



Sustainable Water Integrated Management - Support Mechanism (SWIM- SM)

Project funded by the European Union

REPORT ON SWIM-SM

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE M&E SYSTEM TO MONITOR AND EVALUATE THE PARTICIPATORY IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT (PIM) AND IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT TRANSFER (IMT) PROCESS IN THE SWIM COUNTRIES

**17-18 November 2014
Athens - GREECE**

SWIM-SM Work Package 1, Activity 1.2.8.4

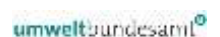




TABLE OF CONTENT

TABLE OF CONTENT 2

1. BACKGROUND 3

2. OBJECTIVES 3

3. METHODOLOGY AND STRUCTURE OF THE EVALUATION WORKSHOP 4

4. OUTCOMES 4

4.1. Introduction of the system 4

4.2. Results of the experience in the two pilot countries (jordan and tunisia) 5

4.3. The way forward – sustainability and potential replication 5

4.3.1. Ensuring visibility 5

4.3.2. Sustain the system and its application in the region 6

4.3.3. Replicate the efforts in other countries and increase replication potential 6

4.3.4. Major recommendation 7

5. AGENDA 7

6. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS 9



1. BACKGROUND

Based on the request of the project countries during the first year of the project implementation, the EU-funded “Sustainable Water Integrated Management – Support Mechanism” (SWIM-SM) Project engaged in the development of a proposal for a regional M&E system to monitor and evaluate the Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) and the Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) process throughout its different phases. The system, which was vetted with the project countries during a three-day experts’ group meeting held in Athens between 2 and 4 September 2013, aims to assess the following:

- The degree of political commitment towards the PIM/IMT process and the adequacy of the existing institutional arrangements in support of the establishment of the WUAs
- The performance of the responsible irrigation agencies in the implementation of the PIM/IMT program
- The institutional, financial and technical performance of Water Users Associations
- The impact of WUAs' establishment and operationalisation

During 2014, SWIM-SM converted the M&E system into a software program (called MONEVA) for the monitoring and evaluation of the PIM/IMT and customized it to suit the national conditions in two pilot countries (Jordan and Tunisia) and the local conditions in selected water users associations. The system was tested in Jordan and Tunisia where it has been installed in two pilot areas (WUAs) in Jordan and three in Tunisia, in addition to the concerned government offices; dealing with the WUAs at the regional and central levels. Structured training and on-job training of the concerned users have been carried out and data entered at national, regional and local levels. Two evaluation workshops were subsequently organised in the two countries to (a) analyse the monitoring and evaluation results of the PIM/IMT process as a result of applying the system at three levels (national, regional and local) and (b) develop action plans to improve planning and implementation of PIM/IMT in both countries. During the said workshops, the participants also identified some refinements to the MONEVA system which is continuously evolving taking into account countries’ feedback. The latest version of the system was presented to the partner countries and relevant regional and international organisations, during a regional workshop that was held in Athens between 17 and 18 November as per the objectives stated in section 2 below.

2. OBJECTIVES

In order to disseminate the above mentioned MONEVA system, and present the findings of its application in the two pilot countries, SWIM-SM organised a **1.5-day regional workshop in Athens - Greece** as part of its activities planned for 2014. The Regional Workshop was organised under the “Water Governance at the Local Level” thematic pillar by LDK; the leading company in the SWIM-SM consortium with the objectives to:

- Introduce the system to other project countries, donors, and regional and international organisations, involved in the implementation of PIM/IMT, and disseminate it as a system of reference for the monitoring and evaluation of the PIM/IMT process throughout its phases, that embeds best practices in PIM/IMT planning and implementation and WUAs operationalisation.
- Promote the application of the system in the PCs. Present the experience of the two countries who participated in the pilot implementation and disseminate the results of the M&E system application in the pilot countries /areas and lessons learnt
- Promote north-south and south-south exchange of information and sharing of experience
- Identify recommendations for future actions including those needed to sustain the system and its application in the region, and replicate the efforts in other countries. Identify the role of donors and international and regional organisations in this regard.

A total of **34 international, regional and local experts in addition to partners from eight project countries** participated in the workshop. The participants comprised, in addition to the SWIM-SM experts and LDK,



representative, **29 representatives** from the partners' institutions dealing with or distributing irrigation water to water users associations (WUAs), WUAs, donors involved in WUAs' establishment and support, regional and local nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) working in the field in the region, representatives from donors-assisted projects, resource persons with relevant experience in the region and finally the representatives of the pilot areas who were involved in testing the M&E system in Tunisia and Jordan. The detailed list of participants is included in Section 7.

The language of the evaluation workshop was Arabic, English and French.

3. METHODOLOGY AND STRUCTURE OF THE EVALUATION WORKSHOP

The workshop implementation focused on maximizing active participation by all, through a mixture of power point presentations, demonstration of the MONEVA system, interventions from the experts and partners, in addition to highly dynamic facilitated workgroups discussions formed around language proficiency (Anglo-phone and Franco-phone countries).

The evaluation workshop which was held over 1.5 days (17 & 18 November, 2014) was structured in three main parts:

- **Part 1:** Description of the proposed regional M&E system including the major challenges that the development of the system posed and how they were resolved in addition to a rapid tour of all the menus of the MONEVA system and a summary description of how the system works at the national regional and local level. This part also presented an overview of the implementation approach for testing the applicability of the system in the two pilot countries
- **Part 2:** Presentation of selected results (at the national, regional and local levels) by the representatives of the pilot areas from Jordan and Tunisia
- **Part 3:** the way forward with the aim to identify recommendations for increased visibility, sustainability of the system and potential replication of the pilot. This part was implemented through facilitated workgroups, which was preceded by a presentation of the lessons learnt from the pilot implementation with a view to replication of the effort (within the same country or in other SWIM countries).

The detailed agenda is available in Section 6 of this report.

4. OUTCOMES

4.1. INTRODUCTION OF THE SYSTEM

Below are the main points of relevance to the system

- There was a general satisfaction with the development of an integrated and innovative system like the MONEVA which comprises both monitoring and evaluation of the PIM/IMT programs. In this regard, all the preceding efforts were focused on monitoring rather than monitoring and evaluation. In addition, the monitoring is confined to the performance of the WUAs, and does not include the PIM/IMT process
- The use of the Arabic version was considered essential for the wide application of the system at all levels, particularly at the local level.
- Comparing WUAs according to the number of points obtained should be done with caution since the number of points is only an approximate indication of the performance of the WUA.
- The existing legal framework may be a limiting factor for the effective performance of the WUAs in a given country but since all are equally affected by such legal system the results of the M&E system remain valid and furthermore the system will identify the limitations of the legal system.
- The benefits of using the system should be more explicitly described



- The number of indicators was perceived as high by it was clarified that countries can determine which indicators to use in their context.
- The customization capacity of the system to adapt to the specific conditions of a given country was found a major accomplishment of the MONEVA system

4.2. RESULTS OF THE EXPERIENCE IN THE TWO PILOT COUNTRIES (JORDAN AND TUNISIA)

The experience of the two countries who participated in the pilot implementation was presented with the purpose of disseminating the results of the M&E system application in the pilot countries/areas and the lessons learnt among all participants.

The results of the application of MONEVA in the two pilot countries were presented by persons that actually used the system at the national, regional (three regions in Tunisia and two in Jordan) and at the local level (three WUAs in Tunisia and two in Jordan). Below is the outcome of the discussions:

- The M&E system was able to identify in a consistent and logical sequence the main constraints that limit the performance of the respective organizations at the national, regional and local level.
- The evaluation workshops held to assess the results provided by the MONEVA system was of great importance to identify the actions needed to improve the performance of the organizations involved. It also contributed to promote a better understanding between the irrigation agencies and the WUAs.
- The Action Plans that were prepared as result of the evaluation workshops are highly useful instruments for the improving the implementation of the PIM/IMT programs
- Despite the direct coaching and training provided it was considered that further training is needed to use the MONEVA system in all its potential.
- The need to verify the level of accomplishment of the action plans on yearly basis was highlighted.
- The evaluation workshops in the pilot countries have contributed to generate new interest in the PIM/IMT process and as a result several initiatives at country level are being developed.

4.3. THE WAY FORWARD – SUSTAINABILITY AND POTENTIAL REPLICATION

Against the background of the lessons learnt presented by SWIM-SM as a result of the application of the MONEVA system in the two pilot countries (see implementation report), two working groups were organized to prepare the recommendations for future actions around the following major issues:

- Ensure visibility of the system
- Sustain the system and its application in the region,
- Replicate the efforts in other countries and increase replication potential

Below is the contribution of both groups are herein consolidated according to the above issues

4.3.1. ENSURING VISIBILITY

At the international level

- a) Disseminate the system to international and regional organisations. For this purpose the following means could be used:
 - Prepare dissemination material (a brief about the system, brochures, etc.) to be distributed widely and included in relevant websites (SWIM, EC, IAMB, etc.). Identify the benefits that the application of MONEVA may generate and integrate them in the dissemination material. In the long term, using the results of the MONEVA system to evaluate its effect - by comparing the situation before and after the application of the system - can demonstrate further its benefits
 - organize presentations with international/bilateral organizations like FAO, IFAD and others
 - Participate in international or regional events that could offer a potential for disseminating the work in the Mediterranean Region (for example the Arab Water Council).



- b) Link the future activities of the M&E system (MONEVA) with other related programs or projects run by international/bilateral organizations (FAO; WB; UNEP, USAID, etc.), addressing similar issues.
- c) Find financial and technical support for the dissemination strategy. Explore possibilities with other donors besides EC.

At the national level

- d) Sensitize relevant authorities and policy makers to take ownership of the system (encourage political will)
- e) Promote the dissemination of the results at national level by organizing national dissemination events with the engagement of the media. In the dissemination efforts involve all the stakeholders of the water sector (industry, drinking water, agriculture, and others) as the principles of MONEVA can apply to all water uses.
- f) Externalize the activity of evaluation (to be done by external auditors, such as NGOs)

4.3.2. SUSTAIN THE SYSTEM AND ITS APPLICATION IN THE REGION

- a) Project activities should be extended in the pilot countries until reliability and sustainability are ensured. The institutionalization of the system in the pilot countries would contribute to sustainability. Hence, dedicate sufficient efforts to ensure that the system utilisation becomes a part of the normal operations of the key players at all levels (national, regional and local).
- b) Produce a procedural guide for the application of the monitoring and evaluation system,
- c) Strengthen training and the capacity of the SWIM countries to use the system. Training for trainers can be organised at sub-regional level (Mashreq versus Maghreb). Capacity building of the local team is also essential. This legacy will ensure sustainability.
- d) Countries should show ownership of the system and aim at using it to cover most of the WUAs operating in the country. Donors can help in this regard. In the subsequent phases a shift from a donor programme to an institutionalized program must take place.
- e) Create a regional network among the M&E system users and stakeholders. This will contribute to a better use of the system.
- f) Introduce the MONEVA system in the Curricula of Universities or as an extra activity of researchers and research centres. It is envisaged that introducing the system to the research centres and the academia, can help further develop the system, considering its high potential of utilisation by WUAs (regardless of water use type). Further development can include integrating additional modules to evaluate the performance of small WUAs and federations of WUAs. Where WUAs are using treated wastewater such as the case of Palestine, some adaptation of the system will be required.

4.3.3. REPLICATE THE EFFORTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND INCREASE REPLICATION POTENTIAL

- a) Strengthen the countries that joined the pilot experience with additional means for the expansion and the institutionalisation of the use of the MONEVA system.
- b) Encourage exchanges between countries within the same sub-region (Mashreq and Maghreb) to benefit from the results of the experience.
- c) Use the dissemination material recommended under (4.3.1-a) above to lobby with decision makers; showing the importance and potentialities of the system for the development and success of the PIM/IMT programs. The dissemination material should show the success stories/studies done in the pilot countries.
- d) Explore the possibility of continuing the project for countries that were not involved in the pilot experience. This may require approaching donors for financing this activity.
- e) Identify national focal points to coordinate and achieve the above mentioned activities. Research centres can be effective focal points, when properly trained in the use of the system, as they can also approach donors.



- f) Research centres can play an important role by monitoring the use of the system and identifying future complementary needs, advantages and potential. The SWAT technique could be used for this purpose. Research centres are able to work with all the stakeholders and use research capacities to give feed backs reflecting the real needs on the ground. Universities and governmental research centres can be strong supporters of the practical application of the system. NGOs can also play a substantial role by introducing the system and advertise it among the donors. They can also mobilize the farmers to be part of the associations and promote the use of the system.
- g) Future training activities in Jordan and Palestine should include participants from other interested countries of the Region. Training for freshly graduated irrigation engineers should also be considered in the expansion of the programme.

4.3.4. MAJOR RECOMMENDATION

Considering the limited resources that may be available for the continuation of the activity during one more year, the possibilities of either intensifying the actions in the pilot countries to ensure their sustainability or replicating in other SWIM countries are mutually exclusive. Participants unanimously endorsed the alternative of intensifying the actions in the pilot countries to ensure the sustainability of the system with some attention to the dissemination activities.

5. AGENDA

Day 1

08:30-9:00	Registration	
9:00-9:20	Workshop Opening - Opening remarks - Introduction and background	EU Representative¹ & SWIM-SM project or technical director² Suzan Taha (SWIM-SM Water Expert)
PART 1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED REGIONAL M&E SYSTEM		
09:20-10:15	Overview of the M&E system - Summary of the main characteristics of the M&E system (40 minutes) - Q&A (15 minutes)	Juan Antonio Sagardoy; Senior Water Management Consultant, SWIM-SM non-key expert
10:15-10:30-	Coffee Break	
10:30-11:25	Overview of the M&E system (Continued) - Tour of the system (40 minutes) - Q&A (15 minutes)	Roula Khadra (M&E specialist – CIHEAM/Bari) & Marco Dauru (IT specialist)
11:25-12:30	- Approach and Methodology - Q&A (15 minutes)	Suzan Taha
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break	
PART 2. PRESENTATION OF SELECTED RESULTS BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PILOT AREAS		
13:30-15:30	Overview of Jordan’s results : Module A & B Modules C and D Lessons Learnt	Representatives² of the pilot area National & Regional level Local Level Representative² of JVA
15:30-15:45	Coffee Break	
15:45-17:45	Overview of Tunisia’s results : Module A & B Modules C and D Lessons Learnt Discussion of results	Representatives² of the pilot area National & Regional level Local Level Representative² of DGGREE

¹ To be determined



Day 2

PART 3: THE WAY FORWARD – sustainability and potential replication

09:00-09:15	Overview of the lessons Learnt with a view for replication (15 minutes)	Suzan Taha
9:15-10:30	Preparation of recommendations by Working Groups	Three working groups
10:30-10:45-	Coffee Break	
10:45-11:45	Presentation of the Recommendations and discussion	Workgroups Selected Rapporteurs
11:45-12:00	Closing remarks	
12:00-13:00	Lunch	



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