inclusive development in the Arab countries.

2. Spreading knowledge about international conferences and sustainable development objectives

« **CAWTAR** » Center contributed to disseminate information about international conferences and the level of achievement of its objectives in the region and at the country levels. The Center also helped civil society organizations and the media to engage in the new program for 2030, which was approved by the international community during the extraordinary meeting of the United Nations Organization in New York, in September 2015. In this context, the Center's main achievements are :

- Elaboration of two information publications : The first one was axed around the three aforementioned inter-related international conferences ; they addressed the media and civil society components in the Arab countries and aimed at disseminating the exact information and participating to support activities as well as gaining approval about the issue of women empowerment and its relation with development. The second publication was axed around 2030 development program and sustainable development objectives. It included a summary of the evaluation of the progress in the achievement of the Millennium Development Objectives as well as a presentation of the new program framework, its basics, specifics and objectives with a simplified inclusive approach. This document, which was produced in partnership with the Tunisian Organization for Reproductive Health, was used in the elaboration of sustainable development indicators at the national level in Tunisia, Soudan and Djibouti.

- Elaboration and publication of a guide for journalists (men and women) about international conferences dealing with women, development and population ; organization of three workshops in Morocco, Jordan and Tunisia, which tackled the contribution of journalists in the dissemination of information about development and population issues and their inclusion in national strategies and policies as well as participation in calling for integrating sustainable development objectives and indicators within national development policies and programs.
- Preparation of a radio information announcement about the three inter-related international conferences, which was presented and distributed during various events such as the sixteenth meeting of the Presidents of the National Councils and Commissions, organized in Cairo, March 2015.

3. Commitment to international activities for rights and fight against segregation and exclusion

- **Strengthening civil society organization commitment to the Arab League policies :** « CAWTAR » Center integrated the project « Strengthening Civil Society Commitment to the Arab League », which aims at the reinforcement of civil society organizations commitment to the Arab League policies and decisions. The objective of the project is to upgrade civil society organization capacities to impact the decision making process in the Arab League as well as create opportunities for communication and concertation between the Arab League and civil society organizations.
- **The 16-day campaign to fight violence against women :** The Center participated in the activities of the 16-day campaign to fight violence against women, which was organized by the

United Nations Women Commission, the United Nations High Representation for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Program and the United Nations Fund for Population. The campaign included sensitization activities and programs about the types of violence against women and the main services to help women who flee violence.

- **Annual celebration of the international day of the handicapped** : The Center participated in the activities celebrating the international day of the handicapped organized by « IBSAR » an organization, within « **CAWTAR** » network, working for the education and entertainment of the blind in Tunisia. During the first session of the international festival of the blind, organized within this framework, « **CAWTAR** » Center was rewarded for its efforts related to the handicapped rights and the fight against their exclusion and marginalization. We should notice that the celebration of the international day of the handicapped aimed at reinforcing the understanding of handicaps and increasing support to human beings' dignity and well being to this category.



Following a decision from the United Nations, the date of December 3rd each year was adopted as international day for the handicapped ; this was as a prelude to establish regulations to improve the handicapped situation and provide equal opportunities for them.



PART TWO : SUPPORT TOOLS

I. THE MEDIA AS AN EFFECTIVE PARTNER

The Center, throughout its programs related to the media, is searching for the way the media should tackle women issues and to build journalists' capacities in the area of analyzing and examining these issues in addition to the creation of a momentum to support women and establish an objective examination of these issues.

1. Reinforcing information

In line with the changes in women image in the media, the Center enriched its knowledge stock related to « Women and the media »

during 2015 with three studies and reports axed around the following topics : 1) Arab women in the hypohetic debate, study of women representations in the traditional media on Facebook », in partnership with AGFUND. 2) Role of Arab media in deciding the national agenda for women rights, in partnership with AGFUND and the United Nations Commission and the United Nations Development Program ; 3) The image and presence of men and women in the news in Tunisia, within the international program of media coverage 2015.



The main results of these studies are :

Arab women in the hypothetic debate :

-Men are more concerned than women with women issues. However, this does not reflect support to women issues but often takes the form of irony, lack of respect, harsh language that diminish women and degrade them.

-Social media could present a space for new types of domination, silence, intimidation and absenteeism.

-The messages in the media related to women are interpreted within religious, political, cultural and conservative frameworks.

-Technological modernization and open opportunities to interact and communicate does not necessarily lead to reinforcing the desire to be open to others, contrary to that, it could present new opportunities to aggress women.

The role of Arab media in deciding the national agenda for women rights

-The studies examined are based on a simple statement about women presence, their image in the media discourse and the factors affecting its trends and objectives without any research or justification providing practical, juridical or statistical data.

-Raising women rights issue within a claim or sensitization context without specifying or analyzing these rights or developing their content.

-Difference in tackling women rights from one country to another

and dealing with these rights like any topic according to the specifics of the country and the ongoing situation.

-Avoiding to tackle some « sensitive » rights and leaving them with the « unspoken of rights », and these are most often the debatable rights at the social, ideological and religious levels... such as the right to nationality and the right to heritage.

Image and presence of men and women in the news

-The media continue segregating against women as the presence of men was overwhelmingly higher than women in most of the media examined.

-Women are not yet aware of the importance of including the concepts of 'rights' and 'social gender' when tackling the news as it appears that women journalist show little concern when dealing with issues related to rights and social gender.

-The conclusions revealed that the news remain within the same model images except in some cases when they deal with stars or science and health. Furthermore, there is no trace of any concern with the issue of equality between the two sexes in most published novels or stories.



2. Capacity building

- Organization of two training sessions for 20 journalists (men and women) within the Independent High Instance of Audio Visual Media and 20 executive journalists from many Tunisian media about tackling women issues from a social gender optic by the media,
- Organization of a training session about the techniques of media report making within world media reporting project, for the members of the Tunisian reporting team.



3. Reinforcing the media momentum

- Launching the competition of the best press article in its 14th session on the topic « Decentralization and its impacts on the situation of Arab women » (with support from the International Union for Family Organization – Regional Office for the Arab World – IPPF).

- Announcement of the results of the 13th session about « Women participation in the elections », in which participated 12 journalists (men and women) from Algeria, Egypt, Soudan, Yemen, Palestine and Tunisia,
- Publication of 3 issues of the periodical magazine « CAWTARIET », which looks into Arab women issues. The issues were produced by 15 journalists among « **CAWTAR** » journalist network.
- Participation within the media reporting project on reporting the image of the presence of men and women in the news ; Participation in the elaboration of the academic background for the university of Bir Zeit, Palestine about Social gender and the media,
- Membership in the academic commission within the High Independent Instance for Audio Visual Communication in Tunisia to identify the situation of women in audio visual communication.

II. ARCHIVING AND ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE OF INFORMATIKON ABOUT SOCIAL GENDER

The Center is keen to manage its knowledge stock and transform it into electronic stock available on many sites and commits to update, review and improve it constantly in addition to periodical updates of the various rules and declarations.

Novelty in 2015 : In 2015, noticeable progress was made in the project for upgrading the electronic stock through the implementation of the digital system ICLOUD, which gathers the Center's web sites and the declaration bases and allows follow up and improvement of all the contents : the reference home for

The activity of the Center this year consisted in upgrading and improving the following sites :

<http://www.genderclearinghouse.org>

[illegible]

44

number of visitors this year compared to past years because of the works aiming at improving it on the new system "I CLOUD"; the number of visits reached 5124 from 25 countries.

The Center was keen to introduce its reference home for information exchange relating to social gender in 2015 during the activities of many high level events, which it attended, such as:

- High Level Meeting of Women Commission in parallel to the launch of the Fifth Arab Women Development Report about "Arab Women and Laws", January 31st and February 1st 2015 in the Head Office of the Arab League in Egypt.

- Arab High Level Conference on the progress achieved in the implementation of Beijing Declaration and program after twenty years: Towards justice and equality for women in the Arab region; it was organized in Cairo on February 2nd and 3rd 2015 under the patronage of the Arab League, ESCWA and the United Nations Commission for Women.

- The first meeting of the commission to facilitate the project of reinforcing collaboration between regional civil society institutions and the Arab League, which was organized in Beirut on February 9th – 10th , 2015 at the Head Office of the Network of Arab Non Governmental Development Organization.

- A workshop, the first within the framework of the project "Reinforcing civil society commitment to the Arab League", which took place in Tunis on March 20th – 23rd, 2015

- World Social Conference, which took place in Tunis on March 24th -28th, 2015.

2. Launching an Interactive Platform on Arab Women and Laws

www.arabwomenlegal.org

Within the framework of an inclusive project, gathering the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research "CAWTAR", "AGFUND", the United Nations Development Program and the United Nations Commission for Women, on "Strategic tools to boost equality agenda based on social gender, the juridical system and women rights in the Arab world", an Interactive Platform about Laws related to women rights in the following areas: "Rights, Liberties and civil and political participation"; "Rights inside the family and women, right to grant their nationality to their children"; "Protection from violence based on social gender"; "the right to healthcare, education and training" ...

The Platform includes an interactive map, which facilitates a quick and easy access to information; the declaration base was fed with 5554 juridical documents and 400 laws (juridical reference) from 20 Arab countries (Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrein, Tunisia, Algeria, Irak, Morocco, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Kuwait, Mauritania, Syria, Soudan, Oman, Qatar, Lebanon, Djibouti and Yemen).



3. Creation of the electronic system GBV HUB on fighting violence based on social gender:

As a result of the partnership between CAWTAR Center and the Regional Office of the United Nations Fund for Population, and the Center deep belief in the value of the reference home for information exchange , a regional electronic center for knowledge was created around the topic fighting violence based on social gender by installing the electronic system GBV HUB, which compiles all the documents on the topic (reports, statistics, laws, studies, video films), in partnership with different Agencies of the United Nations Fund for Population UNFPA

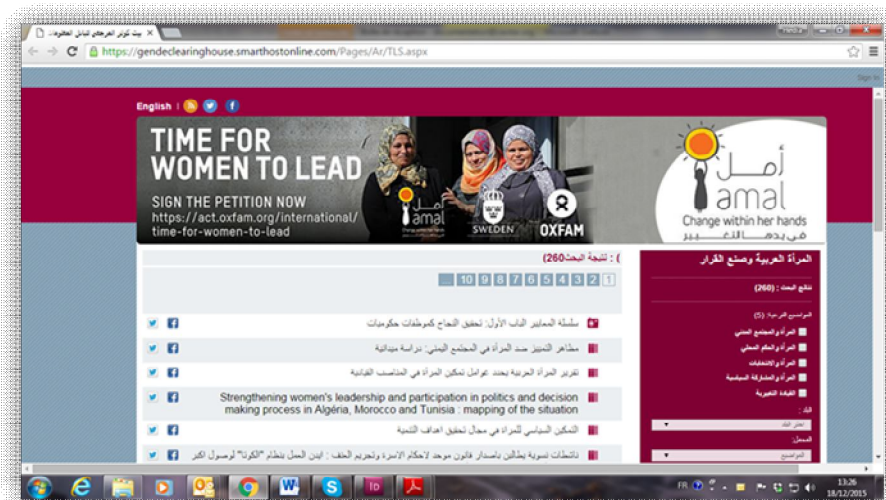


4. Creation of a specialized page on women transformation leadership and political participation:

In order to make available its knowledge stock on the topics

transformation leadership and women political and public participation through its reference home for information exchange, “CAWTAR” Center achieved the following;

- Creation of the section “transformation leadership”, which includes 322 copies of a series of reports, studies, essays, press articles ... within the framework of Women Transformation Leadership in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa (in partnership with OXFAM)
- Launching a base **for studies and research studies on women political participation in the Middle East and North Africa** , which includes a glossary for the studies and research studies on women political participation in the Middle East and North Africa ; the study was published between 2005 – 2014 and it includes 500 references in Arabic, English and French in collaboration with the university of Sokholm.



III. MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENT

“CAWTAR” Center sought to ensure, during 2015, that its management achievements should be coherent with the values and accomplishments it realized in the previous years most particularly transparency, productivity and commitment to the rules and procedures. Furthermore, the Center insisted that management should support and guide the realization of the programs and activities in the best conditions and in full compliance with the Center regulations.

Indeed, the financial and management unit ensures financial and logistic supervision of all the programs and projects (preparing the provisional budget and elaborating the financial reports, elaboration of the contracts, helping with the organization of the activities, conferences and other events, paying the invoices, following up all disbursement and payment operations ...)

Moreover, “CAWTAR” Center considers building capacities among its executive staff and improving their skills as a crucial element of its strategy for the following phase 2017 – 2021, which was elaborated on the basis of the post revolution phase requirements and needs.

The Center management in 2015 was characterized mainly by the following:

- A meeting of the Center Secretaries Council with the participation of the Board Members and many international organizations (January 2015) and two meetings of the technical commission.
- Financial and management audit by a specialized external consultancy with a certification of conformity for 2014.

- Start of the inclusive control from the specialized parties in AGFUND, which is still ongoing.
- Realization of the annual inventory of the goods, possessions and stock.
- Updating the employment grid according to the programs and projects realized during the year.
- Elaboration of the annual report of the Center achievements for 2015 and the policies and programs for 2016.
- Constant tutoring of staff in the new communication technologies, and accomplishment of a technical study to link the Center with the network.

IV. NEW PROJECTS

The Centers carries on the implementation of its various project with support from its Secretaries Council and in partnership with many regional, international and United Nations organizations. The Center is open to many new initiatives for negotiations about the possibility to make projects and programs and renew concern in issues that are crucial to its activities and preoccupations. The main areas of work for 2016 are:

1. Food security for women and the reinforcing their role in natural and water resources management

Food security for women and strengthening their role in natural and water resources management represent a crucial issue to the Center as it has always sought through negotiations to undertake projects related to this topic. Indeed, the Center concluded, in the end of 2015, agreements with many parties such as the Italian Agency for Co-operation, the German Agency for co-operation, UNESCO Organization – the Regional Office in order to start the

materialization of related projects.

2. Women and young people financial education

“CAWTER” Center is conducting negotiations with AGFUND, the German Agency for Co-operation and the Saudi Fund for Development about ways to boost its programs in terms of women and young people financial education.

3. Reinforcing women capacities at the level of local leadership for a more effective participation in public life

“CAWTAR” Center is negotiating with the Middle East Partnership Initiative – MEPI a possible partnership to undertake a training program for women aiming at reinforcing their skills in terms of leadership so as to materialize their participation in public life.

4. Boosting women presence in the media at the local level

In the near future, the Center is starting, in partnership with AGFUND, the implementation of a large program on boosting women presence in the media at the local level in favor of local media and local leading women. The objective of the program is to encourage the media to tackle women issues at the local level by motivating journalists to endorse a sensitive approach towards social gender and human rights and empowering local women leaders in all the areas relating to communication skills with the media and when addressing the public.