



WOMEN AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES
Improving access to and governance of water resources

AN INNOVATIVE, INCLUSIVE, AND SUSTAINABLE PROJECT IN SEBKHA

LOCATION

Sebkha, Mauritania

KEY PARTNERS

Cities Alliance

Municipality of Sebkha

Mauritanian NGO Serv'Eau

Funded by the French Ministry
of Europe and Foreign Affairs



MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- 01 Improving women's participation in local water management,
- 02 Develop and strengthen the capacity of local authorities to develop and conduct gender-sensitive urban policies pertaining to water management and distribution
- 03 Stimulate and support inclusive multi-level urban governance for water management

SOCIO-HYDRAULIC PROFILE OF SEBKHA

 **127,000 INHABITANTS** in 2021

 Highest household size in Nouakchott:
6.8 PEOPLE per household in 2017

 Around **80% OF THE POPULATION**
has no access to a drinking water tap and obtains
its water from public water points

 **ALMOST 30% OF NOUAKCHOTT'S
MIGRANT POPULATION** is located in Sebkha,
increasing pressures on the water supply system

WATER ISSUES IN SEBKHA

A water paradox: Difficulties accessing safe drinking water and excess in water

In Sebkha, there is a striking water paradox where **residents struggle to access safe drinking water**, while **frequent flooding** during the rainy season **leads to an overabundance of water**, threatening livelihoods. These floods worsen health conditions and make water management even more complex. Sebkha illustrates the challenges of water management in environments where water is both a scarce resource and a constant threat.


Although many households in Sebkha are headed by single women, or it is them who are responsible for household water needs, their participation in decision-making remains low. **The Women and Sustainable Cities programme aims to strengthen the participation of women and the local community in local water governance and improve their resilience in the light of risks linked to urban heat, floods, and precarious access to water.**




Flooded water point in Sebkha,
July 2024


WOMEN AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES


A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH TO CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT


 **More than 480 citizens** were involved in collecting data on the risks and participation of women and the community in the water sector

78% of whom were women

 **30 women** improved their knowledge and skills to better control and test water quality levels in their households

 **More than 90 citizens** took part in various sessions to co-create a collective standpipe

 **More than 45 members** of the municipality have strengthened their skills in the sustainable management of water and the environment in Sebkha and have taken part in the training on gender-sensitive participatory urban governance

 **More than 60 school children** took part in various artistic activities to raise their awareness of water-related risks and adaptation measures

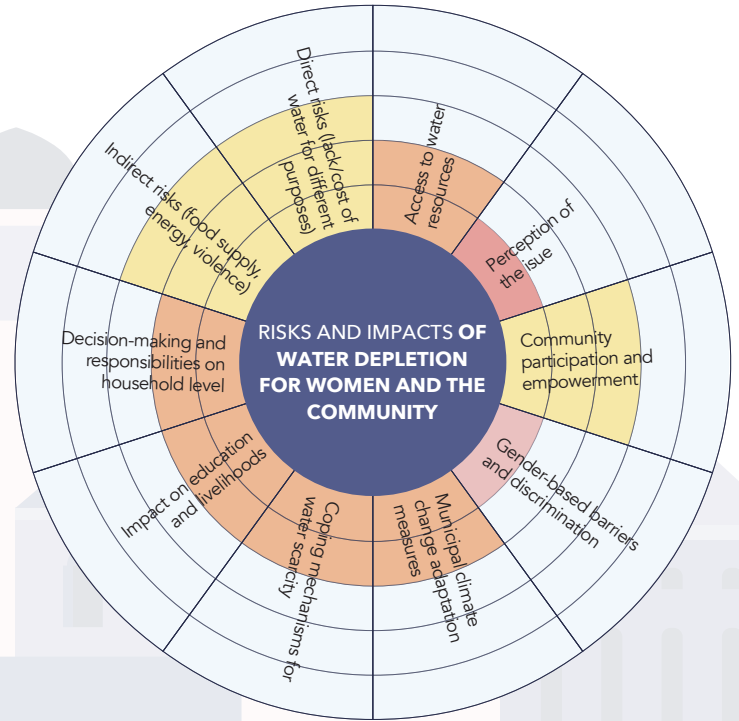
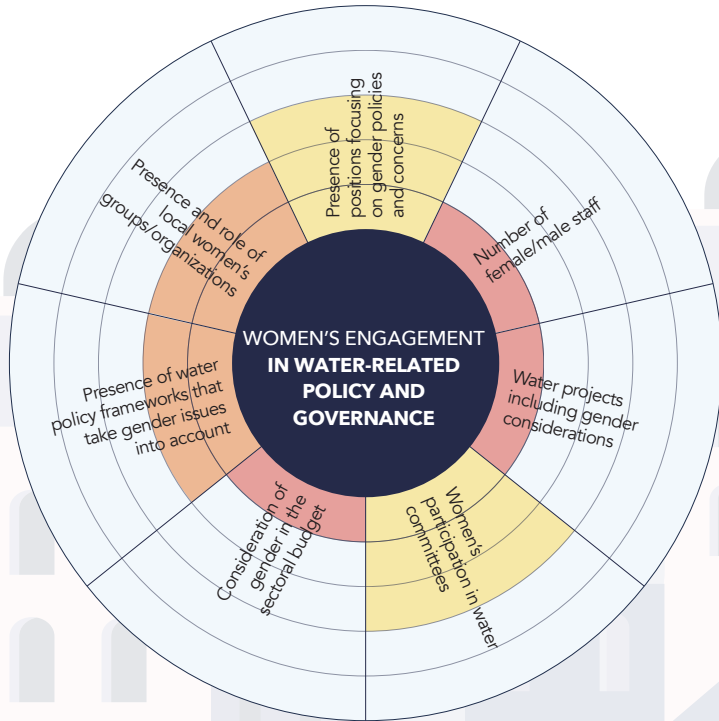


Girls during artistic activity,
April 2024

THE HER4WATER PROFILE OF SEBKHA

The participatory analysis led to the creation of Sebkh's Her4Water profile, which shows, among others, the need to promote women's participation in local water governance, facilitate their access to water, and promote their economic opportunities in the water sector.

Women during an analysis workshop, December 2023



Highly satisfactory Highly unsatisfactory



Women during one co-creation workshop of the water point, July 2024

COLLECTIVE WATER POINT: A PILOT PROJECT DESIGNED COLLECTIVELY AND MANAGED COOPERATIVELY

Women and Sustainable Cities is enabling the women of Sebkh to become actively involved in water management as managers of the first collective water point, thereby not only promoting access to drinking water for the community, but also improving their own economic means.

Setting up a new-generation water point with mixed management involving the municipality of Sebkh and the women of the community



An inclusive and safe space that meets the needs of women and their families in terms of accessibility, relaxation, and maintenance



Empowering women as key players in local water governance



Improved hygiene conditions thanks to the accessible and adapted installation of water distribution systems, as well as various training courses on water quality and its impact on health

