



# The EMPOWERS Partnership: Stakeholder dialogue for better water use and management

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# What is EMPOWERS?

**Regional partnership  
for improved IWRD&M  
through stakeholder  
involvement and end-  
users empowerment**



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# Goals

**Improve long-term access to water by vulnerable populations through integrated water resources management at the local level.**



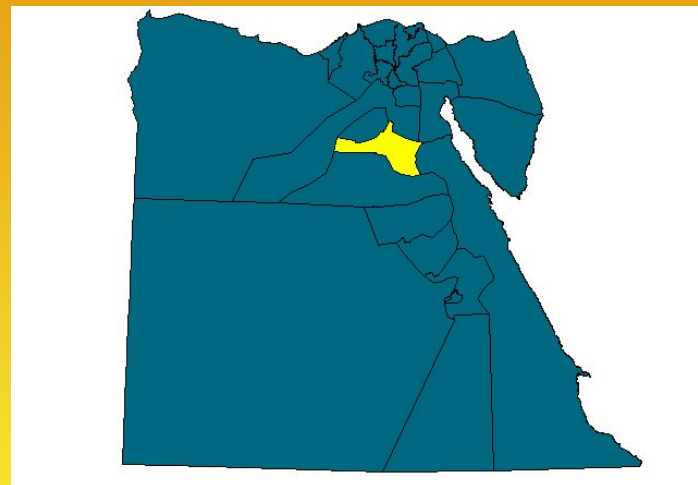
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# Where does EMPOWERS happen

Middle East:

- ◆ Egypt, Beni Suef
- ◆ Jordan, Balqa
- ◆ West Bank/Gaza, Jenin







# Partners Jordan

- **CARE Jordan,**
- **Ministry of Agriculture**
- **The Queen Zein Al-Sharaf Institute for Development**
- **INWRDAM**
- **International water and sanitation center**





# Key Stakeholders

- ◆ Ministry of Water and Irrigation
- ◆ Ministry of Social Development
- ◆ Ministry of Interior (Balqa Governorate-development department)
- ◆ Ministry of Health
- ◆ Ministry of Environment
- ◆ Ministry of Agriculture



# EMPOWERS Approaches (1)

- ◆ **Stakeholder Dialogue and Concerted Action:**  
Increasing the influence of different stakeholders, including end-users on the decision-making process in the use and management of often scarce water resources.
- ◆ **Enhancing vertical and horizontal linkages,**  
information flows, and decision making.



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# EMPOWERS Approaches (2)

- ◆ Developing a participatory water planning & management cycle with all stakeholders
- ◆ Demonstrating through pilot projects.
- ◆ Documenting the learning process.
- ◆ Sharing of valuable information and knowledge at the regional level.







# From scratch the EMPOWERS Partnerships started end of 2003 to

- ◆ Develop simple, participatory approaches and tools to support intermediate level planning involving end-users
- ◆ Test approaches and tools in pilot projects at community level
- ◆ Identify and strengthen institutional frameworks to use them

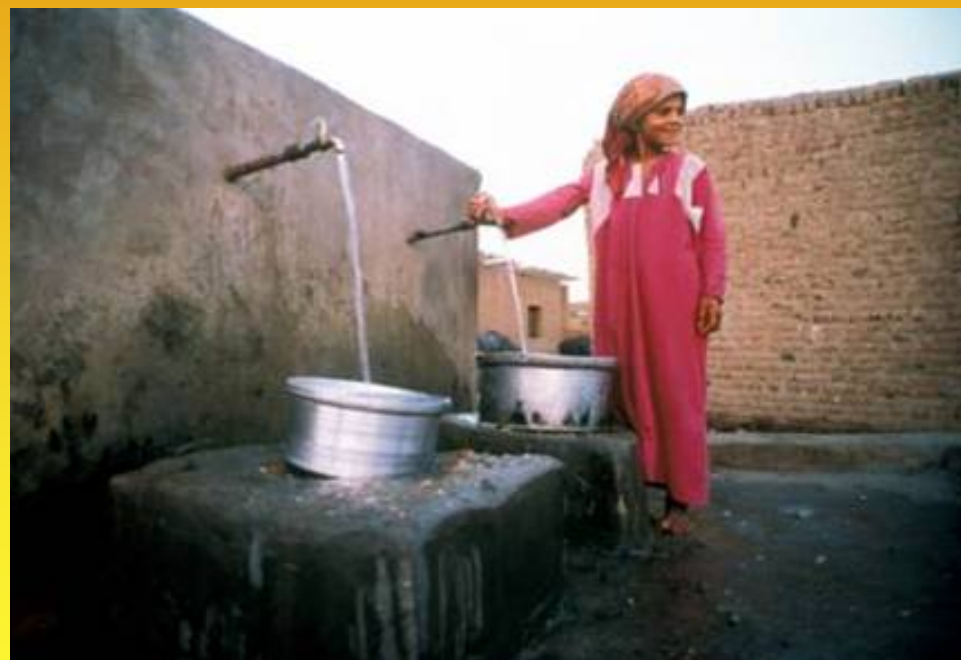




# Where did we start from in 2003 ?

## The EMPOWERS context

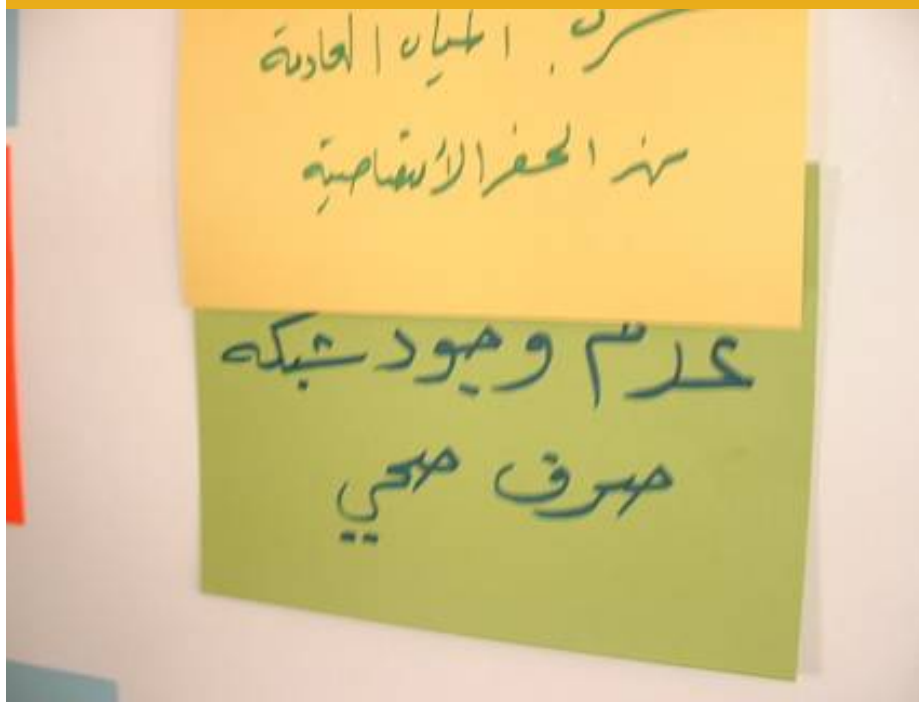
- ◆ The Middle East: a region with extremely constrained water resources
- ◆ A region with increasing conflicts over water at basin level (Jordan and Nile)
- ◆ Trends at **national** level to adopt IWRM based planning
- ◆ Policy shifts towards decentralisation





# Where did we start from in 2003 ?

## The EMPOWERS context



- ◆ But, also a region where **intermediate** government staff and **end-users** confront
  - 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



# EMPOWERS hypotheses



◆ Effective IWRD&M can only be achieved through:

- Sector investment (particularly for capacity building)
- Decentralisation
- Improved stakeholder involvement including end users
- Improved information flows between levels (vertical and horizontal)
- Participatory planning and management practice





# Learning in a Knowledge Community

## Getting Knowledge about

- ◆ How to work together in a stakeholder platform
- ◆ How to collect, analyze, store and share useful information
- ◆ **How to plan and manage in a participatory way water use in communities, districts and governorates**
- ◆ How to better understand change processes in a world of increasing water scarcity





# Knowledge products

- ◆ A replicable approach for carrying out water planning & management at the community and district/governorate level in all three countries
- ◆ Guidelines and tools for stakeholder analysis, dialogue and concerted action
- ◆ Guidelines for integrated water resources planning using participatory approaches at the local level. Such guideline will contain:
  - Guidelines for visioning, scenario and strategy building, WRA, RIDA and Belief Networks.
  - A district database of agreed information that can serve as a basis for participatory planning in the villages and municipality.
  - A comprehensive 'map' of decision making processes and information flows relating to the management and development of water.
- ◆ Process documents and videos that detail lessons learned and methodologies for replication of the EMPOWERS approach.



# Who will use this knowledge

- ◆ Local communities
- ◆ Government staff in municipalities and districts in Balqa Gov. and another Gov.s
- ◆ Government staff at the Governorate and National levels
- ◆ Direct Partners and future host institutions



# EMPOWERS Partnership

## Jordan

### Balqa Governorate

### 2003 - 2007





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# selection criteria

- ◆ Village representing the problems.
- ◆ Highest & lowest areas (Irrigation or rainfall).
- ◆ Agricultural lands.
- ◆ Number of population (2000-5000).
- ◆ Availability of water resources.
- ◆ Poverty.
- ◆ Areas that are not benefited from other projects.



# Selected Communities

Um Ayash Village

Rwaiha Village

Subaihi Village



# Jordan activities to date (1)

- ◆ Partnership established in Jordan
- ◆ Establishing district/governorate level stakeholder platform
- ◆ Identifying representative target communities in Balqa Governorate and starting up a local stakeholder process
- ◆ Identifying institutional structures for longer term uptake and sustainability





## Jordan activities to date (2)



### ◆ Starting to develop tools and teams

- Problem based analysis (using problem trees)
- Visioning and developing narrative scenarios
- Customising WRA approach
- Developing the EMPOWERS water planning & management Cycle
- Adapting software Belief Networks (BNs) to validate and substantiate scenarios



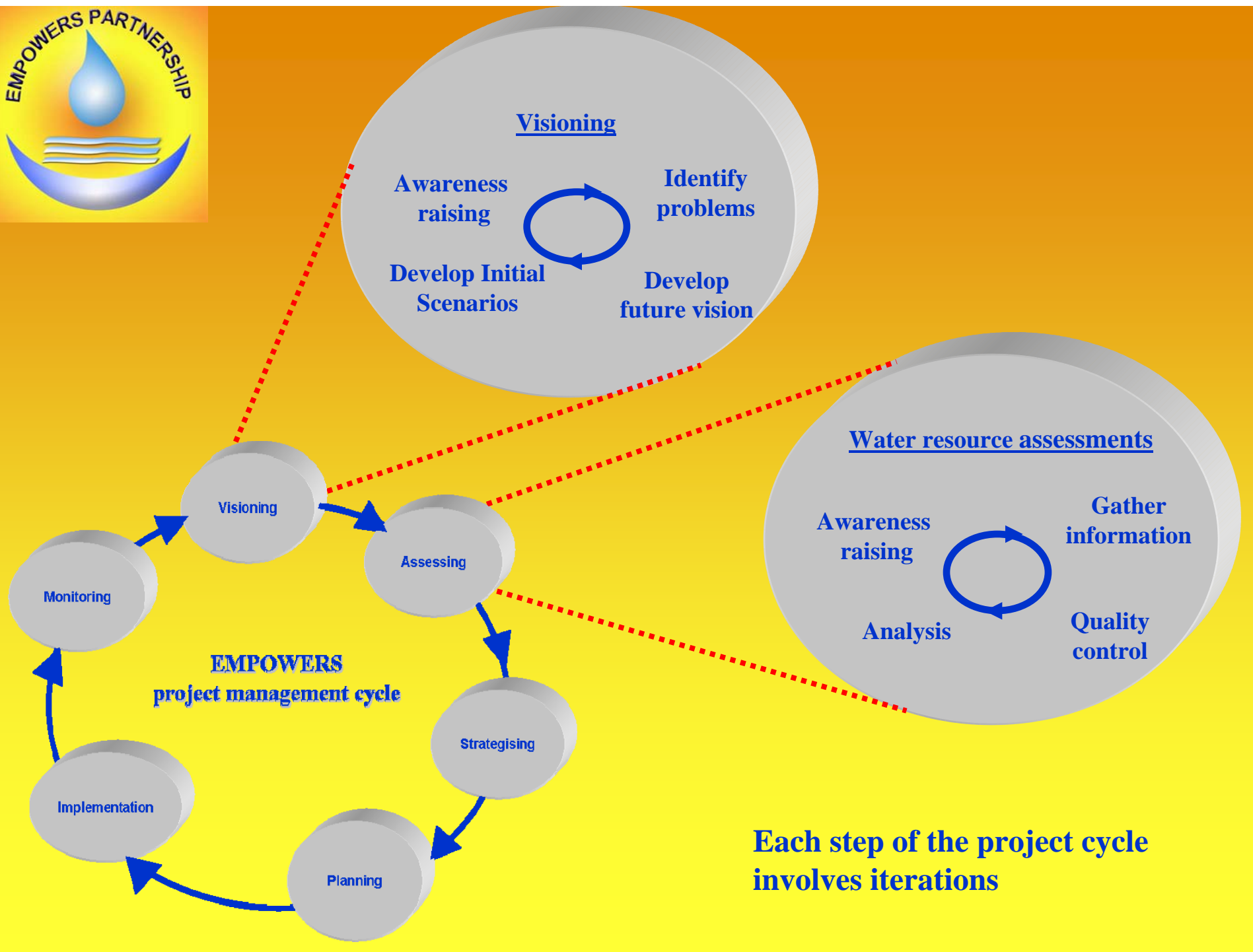
## Jordan activities to date (3)

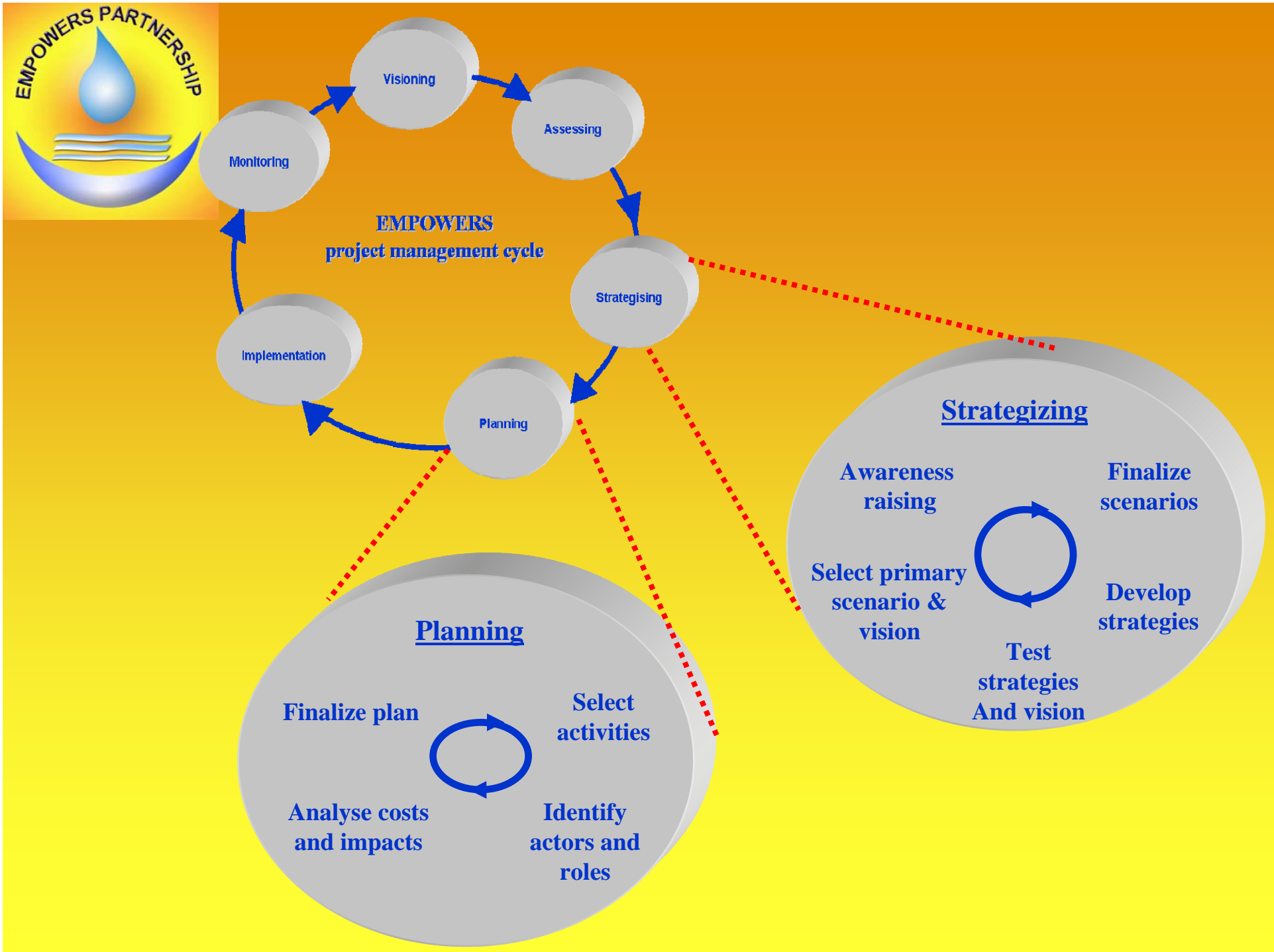
- ◆ Implementation of tools and approaches:  
Problem Tree Analysis, Data collection, PRAs, RIDA analysis, building visions, scenarios and Belief Networks (software), Stakeholder Consultation Workshop.
- ◆ Identifying first series of pilot projects (Sept. 2004)
- ◆ Selection the first pilot
- ◆ Starting monitoring and documentation process
- ◆ Planning / agreements for the first pilots.













# Feedback from the communities





# Resources for EMPOWERS

*Approximately*

- ◆ **€300.000/country/year**
  - € 100.000/year pilot project implementation (3 years)
  - € 200.000/year stakeholder facilitation, methodology development, and program management
- ◆ **€300.000/year regional support and info exchange**
- ◆ **Donors: EC (€ 3.8 million) + CARE International (€ 1 million)**
- ◆ **Unspecified: expected co-funding of pilot projects**





# Water storage in villages





# EMPOWERS

Thank you!

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