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# **Euro-Med Participatory Water Resource Scenarios (EMPOWERS)**

**Introduction & Update on activities**



# What is EMPOWERS?



- ◆ Regional partnership to enhance IWRD&M through
  - Stakeholder dialogue, analysis + concerted action
  - Empowerment of end-users
  - Shared information management and scenario building





# EMPOWERS partners

## ◆ Multiple partners at national and regional level

### ▪ Regional

- CARE UK, IRC, INWRDAM, CARE Nederland

### ▪ Egypt

- CARE Egypt, DRTPC, SPAAC + Local Government & end users in Beni-Suef

### ▪ Jordan

- CARE Jordan, Min. Ag., + Local Government & end users in Balqa'a

### ▪ West Bank and Gaza

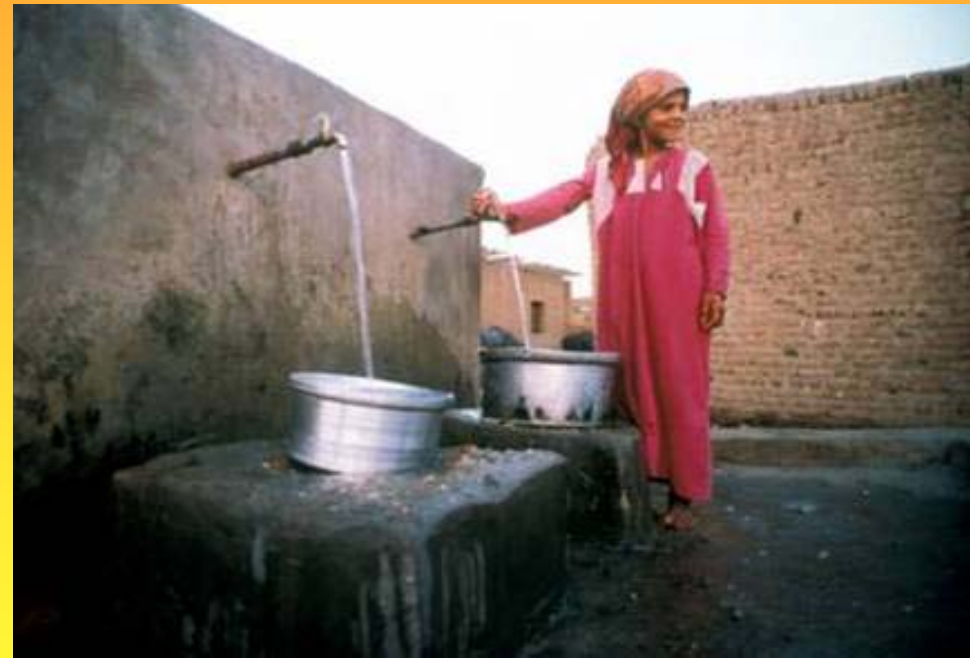
- Care WBG, UAWC, PHG, + Local Government & end users in Jenin





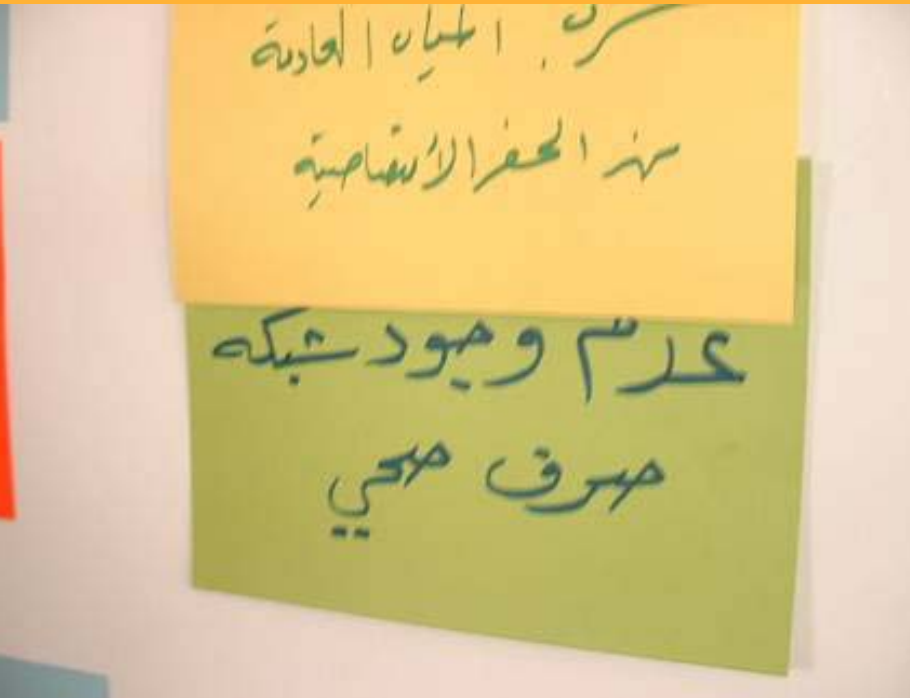
# EMPOWERS context

- ◆ The Middle East: a region with extremely constrained water resources
- ◆ A region with increasing conflicts over water at basin level (Jordan and Nile)
- ◆ Trends at **national** level to adopt IWRM based planning
- ◆ Prudent policy shifts towards decentralisation





# EMPOWERS context (cont.)



- ◆ But, a very different reality at **intermediate** and **end-user** level
  - Top down implementation of instructions
  - Little autonomy, planning, or communication with end-users
  - Limited capacity for facilitation of stakeholder interaction
  - Emphasis on trouble-shooting and complaint management
  - Specific needs of poor (and women) largely ignored



# The EMPOWERS approach

- ◆ Developing simple, participatory approaches and tools to support intermediate level planning involving end-users
- ◆ Testing approaches and tools in pilot projects at community level
- ◆ Identifying and strengthening institutional frameworks to use them





# Why/how is EMPOWERS different?

- ◆ IWRD&M based on reality of end users; their beliefs, behaviour and priorities
- ◆ Emphasis on facilitating and supporting **dialogue** and information exchange as a building block to better IWRD&M
- ◆ Practical:
  - based on reality of countries, where they are and where they're going
  - based on identification of a longer term institutional 'home' for the approaches developed
  - building on existing information, systems, and practices
  - complementing other initiatives – national and regional





# EMPOWERS hypotheses



- ◆ Effective IWRD&M can only be achieved through:
  - Sector investment (particularly for capacity building)
  - Genuine decentralisation
  - Improved stakeholder involvement including end users
  - Improved information flows between levels (vertical and horizontal)
  - Good management practice



# What will EMPOWERS do about this



- ◆ Work at district/governorate level in three countries to show HOW improved IWRD&M and more effective use of funding in the sector can be achieved through:
  - better participatory planning and management at **intermediate and local levels** based on
    - Stakeholder (including end-users) involvement
    - Improved information flows and analysis
- ◆ Advocacy for
  - A supportive policy and legislative environment for participatory IWRD&M
  - Improved implementation of policies



## Country level activities to date

- ◆ Partnerships established in Egypt, Jordan, WBG
- ◆ Starting to develop tools and teams
  - Problem based analysis (using problem trees)
  - Customising WRA approach to countries in Middle East
  - Developing scenario building tools
- ◆ Establishing district/governorate level stakeholder platforms in each country





## Country level activities to date (cont.)



- ◆ Identifying institutional structures for longer term uptake and sustainability
- ◆ Starting monitoring and documentation process
- ◆ Identifying first series of pilot projects



Need for institutional hosts to sustain process

**National Level**

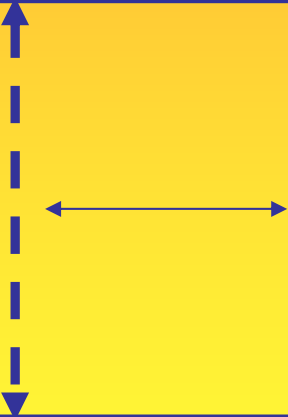
Policy & planning

**Intermediate (governorate/district)**

Stakeholder Facilitation

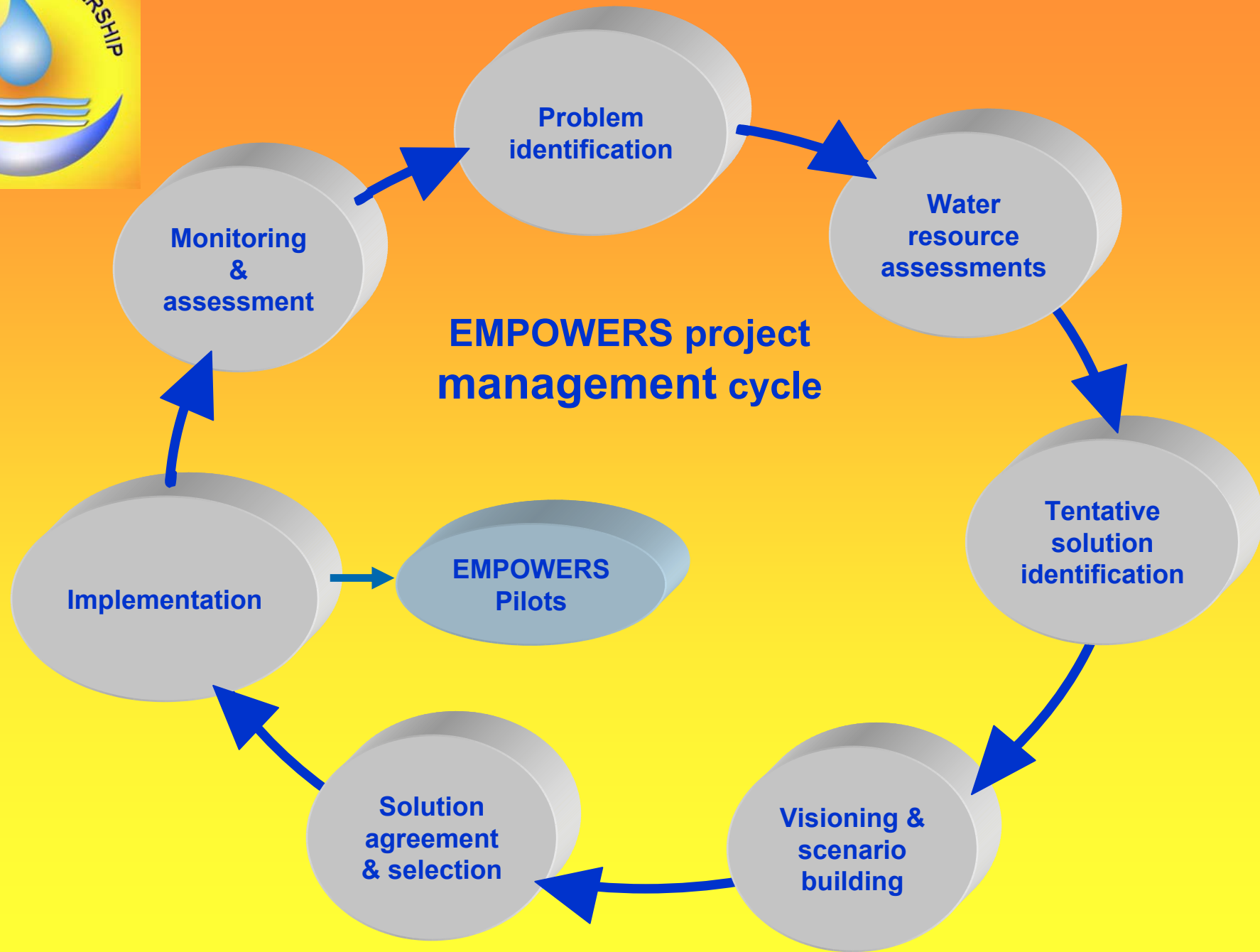
**Village Level NGO**

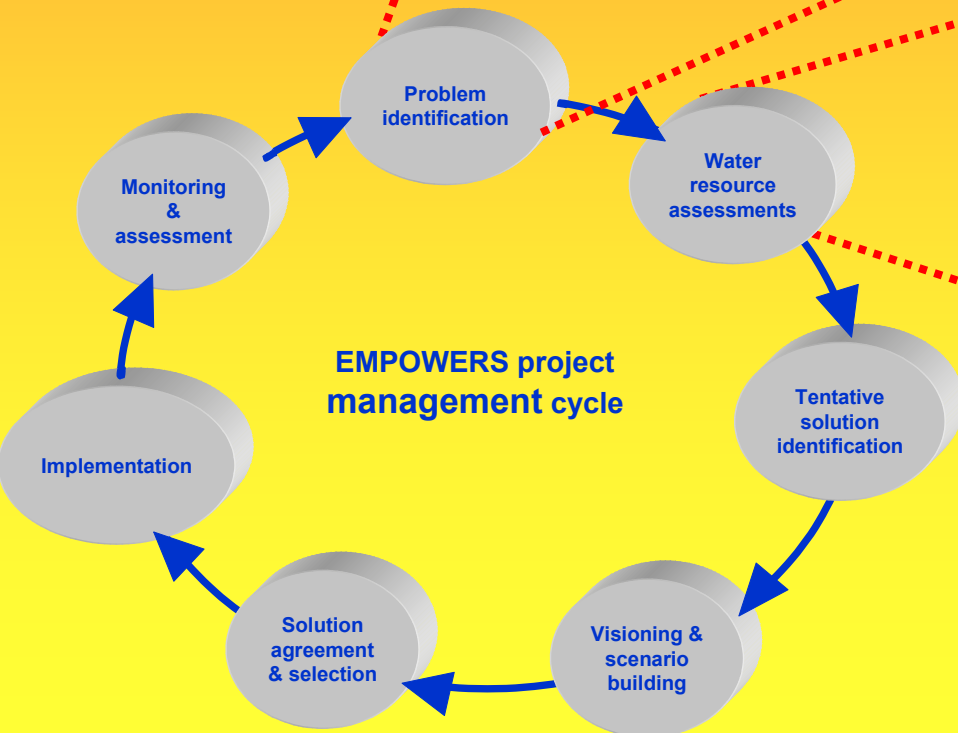
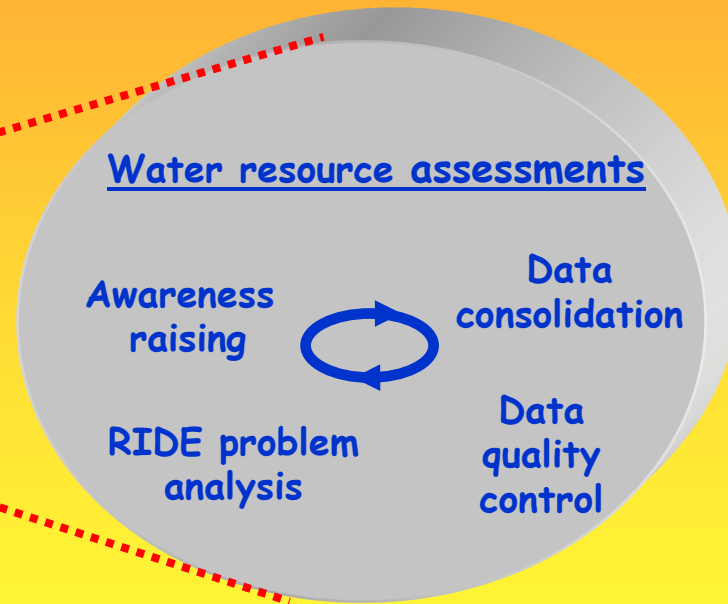
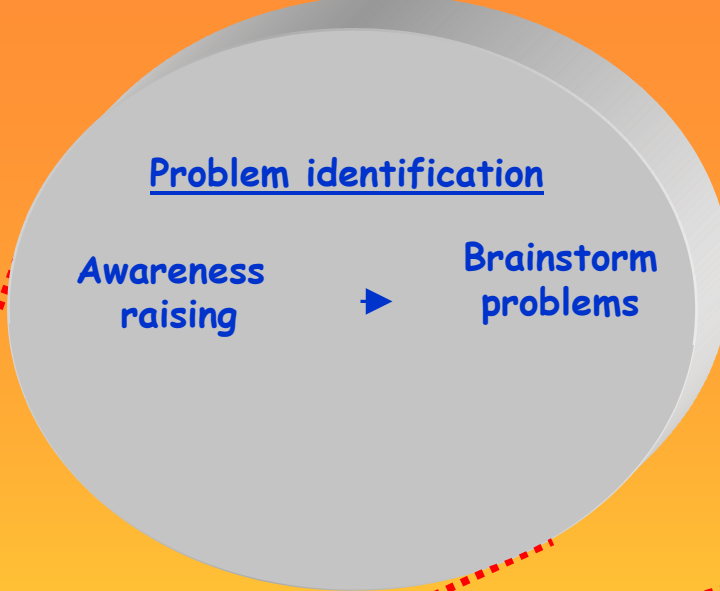
Community ownership



m2

This one still needs to be worked up - I'll do so today  
moriarty; 14/05/2004

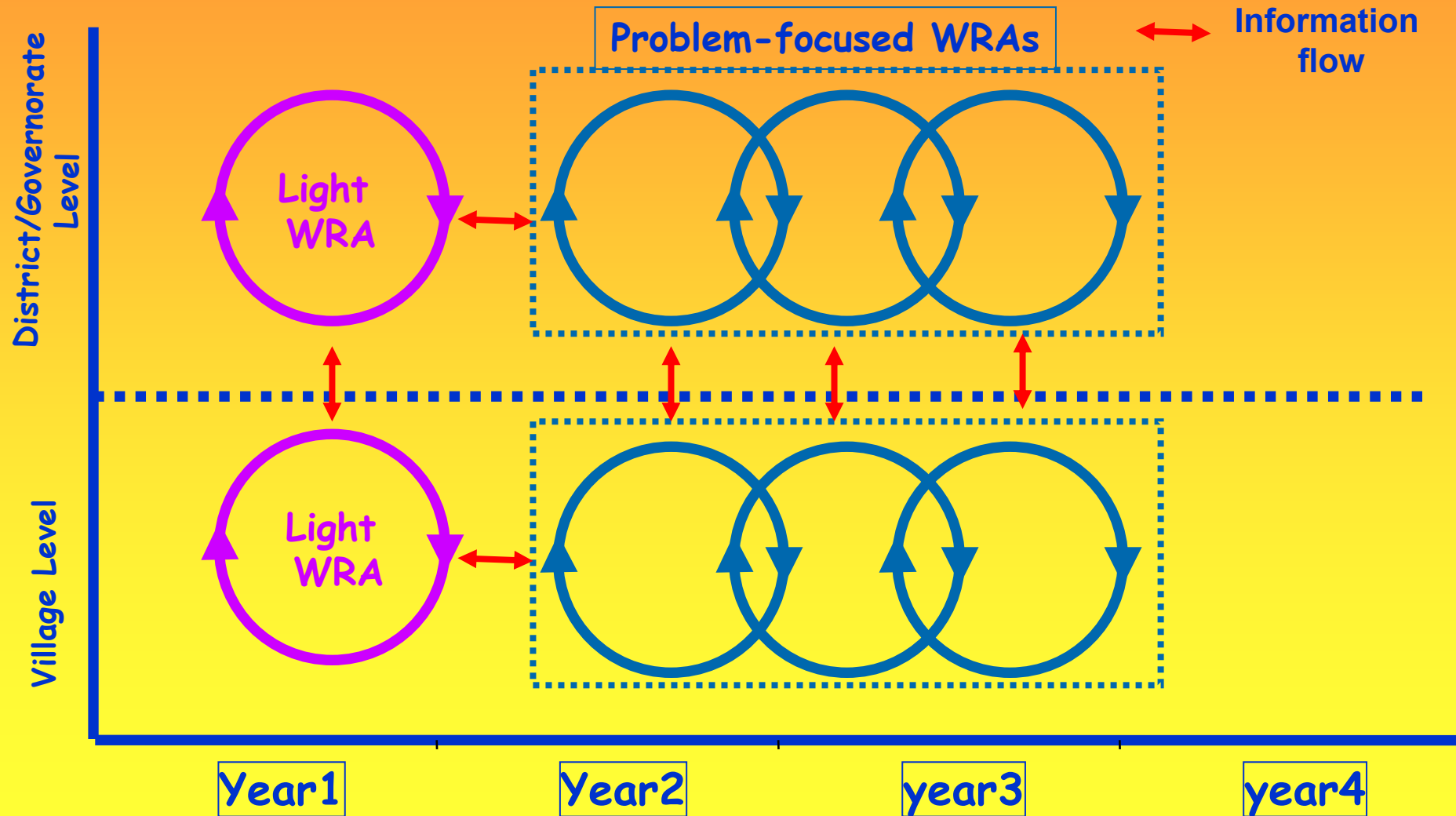




Each step of the project cycle involves iterations

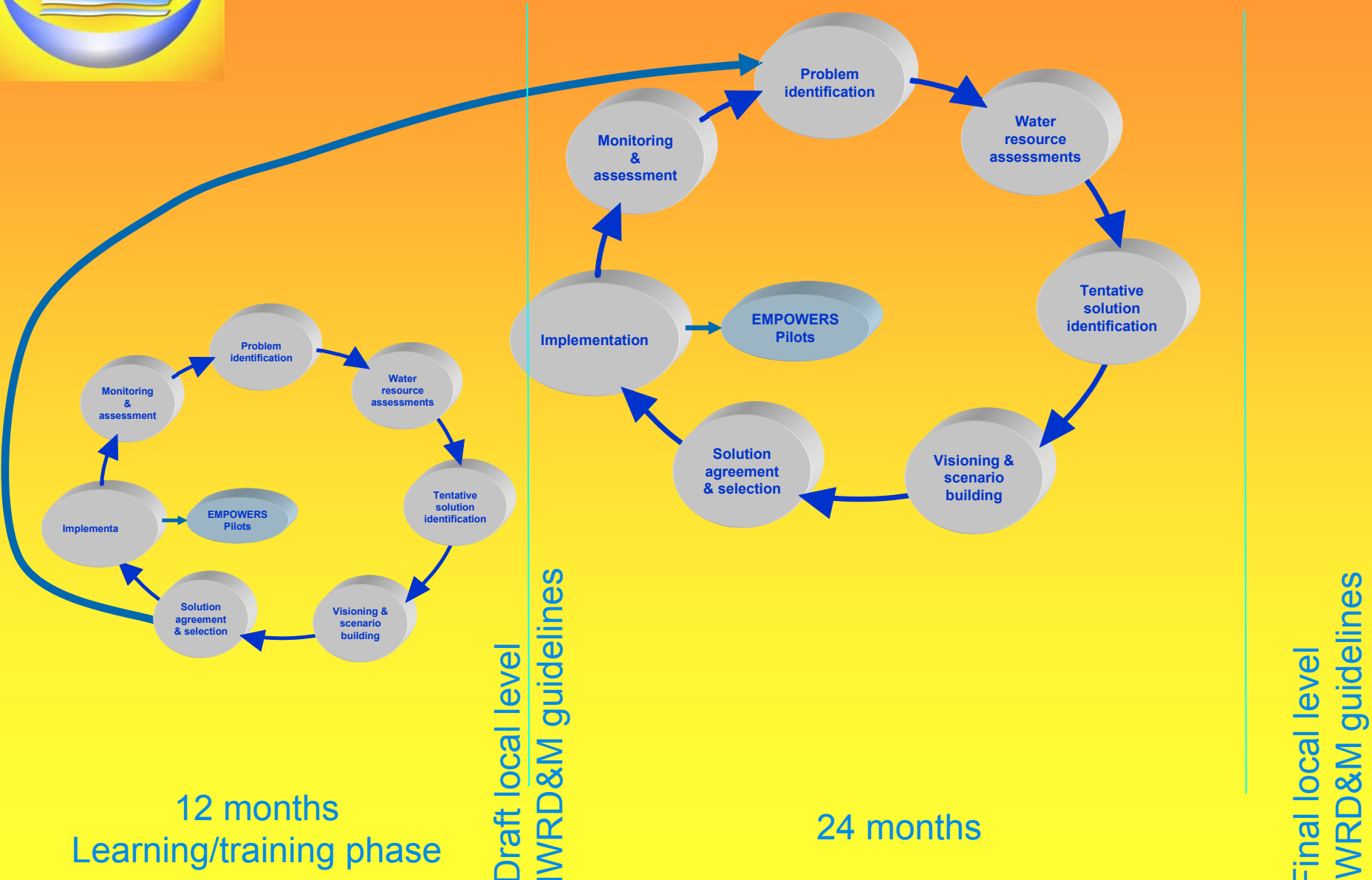


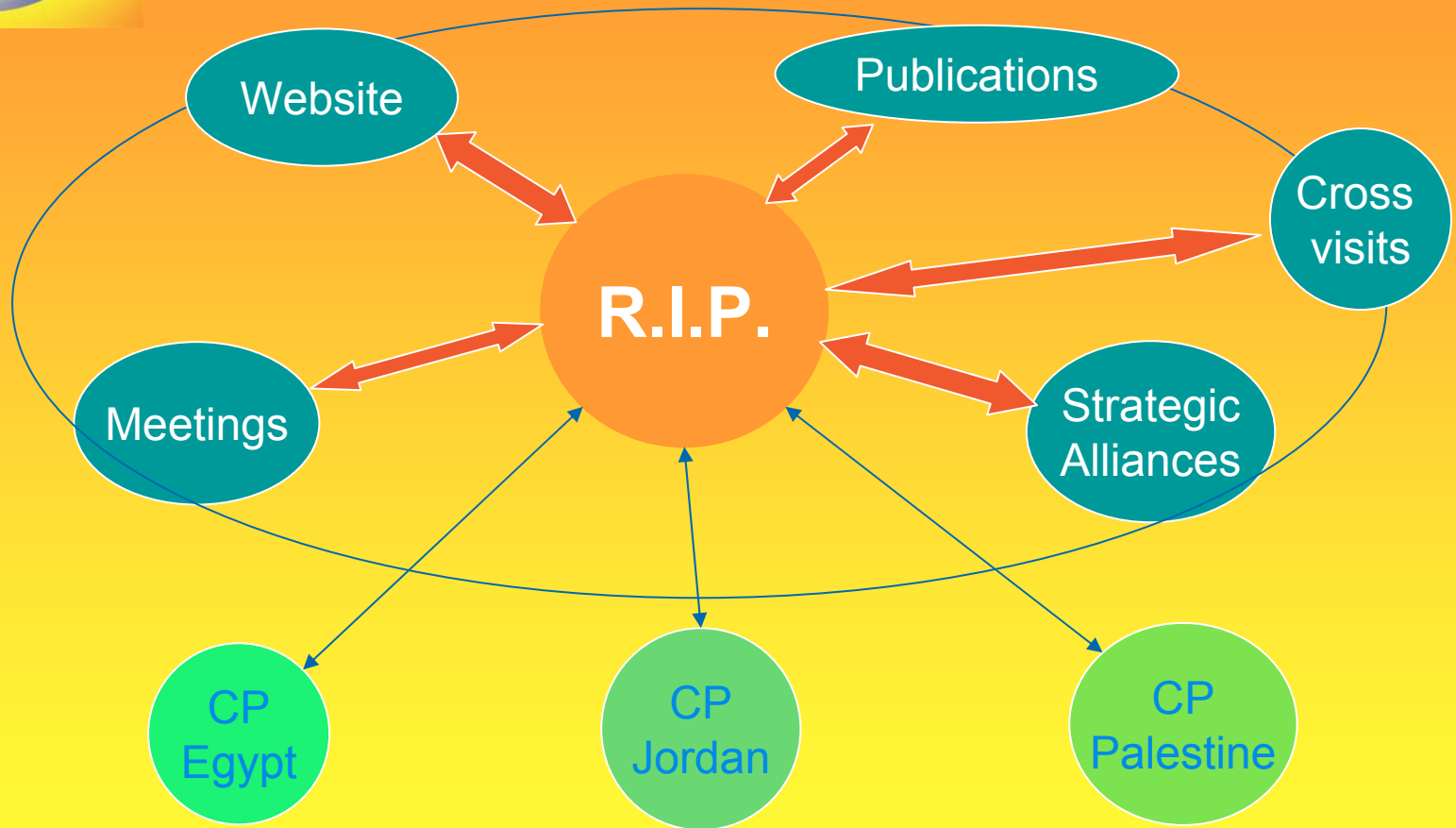
# Water Resource Assessment Cycles





# Phasing of country activities







# Regional activities to date



- ◆ Hosting of regional activities in INWRDAM
- ◆ Setting up web-site (interactive portal)
- ◆ Preparing e and regional conferences (2005)
- ◆ Networking and information exchange
- ◆ Linking with other regional programmes



# Lessons learned 1

- ◆ Planning vacuum is even worse than we thought
  - Technical skills are high
  - But ability to use them to plan effectively is lacking
  - Lack of knowledge and experience regarding stakeholder processes is severe
  - Disempowered intermediate level actors serve as 'conduits for instructions from above'





## Lessons learned 2



- ◆ Local government find the idea of a planning approach that will lead to attracting extra funds an attraction
  - An important assumption in the process is that donors like EU will take account of better planning in agreeing projects



## Lessons learned 3

- ◆ Information and communication gap is worse than originally understood – but great excitement in pilot areas at opportunities for change





## Lessons learned 4



- ◆ Setting up teams and country partnerships is time consuming and requires great care and thought. Need to take account of:
  - Multiple skills (technical, process, communication, stakeholder)
  - Larger picture for scaling up – so involvement in networks etc.
  - Time to come to a shared understanding and agenda



# EMPOWERS

◆ Thank you!

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