In Brief

Capacity Building Programme on Water Integrity in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

The Climate Change and Environment in the Arab World Program at the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) at the American University of Beirut (AUB) has been selected as the Lebanese National Partner to the “Capacity Building Programme on Water Integrity in the Middle East and North Africa”. This program aims to develop capacities of various water stakeholder groups at different governance levels to improve transparency, accountability and participatory practices in water management in the MENA region. The approach to capacity-building is to develop tailor-made trainings; support hands-on and interactive training methods; establish collaborations with local organizations and conduct peer-to-peer knowledge sharing.

The broad term of integrity refers to the quality of being honest and strong moral principles, including sustainable human development and equity. Hence, water integrity refers to the integrity of people and institutions involved in water resources management, and it includes but goes beyond control of corruption. Most countries in the MENA region suffer from water scarcity. This scarcity is not only a result of physical water shortage, population growth and a changing climate but is also linked to lack of good governance structures, low levels of trust between different parties sharing the same water resources, limited institutional mechanisms for applying integrated water resources management principles and a lack of integrity.

Part of the program involves a national assessment study to identify and analyze the main water integrity and corruption risks in Lebanon. A mapping of stakeholders and identification of capacity needs will be carried out through national consultation meetings and semi-structured interviews with key national institutions managing water resources and anti-corruption actors. Following the assessment study, there will be a Training of Trainers (TOT) organized to validate the adapted training material.

National trainings will be organized in 2015, tailored to specific target groups, as identified in the assessment phase. The trainings will conclude with an advocacy workshop for high-level decision makers. Accordingly, a national alumni group will be formed for follow-up activities including national meetings, support for a professional mentorship program, in addition to assistance in the development of national action plans covering the trained target groups.

Overall Objective of the Program
To develop capacities of the different water stakeholder groups at different governance levels to improve transparency, accountability, and participation practices in water management in the region

Consortium

Regional Partners
Queen Rania Al-Abdullah Centre for Environmental Science and Technology at the Jordan University of Science and Technology – Jordan
Al Akhawayn University – Morocco
Al-Quds University – Palestine
Centre Dde Recherche et des Technologies des Eaux (CERTE) – Tunisia

International Partners
UNDP Water Governance Facility at SIWI
UNDP – Anti-Corruption and Integrity in the Arab Countries
Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean Integrity Action

Program Duration
43 months

Funding Source and Budget
The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) – 1,287,000 SEK

IFI Team
Nadim Farajalla, Primary Investigator
Rana El Hajj, Program Coordinator
Silva Kerkezian, Project Coordinator
Zeinab Farhat, Project Research Assistant
Sandy Kteily, Project Field Assistant

Contact Person
Silva Kerkezian
sk68@aub.edu.lb