



Center of Arab Women for Training and Research

CAWTAR

Performance Report
2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION : HIGHLIGHTS

SECTION ONE: CONTINUE WORK AND ADAPT IT TO PRESENT REQUIREMENTS

- I- Women's Political Participation and General Legislations and Policies
- II- The Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth
 - 1- Knowledge and research, including:
 - 2- Financial education and entrepreneurship
- III- Fight Against Gender-Based Violence
- IV- Build the Capacities of Local Organizations and Youth
- V- Enforcement of Commitments of International Conferences and Their Action Plans

SECTION TWO: SUPPORTING MECHANISMS

- 1. Media, an active partner
- 2. Data Exchange Clearinghouse
- 3. Administrative and financial performance

SECTION THREE: FUTURE STEPS:

New Projects in 2015

Introduction: Highlights

The situation in the Arab World continued to be volatile throughout the year 2014 due to conflicts, wars, the absence of individual and social peace and growing political and societal changes. This volatility has further aggravated the conditions of women and youth and maintained high poverty and unemployment rates, mainly among women and girls, in addition to increasing the types and intensity of violence primarily targeting women, on the basis of gender or due to family disintegration, displacement and exile.

International and regional reports have extensively emphasized indicators and analyzed the impacts of this situation, and stressed in their outputs and recommendations governments' obligations to improve the conditions of women and youth, mainly in times of crises and troubles. The international community considers these issues to be a priority in the post 2015 world development framework, which is about to be finalized.

In this regard, civil society, including the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research "CAWTAR", has fully taken responsibility and has contributed with other stakeholders to the improvement of the conditions of women and youth and to their social, economic, and political empowerment.. CAWTAR has joined this regional and international effort by adapting its action plan for the 2012-2016 period as requested and recommended by its Board of Directors.

In 2014, CAWTAR reinforced its programs and interventions throughout the region by starting new priority projects, such as the financial awareness of women and youth, decentralization and gender, and women's representations in new media. The Center also reinforced joint work with partners in most of its programs, while also opening up on regional, Arab, Mediterranean and international contexts.

Producing studies and analyzing women's conditions in various sectors remain the Center's basic mission and groundwork for its action plans and strategies. The publication of the "**Arab Women and Legislations**" Report constitutes a landmark of activities carried out in 2014. Youth also represented a major focus for several of the Center's projects aiming at reinforcing civil society structures, youth leadership, financial awareness, entrepreneurship, and research techniques and methodologies. In this regard, the "**Awakening**" (Sahwa) Mediterranean project was launched to conduct a study on youth conditions in five Arab countries.

The Center also strengthened its position and reputation through contributions made in high level international, UN and regional events, and by joining regional and Euro-Mediterranean networks to exchange experience and bolster joint work in several domains. The Center is now a member of the Arab Council for Social Sciences, a chartered expert in the MEDSPRING pool of experts providing guidance and consultancy to the European Union about Euromed projects until 2020, and is a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Women Foundation's Board of Directors (FFEM), where the Center's Executive Director is the Deputy Chairwoman.

Below are some events where the Center has made notable contributions:

- Senior-level meeting ending with the publication of a report on "**Enhancing the integration of gender in public policies**" in Middle East and North African countries, in partnership with the organization of Economic Cooperation and Development and the Arab Organization for Administrative Development (League of Arab States), in Amman, Jordan on November 17-18, 2014.

- Meeting of the Experts Team to review the regional report on progress made in the implementation of the Beijing + 20 Declaration and Work Methodologies in the Arab Region (League of Arab States, the UN Committee for Gender Equity and ASCOA); Beirut, October 22-23, 2014.
- Arab Meeting on the post-2015 development agenda monitoring framework (based on instructions made by HH Prince Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud); Tunisia, September 15-16, 2014.
- Regional consultative meeting on women's participation as a base for development in the Arab Region (UNDP); Amman, April 5-6, 2014.

In addition to CAWTAR's efforts to reinforce its operations through the data clearinghouse on gender issues and by investing in interactive information technologies offering online learning and distant training, CAWTAR also focused on media to monitor social movements with regard to the situation of women and youth, and offered media training programs to media specialists as well as to women. The media training center hosted a number of regional training programs about a wide range of topics.

CAWTAR is exploring other projects that will be formally launched in 2015, such as the revenue-generating programs for African women (Senegal and Ivory Coast) in addition to CAWTAR's financial education center.

SECTION ONE: CONTINUE WORK AND ADAPT IT TO PRESENT REQUIREMENTS

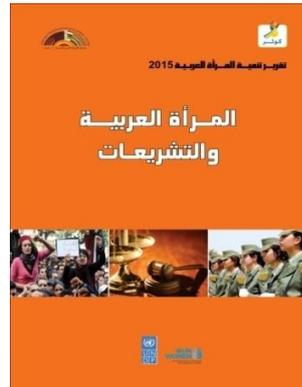
VI- Women's Political Participation and General Legislations and Policies

CAWTAR's interest continued to focus on women's political participation by investigating the main obstacles, challenges and opportunities concerning women's participation in public and political life, in the context of transformations witnessed by the region including legislative systems in force. In this regard, the Center conducted the following:

- **Report on Arab Women and Legislations**

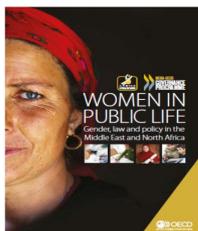
Women's rights closely depend on a set of interconnected and complex features including countries' legislative systems, historical factors, social practices, political and economic environments and their constant changes, as well as women's rights' enforcement mechanisms. In order to assess the extent to which women are actually enjoying rights by analyzing equality and discrimination features, CAWTAR has been exploring for many years the issue of Arab women and legislations, and its progress of studies has been thoroughly described in the Fifth Arab Women Development Report.

This report represents the first phase of the Arab Women and Legislations Project implemented by CAWTAR with the support of AGFUND in a partnership that has extended to also include several regional and international organizations such as the OECD, the UN Equality and Women Empowerment Commission, the UNDP and the League of Arab States.



The fifth Arab Women Development Report on Arab Women and Legislations will be launched in the framework of a high-level meeting of the League of Arab States to be held at the end of January 2015. This meeting will be preceded on January 27, 2015 by a press conference under the auspices of his HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Chair of the Board of Directors,

- **Report on “Women in Public Life: Gender, Legislations and Policies in the MENA Region” (in partnership with OECE)**



- **Study on “Local Governance and Gender”**

This study is conducted in Jordan, Libya, Tunisia and Yemen with the support of the Forum of Federations, and focuses primarily on decentralization. It was launched in 2014 and will be conducted over years to come to explore the relations between local governance and decentralization on the one hand, and gender equality and gender sensitive policy making, on the other.

- **Study on “Public Budgets and Gender Specificities: e.g. Budgets and Maternal Mortality”**

This study aims at analyzing public budgets and development plans from a gender-based perspective. It is part of a partnership project with the *International Budget Partnership* (IBP) aiming at suggesting ways to integrate maternal mortality in the Objective Based Management system (MBO), in order to adapt budgets of the ministry of health and other institutions to take in consideration the gender aspect and hence reduce maternal mortality rates in Tunisia.

- **Role of Women’s Movements in the Transitional Phase**

This was the subject of a regional conference organized by CAWTAR with the cooperation of Stockholm University in the framework of the “New types of women’s political participation in the Arab Region” project. The conference was attended by 40 researchers and academic experts from Arab and North European countries in addition to representatives of regional civil society organizations.

In addition to studies and research producing knowledge, the Center has taken part in a wide range of activities for the exchange of experience with civil society organizations and government institutions from countries on both sides of the Mediterranean, including the Council of Europe’s Parliamentary Group on “challenges and opportunities facing women’s political participation”.

- **Gender and Housing**

In the framework of a project entitled “**Towards innovative strategies to analyze housing policies and ensure access of vulnerable groups to decent housing**” implemented by the Center in Tunisia and Egypt with the support of the Ford Foundation, CAWTAR contributed to building the capacities of partner organizations in the field of housing rights, the definition of basic needs and difficulties pertaining to housing policies and women’s rights to decent housing. Cairo hosted in March 2014 the project’s final seminar to design a common approach on integrating gender and human rights in housing policies in Tunisia and Egypt, and to explore new initiatives with local organizations, research centers, local authorities and universities about the right to decent housing.

VII- The Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth

The Center has made additional efforts to empower women economically and to create economic opportunities for large and diverse categories of women and youth in order to help them to improve their conditions and the situations of their families. The Center’s work was based on three complementary pillars:

1- Knowledge and research:

- Build the capacities of economic policy researchers through the World Bank funded initiative, titled: “*Gender Economic Research and Policy Analysis*” (GERPA). The initiative that began in 2006 attracted through three successive competitions 127 proposals involving 167 researchers, of which 46 projects were selected that engaged 95 economic and other social science researchers. Out of the finalized projects 18 papers have been selected which will be published in a handbook by the World Scientific Publisher of Imperial College London. The Compendium is titled: “Women, Work, and Welfare in the

Middle East and North Africa Region” and is edited by Professor Massoud Karshenas of the School of African and Oriental Studies of the University of London and Nadereh Chamlou, former Senior Advisor of the World Bank. The publication will be launched in the summer of 2015 in the Arab region.

- CAWTAR continued to strengthen its Arab Gender Network, ANGED, which convenes experts and practitioners on diverse topics that are related to and relevant for the empowerment of women and are dispersed among the 22 Arab countries. These include technical experts in law, sociology, anthropology, statisticians, etc. ANGED has been funded by the World Bank since 2002, and has currently around 450 members. ANGED has provided a unique opportunity for CAWTAR to tap into local, national, and regional Arab expertise to support CAWTAR’s projects and programs.
- CAWTAR also served as the executing agenda for the Persian Gender Network (PGN), funded by the World Bank, that similar to ANGED convenes around 250 experts and researchers from the Persian speaking countries of Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan. Both ANGED and PGN have benefited from exchange of experiences and expertise on challenges and opportunities women face within similar socio-cultural environments. CAWTAR has also helped PGN establish a stand-alone NGO in order to carry out and sustain its operation after the completion of the World Bank project. PGN was recently renamed to “Persianate Global Network for Women’s Economic Empowerment”.
- Exchange of experience between 2014 Master and Ph.D. students and young researchers coming from southern and northern Mediterranean countries in a workshop held by the Center in Algeria in the framework of the RUSMEG network that mainly focused on economics.

2- Financial education and entrepreneurship

CAWTAR has endeavored to reinforce the quality and quantity of its interventions to further empower women by launching the “financial education center” in 2015.

2.1 Financial education (with the support of the World Bank- WB)

Financial education is one of the most important initiatives aiming at raising the awareness and knowledge of people, including investors, employees, or simply family members, as it develops their financial skills by providing them with information and guidance to help them make considered decisions about their financial transactions, which would reduce risks and difficulties they may encounter.

CAWTAR started in 2014 the implementation of the financial education project in favor of women and youth, with the following results:

At the level of knowledge and awareness:

- Execution of a qualitative study in Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt about obstacles impeding access of women and youth to micro-credits;
- Execution of a diagnostic study about financial integration and financial education initiatives in Tunisia.

At the level of capacity building:

a) Financial education:

- Production of working and follow up tools and mechanisms:
 - Design of a documentary film “Band 2 D” about the importance of preparing a personal budget for the individual and for the family;
 - Preparation of a sensitization radio spot on the same subject;
 - Design of a tracking system to follow up on trainees;
 - Beginning of an E-learning platform in the field micro-finance opportunities.
- Training sessions:
 - Organization of three ToT sessions in Tunisia and Egypt for 62 young men and women representing civil society organizations;
 - Training of trainers for 35 employees of microcredit institutions in Tunisia and Egypt;
 - Organization of 40 training sessions in Tunisian, Egypt and Morocco for the benefit of 750 men and women university graduates willing to start their own projects or receiving micro-credits;

2.2. In the field of entrepreneurship: (with the partnership of the International Youth Foundation IYF)

- Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions for 58 participants (48 women; 10 men);
- Training of 272 young men and women holding project ideas or having received micro-credits (245 young women and 27 young men);
- Coaching and mentoring 82 young trainees, 42 of whom were able to prepare a full business plan (32 young women; 10 young men);
- Training 21 young men and women in job interviewing and negotiations with private companies (18 women; 3 men);
- Training of 85 ladies from Beit Dagou in Palestine in the field of project management, women’s economic rights and handwork activities (with the support of ISDB).



3- Starting revenue generating projects:

CAWTAR’s activities in this field covered four countries:

Palestine: (with the support of the Islamic Development Bank ISDB)

Technical assistance to and supervision of a press unit, including purchase of equipment for women living in Beit Dagou in Palestine. In 2014, women were able to produce 1000 kilograms of grape juice and generate profits of 13,000 USD for the press unit.



Tunisia:

CAWTAR continued the execution of an oil factory in the region of Ghedir in Tunisia's north western area, with a production capacity of 4000 liters of olive oil, packaging and marketing.

Senegal & Ivory Coast: (with the support of the Economic Development in Africa Bank BADEA and the Islamic Development Bank ISDB).

The launch of revenue was prepared for generating projects for the benefit of women in Senegal and Ivory Coast. This new project represents a recognition of CAWTAR's experience in the field of women empowerment by helping them start their own profit-making projects, and the Center's ability to implement projects beyond the Arab Region. It also started the study of field specificities and features, identification of a preliminary list of local partners, and administrative procedures.

VIII- Fight against gender based violence

Gender-based violence has become an international priority. It is a priority in the Arab Region as well. A number of international agendas, reports, and conventions include recommendations and commitments to fight against and reduce this widespread challenge. Gender-based violence is also a major topic for CAWTAR. It has developed a range of programs and methods to address it in terms of quantity and quality in its work program.

CAWTAR worked extensively in previous years on promoting knowledge and awareness about gender-based violence. It designed two documents on policy dialogue and a legal guide, and held several information and sensitization campaigns. In 2014, the Center focused on capacity building through several training sessions and workshops to train a core group of trainers in Egypt and Tunisia, mainly selected from service providers and civil society organizations with the support of ANGED. Last year, the Center held:

- Five training workshops for service providers and trainers about the "Fight against gender-based violence, definitions, listening and classification techniques" for the benefit of government employees and nongovernment operators in Egypt and Tunisia;
- Two training workshops in Cairo about the "Fight against gender-based violence" for activists in civil society organizations;

- Capacity building programs for 16 service providers, men and women from Tunisia representing seven NGOs and government institutions, and 26 service providers, men and women from Egypt representing 16 NGOs from seven provinces.

Education and awareness raising activities:

- Participation in the 16-day-long campaign on the fight against violence targeting women;
- Production of a sensitization film on fighting against sexual violence in the public space (with the support of the Canadian Embassy in Tunis);



IX- Build the capacities of local organizations and youth

CAWTAR is well aware of the needs of the current phase that are necessary to further the major transformations undergone by countries in the region. It has therefore decided to further focus on youth and civil society organizations, mainly by holding programs to build and reinforce their capacities, skills and knowledge, and hence enable them to play a major role in the success of democratic transition and the implementation of the principles of freedom, good governance and democracy. Work mainly started on “citizenship and NGO capacity building”, which later proved to be very popular and successful in inciting some donors to renew their support to these programs. In this regard, the following was held in 2014:

- Launch of a project on “*Empowering Arab youth in the southern and eastern parts of the Mediterranean – SAHWA/Awakening*” in Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. The project includes studies and a quantitative and qualitative survey of youth in subject countries. In addition, it also included an experts workshop to prepare profile descriptions of the quality and quality studies, and two workshops to discuss the project’s methodology held in Spain and in Morocco. The project focuses on various qualitative and quantitative methodologies by performing quantity-based research and anthropological studies (with the support of CIDOB-EU).
- With the support of OSI, launch of a project on “Developing the skills of civil society in the peaceful management of conflicts” aiming at building capacities of CSOs to reinforce women’s and youth’s knowledge and awareness in the field of rights and conflict management. This is a new project covering two years building on and supporting a previous project with the same partner, aiming at training 15 CSOs through an exhaustive capacity building program;
- In the framework of the same project, production of an education video film about CEDAW;
- Implementation of a capacity-building project in the field of “Leadership and Women Investment” in partnership with the International Cooperation Agency in Marseilles (ACIM), for the benefit of 18 CSO representatives. Three training sessions were held in 2014 in the framework of this project out of five planned workshops,
- Execution of a capacity building program for Tunisian CSOs in the field of women’s economic empowerment with the collaboration of the American development association *Hands along the Nile*. This project offered a study tour to the USA for the benefit of five civil society women activists concerned about women’s economic empowerment.



X- Enforcement of commitments of international conferences and action plans

CAWTAR has been supporting civil society structures in the enforcement and implementation by countries of international agreements and action plans (Beijing + 20, MDG, Cairo ICPD + 20 ...), by holding preparatory, consultative and evaluation meetings about commitments and obligations. In this framework, the following was held:



- Consultative regional meeting of organizations working on women’s issues to support the ICPD + 20 Action Plan (in partnership with UNFPA, Cairo);
- Regional meeting for the final evaluation of the Beijing + 20 action plan, in partnership with ASCOA, the league of Arab States and the UN Commission for Women;
- Preparatory regional meeting for the international evaluation conference on the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals (with the collaboration of UNFPA Cairo);
- CAWTAR also actively participated in the international conference of the Mediterranean Union on “Women’s social and economic empowerment: projects for development” (Barcelona, March 2014). The conference aimed at exploring ways to enhance women’s social and economic status in the region and encourage projects and initiatives in this regard;



- Launch of the design of a training manual for media specialists on “Impacts of international conferences on women’s lives”.

SECTION TWO: SUPPORTING MECHANISMS

4. Media, an active partner

CAWTAR deals with the media based on a three-dimensional approach: the way media address women's issues; building the capacities of men and women journalists for the analysis and coverage of women's issues; and building capacities of women acting in public spheres to better deal and interact with the media. The Center has been trying to create a media dynamics supporting women, implement a fair and balanced coverage of media issues and monitor changes affecting women's image and presence in the media.



Reinforcing Knowledge

- A regional survey on the public perception of Arab women through conventional media conducted on social media (with the support of AGFUND);
- A report on monitoring how the media address women's issues in Tunisia;
- Preparation of a regional study on the role of Arab Media in defining national agendas on women's rights; three analytical reports were made about studies concerned by this topic in the 2005-2014 period;
- Organization of an international conference on Women, Media and Democracy: political participation and freedom of expression; in partnership with Oslo University.

Capacity Building

- Three ToT sessions on Media coverage of women's issues, in order to profit trainers from Gulf countries, North African countries, and Palestinian women and men journalists, with a total of 44 participants (supported by AGFUND);
- One media production workshop for 15 men and women journalists representing Tunisian media outlets about the Tunisian State Budget (with the support of IBP);
- One training session to profit women candidates in the legislative elections in Tunisia about how to deal with the media, for the benefit of 11 =women heads of electoral lists (with the support of IDEA);
- Six training workshops on fair media coverage of the elections targeting 150 men and women journalists in the internal regions of Tunisia (with the support of UNDP).

Reinforce Media Dynamics

- Launch of a contest to choose the best media modal in the 13th session on “Participation of Arab Women in Elections” (with the support of IPPF);
- Publication of three issues (53, 54, and 55) of the regular journal CAWTARIAT about youth and elections, in addition to a special issue on Palestine (supported by IPPF);
- Review and publication of CAWTAR’s communication strategy for the 2014-2018 period and publication of a technical manual on communication tools and strategies;
- Development of CAWTAR’s Internet web pages:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/CenterofArabWomenforTrainingandResearch>
 - You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCivSHG0eUfcb7yamv5pD3yw>
 - Twitter: https://twitter.com/CAWTAR_NGO

5. Data Exchange Clearinghouse

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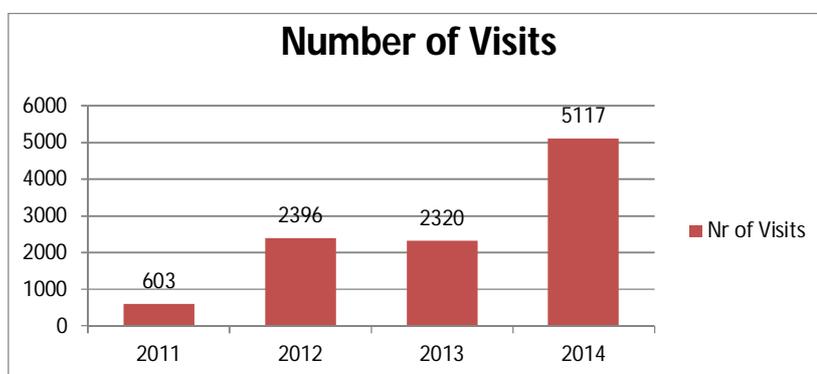


CAWTAR has made major strides in the design and implementation of its data exchange clearinghouse in order to respond to online and distant needs and requirements. The clearinghouse includes various sections, data and information at the disposal of researchers and people interested in or concerned by gender issues and development in the Arab region and beyond. The following activities were performed in 2014:

- The clearinghouse was further enhanced by adding online databases, videos, photos, and reports (with the support of AGFUND);
- 5117 visits were registered from 25 different countries;
- 570 new items were integrated in the clearinghouse including studies, media articles, reports, films, photos, links to other sites, etc.. and other resources about Arab women and political participation, Arab women and economic participation, and Arab women and decision making;

- In the framework of a partnership program between CAWTAR and OXFAM called “AMAL” (*Hope*) to support women’s leadership for change in MENA countries, a new section has been added called “**Leadership for Change**”, and includes 155 new resources such as reports, studies, articles, bulletins, etc.in Arabic, French and English;
- A studies and research database on women’s political participation in the MENA Region: in the framework of a cooperation program between CAWTAR and Stockholm University, a new index on Women’s Political Participation was set up for the 2005-2014 period, in Arabic, English and French. It includes today 452 references.

Scope of CAWTAR’s Clearinghouse:



- The number of visits to the clearing house considerably increased in 2014 compared to previous years, as it amounted to 5117 visits in the period ranging between January 1st and December 26, 2014;
- CAWTAR’s clearinghouse for the exchange of data about gender issues was promoted in various regional and national events including:
 - A regional conference on “Women’s legal and human rights for their economic empowerment in the Arab Region”, held in Cairo on September 3-5, 2014, with the cooperation of the UN Commission for Women, the League of Arab States, the Arab Gulf Development Program and the UNDP;
 - Roundtable held in Cairo on June 23, 2014 on “CAWTAR’s clearinghouse for the exchange of information about gender and development”;
 - The first meeting of the Partners Committee to define the database framework and methodology, held in Tunis on June 19-20, 2014, in the framework of a project between CAWTAR, AGFUND, UNDP and the UN Commission on Women about “Tools and Strategies to support gender-based equality agendas, the legal systems and women’s human rights in the Arab Region”;
 - Regional conference on women’s political participation on May 8, 2014, in the framework of AMAL Project to support women’s leadership for change in MENA countries, held by ANNAKHIL association in Marrakech with OXFAM;

- Sousse international book fair held on March 14-20, 2014 with the cooperation of the Arab Institute for Human Rights, Amnesty International (Tunisia Office) and the Sousse chapter of the Tunisian League for Human Rights.



6. Administrative and financial performance

CAWTAR has worked during 2014 to ensure that its administrative operation and performance entirely comply with principles previously adopted, including transparency, efficiency, and compliance with the rules and procedures. Administrative operations fully support and facilitate the Center's various programs and try to offer the best conditions in accordance with the Center's procedures manual.

The main achievements of the administrative unit during 2014 were as follows:

- Organization of the Board of Directors' meeting with the participation of members of the board and several international organizations (April 23, 2014), and organization of two meetings of the technical committee (April and November 2014);
- Organization of the Center's administrative and financial audit by an external chartered auditing firm, and patenting of the Center's 2013 balance and operation;
- Launch of the exhaustive auditing process by AGFUND's specialized units; this work is still in progress;
- Annual inventory of equipment, furniture, vehicles and stocks;
- Updating (modernization) of the functional scaling system based on programs and projects performed during the year;
- Preparation of the annual report about the Center's performance in 2014 and the main programs and orientations for 2015;
- Enhancement of the capabilities of the Center's staff through participation in various training programs and seminars according to resources available, to further develop their skills and experience, and improve their performance;
- Continuous follow-up and coaching of the staff in the field of modern technologies, and execution of a study to connect the Center to the optical fibers network.

SECTION THREE: FUTURE STEPS:

New Projects in 2015

In addition to ongoing projects, CAWTAR will launch in the course of 2015 the implementation of several new projects with donors and partners:

- 1) “Revenue-generating projects” to profit women from Senegal and Ivory Coast (with the support of ISDB and BADEA);
- 2) “Women in the informal sector” (with the support of the Ford Foundation);
- 3) “Financial education of women and youth” (with the support of the Arab Gulf Development Program)
- 4) “Build the capacities of journalists about women’s participation in local and national elections” (with the support of the Arab Gulf Development Program)