



NETWORKING FOR THE FUTURE | الترابط من أجل المستقبل

MINARET in One Year



About MINARET

The MENA Region Initiative as a Model of NEXUS Approach and Renewable Energy Technologies (MINARET) is a 4-year project that aims at strengthening regional cooperation between Jordan, Tunisia and Lebanon by implementing NEXUS approach integrated with renewable energy technologies to mitigate climate change impacts and combat poverty.

Project Objectives

- ♦ Build the municipality's resilience to climate change through adopting renewable energy resources and energy efficiency applications, water management techniques and food security approaches.
- ♦ Strengthen institutional capacities of the relevant governmental authorities involved in the project, through promoting policy dialogues and implementing different capacity-building programs.
- ♦ Promote inter-municipal regional cooperation to enhance good governance, and equitably dealing with the needs and human rights especially for refugee's surviving in and around municipalities.
- ♦ Reinforce the role of women, youth and marginalized groups in developing and implementing NEXUS approach.
- ♦ Develop a MENA dialogue platform focusing on knowledge share, education and lessons learned at national, regional policy levels.

Covenant of Mayors

MINARET will support municipalities in identifying their specific needs in order to join the Covenant of Mayors.

Project Background

MINARET has been developed based on the successful implementation of the Green Neighborhood Development project in Sahab Municipality in Jordan, which was implemented by the Royal Scientific Society / National Energy Research Center (RSS/NERC) in cooperation with Future Pioneers for Empowering Communities (FPEC). This project benefited the people of Sahab and the municipality by introducing renewable energy and energy efficiency technology, as well as awareness and guidance on practical energy-saving practices.

- ♦ **MINARET is aligned with the goals of the Regional Strategy for Sweden's Development Cooperation** in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). It aims at improving living conditions for people through “environmental improvement, reduced climate impact and increased resilience to environmental impacts, climate change and natural disasters.”
- ♦ **MINARET's activities embrace six of the UN Sustainable Development Goals:**
 - ⇒ SDG 5- Gender equality;
 - ⇒ SDG 6– Clean water and sanitation;
 - ⇒ SDG 7- Affordable and clean energy;
 - ⇒ SDG 11-Sustainable cities and communities;
 - ⇒ SDG 13- Climate action;
 - ⇒ SDG 17- Partnerships for the goals



Project Partners

MINARET project is being implemented by the National Energy Research Center / Royal Scientific Society (NERC/RSS), in partnership with Future Pioneers for Empowering Communities (FPEC) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).



Targeted Countries

Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia are the targeted countries by MINARET. The three countries face serious development challenges including but not limited to restricted natural resources, fast growing energy demand, water scarcity, a stagnant economy and consistent presence of refugees.

Beneficiaries

MINARET targets four municipalities; Jdaidet Chouf in Lebanon, Karak and Sahab in Jordan and Monastir in Tunisia.



Focal Points

Regional focal points have been identified: Lana Association in Lebanon and Notre Grand Bleu Association in Tunisia.



MINARET in One Year

Project Launching in Feb. & Mar. 2017

The MENA Region Initiative as a Model of NEXUS Approach and Renewable Energy Technologies (MINARET) was launched in **Jordan, Lebanon, and Tunisia with three kick off meetings in the three countries in February and March 2017.**

The objective of the kick-off meetings was to inform stakeholders, governmental entities and partner organizations about the purpose of the MINARET project, project objectives, expected results, project components and phases of implementation, and the greater effect they will have on their communities.



Launching in Jdaideh



Launching in Jordan



Launching in Monastir

Launching News:

- ♦ [Petra News Agency - Jordan](#)
- ♦ [Al Rai Newspaper - Jordan](#)
- ♦ [Anbaa Online - Lebanon](#)
- ♦ [Jomhouria - Tunisia](#)

Watch Videos for the Launching:

- ♦ [Launching in Jdaideh](#)
- ♦ [Jordan Launching](#)

Highlights from Year One

- ♦ The first year of the project focused on studies, data collection, needs assessment, consultation meetings, focus group meetings, field visits and workshops with all partners and stakeholders to collect information and build a clear framework that help coming out with the water, energy and food/agriculture baseline for the region.
- ♦ Data collection was conducted using surveys, questionnaires, desk reviews, literature review, consultants, energy audits for municipalities' buildings, field visits to water and wastewater treatment plants, stadiums, shops, parks, etc.

Synergies

MINARET is focused on building strategic partnerships with local and international institutions who share the project's objectives like:



Communication

- ♦ Branding Toolkit produced
- ♦ Communication & Visibility Plans for each municipality (4) developed
- ♦ Website, regional platform, mobile App & social media pages launched

Shams MINARET Initiative

Shams MINARET Initiative was launched to encourage women's participation and enhance their career development in energy, water and food sectors, addressing the challenges they face and finding solutions by ensuring equal job opportunities and engaging women and men in regional dialogues. شمس ميناريت

Assessments

- ♦ Assessment of current policies, regulatory and legal frame work on renewable energy & energy efficiency and sustainable development.
- ♦ Mapping of stakeholders' and beneficiaries', and identification of their needs and capacities.



MINARET team held a series of workshops with all partners and stakeholders and conducted several studies and consultations that has resulted in **23** municipality and country level reports and studies:

- ♦ 18 studies on water, agriculture, energy efficiency, renewable energy and gender
- ♦ Policy assessment report
- ♦ Stakeholder identification and mapping
- ♦ Gender baseline analysis
- ♦ Socio-economic study
- ♦ Assessment on Human rights legislation in water and energy



Consultation Meetings in Oct. & Nov. 2017

Consultation meetings with municipalities, stakeholders and focal points were held in Tunisia, Lebanon and Jordan respectively , to present first year assessments' finding and recommendations in water, energy, food sectors considering the gender and socioeconomic aspects, in addition to presenting the results of the stakeholders Identification. MINARET team proposed a range of sustainable environmental solutions at each municipality.



Jdaidet Chouf Workshop



Karak Workshop



Monastir Workshop



Monastir Workshop

MINARET First Regional Platform on Water, Energy and Food NEXUS, 13th February 2018 in Monastir, Tunisia



MINARET First Regional Platform on Water, Energy and Food NEXUS was organized in Monastir, Tunisia from 13-15 February, 2018 under the theme "NETWORKING FOR THE FUTURE", for the aim of presenting the project's first year achievements, and it was attended by more than 200 participants. [Read more](#), [Watch short Video](#)

Gender Inclusive Event

MINARET First Regional Platform was an inclusive and accessible event aimed at engaging all participants fully and equally.

Gender Corner

A gender corner and gender wish board were integrated, and have attracted the event participants to contribute and share their opinions towards empowering women and their importance in the community.

[Watch Mayor of Monastir writing on the Gender Wish board](#)

MINARET First Regional Platform on Water, Energy and Food NEXUS, 13th February 2018 in Monastir, Tunisia

[Presentations](#)

[Photos](#)

[Videos](#)



Opening Ceremony



Press Corner



Panel Discussion



Swedish Ambassador @ Gender Corner



Working Group



Gender Wish Board

Back-to-Back Activities

Urban NEXUS Workshop 14-15 February, 2018



A workshop on “Applying the Water-Energy-Food NEXUS Approach Planning” took place on 14-15 February, 2018. Workshop was conducted and supported by German Agency of International Cooperation (GIZ) / Egypt Office, and presented by Dr. Holger Hoff, Dr. Nisreen Lahham, Ruth Erlbeck and Ralph Trosse. The workshop included an introduction to the Urban Nexus and to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and participants took part on four different Urban Nexus exercises.



[Training Modules](#)

[Presentations](#)

[Photos](#)



Back-to-Back Activities

Official Visit to the Tunisian Minister of Women and Family Affairs



A meeting at the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs was held on 15 February 2018. An overview was provided on the MINARET project and how gender mainstreaming is an integral component in the water, energy and food. The minister showed interest in supporting the project activities relating to gender. [الخير باللغة العربية](#)

Regional Cooperation Agreement Signed By Five Municipalities



An official visit to the municipality of Monastir took place on February 13, 2018 and Mayors of five municipalities (Monastir, Sahab, Karak, Jdaidet Al-Chouf and Ein o Zein) signed a regional cooperation agreement in the field of water, energy and food NEXUS aims for achieving sustainable development and reducing the effects of climate change. [الخير باللغة العربية](#)

Back-to-Back Activities

Official Visit to the Tunisian Parliament



- ♦ Jordanian and Tunisian parliamentarians agreed to move forward on the establishment of a joint Arab Parliamentary committee for the water, energy and food NEXUS.
- ♦ A training on decentralization was given to all parliamentarians giving an overview of the decentralization in Jordan and provided examples and lessons learned. الخبر باللغة العربية

MINARET in the News

Tunisian Press

- ♦ <https://goo.gl/bF1uHN>

Jordanian Press

- ♦ <https://goo.gl/jMKkmV>

Lebanese Press

- ♦ <https://goo.gl/drXwyH>

Other Arab Media

- ♦ <https://goo.gl/SRRdfU>



Water & Energy Talk Series (WE Talk) - DEFINING GENDER AS A PROCESS



On the 6th of March, 2018 at Shams Al Balad, Jordan

MINARET, the Swedish Embassy in Jordan and BORDA WesCA gathered over 100 people in Amman, Jordan to celebrate the International Women Day [#2018IWD](#) and to discuss how to Define Gender as a Process in the water & energy sector.



H.E. Erik Ullenhag, Swedish Ambassador in Jordan

This was the first Water & Energy talk from the WE talk series, where inspiring talks by guests coming from all over the world to discuss and address the concept of gender in the water & energy sectors.



Panel Discussion

- ♦ [Read more](#)
- ♦ [WE TALK Photos](#)
- ♦ [WE TALK Videos:](#)
- ♦ [Video 1](#) - [Video 3](#)
- ♦ [Video 2](#) - [Video 4](#)

MINARET in COSMATS Newsletter

COSMATS Newsletter in its January - February 2018 Edition, published news about the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) activities, including MINARET as one of RSS important regional projects.

[Download and View pages 6-7 - Click Here](#)

MINARET in TV News Reports

- ♦ [Jordan Launching](#)
- ♦ [First Regional Platform in Tunisia](#)

Website and Regional Platform

For latest news, please visit: <http://minaretproject.com/>

Stakeholders are invited to register by visiting the platform and participate in interactive discussions by sharing their knowledge and experience: <http://community.minaretproject.com/>

Mobile App

MINARET Mobile Application is available on apple store and android. [MINARET Mobile App](#)

MINARET Videos

- ♦ [قصة المشروع](#)
- ♦ [إنجازات العام الأول](#)
- ♦ [شمس ميناريت](#)
- ♦ [MINARET's Achievements in One Year](#)

