TRAINING WORKSHOP ON IWRM IN SWIM-SM COUNTRIES, 10 & 11 September 2012, Athens

Presented by: Dr. Hosny Khordagui, Team Leader, SWIM-SM

OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENTATION

1. To present the main constraints & challenges hindering the planning & implementation of IWRM in SWIM countries.
2. **WHY?** To identify the root causes of the problems and advise on policy options & activities that can be undertaken by countries to rectify the situation.

Symptoms → Diagnosis → Prescription

PART I

Gaps, shortcoming & constraints hindering the planning and/or implementation of water plans & strategies

I- Inadequacy of horizontal & vertical coordination & mainstreaming water in other sectors

- Most of SWIM countries supported by donors developed excellent IWRM plans with well designed horizontal & vertical coordination.
- However, implementation showed modest levels of cross-sectoral coordination with ineffective permanent structures or institutions.
- **Why?** 1- Competition among sectors on the dwindling resource, 2- overlap of responsibilities among sectors, 3- uncoordinated plans of action, 4- lack of incentives for coordination, 5- power politics, 6- lack of transparency & fear of exposure, 7- lack of mechanisms for follow-up by the Cabinet, 8- lack of synchronization.

II- Inadequate policy coherence, fragmentation of institutions & overlap of water legislations:

- Various levels of institutional fragmentation & overlap of responsibilities do exist, often inhibiting an effective IWRM in many of the SWIM Countries.
- Planning & management is separate from budgeting & construction.
- Lack of consolidated institutional & legal framework with clearly delineated responsibilities, including the establishment of regulatory body for operating W & WW systems in most SWIM Countries.
- **Why?** 1- Lack of political commitment, 2- Bureaucracies are risk averse, 3- No clear delineation of responsibilities, 4- Abundance of outdated, overlapping & fragmented water legislations,

III- Inadequate Data & Information on water resources quantities & qualities for decision making & policy formulation.

- Data availability for quantity & quality of water resources, as well as the issue of reliability of available data & access to them poses a serious constraint in most SWIM PCs.
- Many efforts are underway to build monitoring & inspection capacities in the region without full integration with relevant sectors.
- Inadequate information on the socio-economic & environmental aspects of water resources is hindering the proper decision making process & aborting efforts to implement IWRM principles.

IV- Inadequacy of stakeholder participation in planning & implementing water resources plans

1. In most SWIM PCs, stakeholder participation is modest in water planning & totally inadequate in implementation of the plans.
2. Participation of civil society representatives in inter-ministerial committees is not mandatory, and thus their involvement does not have an effective role/impact in the process.
3. Also the gender element in participation is lagging behind, as men are usually the owners of, the particularly, inherited land & therefore have final word on water resources.
4. Although the participatory approach is relatively recognised through the implementation of WUAs, the effective participation in water management & decision making remains weak & without the supporting legislations.

V- Inadequate financing & investment in resources & infrastructure

- Water sector's financing gap represents one of the main shortcomings in implementing water plans/strategies.
- The financial support of donors, through loans & grants is significant for most SWIM countries covering the largest part of infrastructure investments.

WHY? 1-Inactive economic instruments including tariff, incentives & disincentives, 2- poor enabling environment needed for private sector involvement, 3- persisting socio-political pressures to keep water subsidies, 4- lax enforcement of polluter & user pay principles, 5- Inadequate capacity to value water resources through cost-benefit & opportunity cost analysis (virtual water).

PART II

Challenges associated with planning, strategising & implementing water resources management

I- Political instability & public call for democracy, equity & participation

- SWIM Region is suffering from chronic political instability.
- The, so called, Arab Spring, have set the SWIM region into an unprecedented & most challenging trajectory.

TEMPORARY NEGATIVE ASPECTS

On the surface, Arab Spring appears to affect the water sector through:

1. Hindering the plans for the reduction of water subsidies.
2. Lack of security & safety affecting water sector operations,
3. Interruption of power supplies is hindering water supplies and wastewater treatment.
4. Loss of foreign & domestic investments affecting PPP,
5. Changes in political leaderships including the water sector
6. Stagnation in the transformation to market economy.
7. Migration of foreign currency, higher debts, lower remittance, etc. affecting sector financing
8. Displacement of refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia and Turkey.

WHAT PUBLIC IS CALLING FOR?

Calling for:

1. Equity
2. Transparency
3. Accountability
4. Rule of law
5. No corruption
6. Democracy
7. Participation, etc.

These are precisely the core components of good water governance.

We can see an opportunity here???

II- Poor financing of the water sector:

•The challenge to financing capacity of the sector is linked to the ability to generate internal revenue through tariffs & taxes.

•Setting tariffs has constituted the most arduous task for the governments in the region. **Pricing water is a taboo**.

WHY?

1. Trans-boundary nature of water resources in the region.
2. Tariffs for water is an extremely socio-political sensitive issue given the level of poverty in the region.
3. Decades of socialism in the region from 1950's to 1990's created a culture that water is an absolute right and that central governments are committed to supply heavily subsidized water similar to health care, housing, electricity, education, transportation, etc.
4. Generating revenues from water is touching upon strong social & religious beliefs about the nature of water as a free social good.

III- Increase of demand as the outcome of demographic trends & socio-economic development

- Fast population growth coupled with accelerated socio-economic development has reduced the per-capita share to unprecedented low levels in SWIM countries.
- Many of the SWIM countries are resorting to demand management & increase their water supplies through and development of non-conventional water resources, mainly wastewater reuse & desalination.

IV- Governance Gap , mainstreaming, participation, transparency, accountability, equity, rule of law)

What we mean by water governance?

1. **Participation:** including bottom-up approach, stakeholders participation, WUAs, community involvement, NGOs, gender balance, decentralization, etc.
2. **Transparency:** Including monitoring, reporting, disclosing, sharing & disseminating water information. Media involvement in addressing water scarcity & quality problems, freedom of speech & availability of public forums to voice water concern.
3. **Equity:** including equity in water rights between poor & rich, men & women, advantaged & disadvantaged, etc.

4. **Effectiveness & Efficiency: S**ocio-economic return from water use & internalization of environmental externalities.
5. **Rule of Law:** Adequacy of water legislations, degree of compliance, capacity to inspect, audit & report on non-compliance, capacity to enforce through accredited monitoring, qualified law enforcement officers, prosecutors & judiciaries & public access to justice, etc.
6. **Accountability:** Accountability of the government, public sector, private sector & civil societies to the public; public response to lack of accountability; institutional & political structures affecting accountability in water sector.
7. **Coherence & Integration:** Including horizontal coordination among relevant water sectors & vertical coordination within the water sector down to communities level.

ROOT CAUSES FOR LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

1. **Technical Reasons:** Availability & validity of basic data.
2. **Political Reasons**: Information on water in most SWIM countries is considered as classified information not to be disclosed. This is attributed to the following sensitivities:
   i. Public pressure might alter the development agenda of governments.
   ii. Water quality data might cause unnecessary public concern.
   iii. It might affect negotiating positions with upstream countries.
   iv. Military regimes in some states have the culture & traditions of information secrecy. This transcend in all government sectors including water.
   v. It might reflects the bad performance of governments.

3. **Economic Reasons:**

   i. Disclosing water information might negatively affect export of agricultural products potentially irrigated with contaminated water.

   ii. Disclosing water information (water quality) might alter tourism.

4. **Personal Reasons:** (Related to corruption)

   i. Some officials controlling water & environmental data feel that concealing information under their jurisdiction is giving them more leverage, authority & investment opportunities.

RULE OF LAW IN WATER MANAGEMENT

- **WHY RULE OF LAW ISN'T APPLIED IN SOME SWIM COUNTRIES?**

1. Inadequate & fragmented water & environment legislations,
2. Inadequate monitoring, inspection, auditing & reporting non-compliance systems.
3. Inadequate technical & administrative capacities to improve compliance with water legislations.
4. Inadequate enforcement capacities through accredited monitoring, qualified law enforcement officers, prosecutors & judiciaries.

V- Emerging challenges: climate change, energy-food-water nexus, etc.

1. All projections indicates that water stress might become more acute in the Mediterranean & Middle East .
2. It is estimated that the rainfall will decrease by 25% at a regional level and up to 40% in some specific locations.
3. Most of SWIM countries are expected to experience decrease in precipitation.
4. Rising temperatures and changes in run-off patterns will influence the flow of rivers upon which countries in the region heavily depend.

WHY water plans in SWIM countries will be hindered by CC?

1. Over-dependence on water sensitive economic sectors such as agriculture, grazing, eco-tourism, aquaculture, etc.;
2. Already debilitated ecological base particularly in land degradation, loss in biodiversity, water pollution, desertification, etc.;
3. Technological skills, financial & human resource are relatively limited to improve water sector's resilience towards CC;
4. Inadequate meteorological & hydrological databases to assess, predict & manage potential CC impacts on water resources;
5. Heavy reliance on international fresh water resources from upstream countries likely to be severely affected by CC;

مع خالص شكري
وامتناني

Thank you
for your attention

Merci pour
votre attention

For additional information please contact:
Sustainable Water Integrated Management – Support Mechanism: info@swim-sm.eu