

Gender approach in local urban development projects in Algeria

Gender and urban development

Equal participation of women and men in urban management is crucial for participatory democracy and gender equality (SDG 5). By ratifying the United Nations Convention against Discrimination against Women, Algeria is committed to ensuring women's equal participation in all sectors. Although progress has been made, particularly in the field of education, further efforts are needed to achieve effective equality in urban cooperation, including gender reforms and the inclusion of women in governance.

The regional project "City-to-City Cooperation Maghreb-Germany" (KWT II), commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), was implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with the Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW) of Engagement Global gGmbH, from March 2016 to February 2024. Among other activities, the regional project supported project partnerships between German and Maghreb cities. The good practices highlighted in this fact sheet have been partly financed by the regional fund "Promoting the role of women in the Maghreb" (PFM, 2013-2020) and developed by the municipalities of Annaba and Oran in 2019. These practices will be scaled up as a part of the follow-up regional project "Urban Adaptation to Climate Change in the Maghreb", running from March 2024 to February 2027.



Capacity development for women elected representatives and municipal executives

Capacity development measures, supported by PFM, have been implemented by KWT I in Annaba, Mostaganem, Oran and Tlemcen for the benefit of elected women and women municipal executives.

The approach was implemented in two phases. The first phase consisted of strengthening the soft skills of the beneficiaries in order to improve their management capacities. Two training courses were given: Managerial skills & leadership and Project presentation methods. Post-training evaluation showed a 92% satisfaction rate among participants. The second phase focused on technical skills (hard skills), in particular understanding the gender dimension and integrating it into urban projects, with a satisfaction rate of 100%. Two seminars were organised: The first seminar, Gender approach and urban space, aimed to familiarise beneficiaries with the gender approach and to highlight gender inequalities in urban space. The second, Inclusive urban Planning, aimed at professionals such as urban planners and architects. This seminar was an introduction to the concept of inclusion in urban planning.

A call for projects on gender in urban planning for trained women was then launched in 2019, with three projects selected.



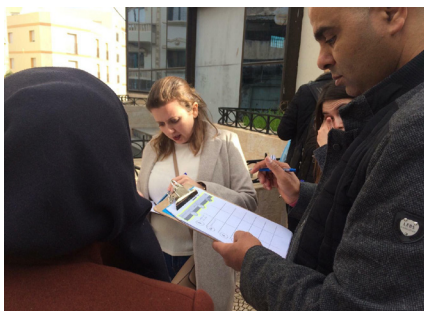
Development of an inclusive public space at Hai Zitoune in Oran

Among the projects selected in Algeria is the urban development project in Hai Zitoune, Oran, which aimed to design of an inclusive space that takes into account the needs of different users, particularly women and marginalised people. Using exploratory walks, the project aimed to democratise access to this space for women and people with reduced mobility (PRM), while promoting social cohesion. The objectives included promoting consultation, integrating a gender-sensitive approach, improving the involvement of women and other users, and raising awareness of the obstacles women face in urban space.



Integrating the dimension of gender into GIS

The aim of this project was to optimise Annaba's tourism potential through the setting up of a physical and virtual tourist information point, Point i23. The aim was to make tourism data more accessible, particularly to women, using a Geographical Information System (GIS). The project included the training of a dedicated team and the creation of a GIS unit to collect, process and analyse tourism data.



Left and right: Conducting an exploratory walk for a participatory diagnosis in Oran, Algeria, on 2nd and 3rd December 2019.

The regional project KWT II, in partnership with Sindelfingen supported the maintenance of the Point i23, the development of capacities and the integration of gender considerations into GIS to ensure more inclusive access to tourism information.



Creation of a Citizen's Space in Tlemcen

The third project, carried out as part of the gender initiatives, involves setting up a physical and virtual citizens' space in the municipality of Tlemcen. This project is described in detail in the separate good practice factsheet *"Towards a participatory local governance: The creation of a Citizen's Space in Tlemcen"*.



Steps and actions

The gender measures adopted different methodological approaches, described in diagram 01 below:

Strengthening the leadership and managerial skills of women elected representatives and municipal executives:

1. **Strengthening soft skills** through training sessions on managerial and leadership skills and project presentation methods.
2. **Strengthening hard skills** through training sessions on gender-sensitive approaches to urban spaces and inclusive urban planning.
3. Supporting female executives in **implementing small-scale projects** that integrate the gender approach, in order to put into practice what they have learned from the training modules.

The urban development project at Hai Zitoune, Oran:

1. **Gender-specific technical and socio-cultural diagnosis:** Identification of the specific needs of local women through night-time and day-time exploratory walks, encouraging their active involvement and empowerment in making public spaces safer.
2. **Dialogue and consultation:** Citizen mobilisation prior to the exploratory walks, involving a representative intergenerational group (men and women). Participatory workshops followed to discuss possible developments.
3. **Design of the development plan:** The gender-sensitive diagnoses and consultations guided the architects and urban planners in creating a plan that meets the specific needs of different genders and generations.
4. **Presentation of the plan:** Submission of the development plan to citizens and public authorities for validation and implementation by the wilaya of Oran.

Project "Point i23" in Annaba:

1. **Gender-specific diagnosis:** Identification of the causes of gender segregation in the tourism sector and areas.
2. **GIS database:** Creation of a geographical database for the tourism sector.
3. **Media coverage:** Promotion of the "Point i23" tourist information point via the local media.

Diagram 01: Methodological approach. © GIZ



Achievements

In addition to the personal empowerment of the women, which is reflected in the fact that they are able to translate the knowledge acquired in the training courses into the ability to develop and implement small-scale projects as managers, the measures have produced a number of results (diagram 02):

Measures to strengthen women's leadership:

- **Adoption of gender analysis tools:** Development of beneficiaries' managerial skills
- **Pilot small-scale projects:** Implementation of micro-projects integrating the gender approach, led by women community managers.
- **Raising collective awareness:** Raising awareness of the difficulties and discrimination faced by women in the decision-making process and in the management of local affairs.
- **Concrete recommendations:** Development of measures to integrate the gender approach into the day-to-day actions and decisions of local players.

Development of an urban space in the Hai Zitoune neighbourhood of Oran:

- **Methodological guide:** Creation and sharing of a guide on the exploratory walk with the partner municipalities and ANURB, including an explanatory video and a summary of good practice adapted to the Algerian context.
- **Gender-sensitive approach:** Introduction of a new approach to urban management and planning, actively involving women and raising men's awareness of the urban challenges faced by women.
- **Inclusive public space:** Creating an inclusive and safe public space that encourages social mixing day and night in the Hai Zitoune neighbourhood.
- **Training in inclusive urban planning:** Training of 10 urban planners and 6 architects in the exploratory walk tool, benefiting three decentralised urban planning agencies of the political partner ANURB in Algeria (Annaba, Oran and Tlemcen).

Project "Point i23" in Annaba:

- **Installation of the information point:** Acquisition of equipment and development of the tourism GIS to create a physical and virtual tourist information point "Point i23" for the general public.
- **Capacity development and awareness-raising:** Training for 11 people and experience-sharing between Annaba and Sindelfingen on the gender dimension of the GIS tool.

Diagram 02: Achievements. © GIZ



Challenges

The gender measures have faced a number of challenges, as described below:

General challenges

- One of the main challenges was that, due to the contractual situation with the PFM regional fund and the duration of the KWT I regional project, all small-scale projects had a maximum implementation period of 5 to 6 months. In this context, waiting times for administrative approvals were also a significant obstacle to the implementation of the projects.
- One challenge was to overcome the fears of the trainees about their ability to perform in their roles, including mastering technical skills and integrating into a predominantly male professional environment.
- Another challenge was the difficulty of raising awareness and changing people's behaviour in order to get them interested and involved in the projects, despite the failures of previous experiments.

Two major challenges were encountered in developing the i23 tourist information point in Annaba

- The lack of a tourism database in Annaba.
- Difficulty in mobilising financial funds from local stakeholders for the construction of the physical tourist information point.

Challenges encountered in designing the public space at Hai Zitoune

- Difficulty in mobilising participants for the exploratory walk and coordinating the availability of women and men.

Diagram 03: *Challenges overcome.* © GIZ



Innovative aspects and strengths

These projects stand out for their strengths, reflecting a commitment to an inclusive and gender-sensitive approach:

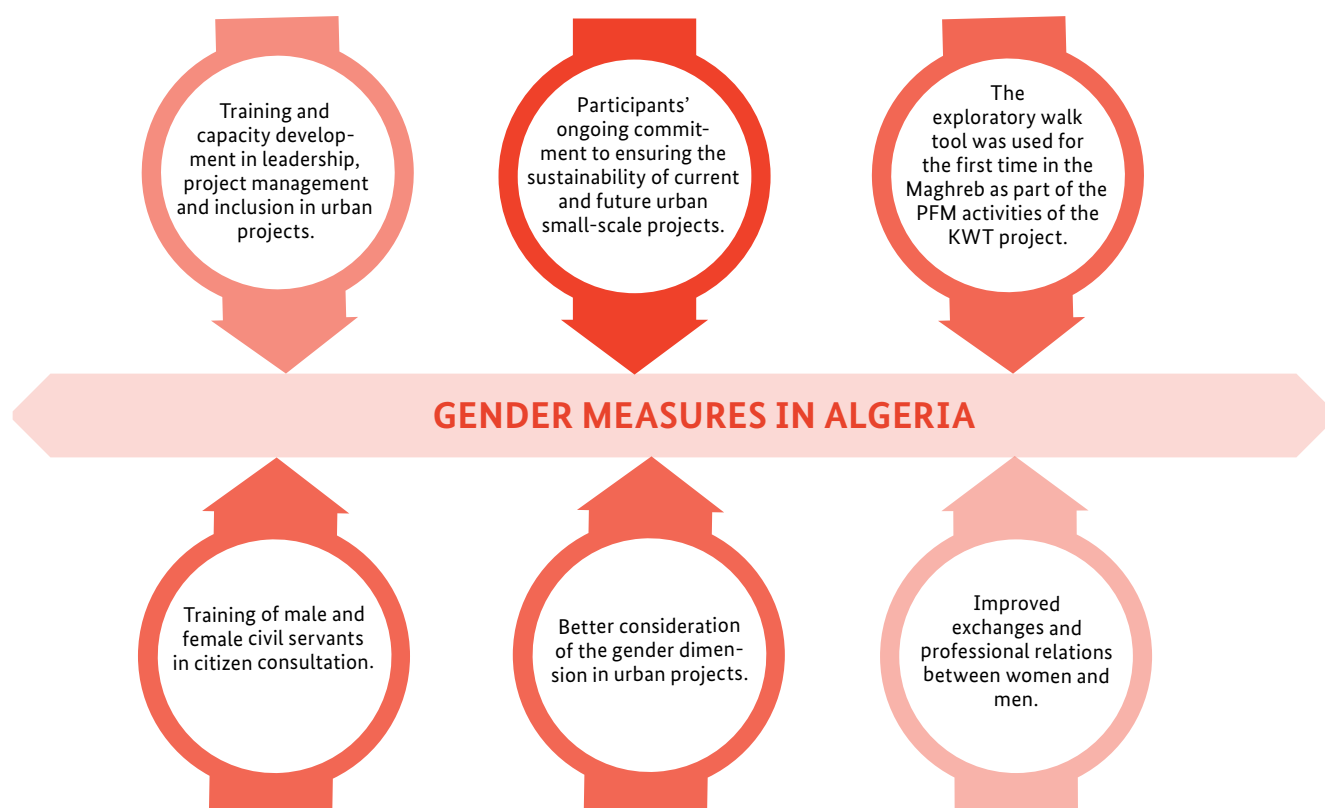


Diagram 04: *Innovative aspects and strengths.* © GIZ



Left: Exploratory walk training for architects and urban planners from the Centre d'Étude et de Réalisation en Urbanisme Oran (URBOR), on 2nd September 2019.

Right: Hai Zitoune map in Oran.

Anita Sebïo Kouhè
Project Manager
anita.sebio-kouhe@giz.de
T +49 6196 79 - 1068
Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn
Germany



Best practices, lessons learnt and advice

Several important lessons have been learnt and good practices identified from the experiences in promoting gender in urban development, that should be taken into account for scaling up:

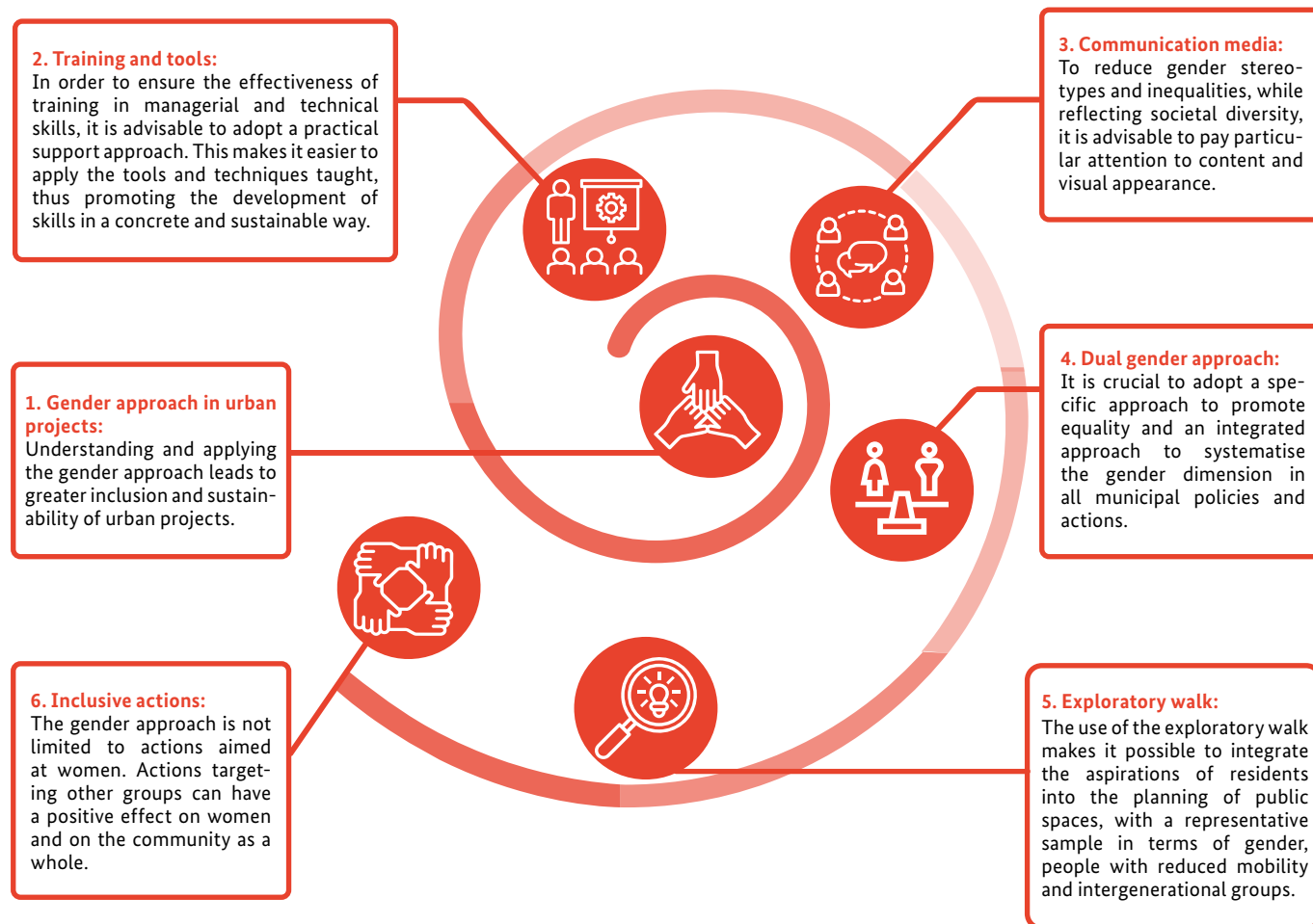


Diagram 05: Best practices, lessons learnt and advice. © GIZ

Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Regional project City-to-City Cooperation
Maghreb-Germany (KWT II)
Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn, Germany
Tel +49 (0)6196 79 1068
info@giz.de
www.giz.de

As at

October 2024

Text

Samah Flissi, Doria Adman, Soumeiya Haouchine,
Essodom Loufaï

Design

Narimane Boucena, Essodom Loufaï

On behalf of

Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

In cooperation with

National Urban Planning Agency (ANURB) within the
Ministry of Housing, Urban Planning, and the City in Algeria