

## Sustainable Advancement of Gender Equality in the MNA Region (SAGE)

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<b>Responsible Sector and Bank Unit:</b>	Gender - PREM
<b>Recipient Agencies:</b>	Center of Arab Women for Training and Research Three to four well established national/regional policy research Centers and think tanks in MNA selected on a competitive basis.
<b>Web Addresses:</b>	<a href="http://www.cawtar.org.tn">http://www.cawtar.org.tn</a>
<b>Financial Arrangements for FY09(Amount in US \$ Million)</b>	
<b>Total Budget:</b>	2.53
<b>DGF Funding Request:</b>	0.60
<b>DGF Percentage:</b>	32 %
<b>Objectives and Expected Outcomes</b>	
<p>The purpose of the SAGE-MNA grant is to increase over the next five years sustainable and diversified capacity in the Arab and Farsi speaking countries to carry out gender related analytically based policy research and training of decision makers. The focus of the World Bank is to advance the debate on women's economic contribution and economic rights. It will build regional sustainable capacity within a number of well-established policy making economic research institutions and think-tanks in order to address gender issues in new and critical areas of policy discourse. To this end, the research products are presented in forums that are mainly attended by well-respected opinion leaders and policy makers.</p>	
<b>Main Components</b>	
<p><b>Component 1 (Research and Policy component - GERPA):</b> This component focuses on capacity-building in selected and well-established economic research centers and think-tanks to integrate gender in relevant ongoing economic policy research that is being conducted by research institutes that are otherwise not necessarily known for addressing gender. It will provide incentives and funding to incorporate the gender dimension within selected activities of high impact policy research. GPP funding will be "seed-money" for mainstreaming such activities in a broad range of institutions. <b>Component 2 (Gender mainstreaming component - NGED):</b> This component will strengthen Arab and Persian Speaking Gender Networks (in MNA, ECA, SAR and AFR). It will produce one periodical regional flagship report on a theme that cuts across the various countries. This product allows for cross-country comparisons and would generate comparative data and analysis. It would also bring together research and policy makers from different parts of the region and facilitate substantive knowledge exchange.</p>	
<b>Performance Indicators</b>	
<p>(i) Resource mobilization, particularly from non-governmental sources; (ii) Increased number of researchers in gender related disciplines; (iii) Increased number and higher quality of research outputs; and (iv) Dissemination of findings and considerations in policy making processes.</p>	
<b>Progress and Achievements</b>	
<p>The following progress has been achieved since the last reporting: (1) The Research &amp; Policy component 1 (GERPA): At the time of the last reporting GERPA launched a call for proposals in a number of high priority areas. Some 50+ proposals for over \$5mil were submitted. Out of these 24 were evaluated and approved. As of today, seven interim drafts were submitted and one final paper. The papers are currently being reviewed by members from the GERPA Advisory Committee (AC). In addition, GERPA held three events: the first was, sponsoring the participation of GERPA grantees in a PREM/WBI course "Jobs for a</p>	

Globalizing World: World Bank Labor Market Policy Core Course” which was held at the Bank’s HQ in Washington DC March 31 – April, 2008. By exploring new windows of research, grantees may use this experience to adapt the concepts presented in the course to their ongoing and future research on gender. Thirteen grantees attended. The second event was held April 5 – 6, 2008 whereby GERPA grantees attended the NGED annual conference meeting. The conference’s theme was how to leverage NGED experience and outreach to develop a strategy for advocacy and dissemination of the research papers. CAWTAR will prepare a dissemination strategy note based on the discussions held at the conference. The third event was the third AC meeting which was held on April 10, 2008. AC members discussed future research topics in preparation for the launch of the second call for proposals. (2) Gender mainstreaming component 2 (NGED). As mentioned above NGED held its 6<sup>th</sup> annual conference in collaboration with GERPA to develop a strategy for advocacy and dissemination for GERPA outputs and other NGED research publications. The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual conference is under preparation and is scheduled to take place in November 2008 in collaboration with the Dubai School of Government in the UAE – this 7<sup>th</sup> conference will focus on GCC participants and PGN members who were not represented in large numbers at the previous conference due to logistical reasons. Current NGED members have grown to 500 up from 100 in 2002 and includes members from 19 Arab countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Oman, Syria, Tunisia, Qatar, the UAE and Yemen). All these members have benefited from training, networking, and knowledge sharing organized by the NGED program and those with the relevant specialized skills and qualifications participated in the research and writing of CAWTAR’s thematic flagship reports (The AWDRs) and contributed research papers on various gender related topics building up CAWTAR’s new electronic library. NGED was also the catalyst for the birth of 6 thematic spin-off networks in the region (Media Network, a network on Globalization and Economic Participation, Women in Decision-Making Network, a network on Adolescents, a network for the Protection of Women from Gender-Based Violence, and an Advocacy Network). In addition eight NGED members among sixteen specialists contributed to the publication of a book and a manual on best practices under CAWTAR’s project on Gender Equity and Discriminatory Social Beliefs. Also, ten member NGOS, research centers and journalists implemented a national advocacy and public awareness campaign of CAWTAR’s regional project on Arab Women and Local Governance in five Arab countries. In 2007 NGED published its annual flagship report (the AWDR report) on Women and Decision Making. In terms of resource mobilization, the framework of the NGED program assisted CAWTAR in leveraging a \$3million dollar project funded by the EU. The Persian Gender Network (PGN) also met on April 10<sup>th</sup> 2008 in Washington, D.C. to discuss preparations for establishing the Steering Committee and plan for its first conference.

### Partners

AGFUND, Arab League, CAWTAR, EU, ILO, UNFPA, UNDP, Al Urdun Al Jadeed Research Center, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Center for Private Sector Development, ERF, ECES, Ford Foundation, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, HIVOS, IDRC, IPPF, Islamic Development Bank, Lebanese Center for Policy Studies, Maroc 20/20, MEPI, National Endowment for Democracy, Olaf Palme Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, SEDA, Syrian Consulting Bureau for Development and Investment, SANABEL Micro Finance Network of Arab countries, and UNIFEM.

### Governance and Management

The program has added another Component on Policy Analysis and Research in addition to the Networking and Training component that was not covered under the previous DGF funding. In addition, CAWTAR’s role in administering component two was also expanded. Given the added responsibilities, and the Bank’s extended relationship with the Center under the SAGE program it was necessary to create a new business model for the Center, focusing on its management structure and longevity. CAWTAR’s Technical Committee meeting will be held May 9 – 10, 2008 where staffing, resource and organizational issues will be reviewed. An independent evaluation is currently being undertaken of the NGED program.

### Exit Strategy

The desired duration for DGF Window 1 support of five years will be achieved after the receipt of FY10 DGF funding. At this point, the World Bank’s partnership would also have given its partners and recipients, sufficient long-term visibility and support that should enable networking organizations to secure additional donor support. Research centers should also increasingly be able to rely on service fees to cover some of their research activities.