



EMPOWERS Partnership:

A Stakeholder Dialogue for Improved Local Water Governance

**MEDA Water RMSU Meeting
Dead Sea, Jordan
Dec.5-7, 2005**





Outline

- ◆ Introduction
- ◆ Approach
- ◆ Community Impact
- ◆ Sustainability
- ◆ Visibility and exchange of information
- ◆ Recommendations for policy and practice





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Background and context

Potential water crisis ... limited access to water services.

- ◆ New policies based on IWRM
- ◆ Decentralisation
- ◆ Stakeholder involvement

But

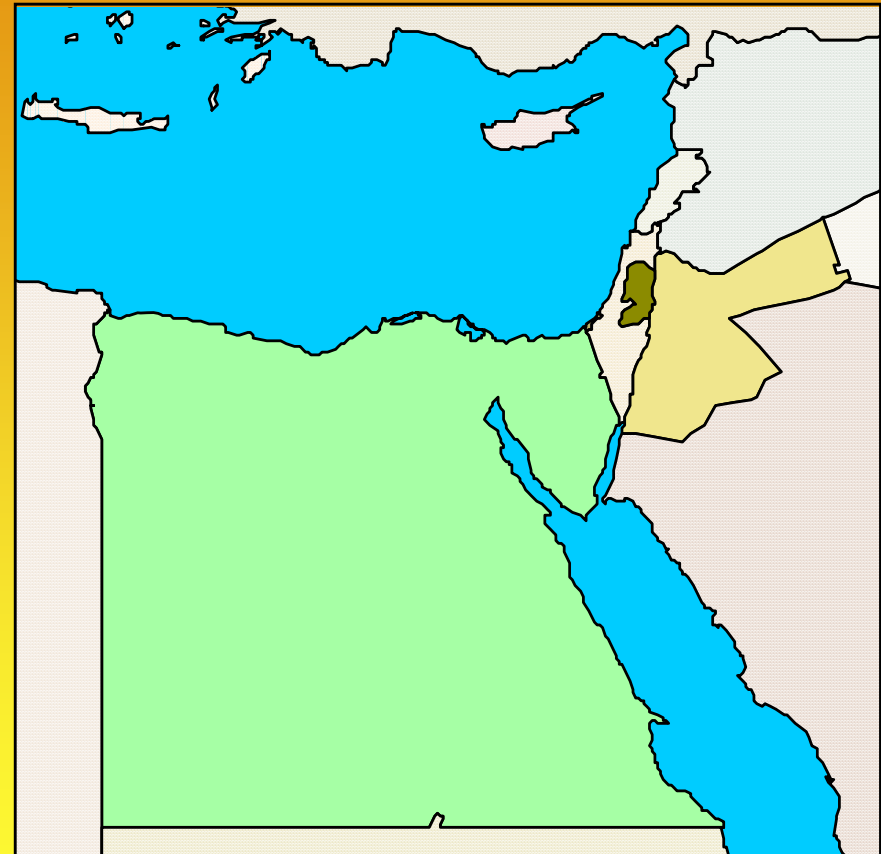
- ◆ Lack of capacity and tools
- ◆ Particularly at the 'intermediate' level: governorate/district
- ◆ Institutional conflict





EMPOWERS – overview

- ◆ Regional partnership
 - Field work in Egypt, Palestine, Jordan
 - Supported by regional information programme in Jordan
- ◆ Currently funded primarily by MEDA
 - 4.8 mio Euro
 - Of which 1 mio. for 'pilot projects'
- ◆ Starting year 3 of 4 year project
- ◆ Partners to maintain partnership beyond current project



care



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Objectives

- ◆ Improved access to water, and water related services by the poor (particularly women)
- ◆ Empowered end-users able to engage actively and effectively in managing their water resources and services
- ◆ More sustainable governance of the water resources
- ◆ Improved planning, management, sharing and use of information





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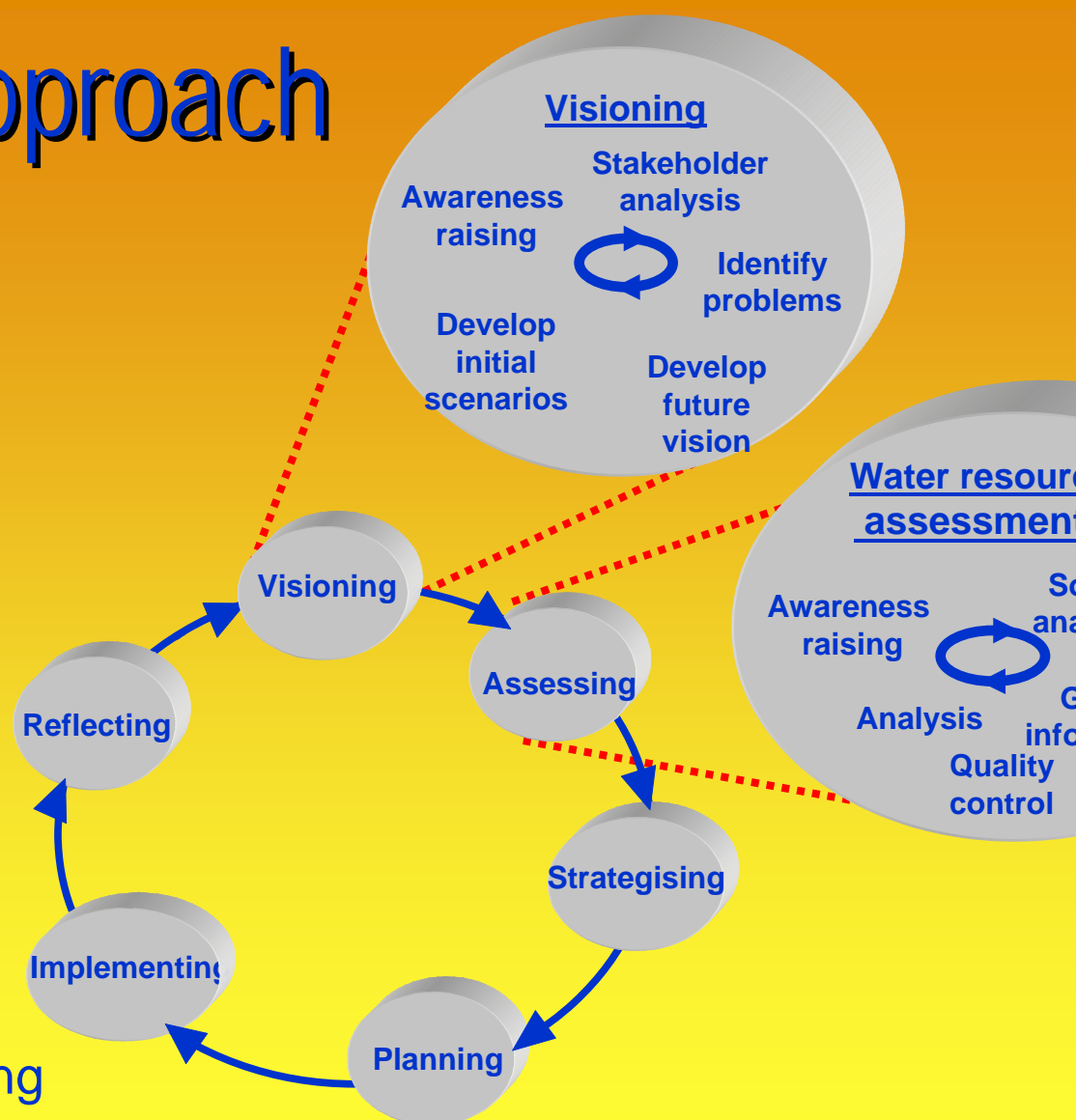




Approach

- ◆ Developing effective models and tools for improved planning to enhance local water governance and service provision

- Facilitated stakeholder dialogue and concerted action (SDCA)
- Structured around a Participatory Water Planning Cycle (PWPC)





Overall approach – action research within a knowledge community of stakeholder water platforms

National Level

Steering committee
Government, universities,
civil society

Intermediate level
(governorate/district)

**Governorate level
teams**
Local government, line
ministries, NGOs

Village Level NGO

**Village water
committee(s)**
Women, agricultural,
domestic, CBOs ...

**EMPOWERS
teams**
Facilitation
Documentation
Technical support
Capacity building



Making the difference in Local IWRM

- A genuine participatory approach
- Better understanding of local people's inability to claim their rights or assume responsibilities for relevant water management activities
- Vertical institutional up-scaling of communication and coordination through SDCA
- Structured and interactive planning process based on 'Visioning' and 'Scenario Building'
- Opens channels and builds bridges between local community groups and government officials
- To make the above possible; strong emphasis on good process facilitation, with efforts to institutionalise this process.





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Outputs

- ◆ Improved access to water in pilot villages and towns
- ◆ Improved planning and water governance in pilot governorates
- ◆ Nationally validated models and tools for improved planning and stakeholder interaction





Our Communities -1

◆ Marginalized groups and women able to:

- Prioritize water problems
- Negotiate with government and propose water plans
- Aware and engaged within their community





Our Communities - 2

◆ Community Based organizations are:

- Better connected to their constituencies
- Accountable to marginalized segments in their society
- Able to implement village water projects





Our Communities- Progress to date

- ◆ Ongoing stakeholder dialogues in pilot governorates and small-towns/villages
- ◆ Water development plans in 2-3 villages/small-towns in each country
- ◆ Pilot/demonstration activities implemented
- ◆ A start made on governorate level plans
- ◆ A start made on governorate information management





Sustainability

- ◆ Involve government SH at all levels in planning activities.
- ◆ Facilitation host within civil society
- ◆ WMIS shared, accessed and accepted by SH as well as communities.
- ◆ Institutionalisation of the methodology in pilot governorates/districts
- ◆ Advocacy for the approach at national level





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Regional Information Program in EMPOWERS





EMPOWERS expected Knowledge Products

- **Guidelines and tools:**
 - For Stakeholder analysis, dialogue and concerted action
 - For participatory planning for local IWRM
- **Database** of agreed information for participatory planning in the villages and municipality.
- **Replicable approach** for carrying out water planning & management at the community and district level in all three countries
- **Process documents and videos**





Dissemination of our Knowledge Outputs

Visibility & Info Exchange through Publications

➤ Working Papers:

Nine planned Working Papers on EMPOWERS methodologies

- 5 now published on the website.
(www.empowers.info/page/1057)
- 3 available in draft

Next step: Related guidelines and training materials



➤ Conference papers:

A total of **15** papers presented in Conferences and Symposia

- **2** in International Water Conference in Ramallah, **Palestine**. May 05.
- **4** papers in IRC Int'l Symposium on Learning Alliances in Water Mgmt. Delft, **Netherlands**. June 05
- **9** papers in EMPOWERS Regional Symposium. Cairo, **Egypt**. Nov 05



Dissemination of our Knowledge Outputs

Visibility & info exchange

➤ Other Publications:

- Regional Magazine - Bi-annual (possible exchange with other MEDA projects)
- Country Newsletters (Quarterly, Arabic & English)
- Brochures (Arabic & English)
- EWP/EMPOWERS: Translation of IWRM CapNet Tutorial into Arabic. (Sept 05)

http://cap-net.org/iwrm_tutorial/mainmenu.htm

- Translation of RAAKS into Arabic (Final draft)

➤ Website presence

- Main information exchange tool with the wider public.
- Web space to promote support and funding for the community water projects identified through the EMPOWERS approach
- Links to other MEDA projects and EMWIS





Dissemination of our Knowledge Outputs

Exchange with other Donors / Org.s

Training Workshops:

- **INWRDAM + EMPOWERS**
 - Participatory planning for local IWRM
 - 25 participants from 5 OIC countries: Lebanon, Syria, Tunis, Oman, Turkey, Beirut, Feb 05). Funded: IDB & COMSTECH)
 - important in starting to develop training material.
 - 3 similar workshops are planned for Yr 2006 in Oman, Syria, and Jordan?)
- **GWP/CapNet/IRC Workshop:**
Workshop facilitated by staff from IRC and EMPOWERS. (Cairo, May 05)





Dissemination of our Knowledge Outputs

- ◆ **Regional Symposium** on “*End-User Ownership and Involvement in IWRM*” . Cairo (Nov. 05)
- ◆ **E-consultation** on “*Promising approaches to local-level IWRM in the MENA Region*” (Sept. 05)
- ◆ **EMPOWERS** at other external events
 - SMAP National workshop in Jordan. Environmental Policy Integration & SMAP III. Amman, May 05
 - “Right to Water” Training Course (Heinrich Boll Foundation and JREDS (Amman, July 05)
 - Rights and Equity Conference. EWP and CEDARE (Cairo, Sept 05)





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EMPOWERS Symposium

Policy recommendations - 1

- ◆ Local water governance must be based upon the participation of all stakeholders **and** end-users
- ◆ Capacity to enable end-user involvement must be developed in relevant stakeholders at intermediate level (media, local government, NGOs, CBOs, ...etc)
- ◆ In particular, capacity for communication and facilitation are required to enable full end-user participation and to narrow the gap between policy and practice.
- ◆ Water information must be considered a public good; and, access to information by all citizens must be enabled (feedback to communities etc.)



EMPOWERS Symposium

Policy Recommendations - 2

- ◆ Especial efforts are required to:
 - ensure that marginalized groups (men and women) are not excluded
 - to build upon the special knowledge and role of women in water management
- ◆ Ensure that locally appropriate solutions and tools (IT, PRA, participatory planning.)can be developed through the use of participatory research and action
- ◆ Educational materials and resources for all levels and sectors are essential to improved local water governance (mass media, children, youth, local government etc.)



Thank You

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