

Water Integrity Capacity Building Programme for MENA

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Presentation's Outline

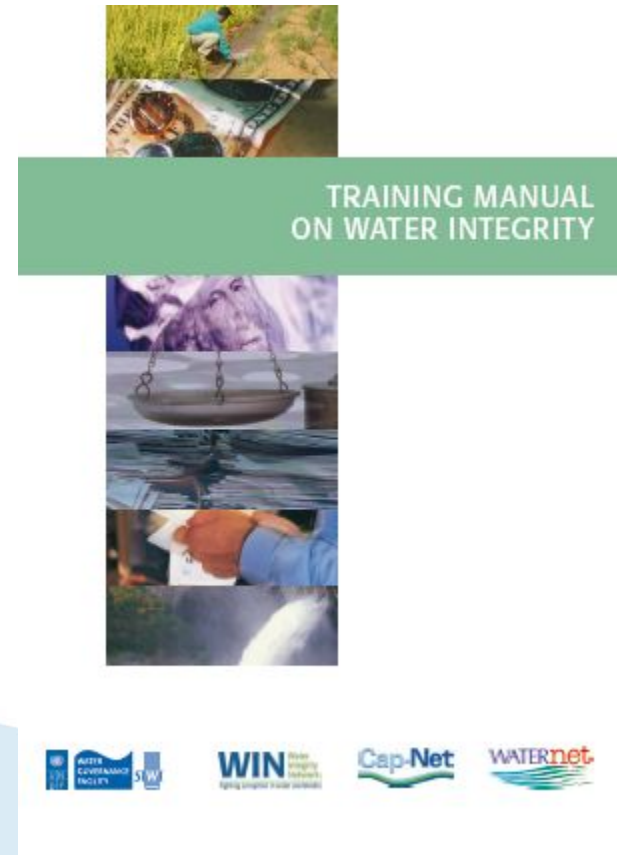
- WI in water resources management
- WI programme at SIWI
- WI capacity building programme in MENA
- Findings of risk assessments
- Capacity building needs

Water Integrity in water resources management

- 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**.

Water Integrity programme at SIWI

- Integrity Risk Assessments
- Building systems resilient to corruption
- Application of anti-corruption tools



SIWI's approach to Capacity Building

- **Tailor-made** capacity building programmes
- Collaboration with **local partner organisation/s**
- Facilitation of peer-to-peer **knowledge exchange**
- Use of hands-on and **interactive** activities
- Guiding principle: water is an avenue for **peace, cooperation and development** within and between countries.

WI capacity building programme in MENA



Pilot Countries

- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Palestine
- Tunisia

National partners



Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs
معهد فares فارين للسياسات العامة والشؤون الدولية



Implementing partners



Development partner



Supporting partner



Overall Objectives and Target Groups

- 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

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

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

Findings National Water Integrity Assessments in MENA

- 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

Conclusions

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

Launch of Capacity Building Workshops:

Water Integrity for Arab Countries / MENA Region

3rd Arab Water Week, Dead Sea, Jordan, 14-15 January 2014

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<http://www.watergovernance.org/integrity/MENA>