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Introduction

During the past, two annual meetings of @NGED in 2005/2006, the members of the network have agreed on the use of best practices as tools to strengthen their implementation capacity, information-sharing of successful advocacy strategies along with integrating the recommendations of CAWTAR's projects as part of their own activities.

These agreed upon directions have culminated in three ways. First, they enhanced the expertise and the capacities of @NGED in key fields such as media, decision-making, social practices, local governance and entrepreneurship. They also strengthened @NGED's contribution to advocacy through the members' promotion and implementation of national activities discerned under CAWTAR's regional projects and Arab Women Development Reports (AWDRs). Finally, they contributed in reinforcing the members' interest in the processes of stock-assessment to capitalize on what has worked previously and to translate what not into future action plans. As a result, the data and advocacy information to enhance implementation capacity and policy dialogue are generated and utilized by members.

The main achievements of @NGED work in 2007 can be summarized as follow:

The members have committed to new issues and shared their experiences which have fed into the broad-scope regional assessment conducted by CAWTAR to identify and share lessons on what has worked and what has not.

The capacity-building and training programs interlinked to the members' areas of expertise allowed the use of acquired skills in their actual work and essentially maintained the continuity of efforts in tackling issues enclosed under these areas.

The launching of regional projects launched in @nged meetings allowed members to implement and systematically engage in advocacy of findings of these projects and to build on their experience in planning ahead monitoring strategies to suit their own local contexts.

As a result, @NGED reinvigorated its contributions to building a regional capital of knowledge, strategies and lessons learned in the policy-sphere.

1. Publications

A. Reports and studies

These publications are output of @NGED's members' management of national issues and their contributions under different regional projects developed by CAWTAR. They essentially demonstrate @NGED gainful expertise in critical areas that deserve policy-makers and other stakeholders' attention.

1.1. Decision-Making: a Sociological View of its Context in Tunisia", 2007

Authored by two @NGED members: Dr. Mohamed Kerrou and Dr. Sihem Najjar and published in French by MAGD, a Lebanese Publishing Press. This report sheds light on Tunisian women's participation in the decision-making process in the public and private realms and is based on daily actual experiences. It is grounded on the analysis of the national report on Tunisia which was prepared also by the authors under CAWTAR's 4th AWDR on Arab Women and Decision Making. In fact, it is an important input to @NGED series of publications in this field.



1.2. Arab Adolescent Girl: Reality and Prospects, 2007

This book is based on CAWTAR's 2nd AWDR on "Arab Adolescent Girl" published in 2003. It reflects the impact of global and national changes on adolescent's behavior, culture, and the way they adapt to informational technology and its related social evolution. It covers Algeria, Bahrain, Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia. It is a good source of information for specialized institutions and peer educators.



1.3 Gender Equity and Discriminatory Social Practices and Beliefs: Lessons Learned within the Last Twenty Years in the Arabic-Speaking MENA Region, 2007

This book is based on assessment of seventeen successful projects which contributed to social transformation of discriminatory practices. It covers different sub-themes: higher education, citizenship, economic empowerment, ICT, arts and literature, physical security and reproductive health in twelve Arab countries: Egypt, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan, Mauritania, Libya, Yemen, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. The book to which eight members contributed, includes recommendations for donor agencies, NGOs and policy-makers. The book is published under CAWTAR regional project on discriminatory social practices, which is funded by Ford Foundation.

B. Call for Papers for Anged Members

***Arab Women and Legislation:** the objective of this call is to compile the members' proposals on approach, contents, methodologies of CAWTAR's forthcoming 5th AWDR under this theme.

* **The BID on "Rural women's access to services":** this call is addressed to @nged member NGOs working on rural women and local development to submit proposals to implement local needs assessment surveys on rural women's access to services. The bid is part of CAWTAR's regional project on this subject, which is funded by AGFUND.

C. Forthcoming ...

- * Arab women, information and communication technology, in collaboration with UNIFEM.
- * "The Arab adolescent Girls: Values and the Mirror of Rights" technically and financially supported by UNFPA
- * National Report on Decision-Making in Morocco which is stemmed from CAWTAR's 4th AWDR on Arab Women and Decision-Making.
- * National Report on Decision- Making in Sudan which is stemmed from CAWTAR's 4th AWDR on Arab Women and Decision-Making.

2. Workshops, Symposia and Training Sessions

@NGED's continued efforts towards voice-building in decision-making process have benefited from the discussion and recommendations which came out of several events organized in 2007. Due to the specialized training delivered on how to use and exchange of best practices, the network accumulated a pool of strategies and lessons as a base for members' project development, implementation and monitoring.

2.1 National workshop on "Arab Women and Media", March 8, 2007, Tunis.



This workshop was organized under a series of advocacy and public events to disseminate the findings of CAWTAR's 3rd Arab Women Development Report on "Arab Women and Media" published in June 2006 is an analytical study of researches conducted between 1995 and 2005" and @NGED members among other were expected to set an advocacy strategy of report. The workshop coincided with CAWTAR's celebration of International Woman Day and organized in partnership with the Tunisian Journalists' Association and a number of @nged

member journalists in Tunisia.

2.2 Press conference on "Arab Women and Media", April 26, 2007, Dubai

The findings of CAWTAR's 3rd AWDR on Arab Women and Media were presented in a press conference organized by CAWTAR in partnership with the Journalists' Association in the United Arab Emirates and in collaboration with @NGED member, the Secretary-General of the Association.

2.3 Regional Meeting on "Dynamics of Discriminatory Social Practices and Gender Equity in MENA Region", February 27-28, 2007, Tunis



The meeting revised and validate the guidelines for objective was to finalizing submitted papers on discriminatory social practices, which are compiled in the above-mentioned publication on this issue. It brought together efforts from eight @NGED member experts, trainers and NGOs among other authors to partner with CAWTAR in a stock-assessment work to compile and profile key indicators of successful projects and experiences in this field. It was an important opportunity for four experts and two community-based organizations to join @NGED as new members. The deliberations of this meeting can be

accessed in the project's website.

2.4 Regional Trainings on Combating Violence Against Women



The training targeted active organizations operating in this field. It included hands-on demonstration on case-reporting and counseling in addition to other skills for these organizations to enhance their implementation strategies in this field. Seven @anged members affiliated to institutions based in Jordan, Egypt and Morocco participated as trainers and trainees. They affiliate to institutions based in Jordan, Egypt and Morocco. This, training was conducted in addition to the regional Training of Trainers Session which benefited eighteen @NGED member institutions specialized in gender-based violence. This series of trainings was delivered in partnership with UNIFEM.

2.5 Regional Training for Observatories Managers to Monitor Women's Images in Arab media

This interactive training aimed to build the capacities of managers of observatories and media enterprises to monitor and analyze women's images in the media. The objective was to present a coherent and balanced image of Arab women's conditions, roles and their contribution to social development. Twelve ANGED media members were trained on observatory functions and roles and came out with suggestions for national action plans.

3. Contribution to World Bank and CAWTAR's AWDRs

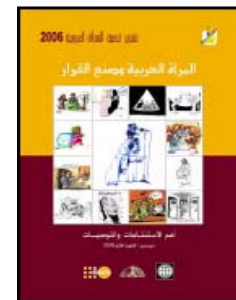
3.1 Women Entrepreneurship in the MENA Region", 2007

This regional report identifies the needs and obstacles facing women business owners in MENA countries: Tunisia, Bahrain, Jordan, United Arab Emirates and Lebanon. It was published under CAWTAR/IFC regional project on Women Entrepreneurship. Nine @NGED member research centers and journalists contributed to this report.



3.2 4th AWDR, Arab Women and Decision-Making", 2007

The report intends to address the relationship between the private and public spheres and how it influences women's ability in making decisions. Eight @NGED member experts from Palestine, Tunisia, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan and Arab Saudi prepared the six national reports. The report is presently under review for publication. It is supported by the World Bank, UNFPA and AGFUND. Its recommendations are expected to shape @NGED's advocacy in this field for the forthcoming years.



4. Communication and Exchange of Information Tools

4.1 22nd issue of CAWTARYAT



A special issue on the fifth annual meeting of @NGED held in December 2006 was prepared by nine member journalists covering the sessions, deliberations and recommendations of @NGED members on future topic and advocacy strategies. <http://www.cawtar.org/cawtaryat>

4.2 Adolescents on line

@nged member journalists from Algeria, Libya and Sudan prepared different issues of ado online newsletters which covered the conditions and needs of adolescents and youth in the Arab region. <http://www.cawtar.org/Adoonline>

4.3 @nged on line

In March 2007, CAWTAR published the second issue of @nged on line newsletter which covered activities of the members and their areas of focus. <http://cawtar.org/AngedNewsletterAR>

4.4 Hiwar



@NGED member NGO, the Barlaman Organization based in Egypt published the second issue of Hiwar “dialogue” which is published under CAWTAR’s regional project on Arab women in Local Governance. this member also contributed implementing the project’s related activities in Egypt. <http://localgov.cawtar.org/Hiwar>

4.5 A special radio program on Women and Local Governance in Yemen

The Sanaa Radio station broadcasted an on-air radio program on Saturday June 2, 2007, which hosted the Yemeni Minister of Local Governance and the Executive Director of Sister’s Arab Forum for Human Rights to answer public questions on the recommendations which came out of the case-study produced by the latter Forum under CAWTAR’s project on women and local governance. Moreover the Sister’s Arab Forum is also an @NGED member advocacy group based in Yemen. @NGED members, media and journalists, who are also partners of CAWTAR’s project, prepared and produced the radio program.

5. Best Practices Sources of Information



5.1 New Electronic Information and Library Website on Arab Women and Local Governance

CAWTAR launched under its regional project on women and local governance a virtual and information library which can be visited at: <http://localgov.cawtar.org>. The website includes best practices, studies, experts and bibliography database, media campaign outcomes and an e-forum to encourage dialogue over the issue. Ten @NGED member advocacy groups and journalists partnered with CAWTAR in this project and contributed to the collection of the website’s resources and information. The project is supported by the Middle East Partnership Initiative and was launched during @NGED’s 4th Annual Meeting in December 2005.



5.2 Electronic clearinghouse

CAWTAR has set up this clearinghouse as an information-sharing tool to disseminate best practices, data, research and reports. At this point, it already covers different fields: violence against women, decision-making, reproductive health, entrepreneurship, and micro-credit. @nged members will contribute to this clearinghouse by providing CAWTAR

with all their news researches, reports, studies and training kit or other materiel related to the topic mentioned above.

6. Specialized Information Institutions



Poverty-Reduction Institutions Regional Directory

The directory includes contact information and summary of activities of 350 institutions from 22 Arab countries specialized in poverty-reduction and micro-credit to empower women. @nged members contributed in this directory through information collection within their respective countries.

7. Public Awareness Information Tools

7.1 The Best Public Service Announcement in support of Women's participation in Local Governance"



The objective of this contest was to encourage the use of public awareness materials. Among fifty three contributors to the contest from nine Arab countries five institutions are affiliated to @nged including: The Development Institute of the Queen Zine Charaf, the International Institute of Solidarity of Jordan, the National Committee for Women of Yemen, the Egyptian Center for Women's Rights, the

League of the Arab Women of Egypt. The award went to Aljazeera Center for Human Rights Based in Yemen. this contest was also launched under CAWTAR's project on Arab Women in Local Governance.

7.2 Photo Contest on "Women and Men Working in Informal Economies of Arab States: Invisibles No More!"

The objective of the contest was to portray the conditions of women and men workers in informal economies in the Arab states. It was launched under CAWTAR/ILO project on "Gender and Rights: Informal Economies of Arab States" funded by IDRC and AGFUND. Among the twenty photos received, two were from @NGED's members from Egypt and Palestine. The photos will be used in a portal exhibition and included in the project's publications.