



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/CL1/2020/WG.2/Report
April 2020
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**Report****Workshop on “Access to Finance for Municipalities – Nexus Thinking and Decentralization of Subnational Governments”****St. Regis Hotel, Amman, Jordan 29-30 January 2020****Summary**

The UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Royal Scientific Society – NERC organized a workshop at the St. Regis Hotel in Amman, Jordan on 30 and 31 January 2020 titled a workshop on “Access to Finance for Municipalities – Nexus Thinking and Decentralization of Subnational Governments”. The workshop focused on empowering and catalyzing the municipalities’ role to run investment projects within the nexus framework through a decentralized scheme; allowing municipalities to generate funds in compliance with the local legislations so that to enhance livelihood in the community.

The workshop enabled the participants representing various entities from Jordan, Lebanon, and Tunisia to acquire information and knowledge on access to finance and the nexus approach from a variety of regional experts and to engage in enriching discussions that facilitate the sharing of experiences and initiatives both from a national and a regional perspective. These covered the challenges currently being faced by municipalities, the lessons learned from previous experiences and projects, and recommended solutions and suggestions.

The workshop concluded with a series of recommendations that aim to improve access to finance and mainstream the nexus approach through innovative financing mechanisms and facilities, capacity building, awareness raising, gender empowerment, and community engagement.

Contents

I.	INTRODUCTION	3
II.	RECOMMENDATIONS	3
III.	MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSIONS	4
	A. PANEL DISCUSSION: PROMOTING INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO WATER, ENERGY AND FOOD NEXUS IN THE ARAB REGION - FRAMEWORK OF THE 2030 AGENDA AND PARIS AGREEMENT	4
	B. OPERATIONALISING THE WEF NEXUS: TECHNOLOGIES AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES	5
	C. ACCESS TO FINANCE AND PROJECT BANKABILITY WITHIN A NEXUS FRAMEWORK.....	5
	D. GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	6
	E. WORKING GROUPS ON PROJECT PROPOSALS, FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS WITHIN A NEXUS APPROACH	6
	F. CLOSING SESSION	8
IV.	ORGANIZATION OF WORK.....	8
	ANNEX I: AGENDA	10
	ANNEX II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	14

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) – National Energy Research Center (NERC) in Jordan organized a workshop at the St. Regis Hotel in Amman, Jordan on 29 and 30 January 2020 titled “Access to Finance for Municipalities – Nexus Thinking and Decentralization of Subnational Governments”.
2. The main objective of the workshop was to empower and catalyze the municipalities’ role to run investment projects within the nexus framework through a decentralized scheme; allowing municipalities to generate funds in compliance with the local legislations so that to enhance livelihood in the community.
3. The workshop was attended by 53 participants representing various local, regional, and international gender, energy, and nexus experts, regional municipalities, NGOs, government ministries and entities, UN organizations, private sector, financial institutions, academia and research institutions from Jordan, Lebanon, and Tunisia.
4. The workshop spanned over two days and consisted of five sessions. Section II of this report summarizes the workshop’s recommendations while Section III provides a summary of the presentations and the main topics of discussions held during each session. Section IV reviews the organization of work, including information regarding the workshop agenda, participants and a summary of the participants evaluation outcome. The full documentation of the workshop is available at the following address:

<https://www.unescwa.org/events/access-finance-municipalities-decentralization-nexus-REGEND>

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

5. This workshop concluded with the following findings and recommendations:
 - a) Promote the application of participative, integrated, and holistic approaches and multi-stakeholder engagement, coupled with the strong involvement of municipalities and the community, when planning and preparing nexus renewable energy (RE) projects and proposals.
 - b) Empower the municipalities and equip them to properly take on new responsibilities and leading roles in implementing decentralized tasks at the local level under the local rules, regulations, and constitutions.
 - c) Build the capacity of municipalities on the identification of projects and sources of funding; development of project proposals and feasibility studies; specific thematic areas such as RE technologies, waste management, and the water-energy-food nexus; and on planning, implementing, and monitoring nexus projects. This will empower municipalities and enable them to better access finance to develop and implement projects which carry lower risks and boast high levels of feasibility.
 - d) Raise the awareness of farmers on the available ways to access finance for nexus projects and on the benefits of integrating RE technologies such as solar photovoltaic (PV) pumping into irrigation and solar PV into water desalination to reduce costs and increase the feasibility and sustainability of such projects.
 - e) Build the technical capacity of rural women on installing and maintaining RE systems to ensure compatibility with rural social norms which will lead to increased acceptance by the local population and hence to increased business and revenues for rural women.
 - f) Introduce the topic of the nexus and its interlinkage into school’s curriculum and expand on it in universities with related courses and research that also cover integrated approaches.

- g) Leverage the private sector’s interest in investing in the energy sector to help finance nexus RE projects with low-interest loans, especially in the agricultural sector.
- h) Offer microfinance to non-bankable rural entrepreneurs and farmers to enable them to invest in nexus RE projects while increasing their financial literacy and familiarizing them with handling loans.
- i) Increase financial support for nexus RE projects by removing electricity tariff subsidies, which negatively affect projects’ feasibility, and using the funds instead to directly subsidize the financing of such projects.
- j) Increase financial support for nexus RE projects submitted by women to incentivize and increase their involvement while also planning and applying gender mainstreaming from the onset of any project to be implemented.
- k) Promote the use of social media and digital communications platforms to form virtual networks to share and exchange knowledge, information, and opportunities related to the nexus and RE technologies and applications.

III. MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSIONS

6. Presentations and discussions are summarized in the following sections which are organized according to the substantive sessions of the workshop.

A. PANEL DISCUSSION: PROMOTING INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO WATER, ENERGY AND FOOD NEXUS IN THE ARAB REGION - FRAMEWORK OF THE 2030 AGENDA AND PARIS AGREEMENT

7. The session opened with a key presentation by ESCWA on water-energy-food (WEF) interlinkages in the Arab Region which highlighted the indispensable interaction between these three resources which are in high demand in the region. The keys to an integrated and successful approach for the WEF nexus lay in the political commitment and clear policy framework, improved governance and financing incentives, establishing clear dialogue between sectors, establishing a national development agenda and a data management plan. The presentation also highlighted the three nexus projects led by ESCWA: 1) W-E-F nexus policy brief, operational toolkits and three pilot initiatives aimed to develop the capacity of ESCWA Member Countries to address the Water-Energy Nexus for achieving SDGs; 2) the project to “promote food and water security through cooperation and capacity development in the Arab region” aimed to improve cooperation between the water and food sectors in the Arab region; and 3) the Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in Rural Areas of the Arab Region “REGEND”, which aims to use small-scale renewable energy (RE) technologies for productive activities, entrepreneurial development, and gender empowerment in rural development in three pilot countries: Jordan, Lebanon, and Tunisia.

8. Ensuing discussions confirmed that government institutions in the Arab region should use the tools and mechanisms already available to develop and implement nexus policies and projects instead of creating new institutions to do so. On the other hand, participants identified the insufficient coordination between institutions in planning and implementing nexus strategies, policies, and projects as an impediment to progress. Hence, it was recommended that participative, integrated, and holistic approaches are to be used with the strong involvement of municipalities. For this purpose, municipalities, which are in direct contact with citizens, need to be empowered with capacity building and trained human resources so that they can play a bigger role in the planning, implementation, and monitoring phases of any nexus-related initiative. In addition, awareness raising on the nexus and its interlinkages should start early in schools to change the mindset and then be expanded in universities with research targeting integrated approaches.

9. In Tunisia’s case, it was stated that investment funds for RE and energy efficiency (EE) exist, yet the agricultural sector remains the sector with the least benefit from the funds although it uses most of the water resources in the country and significant amounts of energy. To address this mismatch, it was recommended that a legal framework is needed with relevant and clear solutions to financing

coupled with increased awareness raising and capacity building for farmers on the benefits of RE and EE and the available ways to access finance for nexus projects. Equally important, the private sector's interest in investing in the energy sector should also be leveraged to help finance nexus projects, especially in the agricultural sector. Community engagement and gender empowerment also represent important entry points for small-scale projects that need financing.

B. OPERATIONALISING THE WEF NEXUS: TECHNOLOGIES AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES

10. The session started with a presentation by ESCWA on resource efficiency and RE solutions and technologies within the WEF nexus which covered the following uses: pyrolysis, hydroponics, aquaponics, anaerobic digestion, wastewater treatment, and other uses. It was highlighted that many innovative WEF nexus-related technologies are suitable for the Arab region for their simple and cost-effective implementation and for their job creation and income generation potential.

11. A presentation by an expert on RE for the sustainable development of the agricultural sector discussed the importance of RE for the agricultural sector, especially with new water conservation policies being adopted. Solar energy applications for the agricultural sector were detailed such as solar desalination for irrigation purposes and solar photovoltaic (PV) pumping for agricultural use. Finding the right financial mechanisms, business models, institutional arrangements, and best technology options to support PV irrigation systems remain major challenges.

12. A presentation by UNDP Lebanon showcased a solar PV community net-metering initiative in Lebanon whose objective is to facilitate the investment of a community in generating electricity from clean RE sources for the community's collective financial and environmental benefit. The presentation detailed the initiative's development process, the system's operational modes, and metering and billing schemes as well as the results achieved so far.

13. The participants stressed on the factors that must be taken into consideration when assessing nexus projects and their effect on the whole value chain they target: economic feasibility, safety standards, and integration. For example, the problem of water saltiness was discussed, and which requires high amounts of energy and associated costs for desalination which makes it unfeasible for agricultural use. A successful solution proposed is to integrate renewable energy, namely solar PV technology, to reduce the energy cost and ensure the sustainability of desalination on the long term. Another solution pertaining to Lebanon's rationing of electricity and constant shortages in supply was discussed and it consists of utilizing forestry management in a sustainable way to produce a bioenergy heating substitute to electricity. This will require the involvement of municipalities who control large forest lands and will further highlight the importance of integrated approaches towards successful implementation of similar initiatives.

C. ACCESS TO FINANCE AND PROJECT BANKABILITY WITHIN A NEXUS FRAMEWORK

14. The session started with a presentation on access to finance, feasibility studies, and project bankability. It highlighted the main components of a full feasibility study which include technical, legal, financial, economic, social, and environmental aspects. For project bankability, it laid out the various requirements and criteria such as the project documentation required and the creditworthiness appraisal as per the "five C" analysis: capacity, capital, collateral, conditions, and character. Multiple financing sources along with their corresponding features were also presented: corporate lending, project finance, equity, the Green Climate Fund, and green bonds.

15. A case study on "Drawing Lessons and Emerging Good Practices from Renewable Energy Projects in the Arab Region" was then presented with a focus on the nexus approach especially for adoption by municipalities. Various nexus RE projects were showcased with their features, benefits, risks, and feasibility in addition to success stories from the Arab region. Finally, incentive and financing mechanisms and the associated financial challenges and opportunities were discussed which culminated in proposing a set of guidelines and recommendations.

16. The discussions started by highlighting the importance of microfinance for rural entrepreneurs, farmers for example, that do not have access to banks, finance, and subsidies and hence are not bankable to invest in nexus renewable energy projects. In this case, microfinance is an adequate solution to farmers so that they learn how to deal with loans and to increase their financial literacy using small amounts before transitioning to bigger ones. Another recommendation was put forward to increase financial support for nexus RE projects by removing electricity tariff subsidies, which negatively affect projects' feasibility, and using the funds instead to directly subsidize the financing of such projects.

17. To complement the discussions on access to finance, participants from different countries shared the crucial need to develop the capacity of municipal staff on project and sources of funding identification, development of project proposals and feasibility studies, and on specific thematic areas such as RE, waste management, and the water-energy-food nexus. This will empower municipalities and enable them to better access finance to develop and implement projects which carry lower risks and boast high levels of feasibility that meet the needs of their constituents.

D. GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

18. A presentation by Akkar Network for Development introduced the Governorate of Akkar and the various problems it is facing ranging from poverty, low economic development, to high refugee density. The importance of proper community engagement and gender mainstreaming was also stressed especially when it comes to the construction and operation of the large-scale wind farms planned for Akkar which will result in economic development, employment for women and youth, and contribute towards decentralization and empowerment of local governance in general and for municipalities in particular.

19. A representative from the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) presented activities undertaken by the ministry that tackle gender empowerment and discussed challenges facing rural women. It was emphasized that focus should be made on tackling the empowerment of the individual before addressing other socio-economic and cultural factors. The roles of rural financing institutions were also discussed especially when it comes to financing rural women to start their own entrepreneurial income-generation activities.

20. Ensuing discussions focused on the importance of community engagement and capacity building when it comes to implementing large and small-scale RE projects in rural areas. It was agreed that community engagement must start very early in the process so that the community is given the chance to ask questions to get informed about the various aspects of such projects. Transparency must also be maintained so that people's expectations remain realistic.

21. To incentivize and increase the involvement of women in RE projects, it was recommended that financial support be increased for project proposals submitted by women. Moreover, women need to be technically trained to install and maintain RE systems to ensure compatibility with rural social norms which will lead to increased acceptance by the local population and hence to increased business and revenues. These recommendations necessitate the active involvement and action by municipalities, rural institutions, and organizations to plan and apply gender mainstreaming from the onset of any project to be implemented. The role of social media and digital communication platforms was also emphasized so that women can form virtual networks to share and exchange information, opportunities, and knowledge.

E. WORKING GROUPS ON PROJECT PROPOSALS, FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS WITHIN A NEXUS APPROACH

22. ESCWA invited the participants to be split into three working groups to work on developing project proposals within a WEF nexus framework. The proposals covered the project's objectives, the suggested technologies, the selection of beneficiary criteria, and the desirable financing model.

23. The first working group developed a project proposal for Jordan which aims to enhance the use of available natural resources and support a local economy by utilizing solar PV pumping technology

to pump and store water in underground tanks for irrigation and agricultural use. The project was based on two main pillars: a) using existing infrastructure to reduce the investment cost and b) the ability to implement it based on the strategic location which encompasses nearby water pumps, water facilities suitable for agricultural, suitable land for herding, and a fertilizer site. The irrigation of lands using solar PV pumping would reduce the energy cost and increase the output of produce and animal feed which would in turn increase the revenue generated from these activities. As a result, the number of lands available and suitable for agriculture would increase as well. In addition, the project would produce fertilizers to meet the local demand. This would ensure the application of the nexus approach and result in the creation of new job and entrepreneurial opportunities in the local production of produce, traditional foods, meat, and dairy products and in environmental tourism. To empower women, incentivize them, and encourage them to be integrated into the local community and to participate in herding and animal breeding activities, women would be offered animal feed and fertilizers at a discounted rate. They would also receive training on marketing their locally produced products to increase their sales and revenues. To implement the project, the working group would seek \$200,000 through a private public partnership where the municipality could partner with the private sector or invest in the project as a shareholder. The payback period for the project was calculated to be two and a half years.

24. The evaluation panel commended the working group on integrating gender, environmental, sustainability, and nexus aspects into the project proposal and recommended that more information be given regarding job creation and the benefits to the local economic cycle to encourage potential donors in better assessing the project proposal.

25. The second working group developed a project proposal for Lebanon which aims to improve energy efficiency and water access and to improve the local agricultural sector in the local community. The project would be led by the municipality and was based on three main pillars: a) developing a “house doctor” program to conduct energy and water efficiency audits for homes by trained local community members and implement the recommended measures; b) providing micro loans and grants for households to acquire and install energy and water conservation devices, and c) employing solar PV pumping technology for irrigation in the agricultural sector. The conducted energy and water efficiency audits would result in the identification of suitable measures such as energy efficient lighting and appliances, water-saving adapters, rainwater harvesting systems, solar PV and solar water heating systems, and composting boxes. The municipality would then work on identifying the households with little to no financial capabilities so that it can supply them with the abovementioned solutions in the form of grants while providing micro loans for other more capable households. Identified farmers will be targeted similarly with solar PV pumping systems for irrigation. This would result in reduced energy and water consumption and costs for the community and would be met with job creation to train local human resources on conducting energy and water efficiency measures and implementing applicable measures. To implement the project, the working group would seek \$200,000.

26. The evaluation panel recommended that more details are needed regarding the number of beneficiary households and the projected savings so that the payback period can be calculated. Moreover, the evaluation panel recommended that the gender aspect needs to be further integrated and elaborated. These recommendations would help complete the project proposal before submitting it to potential donors.

27. The third working group developed a project proposal for Tunisia which aims to improve the local agricultural sector in Chorbane, Mahdia by using RE technologies and smart solutions. The project was based on three main pillars: a) replacing traditional diesel water pumps with solar PV pumping systems; b) implementing smart agricultural methods; and c) launching and equipping a local cooperative to cover the olive and olive oil value chain. The irrigation of lands using solar PV pumping and smart agricultural methods, including efficient and automated equipment to facilitate the process of olive picking and olive oil production, would reduce the energy and water consumption and cost and increase the agricultural productivity, output, and revenue. The local cooperative would focus on preparing, packaging, labelling, marketing, and selling olives, olive oil, and other by-products such as soap and oil waste. This would ensure that the project encompasses the entire value chain and integrates it into the local economy. Gender empowerment and integration constitute a cross-cutting priority for

the project where women would be empowered by receiving the proper specialized training and capacity building to improve their agricultural and commercial skills to be able to lead and work in the cooperative and/or from their homes. This, coupled with the opportunity to export products outside the local community, would result in increased economic activity and revenue for the local economy and for women entrepreneurs working from their homes. To implement the project, the working group would seek \$180,000 from the national investment fund and other international climate change funds with a payback period of four years thanks to an estimated annual profit of \$45,000. The project proposal called for the distribution of all profits on women farmers and cooperative members to continue further diversifying the local income-generating activities and hence to encourage people to live and prosper in rural areas.

28. The evaluation panel applauded the working group on integrating gender, sustainability, and nexus aspects into the project proposal and for including national funding mechanisms which would help attract more potential donors due to the national and local ownership. The panel recommended that the presentation of the project should be enhanced by better organizing the information of each activity to improve the overall comprehensibility by the potential donors.

29. The evaluating panel also recommended that all working groups use Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound (SMART) indicators in their proposals to facilitate the application of monitoring and evaluation processes which are vital to any project and always required by donors.

F. CLOSING SESSION

30. The workshop sessions were closed by Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief of the Energy Section, Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability Cluster (CCNRSC) at ESCWA. The closing statement highlighted that access to finance remains a challenge in the Arab region especially at the municipal level given the lack of clear policies and institutional frameworks that empower them in light of the decentralisation being initiated by a number of countries. This should be addressed by governments and policy makers to partner with international organizations to advocate and develop policies that will enable and empower municipalities to better access finance and implement projects. This makes networking and partnering with local, national, and international organizations and potential donors ever more important for municipalities. On the other hand, the Arab region is endowed with the potential of RE which should constitute an enabler to accelerate their uptake and use of these RE technologies across different sectors within the nexus approach. More needs to be done in terms of awareness raising and capacity building so that more people and decisions makers are aware of the embedded benefits. Finally, Ms. Sedaoui thanked all the participants for their active engagement and emphasized the workshop's engaging wealth of information and discussions, the importance and effectiveness of practical working groups that incorporate real-life scenarios, and the intention to continue coordinating and collaborating with the represented stakeholders.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. DATE AND VENUE

31. The workshop was held at the St. Regis Hotel, Amman, Jordan on 29-30 January 2020.

B. OPENING

32. The workshop was formally opened by Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief of the Energy Section, Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability Cluster (CCNRSC), ESCWA and Mr. Muhieddin Tawalbeh, Manager of Energy Efficiency and Solar Thermal Division, National Energy Research Center, Royal Scientific Society.

C. PARTICIPANTS

33. The workshop was attended by 53 participants representing various local, regional, and international gender, energy and nexus experts, regional municipalities, NGOs, government ministries and entities, UN organizations, private sector, financial institutions, academia and research institutions. The list of participants is shown in Annex II.

D. AGENDA

34. Presentations and discussions were made over five sessions. The agenda of the workshop is summarized below:

- a) Opening Session and Introduction
- b) Panel Discussion: Promoting integrated approaches to water, energy and food nexus in the Arab Region - Framework of the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement
- c) Operationalising the WEF Nexus: Technologies and Regional Initiatives
- d) Access to Finance and Project Bankability within a Nexus Framework
- e) Gender Mainstreaming and the Community Engagement
- f) Working Groups on Project Proposals, Feasibility Studies and Financial Instruments within a Nexus Approach
- g) Closing Statement

E. EVALUATION

35. An evaluation questionnaire was distributed to the participants to assess the relevance, effectiveness, and impact of the workshop. The feedback received from 58 respondents was positive with 97% of the respondents confirming that the overall quality of the seminar met their expectations and 91% affirming that the workshop achieved its objectives. The quality of the presentations provided, and the facilitation of the discussions were rated as good or excellent by 76% of the respondents and 84% thought that the time allocated for the seminar and each session was appropriate. A suggestion was made to include more case studies based on actual regional and international success stories as these provide key lessons learned and best practices. Participants also praised the workshop's working groups session as it offered much-needed interaction and application of knowledge while also facilitating the exchange of information and experiences amongst the represented countries and municipalities. Women participants were pleased for having been given the opportunity to meet women from various Arab countries working on similar activities and to discuss with them the challenges faced and the devised solutions and approaches.

ANNEX I: AGENDA

E

UNITED NATIONS



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



الجمعية العلمية الملكية
Royal Scientific Society
المركز الوطني لبحوث الطاقة
National Energy Research Center



Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2020/Agenda
January 2020
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and Royal Scientific Society (RSS)/National Energy Research Center (NERC)

Workshop on “Access to Finance for Municipalities – Nexus Thinking and Decentralization of Subnational Governments”

The St. Regis Amman Hotel, Amman, Jordan – 29-30 January 2020

Agenda

Wednesday, 29 January 2020

08:30 – 09:00 **Registration**
Sponsored participants are kindly asked to bring their passport, visa stamp and airline ticket stub to the meeting.

Opening Session

09:00 – 09:15 **Welcoming Remarks**

- *Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief of Energy Section (ES), Sustainable Development Policies Division (SDPD), ESCWA*
- *Mr. Muhieddin Tawalbeh, Manager of Energy Efficiency and Solar Thermal Division, National Energy Research Center, Royal Scientific Society*

Review of the Agenda and Expected Outcomes of the Workshop
Ms. Radia Sedaoui, ESCWA

Session I	Panel Discussion: Promoting integrated approaches to water, energy and food nexus in the Arab Region - Framework of the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement
09:15 – 10:45	<p>Moderator: <i>Ms. Radia Sedaoui, ESCWA</i> Rapporteur: <i>Ms. Maya Mansour, Research Assistant, ES, SDPD, ESCWA</i></p> <p>Key Presentation: Water-Energy-Food Interlinkages in the Arab Region <i>Mr. Ziad Khayat, Economic Affairs Officer, Water Resources Section (WRS), SDPD, ESCWA</i></p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mr. Hammou Laamrani, Senior Expert Water, Energy, Food Security and Climate Change Nexus, Economic Sector, League of Arab States</i> - <i>Ms. Ilda Nahas, Executive Director, Lebanese Microfinance Association (LMFA), Beirut, Lebanon</i> - <i>Mr. Fethi Hanchi, Central Technical Director, National Energy Management Agency (ANME), Tunisia</i> - <i>Ms. Rana El Hajj, Program Manager, Issam Fares Institute (IFI) for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon</i> - <i>Ms. Hedia Sassi Chaabouni, Director, National Water Distribution Utility (SONEDE), Ariana, Tunisia</i> <p>Topics of Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How the human rights-based approach can be integrated into the Nexus framework? - How is synergy assured in the national plans for achieving the SDGs, in particular those relevant to energy and water? - What are the main priorities at the institutional level for advancing the interlinkages between water, energy and agricultural sectors? - How do you rate the collaboration between academia and the public or private sector? - How can the Nexus thinking be integrated in the context of decentralization of local governments and municipalities? - What are the hurdles that are deterring the effective technology transfer? What policies can assist in overcoming these hurdles? - What are the challenges and opportunities in terms of access to finance and capacity building? <p><i>Q and A</i></p>
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break
Session II	Operationalising the WEF Nexus: Technologies and Regional Initiatives

11:00 – 12:30	<p>Moderator: <i>Ms. Radia Sedaoui, ESCWA</i> Rapporteur: <i>Ms. Maya Mansour, ESCWA</i></p> <p>Key Presentation: Resource Efficiency and Renewable Energy- Solutions and Technologies within the WEF nexus <i>Ms. Syham Bentouati, Managing Director, NAFAS International LLC, Muscat, Oman</i></p> <p>Case Studies: Renewable Energy for the Sustainable Development of the Agriculture Sector <i>Mr. Thameur Chaibi, Director of Research, National Research Institute for Rural Engineering, Water, and Forestry (INRGREF), Tunisia</i></p> <p>Innovation through Community Net Metering in Lebanon <i>Mr. Hassan Harajli, UNDP Energy Program Advisor and EU-funded CEDRO Project Manager, UNDP, Lebanon</i></p> <p>Key Areas of Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Challenges associated with the implementation of renewable energy and resource efficiency technologies - Integrated approach in terms of technology transfer - Requirements at the policy level to ensure a successful partnership - Case studies and lessons learned in Arab countries <p>Q and A</p>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch and Group Photo
Session III	Access to Finance and Project bankability within a Nexus Framework
13:30 – 15:00	<p>Moderator: <i>Ms. Kaouther Kouki, Head of Service and Chief Engineer, Agricultural Investment Promotion Agency (APLA), Ministry of Agriculture, Tunis, Tunisia</i> Rapporteur: <i>Ms. Maya Mansour, ESCWA</i></p> <p>Key Presentation: Access to Finance, Feasibility Studies, and Project Bankability <i>Mr. Rafik Missaoui, Sustainable Energy Expert, ALCOR</i></p> <p>Case Study: Drawing Lessons and Emerging Good Practices from Renewable Energy Projects in the Arab Region <i>Mr. Khaled Bedoui, CEO, Khaled Bedoui Consultancy Firm</i></p> <p>Key Areas of Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical feasibility studies for development projects under the nexus framework - Different financing instruments and business models - Mechanism and incentives for the private sector and SMEs - Resources mobilisation in a context of decentralized entities and municipalities <p>Q and A</p>
Session IV	Gender Mainstreaming and the Community Engagement

15:00 – 16:20	<p>Moderator: <i>Ms. Shada El-Sharif, Advisor / Consultant - Environment & Sustainability, Jordan</i> Rapporteur: <i>Mr. Jil Amine, Sustainable Development Officer, ES, SDPD, ESCWA</i></p> <p>Key Presentation: The Gender Perspective and Renewable Energy in Akkar, Lebanon <i>Ms. Nadine Saba, Board President and Project Director, Akkar Network for Development (AND), Akkar, Lebanon</i></p> <p>The Role of Rural Women and Gender Mainstreaming in Promoting Economic Empowerment: The Challenges Facing Rural Women in Such Communities <i>Ms. Lama Shamyleh, Head of Economic Empowerment of Rural Women, Ministry of Agriculture, Jordan</i></p> <p>Key areas of discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender mainstreaming role in increased renewable energy uptake - Developmental potential that municipal cooperation presents - Social norms and role of community engagement
16:20 – 16:30	<p>Q and A</p> <p>Briefing on the Second Day Working Groups Session on Proposal Building, Feasibility Studies and Financing Channels</p>
End of Day 1	
Thursday, 30 January 2020	
Session V	Working Groups on Project Proposals, Feasibility Studies and Financial Instruments within a Nexus Approach
9:00 – 10:30	<p>Moderator: <i>Mr. Hammou Laamrani, Senior Expert Water, Energy, Food Security and Climate Change Nexus Economic Sector, League of Arab States</i></p> <p>Working Groups: Developing project proposals within a WEF nexus framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group 1: Facilitated by <i>Mr. Rafik Missaoui, Sustainable Energy Expert, ALCOR</i> - Group 2: Facilitated by <i>Mr. Ziad Khayat, ESCWA</i> - Group 3: Facilitated by <i>Ms. Radia Sedaoui, ESCWA</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee Break
Outcomes from the Working Groups and Discussions	
10:45 – 11:45	<p>Moderator: <i>Mr. Hammou Laamrani, League of Arab States</i> Rapporteur: <i>Mr. Jil Amine, ESCWA</i></p> <p>Groups Presentations and Results (5 minutes each)</p>
Concluding Remarks and Way Forward	
11:45 – 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ESCWA - NERC/RSS
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
End of the Workshop	

ANNEX II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Jordan:

Mr. Zeyad Alsaaydeh

Director of Rural Electrification Department
Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources
Amman, Jordan

Ms. Lama Alshamaileh

Head of Economic Empowerment of Rural
Women
Rural Development and Women Empowerment
Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Amman, Jordan

Ms. Fida'a Ali Al Rawabdeh

Chairman of Regional Office of Eastern Arab
Area
League of Arab States
Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
Amman, Jordan

Mr. Tariq Hafez Almashhrawi

League of Arab States
Arab Organization for Agriculture Development
Amman, Jordan

Mr. Fadi Falah Jabr

General Secretary
Arab Federation for Food Industries
Arab International Association
Amman, Jordan

Ms. Reham Mohammad Ali Jammal

Manager of Planning and International Project
and Program Department
Amman, Jordan

Ms. Jamileh Mordi Dare Aljazi

President
Al Jawhara Community-Based Organization
Al Achaari, Maan, Jordan

Ms. Sajeda Rahaife

Executive Manager
Municipality of Al Karak
Al Karak, Jordan

Mr. Rami Jamil Suhemat

Head of the Energy Department
Municipality of Al Karak
Al Karak, Jordan

Mr. Yousef Ahmad Jafari

Head of Purchasing Section
Municipality of Al Karak
Al Karak, Jordan

Mr. Mohammed Al-Suheimat

Engineer
Municipality of Al Karak
Al Karak, Jordan

Mr. Abdulhai Ramadin

Consultant, LDV Manager
Municipality of Al Karak
Al Karak, Jordan

Ms. Zubeida Riyad Madadha

Manager of Planning and Studies
Amman, Jordan

Ms. Noama Shareef

Senior Waster Water Engineering and Capacity
Building
GIZ/CIM
Amman, Jordan

Ms. Shada Nabil Mahmoud El-Sharif

Sustainability and Low Carbon Development
Consultant
Amman, Jordan

Mr. Jamil Yassin AL-Jaafreh

Amman, Jordan

Mr. Abraham Aldmour

Amman, Jordan

Lebanon:

Ms. Ilda Nahas

General Manager
Lebanese Micro-Finance Association
Beirut, Lebanon

Mr. Mohamad Daher

Vice Mayor
Municipality of Akkar El Atika
Beirut, Lebanon

Mr. Samer Mohamad El Oussman

Municipality Civil Engineer
Municipality of Akkar Al Atika
Akkar, Lebanon

Mr. Paul Saoud

Mayor
Municipality of Shaqdouf
Akkar, Lebanon

Mr. Hisham Fatayri

Mayor
Municipality of Jdeidet el Chouf
Alshouf, Lebanon

Mr. Ayman Sharafeddine

Municipal Council Member
Municipality of Jdeidet el Chouf
Alshouf, Lebanon

Ms. Dunia Mounib Fatayri

Focal Point
Municipality of Jdeidet el Chouf
Alshouf, Lebanon

Mr. Bassam Al Ghazal

Electronic Supervisor
Municipality of Jdeidet el Chouf
Alshouf, Lebanon

Ms. Rana El Hajj

Program Manager
Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and
International Affairs at the American University
of Beirut
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Nadine Saba

Board President and Project Director
Akkar Network for Development
Akkar, Lebanon

Mr. Hassan Harajli

Program Advisor and Project Manager
United Nations Development Programme
(UNDP)
Beirut, Lebanon

Mr. Oussama Kaassamani

Key Expert, Local Sustainable Development
Mashreq Region
Clima-Med
Beirut, Lebanon

Ms. Ghada Youssef Azzam

Bekaata Women Organization
Bekaata, Lebanon

Mr. Saer Riad Zebian

Administrative Officer
Al Shouf Cedar Society
Alshouf, Lebanon

Mr. Mazen Adel Narsh

Vice President
LANA
Beirut, Lebanon

Tunisia:

Ms. Kaouther Kouki Mzoughi

Head of Service and Chief Engineer
Agricultural Investment Promotion Agency (APIA)
Tunis, Tunisia

Mr. Fethi Hanchi

Directeur Technique Central
Direction de l'Utilisation Rationnelle de l'Energie
Agence Nationale pour la Maitrise de l'Energie
Tunis, Tunisia

Ms. Hedia Sassi Chaabouni

Director
Société Nationale D'exploitation et de Distribution
des Eaux (SONEDE)
Ariana, Tunisia

Ms. Radhia Ben Haj Mohamed Fallah

Manager
Cooperative in Tunis
Tunis, Tunisia

Ms. Moufida Naouali Taleb

Mayor
Municipality of Chorbane
Chorbane, Tunisia

Mr. Mohsen Gharsallah

Director
Cellule Territoriale de Vulgarisation Agricole
(CTVA)
Tunis, Tunisia

Mr. Rafik Missaoui

General Manager
ALCOR
Tunis, Tunisia

Mr. Mohamed Thameur Chaibi

Director of Research
National Research Institute for Rural Engineering,
Water, and Forestry (INRGREF)
Ariana, Tunisia

Mr. Afif Baouab

Engineer and Energy Auditor
Cabinet des Etudes Aérauliques et Thermiques
(CEAT)
Tunis, Tunisia

Mr. Mourad Ben Hassine

National Institute of Consumer Affairs
Tunis, Tunisia

Mr. Ahmed Ghadira

Deputy Mayor
Municipality of Monastir
Monastir, Tunisia

Ms. Ines Sayadi

Member
Municipality of Monastir
Monastir, Tunisia

Ms. Wiem Benzarti

Member
Municipality of Monastir
Monastir, Tunisia

Ms. Wafa Gandouz

Member
Municipality of Monastir
Monastir, Tunisia

Mr. Naoufel Bouzgarrou

Member
Municipality of Monastir
Monastir, Tunisia

Mr. Ahmed Souki

Notre Grand Blue
Monastir, Tunisia

Mr. MOHAMED Amine Sayadi

President
Active Citizen for Development (ACD)
Tunis, Tunisia

Egypt:

Ms. Nisreen Lahham

Senior Advisor
Sustainable Water Policy Program (WaPo)
Nexus Dialogues Program, Head of MENA
Region
GIZ
Cairo, Egypt

ESCWA Consultants:

Mr. Khaled Bedoui

ESCWA Consultant
Tunis, Tunisia

Ms. Syham Bentouati

ESCWA Consultant
Managing Director
NAFAS International LLC
Muscat, Oman

Mr. Iyad Muslih
ESCWA Consultant
Amman, Jordan

Royal Scientific Society

Royal Scientific Society (RSS)
PO Box 1438 Amman
11941 – Jordan
Tel.: (+962) 6 5344701

Mr. Muhieddin Tawalbeh
Manager of Energy Efficiency and Solar Thermal
Division
National Energy Research Center

Ms. Roula Al-Shaweesh
Project Manager
National Energy Research Center

Ms. Dana Daqqaq
Project Coordinator
National Energy Research Center

Mr. Suhaib Mohammed Ababneh
Studies Specialist
National Energy Research Center

Mr. Ali Hussein Almarzouq
Energy Specialist
National Energy Research Center

Ms. Raghad Ali Al-Omari
Monitoring and Evaluation Assistance
Royal Scientific Society
Amman, Jordan

**United Nations Economic and Social
Commission for Western Asia**

United Nations Economic and Social Commission
for Western Asia (ESCWA)
United Nations House
P.O. Box: 11-8575
Riad El-Solh 1107 2812
Beirut, Lebanon
Tel.: (+961-1) 981501/2
Fax: (+961-1) 981510

Ms. Roula Majdalani
Cluster Lead
Climate Change and Natural Resource
Sustainability Cluster (CCNRSC)

Ms. Radia Sedaoui
Chief
Energy Section (ES)
CCNRSC

Mr. Ziad Khayat
First Economic Affairs Officer
Water Resources Section, CCNRSC

Mr. Jil Amine
Sustainable Development Officer
CCNRSC

Ms. Maya Mansour
Research Assistant
ES, CCNRSC

Ms. Noha Ziade
Administrative Assistant
ES, CCNRSC