

Water Integrity Capacity Building Programme for MENA

2014-2017

Implemented with financial support from the Swedish
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Presentation Outline

- Introduction to water integrity
- Overview of the capacity building programme for MENA
- Findings from national integrity assessments
- Conclusions

Definition of Water Integrity

- The adherence of stakeholders and institutions to governance principles of **transparency, accountability, and participation** in water resources management, based on core values of **honesty, equity and professionalism**.

Corruption in Water: a Global Problem

- Corruption – a key governance bottleneck
- 20-40% of water sector finances are lost to dishonest practices (World Bank)
- Impacts on human health, livelihoods, environmental sustainability and economic efficiency with high costs to society
- Corruption in the water sector hurts the poor the most!

Water Integrity in MENA

- ‘New’ (and sensitive) topic in water circles
- Arab spring an entry point for more openness and public participation
- No baseline data on corruption levels but anecdotal evidence suggests that integrity is a big problem
- Programme builds on experiences from sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America

Programme Partners



Pilot Countries

- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Palestine
- Tunisia

PARTNERS

National partners



Implementing partners



Development partner



Supporting partner



National Integrity Assessments

- Assessment of water integrity risks and capacity needs to inform development of training materials
- Conducted and peer reviewed by National Partners, coordinated by IUCN
- Methodology: desk-review, face-to-face semi-structured interviews, and national consultative workshop to validate and rank integrity risks and capacity needs

Local level: Civil society

NGOs: Low civil society participation and lack of transparency in policy formulation, no formal WUAs, no advocacy/watchdog skills, lack of communication

Citizens: Lack of awareness about their rights & responsibilities related to water, illegal connections, corrupt meter readings

Farmers: Breach of water licensing regulations, illegal wells and tampering with meters leading to over abstraction of water resources

Media: Little experience in reporting on water and corruption, independence questioned (links to water users and local officials)

Gender: Women excluded from dialogues about water. More vulnerable to middlemen

Operational Level: Mid-level Water Managers

Sub-categories: Utility operators, private contractors, regional and local authorities

- Tendering and Procurement: Preferential treatment of contractors & inflated prices due to closed culture based on patronage networks
- Human Resource Management: Nepotism in recruitment processes leading to appointment of non-qualified personnel. Overstaffing, poor integrity of staff, and lack of job descriptions
- Poor Performance: Poor customer service, lack of accountability, poor coordination with government bodies
- Unclear Budgeting and Planning: In decision making, budget allocation, budget management, and feasibility studies

Gender: Women working in these institution are sometimes not taken seriously, hence their work, ideas, and contribution is overlooked or downplayed

National Level: Public Officials

Sub-categories: Regulators, Planning, Controllers, Anti-corruption professionals

- Same risks as for mid-level water managers
- + Lack of public involvement in decision making

High-level: Decision Makers

Sub-categories: MPs, Director Generals of line ministries, Heads of Anti-corruption Agencies, Auditor General etc

- Lack of transparency in formulating policies
- Unclear basis for allocation of water rights between different uses
- Weak monitoring: Of legislations implementation and weak inspectorates
- Patronage: Partisan capture of the seats, bribing of communities/regions to get popularity. Putting their own interests before the public interest
- Lack of knowledge of corruption: Where it occurs, impacts for public bodies and how to prevent and manage it
- Gender: Exclusion of women. The whole field remains with a few exceptions male

Implementation Plan

2014

- Assessment of water integrity risks, target groups and capacity needs,
- Adaptation of training materials,
- Training of trainers

2015

- National water integrity workshops and trainings
- Advocacy and stakeholder engagement
- Mentorship programme to support the implementation of water integrity action plans

2016

- Alumni water integrity workshops – regional and national
- Advocacy and regional outreach

2017

- Dissemination and knowledge sharing
- Regional high-level meeting and Learning Summit

Conclusions

- Corruption undermines effective water governance, e.g. implementation of laws and policies, enforcement of regulations, equitable service provision
- Corruption impedes foreign investments in water infrastructure, including PPPs
- The MENA region faces water integrity risks at multiple levels, which needs to be openly acknowledged and addressed in water reforms

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[http://www.watergovernance.org/
integrity/MENA](http://www.watergovernance.org/integrity/MENA)

Overall Objectives

- Regional level – raise awareness and foster high-level political dialogue on water integrity
- National level – improve the information flow and communication channels between decision-makers
- Operational level – ensure integrity within organisations
- Local level – demand transparency and accountability in the management of water resources

Target Groups

- High level decision makers
- Water officials in regulation, controlling, planning
- Mid-level managers
- Farmers organisations & water user associations, local leaders, media and other civil society actors
- Youth & women