



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

Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums

Hosted by
UNOPS



EMPOWERING WOMEN IN THE WATER SECTOR OF THE OASIS OF FIGUIG

LOCATION

Figuiq, Morocco

The Figuiq oasis, renowned for its historical and cultural heritage linked to traditional water management, is now threatened by the increasing scarcity of this resource and growing climate change impacts. Traditional water management practices, although precious, **are exclusively controlled by men**, while women **are allowed to use** the spring water for domestic and agricultural tasks, with no decision-making rights over water governance and management.

The **Women and Sustainable Cities programme in Figuiq** highlights the specific challenges that women face in water management. It identifies priorities and proposes concrete solutions to improve resilience and strengthen the inclusion of women in water management and governance.



One main street in Figuiq

PROJECT METHODOLOGY

- 01 Participatory assessment** of women's vulnerabilities to water scarcity and their level of involvement in local governance of water resources.
- 02 Empowering women in sustainable water management** through training in sustainable water management and pilot projects co-created and co-delivered with civil society and the Municipality.
- 03 Strengthening municipal knowledge and capacity** on gender-sensitive urban planning for council members and local authority officials.
- 04 Regional exchange** between participating cities in Morocco, Tunisia, and Mauritania to strengthen a collective understanding of effective strategies and good practice for managing and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

In collaboration with



CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT TO IMPROVE WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN WATER GOVERNANCE



MORE THAN 230 CITIZENS were mobilized during the participatory evaluation phase through citizen surveys, workshops, and community mapping to identify the risks and challenges associated with water scarcity. **70% of whom were women**



AROUND 60 WOMEN took part in training sessions covering a range of topics, notably sustainable water consumption, national and international water legislation and its impact on women at the local level, and transformative leadership for women in Figuiq.



30 YOUNG PEOPLE FROM FIGUIQ took part in activities to raise awareness of climate impacts and water-related risks and took part in a short film competition on these subjects.



MORE THAN 50 CITIZENS took part in identifying pilot projects to support the role of women in water management and access.

CO-CREATION OF PILOT PROJECTS



Political leadership programme for dedicated women of Figuiq to improve their integration into water governance bodies and increase their participation in water decision-making



During a women workshop



Adaptation of Figuiq's washhouses and public spaces to the needs of women and families in the context of water scarcity



Previously rehabilitated wash house



Medina of Fès

CONTEXT

Moroccan cities are growing rapidly, creating major challenges for **economic development, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability**, particularly in the historic medinas of the country. Women face **restrictions on access to economic and political opportunities**. Their aspirations are often held back by deeply rooted social norms. Their access to public spaces is complicated by poorly maintained streets, inadequate lighting, high levels of insecurity and the growing urban heat.

Faced with these challenges, the **initiative focuses on promoting medinas by integrating a gender approach to improve the management of public spaces**. It also relies on **heritage-based climate adaptation solutions** to make these medinas more resilient to climate change while preserving their rich cultural heritage.



RESILIENCE



INCLUSIVITY



HERITAGE-BASED
CLIMATE
SOLUTIONS AND
ENHANCEMENT

A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH FOR INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SPACES THAT ARE RESILIENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

01

PARTICIPATORY URBAN PLANNING:

- Integrate gender equity priorities into city policies and planning processes, understanding the causes of women's exclusion through participatory tools for engaging women and the broader public.
- Involve local authorities and citizens in the evaluation and co-creation of urban plans, while promoting dialogue with women and their representatives.



02

CONCRETE INCLUSIVE SPATIAL INTERVENTIONS:

- Carry out spatial interventions designed with and for women, aimed at promoting their economic autonomy, social inclusion, climate adaptation capacity, and safety in the medinas.
- Implement these interventions through a gender-sensitive procurement process in collaboration with the municipality, civil society, and women's associations.



03

CAPACITY BUILDING AND UPSCALING:

- Support the understanding of participatory urban planning approaches by local authorities and facilitate the dissemination of the results of the initiative.
- Promote the transfer of successful experiences between participating towns and other towns in the region, with a view to scaling them up regionally and nationally.



Medina of Meknès