



Center of Arab Women
for Training and Research



Annual Report 2013



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ACRONYMS

AGFUND	The Arab Gulf Program for Development
@NGED	Arab Network on Gender and Development
ACT-EGYPT	Center of the Appropriate Communication Tools for Development ACT
ARADO	Arab Administrative Development Organization
CAWTAR	Center of Arab Women for Training And Research
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FF	Ford Foundation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IBP	International Budget Partnership
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IDB	Islamic Development Bank
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
IRMC	Institut de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain
LAS	League of Arab States
MEPI	U.S. Middle East Partnership Initiative
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OFID	OPEC Fund for International Development
OSI	Open Society Foundations
OXFAM	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
SFD	Saudi Fund of Development
UN ESCWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund

CAWTAR 2014: Continuing the Methodology and Coping with the Situation and Challenges

Introduction

During 2013, the Center of Arab Woman for Training and Research (hereby referred to as CAWTAR or Center) implemented a range of programs and activities in line with its 2012-2016 Strategic Plan and with the help of its national, regional and international partners. In this Plan, the Center defined its main work orientations, while taking into consideration the regional context and the fast and profound changes that vary from one Arab country to another. The transformations were at the social, economic, and political levels and for human rights as a whole, and affected the understanding and rights' approach, and affected in many cases the social system of values and, therefore, impacting women's status and the family structure.

During the past year, the Center based its actions and interventions on its accumulated experience and learned lessons, in addition to the specificities of the context and requirements of the reality. This was helpful in furthering success and avoiding shortcomings and weaknesses. The Center was also able to reinforce its commitment to principles that characterize the nature of its work as well as the formulas and methodologies of its action as herewith outlined:

- a. **Considering human development as a situation in constant transformation**, it was important to take into consideration the interrelationship of the various fields of intervention. It inevitably required that all projects, programs and interventions conducted by the Center, are in synergy and harmony. This was essential in addressing the status and social roles of Arab women and the situation of youth, since both groups are experiencing marginalization and exclusion. Dealing with these changing circumstances requires different, deeper and more effective approaches and formulas to work.
- b. **Promoting inclusion** was central in all that was planned and accomplished by the Center. The advocacy and support programs contributed to establishing a needed institutional, legislative and cultural environment and promoting the necessary official and societal support for the various projects. The training, moreover, was an intrinsic process necessary to develop the capacity of the right holders and duty bearers in order to reinforce their commitment to change and enlarge provision of opportunities, whereas research projects and studies provided in-depth knowledge of actual situations, and helped in setting up indicators for the diagnosis, planning, monitoring and evaluation and measurement of impact and change/s.
- c. **Strengthening partnership and networking** was of utmost importance of the work program. The Center developed new partnerships and creating adapted networks or

reinforcing its existing ones in its various interventions that ranged from design and implementation to follow-up and evaluation. the Center was able to stay engaged with its partners throughout the project cycle, and to adapt to changing environment.

In order to have a deeper stamp in the Arab women's empowerment process and full exercise of their rights, CAWTAR focused, in 2013, on the quantitative and qualitative development of its various work interfaces.

CAWTAR continued the implementation of its programs, and focused on anticipating strategic directions that match the requirements of the current stage.

Through maximizing interest and matching interventions with urgent needs and priorities, and through materializing a human rights-based approach in planning and implementation processes, CAWTAR did not neglect, in its various programs and projects carried out during the past year, areas of interest including women and marginalized groups representing the neediest, most excluded and hardest hit by discrimination and inequality.

The assessment and analysis phases reviewed 20 Arab States, namely Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, and Yemen. Likewise, CAWTAR's field interventions covered 14 countries: Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Palestine, Bahrain, Iraq, and Bahrain, and functioned either directly or through collaboration with local associations and community structures.

Also, CAWTAR regularly coordinated with national focal points including governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations working in the field and/or concerned by the issues covered by the projects; their experience and expertise produced a good performance and progressing implementation.

The results are planned in the logical framework of the 2012-2016 strategy and achieved around the following three main CAWTAR strategic pillars:

- 1. Political, Social and Economic Empowerment of Women**
- 2. Increased Role of Women in Environment Sustainability**
- 3. A More Favorable Policy and Institutional Environment to Address Gender Issues and Ensure Women's Exercise of Their Human rights**

2013: Numbers and indicators

Donors / Partners

AGFUND - UN WOMEN – UNDP – UNFPA - UN ESCWA – UNESCO - WB
FAO – OXFAM-Qc – OXFAM-GB - IPPF – GIZ – OSI – OFID – OCDE –
IDB- SFD- Ford Foundation – IDRC - Mercy Corps – MEPI – IBP - ACT
Egypt.

Seminars and Workshops

Number of activities : 53

Number of participants: 1590

Research

Studies and reports:

Published : 5

Not published: 2

Ongoing: 15

Clearing House:

Number of visits to the Gender Clearing House : 2490 with visits from more than 25 countries

Number of new entries in the Gender Clearing House : 872 New studies, newspaper articles, reports, films, pictures, website links posted

Training

Training modules/manuals: 4

Training Sessions: 40

Trainees: 1,006

Main Areas of Interventions

Political participation – poverty Alleviation in rural areas – Access to civil and public services – Economic empowerment – Legislations and policies supporting gender equality – Gender audit, strategic planning and gender mainstreaming in agriculture interventions - Adolescent girls – Youth & emerging NGOs in democratic transition – Gender- based violence –Human rights and innovative policies - Media reinforcement – Data & information sharing

Covered Countries

Algeria - Egypt - Iraq - Sudan - Morocco - Saudi Arabia - Yemen - Syria -
Tunisia - United Arab Emirates - Jordan - Libya - Palestine - Lebanon - Oman
- Kuwait - Mauritania - Qatar - Bahrain - Djibouti



2013 Highlights

During 2013, CAWTAR engaged with many regional and international initiatives to advocate change, including establishing membership of many networks and alliances. Some of its programs received awards and honors:

- Project on Decent Housing selected by UN-WOMEN as being **among the innovative programs and solutions that empower women economically and in the public sphere**. The project was presented during the South-South Development Expo in Doha, (Qatar, in February 2014), The Arab Regional Bureau /UNDP and the UN Office for South-South.



The Best Women Contribution Award

- "Women and Project Management in the Mediterranean" by the Institute of Public Administration and Management of the Republic of Malta won **the Best Women Contribution Award** as a recognition of CAWTAR's work on women entrepreneurship (November 2013).

- selected as a partner and **member of the Scientific Board** of "SAHWA" Project lead by CIDOB Foundation – Barcelona (Spain) "Enabling Younger Generations: Towards a New Social Contract in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean", Founded by EC.

- **Founding member** of the Euro-Mediterranean Women Foundation and **Scientific Council** of RUSE-MEG Academic and Scientific Network on gender and women (September 2013).

- founding member of the International Alliance on Gender and Media (UNESCO first Global forum on Gender and Media, Bangkok, Thailand, December 2013).

- **Advisory Committee member** of the Arab Council of Social Sciences.

- Member of **"Med Spring" project** "Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research and Innovation Gateway" (September 2013) – (Advisory committee of EC)

- Member of UNDP and Foundation for the Future think tank to support policy dialogue.

FFEM Founding Members



Part One: Adapting CAWTAR's Work to the Requirements of the Current Stage in the Arab Region

The Center was keen to cope with the existing context through its various interventions (e.g. research and field programs and activities, etc.), and thanks to its accumulated experience and best practices. In particular, it covered, through its programs, a number of Arab States currently living transitions and instability, namely Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, Sudan and Syria.

CAWTAR has accumulated experience and gained the ability to work in sensitive situations, as it learned to deal with crises and conflict situations, and invest adequately in the seized opportunities to re-create positive conditions.

1. Obstacles facing the empowerment of women are better understood

A- Women's political participation is interdependent with her social and economic status



Each new research project is based on CAWTAR's belief that empowerment of women is comprehensive and cross sectorial.

In addition to updating and enhancing CAWTAR's information and data of high quality and reliability, the results of the various assessments and situation analyses conducted on related projects, demonstrated a linkage between women's low economic participation and their lack of knowledge about their rights.

Among the most important studies' findings

- Legal culture on women's rights among women is weak¹
- The level of marginalized women's access to public services and awareness of service providers is modest and must be reinforced²
- The political empowerment of women, and their social and economic status are interdependent and interlinked³
- The emergence of new forms of women's political participation and utilization of social networks to promote this participation⁴

¹ sources and means of verification: questionnaires and interviews' results

² sources and means of verification: : follow-up reports)

³ sources and means of verification: studies' results analysis

⁴ sources and means of verification: field observation and analysis

A- Gender-Based Violence, main obstacle for women's participation in society

CAWTAR continued research on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) with a focus on the legal aspect of GBV as one of the main entrances to combat violence. The efforts were paid off in 2013 in this context:

- OECD-CAWTAR-ARADO/LAS report on "Gender, Law and Public Policy, Trends in the Middle East and North African Region", covered legislation and gender policies in 12 countries and it also covering GBV/VAW, (pre-launched in Amman on 9-11 December 2013).
- 12 legal country profiles assessing and analyzing equality achievements and remaining pockets of discrimination covering all forms of violence against women /gender-based violence throughout the life cycle including institutional forms of violence based on the CEDAW recommendation No 19 that defines any form of discrimination as violence against women.
- A Regional Study of the situation of GBV in the Arab countries.
- A guide on laws related to domestic violence in Tunisia for service providers.
- A Policy oriented paper on domestic violence in the Sudan.

c. Supporting the Rights of Women and Children through Information Technology

This project was implemented in partnership with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), which aims to provide legal knowledge through a Gender-Based Violence section and a website to inform on women rights and to answer 100 Q &A.

CAWTAR's work in 2013 consisted of the updating of the website and the CD related to a previous "initiative", launched in 2005 in partnership with UNDP and with the support of the EC, including jurisprudence.

2. Women's access to public services has improved

The studies' results demonstrated that the level of marginalized women's access to public services is limited and that the awareness of service providers on gender issues is modest and needs to be reinforced.

In Mauritania, Sudan, Yemen, Tunisia, Egypt, and Syria, CAWTAR contributed to the empowerment of women in rural/disadvantaged areas and both formal and informal sectors, through enhancing capacities of service providers, facilitating women's access to public services including: GBV, reproductive health, housing services and legal services, etc.

Women's capacities enhanced

- 100 women are aware of their human rights
- 75 service providers are more skilled to deal with marginalized women's rights
- 1,009 women able to claim higher quality services and capitalize on provided opportunities.

3. Economic opportunities for women and their families are created

A. knowledge produced : Genderize economic research

CAWTAR continued the implementation of the project with the World Bank on The Sustainable Advancement of Gender Equality (SAGE). The project that began in 2006 is being fully completed this year. One of its most important components is the Gender and Economic Research and Policy Analysis (GERPA) that aims to integrate gender issues into economic research and to attract economic researchers to the topic of gender. The project has succeeded in attracting some 97 leading-edge economic researchers, and generated various pieces of rigorous economic papers. This research is being produced as a compendium by Routledge, a leading publisher of economic books, and will be launched later this year at a high profile regional event. In addition, the SAGE project incorporated two networking components: the Arab Gender Network (@NGED), and the Persian Gender Network (PGN), which CAWTAR administered on behalf of the World Bank. @NGED was discussed earlier in the report. PGN has since been made institutionally sustainable, with CAWTAR's guidance, by establishing a stand-alone NGO in the United States so that it can tap into available grant funding for the region.

B. The case study : economic initiatives

Based on its studies covering Women's Economic Empowerment, women's access to natural resources, rural women and local development, CAWTAR succeeded in launching economic initiatives to help different groups of women (especially women living in vulnerable conditions) to increase their income and improve their lives. Achieved are:

With the support of OFID

- 319 women in Rosso, Mauritania, and their families (around 1,595 members based on an average of 5 per family), initiated a project for the transformation and storage of agricultural products.

- 250 women in Badr Al-Kobra in Sudan, and their families (around 1250 members based on an average of 5 per family), benefited from a developed workshop on sewing techniques.
- 90 women in Dhamar, Yemen, with their families (around 450 members based on an average of 5 per family), benefited from a project for manufacturing frame stands for pictures of historic landmarks.



With the support of Islamic Bank :

- 180 rural women from Wad Sbayhiya, Zaghouan, Tunisia, and their families (around 900 based on an average of 5 members per family), sustained their essential oils herbs project⁵.
- 70 women and 30 men from Al-Ghadir, Ain Draham, Tunisia and their families (around 500 members based on an average of 5 members per family), are actually living on the income of the olive oil extraction project.

With the support of the Saudi Fund of Development and the Islamic Bank

- Starting to implement the project (with ASALA association) for Women Associations in Al Qods, Palestine, for the benefit of 70 women in Bayt Duqqu, Al Qods who are disadvantaged and poor rural women, and their families (around 350 members based on an average of 5 members per family)⁶.

⁵ This project was launched in 2011-2012 in the context of the RWEPP,

⁶ This project is also a continuation of the RWEPP as regard to partnership since it is implemented by ASALA association and transfer of technology.

4. Youth and Civil society transformative role is reinforced

In 2013, the Center continued its efforts in creating bridges of communication and dialogue among civil society organizations, and between them and government structures to facilitate joint action. CAWTAR worked also in building their capacities, while targeting in particular the emerging NGOs to lead constructive dialogue, and adopt human rights and gender-based approaches in addition to acquiring necessary skills to deal with the challenges at local and national levels (more than 200 associations partnered with CAWTAR).

Likewise and regarding the growth of youth involvement among civil societies in countries experiencing transitions, CAWTAR worked on capacity building for young people with systematic gender equality and human rights mainstreaming, especially in areas where there is a lack of opportunities, services and institutions. The Center also succeeded in qualifying young trainers from both sexes (peer to peer) who supervised and animated training courses for youth.

CAWTAR has also provided them with the opportunity to take advantage of the distance learning system (E-learning System) that contains electronic courses about democracy and human rights, elections, and citizenship, as well as learning foreign languages.



Among Youth-Specific Activities:

A study on “Young Vulnerable Women’s Political Participation in Tunisia” (published)

- A book entitled “Writing About Women” consisting of scientific articles written by Ph.D. students and Master’s degree holders in partnership with IRMC and published by “La Maison de L’Harmattan”, France. (published)
- A documentary film on positions and views of young women deprived of political participation entitled “Souti bah” (or “I’ve lost my voice”) produced and watched by 250 young women, youth and institutions.
- 122 young CSOs activists from Tunisia and Egypt enhanced their skills in the areas of gender and human rights approaches, strategic planning, civic education, resources mobilization, etc. They then transferred their experience to more than 489 other youth groups.
- 60 young people (male and female) were able to manage and monitor the Electoral Process with related legal information and stages preparation.
- 20 Young Researchers and Ph.D. students integrated gender in their post-graduation research.
- 15 young women used information and good practices on political participation received from female politicians.

5. Commitments to international standards and PoAs better operationalized

A- The ICPD +20 framework and review: 2013 was the year of the 20 years implementation of the Program of Action of ICPD (International Conference on Population and Development) internationally, regionally and nationally, and CAWTAR was actively involved in this process at international, regional, and national levels in close partnership with the Arab States Regional Office of the United Nations Population Fund (ASRO/UNFPA).

The most important results could be summarized as follows:

- The launch of the coalition of 50 associations (from 11 countries⁷) working on women’s issues launched “to support the ICPD-PoA.
- The coalition’s Declaration adopted by and presented to the Regional Conference, which was held in Cairo in June 2013⁸.

⁷ Tunisia, Morocco, Yemen, Bahrain, Iraq, Algeria, Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Sudan, Lebanon.

- 11 national and 2 regional events to raise awareness about the ICPD-PoA and the importance of the involvement and participation in the review process.
- CAWTAR's Best Article Contest for 2013 dedicated to the "Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) +20, and its relation to Arab Women's Issues."
- A special issue of "Cawtaryat N° 50 sept 2013" ICPD+20.



B- The Millennium Development Goals MDGs:

CAWTAR issued, in partnership with ESCWA and UN-Women, a training manual on "equality and empowerment of women in the Arab world: from the Millennium Development Goals to the agenda of post-2015" covering gender equality, women's rights, and citizenship during the transition period in the Arab region.

This product is based on the international reviews of MDGs as well as the latest trends identified in the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the UN Development Goals beyond 2015.

6. Knowledge and advocacy on new gender issues are explored and developed

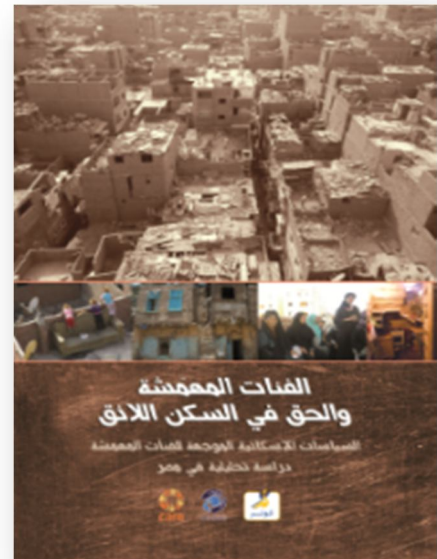
In consistency with the challenges of the current period, CAWTAR accorded special attention to innovative topics and initiatives relevant to gender through a learning by doing "approach and process" in addition to sharing experiences and expertise, as for instance:

⁸ Cairo Declaration of the Arab Civil Society Organizations in Support of the ICPD Agenda Beyond 2014 in Preparation for the International Development Agenda Post 2015

A- Gender and Housing:

Supported by the Ford Foundation, CAWTAR developed and implemented a project entitled "Towards innovative policy analysis strategies to empower marginalized groups to access right to decent housing" which aimed at initiating a dialogue among concerned stakeholders on gender concerns in housing policies.

This innovative initiative, implemented in Egypt and Tunisia, was selected by UN-Women among the innovative programs and solutions that empower women in the economic and the public spheres, and was presented during the South-South Development Expo in Doha, Qatar on 18-20 February 2014 as organized by The Arab Regional Bureau /UNDP and the UN Office for South-South.



B- Gender and Public Budget:

CAWTAR initiated a study on "**Public Budgets and Maternal Mortality**," as an example of an analysis of public budget and planning from a gender perspective.

Part two: Supporting Mechanisms

1. Media dealing with gender issues is improved

Media occupied a central position in CAWTAR's work during 2013, especially after the effective launch of the **CAWTAR's Media Center** for the Training of Journalists, thanks to the AGFUND support. The Center's work focused its efforts on:

A- Monitoring the image of women and men in the media :

This program started by conducting a typical monitoring of Tunisian audiovisual and written media. Two progress reports and one annual report have been completed. AGFUND funding has enabled the acquisition of technical tools to carry out the monitoring.

The results of the monitoring were presented at the International Forum on "Gender and Media" organized by UNESCO in Bangkok (December 2013) with the participation of national, regional and international organizations from all over the world.

B- Capacity building of Media professionals:

CAWTAR seeks through its Media Center activities to strengthen the capacities of media professionals in order to encourage them to deal with women and gender issues. During the year 2013, the Center delivered training workshops on a continuous basis in the knowledge and techniques relating to Gender issues and development, and very importantly, ways to enhance efficient interaction between Media professionals and the members of civil society.



Among the journalists' capacity building activities

- 20 Arab trainers from 6 Mashreq countries (Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Palestine) have their skills enhanced on Media Treatment of Women Issues.
- 18 journalists are able to analyze and address budget issues from a gender perspective.
- 30 articles on ICPD+20; Women and Constitutions, Women and Democracy, and Budget analyses are produced.
- 1 training course on the techniques of dealing with the media is designed for Libyan candidates.⁹
- 1 training manual on "Fair Media Coverage of the Election Campaign" for the benefit of journalists. In partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Tunisia Office

⁹ Based on the Request of The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA).

2. CAWTAR Gender Clearinghouse: diversity of Information and Data are reinforced

The “CAWTAR Clearinghouse for the Exchange of Information on Gender” (CAWTAR Gender Clearinghouse) is one of the most important mechanisms supporting the Center’s work, learners, and researchers.

Its objective is to provide published and unpublished data, statistics, bibliographies, and newspaper articles for all Arab and non-Arab beneficiaries interested in Gender, Human Rights and Development issues in the Region. During 2013, it continued to be enriched in terms of (new) sections, content and format, in a way that increased its effectiveness and clients responsiveness in facilitating communication and taking advantage of its contents.

Focal points from Jordan, Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon and Sudan enriched the Clearinghouse with information, studies and data on gender issues and with the support of **The Arab Gulf Program for Development (AGFUND)** and **Oxfam**

- **2,490** visits from more than **25** countries.
- More than **700** documents collected and posted.
- **872** new studies, newspaper articles, reports, films, pictures, and website links registered related to Arab women and political participation, Arab women and economic participation, and Arab women and decision-making.

3. CAWTAR's Expertise requirements increased

Thanks to its capacity as a recognized "**Center of Excellence**", CAWTAR was selected or recognized by a number of regional and international actors and organizations for the implementation of missions and service provision of knowledge and technology and/or the organization and supervision of events.

As herewith stated in some examples:



UNFPA-ASRO: 2012-2013

- Design and support of the validation of the Regional Strategy Against Gender Based Violence

FAO-Sub Regional office (5 Maghreb Countries): 2012- 2013

- Gender Audit applied to programs and management of 5 FAO offices (Sub regional Office, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia),
- 4 Gender country profiles developed as a gender and human rights analytical framework for gender mainstreaming in agriculture and rural development.
- Training material developed based on the gender audit findings and adapted to FAO mandate.
- Capacity of 35 senior management and staff including technical built on gender audit and mainstreaming in agriculture programs and management.

- Monitoring and follow up plan set up.
- Post assessment plan developed.
- Gender Audit guidelines for the field staff developed.

UN-WOMEN- Fund for Gender Equality (June 2013)

- Capacity of 40 grantees of the UN Women Gender Equality Fund built (advocacy, networking and Result-Based-Management).

UN-WOMEN-ROAS (November 2013)

- 40 women MPs and young leaders able to efficiently communicate with various audiences, including public and media audiences, and to successfully convey messages to their constituencies;
- Gender equality and women current challenges and priorities made more understandable to 10 media professionals who support women participation and leadership;
- The knowledge framework and step-by-step strategic communication product for women leaders designed in Arabic and in French to be further developed and used in UN Women's regional and national work.

Part three: Next Steps:

What is to be done in 2014

A number of projects will continue and others will be launched in addition to different frameworks of partnership with diversified areas of interventions and actors. Some examples are mentioned below, and are to be completed and detailed in the 2014 Work Plan:

1. "Gender Equality: From Legal Rights to Human Rights": upon the request of the Regional Office of the Arab States, UN-Women, the number of countries to be covered by the assessment and analysis of national legislation from gender and human rights perspective will be extended to 8 additional countries (initially 12) for a final result of 20 Legal country profiles and related evidence based advocacy leaflets. This will also include a series of regional consultation workshops (stakeholders analysis) targeting concerned stakeholders from national counterparts and concerned partners to consolidate the findings of the Arab Women Development Report to be launched during the 16-day campaign on the International Human Rights Day in December 2014. This exercise will require systematic updating of the 20 Legal country profiles which will be posted in the Gender Clearing house and in the UNW website as well as the legal e-mapping to be constructed by country and thematically crossing all countries.
2. Civil Society Capacity Building and Leadership Development for Community Conflict Resolution" (OSI)
3. "Networking and Advocacy: Strategic Tools to Advance Gender Equality Agenda and Women Leadership and Political Participation in the Arab Region" (UNWOMEN).
4. Empowering the young generation : towards a new social contract in South and east Mediterranean countries "SAHWA" (CIDOB)
5. Supporting Transformative Women's Leadership in Changing Time in the MENA Region (OXFAM-GB)
6. Enhancing microfinance access and usage amongst women and youth in Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt (WB and International Youth Foundation)
7. Gender and decentralization (FF) in Tunisia-Jordan-Yemen.