

An aerial photograph of a winding river in a rural landscape. The river flows from the top left towards the bottom center. On either side of the river, there are fields, some of which appear to be agricultural, with rows of crops. There are also some trees and a dirt road running parallel to the river. The overall scene is a mix of natural and cultivated land.

SFU

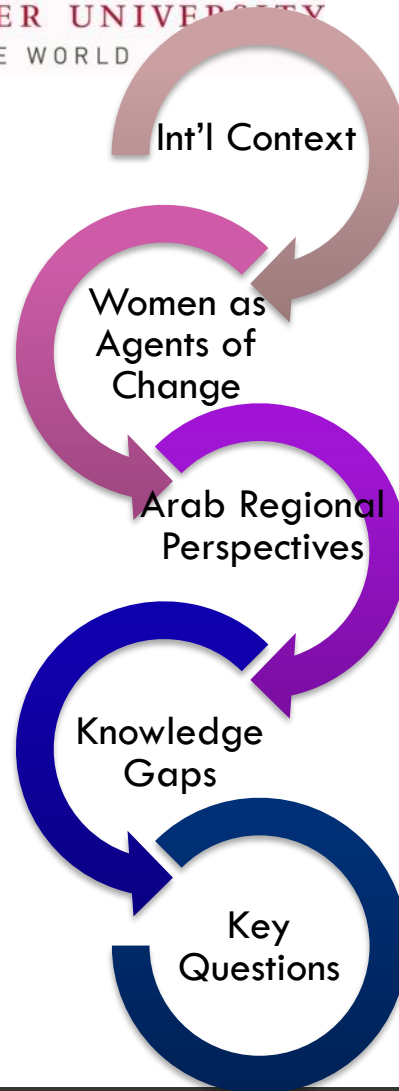
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ENGAGING THE WORLD

# Women and Water Security for Peacebuilding in the Arab Region

Beirut, Lebanon  
9 May 2018

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  - Ms. Mary Therese Snyder



## Overview



# THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1979)
  - General Recommendation 37
- The Dublin Principles (1992)
  - Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water
- Beijing Declaration (1995)
- The Platform for Action (2000)
- UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)
  - Women, peace and security (WPS)
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
  - SDG 5 – Gender equality
  - SDG 6 - Universal water and sanitation

## International Policy Focus on Women

- Key action clauses (part 1):
  - Representation of women in decision-making for conflict prevention, management, resolution
  - UN to appoint more women as special reps & envoys; creation of a centralized roster
  - Expand the role of women in UN field operations – military observers, civilian police, human rights, humanitarian personnel
  - Incorporation of gender perspectives into peacekeeping ops
  - Training guidelines for peacekeeping operations – link to national training programs for military/police
  - Increase financial, technical, logistical support for gender sensitivity training  
(current focus of Canadian foreign policy)

## UNSC Resolution 1325 – 1

31 October 2000

- Key action clauses (part 2):
  - Protect women/girls from violence, rape, sexual abuse
  - Prosecute those responsible for sexual crimes and violence – exclude from amnesty provisions
  - Design refugee camps to account for needs of women/girls
  - Study on impact of armed conflict on women/girls & role in peace & conflict resolution

## UNSC Resolution 1325 – 2

31 October 2000

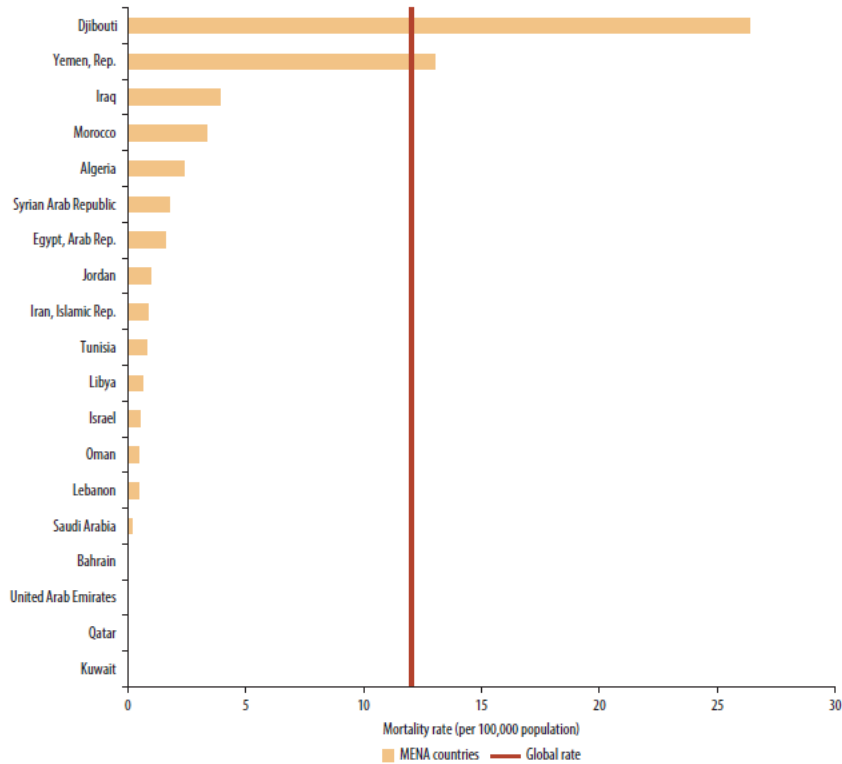
- Welfare and wellbeing
  - Health and wellbeing; maternal and child focus
  - Time invested in water stewardship
- Level of access
  - Differentiated access; societal barriers
- Participation
  - Inclusiveness in planning, designing, delivery
- Equality of control and management
  - Involvement in decision-making



- Maternal mortality strongly correlated to lack of water access
  - Physical burden of transporting water
  - Sepsis during childbirth; post-partem complications
  - Other WaSH-related health concerns: anemia, vitamin deficiency, trachoma, hepatitis
- Under-5 mortality significantly related to WaSH
  - Ignorance of women as primary caregivers
- Secondary education correlated to water access
  - No link at primary level

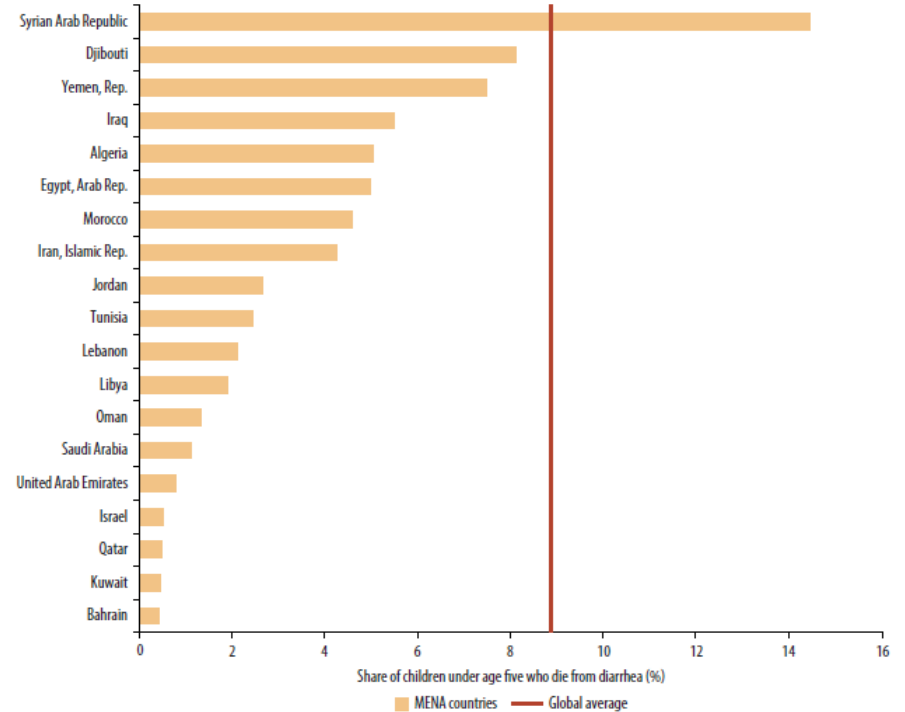
## Water-Health Nexus for Women

### Mortality Rate Attributed to Exposure to Inadequate WaSH, by Country and Economy (2012)



Source: WHO & Maternal and Child Epidemiology Estimation Group

### Percentage of Deaths among children under Age 5 Attributable to Diarrhea, by Country (2015)



Source: WHO & Maternal and Child Epidemiology Estimation Group



# Water-Health Nexus for Women



# WOMEN AS AGENTS OF CHANGE

- Norms, roles, relationships between groups of women and men
  - Dynamic and evolving nature
- A history of gender inequality and discrimination
  - Implicit and explicit control over resources
- Emerging focus on justice, accountability

## Gender dynamics on three socio-spatial levels

		Spatial levels	Gendered dynamics
		<b>Households and communities (micro-level)</b>	Conditions of gender differentiated activities for livelihoods/survival Distribution of labour, profits and decision-making power along gendered differences Value ascribed to female/male/other gender categories' labour Local institutions for decision-making on land and water management Influence of gender on conflict management and resolution
		<b>National politics and institutions (meso-level)</b>	Economic, political and social factors that limit or create gender equality
		<b>Global context (macro-level)</b>	International, gender-related, ideational and material frameworks (i.e. power inequalities, finances)

Source: Myrntinen et al., 2018

- Gender mainstreaming
- Removing discriminatory policies and regulations
- Access to WaSH
  - Education, capacity building, and infrastructure development

### Countries which adopted female quotas in local elected councils

Country	Details*
Algeria	30–35% quota in regional councils, depending on the number of seats in each electoral district, and 30% quota in municipal councils.
Comoros	According to the law, women and men should be equally represented in the lists of candidates running for municipal elections.
Egypt	25% quota in local elected councils according to Article 180 of the Constitution.
Iraq	33% quota in provincial, district and sub-district elections.
Jordan	25% quota in municipal councils.
Libya	Quotas in municipal elections are mentioned by law but no specific percentage or other means of calculation is provided.
Mauritania	20% quota in municipal councils.
Morocco	33% quota in regional councils and 12% quota in municipal councils.
Palestine	Approximately 15% quota in local councils, calculated on the basis of a complex method of seat-allocation specified in law.

Source: Quota Project, 2015; Comoros & Jordan sourced from ESCWA 2015 national reports

## Fostering Women as Agents of Change



# REGIONAL OVERVIEW

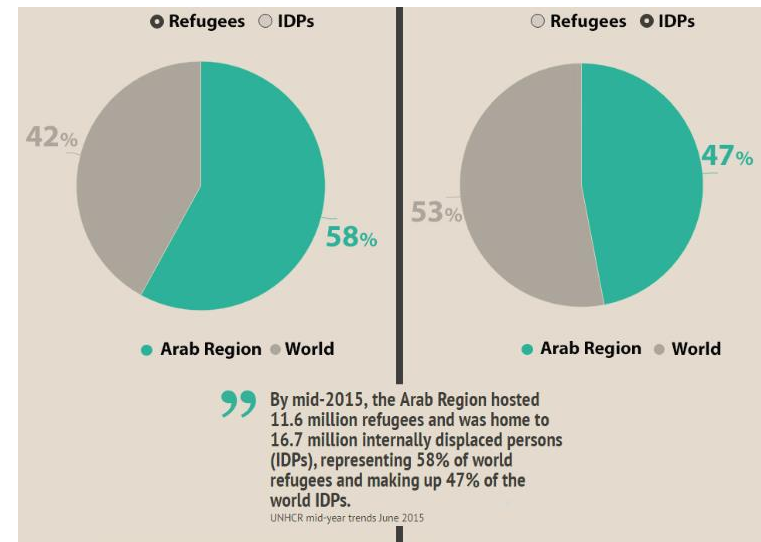
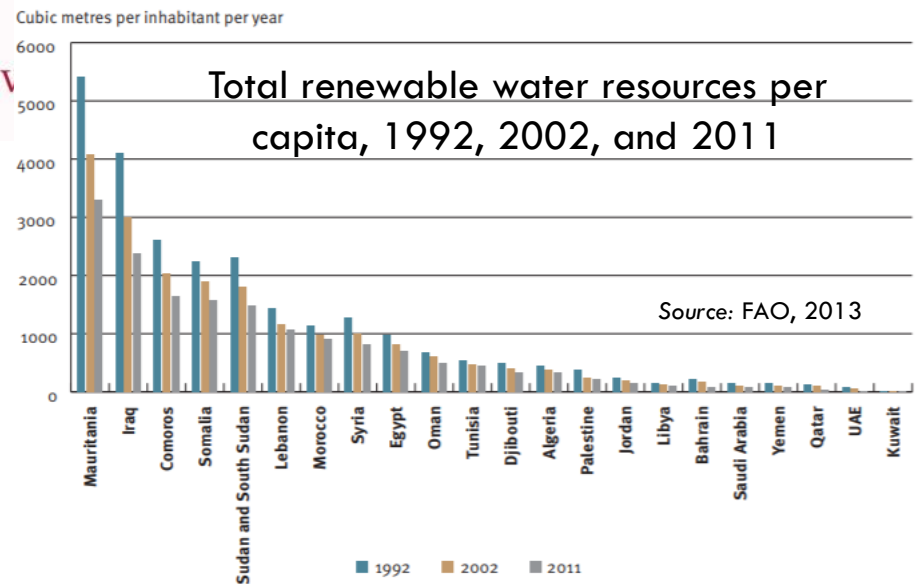
The Intersection of Gender, Water Security and Conflict Resolution

- Ratification of CEDAW
  - Development of implementation mechanisms
- Creation of national “machineries” in response to Platform for Action
  - Plans for advancement of women
  - Public advocacy initiatives for legal reform
  - Creation of women’s quotas
- Slow implementation of WPS
- Regional Strategy on Peace and Security (2013)
  - Protecting Women in the Arab Countries
  - Partnership with UN Women
- Executive Action Plan, League of Arab States (2015)
  - Setting future priorities
  - Implementation of resolutions on WPS agenda

## Responses in the Arab Region



- Declining water resources
  - Dramatic decrease in per capita water availability
  - Climate change impacts
- Influx of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs)
- Reliance on desalination
- Insufficient capture and/or reuse of wastewater
- Contamination and depletion of groundwater resources

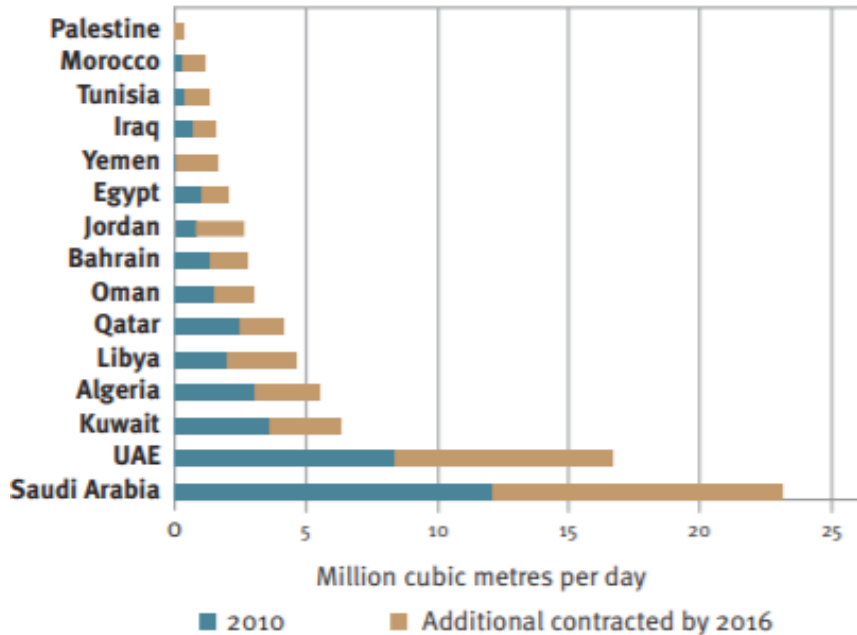


Source: Arab Development Portal 2015 & UNHCR, 2015

## Regional Trends of Water Insecurity

## Accumulated desalinated water in selected Arab countries, 2010 and 2016

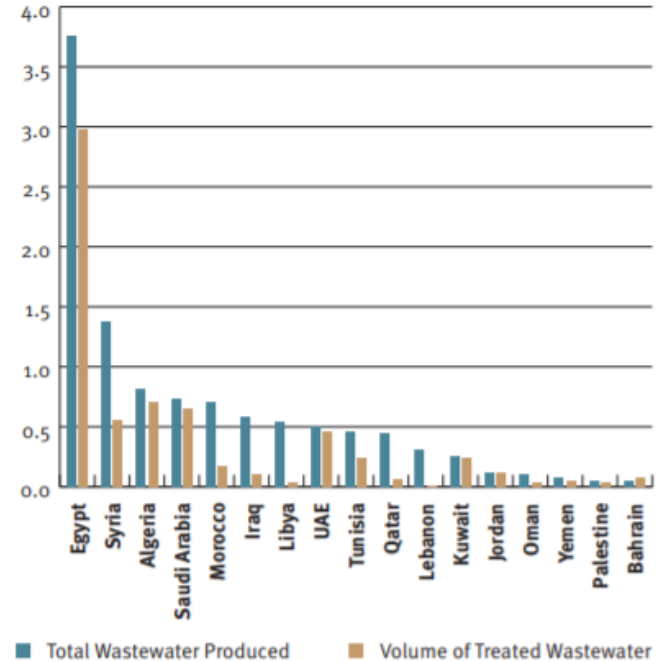
Total contracted capacity of all desalination plants in Arab countries



Source: AFED, 2010

## Wastewater produced and treated in some Arab countries, 2009-2010

10<sup>9</sup> cubic metres a year



Source: World Bank and others, 2011

# Re-thinking About Water Resources



# ADDRESSING KNOWLEDGE GAPS

- Understanding distribution and use of water
- Identifying differences within communities
- Recognizing women as a heterogenous group
- Understanding and effectively responding to gender-based sexual violence
- Correlation between gender and poverty

## Gaps: Understanding Social and Cultural Contexts

- Arab Ministerial Water Conference
- National action at the ministerial level
- Regional water utilities

Arab Ministerial Water Conference  
April 29 – 3 May 2018



Source: SWIM-h2020, 2018

## Institutional Models that Create Enabling Roles

- League of Arab States as an influential actor
- UN organizations, notably UN Women
- Development organizations
- Addressing gender based sexual violence in refugee camps

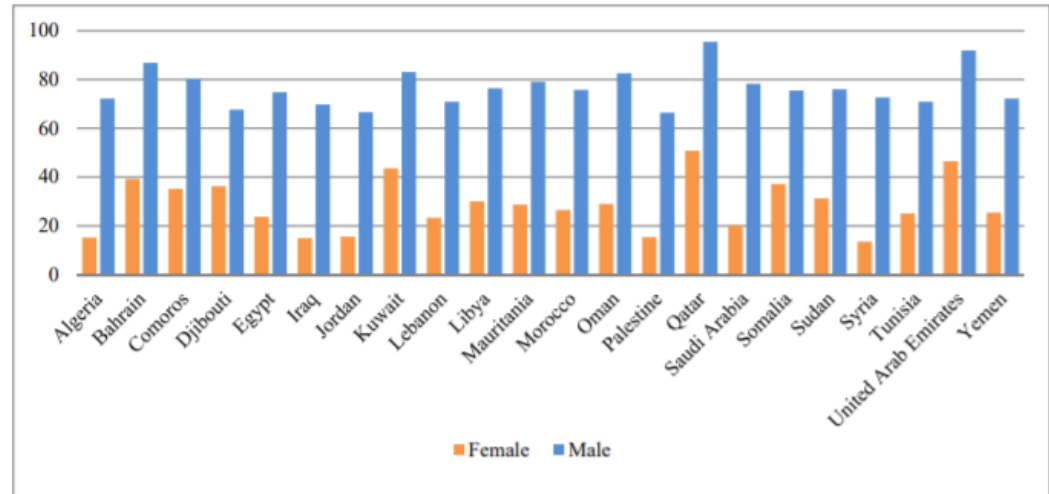


Source: UN-Women, 2016

## Potential Roles for Regional & External Influencers

- Disconnect between women as water managers and as unpaid workers
- Service provisioning of WaSH for women

Labour force participation rates, by country &amp; by sex (2013)



Source: International Labour Organization, Key Indicators of the Labour Market Database (2013)

## Measuring Gender Inequality in Labour



# KEY QUESTIONS



- How can we ensure that the implementation of SDG5 and SDG 6 in the Arab region will produce mutually complementary results?
- What are the most significant roadblocks in inclusion of gender-related targets in the national SDG implementation of water-related targets?
- What are some of the ways in which UN Member States can be facilitated and supported in achieving greater gender equity in their water policies?
- What are some of the best ways to mobilize resources to achieve gender equality and water security at the same time? Does the Arab region have sufficient financial and technical resources from within that can serve this purpose?

- What are the ingredients for capacity development and supportive initiatives by the international community for ensuring integrated policy formulation and comprehensive SDG implementation?
- Are there elements of gender inclusion in the SDG implementation processes that are unique to the Arab region? How best can these be captured through the findings of this symposium?
- What are the most effective modalities for engagement of international and United Nations organizations and agencies in integrated implementation of the SDGs?

## Integration Across SDGs


- What successes have been achieved within the Arab region in integrating gender and water security dimensions?
- Which approaches have been most successful in overcoming the social and cultural inertia around women's engagement? Can we generalize the ingredients and use them elsewhere?
- Is it helpful or counter-productive to have “external” (from outside the Arab region) voices in dialogues that are intended to re-shape the policy landscape?

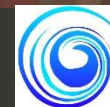
## Enabling Policies for Women as Agents of Change

- How are the approaches to empower women as agents of change broadly viewed in the Arab societies?
- How best can the community level awareness-raising lead to practical information for women, particularly those who are leading businesses and/or female-headed households?
- How might we scale community-based action to correlate to supportive national and regional policies?
- Who are the most influential organizations in the Arab region that can assist in meeting of this objective?

## Awareness Raising at the Community Level



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