

Gojino, A functional approach for gender equality through increasing Women's Empowerment and agency in the Local Community
Takab village, Kerman province, Iran.

During the past decade, drought, climate change issues and top-down policies have not only led to the demise of qanats in Takab region, Kerman Province, Iran, but also they have affected the livelihoods of local communities who are dependent on those water resources. Gojino is a Women community-based organization (CBO) with Almost 100 community women. CENESTA, facilitated a participatory empowerment process for “Empowering local communities to achieve sustainable livelihoods through collaborative and equitable management of water resources (qanats)” and as a result the Gojino

Women’s CBO was established to do various activities to achieve their goals. Due to this, Gojino members attempt on endogenous participation of community members—particularly women— to revitalize the abandoned qanats of the region, improve their customary management system and ensure the equitable access of all community members to water resources. Applying Participatory Action Research (PAR) led to achieving empowerment of community women, restoration of 7 qanats and establishment of the community investment fund for management and maintenance of restored qanats within the participating communities. The specific objectives of Gojino CBO are:

- To achieve sustainable local livelihoods through restoration of qanat as the main factor in production system of local communities’ and small scale farmers;
- To empower community members in particular the women’s CBO and promotion of their contribution in governance and management system of qanats;
- To improve the customary management system of qanats using integration of traditional and modern knowledge;
- To conserve gaz (Tamarix trees called nebka) as a natural element to conserve the head of the qanat’s wells in front of sand storms, to maintain moisture and to have positive impacts on the level of groundwater.

For more information please refer to: <http://www.instagram.com/gojino.cbo/>

