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The Role of NGOs in Water Governance in the ESCWA Region: As a Means to Highlight the Importance of Stakeholders' Involvement in the Successful Implementation of Sustainable Water Management

UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR WESTERN ASIA

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The Role of NGOs in water governance in the ESCWA region:

As a means to highlight the importance of stakeholders' involvement in the successful implementation of sustainable water management.

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Seminar on Water Governance: Role of Stakeholders and Civil Society Institutions

Beirut-Lebanon ,Nov. 14-15, 2005

General Objectives and Goals of NGOs

- 1. To develop the national sense to interact with the environment and positively utilize its elements; and to deepen the environmental awareness of the public through dissemination of reasonable knowledge and reliable technology.**
- 2. To participate in identifying and successfully-solving environmental pollution problems; as well as fighting all forms and sources of pollution, whether it is physical, chemical or biological.**
- 3. To work towards protecting, improving and preserving the basic elements of environment, namely; water, air, and soil.**
- 4. To invite the contributions of interested people and environmental-protection specialist and facilitate their efforts and clean environments; as well s encourage all initiatives aiming at the same goal.**

Why the NGO Role is Important?

- NGOs are a social change instrument.
- NGOs participatory approach would much facilitate creating a water oriented civil society.
- NGOs have a more access for social marketing activities.
- NGOs are the corner stone in forming pressure groups.
- NGOs are, as per the community believes, are unbiased organizations that do not own a political agenda in regard to water issues.

Why the NGOs Role is Important? Cont'd

- NGOs ensure community, as well as other stakeholders, participation.
- NGOs develop a more efficient capacity building, awareness and training skills.
- NGOs at large are more donor-oriented organizations in regard to the "Soft Solutions" of water issues.
- Enhance the participatory approach in sustainable water management.

The Role of NGOs in Sustainable Water Management

- **Advocate the implementation of the Sustainable Water Management in terms of :**
 - **Water resources protection and pollution prevention measures.**
 - **Optimum and sustainable water management for water needs by different sectors.**
 - **Implementation of water conservation practices at all water users (domestic, agriculture and industry) (rainfall harvesting, use of water saving methods, use of water saving devices, cultivating least crop water requirements, agricultural practices, modern irrigation techniques, on-farm water management, crop water requirement studies... etc). JES projects, WEPIA projects.**

The Role of NGOs in Sustainable Water Management Cont'd \ 1

- **Promote public awareness and participatory approach necessary for successful IWRM implementation. Awareness should include all community groups starting from the grass root till policy makers.**
- **Training and capacity building on tools and issues of water management. Promote and Encourage water conservation projects and activities at local community level (Rainfall harvesting wells and practices, use of water saving devices, use of modern irrigation methods, water reuse and recycling)**
- **Promote women participation in water management (JES, Women federation and women committee participation in water conservation).**

The Role of NGOs in Sustainable Water Management Cont'd \ 2

- **Legislations development to promote sustainable water management by institutions, individuals, organizations, NGO's and local communities.**
- **Introduce incentives to promote sustainable water management at all community levels. Reduce tax on tools and devices for water management and conservation. Example JES & MWI reduce taxes on water saving devices.**
- **Participate in the development of regulations and guidelines for sustainable water management and conservation by interested parties.**
- **Enhance government support to promote water demand management practices at all community levels.**

NGOs Role in Water Governance

- **Coordinate and monitor implementation of the activities of the "Work Plan" described in the "Letter of Understanding" of the NGOs National Chapter to enhance the implementation of IWRM through the NGOs Chapter and other stake holder's involvement in the implementation of IWRM to achieve more efficient water governance.**
- **To ensure that the National Work plan would directly tackle, and solve, issues related to in efficient water governance, such as sect oral competitive management, top-down approach, the need for participatory approach, institutional reform, development of an institutional social and communication skills, water demand versus water supply policies, Scio-economic development activities, stakeholders' participation and the cross sectional integration.**

NGOs Role in Water Governance

Cont'd \ 1

- **To ensure the development of a capacity building work plan combined with an institutional reform are included in NGO national chapter's IWRM implementation enhancement work plan.**
- **To ensure the development of the social and economic value of water and the legal financial and technical instruments in its governance in the implementation of IWRM application work plan.**
- **Facilitate liaison and networking between and among the NGO national chapter organizations, other relevant organizations, regional NGO organizations, key stakeholders and other individuals involved in IWRM implementation.**
- **Provide support to National Coordinators in technical and administrative matters relating to the activities of the implementation of the National Work Plan, as per described earlier.**

NGOs Role in Water Governance

Cont'd \ 2.

- **Coordinate and oversee the preparation of the substantive and operational reports for IWRM implementation Work Plan.**
- **Collect and disseminate information on policy, economic, scientific, and technical issues related to IWRM implementation Work Plan.**
- **Brief The National Chapter Management on issues associated with the implementation of the IWRM implementation policy, or other relevant issues, as required.**
- **Participate in and prepare project reviews**
- **Promote public awareness and participatory activities necessary for successful IWRM implementation.**
- **Develop pressure groups for the enhancement of the IWRM implementation institutional reform and good water efficient water governance.**

Stakeholders within IWRM Framework

Primary stakeholders' examples include the village, farmers, consumers, or even riparian nations at the international level.

Secondary stakeholders' examples include public service unions, local leaders, politicians, and riparian nations.

Key stakeholders are often used to create coalitions of support for change within the IWRM context, at the local, provincial, national and international levels.

- There are several categories of stakeholders within the integrated water resource management framework.

In the ESCWA region, these include:

1. Women
2. Refugees
3. Villages sharing a water resource
4. Farmer Associations
5. Communities within a watershed
6. Water user associations
7. Ministries of Water, Environment, Public Works
8. Municipal Administrators
9. Youth

10. Consumers
11. Riparian nations
12. Funding agencies
13. Monitoring institutions
- *The following categories to be added:*
 14. Water Industries
 15. Water systems suppliers and contractors
 16. Civil Society institutions and NGOs

**The Role of NGOs in water governance in the ESCWA region
As a means to highlight the importance of stakeholders'
involvement in the Successful implementation of sustainable
water management.**

- 1. NGOs have enhanced the role of woman in the implementation of sustainable water development through: capacity building in water conservation issues: Rain water harvesting, the re-use of gray water in villages for tree plantation, income generation and poverty alleviation. This also applies to village sharing of water resource.**
- 2. NGOs have conducted activities related to water practices and water value to the permanent and temporary refugee camps.**

3. Farmer Associations, as NGOs, has played an important role in regard to water management versus land management, low water demand crop patterns, the use of efficient water technologies in irrigation and the reduction of the use of pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers in agriculture. Farmers association in some parts of ESCWA region had performed a more efficient extension services than formal public institutions. Farmers associations are actively involved now in the water for agriculture legislation.
4. NGOs have an important role in the conflict resolution between communities within water shed. This issue is much more obvious in the agricultural sector. But, there more example of water industrial and urban water uses in this regard. These communities have been enhanced by NGOs to play a more active role in legislation of water management.
5. Water user associations are NGOs. Their role in water governance needs to be more affiliated. These NGOs needs to be involved in all aspects of IWRM implementation, as well.

6. NGOs will act as pressure group for the implementation of IWRM. NGOs will be actively involved in having an efficient water governance policy and measure implementation, along with other stakeholders in this regard.
7. NGOs are more involved with Municipal Administrators in regard to proper water management practices, especially to xeri-scaping, park development, house garden developed, efficient water uses and sanitation legislations.
8. Youth are the main source of volunteers for NGOs water awareness campaigns. NGOs also have youth actively participate in the capacity building activities of the IWRM implementation, this needed especially, when the NGO has the mandate to monitor the implementation of IWRM and the efficient water governance.

9. The consumer protection NGO is the very active in some parts of SCWA region, Jordan is one. It has a say in the water quality, water value and the socio-economic impact of inefficient water governance on the water consumer.
10. NGOs ensure efficient water governance for Riparian nations. This might include development of agreements on regional level sometimes, especially in regard to the excess use of water polluting factor. The regional NGOs would facilitate also the efficient governance on both sides of the rift.
11. Funding agencies has confidence in the participatory method implemented by NGO practices. Thos would facilitate funding agencies to have direct involvement with NGO in regard to donations, grants and assistance related to the implementation of proper IWRM practice and efficient water governance.

12. Monitoring institutions NGO lobbying would enhance monitoring institutions involvement to ensure efficient water governance legislation, policies and practices.
 - *The following categories need to be added:*
13. Water Industries: This suggested stakeholders need to have involvement in the specifications and standard of water installations products.
14. Water systems suppliers and contractors: This applies also on these suggested stakeholders' categories
15. Civil Society institutions and NGOs: need to be Involved in Code development:
 - Irrigation, plumbing, beatification and sanitation codes, such as the Engineering Association, Vocational Training Corp., research institutions.

Efficient Water Demand Management Programs in Jordan

- **General**
 - The Government of Jordan's WDM Program.
 - MWI WDM Unit Establishment.
 - NGO participation.
 - Private sector participation.

Urban Water Demand Management Program in Jordan

- **Water rationing**
- **Conservation rate structure**
- **Urban water network rehabilitation**
- **Leak detection and repair**
- **Awareness in water campaigns**
- **Public education**
- **NGO active participation**
- **Private sector participation**
- **WEPIA Program**

WEPIA program the Ministry of Water and Irrigation \ Jordan

- The five-year WEPIA Program had accomplished its objectives and goals in regard to "Urban Water Demand Management" and efficient-water-use, most important of which are:
 - I - Regulatory
 - Adopting the utilization of water efficient in urban entities.
 - Development of Water Saving Devices (WSDs) standards.
 - Development and publishing of the " National Building Water Supply Code"
 - Projection of the implementation of the "National Building Water Supply Code" on Jordan water demand.
 - Implementation of an audit \ retrofit program
 - Development of the " Plumbing Code"

- Development of the Beautification code for outdoor urban efficient water uses.
- Development of a new-water efficient VTC Plumbing Curriculum (VTC:Vocational Training Corporation)
- Development and publishing of new public education curriculum (kindergarten –twelfth grade) on the efficient use of water.
- Development of education programs and training courses on the implementation of Xeri-scaping (drought tolerant plants) in urban house gardens and parks
- Development of the "Labeling Program" for the water and energy efficient appliances.

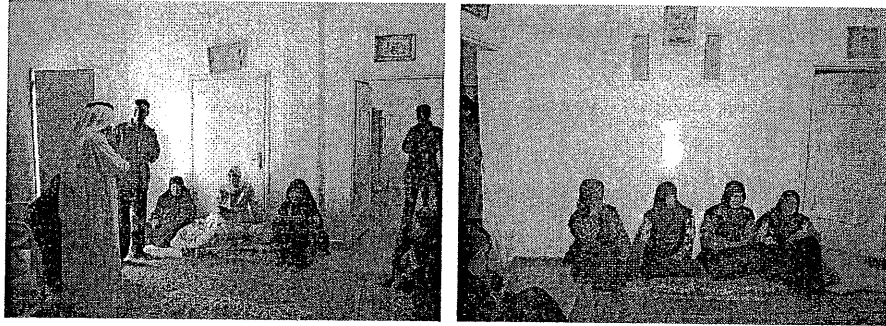
II – Capacity Building on efficient use of water

- **Enhancing woman's water education programs.**
 - **NGO water efficient use capacity building programs**
 - **Woman Preacher water education programs**
 - **Establishment of the " Woman Sell Force" team to promote and sell WSDs for a more efficient use of water in the households**
 - **Training and forming a team of "Woman Professional Plumber" to facilitate repair of water leak in the households during daytime.**

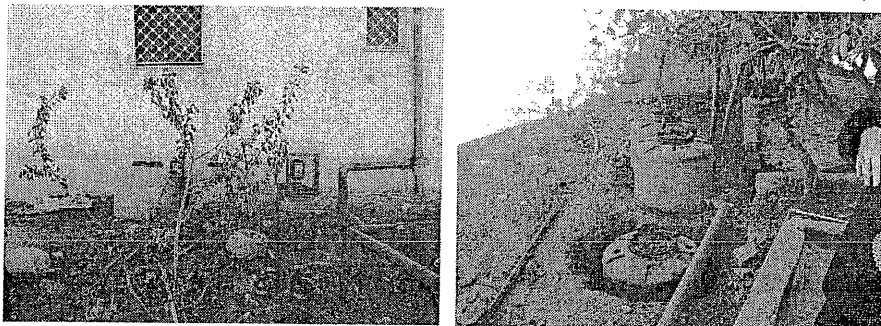
Woman Plumber Training



East Shiqaira Women Training on Gray Water Systems



East Shiqaira Gray Water Systems



**Khadra: East Shiqaira's Most Skilled Person on
Gray Water System O&M**



- **Enhancing religious groups' participation in the water education activities.**
- **Development of the Imam's (Male Preacher) Water Conservation Guide, as well as other Islamic brochures on water conservation to enhance public education on water efficiency in the Mosques' Preaches and prayers.**
- **Rehabilitation and funding of NGO native plant nurseries**
- **Small grants on water efficiency projects**
- **Model community program on the rehabilitation and the efficient use of water, reused water (gray water) and energy**
- **Provide a local industry with the know-how of manufacturing water efficient technologies in Jordan to make it more feasible to the Jordan public to have their buildings and houses retrofitted.**

III - Media

- **Conducting Media Campaigns:**
 - **Abu Tawfeer street display boards to enhance the public to use of WSDs.**
 - **T.V. Spots on Abu Tawfeer**
 - **Newspaper comic strips of Abu Tawfeer in the local newspapers.**
 - **Pamphlets on efficient use of water.**
 - **Brochures**
 - **Flipcharts for water efficient educational purposes.**

- **T.V. and broadcast interviews on water efficiency and urban water demand management issues.**
- **Publishing a monthly magazine on water efficient issues**
- **Publishing a child magazine that would enhance children's water education**
- **Development of an ICI program and brochure**

WEPIA Retrofit Program

Universe of entities of large water consumption of more than 500 cubic meters for the billing cycle:

- **Public buildings**
- **Commercial buildings**
- **Schools**
- **Hospitals**
- **Hotels and restaurants**
- **NGOs and clubs**

- **Conduct site water audits (flow in water fixtures)**
- **Development of "Feasibility Analysis Package"**
- **Site owner \ manager approves to retrofit**
- **Monitoring and tracking**
- **Results on water saved**

New Water Supply Building Code

- Code Development
 - Stakeholders committee meetings
 - Technical references: standards and codes
 - Fixtures new water flow table development
- Higher committee of National Building Code approval
- Code publishing
- Code implementation
 - Stakeholders activities
 - WEPIA activities

Table.2 Summary of the "Building Water Supply National Code"

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