

**Center of Arab Women for Training and Research
(CAWTAR)**

**ANNUAL REPORT
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Preface

Midway through the implementation of its Strategic Plan (2017-2021), the **Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR)** sought, in 2019, to take stock of what has been achieved so far and what still needs to be enhanced, as well as to reflect on the strategic directions of its Strategic Plan for the period 2021-2025. Meanwhile, the Center's action continued to revolve around three major Strategic Pillars, while adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its Goals and Targets, as a general frame of reference.

Keen on moving forward in promoting women's rights, CAWTAR continued to draw inspiration from the sound developmental approach and noble humane vision of the late Prince Talal bin Abdulaziz.

CAWTAR chose to work on emerging issues in the Arab region which fall within its areas of action. Foremost among those issues are "Gender mainstreaming in economic and trade policies", and "Action against Gender-based violence in universities." It also continued to support advocacy programs aimed at making the legislative framework supportive of women and Gender issues, and to promote women's economic empowerment by enhancing the creation of income-generating projects. The Center is also involved in integrated programs through which research activities provide useful data for training and advocacy and for creating sustainable projects, despite differing funders.

To further enhance its action, CAWTAR is keen on strengthening its supportive mechanisms : the Clearinghouse on Gender, the Media Training Center, the Financial Education and Inclusion Center, and the Arab Network for Gender and Development (@NJED). This has made it possible for CAWTAR to provide technical support and make its expertise available to many institutions, including the Arab Network for NGOs, the Arab Council for Childhood and

Development, the Arab Open University, and the Banks for the Poor. CAWTAR has also expanded its cooperation programs with various partners in the region and elsewhere.

In 2019, CAWTAR deepened its work in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially in terms of research, capacity-development, advocacy, and national, regional and international partnerships, thanks to two AGFUND-funded projects that found resonance with partners from the region and elsewhere, such as UNDP which requested the translation of the Report and the Guide into English.

CAWTAR continued to rely on @NGED Network (which includes 539 members from 19 countries) as a human and intellectual asset that should be optimally invested to ensure more efficiency in the Center's interventions, programs, and development work in the region. This was achieved thanks to three projects financed by different funders, which reflects CAWTAR's keenness to achieve increased complementarity among the funders' programs.

Enjoying the confidence of international organizations, CAWTAR was invited to the "MENA-OECD Working Group on Corporate Governance" for 2019, as well as to the 63rd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

CAWTAR was also invited by the University of Oslo to take part in the International Conference on "Teaching Gender in Universities and Monitoring Violence against Women on the Internet", held in partnership with the Department of Journalistic and Media Studies/Journalism and Media International Center (JMIC) at Oslo Metropolitan University, and the Communications Department of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Indonesia.

This confidence culminated in the unanimous election of CAWTAR's Executive Director as Chair of the Scientific Committee of the Women Leadership in Higher Education Network, affiliated with the Francophone University Agency (AUF) which brings together 909 prestigious universities, colleges and research centers that use the French language in 113 countries.

Comprehensive Empowerment of Women through the Projects and Activities of CAWTAR

Social empowerment :

Rights, fight against violence,
family and community participation.

Political empowerment :

Political participation, local
governance...

Enabling environment :

Engagement with the 2030 Agenda;
Gender mainstreaming in economic
and commercial policies and
cultures

Awareness-raising and capacity-development:

Participation of civil society and the
media

Economic empowerment :

Financial inclusion/education, economic
initiatives...

I – PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CAWTAR’S STRATEGIC PILLARS

First Strategic Pillar: Comprehensive empowerment of women, enhanced at the political, social and economic levels

This strategic pillar lies at the core of Sustainable Development Goal 5 : “*Achieve Gender equality and empower all women and girls.*” For CAWTAR, women’s empowerment encompasses interconnected political, social and economic dimensions, chosen by the Center as its main lines of action.

These dimensions involve promoting equal and effective civic and political participation for women and youth, combating Gender-based violence and violent extremism, and enhancing the business environment, financial inclusion and economic initiatives.

Target 5 of Goal 5 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides for “*Ensuring women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.*”

1 – Political empowerment of women through promoting political and civic participation at local and national levels

For CAWTAR, the equal and effective participation of women and youth in local and national governance is a key criterion for successful policy design and implementation. CAWTAR has adopted the concept of transformational leadership in its practical dimension to test the extent of its contribution not only to increasing women’s access to decision-making positions, but also and especially to changing their conditions and the institutional and social environment. Efforts made in this regard have enabled the Center to achieve significant results.

“Transformational leadership is leadership concerned with bringing about social change that goes beyond the traditional frameworks of leadership. Change involves different economic, social and political levels. Transformational leadership is associated with

changing the sociological perception of participation and the various ways that women adopt to exert influence, directly or indirectly, on public policymaking and on decision-makers.”
CAWTAR’s Regional Report on “Women in Political and Civic Life: Obstacles and Ways to Overcome them,” 2016.

Implemented projects	Partners	Main outcomes/outputs
Empowering women’s entrepreneurial roles in the MENA region	Forum of Federations (Canada)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three (3) qualitative field studies on women’s transformational leadership in Morocco, Jordan and Tunisia (in progress); - Strengthening the capacities of 15 media professionals and 17 women in transformational leadership (including 11 female municipal councilors); - Supporting networking, dialogue and sharing of expertise between 352 civil society activists, media professionals, and members of the Children’s Parliament in Tunisia, on transformational leadership and enhancement of active local participation.
Promoting women and youth participation in political life in Tunisia	Middle East Partnership Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening the capacities and knowledge of 53 candidates for legislative elections, 21 coaches and members of political parties and civil society activists; - Producing radio spots to urge men and women to participate massively in elections (broadcast on 4 national and local radio stations).
Influence of women on local budgets	Oxfam - Tunisia office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An anthropological study on the participation of women in marginalized regions in decisions related to local budgets; - Enhancing knowledge and providing awareness-raising for 12 women (directly) working in the farming sector in marginalized regions, so that they can contribute to decision-making related to local budgets. - Producing an impact on the beneficiaries' families to cover approximately 60 persons (indirectly).

1-1 In terms of research

CAWTAR focused its attention on women's "transformational leadership" through three areas of research :

- a) Research on how ordinary women in local communities have grown into local leaders and influencers in their families and communities : An anthropological field study on the participation of women in marginalized regions in decisions related to local budgets. Focusing is laid on the importance of transformational leadership in promoting the comprehensive integration of women to become full-fledged citizens actively involved in the preparation and implementation of local budgets.
- b) Research to determine the extent of society's recognition of women leaders and to identify their experiences in their local communities and the circumstances and factors that lead people around them to recognize their leading role: Three (3) qualitative field studies in Morocco, Jordan and Tunisia on women's transformational leadership processes (in progress). In 2019, 35 Focus Group and 91 in-depth interviews were held with women who were identified/appointed as leaders and influencers in their local communities, along with a symposium on influential women throughout history.
- c) Given the weak political and civic participation of women at the local level, research aims to shed light on role models of women leaders active at different levels of participation (economic, political, civil, cultural and sports) and highlight their effective but unrecognized contributions within their societies : Two (2) qualitative field studies on women's participation in public and political life in three (3) Tunisian Governorates : Bizerte, Gabes and Gafsa.

Women's participation in public and political life:

- Women's participation in institutions, political parties, associations, unions, and local authorities is still weak. It grows even weaker in the interior and rural regions where the State's structures are absent and services are inadequate.

- The current political landscape and the conflicts between the various actors are linked with the modern history of these regions on the one hand, and the economic, social and cultural situation, on the other hand.
- There are many female role models in the three governorates, who had significantly contributed to the National Movement and to the building of the national state after independence and during significant historical periods, including the January 2011 events, but they were dropped from the collective memory and from specialized writings. Even contemporary female role models still need to have more light shed on them so that they can be recognized as leaders.

2-2 In terms of training

Effective political and civic participation requires mastery of a range of skills, tools and knowledge on the political process and the mechanisms of participation, leadership and decision-making. Accordingly, the capacity-building activities implemented by CAWTAR as part of various projects seek to develop the capacities of women and youth leaders and enhance their involvement in participatory and decision-making processes at local and national levels.

Activities implemented in 2019 involved :

- Strengthening the capacities of 67 (male and female) representatives of political parties and independent candidates lists for the legislative elections, and coaches of candidates in four (4) governorates in Tunisia, by increasing their knowledge of the election law and the electoral process and enhancing their political communication skills during the election campaign;
- Strengthening the capacities and knowledge of 252 local women leaders, civil society activists, and members of the Children's Parliament in the field of transformational

leadership, and advocating for increased participation of women in public life and local governance, and for Gender sensitivity in the formulation of local budgets and policies;

- Strengthening the capacities of 15 media professionals concerned with local affairs (online press, radio, TV) in the promotion and publicization of women's leadership roles through the use of modern technologies;
- Developing a training manual on transformational leadership from a Gender perspective, to serve as a reference in the Arab region, enabling activists and defenders of Gender equality and justice issues to acquire the skills needed to bring about change at the individual, institutional and community levels.

Testimonials by women beneficiaries of training on transformational leadership

Basma Soussi, visually impaired, Secretary-general of IBSAR Association, presenter of programs on Radio "Amal" for people with disabilities:

"From a simple member of the steering committee of the association, with no vision or decision, I am now adopting the cause of people with disabilities; I have grown into an agent of change. The training sessions have taught me how to adopt the Gender lenses in the analysis and evaluation of any information, especially as regards the participation of women in public and political life, to identify and overcome the main obstacles facing them. I have also sought to influence my daughters so that they become active in civil society and launch initiatives to reduce Gender gaps and Gender-based discrimination."

Sonia M'Hamdi, from Southern Gafsa Development Association:

"From an employee in the association, I have grown into a decision-maker and an agent of change. There has been a great change in my behaviors and thoughts following my participation in the training sessions on transformational leadership; I now believe more in what I am doing; I can say "No" when necessary, avoiding false courtesies in everything that does not match my values and principles. The fundamental change I have experienced has had a clear impact on my personality, and many in my family and in my workplace and other people who know me can attest to this. I can now take measured risks; I have acquired

skills for persuasion, influence and inspiration; I have become a trainer in many Arab and European countries. On the institutional level, I have established a support center for women victims of violence in the city of Gafsa.

Monia Abbas, visually impaired, Vice-president of a local association :

“I never imagined I would one day be able to overcome the barriers imposed on me by the visual disability with which I was born. Indeed, my participation has developed from public life to political life. My confidence in my abilities and skills has enabled me to run for the legislative elections in 2019. If I were told that I would one day present, along with a group of citizens from Bizerte, a list of candidates for the legislative elections, and that I would conduct an electoral campaign in all the regions of the Governorate, I would never have believed that.”

3-1 In terms of awareness-raising

For CAWTAR, raising the level of awareness of decision-makers and political actors regarding the equal political participation of women and youth is crucial for achieving the expected goals and for pushing forward toward bringing about the desired change in this regard. Accordingly, CAWTAR worked on :

- Enhancing debate on “transformational leadership for a better participation of women”, thereby raising awareness of the significant role of elected women in ensuring increased and enhanced participation of women in public life and local governance; and creating a local dynamic that involved 30 women members of elected national and local councils and 84 civil society activists and local media representatives;
- Raising awareness among large segments of the population as to the importance of the active participation of women and youth in legislative elections, by producing an awareness-raising spot broadcast on four (4) national and local radio stations, ahead of the legislative elections of 2019.
- Concluding four (4) partnership agreements with local associations to promote awareness-raising on the importance of women and youth participation in local civil and political life.

2 - Social empowerment of women through prevention of Gender-based violence

Target 2 of Goal 5 provides for “*Eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.*”

Gender-based violence is one of the persisting obstacles that stand in the way of the advancement of women’s conditions and rights. This being said, CAWTAR continues to focus on combating Gender-based violence from two important angles closely linked to international and regional challenges and to “silent” behaviors and practices that have a strong impact on women’s conditions and rights:

- a) Promoting research on emerging issues, including prevention of Gender-based violence in universities;
- b) Providing technical support to governmental and non-governmental partners.

CAWTAR followed the same methodological approach in terms of research, training and awareness-raising in the three projects implemented this year :

- “Prevention of Gender-based violence in public spaces, particularly universities”, in partnership with the Open Society Foundation;
- “Supporting the capacities of sectoral committees in charge of preparing the executive plan for the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan”, in partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, and the Tunisian Ministry of Women;
- “Voices of Wisdom for Women to Combat Violent Extremism”, in partnership with OHCHR and ADO Association.

Implemented projects	Partners	Main outcomes/outputs
Combating Gender-based violence in public spaces, particularly in universities.	Open Society Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conducting two (2) qualitative studies on Gender-based violence in universities in Tunisia and Morocco; - Strengthening the capacities of 19 civil society activists from both countries in advocacy tools; - Developing a mobile application “Safeness” for the protection of girls and women from Gender-based violence in public spaces in Tunisia (intended for young people and designed by students); - Launching a competition for civil society organizations in both countries for the 3 best advocacy campaigns to combat impunity in relation to Gender-based violence and sexual harassment in universities.
Supporting the capacities of sectoral committees in charge of preparing the executive plan for the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan	UN-Women Tunisian Ministry of Women, Family, Childhood and the Elderly Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing a comprehensive sectoral plan and 13 sectoral plans for 13 ministries to implement the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan; - Developing a Manual of Guidance for the preparation of UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans.
Voices of Wisdom for Women to Combat Violent Extremism	High Commissioner for Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnership with ADO Association to update the “Voices of Wisdom for Women to Combat Violent Extremism” website, in order to raise awareness among adolescent girls and boys about the dangers of violent extremism and the ways to combat it. - Adapting a number of relevant studies collected by CAWTAR and translating their content into messages and training units for adolescents.

Some of the main results achieved include the following :

2-1 In terms of research :

Research on Gender-based violence in universities in Morocco and Tunisia

With the support of the Open Society Foundation, CAWTAR continues to work on the issue of Gender-based violence (GBV) in public spaces, particularly in universities. In this context, two qualitative studies on prevention of GBV in universities in Morocco and Tunisia were completed. They address the prevalence of GBV in universities and propose prevention, protection and awareness-raising mechanisms to tackle this issue through evidence-based advocacy activities to be implemented jointly with universities and associations.

An electronic window has been created, within CAWTAR Clearinghouse on Gender, featuring CAWTAR's findings and outputs on GBV in universities.

A mobile application has also been developed for the protection of women and girls from sexual harassment and GBV in public spaces. The application is expected to be launched in Tunisia and Morocco on March 8, 2020.

The two studies yielded the following results :

- Male and female students on the one hand, and teachers and employees on the other hand, have different social representations of the University. For students, the university means the stage of maturity and realization of dreams, but it is also a space of centralized power, domination and discriminatory relations. For teachers, the university is at the same time a space for elites and authority.
- The university is a space where violence against women is normalized, in the absence of a culture of equality and awareness of GBV.
- There is a relative difference in the type of violence practiced in universities, so that sexual harassment is more practiced against female students (by some of the male teachers, employees, and students), whereas female teachers are more exposed to moral and verbal violence.
- Stereotypes based on sexual hierarchy are reproduced in the university where there are relations of domination among the different categories and within each category.

- Women victim of violence lack the ability to confront violence or discrimination in the absence of institutional and legal mechanisms within universities.

2-2 In terms of training : Supporting the capacities of Sectoral Committees in charge of preparing UNSCR 1325 Executive Plans

- Providing (second) technical support to the Tunisian government at the request of the Ministry of Women, Family, Childhood, Elderly Affairs and UN-Women (the first technical support was in 2018), to enable 13 ministries and a number of civil society organizations to prepare their executive sectoral plans as well as the comprehensive sectoral plan for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan.
- Developing a manual of guidance for the preparation of UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan (in the final stages of elaboration), to be the first of its kind in the Arab region. The manual provides Arab governments that are not yet involved in the implementation of Resolution 1325 with the techniques for the formulation of their relevant national plans.

2-3 In terms of awareness-raising : Enhancing women and youth roles in combating violent extremism

The Center has partnered with “ADO Association” (Tunisia) to update the website of “Voices of Wisdom for Women to Combat Violent Extremism”, which was previously developed, at a first stage, within the CAWTAR Clearinghouse on Gender. This partnership was one of the good practices in relation to associations (which are first trained and coached by CAWTAR; they then rely on their own capabilities, and then return to the Center with cooperation supported by other partners). The Center was asked to showcase this partnership experience at the Best Practice Sharing Meeting organized by the High Commission for Human Rights in cooperation with the National Counter-Terrorism Commission (December 2019).

3 - Economic empowerment of women and youth through financial education, creation of economic initiatives, and support for specialized organizations

Target 7 of Goal 5 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides for “*Undertaking reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.*”

Convinced that no comprehensive empowerment of women is possible without economic empowerment, CAWTAR has been working for years on projects related to financial inclusion, enhancement of the investment environment, and creation of income-generating economic initiatives; all being of crucial importance in addressing the challenges of unemployment and poverty, and in achieving Goals 1, 2 and 5 of the Sustainable Development Agenda. CAWTAR’s efforts in this regard yielded significant results, including in particular :

- a) Improving access for women and youth in Tunisia, Palestine, and Jordan to the available financial and non-financial services, thereby enhancing their participation in economic life;
- b) Strengthening the capacities of business networks and business support organizations, and building partnerships with the main stakeholders;
- c) Improving the living conditions of rural women and their families in Côte d'Ivoire through income-generating projects, and providing them with awareness-raising and capacity-building in human rights, leadership, and production and marketing requirements.

3-1 Promotion of financial inclusion for women and youth

CAWTAR has placed high on its agenda the promotion of financial inclusion for women and youth. This is, in fact, to address gaps and obstacles impeding women’s access to financial and non-financial services, and contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda, especially Goals 1, 4, 5, 10, and 17 thereof.

Financial education is a basic pillar for enhanced financial inclusion and an added value in the economic empowerment programs implemented by CAWTAR which believes that economic empowerment cannot be achieved without facilitating women's and youth's access to financial and non-financial services. Accordingly, in addition to its research and awareness-raising activities, CAWTAR is continuously keen on aligning training tools with the needs of microfinance institutions, business networks, and business support organizations, and enhancing their role as structures providing financial and non-financial services, thereby expanding the circle of beneficiaries.

A - In terms of research:

For CAWTAR, research on financial inclusion is an added value not only for its work but also for all relevant actors in the region. To analyze the current state of financial inclusion in terms of supply and demand, and the economic and social role of financial institutions operating in this field, CAWTAR carried out five studies, the latest of which addressed "Financial Inclusion of Women and Young Entrepreneurs in Tunisia" (available at CAWTAR Clearinghouse on Gender).

The study came to enrich the available knowledge and to confirm the status of CAWTAR as an active party in this field. Its findings were used by several relevant actors, including the Central Bank of Tunisia, especially that the study focused for the first time on job-seeking youth aged 18-35 years. They were also useful for the concerned institutions in developing their action plans and training programs. In 2019, the results of the study were presented (with participations from Lebanon, Jordan, Bahrain and Tunisia) and discussed based on the experiences of the participating countries.

The study focused on :

- Analyzing the current state of financial inclusion for young entrepreneurs aged 18-35 years, based on comparisons with other countries' experiences;
- Identifying economic and knowledge perceptions, needs and barriers that prevent demand for microfinance products;
- Assessing the impact of access to microfinance on the economic, social and financial conditions of beneficiaries;

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Proposing recommendations and guidelines as a contribution to the national financial inclusion strategy. |
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B - In terms of training:

CAWTAR continues to work on further strengthening the capacities of its partners, including microfinance institutions and civil society organizations, in terms of financial education, so that they can fulfill their role in transferring the acquired knowledge to their (potential) clients. In this regard, the Center undertook the following :

- Strengthening the capacities of 58 trainers in four training-of-trainers workshops: two regional workshops for AGFUND banks in Bahrain, Lebanon, Jordan, Mauritania and Sudan, and two national workshops for the staff of “Palestine for Credit and Development – FATEN”, the Union of Cooperative Savings and Loan Associations, and the Arab Center for Agricultural Development in Palestine.
- Providing technical support and training 409 beneficiaries through 18 training workshops for (potential) clients of partner microfinance institutions in Jordan (3 workshops) and Palestine (15 workshops). Training was conducted under the supervision of the core of trainers previously trained by CAWTAR (58 trainers). Fifteen (15) women entrepreneurs were provided with an accounting software and were trained to use it.
- 320 participants from Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Bahrain, Mauritania and Sudan received distance training based on the CAWTAR training platform for financial education.

The CAWTAR team worked, during the past year, on preparing a request for support with a view to developing a regional platform in financial education especially in AGFUND banks. The request was submitted to the Swiss Capacity Building Facility (SCBF).

3-2 Developing the investment and business environment and enhancing the participation of women, youth and civil society organizations

To ensure the sustainability of its projects, CAWTAR continues to follow a methodology based on transferring expertise and knowledge to institutions and networks active in supporting economic participation for women and youth; the aim being to develop the investment and business environment and thus contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda, particularly Goals 1, 5, 8 and 9 thereof. In 2019, the Center sought to contribute to :

- Raising awareness, building capacities, and enhancing cooperation and networking among business and investment actors, especially in modern and innovative sectors such as Digital Economy and Fintech, in order to integrate the Gender perspective into investment enhancement efforts in the Mediterranean region, by:
 - Holding, in June 2019, the CAWTAR-EBSOMED EU-MED Roadshow on “Scaling up Finance for Inclusive Development in Southern Neighborhood Countries”, as part of a series of conferences held by CAWTAR within the EBSOMED project (www.ebsomed.eu). Attended by 127 participants, this event came out with a set of recommendations that were discussed during a joint session between CAWTAR and OECD.

The EBSOMED project aims at boosting the Mediterranean business ecosystem and enhancing the capacities of Business Support Organizations in the Mediterranean, by improving services provided to SMEs in the Southern Neighborhood countries.

- Joining the “Womenpreneur Tour” initiative, launched jointly by “SANAD Fund for MSME” and the “Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative”, to undertake a tour to support women in information technology in the MENA region and enhance the role of inspiring women leaders in the fields of technology, innovation and digitalization in Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan.

- Strengthening the capacities of business support organizations (BSOs) in the Southern Mediterranean, by organizing the second academy on the management of BSOs under the title “Design Thinking” (November 2019); the aim being to provide participating institutions with a sound approach that enables them to develop and provide products, services and expertise that respond to the needs of target groups, and be capable of developing low-cost business models that can meet different needs and can be tested in real time.

The Academy brought together 40 participants from business support organizations from 7 Arab countries: Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Palestine, Lebanon and Egypt. It offered the beneficiary enterprises the opportunity to develop new services, share expertise, and sign partnership agreements.

3-3 Income-generating economic initiatives : Côte d'Ivoire

Income-generating activities are the second pillar for the economic empowerment of women and girls, and are organically linked with financial inclusion and with the other pillars of CAWTAR’s strategy. Under CAWTAR’s vision, establishing income-generating activities will not bring about the expected change in terms of improving the living conditions of women and their families and achieving equality and non-discrimination, unless it is accompanied by other equally important requisites. That is why the activities and projects involve, in addition to the production component, enhancing the knowledge and capacities of beneficiaries in terms of literacy, rights and equality, health and reproductive health, communication and marketing techniques, and basics of financial education and microenterprise management.

Following the success of the two similar projects in Senegal, and after the two economic empowerment projects for women and girls in Côte d'Ivoire completed the stages of training, and all the needed logistics and production tools were purchased and installed (early 2019), the two projects entered the phase of production and service delivery in accordance with the type of project and the nature of skills acquired by each of the (162) beneficiaries.

a) Sewing, hairdressing and beauty care project in Dabou, Côte d’Ivoire

Main project results in the pre-final stage:

- Providing the needed equipments for training and production: sewing and hairdressing workshops and their accessories;
- Training of beneficiaries;
- Training on rights, marketing, and service delivery;
- Providing each beneficiary of the second project with equipments and tools to help them launch their own - individual or collective - project;
- Launching the project and starting service delivery : integration into the labor market.

Main project results

Creating and equipping two permanent training workshops

Launching production and service delivery

100% of the beneficiaries joined the labor market

Building the capacities of beneficiaries for comprehensive empowerment

Ensuring support to the project by the local community and official authorities

Providing beneficiaries with the tools to help them launch their own individual or collective projects.

After training was completed and all beneficiaries (52 women) were provided with work tools and accessories for sewing, hairdressing and beauty care, the next phase was to carefully monitor the impact of training on each of the beneficiaries involved in the project. The results

revealed that all the beneficiaries started to work in the field in which they were trained. Some of them work at home; others in workshops; still others have launched their own projects.

On the other hand, it was decided, in agreement between CAWTAR and its field partner, the Confederation of Civil Society Organizations in Côte d'Ivoire, to continue to utilize the two training centers that were established and equipped for this project for continuous training programs targeted at other groups of women and girls in the region of Dabou which suffers high rates of poverty and unemployment, especially among women. This will require providing the necessary funds for the salaries of trainers and the acquisition of training materials, which do not exceed 30,000 dollars per year.

Indicator	Value / Situation at the launch of the project	Expected value/situation	Achieved value/situation
Number of women who are proficient at sewing or hairdressing	000	70% of female trainees	100%
Number of literate beneficiaries (first level)	14 out of 52	90%	10%
Completion of project components	000	100%	100%
Percentage of beneficiaries who joined the labor market	000	70%	100%
Beneficiaries' level of satisfaction with the project	-	70%	97% : full satisfaction (testimonials)

Testimonials by some of the project's beneficiaries

Traore Maimouna, mother of six children :

"I consider myself lucky to be one of the beneficiaries of this project. Unfortunately I did not go to school, but thanks to the varied training I received, I can now work as hairdresser and I can also read and write. I am also familiar with the concepts of reproductive health and with the principles of accounting. My hope is that after the project ends, I will be provided with the logistical and financial support to start my own project."

Essis Essane Milissa, mother of one child :

"Before I joined the project, I was in a state of despair because I dropped out of school as I did not have the needed support to pursue my education. I thank the initiators of this project for having given sense to my life. Today I am a hairdresser. In addition, I have learned the principles of reproductive health and accounting. I can now manage my life better and raise my daughter."

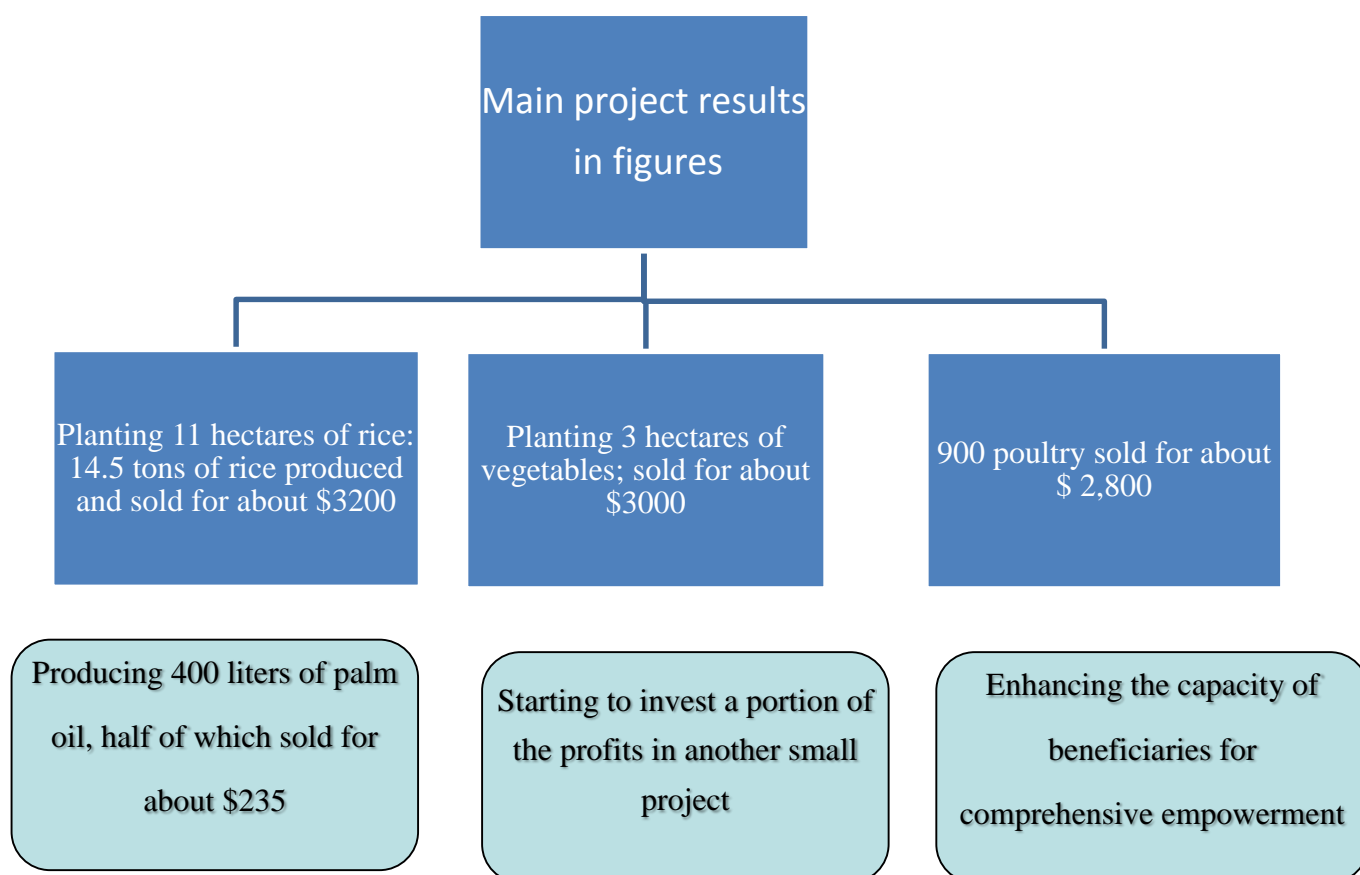
Esmel Meleme Georgia Claudia, mother of two children :

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to receive training in sewing as I have always dreamed of becoming a dressmaker. Today, my life dream is coming true thanks to this project. I used to be hopeless. But today, I am a dressmaker. This job will make me economically independent. My children will go to school. My hope is that I will have the means to continue after the end of the project."

b) Project for the production and marketing of farming products in "Salublu-Danané":

After the completion of training activities, the acquisition of work devices and particularly the means of transporting goods, and the construction of two poultry-raising areas, farming activities in the region were pursued as planned, under the guidance of the local partner, the "National Organization for Children and Women", and under the supervision of the "Women's Development Grouping" in the region of Salublu, which manages the production process, distributes part of the profits to the (110) beneficiaries and reinvests the remaining part.

Main project results at pre-final phase



On the other hand, to ensure the proper management and sustainability of the project,

- A follow-up and vigilance committee was set up, including members of the local community, to be in charge of supervising the project;
- The project is supported by the local community and the official authorities.

Evaluation in light of Project's indicators

Indicator	Value / Situation at the launch of the project	Expected value/situation	Achieved value/situation

Percentage of beneficiaries who are proficient at farming work and poultry-raising	20% partially	70% of the trainees	100%
Local community contribution	-	Providing land for cultivation	- Allocation of parcels of land for the project; - Volunteer youth participation in laborious farming activities; - Allocation of a space at the nearby market to sell the project's products
Completion of project components	000	100%	100%
Percentage of beneficiaries who entered the production/marketing phase after training	000	80%	100%
Increase in household income as a result of the project	000	20% after one year	Nearly 30%
Aspects of positive change in the life of beneficiary families (income, nutrition, services)	000		- Additional income; - Additional quantities of food; - No school dropout - Health: the project provided a means of transport that can be used in emergency cases.

4-3 Empowering Syrian refugee women in Lebanon

CAWTAR has been following developments in the Arab region and the tragedies caused by conflicts and waves of forced displacement, of which women and girls are among the main victims.

In line with the same approach related to women's comprehensive empowerment, including economic empowerment, and while taking into consideration the specificity of the target group and the big challenges resulting from the refugee/IDP status and life in formal and informal camps, the "Empowerment of Syrian Women Refugee in Lebanon" project was launched in partnership with the Arab Open University in Beirut. The University began the training of 50 Syrian refugee girls and women with a view to developing their knowledge and skills in a

number of areas; the aim being to help them achieve social and economic integration in the host communities, preserve their dignity, and improve the living conditions of their families.

The second component of the program, implemented in partnership with a civil society organization in Lebanon, consists in providing training to a number of nannies who work in nurseries and kindergartens receiving children of Syrian refugee families, as well as organizing coaching, guidance and awareness-raising sessions for Syrian refugee mothers. The project also involves a field assessment study to determine the impact of training and monitor change in the beneficiaries' capabilities and conditions.

CAWTAR has planned to start by implementing the first phase of the project targeting refugee women in Lebanon, and then to undertake the second phase, targeting Syrian refugees in Jordan, during the first quarter of 2020. However, events in Lebanon have caused some delay in implementation, as beneficiaries are encountering difficulties to move to training centers, and many public facilities have ceased to work for long periods.

The project's expected objectives are as follows :

Expected result at the end of the project	Measurement indicator
A - The capacities of 50 Syrian refugee women and girls in Lebanon at the knowledge and professional levels (computer and accounting) are strengthened.	Percentage of Syrian refugee women and girls benefiting from the project who are computer literate and are familiar with the basic rules of accounting.
B - 60% of women and girls benefiting from the project are empowered, which offers them and their families more access to basic social services: work, education, health ...	Percentage of project beneficiaries who joined the labor market after 3 months of training at most; Percentage of beneficiaries' families whose living conditions have improved in terms of income, education of children, and access to health services.
C - Syrian refugee mothers participating in the project have a higher level of awareness of their rights and the rights of their children to education, health and work, and the need to confront all forms of violence and discrimination.	Level of change in knowledge and behavior on the issues under consideration (through qualitative field research).

D - Local communities and economic actors contribute to the social and economic integration of Syrian refugee women and girls.	Attitudes of businessmen and entrepreneurs supporting the hiring of Syrian refugee women. Level of community acceptance of the integration of Syrian women into the social and economic life of the country of refuge.
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Second Strategic Pillar: Promoting the role of women in achieving sustainable development

CAWTAR focuses on the crucial correlation between promoting Gender equality on the one hand, and the content and dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on the other hand. The Agenda cannot, in fact, be properly implemented and cannot achieve its goals and targets without integrating women and without incorporating the Gender perspective in all its details.

CAWTAR's approach involves the use of research and training for promoting the integration of the Gender equality perspective in the relevant programs of partners and stakeholders. At this level, CAWTAR's programs contribute to deepening knowledge of the 2030 Agenda, and strengthening civil society and media capacities to advocate for its implementation.

“The issue of Gender equality and women’s empowerment is a cornerstone of the 2030 Agenda and a prerequisite for the success of the entire development process, especially in Arab countries and societies. The success or failure of this global agenda and the related national plans largely depends on the progress made in bridging the Gender gap and curbing the dynamics that reproduce, perpetuate and expand it.”

7th Arab Women Development Report 2019 “Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda: The Role of Civil Society and the Media”.

1 - In terms of knowledge

While knowledge production is one of the key pillars of CAWTAR's work and the basis for designing its various programs, the Arab Women Development Reports that it has continuously issued since 2000 are the “distinguished product” that reflects the status the Center enjoys, in

the region and elsewhere, as regards identifying priority issues and providing a wealth of knowledge that meet the rules and requirements of scientific research. Based on this vision, the year 2019 witnessed the release of :

▪ **Arab Women Development Report : “Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda: The Role of Civil Society and the Media”.**

The report includes seven chapters : 1. Development challenges in the Arab countries; 2. The 2030 Agenda and the Gender equality perspective; 3. War and conflict, and their impact on women; 4. Civil society after the Arab Spring: New questions; 5. Local development: Field Experiences; 6. Media, women, and the 2030 Agenda; and 7. Conclusions and Recommendations.

The report delves into aspects of Gender equality within a transformational sustainable development agenda and amidst a situation that requires the engagement of all in facing challenges and ensuring the success of transformational processes. It seeks to understand how this Agenda reflects “Gender equality” across the 17 Goals and 169 Targets, and the extent to which it is being adapted to the realities of Arab countries that are undergoing various transformations.

The Center was keen to include experiences representing many Arab countries : Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Mauritania and Oman.

The report adopted a participatory process that involved two expert meetings attended by CAWTAR’s executives, the Report Coordinator, and the experts in charge of writing the key papers. These meetings were designed to monitor progress in the completion of the report and to discuss its methodology and content. Forty-one (41) institutions/individuals from the Center’s partners and members of @NGED Network were involved in enriching the report and providing additional data and information.

Main recommendations of the Report:

1. Avoid isolating the issue of women from the overall process of societal transformation, with its political and cultural dimensions;
2. Avoid fragmentation of the Goal itself and of the related Targets: it is not enough to achieve progress in one Target and to improve a specific indicator in order to achieve Goal 5;
3. Focus on policies rather than projects, diversify strategies, and avoid reducing the struggle for equality to a set of partial measures;
4. Avoid isolating the issue of women from the adoption of coherent development policies;
5. Grant utmost importance to the social and cultural dimensions of the issue of Gender equality.

The report also offers practical recommendations to enhance networking at the Arab regional level, develop work strategies, boost dialogue and debate on the equality dimension in the Agenda, and support the role of civil society and the private sector.

▪ **“Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda: Field Initiatives”**

This Practical Guide, developed by CAWTAR, is the fruit of two years of work searching for civil society and media “field initiatives” and documenting their efforts to integrate the Gender perspective into the process of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Guide provides 44 case studies, experiences or projects related to Goal 5 or one of its Targets. All 17 Goals are covered with relevant examples (at least one example for each Goal). In this same context, CAWTAR held an expert meeting (November, Morocco) attended by 18 members of @NGED Network, with the aim of testing the Guide and using the best case studies collected in the process of preparing the Report and the Guide, and which were included in the final version of the two publications.

2 - In terms of capacity-building

CAWTAR held in 2019 the 3rd sub-regional training session, as part of a series of training workshops designed for media professionals and civil society structures (mainly members of @NGED Network). This session targeted Arab Gulf countries and took place in the Sultanate of Oman. These workshops targeted 82 participants from 16 Arab countries. They were conducted with support from AGFUND and in partnership with the Arab NGO Network for Development in Lebanon, the Mauritanian Journalists Syndicate, the Omani Ministry of Social Affairs, the *Espace Associatif* in Morocco, and the National Syndicate of Moroccan Press. During these workshops, training materials were developed, which were then simplified, adapted and digitalized by CAWTAR so that they can be used in other training opportunities.

CAWTAR Clearinghouse on Gender has provided a list of references related to the 2030 Agenda, and a list of civil society organizations categorized according to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. A “community of practice” has also been created for relevant partners, along with an electronic window featuring the Project’s outputs.

Main outputs

- 3 sub-regional training sessions on advocacy for equality issues within the 2030 Agenda;
- Training materials on Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda, for use in face-to-face training, and also available for digital use;
- 21 awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns developed within the training workshops;
- 82 participants from 16 Arab countries;
- 5 partners were involved in the implementation of training;
- UNDP requested the translation of parts of the Report and the Guide into English.

Third Strategic Pillar : A more enabling policy and institutional environment to address Gender issues and promote women’s exercise of their human rights

CAWTAR is keen on keeping abreast of all changes in legislation relevant to the conditions of women, and on advocating for changing and developing the legislative framework to be supportive of women's issues in line with the Gender approach. This will help establish a more enabling environment for women to exercise their human rights.

Within this same context, CAWTAR was keen on taking part in the main periodic international and regional meetings held by UN institutions and organizations and key international and regional actors to enhance women's access to their human and legal rights.

Some of the main results include :

- Research and advocacy for mainstreaming the Gender perspective in trade and economic policies;
- Active engagement in the process of developing policies and legislations supportive of Gender equality, through participating in no less than 10 international and regional forums on promotion of Gender equality;
- Technical support to partners in the promotion of Gender equality.

1 – Gender mainstreaming in economic and trade policies

To provide technical support and expertise in the integration of Gender and human rights issues into economic and trade policies in the region, CAWTAR and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) implemented a project entitled “Empowering women towards Gender equality in the MENA region through Gender mainstreaming in economic policies and trade agreements”. Six countries were covered by the project, namely : Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.

The project involves 533 individuals and institutions, and aims at enhancing women's equal access to the economic sphere and trade markets, through the production of evidence-based data related to Gender and Trade for purposes of awareness-raising, policy formulation, strategic planning, and networking for change and for Gender mainstreaming in economic policies and trade agreements.

The project enabled access to over 850 stakeholders representing national, regional and international—governmental and non-governmental—institutions and organizations active in the fields of economy, trade, Gender and human rights.

The year 2019 witnessed the completion of all the project's outputs, namely :

In terms of research :

- Developing a methodology and tools for Gender assessment, audit and analysis, and applying them to the six countries covered by the project. The project involved reviewing (339) general and specialized national and regional agreements, conducting a field survey at the national and regional levels, and holding (10) focus group discussions and (206) face-to-face interviews;
- A regional report on “Gender and Trade” (in English) and a summary of the main findings (in English and Arabic);
- Six (6) national reports on “Gender and Trade” (in Arabic, English and French);
- Evidence-based advocacy brochures on Gender and Trade for each country (in French, English and Arabic);
- Six (6) national maps, a regional map, a map of stakeholders;
- List of relevant (general and specialized) references : 339 references covering 68 trade agreements.
- List of recommendations adopted at national and regional levels, and endorsed by the relevant stakeholders.

In terms of training :

- A training material composed of five units on evidence-based advocacy for equality in Gender and Trade.
- A regional training-of-trainers workshop on evidence-based advocacy and policy dialogue on Gender and Trade, the result of which was the training of 10 trainers, some of whom contributed to the national training.

- Five (5) training sessions in each country (Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Algeria) on “Advocacy skills in Gender and Trade”; benefiting 120 participants from institutions concerned with women and Gender, ministries of economy and trade, chambers of commerce, trade unions, and associations of women entrepreneurs in the countries covered by the project;
- Action plans for advocacy campaigns on Gender and Trade at the national (6) and regional levels, prepared based on priorities agreed by stakeholders.

Main difficulties facing women in starting and growing a business, according to the findings of the Regional Report:

- Sexual / Gender-based bias in education and training;
- Unequal access to and control over resources, including production elements (loans, property, technology, occupations, markets ...);
- High costs of business creation, corrupt practices, violence and sexual harassment;
- Investors’ lack of confidence in women’s entrepreneurship and their role in achieving growth and improving the business environment;

To enhance mutual benefit, which means raising economic growth rates to reduce poverty and eliminating discrimination and Gender inequality, in a context of trade liberalization, it is necessary to :

- Lift barriers to women’s access to business opportunities, by strengthening the capacity of the department of foreign trade in national public institutions to enhance the fair distribution of responsibilities and benefits between men and women.
- Incorporate the Gender dimension into the planning process in a systematic way so as to eliminate all forms of discrimination, reduce existing gaps and achieve equality, including in economy and trade.
- Adopt specific measures to empower women, taking into consideration their multiple roles and responsibilities and the resulting constraints.

CAWTAR Clearinghouse on Gender provided the project with reference lists and lists of associations and institutions active in economic and commercial support in the countries covered by the project. An special window on Gender and Development was created in CAWTAR Clearinghouse on Gender.

2 – Engaging in the process of policy and legislation development in support of Gender equality

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development states that *“a successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society. These inclusive partnerships built upon principles and values, a shared vision, and shared goals that place people and the planet at the centre, are needed at the global, regional, national and local level.”*

The year 2019 witnessed various UN, international, regional and local activities and events aimed at strengthening global partnerships for the advancement of equality issues and women’s empowerment. CAWTAR was actively involved in this dynamic, and engaged with various strategic partners :

AGFUND and sister institutions:

- The 8th AGFUND Development Forum on “Empowering Women Through Financial Inclusion, held in Geneva, Switzerland, on October 8-9, 2019, under the high patronage of HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Talal bin Abdulaziz, President of “Prince Talal International Prize for Human Development” Committee;
- Regional workshop : “Towards a Value System of Supporting Sustainable Development”, held in Cairo, Egypt, on May 4, 2019, organized by the Arab Network

for NGOs in partnership with AGFUND. The aim of the workshop was to consider the development of an Arab code that includes a system of values supporting sustainable development, and to discuss the main ideas that will be contained therein.

UN Commission on the Status of Women

CAWTAR took part in the proceedings of the 63rd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (March 2019) as member of the International Organization of La Francophonie, and contributed two papers. The session focused on the priority theme of “social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for Gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls’. These goals are an integral part of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

United Nations bodies

Arab Regional Forum for Sustainable Development, held in Beirut, Lebanon, on April 9-11, 2019) and organized by ESCWA and the League of Arab States. It was preceded by the Civil Society Forum for Sustainable Development, held on the initiative of the Arab NGO Network for Development in cooperation with the Civil Society Platform on Sustainable Development, whose membership includes CAWTAR.

Advocacy structures for women’s rights:

- **International Conference on “Arab Women in Support of Peace and Stability”**, held on February 9, 2019 at Sorbonne University in Paris, at the invitation of the Tunisian Ministry of Women, Family, Childhood and the Elderly Affairs in Tunisia.
- **Forum on “Family Laws in the Arab States and the Needed Reforms”**, held in Manama, Bahrain, on March 30-31, 2019. CAWTAR contributed a paper during the workshop on “Women, Sustainable Development Goals, and Innovative Solutions to Achieve Gender Equality.”

- **Strategic meeting on “Legal Discrimination against Women and Girls in the Arab Region: Priorities and Future Working Mechanisms”**, held in Beirut, Lebanon, on April 8-9, 2019, and organized by “Equality Now” organization. CAWTAR gave a presentation on its experience in advocacy through networking and knowledge production, and on the Clearing house on Gender and development.
- **Meeting of the OECD Working Group on Corporate Governance in the MENA Region**, held in Paris, France, on April 17-18, 2019. The meeting addressed the main developments, challenges, and efforts to implement vital and effective reforms in corporate governance, as part of a study being prepared for that purpose.

3 - Technical support to partners in the promotion of Gender equality

In line with its five-year Strategy, and based on its cumulative expertise, CAWTAR provided technical support to some of its partners for the implementation of projects that fall within its areas of action :

- **Arab Council for Childhood and Development** : Holding an expert workshop along with four workshops for children on the Guide to terminology, concepts, and wrong images about children circulating in the media, prepared by the Council in cooperation with the Department of Women, Family and Childhood at the League of Arab States and AGFUND. CAWTAR will, at a later stage, undertake a Gender analysis of the study that will be published on this topic.
- **Arab Network for NGOs**: CAWTAR was in charge of analyzing the “Arab Code for Sustainable Development: Values, Behaviors and Skills” in accordance with a Gender-based approach. A number of @NGED Network members had an active participation in the second regional workshop on “The Road to a System of Values, Conduct and

Skills in Support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, held in Cairo, Egypt, in October 2019.

- ***La Fondation de France***: For a more effective civil society action in local development, CAWTAR was invited to participate in an advisory committee on proposals, characteristics and priorities with regard to civil society projects in Tunisia to be funded by the Foundation in 2020. 34 projects for women and youth from interior regions of the country were selected (out of 130 projects).
- **Tunisian Ministry of Women, Family, Childhood, and the Elderly Affairs**: Leading the organization of a training-of-trainers workshop on the educational approach to early childhood development, with support from AGFUND. The workshop aimed to identify the components of the educational approach for early childhood development, and to work on a training package for early childhood educators.

II - SUPPORTING THE INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTER

CAWTAR's institutional mechanisms strengthen its position as a regional and international reference center and a house of expertise and excellence in its areas of action. Through the Media Training Center and the Clearinghouse on Gender, it aspires to enhance the role of the media as an active partner in advocating for equality issues, and to provide a wealth of specialized knowledge drawn from the (published and unpublished) research activities of CAWTAR and its partners, through the use of electronic supports in tune with technological developments.

The Arab Network for Gender and Development “@NGED” serves as an umbrella for the joint work between governmental institutions, NGOs, media professionals, decision-makers and experts from various disciplines, and for reflection on priority issues related to Gender equality and the promotion of women.

On its part, the Administrative and Financial Department supports the institutional mechanisms and the implementation of all activities, and provides logistical backstopping and financial follow-up. The integrated information system and the control and audit system, both contribute to following up the proper implementation of all projects.

1 - Media Training Center

The Media Training Center publicizes CAWTAR's various activities and interventions. It accompanies the implementation of projects, especially in what relates to the media and information component. Monitoring women's presence in the media is the focus of periodic reports issued by CAWTAR in order to keep abreast of changes and transformations in the image and presence of women in the media.

Working to strengthen media professionals' capacities in women and youth issues and to enhance women's capabilities in dealing with the media is an important aspect of CAWTAR's work, closely linked with all the projects and programs it carries out.

Through the efforts of the Media Training Center, a number of achievements were scored in 2019, including in particular :

1-1 In terms of research :

CAWTAR renewed, for the third time, its engagement with the “Global Media Monitoring Project” which monitors the image and presence of women and men in the news, and which releases national and regional reports every five years on Gender equality in the media. In this regard, CAWTAR took part in the Report Coordinators’ preparatory meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya, with the aim of coordinating and preparing for the monitoring process to be conducted in 2020.

1-2 In terms of capacity-development:

- Training 50 men and women working in the film industry (professional and amateur) in Tunisia and Palestine, by providing them with the tools of screenwriting and filmmaking that integrate the concepts of Gender equality and human rights;
- Developing 16 film scenarios and two practical guides for the incorporation of Gender and human rights perspectives into the film industry. The scenario that was announced winner by CAWTAR was offered the opportunity to participate in an international festival, and one of the developed scenarios received funding for shooting from the Ministry of Culture.

The project is implemented in partnership with the Palestinian women’s cinema organization “SHASHAT” (member of @NGED Network), with support from the EU program “Women in the Audiovisual Industry: The Southern Mediterranean Experience”.

- Strengthening the capacities of 15 media professionals from Tunisian public and private radio and TV stations in “Gender and media treatment of women’s issues”, in

partnership with the Higher Independent Authority for Audiovisual Communication, UNESCO and the National Syndicate of Tunisian Journalists.

- Strengthening the capacities of 17 young men and women working in Web radio stations in youth centers in Tunisia, in “Media treatment of women issues”, in partnership with the National Youth Observatory. The aim of the training was to provide participants with skills for the equitable treatment of women’s issues in the media and tools to avoid Gender-based stereotyping.
- Training about 20 M.A. students at the Institute of Press and Information Science on “Gender and the Media: Promoting effective Gender equality in the media”.

Main results in terms of capacity-development

- Developing 16 film scenarios and two practical guides on integrating Gender and Human Rights perspectives in the film industry;
- The winning scenario was offered the opportunity to participate in an international festival;
- One of the developed scenarios got funding for film-shooting;
- Training 52 media professionals on media treatment of women’s issues from a Gender perspective;
- Training 50 men and women working in the film industry (professional and amateur) in Tunisia and Palestine in screenwriting and film-making tools and mechanisms that incorporate the concepts of equality and Gender.

1-3 In terms of awareness-raising and advocacy for women’s issues

- **Best press article contest on women’s issues**

Twenty-six (26) articles were produced on the theme of “Women in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. Three (3) of them were announced winners (from Iraq, Egypt and Palestine) at the 15th edition of the Best Press Article Contest which bears the name of the late

Najiba Hamrouni, the great Tunisian presswoman and editor-in-chief of “CAWTARYAT”. This competition is organized periodically with support from the IPPF Arab World Regional Office.

Pressmen and presswomen from Syria, Egypt, Sudan, Palestine, Algeria, Yemen, Iraq, Tunisia and Morocco participated in the competition. Prizes were awarded by an Arab Jury established by CAWTAR to evaluate the competing articles.

- **CAWTARYAT newsletter**

Three issues of CAWTARYAT (No. 72, 73 and 74) were released : Issue No. 72 offered, in addition to news on the Center’s activities, various articles on women in some Arab countries. Issue No.73 was devoted to the Arab Network for Gender and Development “@NGED” and included testimonials by @NGED members on the Network’s dynamics and proposals for future work. Issue No.74 focused mainly on the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, and the outputs of the related AGFUND-funded project.

Released on a regular basis with support from the IPPF Arab World Regional Office, CAWTARYAT seeks to further publicize CAWTAR’s programs and activities, while keeping up with the development of women’s status and rights across the Arab World. In addition to the CAWTAR team, journalists from @NGED Network contribute to enriching the newsletter.

1-4 In terms of partnership and networking

- With the **Bahrain Women Union** : CAWTAR took part in “Forum on Family Laws in the Arab Countries and the Needed Reforms”, held in Manama, Bahrain, on March 30-31, 2019, and contributed a paper on the current state of family laws in the Arab World. On the sidelines of the Forum, the Center's representative gave a presentation on “Media and Women's Rights”, during a discussion group held by the Bahrain Young Ladies Association and Awal Women Society, and attended by media professionals and civil society activists.

- With the **National Syndicate of Tunisian Journalists** : CAWTAR gave a presentation on “Gender mainstreaming in the media”, during a dialogue session held on November 22, 2019, as part of the Syndicate’s work to develop a strategy for the integration of the Gender perspective into media work. This event was attended by media and law specialists and journalists from various media institutions.

2 – CAWTAR Clearinghouse on Gender

CAWTAR Clearinghouse on Gender is a cornerstone in the implementation of the Center’s projects and programs. It serves as a mechanism for disseminating knowledge produced by CAWTAR and its partners. With its specialized databases, it supports all projects and programs at all phases : from design through implementation, by :

- Providing project coordinators with specialized bibliographies, biographies of experts, lists of institutions, civil society organizations, and media institutions..., according to the areas and countries covered by the project;
- Managing data and information (updating, enrichment, scrutiny, documentary processing, and adaptation) drawn from the projects in order to align them with the future needs of CAWTAR.
- Producing electronic guides and specialized pages and windows in accordance with the objectives of the implemented projects, which are then developed to enhance the project’s outputs and make them available to target groups.

CAWTAR Clearinghouse on Gender enriched the Center’s projects with data and indicators for the following projects :

1. **“Gender-based violence in public spaces”**, in partnership with the Open Society Foundation : Providing bibliographies and lists of associations and institutions active in combating Gender-based violence in Tunisia and Morocco.
2. **“Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda : The role of civil Society and the media”** in partnership with AGFUND : Providing a list of references related to the 2030 Agenda and a list of civil society organizations categorized according to the

Sustainable Development Goals; launching a “community of practice” for relevant partners; and creating a special window in the Clearinghouse featuring the project’s outputs.

3. “**Gender mainstreaming in economic and trade policies**” in partnership with SIDA agency : Providing bibliographic lists and lists of associations and institutions active in economic and commercial support in the six countries covered by the project; and creating a special window in the Clearinghouse on Gender and Trade.

CAWTAR Clearinghouse on Gender and Development

Databases

Lists of institutions and CSOs, biographies, bibliographic lists, documents, references, studies

CAWTAR projects

Studies/research, bibliographies, documents, lists of institutions, biographies

Updating, enrichment, documentary processing, making information available

CAWTAR Clearinghouse on Gender and Development

2-1 Window on universities

GBV in

In 2019, CAWTAR launched the development of a special window on Gender-based violence in universities, based on the various outputs of its project and the activities of its direct partners. The window is expected to be expanded to include more Arab countries. A mobile application was also developed for the protection of women and girls from sexual harassment and GBV in public spaces, and is expected to be launched in Tunisia and Morocco on March 8, 2020.

2-2 Portal of legal and human rights for women and men

On July 3, 2019, CAWTAR launched, in Amman, Jordan, the new version of the electronic portal of legal and human rights of women and men : between equality and gaps, with the attendance of 70 participants from various Arab countries.

To publicize the portal and attract the largest possible number of visitors, work has been undertaken to improve the design of the portal and add search engines to make it easily accessible for the largest possible number of users, especially that its content is unique in the Arab region.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) chose to display the Portal in the “Stimulating Innovation in the Region” session, as an example of an innovative initiative, as part of the meeting for the launch of the “Gender Justice and Equality before the Law Report”, which took place in Jordan on December 10-11, 2019.

The Center is currently working on a partnership agreement with ESCWA, with the support of UNDP, under which the Portal will be enriched with new laws and legislative amendments.

The Portal is the fruit of partnership between CAWTAR, UNDP, and UNIFEM. It was supported by AGFUND and the Government of Finland.

2-3 Training on the use of CAWTAR Clearinghouse on Gender

To enhance the role of the Clearinghouse on Gender and expand the circle of its users and beneficiaries, CAWTAR devoted, within its sub-regional training workshop for the Arab Gulf States on “Gulf women and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development : The role of media and civil society organizations”, a training session on the use of the Clearinghouse on Gender and its various components, pillars and contents (articles, research and studies, videos, and sub-platforms on GBV and on Arab legislation...). This training session was useful in enabling trainees to access and use the Clearinghouse on Gender. Training also focused on skills of access to the “community of practice” on the Sustainable Development Agenda. Participants

pledged to revitalize the “community of practice” and provide the CAWTAR Clearinghouse with relevant studies, research and articles.

CAWTAR, with the support of AGFUND and in partnership with the Association of Algerian Women Entrepreneurs, held a training workshop on the modernization of CAWTAR Clearinghouse on Gender. The workshop was attended by 18 participants from civil society organizations, the Ministry of Women, the Ministry of Industry, and the Ministry of Education.

2-4 Visits to CAWTAR Clearinghouse on Gender

In 2019, there were 15,000 visits to the Clearinghouse, compared to 8,500 visits in 2018. 50,415 pages were accessed, with an average of 8 minutes spent per visitor. Most of the visitors are between 25 and 44 years of age. Unlike the previous period, the percentage of male visitors has exceeded that of women, with men representing 56.5 percent of all visitors.

In 2019, CAWTAR Clearinghouse on Gender was enriched with 710 new studies, reports and films addressing the following topics : Arab women, human rights and legislation; Arab women and the environment; Arab women and decision-making; Arab women and economic participation; Gender-based violence; Gender and violent extremism; and Gender and immigration. The number of accessible documents thus went up from 4475 in 2018 to 5185 in 2019.

The database of institutions, experts and resource persons in “Gender and Development” (in Arabic and English) was enriched with 1179 new entries and the updating of 2133 entries. The database currently includes 16785 entries (after having deleted data that are no longer valid). It feeds all directories and the electronic map available in the Clearinghouse.

In 2019, CAWTAR undertook the restructuring of the Clearinghouse to include the sub-websites of the various projects (GBV in universities, Gender and Trade, Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Arab Network for Gender and Development - @NGED).

3 - The Arab Network for Gender and Development (@NGED)

The projects funded by AGFUND and the Open Society Foundation in 2019 created an enhanced dynamic among members of the @NGED Network on various topics. In addition to participation in preparing the 7th Arab Women Development Report, developing the Practical Guide, and organizing the training workshops, this dynamic involved the holding of a regional meeting and two roundtables to reflect on advocacy for the Network, and lay down its strategic plan for the coming years in light of CAWTAR's five-year Strategy.

The @NGED Network is a mechanism for joint regional action and for promoting the sharing of knowledge and expertise among its members in their various areas of interest and specialization. Through the members of the Network, CAWTAR has been able to delve deeper into understanding the current state of Arab countries, to engage in a number of national and local dynamics, and to serve as a center of expertise for some organizations and institutions. The Network is a reference for its members in terms of learning and exchange, and a space for various activities, including research, training, expertise sharing, and promotion of policy dialogue on issues of Gender equality and women's comprehensive empowerment.

Testimonials by @NGED members

Mrs. Bahia Hariri, MP, Lebanon

"@NGED has built strategic partnerships with international and regional organizations active in promoting the values of Gender equality. It has contributed to the empowerment of women in the Arab world through the empowerment and training programs implemented for Arab women-leaders. Its studies and reports offer a significant added value, enhancing knowledge about Arab women's conditions and rights, and highlighting similarities and differences in their current realities. The Network provides a space for dialogue on Gender and equality issues, and for mobilizing support for women's issues."

Mrs. Suhair Jaradat, Journalist, Director of Jadal Media Training Center

My experience with @NGED has had a positive impact in my life, and has significantly enriched my professional career. It marked a turning point in my personality and made a difference in my career. It helped me to discover my potential in transferring information through training. The training sessions I attended have expanded the scope of my work which is no longer limited to journalistic writing, but now includes training development and transfer of information to media people and to all those who believe in Gender and its integration into all fields of life; and I am now a Gender trainer.

Journalist Nihad Al-Taweel- Palestine

I joined the Network in 2006 by contributing a series of articles on the conditions of Palestinian women. I also took part in many training sessions organized by CAWTAR for Arab media professionals who are member of the Network, which has had a significant impact on my professional career. In fact, my experience with @NGED in particular, and with CAWTAR in general, has been very enriching, making a real difference in my work and in other aspects of my life. @NGED provides real opportunities to mobilize regional expertise and resources to address Gender-specific priorities. It also offers continued access to a solid analytical base for policy-making and for the promotion of Gender equality through the media which provide a broad space for dialogue on Gender issues. I remember, after joining the Network, how I gained a valuable experience on media and Gender, and on creative media treatment of Gender issues.

Dr. Hanan Yousef (Egypt), Media Professor at Ain Shams University, and President of the Arab Organization for Dialogue and International Cooperation (Cairo)

My experience with CAWTAR and with @NGED in particular was a message about the importance of networking at the Arab level to promote development and equality issues. I was honored to have been one of the founding members of the Network since its launch nearly two decades ago. As I am documenting this experience, it is important to say that a great deal of expertise on Gender has been shared through inter-Arab relations built under the umbrella of @NGED and through its members from various Arab countries. @NGED Network truly represents an outstanding model in promoting development and Gender

equality. It needs to revitalize its efforts in the coming period so as to rally further support for women's and Gender issues in the Arab region.

Amal Babaker, Sudan

@NGED Network has given a strong momentum to women's issues in the Arab World. It was very much like a stone that fell in a static pond, so that its water has flown over Arab women in deserts and valleys, dusting them off, and giving rise to active women who are able to interact with their society. When invitations to join @NGED were distributed to the distinguished presswomen working in the print and audio-visual media in 2002, the Gender concept was then still new and difficult to understand ... but since the first symposium held by the Network, members not only understood the meaning of the term "Gender", but also became advocates of it and served as "ambassadors of @NGED" in their respective countries.

Howayda Salim, Sudan

The experience with @NGED network has confirmed the importance of the media as an essential partner in achieving the goals of Gender equality and social justice, by working to shed light on crucial issues such as political participation, decision-making, legislation and laws. These issues are discussed in the CAWTARYAT newsletter which truly serves as a platform for Arab women to discuss the issues that are left untouched in the official media of most Arab countries, such as violence against women in all its forms, and youth and adolescent issues. Moreover, the competitions announced by the Center have created a strong dynamic on women and Gender issues in the Arab media.

3-1 Promoting joint work among members

The regional meetings of @NGED are among the key working mechanisms of the Network, offering true opportunities to enhance exchange and joint action on a selected package of priority issues related to Gender and development. These meetings strengthen the process of interaction, joint action and forward-looking thinking on issues of interest to CAWTAR, in which @NGED members are actively engaged. This has been embodied through the mutual dynamic and shared gains between @NGED and CAWTAR, as well as the creation of spaces for joint action and for the sharing of expertise, experiences and lessons among all actors in the fields of Gender and development.

In 2019, CAWTAR held the Regional Seminar on "Strategic Thinking and Strengthening Partnership : Horizons 2030". This event was attended by 45 participants from @NGED

Network and CAWTAR partners, including activists, experts, researchers, and specialized trainers, along with representatives from research centers, NGOs and regional institutions active in the fields of media, Gender and development.

The meeting was an opportunity to share experiences, expertise and good practices, and to set priorities in light of three focus areas : the Agenda for Sustainable Development, economic integration and empowerment, and Gender-based violence. It reflected CAWTAR's keenness to continuously renew its vision in a unique manner that would help it carry out its mission and achieve its goals in effectively serving women and men in the Arab region.

The meeting was held in partnership with the Open Society Initiative for the MENA region, and with the support of AGFUND and the Islamic Development Bank.

3-2 Enhancing @NGED capacities for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

To strengthen @NGED members' capacities in relation to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, CAWTAR held two ADFUND-supported roundtables in Jordan and Tunisia, during which it presented its projects pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encouraged members to join the Center's relevant efforts by incorporating the Gender equality perspective in the 2030 Agenda. These meetings also offered the opportunity to jointly reflect on women's priority issues in relation to the 2030 Agenda and on the proper advocacy mechanisms, and to come out with a list of proposed issues emanating from the working groups.

3 - 3 Call for papers intended for policy-makers

CAWTAR issued a call to the members of its network for participation with papers intended for local and regional policymakers (governments, parliaments, ministries, and politicians) to draw their attention to the importance of Gender equality, being a fundamental issue that touches on the entire Sustainable Development Agenda, with all its Goals and Targets. This

would enable advocacy for Gender mainstreaming in policies and legislations as well as in development programs and projects.

Three (3) papers on SDG advocacy, intended for policy-makers will be selected. Papers were already received from Morocco, Bahrain, Tunisia, Jordan and Sudan.

4 - Partnership agreements

CAWTAR is keen on strengthening mechanisms of joint regional action, being crucial in enhancing efforts, maximizing impact, and stimulating the sharing of experiences and expertise on multiple levels. In 2019, the Center concluded partnership agreements with :

- The **Arab Network for NGOs** (programs related to the 2030 Agenda);
- The **Center for Women's Studies at the University of Jordan** (promoting and sharing the results of research and studies);
- **Wafaa Organization in Palestine and the National Bank of Jordan** (financial education for women and youth);
- The **National Youth Observatory in Tunisia** (promoting research on youth issues);
- The **Tunisian Association for Culture and Entertainment of Persons with Visual Disabilities "IBSAR"** (providing the Center's publications to visually impaired people by converting them into Braille).

5 - Administrative and financial affairs

The Administrative and Financial Department supervises the logistical and financial aspects of all CAWTAR's programs and projects (budgeting, financial reports, contracts, preparation of Board meetings, assistance in organizing conferences and workshops, invoice payment, and tracking of all spendings and payments...).

The Center's administrative work in 2019 involved in particular :

- Holding the meeting of CAWTAR Board of Trustees (February 2019 in Tunis), with the participation of the Board members and representatives of a number of international organizations;
- Pursuing coordination between AGFUND and the Tunisian Ministry of Women, the Family, Childhood and the Elderly Affairs concerning their joint project on “Early childhood Development Programme”;
- Performing financial and administrative audit by a competent external auditor, and obtaining the certification of accounts for the financial year 2019.
- Preparing the financial reports of completed projects and of those in progress;
- Preparing the budget for the year 2019;
- Conducting the annual inventory of properties, movables and stocks;
- Enhancing the efficiency of administrative work and increasing the financial resources of the Center.

Strengthening staff capacities

CAWTAR staff members are offered continuous programs to enhance their abilities and skills in terms of project follow-up and implementation. The Center supports staff development in all its fields of action, especially in terms of leadership, communication and outreach skills, and results-based management. Staff members participate in training programs organized by the Center as well as by partners in the Arab region and beyond.

6 - New projects and projects under discussion

- ✓ Empowering businesswomen in the MENA region for equal access to business and trade markets (KVINNA TILL KVINNA)
- ✓ Women and youth participation in political life and local governance AEICD (second phase);
- ✓ The integration of youth in vulnerable situations (TRANSGANG);

- ✓ Empowering women to demand equal economic rights (CIPE);
- ✓ HANDS ALONG THE NILE.