



Sustainable Water  
Integrated Management (SWIM) -  
Support Mechanism



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*Water is too precious to waste*

**LOCAL WATER GOVERNANCE:  
SWIM-SM Suggested Priorities and Key Activities**  
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# Water Users Participation

- Participation refers to a continuum of users' involvement that affords them a greater role in planning and management decisions.
- It is an essential requirement for efficient water management and a key component for the design and successful implementation of IWRM.
- Participation enables projects to be planned and managed based on genuine knowledge of the needs and constraints of **both the state** (which holds the resources and ensures their continuity); **and the user groups** (who are responsible for the viability and sustainability of their own activities).

# Purposes for establishing irrigation Water Users Associations (WUAs)

- Reduce losses and illegal use from the distribution networks and maximize irrigation use efficiency;
- Maximize equitable distribution of water and farmers' involvement in the decision-making;

# Overview of the Status of Water Users Participation in the Project Countries

- The Mediterranean experience related to water users' participation in the fields of irrigation and drinking water is much diversified.
- Local community stakeholders and user associations have been established in countries like Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.
  - Tunisia & Morocco - considerable experience and long history of farmer's participation in the irrigation sector with roles and responsibilities between the government and the farmers evolving over time (Experience since 1987 in Tunisia and 1990 in Morocco) .
  - Jordan: The experience is relatively recent (since 2001).
  - Lebanon and Syria still demonstrate limited experience.
    - Syria: still limited to pilot projects,
    - Lebanon: some water committees, created by MoEW, with very restricted role e.g. water distribution between beneficiaries and limited intervention in channel rehabilitation.

# Constraints to WUAs' sustainable function in the region

- Nominal support to decentralization;
- Lack of necessary incentives for the formation, operation and sustainability of the WUAs. Incentives include policy and technical guidance, mechanisms and regulations to allow local management to flourish;
- Legal gaps;
- Low capacities;
- Limited or nonexistent accessibility of local communities to decision making;

# Objectives of the Pillar

- Identify actions for improving local water management & reinforcing users' participation (under the guidance of national authorities and taking into account local conditions);
- Assess the adequacy of water legislations for the establishment and effective operation of WUAs. Identify opportunities for updating and/or amending water legislation;
- Provide WUA with the necessary tools; guidelines, manuals, technical training and capacity building including soft skills development that would enable them to be actively involved in decision-making in the water sector on selected areas and local level;
- Create partnerships in development among policy makers, civil society and local communities in ways that enhance mutual trust and collaboration;

# Priorities in Water Governance in the PCs

Themes	Algeria	Morocco	Tunisia	Egypt	Jordan	Lebanon	Syria	oPt	Israel
Water Governance at the local level, including support of social and water users' groups and strengthening water users' associations and River Basin Organisations	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	x
Private sector involvement in the water sector, including small-scale PSP		x	x	x				x	x

# Proposed Tasks to Achieve the Objectives

1. Identify status of WUAs in the PCs;
2. Share experiences through organisation of regional workshop;
3. Assess legal framework & identify opportunities for updates &/or amendments;
4. Conduct training activities to assist the establishment of pilot WUAs;
5. Implement pilot activities to strengthen WUAs in accordance with national regulations;
6. Conduct self-evaluation and extract lessons learned through on-going monitoring.



# Year 1 Work Plan

Work package	Tasks	Output
WP1: Water Governance & mainstreaming	Enhance knowledge on water governance at the local level: Elaboration of a concise assessment on the status of WUAs in the PCs (achievements, gaps, constraints, challenges, needs, opportunities etc)	An assessment documenting status of WUAs in the PCs, including recommended priorities for action by SWIM-SM
	Organisation of a regional workshop to present the findings, share experiences & best practices at regional level & identify recommend priority actions at country level.	Workshop
WP2: Capacity Building	2x2-day Sub-regional training of WUAs representatives from selected countries (training provided partially by representatives from PCs advanced in WUAs operationalisation - in coordination with H2020 CB/MEP.	Training

# Year 1 Work Plan (continued)

Work package	Tasks	Output
WP 3: Application of water management plans	Strengthen implementation capacity of national water plans at local level with emphasis on financial sustainability.	manual for local level private sector participation produced
WP 4: Identification of good practices & success stories in the region & elsewhere	Documentation of best practices in the operationalisation of WUAs.	Best practices identified & documented with regard to the operation of WUAs, also using unsuccessful/less successful examples & learning points

# Activities Implemented

- Draft Terms of reference for regional assessment (already prepared)
- TOR awaits EC approval

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Thank you  
for your attention

Merci pour  
votre attention



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