

WATER ENERGY FOOD ECOSYSTEM

Boosting Nexus Framework
Implementation in the Mediterranean



A PRIMA-EU PROJECT



WEFE NEXUS CHALLENGES

BONEX project develops the WEFe Framework (WEFeF) and context-specific Nexus Bridging Plans (NBPs) and guides implementation of WEFe solution strategies and promotes sustainable development.



DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

WEFeF has been Implemented across 7 Demonstration Projects (DPs) in the MedRegion: Morocco, Italy, Portugal, Jordan, Lebanon, Spain and Tunisia.



REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS

BONEX Involves local and regional stakeholders through Regional Working Groups (RWGs) and offers collaborative approach for sustainable resource management in the MedRegion and beyond.



TOOL DEVELOPMENT

BONEX provides decision-making tools for policymakers and practitioners and develops REWEF Tool for effective water resource management.

ADVANCING GENDER BALANCE ACROSS ALL LEVELS OF MANAGEMENT

- Gender balance in management is essential to ensure fairness and equality in leadership positions.
- Strategies such as setting specific targets and removing obstacles are necessary to achieve gender equality.
- Embracing gender diversity not only improves organizational performance but also fosters innovation and creativity.
- Leadership commitment and collaborative efforts across various sectors are crucial for driving meaningful change towards gender equality.



THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN IN CLIMATE CHANGE AND AGRICULTURE

Women play a crucial role in global sustainable agriculture and climate action, representing approximately half of the agricultural workforce in developing nations and leading the majority of smallholder farming operations.

Their contributions span agricultural production, food security, biodiversity conservation, and climate-resilient farming practices.

Women are at the forefront of innovation, entrepreneurship, and leadership in agriculture, advocating for gender-responsive policies and driving positive change.

Investing in women's education and access to resources enhances their resilience and empowerment, paving the way for more inclusive and equitable agricultural systems.

Efforts to address gender disparities are gaining momentum, highlighting the importance of empowering women for a resilient future.

① What is the Gender Perspective?

BONEX prioritizes gender equality by advocating for gender-sensitive policies, addressing disparities in agriculture and food processing, and ensuring women's active participation in decision-making bodies and stakeholder groups.

This commitment is evident in the project's Demonstration Projects, which integrate women's perspectives to tackle gender-related challenges.

Gender mainstreaming is central to BONEX's approach, fostering inclusivity and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Aligned with the Union for Mediterranean Water Agenda and Responsible Research and Innovation principles, BONEX emphasizes gender equality, transboundary cooperation, and stakeholders engagement.

② How does it work?

Specific tasks focus on examining the impact of interventions on gender and minorities, challenging stereotypes, and promoting women's involvement in various project activities.

A Gender Committee oversees gender dimensions in project activities, aiming for gender balance and documenting gender actions through a Gender Action Report.

③ What will happen?

Targeted groups, including Local DP Steering Groups, Regional Working Groups (RWGs), and the BONEX Community of Practice, engage in communication, dissemination, and exploitation efforts.

Special attention is given to involving and representing women in surveys and events, recognizing their vulnerability to unbalanced WEF practices.



The BONEX project evaluates strategies for gender and minority impacts, aligning with the UfM Water Agenda & UN Women's Empowerment Principles, while a dedicated Gender Committee ensures comprehensive representation of related concerns.

- Women represent **43.5%** of the BONEX workforce and hold leadership positions in decision-making bodies, including 3 out of 5 WPs and 50% representation in the External Advisory Board.
- The Gender Committee consists of 29 members, with women comprising **55.2%** of its composition, analyzing social relations and norms through a gender lens.
- BONEX employs various gender strategies, including awareness materials, dissemination integration, committee training, partner support, and a Gender KPI questionnaire.

Exploring **BONEX GENDER ACTION PLAN**

Overview of the Objectives

The goal is to challenge gender stereotypes, promote women's participation across various sectors, and achieve gender balance within our project and partner organizations.

Assessment of Gender Balance

Assessing gender balance across all project levels, including team implementation, RWG and DP Local Steering Groups, and event speakers & participants in the BONEX project.

Establishment of Gender Committee

Form a Gender Committee involving all partners to integrate gender perspectives into project activities and outputs, addressing stereotypes and analyzing social norms.

Dissemination of the results

Promoting gender equality alliances and highlighting successful women in the field are crucial. Our main focus is enhancing partners' capacity in gender mainstreaming.

BONEX GENDER ENGAGEMENT

To maximize BONEX's impact, the project engages three key groups: Local DP Steering Groups, Regional Working Groups (RWGs), and the BONEX Community of Practice.

- Targeted Communication, Dissemination, and Exploitation Strategy developed, including interviews, surveys, workshops, and a final conference.
- Special focus on involving and reaching women to ensure representation in surveys and events.
- BONEX promotes gender-sensitive policies, addressing gender disparities in agriculture and food processing.
- Demonstration Projects selected to tackle gender inequalities, integrating women's interests.
- Women's presence ensured in all project activities, decision-making bodies, and stakeholder groups.
- Additional gender initiatives are organized to promote equality, fostering inclusivity and women empowerment.

01 National Agriculture Day of Tunisia

On May 16, 2023, BONEX Team members in Tunisia celebrated with the Regional Directorate of Agricultural Development of Monastir (CRDA Monastir), alongside the new Director General, Ms. Farida Joumade Mansour.



02 International Mediterranean Day

Dr. Olfa Mahjoub from the BONEX team in Tunisia and Ms. Sara Mekada, a young woman farmer and BONEX project participant, were invited to participate actively in the event.



03 Rural women in the heart of the WEF Nexus

On November 28, 2023, UfM and FFEM co-hosted a conference titled "Rural Women in the Heart of the WEF Nexus," bringing together diverse stakeholders to discuss cooperation and innovation in the WEF Nexus.



04 Autumn School Aurora 2023

The Autumn School AURORA 2023 prioritized gender equality, with students from Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, and Germany contributing diverse perspectives to discussions on sustainable agriculture in the MENA region.



BONEX GENDER ACTIVITIES

Additional gender initiatives are organized to promote equality, fostering inclusivity and women empowerment.



05

2nd Spanish BONEX Workshop in La Axarquía

BIOAZUL, alongside the University of Almería and the University of Córdoba, hosted the 2nd BONEX Workshop in La Axarquía (Málaga) on November 14. The workshop highlighted "Agrarian Innovation for Sustainability: Gender-Equal Opportunities and Impacts in the Use of Reclaimed Water in Axarquía."



06

2nd Lebanese BONEX workshop at the American University of Beirut

On November 23rd, the second BONEX workshop in Lebanon, highlighting gender equality, took place at the American University of Beirut. The focus was on exploring the Agrivoltaics solution within Lebanon's WEFE Nexus.



07

2nd Jordanian BONEX workshop in GJU

On December 14th, 2023, the Second Stakeholders Workshop for the BONEX Project emphasized gender equity. Hosted by the German Jordanian University and IUCN-ROWA, the project, funded by the EU-Foundation "PRIMA," focuses on the Wadi Mujib Basin in Jordan to develop gender-sensitive solutions for WEFE nexus challenges.



08

CARE Workshop on Responsible Consumption

Ángela Magno from BIOAZUL joined a CARE project workshop on responsible consumption. Discussions focused on sustainability strategies, including water management. BIOAZUL highlighted BONEX's WEFE nexus approach for responsible consumption.

