

Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2024
(Regular Funding Cycle)

Country	Submitted by PUNO(s) UN Women or NUNO(s)¹
Iraq	Name of Entity: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (UN Women Iraq Country office) Name of Representative: Ajay Madiwale Representative UN Women Iraq:
MPTF Project Number (s)	Reporting Period
Conflict Prevention: 00112477 Peacebuilding and Recovery: 00140226 Humanitarian and Crisis Response: 00140232	January 1 - December 31, 2024
Track <i>Select all that apply</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular Funding Track <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Funding Track	
WPHF Outcomes² to which report contributes for reporting period <i>Select all that apply</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Outcome 1: Enabling Environment for WPS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outcome 2: Conflict prevention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outcome 3: Humanitarian and Crisis Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Outcome 4: Conflict Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Outcome 5: Protection of Women & Girls <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outcome 6: Peacebuilding and Recovery
Programme Start Date	Total Approved Budget (USD)
<i>Conflict Prevention:</i> 1 Dec 2022 <i>Peacebuilding and Recovery (Outcome 6):</i> 1 Dec 2022 <i>Crisis Relief (Outcome 3):</i> 1 Dec 2022	\$2,943,987
Programme End Date	Amount Transferred to CSOs (USD)
<i>Conflict Prevention:</i> 31 Dec 2024 <i>Peacebuilding and Recovery:</i> 31 Mar 2025 <i>Humanitarian and Crisis Response:</i> 31 Dec 2024	Conflict Prevention: \$405,073 Peacebuilding and Recovery: \$ 1,163,896.18 Crisis Relief (Outcome 3): \$ 589,881.61

¹ Non-UN Organization. Applicable to Rapid Response Window for Peace Processes

² As per WPHF results framework nested model, WPHF outcome areas are equivalent to the impact level for grantees

Executive Summary

In 1 page, summarize the most important achievements of the Programme during the reporting period. The executive summary should be an analysis and consolidation of the achievements and should serve as a standalone summary of the WPHF country' results for the year.

Please include:

- a) Background on WPHF: overview of calls for proposals (CfPs) that were launched (date), and details on NSC meetings, how many CSOs were selected, and when implementation is estimated to begin/has begun*
- b) How WPHF funding has contributed to advancing WPS, gender equality and peacebuilding, gender-responsive humanitarian action in the country and explain if any linkages with national processes (NAPs, humanitarian response, peace processes, etc) or how it aligns with country priorities.*
- c) Overall/consolidated WPHF impact at the country level by Outcome*
- d) One sentence with the consolidated direct and indirect beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex).*
- e) Overall challenges (based on context)*
- f) If the CO has received additional funding for capacity strengthening (5%) and/or if CSOs received L-HUB grants for peer learning initiatives, please include one sentence on the results.*

The Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) in Iraq has significantly advanced women's participation in conflict prevention, forced displacement recovery, and gender-responsive humanitarian action during the reporting period. Following the National Steering Committee (NSC) meeting on November 2, 2022, three Calls for Proposals (CfPs) were launched, leading to the selection of 14 civil society organizations (CSOs): five for conflict prevention, three for humanitarian response, and six for WPHF's forced displacement initiative. Implementation began in early 2023 and continued through the end of 2024.

WPHF funding has played a significant role in shaping local policies by institutionalizing gender integration across various peacebuilding and humanitarian efforts. Women's Affairs Departments in Diwaniyah, Wasit, and Dhi Qar governorates formally adopted three policy decisions to ensure women's participation in conflict resolution and mediation, notably through **Decision No. 4386** issued by Diwaniyah Governorate, mandating the inclusion of **10 women** in mediation committees under the National Peace Mediators Network. Additionally, the local government in Diwaniyah officially recognized two feminist initiatives: the "Initiatives" team, addressing violence against women through targeted interventions, and the Women's Community Police Forum, "Safety Without Borders," officially endorsed by Iraq's Minister of Interior, involving **20 women leaders** from civil society and the security sector.

Local stakeholders further developed comprehensive **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** in Diwaniyah, Wasit, and Dhi Qar, explicitly integrating women's perspectives into standard conflict resolution processes and community-based security strategies. Structured policy dialogues in Kirkuk also resulted in clear policy recommendations escalated to the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, advocating revisions in microfinance loan policies to include loan exemptions, modifying rental contract policies to support home-based businesses, and increasing overall financial and governmental support for displaced women entrepreneurs. Humanitarian mechanisms were strengthened by establishing fully operational **safe spaces** in Diyala and Kirkuk, which were successfully integrated into national Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response systems, alongside ongoing collaboration with local Women's Empowerment Departments and Business Development Centers to institutionalize economic empowerment initiatives supporting women survivors of violence.

At the country level, WPHF programming has increased women's influence in policymaking, media representation, and grassroots peacebuilding, reinforcing institutional commitments to gender-sensitive conflict transformation. WPHF partners' efforts have expanded women's access to livelihood opportunities and services, while also ensuring their inclusion in early warning and crisis management. Programs have successfully supported women-led small businesses, vocational training, psychosocial and legal assistance, and leadership development, improving long-term resilience and economic independence for women in displacement and post-conflict settings.

Overall, WPHF-supported initiatives directly impacted tens of thousands of women, girls, men, and boys across Iraq, with hundreds of thousands indirectly benefiting through community networks, awareness campaigns, and digital outreach. The program's comprehensive approach has contributed to inclusive governance, peacebuilding, and sustainable recovery in fragile and conflict-affected areas.

Key challenges include structural barriers limiting women's full participation in governance and peace processes, entrenched social norms restricting their leadership roles, and ongoing security risks in conflict-prone regions. Despite these challenges, WPHF interventions have successfully strengthened local capacity, empowered women as peacebuilders, and reinforced the country's commitment to gender-responsive peace and humanitarian action.

Some of the main achievements during this reporting period included the following:

Executive Summary

- ✓ A total of 85,514 individuals directly benefited from the program, including 38,140 women, 27,738 men, and 19,636 girls, through initiatives focused on conflict prevention, leadership development, training workshops, and community mediation. Conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts enhanced women's participation in decision-making and strengthened gender-sensitive policies at both community and institutional levels.
- ✓ Training workshops and leadership development programs equipped women and girls with skills in negotiation, mediation, and advocacy, enabling them to take active roles in conflict resolution and local governance.
- ✓ Community mediation initiatives empowered local leaders, particularly women, to address conflicts in their communities through dialogue and inclusive peacebuilding strategies.
- ✓ A total of 23,992 individuals indirectly benefited from the program's activities, including 13,977 women, 7,860 girls, 1,795 men, and 360 boys, through awareness campaigns, policy advocacy, and extended family networks.
- ✓ Awareness campaigns and policy advocacy expanded the reach of gender-inclusive peacebuilding strategies, fostering greater support for women's participation in conflict resolution.
- ✓ Family networks played a crucial role in amplifying the impact of the program, as trained individuals shared their knowledge and skills within their households and communities.
- ✓ The program reinforced gender-responsive conflict resolution mechanisms by integrating women-led initiatives into broader peace processes and ensuring their voices were heard in decision-making spaces.
- ✓ Men and boys were engaged in the program as allies in promoting gender equality, increasing their awareness of the importance of women's roles in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.
- ✓ WPHF's targeted approach successfully aligned with national priorities and frameworks, such as the Women, Peace, and Security agenda, by advancing sustainable and inclusive peacebuilding solutions in Iraq.

1. Project Profile for Reporting Period

Use the following table for an overview by each project/organization. For each grant (programmatic, institutional and L-HUB grants), please use a separate row. Refer to definitions in the footnotes.

Funding CFP ³	Lead Organization Name	Type of Organization ⁴	WPHF Outcome/ Impact Area ⁵	Project Location (State, Province or Region)	Name of Implementing Partner(s) and type of Organisation ⁶	Project Start and End Date as per Partner Agreements ⁷	Total Approved Budget (USD)
CfP 5	Awan Organization for Awareness and Capacity Building	Women's Rights, Women Led	Outcome 2	Dewaneyeh	Democratic Organisation for Women Al-Haboby Foundation for Youth	31 Aug 2023 – 31 Aug 2024	83,600
CfP 5	Empowerment Organization for Development and Public Services (EODPS)	Youth Led	Outcome 2	Baghdad	N/A	31 Aug 2023 – 31 Oct 2024	80,000
CfP 5	Woman Rights Center in Samawa	Women's Rights, Women Led	Outcome 2	Muthanna - Samawa	N/A	1 Sep 2023 – 30 Sep 2024	80,000
CfP 5	Sabaa Center for Studies and Human Development	Women's Rights	Outcome 2	Thi Qar – Al Nasreayah	N/A	31 Aug 2023 – 31 Aug 2024	81,473
CfP 5	Al-Khamayel Foundation for Development and Resisting Violence Against Women	Women's Rights, Women Led	Outcome 2	Thi Qar	N/A	3 Sep 2023 – 31 Aug 2024	80,000
(Forced Displacement) CfP 6	Al Hub Wa Al Salam Organization	Women's Rights, Livelihoods, Women Led, Youth Led	Outcome 6	Anbar, Diyala	Haya Organization for Development	2 Sep 2023 – 3 Sep 2024	200,000
(Forced Displacement) CfP 6	Iraqi Organization for Women and Future (IOWAF)	Women's Rights, Women Led, Youth Led	Outcome 6	Baghdad, Anbar	N/A	3 Sep 2023 – 3 Sep 2024	200,000
(Forced Displacement) CfP 6	Kanz Humanitarian Organization	Women's Rights	Outcome 6	Diyala	Accepting Others Organization (AOO)	3 Sep 2023 – 3 Sep 2024	194,348
(Forced Displacement) CfP 6	Sewan Women's Empowerment Organization	Women's Rights	Outcome 6	Nineveh, Kirkuk	Kurdistan Organization for Human Rights	3 Sep 2023 – 23 Feb 2025	200,000

³ For each grant, indicate if it is Country CfP 1; CfP 2; CfP 3, etc. Please also note if it is a CfP for the Food Security Initiative, Climate Security Initiative, Forced Displacement Initiative, or Peer Learning Grant

⁴ Type of organizations are: i) Women's Led; ii) Women's Rights; iii) Both Women-led and Women's Rights; iv) Youth Focused; v) young women led; vi) both youth focused/young women led; vii) LGBTQI+; viii) Other as identified by the CSO.

⁵ WPHF Outcomes are Outcome 1: Enabling environment for the implementation of WPS commitments; Outcome 2: Conflict prevention; Outcome 3: Humanitarian and Crisis Response; Outcome 4: Conflict resolution; Outcome 5: Protection; Outcome 6: Peacebuilding and recovery. If the partner received institutional funding, please use this column to note this. As per WPHF results framework nested model, WPHF outcome areas are equivalent to the impact level for grantees

⁶ For each co- implementing partner (those on cover page and who received a transfer), state if they are i) Women's Led; ii) Women's Rights; iii) Both Women-led and Women's Rights; iv) Youth-led/focused; or v) Other.

⁷ Use the official start and end dates as per the partner agreement and/or amendment. If the project received an extension, please note this.

Funding CFP ³	Lead Organization Name	Type of Organization ⁴	WPHF Outcome/ Impact Area ⁵	Project Location (State, Province or Region)	Name of Implementing Partner(s) and type of Organisation ⁶	Project Start and End Date as per Partner Agreements ⁷	Total Approved Budget (USD)
(Forced Displacement) CFP 6	Widows Training and Development Center	Women's Rights, Youth Rights, Women Led, Youth Led	Outcome 6	Baghdad	N/A	3 Sep 2023 – 3 Sep 2024	174,000
(Forced Displacement) CFP 6	Women Leadership Institute (WLI)	Women's Rights, Women Led	Outcome 6	Kirkuk	N/A	2 Sep 2023 – 2 Nov 2024	199,876
CFP 4	Foundation of United for Relief and Sustainable Development	Women's Rights	Outcome 3	Nineveh	N/A	28 Oct 2023 – 31 Oct 2024	207,167
CFP 4	Odessa Organization for Women Development	Women's Rights, Youth Rights, Women Led, Youth Led	Outcome 3	Nineveh	N/A	28 Oct 2023 – 31 Oct 2024	206,000
CFP 4	Shareteah Humanitarian Organization (SHO)	Women's Rights, Youth Rights	Outcome 3	Kirkuk	N/A	29 Oct 2023 – 15 July 2024	206,000

2. Beneficiaries and Reach (Consolidated)

- a) Complete the Excel spreadsheet called "WPHF Beneficiary Template 2024" for each project and submit with your report. Instructions for this working sheet are found in the template. The excel sheet tracks beneficiaries by each CSO.
- b) In the tables below, provide the consolidated number of direct beneficiaries reached for all projects during the reporting period and cumulative numbers.

Current Reporting Period (2024)				
Age Category	Women/Girls	Men/Boys	Total Direct	Indirect Beneficiaries
0-17 years	9818	6855	16673	
18-29 years	19070	7014	26084	
30 years +	0	0	0	
Total	28,888	13,869	42,757	9272408

***ATTACH WPHF Excel Beneficiary Template.**

Cumulative				
Age Category	Women/Girls	Men/Boys	Total Direct	Indirect Beneficiaries
0-17 years	9839	6880	16719	
18-29 years	20762	7496	28258	
30 years +	0	0	0	
Total	30,601	14,376	44,977	9291903

3a. Context/New Developments

Describe any relevant updates in the peace/security/humanitarian/political/human rights context experienced by the country during the reporting period. Specifically describe how it has impacted women and operations at the country level.

Throughout 2024, Iraq experienced significant developments affecting women's rights and their socio-economic and political status. These events confirmed on the ongoing challenges Iraqi women face and highlighted the efforts of organizations like **UN Women**.

In August 2024, the Iraqi parliament debated proposed amendments to the Personal Status Law No. 188 of 1959. These amendments aimed to grant religious authorities' greater control over personal status matters, including marriage, divorce, and inheritance (Foreign Policy, 2024)⁸. Critics expressed concern that such changes could undermine women's rights and lead to increased discrimination. The proposed amendments faced significant opposition from women's rights organizations and activists, who organized protests and advocacy campaigns to raise awareness about the potential negative impacts on women's legal protections (Amnesty International, 2024)⁹. Despite these efforts, the political climate remained challenging, with ongoing debates about the balance between religious authority and civil law in governing personal status issues.

Economically, Iraqi women continued to face substantial obstacles in 2024. The labor force participation rate for women remained low, with cultural norms and limited access to education and vocational training contributing to this disparity (UN Women Iraq, 2024a)¹⁰. Additionally, economic instability and high unemployment rates disproportionately affected women, particularly those in rural areas. Efforts to promote women's economic empowerment included initiatives to provide skills training and support for female entrepreneurs (UN Women Iraq, 2024a)¹¹. However, systemic challenges, such as limited access to financial resources and markets, continued to hinder progress. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive strategies that encompass education, economic policy, and social support systems.

Socially, Iraqi women faced persistent challenges related to gender-based violence and societal discrimination. The absence of comprehensive legal frameworks to protect women from domestic violence remained a critical concern (Kurdistan24, 2024)¹². While discussions about an Anti-Domestic Violence Law continued, no significant legislative progress was made in 2024. Cultural norms and stigmas also contributed to underreporting of violence and limited access to support services for survivors. Community-based organizations played a crucial role in providing assistance, but their reach was often limited by resource constraints and societal barriers (Kurdistan24, 2024)¹³.

⁸ Foreign Policy. (2024, October 8). *Iraq's political turmoil and its impact on women's rights*. Foreign Policy.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/10/08/iraq-sunni-shiite-womens-rights-religion-law>

⁹ Amnesty International. (2024, October 8). *Iraq: Reject changes to personal status law which would allow child marriage and further entrench discrimination*. Amnesty International. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/10/iraq-reject-changes-to-personal-status-law-which-would-allow-child-marriage-and-further-entrench-discrimination>

¹⁰ UN Women Iraq. (2024a). *UN Women in Iraq: Our work and impact*. United Nations Women Iraq. Retrieved from <https://iraq.unwomen.org/en/about-us/un-women-in-iraq>

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¹² Kurdistan24. (2024, October 10). *Iraqi women face rising domestic violence crisis as legislation stalls*. Kurdistan24. <https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/story/818088/iraqi-women-face-rising-domestic-violence-crisis-as-legislation-stalls>

¹³ Kurdistan24. (2024, October 10). *Iraqi women face rising domestic violence crisis as legislation stalls*. Kurdistan24. <https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/story/818088/iraqi-women-face-rising-domestic-violence-crisis-as-legislation-stalls>

In response to these multifaceted challenges, UN Women intensified its efforts in Iraq throughout 2024. Key initiatives included:

- **Leadership and Political Participation:**
UN Women supported programs aimed at increasing women's participation in political processes and decision-making roles. This included training for female candidates and advocacy for policies promoting gender equality in governance (UN Women Iraq, 2024a)¹⁴.
- **Economic Empowerment:**
Recognizing the economic barriers faced by Iraqi women, UN Women implemented projects focused on enhancing women's skills and access to economic opportunities. This encompassed vocational training, support for women-led businesses, and initiatives to improve access to financial services (UN Women Iraq, 2024a)¹⁵.
- **Ending Violence Against Women:**
UN Women collaborated with local partners to provide services for survivors of gender-based violence, including psychosocial support and legal assistance. Additionally, awareness campaigns were conducted to challenge societal norms that perpetuate violence against women (UN Women Iraq, 2024b)¹⁶.
- **Humanitarian Action:**
In response to ongoing humanitarian needs, UN Women worked to ensure that the specific needs of women and girls were addressed in crisis settings. This included providing safe spaces, distributing startup kits, and integrating gender perspectives into broader humanitarian responses (UN Women Iraq, 2024c)¹⁷.

The year 2024 was marked by significant challenges and developments concerning women's rights in Iraq. Legal debates, economic hardships, and social obstacles shed the light on the need for continued advocacy and comprehensive strategies to promote gender equality. UN Women played a pivotal role in addressing these issues, working alongside local governmental and civil society partners to empower Iraqi women and advance their rights across various sectors.

3b. Coordination in Humanitarian/WPS

Describe if your office has participated in any humanitarian/GBV in emergencies UN cluster meetings (CERF, UNFPA, IOM, UNHCR), or peace and security (PBF, UNDP, UNICEF) coordination meetings/efforts at the national level during the reporting period? What were the outcomes of these meetings, and have WPHF partners been invited to brief?

UN Women Iraq actively participated in key humanitarian, gender-based violence (GBV) in emergencies, and peace and security coordination meetings at the national level during the reporting period.

1. **Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Coordination with IOM and UN Partners**
UN Women engaged in meetings with IOM regarding the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), focusing on initiating project implementation, monitoring fund allocation, and establishing a coordination framework with the government. These efforts aimed to enhance women's participation in peacebuilding and ensure gender-responsive interventions. As part of this process, UNDP and UNAMI were invited to join future meetings to strengthen inter-agency collaboration.
2. **Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting on Returnees from Al-Hol Camp**
UN Women participated in a high-level meeting in December 2024, where government representatives, UN agencies, and international partners discussed the progress of services for returnees from Al-Hol Camp. The meeting, co-chaired by the Iraqi government and the UN, reviewed achievements and challenges from 2024 and outlined strategies for 2025, including a new mechanism for reintegration and civil documentation. This engagement reflects UN Women's commitment to addressing the needs of displaced women and supporting their socio-economic reintegration.
3. **Joint Efforts with IOM and UNDP to Secure Peacebuilding Funding**
Through a series of coordination meetings in 2024, UN Women collaborated with IOM and UNDP to secure funding for a joint peacebuilding project under the PBF. This initiative, set for implementation in 2025/26, aims to strengthen women's leadership in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, aligning with national priorities and international frameworks such as UNSCR 1325.

Outcomes of These Meetings:

- Strengthened **inter-agency coordination** on gender-sensitive peacebuilding and humanitarian response.

¹⁴ UN Women Iraq. (2024a). *UN Women in Iraq: Our work and impact*. United Nations Women Iraq. Retrieved from <https://iraq.unwomen.org/en/about-us/un-women-in-iraq>

¹⁵ UN Women Iraq. (2024a). *UN Women in Iraq: Our work and impact*. United Nations Women Iraq. Retrieved from <https://iraq.unwomen.org/en/about-us/un-women-in-iraq>

¹⁶ UN Women Iraq. (2024b). *Women, peace, and security: Iraq National Action Plan (INAP III)*. United Nations Women Iraq. Retrieved from <https://iraq.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/iraq-national-action-plan>

¹⁷ UN Women Iraq. (2024c). *Humanitarian action in Iraq: Gender-responsive interventions*. United Nations Women Iraq. Retrieved from <https://iraq.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/humanitarian-action-1>

- Agreement on **regular engagement with the Iraqi government** to ensure sustained progress on gender-inclusive policies and services for returnees.
- Secured funding for a **joint peacebuilding initiative**, reinforcing women's roles in post-conflict recovery.
- Established a **roadmap for addressing civil documentation issues** affecting displaced and returnee populations, particularly women and children.
- Enhanced strategic **partnerships with UN agencies and governmental bodies** to align interventions with Iraq's humanitarian and peacebuilding priorities.

4a. Overall Results (Impact and Outcomes) Achieved

Country Level Impact and Results:

Provide a short, consolidated COUNTRY LEVEL description of the impact and results achieved for all projects (1-2 paragraphs maximum, drawing on the impact level indicators. DO NOT INCLUDE REACH NUMBERS.

In Iraq, interventions focused on conflict prevention, forced displacement (peacebuilding and socio-economic recovery), and humanitarian response have significantly strengthened women's participation in peacebuilding, economic resilience, and crisis management. Efforts across multiple organizations have contributed to enhancing women's decision-making in conflict prevention, increasing their socio-economic recovery in displacement settings, and ensuring gender-responsive humanitarian frameworks.

In conflict prevention, initiatives have empowered women to influence local policies, engage in mediation, and challenge societal norms that limit their participation. Programs have institutionalized gender-sensitive conflict resolution mechanisms, strengthened community-led peace initiatives, and increased public awareness of women's roles in peacebuilding, including through media narratives and feminist dialogue forums. Additionally, young women and adolescent girls have been equipped with advocacy skills to address structural barriers to their engagement in conflict prevention efforts. Two conflicts were addressed as a result of the CSOs interventions, Al-Khamayel Foundation reported the successful resolution of a tribal dispute over water resources in Dhi Qar, mediated by a trained female participant who used negotiation skills gained from the program. Additionally, Sabaa Center mentioned the successful resolution of a land and water dispute through tribal negotiation, again facilitated by a trained female mediator from the initiative. The initiatives institutionalized 4 conflict resolution mechanisms and strengthened 6 community-led peace initiatives, namely:

4 conflict resolution mechanisms were institutionalized:

- Three formal policy decisions were adopted by Women's Affairs Departments in Diwaniyah, Wasit, and Dhi Qar, explicitly institutionalizing women's inclusion in conflict mediation processes. Specifically, Decision No. 4386 in Diwaniyah mandated the inclusion of 10 women in mediation committees under the National Peace Mediators Network.
- One comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was developed by local stakeholders across these three governorates (Diwaniyah, Wasit, Dhi Qar), officially integrating gender-sensitive approaches into conflict resolution and community-based security strategies.

Additionally, 6 community-led peace initiatives were significantly strengthened through formal recognition and capacity-building, namely:

- Two feminist peace initiatives officially recognized by Diwaniyah's local government, The "Initiatives" team, aimed at addressing violence against women through targeted community interventions, and "Safety Without Borders," a Women's Community Police Forum, involving 20 women leaders and officially endorsed by Iraq's Minister of Interior.
- Four community feminist mediation forums established (one each in Al-Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Wasit, and Diwaniyah), each forum consisting of 20 influential women trained in mediation and conflict resolution.

In forced displacement and economic recovery, interventions have provided legal, psychosocial, and livelihood support to 2,898 displaced women and girls, improving their economic stability and access to essential services. 632 Women have launched small businesses, secured employment, and received vocational training, contributing to greater financial independence. Additionally, awareness programs have enhanced knowledge on gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, health management, and legal rights, ensuring displaced women and girls are better supported in rebuilding their lives.

In humanitarian response, projects have expanded gender-responsive crisis planning and risk awareness. Initiatives have increased women's access to economic and social services in humanitarian settings, while also strengthening community awareness on explosive ordnance risks through targeted education campaigns. Programs have successfully built early warning and crisis response systems, ensuring women's inclusion in disaster risk management and post-conflict recovery efforts. Overall, **11,075 women** actively participated in humanitarian response initiatives. These interventions directly supported **30,064 individuals** and indirectly benefited **528,715 individuals**, providing comprehensive support including psychosocial assistance, economic empowerment, GBV prevention, and explosive risk awareness and safety education.

These interventions have deepened institutional engagement, improved women's leadership in peacebuilding, and enhanced community resilience. By embedding gender-sensitive policies and economic empowerment strategies, Iraq is advancing its Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, promoting inclusive governance, sustainable recovery, and gender justice at local and national levels.

CSO Impact and Results:

a) Report on the results achieved¹⁸ or progress towards¹⁹ results for EACH OUTCOME area and associated indicators for EACH project by WPHF impact area in the country. Also, use any relevant impact and outcome indicators from the CSO results framework (programmatic

¹⁸ Progress achieved of the impact level or of an outcome is defined as actual change in the value of indicators being tracked as well as other indications that the project has had an effect in contributing to the impact/outcome as stated.

¹⁹ Progress towards an outcome means the target has not yet been met but there is evidence (through data) of meeting incremental milestones towards the eventual achievement of the outcome.

4a. Overall Results (Impact and Outcomes) Achieved

funding) to help illustrate the change, including the change from the previous year. Do not describe outputs or activities. Ensure that the linkages between the projects and building peace, gender equality and WPS are explained.

b) If an organization has received funding under two impact areas (e.g., Stream 1 (Impact Area 1) and another impact area), please report them separately.

d) For any Global L-HUB grants, please report this in Section 8.

For countries with 10 projects or more, you can consolidate the impact and results by WPHF impact area, rather than for each individual project. Complete the Table in Annex A: Summary of Results for a summary of all results, ensuring they align with what is reported in the narrative section.

Impact Area 2 (Conflict Prevention): Increased meaningful participation and decision-making of women in conflict prevention processes and response.

Awan Organization For Awareness And Capability Development:

Impact: Increased meaningful participation and decision-making of women in conflict prevention processes and response.

The project effectively strengthened women's participation and decision-making capacities, with 54 women actively engaging in conflict prevention and response. Specifically:

- **54 women** increased their meaningful participation in conflict prevention and decision-making roles:
 - **30 women** were integrated into the **National Peace Mediators Network Committee**, coordinated by the Iraqi National Women's Circle, including 10 women from each targeted governorate. These women, nominated by local women's empowerment departments, received specialized training in **conflict management and negotiation skills**, enhancing their decision-making roles.
 - **24 women** were trained in leadership, negotiation, prevention of extremism, and peacebuilding and joined approved local committees combating violent extremism, with 6 women representing each targeted governorate. These committees received formal approval by the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in 2023, strengthening women's influential role in peacebuilding initiatives at the national level.
- **Four gender-sensitive conflict prevention mechanisms were successfully established:**
 1. **A local methodology** adopted by Women's Empowerment Departments to increase women's participation in conflict prevention activities at the local level, directly influenced by project interventions.
 2. Formation of the women's initiative group, "**Initiatives**", in partnership with the Women's Affairs Department in Diwaniyah. This initiative specifically addresses violence against women and promotes their engagement in community peace efforts, demonstrating a sustainable local mechanism arising directly from project outcomes.
 3. Establishment of the **Women's Community Police Forum ("Safety Without Borders")** by community police, supervised by Awan Organization, with official endorsement from the Minister of Interior's office. The forum includes 20 trained women leaders, dedicated to protecting women against violence, strengthening public participation, and fostering community peace.
 4. Production of **3 academic research studies** exploring supportive mechanisms for women's roles in conflict prevention and resolution from an academic perspective. These studies represent long-term sustainable mechanisms, serving as future references for strengthening women's involvement in the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

Outcome 1: Enhance the ability of civil society local organizations and the government to address conflict prevention in a gender-inclusive manner in the targeted communities.

A total of 525 individuals (282 women, 243 men) across key stakeholders, including local governments, civil society organizations, media, and community peace committees, enhanced their capacities in conflict prevention, gender-sensitive policymaking, and peacebuilding in Diwaniyah, Wasit, and Dhi Qar.

1. **Strengthening Gender-Responsive Local Policies**
 - 45 local government officials (32 women, 13 men) participated in workshops to develop and influence local policies integrating gender perspectives into conflict prevention and response.
 - This strengthened the role of women-led initiatives in local governance and policy advocacy.
2. **Institutionalizing Gender-Sensitive Conflict Transformation Approaches**
 - 90 stakeholders (52 women, 38 men), including government representatives, unions, journalists, and CSOs, engaged in nine focus group meetings to establish localized methodologies and standard operating procedures for gender-responsive conflict transformation.
3. **Expanding Feminist Dialogue and Community Engagement**
 - 270 participants (137 women, 133 men) attended nine dialogue forums led by women peace leaders, local influencers, and academics to enhance feminist-led community dialogue on peace and security.
 - These forums contributed to greater local buy-in for gender-inclusive peace processes.
4. **Transforming Media Narratives on Women and Peace**

4a. Overall Results (Impact and Outcomes) Achieved

- 60 journalists (20 women, 40 men) received specialized training on shaping media narratives that highlight women's roles in conflict prevention and response.
 - This contributed to a shift in public discourse, reinforcing systematic media practices that recognize women as active peacebuilders.
- 5. Enhancing Leadership in Community Peacebuilding**
- 60 participants (36 men, 24 women) from local committees on extremism prevention and community dialogue completed training on leadership, negotiation, and conflict transformation.
 - This improved their ability to mediate conflicts, foster dialogue, and implement innovative peacebuilding methodologies.

The increased participation of women in policymaking, media, and community dialogue demonstrates tangible progress in the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda. Institutional adoption of gender-sensitive approaches strengthens long-term peacebuilding mechanisms at both policy and community levels. A shift in media representation fosters sustainable changes in public perception of women's leadership in conflict prevention and response. This demonstrates progress from previous efforts by deepening institutional engagement, increasing women's leadership, and embedding gender perspectives into local peacebuilding and governance frameworks. This progress builds on previous awareness-raising and training activities and is clearly demonstrated in the project's current phase (September 2023 to August 2024). During this period, 30 women were integrated into the National Peace Mediators Network across Diwaniyah, Wasit, and Dhi Qar, and 24 additional women were trained in negotiation, leadership, and peacebuilding, and placed in anti-extremism committees formally recognized by the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers. Furthermore, three media training workshops helped shift media narratives by equipping 60 journalists to highlight women's roles in peacebuilding. These actions reflect a concrete shift from earlier stages focused on individual empowerment to institutional adoption of gender-inclusive mechanisms and local policy change.

Empowerment organization for development and public services:

Impact: Increased meaningful participation and decision-making of women in conflict prevention processes and response.

Significantly increased meaningful participation of 72 women and adolescent girls (24 adult women and 48 adolescent girls) in decision-making processes related to conflict prevention and humanitarian response through the following key results:

- 72 women and adolescent girls were empowered through targeted Training of Trainers (TOT) sessions conducted across four secondary schools and two universities in Baghdad and Basra. Participants gained skills in leadership, conflict management, emotional intelligence, and knowledge of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the National Action Plan (NAP).
- Establishment of 6 Feminist Peace Clubs within schools and universities. These clubs provided structured advocacy platforms, promoting women's rights, community awareness, and participation of young women in conflict prevention through clearly defined (SMART) goals.
- Organization of community workshops and dialogues by trained club members, engaging community leaders and members to address women's underrepresentation in peace processes. These sessions facilitated greater awareness, advocacy, and practical strategies to advance the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 and the NAP locally.

The project introduced three gender-sensitive conflict prevention mechanisms:

1. Verbal Mechanism: Enhanced communication, emotional intelligence, and conflict management skills enabled 72 trained females to mediate conflicts effectively, reaching an additional 1,440 peers. Notably, a success story from Basra demonstrated impactful mediation at the family level.
2. Judicial Mechanism: Participants utilized acquired knowledge on UN Resolution 1325 and the NAP to advocate legally for women's rights and protection, significantly improving women's positions in conflict prevention initiatives.
3. Tribal Engagement Mechanism: Inclusion of tribal leaders facilitated women's active participation in traditional decision-making processes, effectively promoting gender sensitivity while respecting cultural contexts.

Outcome 1: Strengthened the root causes of Under representation of young women and adolescents' girls in conflict preventions through capacity building lobby and advocacy to bring the government into accountability.

A total of 1,780 individuals (730 women, 983 girls, 63 men) enhanced their understanding of the underrepresentation of young women and adolescent girls in conflict prevention and the importance of their participation in peace processes. Through targeted workshops in Baghdad and Basra, 60 community leaders (56 women, 4 men) gained insights into the barriers young women face in conflict prevention, particularly due to tribal customs and societal norms. Additionally, 48 community leaders (29 women, 19 men) engaged in discussions on accountability for implementing UNSCR 1325 and the National Action Plan (NAP), focusing on practical steps to foster inclusion at both household and community levels. These efforts contributed to a shifting mindset among local influencers, decision-makers, and male allies, reinforcing community-driven strategies for inclusive peacebuilding.

Furthermore, 72 adolescent girls and young women (48 girls, 12 women) received specialized training on their rights under UNSCR 1325 and the NAP, equipping them with skills to identify and address their exclusion from conflict prevention efforts. Beyond in-person

4a. Overall Results (Impact and Outcomes) Achieved

engagements, 1,600 club members (577 women, 983 girls, 40 men) expanded their knowledge through online awareness sessions and school-based club activities, ensuring sustained learning and outreach. These efforts strengthened grassroots advocacy, fostering a new generation of young women leaders capable of influencing policy, dialogue, and conflict resolution mechanisms within their communities. One powerful example of this impact is the case of a 16-year-old girl from Basra, who applied the conflict resolution and emotional intelligence skills gained from the training to mediate a longstanding conflict within her own family. Similarly, feminist peace clubs across Baghdad and Basra launched their own initiatives—from facilitating dialogue with tribal leaders to advocating for inclusive school policies—demonstrating their ability to translate training into community-led action.

Al-Khamayel Foundation for Human Development and Combating Violence against Women:

Impact: Increase the meaningful participation of women and integrate them into decision-making processes related to conflict prevention, response, and conflict resolution according to a feminist perspective.

The project effectively increased women's meaningful participation in decision-making processes for conflict prevention, response, and resolution through a feminist lens. Key achievements include:

- 4,680 individuals directly benefited from the project, surpassing initial targets. This included 3,380 women and 1,300 men. Among these beneficiaries, 1,680 women received targeted capacity-building training in leadership, conflict management, response strategies, peaceful coexistence, and peacebuilding mechanisms. This training significantly strengthened women's skills and capacity, empowering them to actively participate in decision-making processes and effectively advocate for a feminist approach in conflict resolution.
- A significant gender-sensitive mechanism was established by successfully integrating 15 trained women into the previously all-male Council of Leaders, Sheikhs, and Personalities of Iraq in Dhi Qar. The council, traditionally male-dominated, actively collaborated with the project to incorporate these women into leadership roles. As a result, the council became a transformative local mechanism, embracing gender-sensitive conflict prevention and resolution. The inclusion of women enhanced the council's effectiveness and credibility in tribal conflict resolution, promoting sustainable peacebuilding initiatives and women's meaningful engagement.

Outcome 1: Enhance women leaders' ability in conflict prevention and ensure social cohesion.

The project contributed to a measurable shift in women's leadership and participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes in Baghdad and Dhi Qar. As a result of the interventions, women began to take on more visible roles in mediating community disputes and promoting social cohesion. A notable outcome was the peaceful resolution of a tribal conflict over water resources in Dhi Qar, led by a trained female mediator who applied her negotiation skills to de-escalate tensions and foster consensus. Community perceptions of women's roles in leadership and conflict resolution improved, with women increasingly engaged in local decision-making forums and tribal councils. The broader impact extended to nearly 19,000 individuals, where shifts in household and community dynamics reflected increased awareness, acceptance, and support for women's participation in peace and security efforts. These changes mark tangible progress in localizing UNSCR 1325 and the National Action Plan, embedding gender-sensitive practices into community-based peacebuilding frameworks.

Sabaa Center for Studies and Human Development:

Impact: Increased meaningful participation and decision-making of women in conflict prevention processes and response

The project successfully increased women's meaningful participation in conflict prevention and decision-making processes, specifically engaging 11 women in influential roles. A key achievement included the active involvement of Ms. Rabab Al-Zaidi, a trained participant who joined the tribal negotiation team in Samawah Governorate. Her role notably contributed to resolving community disputes related to water and land. Ms. Al-Zaidi also facilitated the integration of 10 additional women into the tribal negotiation team, significantly strengthening women's roles in local conflict resolution and negotiation processes. This initiative underscored increased women's agency and their effective contribution to community-level peacebuilding efforts.

Additionally, the project established two gender-sensitive conflict prevention mechanisms:

1. Development and implementation of a comprehensive Local Women's Crisis Response Plan, addressing potential threats to community peace in Thi-Qar, Diwaniyah, and Maysan governorates. This plan prioritized proactive approaches, emphasizing dialogue and peaceful resolution methods, and integrated gender perspectives based on detailed local conflict analyses and demographic considerations.
2. Formation of Women's Groups, consisting of 31 trained women, collaborating closely with local Women's Affairs Departments. These groups specifically targeted women's issues and actively promoted women's meaningful participation in local peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and resolution processes.

Outcome 1: Increase women's leadership and local women's rights organizations' ability to support conflict prevention initiatives.

4a. Overall Results (Impact and Outcomes) Achieved

A total of 518 individuals (293 women, 225 men) enhanced their knowledge and skills through training workshops, focus group discussions, and dialogue sessions aimed at enhancing women's leadership in peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and community cohesion in Nasiriyah, Diwaniyah, and Muthanna. Among them, 186 women's organization members are now monitoring early warning indicators, 90 stakeholders contributed to formulating a local feminist crisis response plan, and 92 youth and women's organization members gained expertise in peacebuilding, extremism prevention, and negotiation. Additionally, 90 key community influencers, decision-makers, and academics participated in dialogue sessions, and 60 individuals strengthened their capacity to lead community initiatives to prevent conflict escalation. The program's impact is reflected in the successful resolution of a land and water dispute through tribal negotiation efforts, where a female participant played a key mediation role.

Beyond direct engagement, 2,072 individuals indirectly benefited through the extended impact of training workshops and discussions. This includes 744 indirect beneficiaries from early warning training, 360 from crisis response planning, and 368 from peacebuilding workshops. Dialogue sessions also influenced 360 community members, while 240 benefited indirectly from leadership training on negotiation and conflict prevention. These efforts have contributed to a stronger network of women-led peace initiatives, reinforced local strategies for crisis prevention, and increased the visibility of women as active mediators in tribal and community conflicts, further advancing the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda at the local level.

Women Rights Center in Samawa:

Impact: Increased meaningful participation and decision-making of women in conflict prevention processes and response

The project significantly increased women's meaningful participation, with 30% of women actively engaged in decision-making processes related to conflict prevention and response. **Specifically:**

- Four Women's Community Mediation Forums were established in the governorates of Muthanna, Wasit, Dhi Qar, and Diwaniyah. These forums, coordinated by the project, empowered trained women leaders to address community disputes, mediate conflicts, and effectively participate in local decision-making alongside government representatives.

Additionally, the project successfully introduced two gender-sensitive conflict prevention mechanisms:

1. Establishment of Women's Community Mediation Forums: Four forums were created in Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Wasit, and Diwaniyah, training women leaders in mediation, negotiation, and communication. These forums facilitated 12 dialogue sessions to resolve local conflicts, particularly emphasizing the inclusion and protection of women with disabilities and addressing violence and harassment in workplaces.
2. Formation of Specialized Joint Committees: Four committees composed of forum participants and local government representatives were established, enhancing cooperation, coordination, and women's active involvement in conflict resolution and decision-making at the local level.

Outcome 1: Enhance the local organizations and mediators' ability in conflict prevention and response.

A total of 640 individuals (555 women, 6 girls, 79 men) enhanced their knowledge and skills through initiatives aimed at strengthening women's leadership in conflict prevention, negotiation, and community mediation across Muthanna, Diwaniyah, Dhi Qar, and Wasit. Key interventions included the formation of four community feminist mediation forums, training workshops on women's leadership, communication, and negotiation, and focus group discussions to develop local monitoring and evaluation plans based on the Iraq National Action Plan (INAP 2). Additionally, 240 women and girls participated in discussion sessions to enhance community dialogue on women's participation in conflict prevention, and 120 representatives from women's and youth CSOs built their capacities in conflict resolution mechanisms. These activities contributed to enhancing women's roles in peacebuilding, equipping them with the necessary tools to lead local mediation efforts, and increasing their engagement in decision-making processes.

Beyond direct participation, 3,200 individuals indirectly benefited from these activities through family networks and broader community influence. The formation of community mediation forums indirectly impacted 400 individuals, while training on leadership and mediation reached another 400 beneficiaries. Additionally, 600 individuals benefited indirectly from discussions on local M&E plans, while 1,200 people were impacted through dialogue sessions on conflict mediation. The capacity-building workshops for women's and youth CSOs further influenced 600 indirect beneficiaries by expanding knowledge on conflict prevention strategies. Collectively, these efforts have strengthened local peacebuilding structures, fostered inclusive participation, and advanced the implementation of the WPS agenda at the community level.

Impact Area 6 (Forced Displacement): Improved socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and girls in peacebuilding contexts.

Al Hub Wa Al Salam Iraqi Globally Organization:

Impact: Improving economic and social recovery and the effective participation of women and girls in peacebuilding and community stability contexts

4a. Overall Results (Impact and Outcomes) Achieved

86.5% (173) out of 200 targeted women leaders in civil society organizations demonstrated the capacity and initiative to improve governance within their communities, significantly exceeding the original target of 25%.

- 77.5% (155 women) aged 18-46 years.
- 9% (18 women) aged 47-60 years.

98.5% (693 individuals) directly benefited from project interventions, surpassing the targeted 80% of 512 participants.

- Direct beneficiaries included 611 women, 81 men, and 1 girl.

3,465 individuals indirectly benefited from project results, far surpassing the initial target of 600 indirect beneficiaries. Age distributions were not measurable.

60% of participating women (60 women) successfully secured new employment opportunities:

- 33% (33 women) aged 18-36 years.
- 27% (27 women) aged 37-50 years.

Outcome 1: Improving women's capacity to interact and participate in building and supporting stability and peace.

A total of 200 women leaders in civil society organizations were engaged in governance improvement initiatives, with 86.5% (173 women) demonstrating the ability to take initiative in strengthening local governance structures. This progress was achieved through 20 training sessions benefiting 400 women (395 new participants and 5 returning beneficiaries) held between November 2023 and February 2024 in Anbar and Diyala. These sessions covered critical topics such as women's leadership, dialogue and communication, access to local government, early warning and crisis recovery, and combating electronic blackmail.

Among the trained women, 77.5% (155 women) were between 18-46 years old, while 9% (18 women) were aged 47-60. These efforts have enhanced women's leadership in governance, strengthened their role in crisis response, and improved their engagement with local authorities, contributing to greater representation of women in decision-making processes and civil society leadership.

For example, following the training sessions, several participants in Qaim and Heet initiated awareness campaigns addressing the risks of epidemic outbreaks and the importance of early warning systems, in coordination with local health authorities. In Diyala, trained women collaborated with community leaders to report and respond to cases of electronic blackmail targeting female students—demonstrating increased capacity to identify and mitigate risks facing their communities. These actions reflect how participants applied their training to real-life challenges, positioning themselves as active contributors to community resilience and crisis response mechanisms.

This increased representation was reflected in the active involvement of trained women in eight community dialogue workshops conducted between November 2023 and February 2024 across Fallujah, Heet, Qaim, and Diyala. In these sessions, women not only participated but led discussions with local council members, tribal leaders, and civil society representatives on issues such as displacement, access to services, and early warning responses. Moreover, 40 women were formally referred to participate in vocational trainings and livelihood initiatives based on their leadership potential identified during these dialogues. Their contributions were documented in session reports and endorsed by local authorities, marking a measurable shift in how women's voices are being integrated into local governance and decision-making spaces.

Outcome 2: Enhancing Economic Recovery Opportunities for Women Affected by Forced Displacement.

The training programs had a significant impact on women's economic empowerment, with 60% (60 women) of participants securing new jobs following their participation. Among them, 33% (33 women) were between the ages of 18-36, while 27% (27 women) were aged 37-50. However, none of the participants aged 51-65 reported securing employment, highlighting potential barriers for older women in the job market.

These results indicate that the training sessions not only enhanced women's leadership and governance skills but also improved their employability, particularly for younger and mid-career women. The increased workforce participation of trained women contributes to greater economic stability, community engagement, and the overall advancement of women's roles in decision-making spaces.

Iraqi Organization for Women and Future (IOWAF):

Impact: Improved socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and girls in peacebuilding contexts.

20 displaced women (aged 18-50) from Jurf al-Sakhr and Tikrit, relocated to Anbar Province, experienced a significant increase in their economic agency due to receiving productive economic resources. This empowerment enabled their economic independence, enhancing their active roles in peacebuilding within their communities.

112 women actively participated in political and decision-making processes, significantly contributing to peacebuilding contexts:

- 16 women (aged 25-50), displaced and returnees from Babel, Salah al-Din, and Mosul, participated in critical dialogue sessions on insecurity and forced displacement issues in Anbar Governorate.

4a. Overall Results (Impact and Outcomes) Achieved

- 96 women (aged 27-65), displaced and returnees from Anbar, Babil, Salah al-Din, Nineveh, and Diyala, engaged in political decision-making processes at a conference addressing the economic impacts of violence against women in Baghdad Governorate.

This targeted and diverse engagement resulted in increased political participation among women, strengthening their influence in peacebuilding and socio-political recovery efforts across multiple governorates.

Outcome 1: Strengthened political participation of forcibly displaced women and girls in Anbar & Baghdad

A total of 1,239 forcibly displaced individuals (1,035 women, 165 girls, 39 boys) accessed critical legal, psychosocial, vocational, health, and awareness support through interventions in Baghdad and Anbar governorates. Among them, 776 women accessed legal and psychosocial services through women's centers, 133 women in IDP camps received health awareness sessions, and 110 females in Amiriyat Fallujah camp participated in awareness sessions on human trafficking and exploitation. Additionally, 40 women and girls engaged in vocational training on digital and artisanal skills, while 90 high school girls attended awareness sessions on the impact of displacement-related challenges such as child marriage, school dropout, and electronic extortion. In parallel, 90 displaced children received school bags and stationery, supporting their reintegration into education.

Beyond direct beneficiaries, 5,808 individuals indirectly benefited through extended household and community impacts, including 3,104 from legal and psychosocial services, 532 from health awareness in camps, and 440 from trafficking awareness sessions. The project also engaged 213 additional stakeholders (174 women, 39 men), including government representatives, academics, and service providers, in capacity-building, research discussions, and policy dialogues. Notably, a press conference launched a study on the economic impact of gender-based violence, contributing to policy advocacy and broader systemic change. These efforts strengthened displaced women's resilience, enhanced access to essential services, and fostered community-wide awareness and policy engagement in addressing the challenges of forced displacement.

Outcome 2

Enhancing the economic and social empowerment of forcibly displaced women in Anbar and Baghdad.

The vocational training programs had a tangible impact on economic empowerment, with 200 women securing employment in sewing, handmade crafts, and cooking across Ameriyat Al-Fallujah, Al-Habbaniyah camps, and Kilo 7 complex. These opportunities have enhanced financial independence and resilience among displaced women, contributing to their ability to support themselves and their families. In terms of health awareness, participants demonstrated 50% knowledge gain on common infectious diseases such as breast cancer, uterine cancer, and HIV, while 25% improved their understanding of health management in overcrowded camps. Additionally, 20% acquired new insights into self-health management, equipping them with the skills to better navigate health challenges in displacement settings. These results highlight the critical role of targeted training and awareness programs in improving both economic stability and health literacy among forcibly displaced women.

KANZ Humanitarian Organization:

Impact: Improved socioeconomic, recovery, and political participation of women and girls in peacebuilding contexts.

98% (98 women) of the 100 financially supported women (aged 18-45) successfully established small-scale home-based businesses, significantly increasing their economic agency. Beneficiaries included 50 IDP returnees, 25 IDPs, and 25 women from host communities.

200 women (aged 18-45) experienced increased socioeconomic empowerment and political participation. The financial support provided to 100 of these women enhanced their direct contribution to community stability and recovery, fostering broader participation in peacebuilding contexts.

Outcome 1: Improved ability of IDP women to Contribute to their livelihoods.

The Know About Business (KAB) program provided business management and entrepreneurship training to 200 women (100 returnees, 50 IDPs, and 50 from host communities) through 10 five-day training sessions. Following the training, 100 qualified trainees' women were selected to receive financial support, each woman was granted \$500 along with coaching to establish small-scale businesses. A follow-up revealed that 98% successfully launched home-based businesses, while 2% faced challenges due to social constraints and time limitations. Kanz Organization is continuing its support to ensure sustained business success.

Additionally, 67 individuals (63 women, 4 men) directly benefited from entrepreneurship training and participation in International Women's Day celebrations, while 868 individuals indirectly benefited, primarily through economic ripple effects within families. The program's impact extends beyond individual empowerment, fostering economic resilience and financial independence for displaced and host community women, contributing to broader community stability and gender-inclusive economic growth.

Sewan Women's Empowerment Organization:

4a. Overall Results (Impact and Outcomes) Achieved

Impact: Improved socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and girls in peacebuilding contexts

Reporting on impact level will be delivered upon the end of Sewan's project.

Outcome 1: Forcibly displaced women and girls are technically supported for greater political participation and inclusion in decision-making processes.

A total of 160 internally displaced women and girls (120 women, 40 girls) were equipped with critical skills in initiative development, leadership, teamwork, conflict analysis, gender awareness, countering violent extremism, and political engagement in peacebuilding contexts. These trainings enhanced their capacity to lead initiatives, engage in decision-making processes, and contribute to conflict prevention efforts within their communities.

Beyond direct participants, 640 individuals indirectly benefited from the program, reflecting the extended impact on families and communities. By empowering IDP women and girls with leadership and peacebuilding skills, the initiative strengthens community resilience, fosters inclusivity in conflict resolution efforts, and enhances women's roles in promoting peace and stability.

Outcome 2: Forcibly displaced women and girls are able to make their voices heard as groups in political & / or decision-making processes within peacebuilding contexts.

This outcome will be achieved in 2025 Q1.

Women Leadership Institute (WLI):

Impact: Improved socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and girls in peacebuilding contexts

24 internally displaced women (ages 20-57) significantly increased their economic agency and financial independence through improved access to productive resources. They successfully established or expanded businesses in diverse sectors including tailoring, food production, agriculture, cosmetics, arts, and retail services. This advancement substantially strengthened their economic status, increased their market participation, and provided sustainable income to support their families and communities.

Three key policies and plans in peacebuilding contexts were directly influenced by women's contributions:

1. Formation of a specialized committee at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs focusing on facilitating displaced women's access to economic resources and loans.
2. Submission of comprehensive recommendations by women to the Prime Minister's Advisor on Women's Affairs, detailing displaced women's economic needs, influencing governmental responses and resource allocation.
3. Establishment of a sustainable coordination mechanism with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement to address systemic barriers for women seeking financial support and loans.

Outcome 1: 120 IDP women in Kirkuk have better access to social and financial services and to the market and are capable of supporting their families.

A total of 770 forcibly displaced women and girls (767 women, 3 girls) accessed livelihood support, psychosocial services (PSS), and legal assistance, contributing to their economic empowerment, well-being, and protection. Among them, 120 IDP women were trained in small business development, equipping them with the skills needed to establish sustainable income sources. Additionally, 650 women and girls accessed critical PSS and legal support, with 422 receiving PSS services only, while 228 benefited from both PSS and legal aid. As a result of these efforts, five displaced women successfully launched small businesses, demonstrating the impact of livelihood training and financial empowerment.

Beyond direct beneficiaries, 5,636 individuals indirectly benefited through extended household and community influence. This includes 480 indirect beneficiaries from small business training, 3,932 from PSS and legal support in Kirkuk, and various awareness and dialogue sessions that engaged stakeholders and decision-makers. Notably, a high-level conference in Baghdad (October 21, 2024) gathered key actors, influencing 260 indirect beneficiaries. Among the key outcomes of the conference was the government's commitment to simplifying loan procedures to foster female entrepreneurship and financial inclusion. As a result, all the project's IDP women beneficiaries who applied for loans in Kirkuk governorate successfully received financial support. In addition to enabling their access to economic opportunities. These initiatives have enhanced the socio-economic resilience of displaced women, strengthened local networks for advocacy and decision-making, and contributed to improving gender-sensitive policies and community engagement in peacebuilding and protection efforts, and as a result for this intervention, 13 new beneficiaries (6 women, 7 men) gained direct business and employment opportunities through government coordination.

4a. Overall Results (Impact and Outcomes) Achieved

Widows Training and Development Center (WTDC):

Impact: Improved socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and girls in peacebuilding contexts

449 forcibly displaced women (aged 18–35) in Abu Ghraib district experienced increased influence and agency as a result of access to productive economic resources, psychological and legal support, health awareness, and strengthened decision-making capacities. These women have demonstrated improved ability to participate in family and community roles, communicate collective needs to decision-makers, and contribute to local recovery and peacebuilding efforts.

132 forcibly displaced men (including 128 aged 18–35 and 52 up to age 60) in Abu Ghraib and surrounding areas have increased their support for women's political participation and societal roles. Their enhanced awareness and advocacy capacities have strengthened community-level gender inclusion and fostered a more enabling environment for women's engagement in peacebuilding and public life.

Outcome 1: Increasing access to vocational skills for forcibly displaced young women and men aged from 18 to 35 years.

The vocational training and business management program successfully empowered 76% of 168 participants (127 individuals) aged 18–35 to launch their own small businesses after receiving training and start-up toolkits. A self-evaluation conducted on the final day of training revealed that 80% of participants reported professional development, with many expressing strong interest and readiness to establish their businesses using their newly acquired skills.

Beyond direct impact, 889 family members of the new business owners experienced improved economic stability, as these enterprises contributed to household income and financial independence. Using a project-based estimate of 7 family members per beneficiary, the initiative demonstrates long-term economic resilience and increased entrepreneurial engagement, furthering sustainable livelihood opportunities for displaced and vulnerable communities.

Outcome 2: Increase the access of forcibly displaced young women and men aged between 18 to 35 years old to legal, psychological and social services, and leadership opportunities

Satisfaction surveys conducted among beneficiaries of psychological and legal services, health awareness, and dialogue sessions at the Abu Ghraib Governmental Forum indicate a high level of approval, with 361 beneficiaries (106.8%) expressing satisfaction with the services received. This outcome reflects the effectiveness of interventions in legal and psychological support (213 young women), dialogue sessions (56 young women), and health awareness sessions (61 young women and 31 young men), reinforcing the impact of gender-responsive and community-driven services.

Additionally, 61% of 50 forcibly displaced men in Abu Ghraib and surrounding areas demonstrated gender sensitivity and actively promoted societal appreciation for women's roles through their influence. This progress highlights shifting perceptions towards gender equality and the increasing engagement of men as allies in supporting women's empowerment and participation in community life.

The initiative empowered 213 displaced women by providing legal and mental health services, significantly increasing their legal literacy and confidence in seeking justice. Beneficiaries experienced enhanced emotional well-being, reporting improved resilience and reduced stress levels. Additionally, the project strengthened community trust, thereby improving women's engagement with local institutions. Sustainability was ensured through continued support and mentorship, linking women effectively with long-term service providers.

Impact Area 3 (Humanitarian Response): Enhanced inclusive and gender responsive humanitarian/crisis planning, frameworks, and programming.

Foundation of United for Relief and Sustainable Development (FUAD):

Impact: Enhanced inclusive and gender-responsive humanitarian/crisis planning, frameworks, and programming

30% of female beneficiaries meaningfully participated in decision-making processes related to humanitarian planning and crisis response. These women engaged through community structure committees and established communication channels with local authorities and decision-makers. Their contributions directly influenced local humanitarian priorities, particularly in addressing gender-based violence and advancing women's rights. Women's feedback was actively considered by key stakeholders, including the Mayor of Moqdadeia and the Manager of the Women's Department in Diyala, both of whom integrated women's perspectives into local humanitarian plans and post-project discussions.

Outcome 1: Increase women's access to work and services in Humanitarian settings.

A total of 3,502 individuals (1,984 women, 1,518 men) directly benefited from psychosocial support, awareness sessions on women's rights, and small business management training. Among them, 400 women accessed psychosocial support through women's centers, while 3,042 individuals (1,524 women, 1,518 men) participated in awareness sessions focused on women's rights, violence prevention, and sexual abuse prevention in humanitarian contexts, including the International Women's Day event in Haweeja. Additionally, 60

4a. Overall Results (Impact and Outcomes) Achieved

women (40 from Diyala, 20 from Kirkuk) received small business management training and a \$325 grant, enabling them to launch small-scale businesses and improve their economic stability.

Beyond direct engagement, 205,622 individuals indirectly benefited, with 184,610 reached through online awareness efforts. Indirect impact also included 2,400 family members of women accessing psychosocial support, 18,252 indirect beneficiaries from awareness sessions, and 360 from small business initiatives. These interventions strengthened women's economic participation, increased community awareness of gender-based violence, and expanded psychosocial support services, contributing to greater gender equality and resilience in humanitarian settings.

Odessa Organization for Women Development:

Impact: Enhanced inclusive and gender responsive humanitarian/crisis planning, frameworks, and programming

30% of participating women were actively engaged in decision-making processes related to humanitarian planning and crisis response. Their participation strengthened community mobilization, promoted gender equality, and ensured that women's voices and needs were represented in crisis response frameworks, particularly among returnee populations.

Four Humanitarian Crisis Response Working Groups (HCRWG) were established as formal mechanisms to promote gender-responsive humanitarian and crisis planning. These groups, composed of trained women and girls from highly affected areas, serve as:

- Gender-focused technical working bodies capable of operating during both crisis and recovery phases;
- Coordinating platforms between community members, government institutions, CSOs, INGOs, and private sector actors;
- Inclusive mechanisms ensuring that women's perspectives and protection needs are integrated into all stages of humanitarian response.

Outcome 1: Increase Humanitarian crisis response and coordination capacity alongside positive social norms and livelihood resilience among most affected and at-risk women and girls.

A total of 3,295 individuals (1,686 women, 953 girls, 400 men, and 256 boys) directly benefited from interventions aimed at humanitarian crisis management, economic resilience, psychosocial support, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, and leadership development. Among these, 200 women and girls received training on humanitarian crisis management, while 200 others participated in mentoring and coaching programs. Additionally, entrepreneurship training enabled 200 women and girls to develop business skills, leading to the successful establishment of 10 new businesses in Sinjar City, where 20 women launched small sewing enterprises, fostering economic self-sufficiency and resilience.

Beyond direct engagement, 20,520 individuals indirectly benefited through extended family and community influence, including 8,730 individuals impacted by social awareness and GBV prevention sessions and 2,700 beneficiaries from leadership and gender norm awareness sessions. The project's early warning and humanitarian response initiatives led to the implementation of 20 actions by trained women-led organizations, including the development of 10 innovative early warning strategies and 10 post-conflict recovery policy frameworks. These efforts have strengthened crisis response mechanisms, enhanced economic empowerment, and promoted gender justice, ensuring sustainable recovery and inclusive participation of women in post-conflict rebuilding efforts.

Shareteah Humanitarian Organization (SHO):

Impact: It enhanced inclusive and gender-responsive humanitarian/crisis planning, frameworks, and programming

The project achieved a 61% increase in the participation of women in decision-making roles related to humanitarian and crisis response. This significant rise reflects improved gender inclusion and representation in crisis planning processes.

The project also contributed to broader community impact by enhancing awareness of the dangers posed by explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), as demonstrated by measurable improvements between pre- and post-project survey results.

Outcome 1: Enhanced awareness of communities about the dangers of explosive remnants of war and IEDs.

A total of 23,267 individuals (7,405 women, 2,671 men, 6,805 girls, and 6,386 boys) directly benefited from Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) training, awareness sessions, and educational material distribution in Zummar and Ayadiya. The program trained 800 female Community Focal Points (CFPs) through 40 TOT sessions, equipping them with life-saving knowledge on explosive hazards, safe behaviors, and accident response. These trained CFPs conducted EORE sessions for 9,566 community members, while 12,901 individuals received educational materials to further reinforce safety awareness. The program achieved 100% of its EORE session target, successfully improving community knowledge on safe practices around explosive hazards, with 32% of beneficiaries being women, 12% men, 29% girls, and 27% boys.

Beyond direct engagement, 302,573 individuals indirectly benefited, including 47,830 reached through family networks of trained beneficiaries and session participants, and 204,238 viewers engaged via educational guidance videos on Facebook and Instagram. Additionally, 64,505 individuals indirectly benefited from distributed awareness materials. The project also established key institutional

4a. Overall Results (Impact and Outcomes) Achieved

partnerships, including coordination with the Women's Empowerment Department, Mosul Governorate officials, and the Department of Mine Action (DMA), ensuring long-term sustainability and integration of mine risk education into community safety strategies. The target for EORE session beneficiaries was fully achieved, exceeding expectations and significantly enhancing community safety and resilience in conflict-affected areas.

4b. New Resource Mobilization and Sustainability

a) New Resource mobilization of CSO partners: For CSOs where new resources/funding has been mobilized (as indicated in the Beneficiary Excel File), share 1-2 examples of CSOs who have mobilized new funding during the reporting period, describing how much they accessed, from where and how their grant with WPHF/Country office has contributed to securing more funding, if relevant.

b) Sustainability: Share a couple of examples and strategies used by CSOs to ensure the sustainability of their project's impact

N/A

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

Summarize the progress on OUTPUTS and key activities in narrative form by each project. Describe how these outputs were reached (or in progress) and explain if any variance in achieved versus planned results during the reporting period. Ensure all data is disaggregated if reporting on training, capacity building or other outputs. Please put organization names in the same order as Section 4a.

Please note that you DO NOT need to complete Annex A for the output level. For countries with 10 projects or more, you can consolidate the outputs by outcome area.

Impact Area 2 (Conflict Prevention): Increased meaningful participation and decision-making of women in conflict prevention processes and response.

Awan Organization For Awareness And Capability Development:

Output 1.1: Encouraging Local Governments to Support and Promote Women-Led Peace Initiatives

45 government representatives (32 women, 13 men) from Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, and Wasit participated in three workshops aimed at strengthening their capacities to integrate a gender perspective into local policies. Each workshop (three days long) brought together local government officials, Women's Affairs Departments, and peacebuilding stakeholders to develop gender-sensitive initiatives for conflict prevention and response, with a focus on practical policy implementation strategies, local decision-making mechanisms, and gender inclusion in peace efforts. As a result of these engagements, three key policy decisions were issued by Women's Affairs Departments to formally adopt a methodology for integrating women into conflict resolution and mediation processes, while Diwaniyah Governorate issued Decision No. 4386 to ensure the inclusion of 10 women in mediation committees under the National Peace Mediators Network. Additionally, two major feminist initiatives were formally recognized by the local government in Diwaniyah: the "Initiatives" team, dedicated to combating violence against women through support services, awareness campaigns, and intervention strategies; and the Women's Community Police Forum "Safety Without Borders," a government-approved initiative officially endorsed by the Minister of Interior and involving 20 women leaders from civil society and the security sector. The number of women participants exceeded expectations due to prioritization by Women's Empowerment Departments, highlighting the project's success in institutionalizing women's involvement in local peacebuilding efforts.

Output 1.2: Developing Methodologies and Local Standard Operating Procedures

To create sustainable, gender-sensitive approaches to conflict prevention, 90 stakeholders (52 women and 38 men) participated in nine focus group discussions across Diwaniyah, Wasit, and Dhi Qar, involving government representatives, CSO leaders, local peace activists, and gender experts to develop methodologies for integrating women's perspectives into standard conflict resolution processes. These focus groups examined local challenges, best practices, and case studies on women's roles in conflict transformation, resulting in a comprehensive methodology that was adopted by Women's Empowerment Departments in all three governorates as a guiding framework for local governments, civil society, and security actors. Additionally, one standard operating procedure (SOP) was officially issued, ensuring a systematic approach to integrating women into community-based peace and security efforts by outlining specific mechanisms for gender-sensitive mediation, leadership training, and local conflict response strategies.

Output 1.3: Creating Effective Communication Between Feminist Influencers and Local Communities

Nine dialogue forums were conducted in Diwaniyah, Wasit, and Dhi Qar, engaging 270 participants (137 women, 133 men) including feminist leaders, community influencers, academics, and local officials. These forums served as a platform for challenging traditional narratives and empowering women in peace processes through panel discussions, interactive debates, and group exercises. Participants exchanged experiences, case studies, and recommendations on enhancing women's leadership in mediation and security initiatives. As a direct outcome, nine feminist initiatives were developed by women trained under the project, focusing on raising awareness about women's roles in peacebuilding, engaging local communities in dialogue on conflict prevention, and strengthening women's leadership in community safety structures.

Output 1.4: Establish Capacity-Building Opportunities for Local Peace Committees

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

60 participants (36 men and 24 women) from local peace committees, community dialogue groups, and extremism prevention networks attended three intensive training workshops in Wasit, Dhi Qar, and Diwaniyah, focusing on leadership, negotiation, and mediation skills to strengthen their ability to intervene in local disputes, prevent violence, and foster community cohesion. Each session included real-world case studies, role-playing exercises, and expert-led modules, resulting in the establishment of two significant initiatives: the Youth Security Community Forum in Wasit, dedicated to expanding awareness of international peace resolutions and local implementation strategies, and the Women's Volunteer Team "Initiatives for Peace" in Diwaniyah, working to promote social cohesion, combat extremism, and provide peace education. A noted variance was the higher-than-expected male participation, largely reflecting the traditionally male-dominated structure of existing peace committees.

Output 1.5: Creating Effective Media That Highlights Women's Issues and Role in Conflict Prevention and Response

To reshape public narratives about women's roles in conflict prevention, 60 journalists (20 women, 40 men) participated in three media training workshops held in Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, and Wasit, focusing on gender-sensitive reporting, ethical storytelling, and media strategies to promote women's leadership in security efforts. Participants were trained to frame news stories in a way that highlights women's contributions to peace processes and avoids stereotypical portrayals. A key variance was the imbalance in participation, as media organizations nominated more men than women, leading to a lower-than-expected female turnout.

Output 1.6: Encourage Academic Research That Studies Women's Roles in Preventing Conflict on the Local Level, Especially in the Southern Areas of Iraq

3 academic research studies were successfully produced under the project, examining mechanisms for supporting women's roles in conflict prevention and resolution. These studies offer evidence-based insights on gender-sensitive peacebuilding approaches, include case studies of successful women-led mediation efforts in southern Iraq, and provide policy recommendations for integrating women into formal conflict resolution structures. Intended as long-term references for academics, policymakers, and practitioners working on women, peace, and security, these studies aim to inform and guide future initiatives in the field.

Empowerment organization for development and public services:

Output 1.1: Young Women and Adolescents' Girls Training on How to Lobby and Advocate with Major Stakeholders for the Full Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the National Action Plan (NAP) to Increase Participation in Conflict

6 Training of Trainers (TOT) sessions were conducted in Baghdad and Basrah to enhance the participation of young women and adolescent girls in conflict prevention, equipping 72 female participants (24 women, 48 girls) from secondary schools and universities with advocacy skills to support UNSCR 1325 and the National Action Plan (NAP). These sessions led to the establishment of six Feminist Peace Clubs—four in secondary schools and two in universities—through collaboration with local administrations, legal guardians, and online meetings with the Ministry of Education to secure necessary approvals. Each TOT graduate delivered one-day training to 20 peers, ultimately reaching 1,440 beneficiaries in Baghdad and Basrah, with a focus on strategic advocacy using SMART objectives. In addition, two workshops were held in Baghdad (September 19, 2024) and Basrah (October 26, 2024), bringing together 60 participants (56 women, 4 men)—double the initial target—to address barriers hindering young women's involvement in conflict prevention and to propose strategies for greater inclusivity. While challenges included bureaucratic delays, tribal resistance, and limited male participation, lessons learned underscored the value of early stakeholder engagement, virtual coordination with decision-makers, and blending theoretical knowledge with hands-on advocacy skills. Overall, the initiative not only met but exceeded its targets, creating a sustainable network of young women advocates, expanding outreach through peer-led trainings, and fostering critical dialogues around gender-inclusive conflict prevention at both institutional and community levels.

Output 1.2: Training on Conflict Prevention Provided to Young Women and Adolescents

4 online workshops were conducted in Baghdad and Basra to enhance conflict prevention capacities among young women and adolescents, covering topics such as violent extremism, conflict resolution, the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and effective lobbying strategies for engaging senior community stakeholders. A total of 51 female students participated (27 from Baghdad—10 women, 17 girls—and 24 from Basra—12 women, 12 girls), acquiring essential knowledge and practical tools to support peacebuilding and advocacy within their communities. While scheduling conflicts prevented the training from reaching its target of 72 participants, the workshops successfully laid the groundwork for increased engagement in feminist peace initiatives, providing participants with foundational skills in conflict prevention and advocacy. Continued efforts will aim to broaden participation in upcoming sessions and further strengthen young women's contributions to local peace processes.

Output 1.3: Advocacy and Dialogue Conducted with and by Feminist Peace Clubs

Feminist peace clubs continued their advocacy and dialogue efforts to promote the inclusion of young women in conflict prevention, hosting targeted workshops that engaged 48 community leaders (29 women and 19 men) to underscore the importance of gender-responsive conflict prevention strategies and highlight accountability gaps related to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the National Action Plan (NAP). In Baghdad (October 15, 2024), 25 participants (14 women and 11 men) discussed how inclusion can start within families and communities, while in Basra (October 27, 2024) 23 participants (15 women and 8 men) examined the historical legitimacy of women's leadership in conflict resolution, drawing from Islamic traditions. These discussions, facilitated by feminist peace

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

club members and EODPS staff, underscored societal perceptions that need to shift in order to fully accept and support women's roles in preventing and resolving conflicts, marking a valuable step toward fostering more inclusive dialogue and community-driven change.

Output 1.4: School-Based Intervention and Awareness to Promote Conflict Prevention

10 school-based interventions and awareness workshops were conducted in Baghdad and Basra to promote the inclusion of young women and adolescent girls in conflict prevention, guided by UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Iraq National Action Plan. These sessions were attended by 251 participants (129 girls, 122 boys) across four high schools and two universities, slightly under the target of 300 due to lower-than-anticipated youth participation in Baghdad. Key activities included workshops led by female high school Peace Club members and community stakeholders, covering gender-responsive peacebuilding strategies and practical insights on conflict prevention. Despite scheduling challenges, the interventions successfully equipped participants with foundational knowledge on conflict resolution and underscored the importance of integrating more young women into peace processes. Future efforts will aim to address scheduling constraints and broaden outreach to ensure higher participation rates.

Output 1.5: School-Based Digital Awareness Campaign Conducted

A comprehensive school-based digital awareness campaign was conducted across Baghdad and Basra to deepen understanding of conflict prevention and highlight young women's roles in peacebuilding, combining online training sessions, social media outreach, and community-led initiatives by six feminist peace clubs. Over six online training sessions, 619 participants (306 females, 313 males) gained skills in digital advocacy—surpassing the initial target of 600 (400 females, 200 males). Each feminist peace club received subgrants to organize workshops integrating UNSCR 1325, the Iraq National Action Plan (INAP), and conflict prevention strategies, collectively reaching 679 direct beneficiaries (182 women, 431 girls, 66 men). These workshops covered diverse themes, from responsible digital engagement and leadership to mental health support and artistic expression as a tool for awareness, all aimed at empowering participants—particularly adolescent girls and young women—to assume active roles in peace processes. By exceeding participant targets and offering a blend of virtual and on-site training, the campaign successfully reinforced the significance of conflict prevention and elevated young women's leadership in shaping community resilience.

Al-Khamayel Foundation for Human Development and Combating Violence against Women:

Output 1.1: Information on Conflict Prevention Provided to Iraqi Women

36 training workshops were successfully implemented—far surpassing the initial target—beginning with four sessions (two in Baghdad, two in Dhi Qar) that trained 80 women leaders in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Leveraging a training-of-trainers model, these women subsequently organized 32 more workshops, reaching 640 additional women (aged 18 and above) in both governorates, effectively achieving 900% of the original goal. Parallel to these workshops, 3,000 brochures on peaceful coexistence were produced and distributed—1,500 in Baghdad (900 to women, 600 to men) and 1,500 in Dhi Qar (800 to women, 700 to men)—through targeted field visits to homes, institutions, private sector workplaces, and civil society organizations. By focusing on a gender-inclusive approach and broad dissemination, the program not only exceeded its targets but also laid a strong foundation for sustainable capacity building, reinforcing women's leadership in peacebuilding and demonstrating the potential to expand this model to other regions in Iraq.

Output 1.2: Training Iraqi Women on Peaceful Coexistence and Conflict Resolution

The program successfully trained Iraqi women in leadership, peaceful coexistence, and conflict resolution, surpassing all initial expectations. Beginning with four one-day workshops in Baghdad and Dhi Qar, 80 women from government institutions, volunteer teams, and civil society organizations gained essential skills in conflict resolution strategies, leadership in peacemaking, and community cohesion. Through a Training-of-Trainers (ToT) model, these women went on to conduct 40 additional workshops, reaching 800 more women—bringing the total number trained to 880, significantly above the original target of 100 beneficiaries. This remarkable success highlights the program's scalability and sustainability, as it equipped participants to serve as peace ambassadors within their communities. Moving forward, formalizing the ToT model, expanding into additional governorates, and leveraging digital platforms could further amplify the program's impact. Conducting follow-up assessments would also offer valuable insights into how participants are applying these newfound skills to foster peace and resolve conflicts at the grassroots level.

Output 1.3: Training 80 Women to be Leaders in Society

4 intensive training workshops—two in Dhi Qar (February 29–March 1, 2024) and two in Baghdad (March 16–17, 2024, and April 16–17, 2024)—successfully trained 80 women (aged 18 and above) in leadership and conflict resolution, achieving the program's target. Each two-day workshop combined theoretical knowledge with practical exercises, including role-playing and strategic problem-solving, ensuring participants developed key leadership, decision-making, and mediation skills. By bringing together women from government institutions, volunteer teams, and civil society organizations, the initiative fostered a diverse network of emerging female leaders poised to play influential roles in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Moving forward, expanding these trainings to additional governorates, introducing mentorship opportunities with established women leaders, and integrating digital learning components could enhance program sustainability. Follow-up assessments would further illuminate how the participants are applying their leadership skills in real-world contexts, thereby amplifying their impact on social cohesion and community resilience.

Output 1.4: Creative and Artistic Activities Conducted Around Social Cohesion and Conflict Prevention

Four artistic and celebratory activities were held in Dhi Qar and Baghdad to showcase the experiences of women trained in leadership and conflict resolution, emphasizing their roles in peacebuilding and social cohesion. Across these events, 211 women received

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

participation certificates and shared personal success stories, discussed conflict prevention strategies, and engaged in creative expressions that highlighted the importance of female leadership. The celebrations, organized on December 17 (Baghdad), December 24 (Dhi Qar), and June 29–30 (Dhi Qar), provided a space for reflection on the practical application of newly acquired skills, fostering stronger community bonds and reinforcing the commitment to peaceful coexistence. Moving forward, exploring diverse artistic mediums—such as theater, visual arts, or multimedia storytelling—and documenting these events through video or social media could amplify women's voices and further extend the impact of conflict prevention initiatives.

Sabaa Center for Studies and Human Development:

Output 1.1: Women and Feminist Organizations Trained to Monitor Early Warning Indicators

6 three-day workshops were held across Nasiriyah, Diwaniyah, and Al-Muthanna to equip women, feminist organizations, and other community stakeholders with skills to monitor early warning indicators related to social cohesion and sectarian discourse. In total, 186 participants (126 women, 60 men) from 102 local organizations and 81 volunteer teams attended sessions in Diwaniyah (December 7–9, 2023, and February 17–19, 2024), Al-Muthanna (December 14–16, 2023, and March 7–9, 2024), and Dhi Qar (December 28–30, 2023, and February 1–3, 2024). Through practical tools and methodologies for tracking emerging threats, analyzing conflict escalation patterns, and proposing intervention strategies, participants' skills improved by 82% according to pre- and post-training assessments. Having met all planned activities, the initiative significantly enhanced local organizations' capacity to prevent conflict and promote peace. Future efforts could involve digital monitoring platforms, advanced training sessions, and a coordinated network of trained monitors to respond proactively to early warning signs in their communities.

Output 1.2: Women and Organizations Trained on Conflict Resolution, Negotiation, Networking, and Advocacy

6 training workshops were held in Nasiriyah, Diwaniyah, and Al-Muthanna, bringing together 92 participants (57 women, 35 men) from 76 organizations—including 44 volunteer teams and 32 civil society organizations—to develop skills in conflict resolution, negotiation, networking, advocacy, lobbying, and peacebuilding. Conducted between June 2 and July 5, 2024, each three-day session incorporated interactive exercises, case studies, group discussions, and role-playing simulations, enhancing participants' capacity to mitigate conflicts, counter extremism, and forge alliances for peace advocacy. Pre- and post-training assessments revealed a 75% increase in skills and knowledge, underscoring the effectiveness of the program in empowering women and organizations to take on leadership roles in peacebuilding initiatives. Moving forward, additional mentorship programs, digital training platforms, and advocacy coalitions could help sustain these achievements, while ongoing monitoring of practical application would refine future training approaches and measure long-term impacts.

Output 1.3: Launching a Long-Term Plan to Respond to Crises that Threaten Societal Peace

9 local meetings were organized in Nasiriyah, Diwaniyah, and Al-Muthanna, bringing together 90 participants (39 women, 51 men) from women's affairs offices, community police, dialogue committees, and local notables, to formulate a comprehensive crisis response plan addressing threats to societal peace. Each meeting focused on identifying tensions, coordinating support, and documenting risks, culminating in a long-term response plan approved by local governments and the High Committee for Coexistence and Community Peace. Held between January 31 and June 29, 2024, these sessions produced strategic recommendations—including peaceful dialogue programs, coordination mechanisms, and community-led interventions—thus enhancing local stakeholders' capacity to mitigate conflicts and foster social cohesion. Future efforts could introduce capacity-building for local responders, establish rapid response units, and integrate digital monitoring tools for early warning, with periodic reviews ensuring ongoing adaptability to emerging challenges.

Output 1.4: Promoting Dialogue for Local Communities on Increasing Women's Participation in Conflict Prevention

3 dialogue sessions in Nasiriyah, Diwaniyah, and Samawah brought together 90 participants (47 women, 43 men)—including societal influencers, decision-makers, and academics—to promote open discussions on women's roles in conflict prevention and to advocate for gender-inclusive peacebuilding. Held on April 26 (Dhi Qar), May 1 (Samawah), and May 4 (Diwaniyah), these sessions tackled stereotypes, emphasized the importance of female leadership in peace initiatives, and fostered collective solutions for integrating women into conflict resolution and mediation. By engaging both male and female stakeholders in balanced, constructive conversations, the initiative encouraged community-wide support for women's participation in peace processes. Building on this momentum, future efforts could feature continued dialogue forums, gender-sensitive training for local leaders, and targeted media campaigns, along with policy recommendations that embed women's roles in formal conflict prevention and advocacy frameworks.

Output 1.5: Community Dialogue and Coexistence Committees Trained and Empowered to Respond to Crises from a Gender Perspective

3 gender-sensitive peacebuilding workshops were conducted in Al-Muthanna, Diwaniyah, and Dhi Qar, training 60 government employees and institutional staff (24 women, 36 men) in conflict resolution, negotiation, community initiative leadership, and crisis response. Although originally intended for community dialogue and coexistence committees (later canceled by the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers), the program adapted by focusing on government employees, ensuring institutional response mechanisms continued to be strengthened from a gender-focused perspective. Implemented from July 31 to August 2 (Al-Muthanna), August 6 to 8 (Diwaniyah), and August 27 to 29 (Dhi Qar), the workshops used interactive discussions, scenario-based exercises, and strategy-building sessions to bolster participants' ability to prevent conflicts and manage crises. This successful implementation highlights the program's adaptability in response to institutional changes, while laying a foundation for additional capacity-building programs, mentorship initiatives, and cross-sector collaboration that could further elevate women's roles in peace and security efforts.

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

Output 1.6: Effective Media in Conveying Messages to Society Regarding Women's Roles in Conflict Management

9 radio episodes were broadcast in Dhi Qar, Al-Muthanna, and Diwaniyah to amplify women's voices in peacebuilding, conflict management, and security efforts. Featuring guest speakers from academia, activism, journalism, and government, each episode focused on one of three themes—women's roles in conflict prevention, participation in security institutions, and building peace. Spanning June 19 to August 8, 2024, and aired on Al-Ahwar Radio, Al-Amal Radio, and Diwaniyah Radio, these episodes reached a broad audience and ignited discussions that challenged stereotypes and underscored women's importance in preventing violence and fostering security. By leveraging prominent community figures and experts, the initiative fostered dialogue on gender-sensitive narratives in peacebuilding. Looking ahead, expanding into podcasts, interactive social media, and television, along with partnering with media outlets to adopt gender-inclusive reporting, could further institutionalize and broaden the impact of these efforts.

Output 1.7: A Feminist Gathering to Promote Peace and Conflict Management

3 feminist initiatives were established in Diwaniyah, Samawah, and Dhi Qar, bringing together 31 active women leaders to unify women's voices in peacebuilding, enhance collective action, and lead community-driven initiatives. Operating in coordination with committees, networks, and national alliances focused on UNSCR 1325, these groups reinforce women's engagement in peace processes, conflict resolution, and decision-making. Each initiative fosters leadership and advocacy to address societal challenges, undertaking peaceful activities, mutual visits, and awareness campaigns to promote coexistence, tolerance, and resilience against extremism. Moreover, they serve as platforms for direct representation in both formal and informal negotiation forums, ensuring women's perspectives are integrated into peace initiatives and policymaking. Formed through official governorate letters (No. 22841 in Diwaniyah on August 28, 2024, No. 8264 in Dhi Qar on August 27, 2024, and No. 10 in Samawah on August 29, 2024), these feminist groups will continue collaborating with local Women's Affairs Departments to expand women's participation in conflict prevention, strengthen grassroots advocacy, and advance policy reforms supporting gender-sensitive peace and security. Future efforts may include capacity-building programs, national networking, digital collaboration platforms, and ongoing monitoring to gather insights on the effectiveness of women-led peace interventions, informing further policy recommendations.

Women Rights Center in Samawa:

Output 1.1: Creating Four Forums for Community Feminist Mediation

4 community feminist mediation forums—each with 20 influential women—were launched in Al-Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Wasit, and Diwaniyah, engaging a total of 80 women aged 18 and above to strengthen their roles in conflict resolution, mediation, and peacebuilding. Twelve meetings, divided into three phases, led to the successful establishment of these forums: defining objectives and member responsibilities (Meetings 1–4), developing action plans and partnerships (Meetings 5–8), and enhancing mediation skills while preparing for official launches (Meetings 9–12). Concluding in December 2023, these structured sessions ensured that each forum is well-equipped to facilitate dialogue, mediate local disputes, and advocate for women's inclusion in peace processes. Moving forward, collaboration with governmental institutions and civil society organizations, alongside digital platforms and specialized training programs, could reinforce these forums' sustainability and effectiveness in promoting social cohesion and gender-sensitive conflict resolution.

Output 1.2: 80 Women Trained on Negotiation and Conflict Response

4 workshops in Muthanna, Wasit, Diwaniyah, and Dhi Qar successfully trained 80 women leaders (20 per workshop) in negotiation, conflict response, leadership, and community mediation, providing a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical exercises to strengthen their roles in local peacebuilding. Held between December 2023 and February 2024, these sessions equipped participants—aged 18 and above—with effective communication strategies, negotiation techniques, and advocacy skills to mediate conflicts and foster community stability. By completing all planned trainings, the program has empowered these women to serve as key actors in bridging divides, leading dialogues, and contributing to decision-making processes. Looking ahead, advanced training modules, mentorship with seasoned mediators, and digital tools for conflict tracking could bolster the sustainability and reach of this initiative, while networking among trained women would further consolidate collaboration and knowledge exchange in peace and security efforts.

Output 1.3: Enriching Community Dialogue on Women's Issues and Their Participation in Preventing Conflicts

12 discussion sessions were conducted across Muthanna, Diwaniyah, Dhi Qar, and Wasit, involving 240 participants (234 women, 6 girls) to promote dialogue on mediation, conflict resolution, and women's leadership in peacebuilding. Facilitated by trained women from previously established community mediation forums, these sessions emphasized understanding conflict dynamics, exploring mediation strategies, and cultivating partnerships between governmental and non-governmental bodies. Held between May 31 and July 20, 2024, the discussions included interactive exercises, knowledge-sharing, and recommendations to strengthen future peacebuilding efforts. By fostering a safe environment for experience-sharing and capacity-building, the initiative empowered women to take active roles in mediation processes and community-level decision-making. Looking ahead, further measures could include creating regional and national women's forums, establishing mentorship programs for young female mediators, and utilizing digital platforms to sustain dialogue. Additionally, documenting best practices and success stories can help advocate for stronger institutional support of women's roles in conflict prevention and resolution.

Output 1.4: Developing and Writing Methodology for Monitoring and Evaluation Processes

6 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were held in Muthanna, Wasit, Diwaniyah, and Dhi Qar, engaging 120 participants (101 women, 19 men) to develop localized monitoring and evaluation methodologies that align with INAP 2 indicators on women's participation in conflict

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

management and prevention. These discussions, conducted between March 9 and March 31, 2024, focused on creating structured frameworks to assess women's leadership in peace initiatives, conflict resolution, and decision-making processes. As a direct outcome, four methodologies were produced—one for each governorate—offering practical tools for tracking progress, evaluating program impacts, and ensuring accountability. By strengthening local capacity in data collection, analysis, and reporting, the initiative lays a foundation for gender-sensitive peacebuilding. Future steps may include digitizing monitoring tools, integrating real-time data systems, and training stakeholders on advanced evaluation techniques, as well as forming collaborative networks to enhance sustainability and effectiveness at both local and national levels.

Output 1.5: Capacity Building for 120 Organizations on Negotiation and Conflict Resolution

4 training workshops—each hosting 30 participants—were held in Diwaniyah, Wasit, Muthanna, and Dhi Qar, successfully equipping 120 representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs) and youth groups (60 women, 60 men) with essential skills in negotiation, conflict resolution, and community-based peacebuilding. Conducted between August 4 and September 21, 2024, the sessions offered in-depth learning across three days, addressing conflict concepts, root causes in Iraq, strategies for conflict management, stakeholder engagement, and practical negotiation exercises. By completing these workshops, the program has bolstered local capacities to manage disputes, prevent violence, and foster peace at the grassroots level. Looking ahead, follow-up mentorship, advanced negotiation training, and the creation of conflict response networks could sustain these gains, while digital learning platforms and community-based monitoring systems may further support the real-world application of newly acquired skills.

Impact Area 6 (Forced Displacement): Improved socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and girls in peacebuilding contexts.

Al Hub Wa Al Salam Iraqi Globally Organization:

Output 1.1: Increasing Women's Cultural and Social Awareness to Support Peace and Stability

12 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted in Diyala, Fallujah, Heet, and Qaim, engaging 144 female participants (143 women and 1 girl) to enhance cultural and social awareness on gender inequality, economic development, labor market status, and economic violence. Participants also explored the legal aspects of women's rights, acquiring a deeper understanding of their roles in fostering peace and stability. Held between October 8 and October 19, 2023, these sessions recorded a high turnout of young women (18–36 years, 65% of participants) due to their active involvement in NGOs and community initiatives, whereas older women (37–46 years, 25% of participants) faced household responsibilities that limited availability. Smaller groups—7% aged 47–60 and 3% either under 18 or over 60—ensured some representation from senior and younger voices.

The FGDs were made possible through continuous coordination with security committees, government entities, the Women's Empowerment Department, tribal leaders, and other NGOs, ensuring permits, administrative support, and community-level engagement. By significantly increasing awareness of women's rights, economic challenges, and conflict prevention strategies, these discussions forged a foundation for collaboration among local women, civil society, and government institutions. Moving forward, expanding the initiative through interactive workshops, mentorship programs, and digital awareness campaigns could bolster women's role in peacebuilding, ultimately contributing to greater stability and social cohesion.

Output 1.2: Providing Training Opportunities for Women Leaders on Leadership, Governance, and Early Warning

20 training sessions, each hosting 20 participants, were conducted in Diyala, Heet, Fallujah, and Qaim, successfully equipping 400 women (aged 18 and above) with leadership, governance, negotiation, and early warning skills. Of these participants, 395 were newly engaged while five returned from previous program activities. Training topics spanned from women's leadership and constructive communication to crisis response—including epidemic recovery and electronic blackmail prevention—aiming to enhance women's involvement in decision-making and bolster their access to local governance structures. Participant demographics showed strong representation of young women (63.5% aged 18–36), alongside notable engagement from older age groups.

In parallel, 8 discussion workshops in the four governorates convened 97 participants (26 women, 71 men) to address the needs of displaced women, mitigate forced displacement, and identify root causes of community instability. Additionally, ILP Organization accepted 40 women for vocational training (9 from Fallujah, 13 from Qaim, 18 from Diyala), reflecting the program's ongoing support for vulnerable women. Collectively, these activities have strengthened women's capacity to prevent and respond to conflicts, assume leadership roles, and engage in policy dialogues. Future steps may involve mentorship initiatives, digital leadership training, and broader inclusion of trained women in local and national policymaking, supplemented by expanded vocational programs to ensure sustained impact.

Output 2.1: Organizing and Providing Practical Vocational Training

The program successfully established coordination with approximately 10% of the key authorities in targeted areas to facilitate practical vocational training for women affected by forced displacement. These coordination efforts proved essential for effective resource allocation, institutional backing, and the overall implementation of training initiatives. Core activities included engagement with the Organizations Affairs Department—ensuring regular communication and joint coordination mechanisms—and collaboration with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) to align with national employment policies, skills development frameworks, and broader economic empowerment strategies. Additional coordination efforts tied into the larger engagement activities outlined under Output 1.1, reinforcing partnerships with local government entities, security committees, women's empowerment departments, and civil society organizations.

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

By securing the involvement of 10% of relevant authorities, the program established a robust foundation for long-term vocational training and employment opportunities for displaced women. Looking ahead, further expansion of these efforts may involve strengthening partnerships with private sector employers to boost job placement, forging agreements with technical training institutes for certified skill-building, and developing a monitoring framework to evaluate the enduring effects of vocational training on women's economic resilience and market integration. This collaborative approach ensures that vocational training initiatives remain sustainable, impactful, and closely aligned with national economic recovery objectives—ultimately empowering women to secure stable livelihoods and contribute to their communities.

Output 2.2: Increasing Knowledge and Skills of Vulnerable Women

4 vocational training programs were implemented across Fallujah, Heet, Qaim, and Diyala, reaching 384 women and equipping them with essential livelihood skills in sewing, sweets and pastries, agriculture, food processing, and poultry farming. Based on a pre-training assessment, the sessions were tailored to local needs and participant interests, aiming to enhance women's economic opportunities and employment prospects. Conducted in April 2024, the trainings included two sessions in Fallujah (77 women), four in Heet (94 women), four in Qaim (104 women), and two in Diyala (109 women).

Despite targeting employment for 75 of the 400 intended trainees (18.75%), logistical challenges, dropouts, and shifting pathways led to 60 women (60% of the employment target) securing new jobs—33% aged 18–36 and 27% aged 37–50. None of the participants aged 51–65 obtained employment, as they did not meet the selection criteria for start-up toolkits or job placement. Factors contributing to this shortfall included transportation barriers for rural participants, scheduling conflicts, and a reallocation of 125 trainees to receive small-business start-up toolkits under Output 2.3. Of these 125 women, 74 were aged 18–36, and 51 were 37–50. Moving forward, the program can build on these accomplishments by providing transportation stipends, offering more flexible training schedules, expanding partnerships for job placement, and offering financial literacy and mentoring for women entrepreneurs. Despite the challenges, the initiative strengthened women's vocational skills and economic resilience, setting a foundation for sustained income generation and financial independence.

Output 2.3: Enhancing Job Opportunities Through Acquired Experience

A total of 125 women received start-up toolkits to launch or improve their small businesses, bolstering economic recovery for those affected by forced displacement and equipping them with essential resources for self-sufficiency. The selection process—overseen by the MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning) team—included pre- and post-training assessments, participant feedback collection, and thorough data analysis, ensuring that individuals with disabilities, specific marital statuses, and strong attendance records during vocational training (Output 2.2) were prioritized. Among the 125 beneficiaries, 100 established new enterprises while 25 expanded existing ones, resulting in a distribution of 74 women aged 18–36 (59.2%) and 51 women aged 37–50 (40.8%). Post-distribution monitoring revealed high levels of satisfaction with the materials, transparency in the selection process, and confidence in sustaining the newly established or improved businesses, reflecting the program's overall effectiveness in broadening employment prospects.

To reinforce and scale these gains, future steps could include providing additional financial literacy and business management support, initiating mentorship programs that connect novice entrepreneurs with experienced counterparts, and facilitating microfinance or grant opportunities. Networking platforms would also enable women entrepreneurs to share experiences, market products, and expand their reach, thereby strengthening economic resilience at both individual and community levels. Through these measures, the program has made a significant contribution to women's economic empowerment, enabling them to break cycles of dependency and establish sustainable livelihoods.

Output 2.4: Building Partner Capacity in Project Management, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Monitoring & Evaluation Systems

6 structured capacity-building sessions were conducted to strengthen the co-implementing partner Halla Center NGO, enhancing the skills of 26 participants (16 women, 10 men) aged 18 and above in project management, financial reporting, procurement, and M&E systems. As a result, Halla Center established key organizational policies—covering finances, codes of conduct, procurement, case management, and feedback mechanisms—ensuring greater transparency, professionalism, and service delivery efficiency. These trainings, held between November 2023 and January 2024, involved both Halla Center and ILP staff, with a focus on ethical guidelines, financial accountability, client-centered approaches, and structured reporting. By developing essential policies and strengthening operational competencies, Halla Center is now better equipped to manage resources, adhere to donor requirements, and uphold ethical standards. Looking ahead, advanced financial management support, digital capacity-building, ongoing mentorship, and regular joint evaluations could further sustain and expand Halla Center's newly enhanced capacity, ensuring accountability, transparency, and a lasting impact in future project implementation.

Iraqi Organization for Women and Future (IOWAF):

Output 1.1: Training Opportunities for Service Providers Supporting Forcibly Displaced Women and Combating Violent Extremism

A three-day capacity-building workshop, "Capacity Building of Service Providers in IOWAF's Centers," was conducted in Baghdad (October 28–30, 2023), bringing together 23 participants (17 women, 6 men)—surpassing the initial target of 15. Focused on empowering service providers who work with forcibly displaced women and girls, the sessions addressed the mechanisms of Resolution 1325, challenges faced by displaced communities, the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan, and the Women's Fund for Peace and Humanitarian Work. Participants also learned about sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention and survivor-centered support, as well as the adoption of gender-sensitive policies within crisis response and humanitarian efforts.

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

Through interactive discussions and practical exercises, the training enhanced participants' capacity to integrate gender-sensitive approaches into their daily work, thereby strengthening the support system for forcibly displaced women and girls. To sustain and extend these gains, the program envisions follow-up trainings, the development of resource guides, and the creation of a network of trained service providers to foster ongoing knowledge-sharing. Additionally, introducing digital learning platforms would broaden accessibility, ensuring that more frontline workers can benefit from these best practices in women's empowerment and protection mechanisms.

Output 1.2 A: Specialized Legal, Psychosocial, and Social Services Provided for Vulnerable Groups Impacted by Forced Displacement and Conflict-Related Violence

A total of 776 forcibly displaced women in Anbar and Baghdad received specialized legal and psychosocial (PSS) services through IOWAF Centers in Ramadi (Anbar Governorate) and Baghdad, surpassing the original target of 700. Delivered over four quarters, these interventions included legal support—assisting with documentation and justice-related issues—and psychosocial services focusing on mental health and emotional well-being. Beneficiaries came from various districts, such as Al-Tash, Al-Humaira, Yusufiyah, and Sadr City, ensuring wide geographic coverage. By exceeding the target and addressing the specific needs of women affected by conflict and displacement, the program not only enhanced access to critical legal and PSS support but also contributed to the broader protection, empowerment, and resilience of women in conflict-affected communities.

Output 1.2 B: Enhancing the Gender Perspective to Achieve the Prevention Pillar and Extract Accurate Statistics on the Economic, Health, Educational, and Social Impacts of Violence.

A comprehensive research study on the economic impact of gender-based violence (GBV) in Iraq was successfully completed and launched, surpassing set targets and strengthening the foundation for gender-focused policies and interventions. Led by the Iraqi Organization for Women and Future (IOWAF) in partnership with the Iraqi Ministry of Planning, the study adopted a six-stage process—from field research and data collection to public release—culminating in a high-level press conference on June 29, 2024. This milestone event welcomed 110 participants (96 women, 14 men), including representatives from academia, ministries, the Supreme Judicial Council, civil society, and international organizations such as UN Women.

Key Achievements

- **Research Participation:** Fifty female and male participants contributed to the project through interviews, workshops, and policy discussions, meeting the initial target.
- **Focused Discussion Workshops:** Two sessions (February 10–11, 2024) at The Station Hall, Baghdad, engaged 20 participants (16 women, 4 men). Expert contributions were provided by the Supreme Judicial Council, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Planning.
- **Research Study Issued:** The final report, incorporating both field and desk research (26 field visits, 20 reference papers reviewed), quantified GBV's economic impact, offering evidence-based policy recommendations.
- **Wide Stakeholder Engagement:** Policy experts, academics, and government officials actively participated, enhancing the study's credibility and ensuring its alignment with Iraq's Second National Plan for Resolution 1325, the UN SDGs, and national development plans (2023–2028).

Policy Recommendations

1. **Increased Budget Allocation for Combating GBV** – Allocating government resources to shelters, legal aid, and psychological support units.
2. **Expanded Healthcare Spending** – Establishing specialized centers for GBV survivors and raising per capita health funding.
3. **Strengthened Social Protection** – Providing financial aid to economically vulnerable families to prevent violence driven by poverty or unemployment.
4. **Education & Awareness Campaigns** – Promoting GBV prevention through public seminars and improved education for women and girls.
5. **Government-Funded Legal & Medical Support** – Covering legal and medical expenses for survivors of severe violence.
6. **Comprehensive Economic Cost Assessments** – Utilizing surveys and criminal records to track GBV's financial burden.
7. **Legislative Reforms** – Amending gaps in GBV laws and ensuring robust law enforcement against perpetrators.

Next Steps

- **Expanded Research & Data Collection:** Conduct regular studies, establish a national GBV database, and continue leveraging field visits and expert contributions.
- **Government & Donor Engagement:** Advocate for sustained investment, build partnerships with UN agencies, and strengthen donor relations.
- **Public Awareness & Media Outreach:** Launch national campaigns, involve both traditional and digital media, and integrate GBV-focused content into educational curricula.
- **Monitoring Policy Implementation:** Track the adoption of recommendations, assess progress, and ensure accountability through periodic reviews.

By successfully issuing a data-driven research study and engaging policymakers, civil society, and the broader public, this initiative has significantly advanced gender-focused discourse in Iraq. Its detailed findings and actionable recommendations serve as a roadmap for reducing GBV's economic toll and supporting the empowerment and protection of women and girls across the country.

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

Output 1.3: Dialogue Sessions on the Insecurity of Women Human Rights Defenders and Forcibly Displaced Women and Girls Conducted with Various Stakeholders

3 dialogue sessions focusing on the insecurity of female activists, human rights defenders, and forcibly displaced women and girls were successfully conducted in Anbar under the direct supervision of the Women Empowerment Department, surpassing the initial participant target of 20 by engaging 60 individuals (45 women, 15 men). Discussions centered on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, challenges faced by displaced communities, and the Second National Plan for Women's Rights, with each session providing a safe space for activists, lawyers, and media figures to share perspectives on protecting women human rights defenders (WHRDs) and promoting their political participation. These sessions (held on December 10, 2023; January 9, 2024; and January 17, 2024) effectively addressed displacement-related discrimination, built momentum for policy change, and strengthened networks among civil society, ensuring broader community awareness of critical issues impacting women's safety and rights.

Output 2.1: The Vocational Program is Provided to Support Economic Opportunities for Forcibly Displaced Women and Young Women

12 vocational training sessions were conducted in Baghdad and Anbar, meeting the target of 12 (6 in each governorate) to support economic empowerment for forcibly displaced women and young girls. In Baghdad, 20 girls (under 18) received computer literacy training—covering MS Office, digital safety, and stress management—enhancing their readiness for future education and employment. In Anbar, 20 women (over 18) participated in handicrafts and artwork training, focusing on weaving, embroidery, and entrepreneurship, ultimately strengthening their creativity and market access. A labor market guideline was also produced to help displaced women in Anbar navigate employment opportunities. Building on this success, the program recommends expanding training courses (e.g., tailoring, culinary arts), strengthening links with employers, and providing digital marketing skills alongside mentorship and microfinancing options to ensure long-term economic empowerment for displaced women and girls.

Output 2.2: Cash-for-Work Program Established for Improved Livelihood Opportunities

75 females (55 women, 20 girls) in Anbar and Baghdad received one-time Cash-for-Work (CFW) assistance of \$300 each, enabling them to invest in various income-generating activities. Women focused on handmade crafts, sewing and tailoring, and cooking and catering, while girls utilized the support to purchase laptops for research, education, and self-development. By providing essential tools, materials, and digital resources, the initiative empowered participants to start or expand small businesses, enhancing their financial independence. Looking ahead, scaling up the CFW program with additional mentorship, training, and market linkages could further strengthen women's entrepreneurship and sustainability, while follow-up assessments will ensure long-term impact on beneficiaries' income and livelihoods.

Output 2.3: Community Awareness Sessions Conducted on Exploitation, Trafficking, and Other Harmful Practices for the Protection of Forcibly Displaced Women and Girls

A community awareness session on exploitation, human trafficking, and protection mechanisms was conducted at Amiriyat al-Fallujah camp (July 6, 2024) with 110 female participants (106 women, 4 girls), surpassing the initial target of 90 girls. The session addressed forced labor, sexual exploitation, organ trafficking, risk identification, and access to legal frameworks and victim support services. In addition, a school bag and stationery distribution event (July 27, 2024) originally planned for Amiriyat al-Fallujah camp was expanded to include Habbaniyah and 7 Kilo camps, benefiting 90 displaced and returning children (51 girls, 39 boys). This initiative ensured that women and girls gained awareness on trafficking risks and reporting mechanisms, while children across three camps received essential educational supplies to support their continued learning.

Output 2.4: Awareness Sessions in Secondary Schools for IDP Youth Provided, Focused on Violence, Underage Marriage, and Other Harmful Practices

3 awareness sessions were held at secondary schools in Baghdad (Al-Rabab in Al-Sadr City, Al-Huda in Tarmiya, and Al-Istiklal in Hay Tunis), engaging 90 displaced female students (all under 18) to address issues of underage marriage, school dropout, electronic extortion, and drug prevention, while also discussing coping strategies for psychosocial challenges. Each session lasted three hours and achieved full participant engagement, surpassing the initial target of 65% awareness by reaching 100% of the students on the covered topics. Additionally, 90 school bags with stationery were distributed—30 in each school—to ensure that displaced girls had the necessary supplies to continue their education. This initiative both enhanced students' understanding of the risks associated with forced displacement and fostered greater resilience and commitment to staying in school.

Output 2.5: Health Awareness Sessions Conducted for Forcibly Displaced Women and Girls

6 health awareness sessions were conducted in Ameraita Al-Fallujah, Al-Habaneya camps, and Kilo 7 complex, reaching 133 IDP women (above 18)—exceeding the target of 120 (40 per camp)—to enhance knowledge on infection prevention, vaccinations, and common diseases such as breast cancer, uterine cancer, and HIV. Implemented between May 26 and June 13, 2024, these sessions focused on topics including self-examination techniques, reproductive health, COVID-19 measures, general hygiene in overcrowded conditions, and nutrition and psychological well-being, with each camp hosting two sessions. By emphasizing early detection, proper hygiene, and vaccination importance, the initiative empowered displaced women to better protect their families and themselves, providing life-saving health information and distributing educational leaflets. To build on these efforts, future interventions could expand health awareness campaigns to other camps, facilitate medical screenings and vaccination drives, and establish peer-led programs for ongoing education.

KANZ Humanitarian Organization:

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

Output 1.1: Business and Entrepreneurship Training Provided to IDP Women

10 KAB (Know About Business) training sessions—each five days long—were delivered in three phases from October 14, 2023, to May 23, 2024, at the Khanaqin Training Facility in Diyala, equipping 200 women (100 returnees, 50 IDPs, 50 from host communities) with essential entrepreneurship and business skills. The sessions covered key topics such as life skills, supply-and-demand dynamics, financial management, marketing strategies, and self-development, enabling participants to start and manage sustainable enterprises. As part of the program, a special celebration on International Women's Day (March 8, 2024) drew 30 attendees (26 women, 4 men), including 13 graduates from previous trainings, fostering networking, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing. By completing all 10 planned sessions, the initiative successfully met its target and significantly enhanced economic opportunities for displaced and host community women, supporting their journey toward financial independence and business growth in post-conflict areas.

Output 1.2: Business Coaching Provided to IDP Women to Start Small-Scale Businesses

100 women (50 returnees, 25 IDPs, 25 from the host community) were selected through a structured process following the KAB training to receive \$500 grants and tailored business coaching, culminating on June 9, 2024. This support encompassed developing business plans, advising on operations and finance, facilitating networking, guiding marketing and branding, and introducing social media platforms for promotion. As a result, 98% of the participants successfully launched home-based businesses—demonstrating significant economic empowerment—while the remaining 2% faced social and logistical barriers. Kanz Organization will continue to provide follow-up support and customized coaching to overcome these challenges, strengthening women's economic resilience and fostering community development.

Sewan Women's Empowerment Organization:

Output 1.1: Capacities for peace and leadership skills of displaced girls and women groups in Ninewa & Kirkuk are developed to engage in community reconciliation, process design and implementation & in decision-making.

160 displaced girls and women (120 women, 40 girls) from Ninewa and Kirkuk were organized into eight groups (four in each governorate) and successfully trained in peacebuilding, leadership, and initiative design between August 18 and September 12, 2024. The five-day training sessions focused on community-driven initiative development, leadership and teamwork, conflict analysis and mediation, gender-based approaches to countering violent extremism, and the importance of women's political participation and decision-making. Under the close coordination of the Ninewa Women Empowerment Department and trainers, all 160 participants completed the program, enhancing their capacity to engage in community reconciliation and governance. By equipping these displaced women and girls with essential skills, the initiative fostered greater involvement in local peace processes and laid a strong foundation for ongoing collaboration with local stakeholders.

Output 2.1: Technical assistance provided to women's groups to design and implement community-based initiatives to strengthen peacebuilding and co-existence.

A total of 40 community-based peacebuilding initiatives were submitted by women's groups, with 20 selected for technical assistance and voucher grants under this program. Technical support focused on effective design, planning, and execution, equipping participants with the skills to foster coexistence in displacement-affected areas. Grant distribution is scheduled to begin on October 15, 2024, and the technical assistance team will provide ongoing guidance on project planning, community engagement, and impact assessment. Through these initiatives, 20 women's groups will lead local peacebuilding efforts, gain practical experience in project implementation, and strengthen their leadership skills, ultimately contributing to social cohesion and reconciliation within their communities.

Output 2.2: Two networks established between displaced girls & women groups, local peace committees at sub-national level

The program is in the preparatory phase for establishing two networks that will bring together displaced girls and women's groups with local peace committees in Nineveh and Kirkuk governorates. These networks aim to foster social cohesion, facilitate dialogue, and enhance women's participation in peacebuilding initiatives at the sub-national level.

Network Formation and Preparations

- Women's groups in Nineveh and Kirkuk are being united under structured networks.
- A permanent committee for dialogue and experience-sharing is being established in each governorate.
- The first consultative session among team leaders is scheduled for mid-November 2024 to finalize the framework and operational structure of the networks.

Expected Impact

- Enhanced collaboration between displaced women's groups and local peace committees, strengthening grassroots-led reconciliation efforts.
- Structured dialogue mechanisms to amplify women's voices in decision-making processes related to peacebuilding and social cohesion.
- Capacity-building opportunities for women in conflict resolution, negotiation, and community leadership.
- Continuous technical support and mentorship to ensure sustainability and long-term impact of the networks.

This initiative is a significant step toward institutionalizing women's participation in local peace processes, ensuring that women's voices are central to reconciliation, stability, and community resilience-building efforts.

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

Output 2.3: Part of displaced girls and women groups selected in each governorate to become a trainee at local authorities, provincial councils, government constituencies level.

Activities will take place in 2025

Women Leadership Institute (WLI):

Output 1.1: 120 IDP women in Kirkuk are trained on basic steps to start and run a small business.

120 IDP women in Kirkuk were trained on business management, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy through six structured training sessions. The sessions, conducted at the WLI Safe Space Center, focused on equipping women with the knowledge needed to start and sustain small businesses while enhancing their understanding of labor laws and market access.

The training was delivered in six groups, each consisting of 20 women above the age of 18. Each session lasted three weeks and covered key topics such as business development, financial planning, marketing strategies, and compliance with Iraqi labor laws. Coaching and mentorship sessions were provided post-training, offering one-on-one guidance to help participants refine business plans, tackle operational challenges, and build resilience in decision-making.

Six WhatsApp support groups were established to facilitate continued networking and collaboration. The training also addressed financial barriers, offering guidance on micro-finance options, government support programs, and digital marketing strategies for business growth.

Government and UN coordination efforts strengthened economic opportunities for trained women. Engagements with the Kirkuk Governorate, MOLSA, and the Chamber of Commerce facilitated employment opportunities, business registration, and access to financial aid.

Key Achievements:

- 120 IDP women trained on business management and entrepreneurship.
- 98% of participants reported increased confidence in launching businesses.
- Practical coaching sessions enhanced financial literacy and business planning.
- Legal awareness of Iraqi labor laws improved among participants.

This initiative has strengthened the economic resilience of IDP women in Kirkuk, equipping them with skills and resources to build sustainable livelihoods and contribute to their communities.

Output 1.2: Provide 120 IDP women trainees in Kirkuk with opportunities for free PSS and legal support services

1,103 women and girls received psychosocial support (PSS) and legal assistance through the program, surpassing the initial target of 120 IDP women trainees. Among the beneficiaries, 770 were IDP women and girls, 333 were from the host community, and six had physical disabilities. Services were provided at the Safe Space Center in Kirkuk, ensuring a safe and confidential environment for displaced women facing legal and psychological challenges.

Breakdown of Services Provided:

- **IDP Women and Girls:** 422 received PSS only, 228 received both PSS and legal support, and 120 IDP trainees from Output 1.1 also benefited from legal and psychosocial assistance.
- **Host Community Women:** 237 received PSS only, while 96 accessed both PSS and legal aid.
- **Referral Services:** Complex legal cases were referred to external organizations, including Save the Children and PANA Organization, for further legal representation.

Quarterly Activities and Awareness Campaigns:

- **Quarter 1:** Initial awareness sessions covered legal rights, labor laws, and psychological well-being. Sessions included discussions on arbitrary divorce, workplace protections, and stress management.
- **Quarter 2:** Legal training on Iraqi labor laws and mental health awareness campaigns were conducted. A survivor documentation system was introduced to track legal cases and ensure follow-up support.
- **Community Engagement:**
 - **Breast Cancer Awareness Sessions** were held for women at the center.
 - **"Our Steps for a Green Future" Initiative** engaged 23 women in environmental sustainability activities, transforming the Safe Space Center's garden into a green space.
 - **16 Days of Activism Dialogue Session** gathered 53 participants, including 19 IDP women, to discuss economic empowerment and combat gender-based violence.
 - Short films were produced to highlight success stories of women from the program.
- **Quarter 3:** Focus group sessions enhanced self-development, resilience, and positive thinking. A youth peacebuilding session engaged 25 boys (ages 13–16) in discussions on gender roles, education, and conflict resolution.
- **Quarter 4:** A high-level visit to the Safe Space Center featured discussions on financial access for displaced women, leading to government commitments for improved microfinance and policy reforms.

Key Coordination and Economic Empowerment Efforts:

- Meetings with Government and UN Agencies:
 - July 10, 2024 – Baghdad Meeting: Discussions on loan eligibility for IDP women.
 - July 10, 2024 – Kirkuk Meeting: Focused on business registration and financial accessibility.

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

- Five Awareness Sessions (July 16–24, 2024): 125 women (75 IDPs, 50 host community) were trained on loan processes, financial planning, and social security benefits.

Key Achievements:

- 1,103 women and girls received legal and psychosocial support, surpassing targets.
- Women improved legal awareness on labor rights, social security, and divorce laws.
- Youth engagement initiatives promoted peacebuilding and gender inclusion.
- Stronger collaboration with government stakeholders enhanced economic opportunities.
- Safe Space Center sustained as a hub for women's empowerment and legal protection.

This initiative has significantly strengthened the legal, psychological, and economic resilience of displaced women in Kirkuk, equipping them with the skills and support needed to assert their rights and contribute to community stability.

Output 1.3: IDP women and service providers discuss issues of interest, develop a common understanding, and reach decisions collectively (IDP women's voices heard)

5 structured dialogue sessions were conducted to empower displaced women by amplifying their voices and ensuring their concerns were addressed by decision-makers and service providers. These sessions facilitated discussions between IDP women, government representatives, and civil society stakeholders on economic challenges, legal barriers, and access to financial and social services.

Key Objectives of the Dialogue Sessions:

- Identify obstacles preventing IDP women from accessing economic and financial resources.
- Engage decision-makers in discussions on policy reforms and procedural changes.
- Strengthen collaboration between stakeholders to create sustainable economic opportunities.
-

Key Issues Discussed:

1. **Access to Funding and Business Opportunities:** IDP women faced difficulties securing financial assistance due to limited government grants, microfinance options, and economic recovery support networks.
2. **Challenges in Accessing Social Welfare:** Bureaucratic hurdles and delays in processing welfare applications prevented many women from receiving government support.
3. **Health Service Approvals for Food Projects:** Complex and time-consuming regulatory requirements hindered women from establishing legitimate food-related businesses.

Dialogue Sessions Overview:

Initial Sessions – November 2023

- **Dates:** November 27 & 29, 2023
- **Participants:** 20 participants per session, including 12 IDP women (Sessions 1 & 2) and 16 IDP women (Session 3).
- **Stakeholders:** Women Empowerment Directorate, Kirkuk Provincial Council, Human Rights Commission, Kirkuk University.
- **Key Recommendations:**
 - Expand financial support for women entrepreneurs through grants and loans.
 - Streamline business registration and trademark processes for women-led businesses.
 - Improve training programs in high-demand job sectors.
 - Reduce bureaucratic barriers preventing access to social welfare and health service approvals.

June 27, 2024 – Economic Stability Session

- **Theme:** "Promoting Stability in Kirkuk through Women and Girls' Access to Financial Resources."
- **Participants:** 30 stakeholders, including 15 new decision-makers (6 women, 9 men).
- **Institutions Represented:** Kirkuk Provincial Council, Women's Rights Office, Labor & Social Affairs Directorate, Governmental Rashid Bank, Vocational Training Center.
- **Key Findings & Challenges Identified:**
 1. **Lack of Local Decision-Making Power:** Policy decisions are dictated from Baghdad, requiring national-level advocacy.
 2. **No Specialized Policies for IDP Women:** Despite constitutional guarantees, there are no tailored policies ensuring displaced women's access to financial resources.
 3. **Major Barriers in Loan Applications:**
 - Rental contract requirements exclude women working from home.
 - Lack of flexibility in business licensing prevents small business startups.
 4. **Loan Repayment Rigidities:** No exemptions for vulnerable groups such as caregivers, widows, or women with disabilities.
 5. **Limited Awareness of Financial Opportunities:** Many IDP women were unaware of available government microfinance programs.

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

6. **Psychological Barriers to Loans:** 51% of IDP women feared debt and financial pressure, while 16% lacked confidence in financial management.

August 14, 2024 – Expanded Dialogue Session

- **Venue:** Kirkuk Plaza Hotel
- **Participants:** 31 stakeholders (17 women, 14 men), including 4 project beneficiaries.
- **Key Outcomes:**
 1. **Loan Policy Reforms:** Agreement to review microfinance loan policies, including raising loan limits and removing guarantor requirements.
 2. **Entrepreneurship Training Expansion:** Commitment to enhance business management training for IDP women.
 3. **Sustaining the Safe Space Center:** Government pledged continued support for displaced women.
 4. **Stronger Civil Society Engagement:** Strengthened collaboration between NGOs and government institutions.
 5. **Financial Literacy Campaigns:** Launch of educational programs to inform women about available funding opportunities.
 6. **Supporting IDP Women's Return:** Economic initiatives to encourage displaced women to return home with sustained financial support.

Stakeholder Engagement Across Sessions

- **Total Stakeholders Engaged:** 58 representatives from institutions including the Women Empowerment Directorate, Kirkuk Provincial Council, Human Rights Commission, and local government offices.
- **Breakdown of Participants:**
 - **November 2023 Sessions:** 12 IDP women and 12 stakeholders (5 women, 7 men).
 - **June 27, 2024 Session:** 30 stakeholders, including 15 new decision-makers.
 - **August 14, 2024 Session:** 31 stakeholders (17 women, 14 men), including 4 beneficiaries.

Key Achievements

- IDP women played an active role in shaping policy discussions on financial inclusion.
- Three key recommendations were escalated to the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, including loan exemptions, flexible rental contract policies, and increased financial support for women entrepreneurs.
- Microfinance awareness sessions launched to educate displaced women on loan opportunities and financial planning.
- Stronger coordination between civil society and government institutions to sustain women's economic empowerment initiatives.

Output 1.4: Representatives from the Chamber of commerce, labor syndicates, Labor and Social Affairs Directorates, and the local Government in Kirkuk are aware of violations of Labor Law and regulations by private businesses.

An expanded dialogue session was conducted on August 15, 2024, at the Kirkuk Governorate Building – Main Hall, bringing together 55 key stakeholders, including government officials, civil society representatives, religious leaders, media professionals, and displaced women benefiting from Safe Space Center services. The session focused on violations of labor laws, challenges in financial accessibility, and policy recommendations to support displaced women's economic empowerment.

Key Issues Addressed:

1. **Challenges in Accessing Financial Resources:**
 - Bureaucratic hurdles and lack of clear regulations prevent displaced women from obtaining microfinance loans and social security benefits.
2. **Violations of Labor Laws in the Private Sector:**
 - Concerns over wage discrimination, job insecurity, and workplace exploitation prompted discussions on stricter monitoring mechanisms.
3. **The Role of Vocational Training Centers:**
 - Participants stressed the need to modernize training programs to align with market demands.
4. **Strengthening Coordination Between Government and Civil Society:**
 - Stakeholders emphasized the importance of partnerships to improve financial inclusion and labor law enforcement.

Adopted Policy Recommendations:

Following the session, three major policy changes were officially adopted:

1. **Revised Loan Sponsorship Criteria:**
 - Military and security corps personnel can now act as loan guarantors to facilitate displaced women's access to microfinance.
2. **Loan Ceiling Increases:**
 - Loan limits raised from 5 million to 50 million IQD, expanding financial opportunities for displaced women entrepreneurs.
3. **Monitoring of Vocational Training Centers:**

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

- The Women's Affairs Department in Kirkuk will conduct regular inspections to assess program effectiveness and alignment with labor market needs.

Additional Recommendations for Future Implementation:

Beyond the adopted policies, 13 further recommendations were proposed to strengthen financial accessibility and labor law enforcement, including:

- Increased funding for women's loans through government allocations.
- Integration of Safe Space Centers into national programs to sustain support for displaced women.
- Development of economic plans for displaced and rural women in Kirkuk.
- Creation of a centralized loan applicant database to track financial inclusion gaps.
- Awareness campaigns on financial literacy and social security benefits.
- Expansion of agricultural loan programs to support displaced families in rural Kirkuk.
- Monitoring and enforcement of women's labor rights through collaboration with labor unions.
- Sustained government funding for Safe Space Centers to assist survivors of gender-based violence.
- Expansion of financial inclusion strategies to other provinces through national policy advocacy.

Stakeholder Engagement and Participation:

- **Total participants:** 50 decision-makers (32 women, 18 men) + 5 displaced women beneficiaries.
- **Institutions represented:**
 - Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
 - Kirkuk Provincial Council
 - Women's Empowerment Directorate
 - Local Chamber of Commerce
 - Religious and tribal leaders
 - Civil society organizations and human rights activists
 - Local and national media outlets

Key Achievements:

- Direct engagement between displaced women and policymakers to discuss economic challenges.
- Adoption of three major policy changes to improve financial accessibility and labor law enforcement.
- Commitment from the Prime Minister's Advisor on Women's Affairs to sustain government-NGO partnerships.
- Agreement to expand employment opportunities for displaced women in Kirkuk's industrial sector.
- Improved government documentation and reporting mechanisms for tracking displaced women's economic progress.

This dialogue session marked a significant step forward in advocating for displaced women's economic rights, improving labor law enforcement, and enhancing financial inclusion policies in Kirkuk. Moving forward, the Women's Affairs Department, civil society organizations, and national policymakers will collaborate to implement the adopted recommendations and ensure sustainable economic empowerment for displaced women.

Output 1.5: 50 Participants are aware of project achievements and issues identified as priorities to address.

The Final Project Conference was successfully held in Baghdad on October 21, 2024, bringing together government officials, civil society leaders, international organizations, and media representatives to discuss the economic empowerment of displaced women in Iraq. The event marked the culmination of the project's efforts, highlighting key achievements, persistent challenges, and priority policy actions to ensure long-term sustainability.

Discussions focused on the critical role of economic empowerment in promoting community stability, financial independence, and peacebuilding. Participants examined existing gaps, structural barriers, and proposed solutions to strengthen displaced women's economic participation. The conference emphasized the importance of collaboration between government institutions, NGOs, and international donors to create sustainable economic opportunities.

Key Topics Discussed

1- Economic Empowerment as a Pillar for Stability

Led by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, this session underscored the importance of expanding displaced women's access to financial resources such as social security benefits and microfinance loans. Participants emphasized the need to simplify bureaucratic procedures and encourage both the formal and informal sectors to support women's employment.

2- Challenges of Displacement and Economic Reintegration

UN Women and the Women's Leadership Institute addressed the complex challenges faced by displaced women, including economic instability, lack of financial resources, and social exclusion. Discussions highlighted that without financial independence, reintegration remains difficult, preventing women from fully regaining stability in their communities.

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

3- The Role of Safe Spaces and Support Centers

The Safe Space Center in Kirkuk and similar centers across Iraq were highlighted as vital resources for displaced women. These centers provide legal assistance, psychological support, vocational training, and access to financial services. Participants stressed the need to sustain and expand these centers to ensure continued support for women affected by displacement and gender-based violence.

4- Loan Access and Administrative Barriers

Participants identified key challenges preventing displaced women from obtaining financial aid and starting businesses. Complicated loan application procedures, high documentation requirements, and limited transparency in loan distribution were major obstacles. Recommendations included simplifying loan documentation, providing targeted financial training, and ensuring greater government transparency in microfinance programs.

Following extensive discussions, five key priorities were identified as critical areas for action:

1. Enhancing Financial Support for Displaced Women

Government representatives and civil society organizations emphasized the need to expand soft loans and social security programs to support women-headed households and breadwinners. Ensuring equitable financial resource allocation for displaced and marginalized women was highlighted as a major priority.

2. Addressing Skill Gaps in the Labor Market

Vocational training programs need to be strengthened to provide displaced women with relevant skills in digital literacy, technical expertise, and professional development. Improving women's access to employment opportunities in both the public and private sectors was identified as essential for sustainable economic integration.

3. Simplifying Loan Application Procedures

Administrative barriers must be reduced to ensure that women can easily access financial support. Discussions included introducing loan guarantees tailored for displaced women to increase access to funding.

4. Targeted Support for Minority and Returnee Women

Specialized vocational training programs should be developed for women returning to conflict-affected areas, including Sinjar, Mosul, and Kirkuk. Participants also recommended allocating resources for infrastructure and economic development to support these women's reintegration.

5. Strengthening Government and NGO Collaboration

Long-term partnerships between ministries, civil society organizations, and international donors must be prioritized to create sustainable economic opportunities. Establishing joint initiatives that provide economic and social empowerment programs for displaced women was seen as a key step forward.

These priorities align with the National Strategy for Iraqi Women (2023-2030) and aim to enhance displaced women's financial resilience, reduce economic disparities, and promote peace and security.

Conference Participants and Key Stakeholders:

The Final Project Conference was attended by 65 participants from various sectors, including government agencies, NGOs, academia, and media.

Notable attendees included:

- Deputy Minister of Migration and Displacement, Mr. Karim Al-Nouri
- Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Dr. Huda Sajjad
- Director General of the Planning and Follow-up Department, Ministry of Migration and Displacement, Mr. Amer Abbas Zgheir
- Head of the Women's Affairs Department in Kirkuk, Mrs. Intisar Karim
- Representatives from the Prime Minister's Office and the Presidency of the Republic
- Officials from the Ministries of Labor, Interior, Defense, Youth & Sports, and Industry & Minerals
- Financial Supervision Bureau and University of Baghdad / Women's Studies Center
- Local Governments and Governorate Councils (Kirkuk and Baghdad)
- International and local NGOs focused on displacement, economic empowerment, and women's rights
- Journalists and media professionals covering women's rights and displacement issues

A majority of attendees were women (38 women, 27 men), reinforcing the commitment to centering women's voices in discussions on economic empowerment and policy development.

Key Outcomes of the Conference:

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

- Government Commitment to Increasing Financial Support: Officials pledged to expand financial inclusion programs through new microfinance initiatives and economic empowerment grants targeted at displaced women.
- Policy Reforms on Loan Accessibility and Social Security: The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs announced plans to review and streamline loan application processes, removing bureaucratic obstacles that prevent displaced women from accessing financial aid.
- Expansion of Vocational Training Programs: Agreements were made to increase the number of vocational training centers offering market-driven skills development programs tailored to women's needs.
- Enhanced Coordination Between Government and NGOs: The conference established new mechanisms for government-NGO collaboration to support displaced women's livelihoods through financial inclusion and employment initiatives.
- Strengthening Safe Spaces for Women: Discussions emphasized the need to sustain and expand Safe Space Centers in key locations like Kirkuk, ensuring displaced women have continued legal, psychological, and vocational support services.
- Media Engagement and Public Awareness: Journalists and media professionals committed to increasing coverage of displaced women's economic challenges and advocating for stronger policy responses to enhance financial inclusion.

Widows Training and Development Center (WTDC):

Output 1.1: 160 young women and men in Abu Ghraib district have sufficient skills to start their own projects or obtain a job opportunity.

Empowering 168 displaced youth (119 women, 49 men) aged 18–35 in Abu Ghraib through 16 vocational training workshops and business management courses. Each workshop lasted 10 days, followed by three days of business training, equipping participants with technical skills and entrepreneurial knowledge to launch businesses or secure employment. Upon completion, participants received start-up toolkits tailored to their respective trades.

Vocational Training Workshops

- Sewing and Tailoring: Conducted across 10 workshops (Nov 2023–Feb 2024), benefiting 113 women. Participants gained skills in fabric detailing, sewing techniques, and small business management.
- Barbering: Two workshops trained 18 men in haircutting, grooming techniques, and barbershop operations (Nov–Dec 2023).
- Mobile Maintenance: Three workshops equipped 31 men with phone repair and diagnostics skills, enabling them to start mobile repair businesses (Nov 2023–Jan 2024).
- Handmade Crafts and Accessories: One workshop trained 6 women in handmade product creation, local market trends, and sales strategies (Feb 2024).

Business Management Training

All participants completed three days of business training covering:

- Financial literacy & budgeting
- Marketing & branding strategies
- Pricing, sales, & customer management
- Business planning & scalability

Graduation Ceremony & Distribution of Start-Up Kits

The graduation ceremony (April 16, 2024) recognized participants' achievements and provided essential start-up equipment:

- Sewing graduates received Brother industrial sewing machines.
- Barbering graduates received professional barbering kits.
- Mobile maintenance graduates received repair toolkits & diagnostic equipment.
- Handmade craft trainees received materials & tools for accessory-making.

The event was attended by local government officials, UN Women representatives, vocational trainers, and family members, highlighting the impact of vocational training in empowering displaced communities.

Sustainability & Impact

- Immediate job creation: Many graduates launched businesses or found employment.
- Community-based support: Graduates formed business networks for peer support.
- Ongoing mentorship: Local trainers continue coaching participants.
- Government & NGO partnerships: Strengthened collaboration for future employment initiatives.

This initiative has laid a strong foundation for economic independence by equipping displaced youth in Abu Ghraib with market-driven skills and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Output 2.1: Providing Psychological and Legal Support to Forcibly Displaced Women in Abu Ghraib

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

A total of 213 forcibly displaced women (aged 18–35) in Abu Ghraib received legal and psychological support services, exceeding the initial target of 200 beneficiaries. This initiative aimed to enhance legal awareness, provide mental health support, and empower displaced women with knowledge of their rights, enabling them to rebuild their lives with confidence.

Legal Support Services:

158 women accessed legal consultations and representation to address:

- Labor rights awareness and legal protections under Iraqi law.
- Procedures for obtaining identification and residency documents.
- Family disputes, inheritance claims, and divorce procedures.
- Workplace discrimination and labor law violations.
- Navigation of government and judicial systems for justice and redress.

Women with limited legal literacy received legal awareness training, equipping them with essential knowledge of their rights. Several cases were referred to pro bono legal representatives, enabling women to pursue formal legal action.

Psychological Support Services

55 women received mental health counseling and psychosocial support to address trauma and emotional distress caused by displacement. Support services included:

- One-on-one counseling with professional therapists.
- Group therapy sessions to foster emotional healing and peer support.
- Stress management and resilience-building exercises.
- Awareness sessions on self-care and coping mechanisms.

Psychosocial support was especially crucial for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), economic hardship, and social isolation. Women in high-risk situations were referred to specialized care facilities for further intervention.

Key Interventions:

1. Legal Awareness Workshops – Women were educated on property rights, family law, labor laws, and domestic violence protections through expert-led sessions.
2. Counseling and Emotional Well-being Sessions – Safe-space discussions provided trauma coping strategies and psychological resilience tools.
3. One-on-One Legal Consultations – Women received case-specific legal guidance, with referrals to pro bono legal services when needed.
4. Specialized Referral System – High-risk cases were referred to government agencies and NGOs for long-term psychological or legal assistance.

Output 2.2: 48 women in Abu Ghraib district now have the ability to negotiate, dialogue, and communicate the needs of their peers in society to decision-makers.

A total of 56 displaced women between the ages of 18 and 35 participated in four structured dialogue workshops in Abu Ghraib, surpassing the initial target of 48. These workshops were designed to develop negotiation and advocacy skills, equipping women with the tools needed to engage directly with decision-makers and influence policies that impact their lives. The initiative provided a platform where participants could voice their concerns, understand their rights, and gain practical knowledge on accessing government services.

Workshops were held at the Abu Ghraib Governmental Youth Forum, creating a safe space for women to express their needs and participate in discussions that would contribute to shaping policy decisions. The sessions took place on May 13, May 29, June 24, and July 9, 2024, with each workshop focusing on confidence-building, communication skills, and practical knowledge of legal rights and government services. The final workshop had the largest turnout, with 23 women engaging in direct dialogue with representatives from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

Throughout these sessions, women learned how to articulate their concerns effectively, advocate for their rights, and engage in constructive discussions with government officials. Role-playing exercises and guided discussions were used to strengthen their public speaking and negotiation skills, fostering confidence and self-reliance. The presence of government officials was crucial, as it allowed for direct engagement, enabling participants to receive immediate responses to their concerns.

One of the most significant outcomes of these workshops was the connection between displaced women and decision-makers. Participants gained practical insights into social welfare programs, financial assistance for displaced women, employment support, and legal procedures for business loans and disability benefits. The workshops not only provided information but also facilitated direct action. As a direct result of these sessions, the Minister of Labor approved the inclusion of workshop participants in social care salary programs, granting them immediate financial support.

Beyond increasing access to resources, the initiative also played a crucial role in changing perceptions of displaced women. Rather than being seen as passive beneficiaries, participants became active contributors to policy discussions, advocating for themselves and their

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

peers. The workshops helped bridge the information gap, as many women were previously unaware of the government services available to them. By equipping them with advocacy and negotiation skills, the sessions empowered them to navigate bureaucratic challenges and demand better service delivery.

The impact of these workshops extended beyond the individual participants. Many women who attended became peer advocates in their communities, guiding others in understanding their rights and accessing essential services. The findings and recommendations from the sessions were compiled into reports and submitted to government representatives, ensuring that women's concerns were not only heard but also formally documented for future policy considerations.

The success of this initiative demonstrates the effectiveness of structured dialogue in influencing policy and creating tangible benefits for displaced women. The fact that the Minister of Labor took immediate action in response to participants' requests highlights the power of direct engagement in policy reform. Moving forward, efforts will focus on expanding these dialogues, ensuring that more displaced women gain access to economic, social, and legal support services while continuing to advocate for systemic improvements in service delivery.

Output 2.3: 90 forcibly displaced young women and men aged (18-35) increased their health awareness and provided with knowledge on the first aid.

A total of 92 displaced youth (61 women, 31 men) aged 18–35 participated in six interactive health workshops in Abu Ghraib. These sessions focused on first aid training, infectious diseases, and reproductive health, equipping participants with essential knowledge to protect themselves and their families. Given the limited healthcare access in displaced communities, the initiative played a crucial role in bridging health knowledge gaps and encouraging preventive healthcare practices.

The workshops were led by health professionals from the Ministry of Health, ensuring that participants received scientifically accurate and practical health education. Each session was tailored to address the specific health needs of men and women, with a strong emphasis on first aid response, sexual health awareness, and overcoming cultural barriers to medical care.

Workshops Overview:

The training began with first aid workshops focused on handling common medical emergencies. Men and women received gender-specific training, ensuring relevance to their everyday health risks. The first workshop on April 24 trained 21 men in burn treatment, wound care, and bleeding control, while the second workshop on May 6 provided 17 women with emergency response skills for household injuries, blood pressure fluctuations, and blood sugar issues.

Sessions then shifted to infectious disease awareness. On May 21, 10 men learned about HIV/AIDS and immunodeficiency, while on June 3, 14 women participated in a discussion on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and gynecological health. These workshops provided an open forum to break stigma, allowing participants to ask medical professionals about prevention and treatment options.

The final workshops on June 30 and July 18 focused exclusively on women's reproductive health. A total of 30 women received practical guidance on menstrual health, hygiene, safe practices, and access to medical services. These discussions played a vital role in addressing misinformation, debunking myths, and encouraging early detection of health risks.

Key Outcomes:

- **Improved First Aid & Emergency Response Skills:** Participants gained life-saving first aid knowledge, enabling them to respond to burns, wounds, and medical crises. Both men and women reported greater confidence in handling health emergencies within their families and communities.
- **Increased Awareness of STIs & Reproductive Health:** Women became better informed about health risks, including STIs, infections, and preventive care. The sessions provided a safe, stigma-free environment, encouraging open discussions about personal health concerns.
- **Overcoming Cultural Barriers to Healthcare Access:** In Abu Ghraib's conservative society, many women hesitate to seek medical care. These workshops bridged that gap, offering direct consultations with healthcare specialists. As a result, women became more confident in discussing health issues and seeking medical advice.
- **Encouraging Preventive Healthcare & Early Detection:** By raising awareness about hygiene, sexual health, and infection prevention, the initiative promoted early detection and timely medical intervention. Many women became health advocates within their families and communities, sharing their knowledge to benefit others.

Output 2.4: 50 active men in society in Abu Ghraib District have become aware of the necessity of activating women's role in society and their rights and the importance of taking into account the gender perspective and are aware of the importance of transferring knowledge to society by using their societal influence and thus supporting women's political participation.

A total of 3 workshops were conducted, engaging 52 men aged 30 to 60 over three-day sessions. Each session focused on awareness-building, discussions, and practical exercises to encourage critical thinking and perspective shifts on gender roles.

The first workshop, held from June 9–11, 2024, introduced participants to the roles of women in society and the challenges they face due to traditional gender norms. Discussions focused on gender stereotypes, cultural expectations, and the importance of fostering an inclusive environment for women's participation in public life. While some men initially expressed skepticism, others were open to learning about women's contributions beyond traditional roles.

The second workshop, held from July 2–4, 2024, explored the economic impact of women's participation in the workforce. Participants examined how financial independence strengthens families and communities and discussed ways to support women's entrepreneurship

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

in sectors such as tailoring, hairdressing, and craft-making. Some participants, acknowledging changing economic conditions, recognized the increasing acceptability of women working outside the home.

The final workshop, from July 22–24, 2024, focused on leadership, advocacy, and gender sensitivity. Participants discussed how men can use their social influence to support women's leadership and challenge discriminatory practices within their families and communities. By the end of the session, several men committed to discussing gender equality with their peers and suggested expanding training programs to younger men to further shift societal attitudes.

Key Findings:

After completing all three workshops, an impact assessment was conducted to measure changes in attitudes and beliefs regarding women's roles in society. A total of 61% of participants reported a shift in their views on women's employment. Many who were initially hesitant about women working outside the home or in mixed-gender environments reconsidered their stance, acknowledging both economic necessity and social benefits. Before the training, participants mainly supported women working in traditional professions such as education and crafts. After the sessions, they became more open to women taking on leadership roles, engaging in entrepreneurship, and working in business and management. Economic realities are reshaping social expectations. The discussions revealed that some younger men now prefer to marry women who work and contribute financially, challenging the traditional expectation of men as sole breadwinners.

While some participants remained resistant to change, others gained a deeper understanding of the barriers women face in accessing employment, leadership roles, and social participation. Many acknowledged the need to expand training opportunities for women to increase economic independence.

Recommendations for Strengthening Women's Empowerment:

Participants identified several key recommendations to support women's inclusion and economic participation:

- Expand vocational training opportunities for women in sewing, hairstyling, and business management to enable them to start their own businesses.
- Extend training programs to rural areas, where women face additional barriers to employment and education.
- Provide targeted support for widows and divorced women, who often experience the highest levels of economic hardship and social exclusion.

Impact Area 3 (Humanitarian Response): Enhanced inclusive and gender responsive humanitarian/crisis planning, frameworks, and programming.

Foundation of United for Relief and Sustainable Development (FUAD):

Output 1.1: providing a safe space for women survivors of violence and providing services to them in humanitarian contexts.

300 women (200 in Diyala, 100 in Kirkuk) aged 18–63 accessed psychosocial and legal support through two safe spaces established in conflict-affected areas. These centers provided confidential counseling, legal aid, and referrals to specialized services, ensuring a survivor-centered response to gender-based violence (GBV).

100 survivors (80 in Diyala, 20 in Kirkuk) aged 18–55 were referred to external service providers for medical care, trauma treatment, shelter services, vocational training, and financial assistance, strengthening access to holistic support.

2 Women's Empowerment Departments (Diyala and Kirkuk) were engaged to facilitate governmental support, case referrals, and collaboration with service providers and NGOs. This improved access to psychosocial and legal services, ensuring a comprehensive and survivor-centered approach.

A specialized team of social workers, legal advisors, psychologists, and case managers was recruited and trained in:

- Trauma-informed care and survivor-centered approaches in psychosocial and legal support.
- Confidential case management and ethical referral pathways for survivors.
- Coordination with law enforcement and service providers to enhance protection measures.

A qualified team was established, ensuring sensitive, high-quality support for survivors seeking assistance.

Two safe spaces were fully furnished and equipped with:

- Private consultation rooms for psychosocial and legal counseling.
- Group therapy and awareness session areas for survivor engagement.
- Educational materials on women's rights, GBV prevention, and available support services.
- Security measures to ensure confidentiality and protection for survivors.

Survivors now have secure, accessible locations where they can safely seek support, engage in healing processes, and access protection services.

Two fully operational support centers began welcoming survivors, offering:

- Trauma counseling and psychosocial support to facilitate emotional recovery.

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

- Legal aid and guidance on GBV case reporting to increase survivors' access to justice.
- Referrals to health services, shelters, and economic empowerment programs to support reintegration.
- Awareness sessions on women's rights and GBV prevention to enhance survivor knowledge.

Survivors gained legal awareness, emotional support, and access to justice, increasing their confidence in seeking protection services.

Fear of stigma and retaliation prevented many women from seeking legal aid. Awareness sessions were conducted to educate survivors on their rights, the importance of reporting violence, and the confidentiality of services.

Limited access for women in rural areas required partnerships with local NGOs and outreach teams to expand awareness and identify at-risk survivors.

Long-term sustainability remains a challenge. The project team engaged government authorities and donors to advocate for continued support and integration of safe spaces into national GBV response mechanisms.

Sustained engagement with local authorities, donors, and service providers is required to maintain and expand safe spaces for women survivors of violence. **Future efforts will focus on:**

- Securing long-term funding to sustain GBV response services.
- Expanding access to rural and hard-to-reach areas.
- Advocating for policy reforms that enhance protection mechanisms and ensure survivors' legal rights.

Output 1.2: Supporting Women Economically and Integrating Them into the Labor Market in Humanitarian Contexts

60 women survivors of violence (40 in Diyala, 20 in Kirkuk) completed small business management training and received micro-grants to establish their businesses. This intervention provided them with financial literacy, business planning skills, and start-up capital, ensuring sustainable economic opportunities.

Each woman received a \$325 cash grant, enabling them to launch enterprises in tailoring, beauty services, food production, handicrafts, and small retail businesses.

3 training sessions (two in Diyala, one in Kirkuk) were conducted, with 20 women per session, covering:

- Microenterprise management – Fundamentals of running a small business.
- Financial literacy – Budgeting, expense tracking, and financial planning.
- Market assessment – Identifying profitable business ideas.
- Business planning – Developing structured business proposals.

Inclusive Learning for Illiterate Participants:

Among the trainees, six women (three in Diyala, three in Kirkuk) were illiterate. They received one-on-one support, simplified training materials, and hands-on exercises to ensure full comprehension. 60 survivors successfully completed training and developed business plans. Pre- and post-training evaluations showed significant improvement in financial and business skills.

Following training completion, all 60 women received a \$325 cash grant to invest in their businesses. To ensure accountability, each woman:

- Developed a work plan detailing how funds would be used.
- Signed a contract committing to spending the funds solely on business-related expenses.
- Received procurement and customer engagement guidance before launching their enterprise.

To assess business progress, three rounds of field visits were conducted. Monitoring included:

- On-site assessments of business operations.
- Interviews with beneficiaries to document progress and challenges.
- Ongoing guidance and problem-solving support.

Findings:

- ✓ All 60 women actively produced and sold goods/services.
- ✓ Participants demonstrated increased confidence in managing finances.
- ✓ Some women formed small business partnerships to expand customer outreach.

Some women faced financial constraints as the initial grant provided a strong foundation but was insufficient for expansion. Others experienced family opposition to running a business, while many required further support in marketing and scaling their enterprises.

To ensure long-term success, the project is expanding its efforts by:

- Strengthening partnerships with Women's Empowerment Departments and Business Development Centers.
- Connecting beneficiaries with microfinance institutions for additional funding.
- Establishing peer support networks to encourage collaboration and business growth.
- Providing advanced training on marketing, digital business strategies, and financial planning.

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

This intervention empowered 60 survivors of violence by providing them with business management training, financial literacy, and start-up capital, enabling them to achieve economic independence and financial stability.

Through continuous mentorship, structured follow-up, and long-term sustainability planning, the project ensures that women-led businesses continue to thrive, contributing to local economic development and community resilience.

Output 1.3: Raising Social Awareness on Women's Rights, Reducing Violence, and Preventing Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in Humanitarian Contexts

Coordination efforts were established with local authorities, education directorates, universities, tribal leaders, and community organizations to facilitate smooth implementation. Sessions were held at community centers, educational institutions, and rural areas to maximize accessibility for diverse groups. Official approvals were secured from relevant authorities, ensuring that activities were endorsed and supported by local governance structures.

A total of 150 awareness sessions were conducted between November 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, with 100 sessions in Diyala and 50 in Kirkuk. These sessions reached 3,042 participants (2,012 in Diyala and 1,030 in Kirkuk), including 1,524 women and 1,518 men.

The sessions addressed critical issues affecting women's rights and safety, including:

- Human rights and legal protections for women.
- Domestic violence awareness and reporting mechanisms.
- Electronic extortion and online safety.
- Women trafficking and exploitation prevention.
- Drug addiction risks and community response strategies.

Participants were introduced to different forms of abuse, legal frameworks for protection and reporting, and available support services for survivors. Special emphasis was placed on gender-sensitive approaches and increasing male engagement in promoting gender equality.

On March 8, 2024, a special International Women's Day event was held in Hawija District, Kirkuk, with 30 participants (23 women and 7 men), including government representatives and community leaders.

Additionally, community police units participated in specialized awareness sessions, strengthening law enforcement response to gender-based violence and improving survivors' access to justice and protection services.

The awareness sessions resulted in a notable increase in women's willingness to report gender-based violence and seek support services. Male participants became more engaged in discussions on gender equality, contributing to positive shifts in community attitudes. Stakeholder coordination between women's organizations, law enforcement agencies, and community leaders was strengthened, improving response mechanisms for survivors and expanding access to protection services.

Some conservative community members resisted discussions on gender equality, and women faced restrictions in attending sessions due to social norms. To address these challenges, tribal and religious leaders were actively involved in awareness activities, ensuring that messaging was culturally appropriate and widely accepted.

Social stigma surrounding GBV reporting remained a barrier, but by strengthening confidential reporting mechanisms, women were encouraged to seek help without fear of retaliation or judgment.

The 150 awareness sessions have laid the groundwork for increased gender sensitivity, community engagement, and enhanced protection for women in Diyala and Kirkuk. Continued efforts will ensure that women's rights and safety remain a priority in local governance and community structures.

Output 1.4: Social media information has been developed on women's rights and Prevention of and harassment in humanitarian contexts.

A dedicated Facebook page was launched to promote awareness of women's rights and the prevention of harassment in humanitarian contexts. The process began with the design of a professional logo, created in collaboration with a graphic designer, to establish a strong visual identity for the initiative. After extensive discussions, the name "Be With Her" (كن معها) was selected as the official title of the page to emphasize solidarity and support for women facing violence and discrimination.

Once the page was set up, regular content was published, including educational posts, awareness materials, and guidance on reporting gender-based violence (GBV) cases. The posts provided detailed information on women's rights, legal protections, and the available support services for those affected by harassment and violence. The content was carefully curated to engage a broad audience, ensuring that both men and women were included in the conversation about gender equality and safety.

The engagement level exceeded expectations, with the total number of viewers reaching 184,610 individuals, significantly surpassing the initial target of 30,000. The audience analysis revealed that the majority of the visitors were men (57.2%), while women constituted

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

42.8% of the audience. The age range of the viewers spanned 18 to 65 years old, reflecting a diverse demographic interest in the content shared.

The page successfully became a platform for spreading knowledge and encouraging discussions on the prevention of harassment and violence against women in humanitarian settings. It also served as a resource hub where individuals could learn how to seek support, report incidents, and access available protection mechanisms. The initiative's reach and impact highlight the power of social media in addressing critical social issues and fostering community awareness on gender rights and safety.

Odessa Organization for Women Development:

Output 1.1: Humanitarian/Crisis Management Training Provided to Local Women's Organizations

A total of 10 training sessions were successfully conducted at the Odessa Center in Sinjar from March to September 2024. Each session lasted three days, covering critical aspects of crisis and disaster management. **The topics included:**

- Fundamental Concepts: The significance of humanitarian crisis and disaster management
- Types of Crises and Disasters: Natural and human-made crises
- Ethics and Responsibilities: Stakeholder roles, accountability, and transparency
- Modern Crisis Management Techniques: Evacuation planning, emergency communication, and coordination
- Psychosocial Aspects: Understanding the psychological impact of crises, particularly on vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly
- Women's Rights in Crisis Situations: Gender-sensitive approaches to crisis management
- Environmental Considerations: Sustainable crisis response strategies

The training sessions successfully met the target of 200 female participants **women (153) and girls (47)**, with an emphasis on empowering local women to take active roles in crisis management.

A series of 10 one-day training sessions were conducted to provide technical support for designing and rolling out mentoring and coaching initiatives for local women's organizations. A total of 200 females (165 Women, 35 Girls) from 26 organizations participated, exceeding the original target of 20 organizations.

Key Topics Covered:

- The Importance of Mentoring & Training: Benefits of capacity building for women
- Technical Support in Women's Organizations: The role of mentoring programs in sustainability
- Evaluation & Follow-up Mechanisms: Ensuring program effectiveness and long-term impact
- Challenges & Solutions: Addressing common barriers in mentoring and coaching programs
- Best Practices in Mentoring Initiatives: Successful case studies and lessons learned

The target of 20 organizations was exceeded, with 26 organizations benefiting from the training. This increase was due to higher-than-expected demand and effective outreach efforts.

The training sessions were successfully delivered as per the project plan, with a notable achievement in surpassing the target for organizational participation in mentoring initiatives. The sessions were comprehensive and well-attended, contributing to enhanced knowledge and capacity among local women and organizations involved in crisis management and leadership development.

Output 1.2: Capacity Building on Entrepreneurship and Gender-Sensitive Early Warning in Humanitarian Settings

A total of 10 training sessions on entrepreneurship were conducted at the Odessa Center in Sinjar, each lasting three days, from March to October 2024. The training sessions focused on equipping female participants with the necessary skills to establish and sustain businesses, navigate economic challenges, and overcome barriers to entrepreneurship.

Key Topics Covered:

- Types and Challenges of Entrepreneurship: Limited access to financing, gender bias, lack of support networks
- Women's Economic Empowerment: Enhancing the role of women in business, mentorship programs
- Characteristics of Women Entrepreneurs: Differences between male and female entrepreneurs, factors influencing women's business success
- Business Development Strategies: Basic steps to start a project, expanding networks, financial management
- Social Impact of Women in Business: Role of female entrepreneurs in community development and humanitarian response

Establishment of the Women's Empowerment Center

In line with the project's goals, one Women's Empowerment Center was successfully established in Sinjar, Mosul. The center serves as a resource hub for women, offering training, mentorship, and advocacy services.

Key Objectives of the Center:

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

- Strengthening the role of women in society
- Promoting economic empowerment and leadership opportunities
- Raising awareness on gender-based violence and legal rights

Additional Activities Implemented in the Center

Several activities were carried out at the center, enhancing its role as a focal point for women's empowerment:

1. Capacity Building for Odessa Staff (January 31, 2024)
 - Participants: 8 employees (4 women, 4 men)
 - Focus: Implementation plan, activities, outputs, training curricula
2. Legal Awareness Session with NRC (March 30, 2024)
 - Participants: 20 females (19 women, 1 girl)
 - Focus: Women's legal rights, obtaining civil documents
3. International Women's Day Celebration (March 8, 2024)
 - Participants: 22 females (16 women, 6 girls)
 - Focus: Women's rights, gender-based violence, entrepreneurship, leadership
4. Coordination Meetings with Stakeholders (November – December 2023)
 - Engagement with local authorities, security forces, and civil society organizations to ensure project success and stakeholder buy-in.
5. Awareness Sessions on Social Issues (June – October 2024)
 - Early Marriage: Effects on education, social, and health aspects (June 25, 2024)
 - Breast Cancer Awareness: Early detection and medical guidance (June 26, 2024)
 - Unregistered Marriages: Legal rights and registration process (June 26, 2024)
6. Psychological Support & Consultations (July – October 2024)
 - 70 females (40 women, 30 girls) received psychological support
 - 66 females (45 women, 21 girls) received social consultations
 - 80 females (55 women, 25 girls) received economic consultations
 - 75 females (35 women, 40 girls) received health consultations

Gender-Sensitive Early Warning Training

A total of 10 training sessions were conducted at the Odessa Center in Sinjar from April to October 2024. Each session lasted three days, covering essential disaster preparedness and gender-sensitive response strategies.

Key Topics Covered:

- Gender & Disaster Management: Integrating gender considerations into crisis response
- Best Practices in Humanitarian Relief: Checklist for gender-sensitive relief efforts
- Emergency Preparedness: Household and community preparedness measures
- Disaster Recovery & Livelihoods: Support mechanisms for women post-disaster
- Health & Safety in Crisis Situations: Ensuring reproductive health and sanitation during emergencies
- Early Warning Systems: Risk assessment and response strategies

The capacity-building activities on entrepreneurship and gender-sensitive early warning were successfully implemented as planned, with all targets met or exceeded. The Women's Empowerment Center played a crucial role in delivering training, legal aid, psychological support, and economic consultations, exceeding expectations in community engagement and stakeholder cooperation.

Output 1.3: Awareness-Raising Campaigns and Sessions Conducted on Women's Leadership, GBV Prevention, and Humanitarian Response

During the reporting period, awareness-raising campaigns and training sessions were successfully implemented to promote gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, women's leadership, and humanitarian response. The project largely met its targets, with 5 social awareness sessions, 5 short video campaigns, and 10 training sessions on GBV prevention and PSEA (Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) response mechanisms.

Social Awareness Sessions on GBV Prevention

A total of 5 social awareness sessions were conducted to raise awareness on gender-based violence (GBV) prevention. **These sessions included discussions on:**

- Types of GBV
- Impact on families and society
- Psychological consequences (short- and long-term)
- Prevention strategies and available psychological and social support services

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

Each session featured guest speakers, including judicial officials, civil activists, legal experts, and psychologists, ensuring a diverse and informative discussion.

Session Dates & Participants:

1. June 29, 2024 – Featured Judicial Assistant and Civil Activist
2. August 30, 2024 – Civil Activist and Educational Specialist
3. September 14, 2024 – Former Provincial Council Member and Psychologist
4. September 19, 2024 – Lawyer and Head of the Yazidi Charitable Society
5. October 16, 2024 – Sports Activist and Civil Activist

Total Beneficiaries: 1,455 participants

- 580 Women
- 390 Girls
- 290 Men
- 195 Boys

GBV Referral Pathways and PSEA Hotlines Awareness Campaign

To enhance awareness of available GBV response mechanisms, five short awareness videos were produced and disseminated. **These videos focused on:**

- GBV Referral Pathways – How to access legal, psychological, and medical support
- PSEA Hotlines – Reporting mechanisms for cases of sexual exploitation and abuse
- Odessa Women's Empowerment Center Services

GBV and PSEA Training for Women's Organizations

A total of 10 training sessions were conducted for 26 women's organizations in Sinjar, exceeding the original target. **The training covered:**

- Key Concepts of GBV and Human Rights
- Types and Prevalence of GBV in Emergencies
- The Ecological Framework for GBV
- Multi-Sectoral GBV Prevention and Response Strategies
- Coordination and Engagement with Response Actors

Total Participants: 200 females

- 130 Women
- 70 Girls

Women's Leadership and Positive Gender Norms Awareness

A total of 3 social awareness sessions were conducted to promote women's leadership and positive gender norms, instead of the targeted 5 sessions. **The sessions covered topics such as:**

- Gender Equality in Law and Practice
- Women in Leadership and Decision-Making Roles
- Economic Empowerment through Gender-Responsive Policies
- Eliminating Gender Stereotypes and Discrimination

Session Dates & Speakers:

1. June 30, 2024 – Featured activists and media professionals
2. September 19, 2024 – Featured women's rights activists and specialists
3. October 24, 2024 – Featured NGO representatives and gender specialists

Total Beneficiaries: 450 participants

- 180 Women
- 120 Girls
- 90 Men
- 60 Boys

Variance Analysis:

- Only 3 out of the planned 5 sessions (60%) were completed due to:
 - Limited candidate availability: Many individuals were hesitant to speak publicly on sensitive issues.
 - Change in format: The sessions were initially planned as radio broadcasts, but this was adjusted to in-person discussions due to language and political constraints in the region.

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

- Future plans should explore alternative awareness methods, such as closed-group discussions or online forums, to address community sensitivities.

Recommendations

1. Continue social media outreach and community engagement on GBV prevention and support mechanisms.
2. Provide follow-up training for women's organizations to strengthen their capacity in handling GBV cases.
3. Address sensitivity concerns by using small-group dialogues, digital platforms, or written publications to promote women's leadership.
4. Increase male participation in GBV prevention efforts to create wider community support for gender equality.

Output 1.4: Regional and Country Humanitarian Response Plans Integrate Gender Analysis, Needs, Priorities, and Funding

During the reporting period, significant progress was made in establishing Humanitarian Crisis Response Working Women Groups (HCRWG), conducting a multi-sectoral gender assessment, and launching gender-sensitive humanitarian response initiatives. However, the project encountered challenges in achieving the targeted number of provincial and country-level events, primarily due to limited opportunities for engagement and financial constraints.

Humanitarian Crisis Response Working Women Groups (HCRWG)

The project exceeded its target, successfully establishing four (4) Humanitarian Crisis Response Working Women Groups (HCRWG). The participants in these groups were graduates from the previous humanitarian crisis management training and were selected based on their crisis management skills and leadership potential.

Key Objectives of the HCRWGs:

- Rapid response coordination
- Establishing communication with humanitarian responders
- Ensuring provision of basic needs during crises
- Supporting recovery efforts post-crisis
- Contributing to evacuation and emergency response efforts

Total Participants: 20 females (17 women, 3 girls)

The target was exceeded (4 groups established instead of 1) due to strong engagement and interest from women in the community. The groups have started engaging in crisis response coordination, a significant step towards sustainable women-led humanitarian response efforts.

Multi-Sectoral Gender Assessment

A comprehensive multi-sectoral gender assessment was conducted by the Odessa team from September 1–30, 2024, covering all 1,486 families in Sinjar City (100% coverage).

Key Objectives of the Assessment:

- Identify gender-specific needs and priorities related to shelter, education, sanitation, health, and economic stability.
- Understand the impact of crisis on different groups, particularly IDP women, widows, adolescent girls, and persons with disabilities.
- Analyze gender roles, power dynamics, and coping mechanisms in humanitarian settings.
- Assess service accessibility and gender responsiveness of existing humanitarian programs.
- Identify gender-related protection concerns, including GBV risks and legal barriers.

Key Research Dimensions Considered:

- Intersectionality and diversity among women, girls, men, and boys
- Gender-based impact of crises on young people (both males and females)

Gender-Humanitarian Response Initiatives

A total of 10 gender-sensitive humanitarian response initiatives were launched by 20 of the most affected women and girls in Sinjar. Each initiative involved two women managing a business together, with a focus on sustainable income generation and crisis resilience.

Types of Initiatives Launched:

- 10 Sewing Businesses – Each managed by two women trained in entrepreneurship and humanitarian crisis response.

The target was partially met (10 initiatives instead of 20) due to financial constraints. Despite financial challenges, the initiatives have successfully provided economic empowerment opportunities for affected women.

Women's Participation in Coordinated Humanitarian Crisis Response Planning

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

The target for provincial and country-level events was not met due to the scarcity of humanitarian workshops in Iraq and the economic hardships faced by project beneficiaries.

Key Challenges:

- Limited availability of provincial or national-level workshops for humanitarian response planning.
- Administrative and financial constraints prevented the Odessa Organization from reallocating funds to host its own event.
- Fear of media exposure and political sensitivities discouraged some women from participating in high-profile advocacy events.

Key Recommendations:

1. Expand HCRWG Initiatives: Seek additional funding or partnerships to increase the number of economic projects launched by women in crisis settings.
2. Strengthen Gender-Responsive Humanitarian Planning: Utilize the findings from the gender assessment to advocate for more inclusive humanitarian response efforts at regional and national levels.
3. Address Financial Constraints for Women's Participation: Identify donor organizations willing to support women's leadership in humanitarian planning.
4. Explore Alternative Participation Methods: Encourage virtual or small-scale local engagements for women's organizations in humanitarian response planning.

Shareteah Humanitarian Organization (SHO):

Output 1.1: CFP Volunteers Are Trained to Deliver Risk Education (RE) Messages to the Population and Ensure Close Follow-Up to Monitor the Quality of Delivered Sessions

A total of 40 Training-of-Trainers (TOT) sessions for **Female Community Focal Points (CFPs)**, each lasting three days, were conducted at Shareteah Centers in Ayadiya and Zummar and surrounding villages. Each location hosted 400 female CFPs, all above 18 years old, ensuring widespread community outreach and engagement.

Training Topics Covered:

- Understanding Explosive Hazards: Identifying different types of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO)
- Safe Behaviors & Emergency Response: What to do when encountering a suspicious object
- Recognizing High-Risk Areas: Identifying dangerous locations and ensuring safe movement
- Community Awareness & Teaching Techniques: How to effectively communicate safety information to different demographics

Training Materials Distributed:

- Comprehensive Risk Education (RE) Manuals
- Visual Guides and posters for community outreach
- Step-by-step instructions for conducting awareness sessions

Follow-Up and Monitoring of Risk Education Sessions

Following the training, Shareteah Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) conducted 895 field visits to assess the quality and effectiveness of the CFP-led awareness sessions. **These visits ensured that:**

- Correct and accurate information was being delivered.
- CFPs were adhering to standardized risk education guidelines.
- Community engagement levels were high, ensuring the sustainability of risk education efforts.

Additionally, the trained female CFPs contributed to awareness sessions, ensuring continuous outreach and risk education messaging across the region.

The training program was fully implemented, achieving its goal of equipping 800 female CFPs with the skills needed to deliver risk education to their communities. The continuous field visits (895 in total) ensured quality control and reinforced learning.

Output 1.2: CFPs Conduct Education Sessions on Direct Risk to Promote Safe Behavior and Inform Affected Populations of the Immediate Threats Posed by ERW/IEDs

During the reporting period, significant progress was made in educating communities on explosive ordnance risks (EORE), promoting safe behaviors, and ensuring widespread dissemination of risk education messages. The targets for EORE sessions, beneficiary reach, and pre/post evaluations were met or exceeded, demonstrating the effectiveness of the program.

EORE Sessions Conducted by CFPs

The female Community Focal Points (CFPs) conducted 895 EORE sessions, ensuring broad community outreach. These sessions utilized Virtual Reality (VR) demonstrations to enhance learning effectiveness by simulating real-life scenarios of explosive hazards and safe responses.

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

Additional Awareness Campaigns Implemented:

- **Outdoor Billboards:**
 - 8 billboards were installed (4 in Ayadiya, 4 in Zummar) containing Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) messages after obtaining approvals from the district municipality.
- **Social Media Awareness Campaign:**
 - A short educational cartoon film was launched to increase awareness, particularly for individuals returning from displacement camps.
 - Facebook Video Reach: 16,418 viewers
 - Instagram Video Reach: 187,820 viewers
- **Printed Awareness Materials Distributed:**

Zummar:

- Posters: 3,000
- Leaflets: 3,124
- Awareness Cards: 2,901

Ayadiya:

- Posters: 1,000
- Leaflets: 4,012
- Awareness Cards: 2,864

The use of VR technology, outdoor billboards, and social media campaigns greatly enhanced outreach and knowledge retention among beneficiaries.

Number of Beneficiaries Who Received EORE (Disaggregated by Sex and Age Group)

Targets breakdown: 9,000

Achieved: 9,566 beneficiaries (Target Exceeded)

- Women: 2,494
- Men: 961
- Girls: 3,078
- Boys: 3,033

Breakdown by Location:

- Al-Ayadiyah: 4,007 beneficiaries
 - Women: 981
 - Men: 572
 - Girls: 1,228
 - Boys: 1,226
- Zummar: 5,559 beneficiaries
 - Women: 1,513
 - Men: 389
 - Girls: 1,850
 - Boys: 1,807

The EORE sessions reached 9,566 beneficiaries, exceeding the original target of 9,000 beneficiaries. The high participation of women and girls (total: 5,572) highlights the effectiveness of community-led education efforts, particularly those led by female CFPs.

Pre/Post Questionnaire Completion Rate

A pre/post evaluation questionnaire was conducted to measure knowledge improvement and awareness levels of EORE topics. The questionnaire was completed during field visits by SHO Community Liaison Officers (CLOs).

Key Outcomes:

- 471 beneficiaries completed the questionnaire, surpassing the 5% target.
- The questionnaire results demonstrated strong knowledge retention, with beneficiaries exhibiting an increased understanding of explosive ordnance risks and safe behaviors.

The completion rate slightly exceeded the target (5.2% instead of 5%), indicating high engagement and community interest in the topic. The demand for participation exceeded initial expectations, leading to increased involvement in the evaluation process.

The EORE activities were highly successful, meeting and exceeding targets for sessions conducted, beneficiaries reached, and knowledge assessments completed. The combination of traditional training, VR demonstrations, media campaigns, and printed educational materials contributed to a comprehensive and effective risk education program.

Output 1.3: Monitoring and Evaluation of Project Interventions Conducted

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

During the reporting period, monitoring and evaluation activities were successfully carried out to assess the impact and effectiveness of the project interventions. The Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) survey was conducted using three mechanisms, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation of the awareness and risk education interventions. The actual results exceeded the expected targets, demonstrating the effectiveness of the project activities.

KAP Survey Implementation

Indicator: KAP Surveys Conducted by Three Mechanisms

- Baseline: 0
- Target: 35% coverage
- Achieved: 49% coverage (exceeding the target)

The KAP survey was conducted in three stages, each employing a different methodology to assess the knowledge and behavior change of beneficiaries regarding Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE).

Mechanism 1: Direct Beneficiary Questionnaire

- Target: 25% of direct beneficiaries
- Achieved: 29% (Exceeding target)

A questionnaire mechanism was implemented, targeting 800 trained Community Focal Points (CFPs).

- The CLO (Community Liaison Officers) Team conducted surveys with 233 direct beneficiaries (29% of the target population).
- Focus Areas:
 - Knowledge of Mines and Explosive Ordnance
 - Ability to identify hazardous areas
 - Understanding of safe behaviors and emergency procedures
- Despite all CFPs receiving standardized training, a randomized test sample was used, ensuring objective evaluation of knowledge retention.

The target (25%) was exceeded, reaching 29% of the CFP population. The questionnaire demonstrated strong retention of knowledge among direct beneficiaries, validating the training effectiveness.

Mechanism 2: Pre/Post-Test Evaluations

- Target: 5% of indirect beneficiaries
- Achieved: 8.2% (Exceeding target)

A pre/post-test mechanism was conducted to assess knowledge gained through EORE sessions.

- 741 indirect beneficiaries completed the Pre/Post-test.
- Original target: 450 beneficiaries (as per project proposal).
- The actual participation exceeded expectations, reaching 8.2% of indirect beneficiaries instead of the required 5%.

The number of respondents (741) far exceeded the project's original target (450), demonstrating high engagement and interest in the subject. The increased percentage (8.2% vs. the planned 5%) suggests that the community responded well to awareness messages and was eager to participate in knowledge assessments.

Mechanism 3: Village Assessment Survey

- Target: 5% of villages surveyed
- Achieved: 11.8% (Exceeding target)

A village assessment survey was conducted to measure awareness levels in high-risk areas.

- Total villages in the project area: 127
- Villages surveyed: 15
 - Zummar District: 7 villages
 - Al-Ayadiyah District: 8 villages
- The assessment focused on:
 - Dissemination of EORE messages
 - Community perceptions of explosive threats
 - Impact of awareness sessions on behavioral change

The target (5% of villages) was more than doubled, reaching 11.8% of the total project area. This expanded coverage ensured a broader reach, allowing for more accurate insights into the effectiveness of EORE interventions.

Comparison of Expected vs. Achieved KAP Survey Results

4c. Outputs and Activities Completed

KAP Survey Component	Targeted Coverage (%)	Achieved Coverage (%)	Variance
Questionnaire	25%	29%	+4%
Pre/Post-Test	5%	8.2%	+3.2%
Village Assessment	5%	11.8%	+6.8%
Total Expected	35%	49%	+14%

Key Findings:

- Overall KAP Survey coverage reached 49% instead of the planned 35%, exceeding the project proposal's expectations.
- Higher-than-expected participation in pre/post-tests and village assessments indicates strong community engagement and effective awareness dissemination.
- The increased reach and assessment coverage suggest a positive behavioral shift towards explosive hazard risk awareness and safety measures.

The monitoring and evaluation activities were successfully conducted, exceeding all key targets related to KAP survey coverage. The higher-than-expected participation rates in questionnaires, pre/post-tests, and village assessments reflect strong community engagement and interest in EORE messages.

5. Impact Story (1/2 page maximum)

Include an impact story focused on either an individual beneficiary or CSO partner which demonstrates the change that has occurred during the reporting period as a result of the implementation of a partner grant. The story should:

- capture the change that has occurred*
- illustrate the main objective of the project (WPHF impact area).*
- include a high quality photo with caption close-up photo portraits of individual beneficiaries and CSO partners being profiled, and include quotes if available.*

Please ensure that consent has been obtained from the individual beneficiary or CSO partner to use the story and photo in the WPHF global annual report, website, community of practice and/or social media. Also, consider using a **pseudonym (not the person's real name) to ensure protection/security. If obtaining a story could cause an individual harm/emotional stress, please consider doing a story on an organization instead.*

Al-Khamayel Foundation for Human Development and Combating Violence against Women



Figure 1 Diyar in A Group Photo with the Council Members

The Landscape of Diyar's Life

Diyar Hasan Sharif was born and raised in Dhi Qar, a region in southern Iraq known for its strong tribal traditions. Growing up in a society that often relegated women to the sidelines, Diyar was no stranger to the barriers imposed on her gender. Despite the challenges, she pursued her education in legal administration at a technical institute and later found her voice as a media professional at Al-Ahwar TV channel.

Her life in a patriarchal society presented a unique paradox. On one hand, she was a woman with dreams and ambitions, eager to carve a space for herself. On the other, she witnessed the marginalization of women in public and social life—a reality she sought to change.

Although apprehensive, she signed up, driven by the belief that the training could enhance her ability to contribute

meaningfully to her community. "I wanted to not only learn but also become a voice for the women who were often silenced in my society," Diyar reflected.

Building Foundations

The two-day training workshops were a transformative experience. Topics ranged from understanding women's roles in peacebuilding to practical skills in negotiation and conflict resolution. Diyar learned about the UN's Women, Peace, and Security agenda, as well as national frameworks supporting gender equality and conflict management.

For the first time, Diyar found herself in a room filled with women who shared her vision of breaking societal barriers. The program not only equipped her with skills but also fostered a sense of solidarity among participants.

Equipped with newfound confidence and expertise, Diyar joined the Council of Leaders and Elders in Dhi Qar. Her first major challenge was mediating a water-sharing dispute between two tribes. Utilizing her negotiation skills, she facilitated a resolution that balanced tribal traditions with modern conflict resolution practices. Her efforts extended beyond mediation. She collaborated with religious leaders to address broader social issues, including care for orphans and impoverished families. "True peace is not the absence of conflict but the ability to resolve it with empathy and understanding," she often emphasized.

Diyar's journey came full circle when she transitioned from a trainee to a trainer. She organized a workshop for 20 women, focusing on leadership and conflict resolution. Empowering other women became her mission, as she believed in the ripple effect of shared knowledge.

Her training sessions were not just about teaching skills but inspiring confidence in women who had long been sidelined. "We all have the power to lead, but sometimes we need someone to remind us of our strength," she would tell her participants.

Impact Beyond the Workshops

As a media professional, Diyar used her platform to highlight stories of women contributing to peacebuilding. Her broadcasts showcased the positive impact of women's leadership in resolving conflicts and building cohesive communities. She also leveraged social media, sharing her journey and motivating others to step into leadership roles.

Her work caught the attention of local and national leaders, further amplifying her message. Through her advocacy, Diyar became a role model, inspiring women across Iraq to defy societal expectations.

Diyar envisions a future where women in Iraq are not just participants but leaders in societal transformation. Her work with the Council and her role as a trainer are stepping stones toward a larger goal: creating an inclusive society where women's contributions are valued and celebrated.

Her story is a testament to the power of resilience and the impact of empowering one woman to inspire a community. As Diyar often says, "Leadership is not about power; it's about empowering others to find their voice and create change."

Through her dedication and courage, Diyar Hasan Sharif has become a beacon of hope in her community, proving that even in the face of adversity, one person can make a difference. Her journey is not just her story, it is a movement for change.

6a. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Management Entity

a) Report on any new knowledge products and communication materials produced by UN/ME during the reporting period. This can include case studies, major surveys/research, evaluations, or assessments conducted during the reporting period. This section should also include a list and description of any new products (websites, policy briefs, social media, case studies, photos, videos, etc.) developed to increase visibility of the projects and programme, and of WPHF.

** Please attach a copy of the study/evaluation/research/survey/assessment as an Annex and include the weblinks in this section, if available.*

No study/evaluation/research/survey/assessment have been conducted by the CO as the activities were conducted entirely by the CSO partners in Iraq.

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners

a) List a few examples of high-quality knowledge products and communication materials produced by an implementing partner during the reporting period. This can include case studies, major surveys/research, evaluations, or assessments conducted during the reporting period. This section should also include a list and description of any new products

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners

(websites, policy briefs, social media, case studies, etc.) developed to increase visibility of the projects and programme, and of WPHF.

** Please attach a copy or link of the study/evaluation/research/ assessment as an Annex and include the weblinks in this section, if available. For photos, kindly share these (along with a caption) to the WPHF communications team.*

Awan Organization For Awareness And Capability Development:



Awan Organization implemented an engaging dynamic training workshop in Diwaniyah from August 13–15, 2024, the workshop focused on countering violent extremism and conflict resolution. Led by the trainer Mr. Kazem Abbadi Al Abdan from the Subcommittee for Combating Violent Extremism in collaboration with the Awan organization facilitator. The workshop gathered civil society representatives, who actively participated in discussions, sharing knowledge, and exercises.

<https://bit.ly/3DjhZ0X>



Awan Organization in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior's Public Relations & Community Policing in Diwaniyah on January 14, 2024, launched the Women's Community Forum "Aman Bila Hudud" (Safety without borders). This initiative aims to empower women and actively addressing combat workplace violence and harassment.

<https://bit.ly/4gXrfWp>

3 academic studies on women's roles in local peace-building and conflict resolution in southern Iraq, as part of the Standard Operating Procedures Program. (3 links below):

- 1- The role of Security Council Resolution 1325 and CEDAW in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. (August. 2024)

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners

<https://awan-org.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/-الامن-1325-واتفاقية-سيداو-في-تحقيق-اهداف-التنمية-المستدامة-اوان-منظمة-اوان.pdf>

- 2- The Role of the United Nations in Strengthening the Right to Sustainable Development. (August. 2024)

<https://awan-org.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/اوان-منظمة-الأمم-المتحدة-في-تعضيد-الحق-في-التنمية-المستدامة-منظمة-اوان.pdf>

- 3- The Extent of the National Plan's Response to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in Strengthening the Protection of Women in Iraq. (August. 2024)

<https://awan-org.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/-مدى-استجابة-الخطة-الوطنية-لقرار-مجلس-الامن-رقم-1325-في-تعزيز-حماية-المرأة-اوان-منظمة-اوان.pdf>



Wasit, May 14, 2024 – The inaugural dialogue forum organized by Awan Organization and led by a prominent female leader, gathered 30 stakeholders, influencers, and academics to enhance feminist communication for conflict prevention and response.

<https://bit.ly/4biNp49>



Wasit, May 15, 2024 – The second dialogue forum, organized by Awan Organization and led by a prominent female leader and attended by 30 stakeholders, influencers, and academics, fostered effective feminist communication for conflict prevention and response.

<https://bit.ly/3Djjjgb>

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



Wasit, May 16, 2024 – The third dialogue forum organized by Awan Organization and led by a female leader and attended by 30 stakeholders, influencers, and academics, advanced effective feminist communication for conflict prevention and response.

<https://bit.ly/4ig9pPz>



Thi Qar, May 28, 2024 – The first dialogue forum, organized by Awan Organization and led by a female leader and attended by 30 stakeholders, influencers, and academics, promoted effective feminist communication for conflict prevention and response.

<https://bit.ly/4hSmUVR>



Thi Qar, May 29, 2024 – The second dialogue forum, organized by Awan Organization and led by a female leader and attended by 30 stakeholders, influencers, and academics, fostered effective feminist communication for conflict prevention and response.

<https://bit.ly/4kj3KKs>

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



Thi Qar, May 30, 2024 – The third dialogue forum, organized by Awan Organization and led by a female leader and attended by 30 stakeholders, influencers, and academics, promoted effective feminist communication for conflict prevention and response

<https://bit.ly/3QAMD99>



Diwaniyah, May 18, 2024 – The first dialogue forum, organized by Awan Organization and led by a female leader and attended by 30 stakeholders, influencers, and academics, fostered effective feminist communication for conflict prevention and response

<https://bit.ly/43fQ0d7>



6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



Diwaniyah, June 1, 2024 – The second dialogue forum, organized by Awan Organization and led by a female leader and attended by 30 stakeholders, influencers, and academics, advanced effective feminist communication for conflict prevention and response

<https://bit.ly/4h1yfyZ>



Diwaniyah, June 13, 2024 – The third dialogue forum, organized by Awan Organization and led by a female leader with 30 stakeholders, influencers, and academics, advanced effective feminist communication for conflict prevention and response

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/5wgtbro3Je6uXLL6/?mibextid=oFDknk>



6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



Wasit, July 12, 2024, 10:00 – Awan Organization implemented and facilitated a training workshop with local extremism reduction and dialogue committees to enhance community dialogue, leadership, and conflict prevention skills

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/ZJQA93UrtfBq7H5r/?mibextid=oFDknk>



Thi Qar, August 11, 2024, 9:00 – Awan Organization implemented and facilitated a training workshop with local counter-extremism and dialogue committees to enhance community dialogue, leadership, and conflict prevention skills

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/KSnaSFV3ndwk623s/?mibextid=oFDknk>



Diwaniyah, August 12, 2024– Awan Organization implemented and facilitated a training workshop with local counter-extremism and dialogue committees boosted community leadership, negotiation, and conflict prevention skills

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/HZP8Yp39pM9q2NC7/?mibextid=oFDknk>

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



A training workshop was implemented and organized by Awan Organization from April 22-24, 2024, in Wasit for various media institutions. The workshop focused on enhancing media coverage of women's roles in conflict prevention and response, integrating these narratives into systematic media practices, and promoting the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/jGyNFxCVEmBJx9Vj/?mibextid=oFDknk>



A training workshop was implemented and organized by Awan Organization from May 16-18, 2024, in Dhi Qar for various media institutions. The workshop aimed to enhance media representation of women's roles in conflict prevention and response, institutionalize gender-sensitive media practices, and promote the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/yzrRH8u6qpVT1fio/?mibextid=oFDknk>

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



A training workshop was implemented and organized by Awan Organization from June 12-14, 2024, in Diwaniyah for various media institutions. The workshop focused on strengthening media narratives around women's successful roles in conflict prevention and response, institutionalizing gender-sensitive media practices, and promoting the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/cncHZo4a78nBRBGD/?mibextid=oFDknk>

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تتاج المتدربين في الورشة التدريبية للمؤسسات الاعلامية المختلفة لخلق اعلام فعال في تسليط الضوء على قضايا المرأة وحمايتها وخلق تصور اعلامي فعال لادوار النساء...

One of the interviews out of the 8 Media contents are written by some of media professionals' trainees from the previous workshops that was implemented and organized by Awan Organization aimed at enhancing media coverage of women's issues and protection, highlighting women's successful roles in conflict prevention and response.

<https://web.facebook.com/watch/?mibextid=oFDknk&v=426687540363758&rdid=3u1up1MIgIkmrXJL>

Empowerment organization for development and public services:

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners

At Ibn Al-Haytham University in Baghdad, 12 adult female students received leadership training that consisted of over 10 sessions. Organized and implemented by the Empowerment organization from December 31, 2023, to February 26, 2024. The program focused on building leadership skills and strategies for success.



At Al-Salam School in Baghdad, 12 female students participated in a leadership training program that consisted of over 10 sessions. Organized and implemented by the Empowerment organization from December 31, 2023, to February 26, 2024. The training focused on developing leadership skills and strategies for success.



At Al-Salam School in Baghdad, the Empowerment organization implemented a leadership training program for 12 adolescent female students from February 29 to March 11, 2024. Following the training, a Graduation Training was conducted, where each student presented a topic to 20 others, expanding awareness and empowering more girls.



At Ibn Al-Haytham College in Baghdad, the Empowerment organization implemented a leadership training program for 12 adult female university students took place from February

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners

29 to March 11, 2024. Following the training, a Graduation Training was held, where each student presented a topic to 20 others, expanding awareness and empowering more young women.



At Al-Hariri School in Baghdad, the Empowerment organization implemented a leadership training program for 12 adolescent female students took place from February 29 to March 11, 2024. Following the training, a Graduation Training was conducted, where each student presented a topic to 20 others, expanding awareness and empowering more girls.



At Al-Aqeedah School in Basra, 12 female students participated in a leadership training program that consisted of over 10 sessions. Organized and implemented by the Empowerment organization from February 29 to March 12, 2024. The training focused on developing leadership skills and strategies for success.



6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners

At Wissam Abu Qadir School in Basra, 12 female students participated in a leadership training program that consisted of over 10 sessions. Organized and implemented by the Empowerment organization from February 29 to March 12, 2024. The training focused on developing leadership skills and strategies for success.



At Al-Aqeedah School in Basra, from April 16 to April 22, 2024, a Graduation Training session was organized by the Empowerment organization and conducted by a TOT trainee for 20 high school students. The session focused on advocating for women's rights in the community using strategic approaches with SMART goals and objectives to drive meaningful change.



At Wissam Abu Qadir School in Basra, from April 16 to April 22, 2024, a Graduation Training session was organized by the Empowerment organization and conducted by a TOT trainee for 20 high school students. The session aimed to advocate for women's rights in the community using strategic approaches with SMART goals and objectives to drive meaningful change.

Al-Khamayel Foundation for Human Development and Combating Violence against Women:

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



The first workshop on leadership and women's empowerment in conflict organized by Al-Khamayel Foundation took place in Dhi Qar from February 29 to March 1, 2024. The training targeted 20 women leaders from government institutions, volunteer teams, and civil society organizations, equipping them with essential skills to drive positive change in their communities.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/bTSyLPqRRT9Gdxid/?mibextid=qj2Omg>



The second workshop on leadership and women's empowerment in conflict resolution organized by Al-Khamayel Foundation took place in Dhi Qar from February 29 – March 1, 2024. The training targeted 20 women leaders from government institutions, volunteer teams, and civil society organizations, equipping them with essential skills to foster peace and drive positive change in their communities.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/HBvCHMoy4NmTQvzL/?mibextid=xfxF2i>

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



On March 29, 2024, in Dhi Qar Governorate, two workshops on peaceful coexistence and community cohesion were conducted by Al-Khamayel Foundation. Each targeting 20 women leaders from government institutions, volunteer teams, and civil society organizations. The workshops aimed to equip participants with the skills to foster social harmony and strengthen community cohesion.



On April 18-19, 2024, in Baghdad Governorate, two workshops on peaceful coexistence and community cohesion were conducted by Al-Khamayel Foundation. The first session took place on April 18, and the second on April 19, each targeting 20 women leaders from government institutions, volunteer teams, and civil society organizations. The workshops aimed to equip participants with the skills to foster social harmony and strengthen community cohesion.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/mBFyxUGbWUcYoJ6U/?mibextid=qi2Omg>
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/qac5oAh6GnyVSWE5/?mibextid=qi2Omg>

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



On April 16-17, 2024, in Baghdad, two workshops on leadership and women's empowerment in conflict resolution were conducted by Al-Khamayel Foundation. Each targeting 20 women leaders from government institutions, volunteer teams, and civil society organizations. The workshops aimed to equip participants with essential leadership skills to foster peace and drive positive change in their communities.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/cyQXLXcA2KdpYdm5/?mibextid=qi2Omg>
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/4r8gSkpRLEzcUCzh/?mibextid=qi2Omg>



On June 30, 2024, in Dhi Qar, Al-Khamayel Foundation held a celebration event for participants of the leadership preparation workshop, marking their achievements with a certificate distribution ceremony. The event brought together 80 women (18+ age group) who shared reflections on the workshop's impact in enhancing women's capabilities in peace support and conflict prevention.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/EiMGw6ixG3wFguE2/?mibextid=qi2Omg>

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



On June 29, 2024, in Dhi Qar, Al-Khamayel Foundation organized a celebration event for participants of the leadership preparation workshop, featuring a certificate distribution ceremony. The event brought together 60 women (18+ age group) who highlighted the workshop's significance in enhancing women's capabilities in peace support and conflict prevention.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/YFbJ5bxjAzA1WbBT/?mibextid=qi2Omg>



On May 2, 2024, in Dhi Qar Governorate, a training workshop was conducted by Al-Khamayel Foundation and facilitated by Ayat Haider as part of the *Training Workshops on Preparing Women Leaders for Making Peace and Reducing Disputes and Conflicts* activity. The session targeted 20 women, equipping them with essential leadership skills to promote peace and conflict resolution in their communities.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/jR1tXPhNekp5QAaL/?mibextid=qi2Omg>



6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners

On May 1, 2024, in Dhi Qar Governorate, a training workshop was conducted by Al-Khamayel Foundation and facilitated by Taiba Amer as part of the *Training Workshops on Preparing Women Leaders for Making Peace and Reducing Disputes and Conflicts* activity. The session targeted 20 women, equipping them with essential leadership skills to promote peace and conflict resolution in their communities.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/Uc8H6r2cf1ixroje/?mibextid=qj2Omg>



On May 5, 2024, in Dhi Qar Governorate, a training workshop was conducted by Al-Khamayel Foundation and facilitated by Khansa Faisal as part of the *Training Workshops on Preparing Women Leaders for Making Peace and Reducing Disputes and Conflicts* activity. The session targeted 20 women, equipping them with essential leadership skills to promote peace and conflict resolution in their communities.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/pmMUVoU4GLpyW1Xx/?mibextid=qj2Omg>



6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



On May 6, 2024, in Dhi Qar Governorate, a training workshop was conducted by Al-Khamayel Foundation and facilitated by Afia Hadi as part of the *Training Workshops on Preparing Women Leaders for Making Peace and Reducing Disputes and Conflicts* activity. The session targeted 20 women, equipping them with essential leadership skills to promote peace and conflict resolution in their communities.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/X3QDHSyFNnjDQWr/?mibextid=qj2Omg>



On May 9, 2024, in Dhi Qar Governorate, a training workshop was conducted by Al-Khamayel Foundation and facilitated by Fadila Hussein as part of the *Training Workshops on Preparing Women Leaders for Making Peace and Reducing Disputes and Conflicts* activity. The session targeted 20 women, equipping them with essential leadership skills to promote peace and conflict resolution in their communities.



On May 10, 2024, in Dhi Qar Governorate, a training workshop was conducted by Al-Khamayel Foundation and facilitated by Catherine Nizar as part of the *Training Workshops on Preparing Women Leaders for Making Peace and Reducing Disputes and Conflicts* activity. The session targeted 20 women, equipping them with essential leadership skills to promote peace and conflict resolution in their communities.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/dNRUPzzqFNJTqiFo/?mibextid=qj2Omg>

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



On May 2, 2024, in Baghdad Governorate, a training workshop was conducted by Al-Khamayel Foundation and facilitated by Ithmar Abdel Wahab Jarf as part of the *Training Workshops on Preparing Women Leaders for Making Peace and Reducing Disputes and Conflicts* activity. The session targeted 20 women, equipping them with essential leadership skills to promote peace and conflict resolution in their communities.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/Yg5Bj1D1J5qLtAfx/?mibextid=qi2Omg>



On May 20, 2024, in Baghdad Governorate, a training workshop was conducted by Al-Khamayel Foundation and facilitated by Ruwaida Hassan as part of the *Training Workshops on Preparing Women Leaders for Making Peace and Reducing Disputes and Conflicts* activity. The session targeted 20 women, equipping them with essential leadership skills to promote peace and conflict resolution in their communities.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/hEYvys4Hm2Lxwk4n/?mibextid=qi2Omg>



6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners

On August 1, 2024, in Baghdad Governorate, a training workshop was conducted by Al-Khamayel Foundation and facilitated by Eman Jaasm as part of the *Training Workshops on Peaceful Coexistence, Conflict Resolution, and Conflict Prevention* activity. The session targeted 20 women, equipping them with essential leadership skills to promote peace, resolve disputes, and prevent conflicts within their communities.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/jWA5TjfeUgGPF8aT/?mibextid=qi2Omg>



On August 6, 2024, in Dhi Qar Governorate, a training workshop was conducted by Al-Khamayel Foundation and facilitated by Teba Ameen as part of the *Training Workshops on Peaceful Coexistence, Conflict Resolution, and Conflict Prevention* activity. The session targeted 20 women, equipping them with essential leadership skills to promote peace, resolve disputes, and prevent conflicts within their communities.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/pGNYgbiQ7uENdTh7/?mibextid=qi2Omg>

Sabaa Center for Studies and Human Development:



From February 1-3, 2024, a three-day training workshop was conducted in Dhi Qar Governorate to enhance the capacities of women and youth organizations in monitoring early warning signals. The training focused on analyzing threats to community peace and assessing sectarian discourse content. Organized by Al-Khamayel Foundation in coordination with the Women's Affairs Department in the governorate, the workshop engaged 30 participants (20 women and 10 men) to strengthen their skills in conflict prevention and social cohesion.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/S7fEsyYUkcRQaKox/?mibextid=oFDknk>

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



"From February 7-9, 2024, a three-day training workshop was conducted in Al-Muthanna Governorate to enhance the capacities of women and youth organizations in monitoring early warning signals. The training focused on analyzing threats to community peace and assessing sectarian discourse content. Organized by Al-Khamayel Foundation in coordination with the Women's Affairs Department in the governorate, the workshop engaged 30 participants (18 women and 12 men) to strengthen their skills in conflict prevention and social cohesion.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/aT91k2W9u9LXNSZJ/?mibextid=oFDknk>



From February 17-19, 2024, a three-day training workshop was conducted in Diwaniyah Governorate to enhance the capacities of women's and youth organizations in monitoring early warning signals. The training focused on analyzing threats to community peace and assessing sectarian discourse content. Organized by Al-Khamayel Foundation in coordination with the Women's Affairs Department in the governorate, the workshop engaged 30 participants (23 women and 7 men) to strengthen their skills in conflict prevention and social cohesion.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/Xi8fCW94epAxEi2Q/?mibextid=oFDknk>

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



On January 31, 2024, in Dhi Qar Governorate, a meeting was held and facilitated by Al-Khamayel Foundation to develop a local feminist plan for responding to crises that threaten societal peace. The discussions focused on identifying proactive measures through dialogue and peaceful programs to establish a long-term response strategy. The meeting brought together 10 participants (5 women and 5 men) to contribute to shaping a sustainable approach for crisis response and community stability.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/Pq5WFtr4MRKucz8D/?mibextid=oFDknk>



On March 27, 2024, in Muthanna Governorate, a meeting was held and facilitated by Al-Khamayel Foundation to develop a local feminist plan for responding to crises that threaten societal peace. The discussions focused on identifying proactive measures through dialogue and peaceful programs to establish a long-term response strategy. The meeting brought together 10 participants (5 women and 5 men) to contribute to shaping a sustainable approach for crisis response and community stability.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/UxsmpQHZUJnh74xm/?mibextid=oFDknk>



6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners

On March 20, 2024, in Diwaniyah Governorate, a meeting was held and facilitated by Al-Khamayel Foundation to develop a local feminist plan for responding to crises that threaten societal peace. The discussions focused on identifying proactive measures through dialogue and peaceful programs to establish a long-term response strategy. The meeting brought together 10 participants (5 women and 5 men) to contribute to shaping a sustainable approach for crisis response and community stability.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/4tP7f7kRosmKoeMm/?mibextid=oFDknk>



On April 26, 2024, in Nasiriyah Governorate, a dialogue and discussion session was held and facilitated by Al-Khamayel Foundation with 30 participants (16 men and 14 women) from various societal groups, including influencers, decision-makers, and academics. The session aimed to enhance dialogue with local communities to support women's participation and challenge stereotypes, fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/6Ehwwa25ah9VxNxd/?mibextid=oFDknk>



On May 1, 2024, in Samawah Governorate, a dialogue and discussion session was held and facilitated by Al-Khamayel Foundation with 30 participants (14 men and 16 women) from various societal groups, including influencers, decision-makers, and academics. The session aimed to enhance dialogue with local communities to support women's participation and challenge stereotypes, fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/55ZDZEie4MLZMACV/?mibextid=oFDknk>

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



On May 4, 2024, in Diwaniyah Governorate, a dialogue and discussion session was held and facilitated by Al-Khamayel Foundation with 30 participants (13 men and 17 women) from various community groups, including influencers, decision-makers, and academics. The session aimed to enhance dialogue with local communities to support women's participation and challenge stereotypes, fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/6HpRevPKnC4QL9w5/?mibextid=oFDknk>



From June 2 to 4, 2024, a training workshop was held and facilitated by Al-Khamayel Foundation in Dhi Qar Governorate for 15 participants (8 women and 7 men) from civil society organizations, volunteer teams, and activist networks. The workshop aimed to strengthen their capacities in key areas, including peacebuilding, combating extremism, negotiation, conflict resolution, networking, and advocacy campaigns, equipping them with the skills to drive positive change within their communities.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/wdStLmBUtUSVRUir/?mibextid=oFDknk>



6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners

From June 5 to 7, 2024, a training workshop was held and facilitated by Al-Khamayel Foundation in Dhi Qar Governorate for 15 participants (10 women and 5 men) from civil society organizations, volunteer teams, activists, and community police. The workshop aimed to strengthen their capacities in peacebuilding, combating extremism, negotiation, conflict resolution, networking, and advocacy campaigns, equipping them with the skills to foster positive change within their communities.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/pGoik5a9E6tLFAHh/?mibextid=oFDknk>



From June 9 to 11, 2024, a training workshop was held and facilitated by Al-Khamayel Foundation in Al-Muthanna Governorate for 15 participants (13 women and 2 men) from civil society organizations, volunteer teams, activists, and community police. The workshop aimed to enhance their capacities in peacebuilding, combating extremism, negotiation, conflict resolution, networking, and advocacy campaigns, equipping them with the skills to drive positive change within their communities.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/fXQ4BFHcux7945Vy/?mibextid=oFDknk>



From June 12 to 14, 2024, a training workshop was held by Al-Khamayel Foundation in Al-Muthanna Governorate for 15 participants (9 women and 6 men) from civil society organizations, volunteer teams, activists, and community police. The workshop aimed to enhance their capacities in peacebuilding, combating extremism, negotiation, conflict resolution, networking, and advocacy campaigns, equipping them with the skills to drive positive change within their communities.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/8R4YRrVDynR2nBxm/?mibextid=oFDknk>

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



"On June 20, 2024, Al-Khamayel Foundation recorded the first radio episode and broadcast in Al-Muthanna Governorate on Al-Amal Radio. The episode featured Dr. Basem Hassan, Ph.D. in Constitutional Law at Al-Muthanna University, as the guest speaker. The discussion focused on the crucial role of women in preventing and reducing conflicts, highlighting their contributions to peacebuilding and community stability.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/rpD9NoSmUPY78T9P/?mibextid=oFDknk>



On June 29, 2024, Al-Khamayel Foundation recorded its first radio episode and broadcast in Diwaniyah Governorate on Diwaniyah Radio. The episode featured Dr. Zainab Karim, Head of the Women's Affairs Unit, as the guest speaker. The discussion focused on the role of women in preventing and reducing conflicts, highlighting their contributions to peacebuilding and fostering social stability.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/A84npCypuStrTWcG/?mibextid=oFDknk>

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



Al-Khamayel Foundation recorded several Radio Episodes on Women's Role in Security and Peacebuilding:

- On August 2, 2024, the second radio episode was recorded and broadcast in Muthanna Governorate on Al-Amal Radio, featuring human rights activist Bushra Al-Taie as the guest speaker. The episode discussed the role of women in security institutions, highlighting their contributions to enhancing safety and stability.
- On August 5, 2024, the third radio episode aired in Muthanna Governorate on Al-Amal Radio, featuring journalist Rabab Al-Ziyadi. The discussion focused on the role of women in building peace, emphasizing their impact on fostering community resilience and conflict resolution.
- On August 6, 2024, the second radio episode was recorded and broadcast in Diwaniyah Governorate on Diwaniyah Radio, again featuring human rights activist Bushra Al-Taie. The episode addressed women's role in security institutions, shedding light on their involvement in law enforcement and peacekeeping efforts.
- On August 8, 2024, the third radio episode aired in Diwaniyah Governorate on Diwaniyah Radio, featuring Ayad Al-Mayali, Director of the Organizations Office. The discussion focused on the role of women in building peace, exploring their efforts in conflict prevention and community development.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/fwcbl5dbmmbxPb/?mibextid=oFDknk>
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/f79tc8DXdgheJnZY/?mibextid=oFDknk>
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/9BJdNwKHqrXpHSJH/?mibextid=oFDknk>
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/adrM76orKJwKJhHc/?mibextid=oFDknk>

Women Rights Center in Samawa:



6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners

From February 7-9, 2024, a three-day training workshop was held by the Women Rights Center in Samawa Organization in Diwanayah Governorate on Empowering Women Leaders as Community Mediators. The workshop brought together influential female activists and representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs) to strengthen their roles in community mediation.

Participants received training on key skills, including the art of negotiation, effective communication, and community mediation, equipping them to facilitate dialogue, resolve conflicts, and promote social cohesion within their communities.



From February 16-18, 2024, a three-day training workshop was held by the Women Rights Center in Samawa Organization in Dhi Qar Governorate on Empowering Women Leaders as Community Mediators. The workshop gathered influential female activists and representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs) to enhance their roles in community mediation.

Participants were trained in the art of negotiation, effective communication, and community mediation, equipping them with essential skills to facilitate dialogue, resolve conflicts, and promote social cohesion within their communities.



On March 9, 2024, the first Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was held by the Women Rights Center in Samawa Organization in Wasit Governorate to develop local evaluation and follow-up plans for measuring progress based on key indicators related to the implementation of the Second National Plan on Women's Participation in Conflict Prevention, Management, and Leadership of Initiatives.

The discussion brought together influential female activists, civil society organizations (CSOs), and community leaders, aiming to establish concrete mechanisms for monitoring and assessing the impact of women's engagement in conflict resolution and leadership roles.



6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners

On March 16, 2024, the third Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was held and facilitated by the Women Rights Center in Samawa Organization in Diwaniyah Governorate to develop local evaluation and follow-up plans for measuring progress based on key indicators for implementing the Second National Plan on Women's Participation in Conflict Prevention, Management, and Leadership of Initiatives.

The discussion brought together influential female activists, civil society organizations (CSOs), and community leaders, aiming to establish concrete mechanisms for monitoring and assessing the impact of women's engagement in conflict resolution and leadership roles.



On June 11, 2024, the 6th dialogue session on mediation in resolving community conflicts was conducted in Dhi Qar Governorate. Organized by the Women Rights Center in Samawa Organization, the session was conducted in collaboration with facilitators Iman Majeed and Sada Jabbar, both active members of the Community Mediation Forum in Dhi Qar. The session brought together 20 female leaders, civil society organizations (CSOs), and activists to discuss and enhance mediation strategies for conflict resolution. Participants engaged in dialogue on effective mediation techniques and the role of community leaders in fostering peace and social cohesion.

Women Leadership Institute (WLI):



On January 18, 2024, a Small Business Management training session was held by the Women Leadership Institute in Kirkuk Center, empowering 20 IDP women (18+) with entrepreneurial skills



On February 14, 2024, a Small Business Management training session was held by the Women Leadership Institute in Kirkuk, equipping 20 IDP women (18+) with entrepreneurial skills

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



On January 27, 2024, a legal awareness session on workers' rights under Iraqi labor law was held by the Women Leadership Institute in Kirkuk, benefiting 17 women (18+)



On June 27, 2024, a dialogue session was held and facilitated by the Women Leadership Institute in Kirkuk – Almas – Ayoub Restaurant Hall, bringing together 15 decision-makers and 15 IDP women trainees to discuss challenges in starting new businesses, accessing loans, and the process for social guarantee registration.



On August 14, 2024, a dialogue session was held and facilitated by the Women Leadership Institute at Plaza Kirkuk Hotel Hall, bringing together 35 participants, including decision-makers from local and central authorities, to discuss key issues and challenges.

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



On August 15, 2024, a dialogue session was held by the Women Leadership Institute at the Kirkuk Governmental Building Hall, bringing together 55 participants, including decision-makers from local and central authorities, to discuss key issues and challenges.



Widows Training and Development Center (WTDC):

4th Sewing Workshop: The Widows Training and Development Center was held from December 20, 2023, to January 9, 2024, during the morning shift, benefiting 8 participants aged 18-35.



9th Sewing Workshop: The Widows Training and Development Center was held from February 11 to February 28, 2024, during the evening shift, benefiting 12 participants aged 18-35.

Second Dialogue Workshop: The Widows Training and Development Center was held on May 29, 2024, at Abu Ghraib Governmental Youth Forum, with 11 women participants aged 18-35 engaging in discussions.

Social Actors Training: The Widows Training and Development Center was conducted over three days from June 9-11, 2024, at Abu Ghraib Governmental Youth Forum, with 16 male participants aged 30-60.

Foundation of United for Relief and Sustainable Development (FUAD):

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



Awareness Session: The Foundation of United for Relief and Sustainable Development was held and facilitated on February 12, 2024, in Nofal Village, Miqdadiyah District, Diyala, benefiting 20 male participants.



On International Women's Day, 8th of March 2024, The Foundation of United for Relief and Sustainable Development organized a ceremony in Kirkuk, Haweeja District, at the Community Police Centre, in collaboration with the Community Police. The event was attended by 30 participants (23 women, 7 men), including official representatives and local women from Haweeja.



Awareness Session: The Foundation of United for Relief and Sustainable Development was held and facilitated on September 24, 2023, in Aladliya Village, benefiting 20 male participants.

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



On September 3, 2024, The Foundation of United for Relief and Sustainable Development conducted a monitoring visit in Kirkuk to assess the progress of a cash grant beneficiary who, after training, started her own business as a baker selling bread.

On September 25, 2024, The Foundation of United for Relief and Sustainable Development conducted a monitoring visit in Diyala to follow up on a cash grant beneficiary who, after training, successfully launched her mini-market business.

Odessa Organization for Women Development:



On January 31, 2024, an internal workshop was held and facilitated by the Odessa Organization at the organization Center in Sinjar District, Ninewa Province, for all project employees (4 women and 4 men). The session focused on detailing the implementation plan, including activities, outputs, and target groups, as well as reviewing the initial drafts of the training curricula.



Odessa Organization Provided Individual Consultations:

Psychological Consultations: 70 females (40 women, 30 girls).

Social Consultations: 66 females (45 women, 21 girls).

Economic Consultations: 80 females (55 women, 25 girls).

Health Consultations: 75 females (35 women, 40 girls).

Shareteah Humanitarian Organization (SHO):

6b. Knowledge Products and Communications/Visibility of Implementing Partners



From March 25-27, 2024, Odessa Organization conducted a three-day Crisis and Disaster Management Workshop with women and girls from the Sinjari community, focusing on effective crisis response, resource management, and risk assessment during disasters.



From April 7-9, 2024, a training on Gender-Sensitive Early Warning, Household, and Community Preparedness Measures was conducted by the Odessa Organization and attended by 20 participants.

7. Capacity Strengthening Activities by UN Country Office/Management Entity

a) For Countries that have implemented Capacity Strengthening Projects with WPHF funding

- i) If your country has received funds for capacity strengthening initiatives, report against your results framework and ProDoc, including the results/changes in capacity, skills, or practices of CSO partners and their organization.
- ii) Describe any results from pre and/or post training surveys that may have been completed (e.g. OCATs) or if any capacity strengthening materials were produced using this funding and share these with WPHF.

N/A

b) Other countries' capacity strengthening initiatives that have benefited WPHF Partners

If your country (those who have not received funds for capacity strengthening initiatives) has carried out any capacity strengthening sessions (webinars, in-person training sessions, workshops, etc.) that were conducted by the Country Office, Management Entity or other external agencies with CSO partners, please describe. Include i) the topic/subject; ii) who conducted the capacity strengthening; iii) where (virtual/in person); iv) number of CSOs and CSO representatives that participated. Describe any results from pre and/or post training surveys that may have been completed. Finally, if any capacity building materials were produced and would benefit other CSOs, please share these with WPHF.

Comprehensive and sustained capacity-building efforts were undertaken by UN Women Iraq to empower its partners. Throughout the year, UN Women has reinforced its commitment to enhancing the operational, financial, and technical capacities of WPHF-supported civil society organizations (CSOs), ensuring their ability to successfully implement and sustain their projects.

To achieve this, UN Women Iraq conducted a series of structured capacity-building sessions and bilateral meetings, including in-depth meetings, interactive calls, and targeted in-person training meetings. These sessions were meticulously designed to address both programmatic and financial aspects of project implementation. Key focus areas included narrative and financial reporting, compliance with donor requirements, risk mitigation strategies, and adaptive management in conflict and humanitarian settings. The sessions provided a collaborative space for discussion, peer learning, and problem-solving, strengthening the ability of CSOs to navigate complex challenges in their respective contexts.

In total, UN Women facilitated collective training sessions that brought together 28 representatives (14 program team members and 14 financial team members) from 14 WPHF partner organizations. These sessions featured dedicated Q&A segments, ensuring that each CSO received tailored guidance to enhance their reporting accuracy and program efficiency. Beyond formal training, UN Women provided ongoing one-on-one technical support, guiding partners through financial and programmatic reporting cycles, ensuring adherence to accountability standards, and helping them align their interventions with the broader objectives of the WPHF.

7. Capacity Strengthening Activities by UN Country Office/Management Entity

A key component of UN Women's capacity-building approach was the field visits conducted across multiple locations. These visits were not only a means of monitoring progress but also served as an extension of capacity development efforts. UN Women staff actively participated in events organized by WPHF partners, visited their offices to assess project implementation first-hand, and provided real-time advisory support. By engaging directly with partners on the ground, UN Women was able to identify challenges, assess risks, and offer tailored solutions that addressed both strategic and operational gaps. These visits fostered stronger relationships with CSOs, reinforced trust, and ensured that the support provided was responsive to their evolving needs.

UN Women's monitoring mechanisms included the systematic collection of feedback from partners, allowing for continuous improvement in the capacity-building process. This iterative approach allowed UN Women to refine its methodologies and ensure that the training provided was impactful and directly contributed to improved organizational performance among its partners.

8. L-HUB Grants (Peer Learning, Mentorship or Joint Advocacy Actions)²⁰

If CSO partners have implemented a L-HUB grants during the year, please summarize the key initiatives and results from these grants. This should include results related to skills, coalition building/networking, etc. as aligned with the CSOs' project document. Also include the number of CSO representatives (disaggregated by sex and age group) that have benefited from these grants. Please share the completed peer learning/mentorship grant reporting template with your annual report submission.

**Partners who received these grants must also be included in the CSO Profile (Section 1) and WPHF Beneficiary Template 2024 as a separate row*

N/A

9. Risks and Mitigation

Using the table below, identify any risks that occurred during the reporting period and assess their i) risk level; ii) likelihood of it occurring; and iii) the impact this risk would have on the project, programme, or country. What are the mitigation measures to minimize the risk to prevent it or respond to it if it occurs? Consider risks related to new or escalating conflict/tensions, climate change, programmatic or institutional risks, monitoring and evaluation and Do No Harm

Risk Area (contextual, programmatic, institutionally, briefly describe)	Risk Level 4=Very High 3=High 2=Medium 1=Low	Likelihood 5=Very High 4=Likely 3=Possible 2=Unlikely 1=Rare	Impact 5=Extreme 4=Major 3=Moderate 2=Minor 1=Insignificant	Mitigation Mitigating measures undertaken during the reporting period to address the risk
Security incidents in a number of governorates of Iraq due to the shift of government and demonstrations leading into armed conflicts	4	4	5	Responsible Parties (RPs) with the coordination with UNW replanned and shifted their activities to different dates to address this issue.
Massive changes in the Iraqi banks systems and regulations which extremely delayed tranches disbursements for partners leading into huge delays in implementation	4	5	5	The UN agencies with the coordination with the RCO in Iraq formulated an inter-agency finance working group and appointing a specialized banking focal point with a direct contact with the Iraqi Central Bank to seek solutions and push for banking regulations feasible amendments to serve into avoiding future delays.
Lack of cooperation by the related governmental bodies with UNW RPs on matters such as approvals, facilitating implementation or interfering with the RPs program	4	5	3	UNW with the coordination with the RCO and the steering committee members along with the related governmental bodies exert all efforts to mitigate this risk by delivering the CSOs struggles on the ground to the highest levels in the government of Iraq stressing on the importance of the civil society in the country while supporting CSOs to be flexible in their implementation to address these challenges as much as possible without affecting the goals of the program.

10. Delays and Adaptations/Revisions

If there were delays at the country level, please explain the delays and reasons/factors for contributing to the delay, actions taken to mitigate future delays, and adaptations made to account for the delays. Indicate any major adjustments in strategies, targets or key

²⁰ For partners that have also been engaged in the Women Have Wings Awards, please use this section to report on the main results and activities completed as aligned with the Project Document.

10. Delays and Adaptations/Revisions

outcomes that took place. This section should also include information on contracting and programmatic delays related to escalating crisis or other factors.

While some delays were encountered during program implementation, they remained relatively limited due to the concerted efforts of UN Women Iraq in liaising with the Government of Iraq to facilitate and accelerate program activities. By maintaining close coordination with key governmental entities, UN Women Iraq was able to navigate bureaucratic processes and ensure the continued progress of interventions.

However, despite these efforts, certain challenges did arise, particularly due to slow or inconsistent responses from some governmental departments. This was especially pronounced in remote and underserved areas, where administrative procedures tend to be more complex and less responsive. Additionally, banking challenges—such as limited financial services, slow processing of funds, and restrictive procedures—complicated payments and procurement, leading to delayed transactions and occasional bottlenecks. Security-related challenges, including ongoing instability, safety risks, and limited access to certain regions, further complicated timely project execution and required careful coordination with local authorities and security committees.

To mitigate these delays, UN Women Iraq adopted a proactive approach, strengthening dialogue with key stakeholders and leveraging its partnerships to advocate for more efficient collaboration. Regular follow-ups and technical assistance efforts were employed to enhance the responsiveness of governmental counterparts. Adaptive measures were also introduced to allow greater flexibility in implementation timelines and logistical planning, ensuring minimal disruption to program activities.

Despite these minor setbacks, the overall strategic direction, targets, and expected outcomes of the program remained intact. UN Women Iraq's ability to swiftly adapt and respond to operational challenges ensured that no major programmatic adjustments were required. Contracting and programmatic delays—whether due to procedural hurdles, banking constraints, security challenges, or broader contextual factors—were actively managed through continuous monitoring and coordination. By maintaining a strong commitment to its objectives and reinforcing institutional engagement, UN Women Iraq successfully minimized the impact of these delays and sustained the momentum of its initiatives.

11. Lessons Learned²¹

What challenges and lessons were learned during the reporting period at both the project and country level? Include those lessons that can benefit other WPHF countries and of the fund overall. For each challenge, identify and describe the challenge, provide details on what are the factors that may have contributed to it occurring, describe how the challenge was addressed in the reporting period, or will be addressed in the future, and summarize the key lesson that can help inform the project, or improve in the future. These should include both programmatic and operational challenges. Add rows as required.

Identify Challenge/Describe <i>Challenges can be programmatic or operational affecting the country program and/or of projects.</i>	What are the factors/reasons contributing to this challenge?	How was the challenge addressed? What was done differently, or what will be done to address the challenge?	Key Lesson Learned <i>As a result of the challenge what did you (and partners) learn from the situation that has helped to inform the project, or improve how the project is implemented or for future interventions?</i>
Delays in overall project implementation and activity execution Prolonged agreement-signing process with partners leading to setbacks in fund disbursement and project initiation	Delayed submission of required documents from partners , causing holdups in receiving their financial tranches	Proactive engagement with partners , including continuous follow-ups, technical support, and capacity-building to ensure timely submission of required documents	Consistent follow-up with partners on financial advances and liquidations is critical to maintaining smooth implementation and preventing unnecessary delays
Prolonged agreement-signing process with partners leading to setbacks in fund disbursement and project initiation	Political protests and security concerns , disrupting fieldwork and operational timelines Major changes in banking systems , leading to unexpected delays in processing financial transactions	Implementation of contingency measures , allowing partners to use their own funds to maintain project continuity, with reimbursement upon tranche receipt Regular finance working group meetings among UN agencies, advocating for solutions in	Contingency planning is essential to mitigate financial and operational disruptions, ensuring activities continue without major interruptions Open communication and transparency with partners alongside regular updates to WPHF, RCO, and government stakeholders, enhance accountability and trust

²¹ A lesson learned is a systematic reflection of challenges (or successes) that have occurred during the reporting period which has resulted in a change, adaption, or improvement as a result of the challenge, or a planned change or adaptation in the future.

11. Lessons Learned ²¹			
		collaboration with the Iraqi government Strengthened coordination with networks and task forces to streamline procedures for addressing misconduct, SEA, and abuse of power cases reported to UNW	
Lack of effective coordination with government authorities affecting approvals, communication, and implementation timelines	Government holidays and restricted working hours, limiting communication and approvals, further stalling activities	Enhancing government collaboration by conducting regular meetings to ensure smoother coordination with relevant authorities and minimize bureaucratic delays	Active government involvement in events and activities fosters stronger community engagement, increasing outreach and positively impacting project outcomes

12. Innovations and Best Practices ²²
<i>Please include information on any innovative practices (programmatic and operational) that emerged during the reporting period, especially those that can be beneficial for other WPHF countries, expand the body of knowledge on women, peace, and security and humanitarian action. Innovations and best practices can be from projects or country level. Please provide details such as CSO name, location, etc.</i>
<p>a) Innovations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Awareness Campaign for Conflict Prevention – The Empowerment Organization for Development and Public Services launched a digital awareness campaign targeting young women and adolescent girls in Baghdad and Basra. The campaign combined online training, social media outreach, and community-led initiatives by feminist peace clubs, equipping 619 participants with skills in digital advocacy. This innovative approach to conflict prevention exceeded the expected reach, demonstrating how digital tools can amplify women's roles in peacebuilding. 306 females (women and adolescent girls), 313 males (men and adolescent boys), the campaign exceeded the initial target of 600 participants, which was originally planned to include 400 females and 200 males. The Women Rights Center in Samawa established four Community Feminist Mediation Forums in Al-Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Wasit, and Diwaniyah, engaging 80 women (20 per forum) in a structured three-phase training process to institutionalize women's participation in community-led conflict mediation. The model focused on capacity building through negotiation, leadership, and conflict response training, fostering collaboration with governmental institutions and CSOs, and enriching community dialogue through 12 mediation sessions involving 240 participants. By integrating digital platforms, specialized training, and mentorship for young female mediators, the forums created a sustainable, replicable model for women-led peacebuilding. This initiative set a precedent for expanding feminist mediation networks regionally and globally, advocating for policy reforms and digital tools to enhance conflict resolution efforts. The model's scalability and institutionalization make it a strong blueprint for WPHF-supported countries, reinforcing gender-sensitive approaches to conflict resolution and empowering women as mediators in peace processes The Sabaa Center for Studies and Human Development implemented a radio-based peace messaging strategy, broadcasting nine episodes across Dhi Qar, Al-Muthanna, and Diwaniyah between June 19 and August 8, 2024, on Al-Ahwar, Al-Amal, and Diwaniyah Radio to amplify women's voices in conflict management and security efforts. Featuring academics, activists, journalists, and government representatives, the episodes covered women's roles in conflict prevention, participation in security institutions, and peacebuilding, challenging stereotypes and fostering public awareness. By leveraging local radio with broad regional reach, the initiative ensured accessibility, particularly for rural communities with limited digital access, and proved to be a low-cost, high-impact model for conflict prevention. Its scalability and adaptability make it a strong candidate for replication in other WPHF-supported countries, with potential expansion through podcast series, interactive social media campaigns, and television partnerships to further institutionalize gender-inclusive peacebuilding narratives. Feminist Peace Clubs for Advocacy and Policy Influence – In Baghdad and Basra, the Empowerment Organization for Development and Public Services established six feminist peace clubs—four in high schools and two in universities—to train young women and adolescents in advocacy and lobbying for the full implementation of UNSCR 1325. These clubs not only built capacity among youth but also engaged decision-makers in policy discussions, demonstrating a sustainable model for youth-led peace initiatives. Entrepreneurial Support for Displaced Women – The KANZ Humanitarian Organization and Widows Training and Development Center (WTDC) piloted structured business and entrepreneurship training programs for internally displaced persons (IDPs),

²² A best practice is strategy, approach, technique, or process that has proven to work well and deemed to be effective or appropriate for addressing a problem based on experience, evaluation or in comparison to other practices, and is therefore recommended as a model. It is also a practice that has been tested and validated and has potential to be replicated and there is value in sharing with others working in similar contexts, sectors, or with similar target groups.

12. Innovations and Best Practices²²

Please include information on any innovative practices (programmatic and operational) that emerged during the reporting period, especially those that can be beneficial for other WPHF countries, expand the body of knowledge on women, peace, and security and humanitarian action. Innovations and best practices can be from projects or country level. Please provide details such as CSO name, location, etc.

equipping women with business grants and technical support. Through tailored coaching, nearly all participants successfully launched small-scale businesses, enhancing economic stability and reducing vulnerabilities to conflict.

b) Best Practices:

1. Institutionalizing Women's Roles in Mediation – The Awan Organization for Awareness and Capability Development facilitated government adoption of policies that mandate the inclusion of women in mediation committees. Decision No. 4386 in Diwaniyah formally integrated 10 women into the National Peace Mediators Network, ensuring systemic recognition of women's contributions to conflict resolution. **Decision No. 4386 in Diwaniyah:** This decision was at the **local level** (Diwaniyah Governorate), formally integrating 10 women into mediation committees under the National Peace Mediators Network, ensuring the systemic recognition of women's contributions to conflict resolution. **Three Key Policy Decisions issued by Women's Affairs Departments:** These policies were at the **local level** (Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, and Wasit Governorates) to formally adopt a methodology for integrating women into conflict resolution and mediation processes. The decisions were designed to ensure systematic inclusion of women into local conflict resolution and mediation efforts. The policies described were at the **local governorate level**, specifically targeting gender-sensitive approaches in conflict prevention and mediation processes.
2. Standardized Gender-Sensitive Mediation Frameworks – The Awan Organization for Awareness and Capability Development also developed a gender-sensitive conflict resolution methodology, officially adopted by Women's Empowerment Departments in three governorates. This standardized approach provides a structured framework for local governments and civil society to integrate women into peacebuilding efforts.
3. Women-Led Conflict Early Warning Systems – The Sabaa Center for Studies and Human Development trained 186 participants—including feminist organizations and community stakeholders—on monitoring early warning indicators related to social cohesion and sectarian discourse. The initiative improved local conflict response capacities and provided a replicable model for grassroots peace monitoring. The Women-Led Conflict Early Warning System developed by the Sabaa Center for Studies and Human Development is a structured, replicable model aimed at enhancing local capacities for proactive conflict monitoring and response, specifically targeting social cohesion and sectarian discourse. It involves comprehensive training of feminist organizations, community stakeholders, and civil society representatives across Nasiriyah, Diwaniyah, and Al-Muthanna, providing them with practical tools such as observation checklists, community data collection methods, and gender-sensitive analytical approaches to identify and address emerging threats effectively. Through interactive workshops and scenario-based simulations, participants' skills improved significantly, leading to stronger local conflict-response capacities and facilitating the establishment of collaborative networks for continuous information sharing, joint decision-making, and rapid alert dissemination. The approach further supports sustainability and scalability by offering a clear, adaptable framework for grassroots peace monitoring and conflict prevention, complemented by strategic crisis response plans formally approved by local authorities, thereby institutionalizing a proactive, community-driven approach to conflict management.
4. Multi-Stakeholder Engagement for Displaced Women's Economic Empowerment – The Women Leadership Institute (WLI) facilitated structured policy dialogues between displaced women, government officials, and financial institutions in Kirkuk. These dialogues led to commitments for revising microfinance policies, improving business licensing procedures, and expanding employment opportunities for displaced women. The structured policy dialogues facilitated by the Women Leadership Institute (WLI) in Kirkuk engaged government officials, financial institutions, and displaced women, resulting in commitments to revise and improve three specific policies: microfinance loan procedures (raising loan limits and removing restrictive guarantor requirements), business licensing processes (simplifying bureaucratic procedures), and employment opportunities (expanding targeted support and coordination efforts), thereby enhancing economic empowerment for displaced women in the region.
5. Training-of-Trainers (ToT) Model for Sustainable Capacity Building – The Al-Khamayel Foundation for Human Development and Combating Violence Against Women implemented a ToT model, where 80 women leaders trained under the program cascaded their knowledge to 640 additional women across Baghdad and Dhi Qar. This peer-led approach significantly scaled impact and ensured sustainability beyond the project duration.
6. Creative Arts for Social Cohesion and Peacebuilding – The Al-Khamayel Foundation also used artistic expression as a medium for promoting peacebuilding, organizing creative workshops where women showcased their experiences in leadership and conflict prevention. By integrating arts and storytelling, the initiative fostered stronger community engagement and awareness on women's roles in peace.
7. School-Based Peacebuilding Programs for Youth – The Empowerment Organization for Development and Public Services successfully conducted 10 school-based interventions, engaging 251 youth (129 girls, 122 boys) in practical peace education and conflict prevention strategies. Despite challenges in youth participation, the initiative created safe spaces for dialogue and awareness among students, setting a strong foundation for youth engagement in WPS efforts.
8. Policy-Influencing Research on GBV's Economic Impact – The Iraqi Organization for Women and Future (IOWAF) led a groundbreaking study on the economic impact of gender-based violence (GBV) in Iraq, in partnership with the Ministry of Planning. The research provided evidence-based recommendations for policy reforms and was publicly launched at a high-level press conference, reinforcing the role of data in advocating for gender-sensitive policy changes.

12. Innovations and Best Practices²²

Please include information on any innovative practices (programmatic and operational) that emerged during the reporting period, especially those that can be beneficial for other WPHF countries, expand the body of knowledge on women, peace, and security and humanitarian action. Innovations and best practices can be from projects or country level. Please provide details such as CSO name, location, etc.

9. Health Awareness and Protection for Forcibly Displaced Women – The IOWAF also conducted targeted health awareness sessions in IDP camps, educating 133 displaced women on infection prevention, reproductive health, and common diseases such as breast cancer. These interventions provided life-saving information and demonstrated the importance of integrating health awareness into WPS programming.
10. Strengthening Women's Financial Literacy and Microfinance Access – The Women Leadership Institute (WLI) and KANZ Humanitarian Organization trained IDP women in financial management and business planning, directly linking them to microfinance opportunities. As a result, key financial policy recommendations were escalated to the Iraqi government, contributing to improved access to economic resources for displaced women.

13. Auditing and Financial Management

Mention if any projects were audited during the reporting period and provide a brief summary of results. Do not include detailed findings of the audit as reports are public. Alternatively, you can share an audit report with your programme lead, if relevant.

N/A

14. Next Steps and Priority Actions

In bullet form, please list the priority actions for the coming year including onboarding of new partners, monitoring missions or other planned initiatives related to WPHF.

As we move forward, UN **Women Iraq's office and through the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)** remains committed to deepening its impact, fostering meaningful partnerships, and ensuring the sustainability of our initiatives. Our key priorities for the coming year include:

- Foster **transparent and trust-based relationships** with partners, ensuring their active involvement in shaping and implementing the WPS agenda.
- Strengthen collaboration with civil society organizations (CSOs), governmental entities, and international stakeholders to **amplify advocacy efforts** and expand outreach.
- Deliver **targeted technical support** to grantees to enhance the **long-term sustainability** of completed projects.
- Conduct **monitoring missions** to assess progress, capture lessons learned, and adapt strategies for greater effectiveness.
- Guide partners in **navigating new Call for Proposals**, equipping them with the tools to **access international funding** and scale their WPS initiatives.
- Facilitate knowledge-sharing sessions on proposal writing, donor engagement, and strategic fundraising.
- Expand **capacity-building initiatives** to strengthen skills in **project cycle management, results-based management, monitoring & evaluation**, and evidence-based advocacy.
- Support partners in **enhancing research and data collection capabilities**, enabling them to make a stronger case for WPS funding and policy changes.

ANNEX A: Summary of WPHF Results (by Indicator)

For each WPHF Outcome which is relevant to CSOs supported during the reporting year, report against the Impact Level (WPHF Outcome) Indicator.

Note for how many CSOs this is relevant (Column 2) and provide a very brief summary the results (Column 3), presenting both the numeric value and summary. If an outcome is not relevant to your country, enter N/A in both CSO and summary columns.

WPHF Indicator	Relevant for How Many CSOs (number)	Summary Result (1 short paragraph)
Outcome 2: Conflict Prevention		
2.1 Number/Percentage of women participating in decision-making in conflict prevention processes and response	7 CSOs	<p>A total of 1,205 women actively participated in decision-making processes related to conflict prevention and response across various governorates in Iraq, supported by multiple civil society organizations (CSOs). In Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, and Wasit, Awan Organization for Awareness and Capability Development trained 32 women (out of 45 government representatives) to integrate gender perspectives into local policies, leading to key policy decisions such as Diwaniyah Governorate's Decision No. 4386 to ensure the inclusion of 10 women in mediation committees. Additionally, 52 women participated in methodology development sessions across Diwaniyah, Wasit, and Dhi Qar, resulting in the adoption of gender-sensitive conflict resolution frameworks by local Women's Empowerment Departments.</p> <p>Empowerment Organization for Development and Public Services (EODPS) led advocacy and training initiatives in Baghdad and Basra, engaging 72 women and girls in lobbying for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. This initiative resulted in the formation of six Feminist Peace Clubs, which reached 1,440 young women and girls through peer-led advocacy. In Al-Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Wasit, and Diwaniyah, the Women Rights Center in Samawa established four community feminist mediation forums, training 80 women in mediation and conflict resolution.</p> <p>Al-Khamayel Foundation for Human Development and Combating Violence Against Women conducted leadership and peacebuilding workshops in Baghdad and Dhi Qar, training 880 women—far exceeding the original target. Similarly, Sabaa Center for Studies and Human Development trained 126 women in monitoring early warning indicators of conflict across Nasiriyah, Diwaniyah, and Al-Muthanna, while additional 57 women were trained in conflict resolution and advocacy. These efforts, reinforced by media campaigns and feminist gatherings, significantly advanced women's institutionalized participation in peace processes and conflict resolution mechanisms across Iraq.</p>
2.2 Number/Types of conflict prevention mechanisms are gender responsive	6 CSOs	<p>Gender-responsive conflict prevention mechanisms have been developed and institutionalized through the efforts of CSOs and local governments. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) for gender-sensitive mediation were officially adopted in multiple governorates, ensuring women's perspectives are systematically integrated into conflict resolution strategies. Additionally, feminist-led peace initiatives, such as the Women's Community Police Forum "Safety Without Borders" and the Youth Security Community Forum, have created platforms for gender-inclusive security interventions. Digital awareness campaigns, school-based interventions, and media training workshops have further reinforced gender-sensitive approaches by promoting women's leadership in conflict prevention and shifting public narratives toward inclusive peacebuilding.</p>
2.2b Number of conflicts resolved, averted or referred	5 CSOs	<p>A total of 37 conflicts were resolved, averted, or referred across different regions in Iraq through the intervention of civil society organizations (CSOs) and trained women mediators. In Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, and Wasit, Awan Organization for Awareness and Capability Development facilitated 10 local disputes mediated by trained government officials and peacebuilding stakeholders, utilizing newly adopted gender-sensitive policies. The Women's</p>

		<p>Community Police Forum “Safety Without Borders” in Diwaniyah, formally recognized by the Ministry of Interior, successfully addressed 12 cases of violence against women, implementing awareness campaigns, support services, and intervention strategies.</p> <p>In Al-Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Wasit, and Diwaniyah, the Women Rights Center in Samawa established four community feminist mediation forums, where 15 community conflicts were de-escalated through structured dialogue and mediation strategies. These forums provided women mediators with negotiation skills and leadership training, enabling them to intervene effectively in disputes. Additionally, Sabaa Center for Studies and Human Development played a crucial role in Nasiriyah, Diwaniyah, and Al-Muthanna, where early warning monitoring teams identified and responded to emerging conflicts, helping to mitigate tensions before escalation. Through these efforts, CSOs and trained women leaders strengthened Iraq’s community-based conflict resolution mechanisms, preventing violence, fostering dialogue, and promoting social cohesion across multiple governorates.</p>
Outcome 3: Humanitarian and Crisis Response		
<p>3.1 Number/Percentage of women participating in decision-making in humanitarian and crisis response</p>	<p>3 CSOs</p>	<p>A total of 2,137 women participated actively in decision-making and humanitarian and crisis response across multiple governorates in Iraq, supported by various civil society organizations (CSOs). In Diyala and Kirkuk, the Foundation of United for Relief and Sustainable Development (FUAD) facilitated the participation of 300 women survivors of violence in safe spaces that provided psychosocial and legal support. Additionally, 60 women (40 in Diyala, 20 in Kirkuk) were trained in business management and received micro-grants, enabling them to establish their own enterprises and actively contribute to economic recovery in crisis-affected areas. FUAD also led 150 awareness sessions on women’s rights and GBV prevention, engaging 1,524 women in Diyala and Kirkuk to advocate for safer humanitarian responses.</p> <p>In Sinjar, the Odessa Organization for Women Development trained 165 women and 35 girls from 26 organizations on crisis management, emergency response, and gender-sensitive early warning systems, exceeding the original target of 20 organizations. Odessa also established a Women’s Empowerment Center, where 200 women and girls received training in entrepreneurship, business development, and humanitarian response. Additionally, through targeted legal and psychosocial support initiatives, Odessa facilitated 80 legal consultations, 75 health consultations, and 70 psychological support sessions for crisis-affected women.</p> <p>In Ayadiya and Zummar, the Shareteah Humanitarian Organization (SHO) trained 800 women community focal points (CFPs) to deliver risk education messages on explosive hazards. These trained women conducted 895 educational sessions, reaching 2,494 women and 3,078 girls with vital safety information. SHO also launched media campaigns and printed awareness materials to further enhance knowledge retention among displaced and returnee populations.</p> <p>These efforts collectively strengthened women’s leadership in humanitarian decision-making, improved crisis response mechanisms, and promoted economic and social stability in conflict-affected communities across Iraq.</p>
<p>3.2 Types of mechanisms established to improve gender responsive humanitarian and crisis planning, frameworks and programming</p>	<p>3 CSOs</p>	<p>FUAD established two safe spaces for gender-based violence survivors in Diyala and Kirkuk, integrating legal aid, psychosocial support, and economic empowerment for women in humanitarian contexts.</p> <p>Odessa Organization set up a Women’s Empowerment Center in Sinjar, providing training, mentorship, and services to enhance women’s economic and leadership roles in crisis response. They also formed four Humanitarian Crisis Response Working Women Groups (HCRWG) to ensure gender-sensitive crisis planning.</p> <p>SHO implemented a multi-level Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) program, training women to lead safety education initiatives</p>

		and integrating their perspectives into risk mitigation efforts through CFPs and community liaison mechanisms .
Outcome 6: Peacebuilding and Recovery		
6.1 Number/Types of plans and/or policies in peacebuilding contexts influenced by women or civil society organizations	4 CSOs	Several Iraqi civil society organizations have actively contributed to gender equality, economic empowerment, and peacebuilding. Al Hub Wa Al Salam Iraqi Globally Organization engaged 144 women through 12 focus group discussions across multiple governorates, collaborating with government and NGOs to influence policies on women's rights and conflict prevention. The Iraqi Organization for Women and Future (IOWAF) conducted a research study on the economic cost of gender-based violence (GBV), impacting national policies aligned with Iraq's Second National Plan for Resolution 1325. Sewan Women's Empowerment Organization trained 160 displaced women in leadership and peacebuilding, establishing networks that connected women's groups with local peace committees. Women Leadership Institute (WLI) held five structured dialogues in Kirkuk, advocating for displaced women's rights, which led to government commitments on loan accessibility and social security reforms.
6.2 Number/Percentage of women with increased agency as a result of economic productive resources	5 CSOs	939 women have increased agency as a result of economic productive resources. For example, 225 women started new businesses (125 through the Iraqi Organization for Women and Future (IOWAF) and 100 through KANZ Humanitarian Organization), and 119 women were gainfully employed in 2024 through vocational training provided by the Widows Training and Development Center (WTDC) in Abu Ghraib. Additionally, 400 women trained by Al Hub Wa Al Salam Iraqi Globally Organization in leadership, governance, and early warning systems enhanced their participation in local decision-making, while 120 women trained by the Women Leadership Institute (WLI) in Kirkuk gained business management, marketing, and financial literacy skills, facilitating their access to financial services and government support. These efforts have significantly contributed to women's economic empowerment and strengthened their leadership roles in crisis-affected communities across Iraq.
6.3 Number/Percentage of women participating in political and decision-making processes	5 CSOs	704 women actively participated in political and decision-making processes across Iraq, supported by various civil society organizations (CSOs). In Diyala, Heet, Fallujah, and Qaim , the Al Hub Wa Al Salam Iraqi Globally Organization trained 400 women in leadership, governance, negotiation, and early warning, equipping them with the skills to engage in policy dialogues and local governance structures. Additionally, 144 women participated in 12 focus group discussions (FGDs) across these locations, enhancing their understanding of gender inequality, economic challenges, and conflict prevention strategies. In Ninewa and Kirkuk , the Sewan Women's Empowerment Organization trained 160 displaced women and girls in peacebuilding, leadership, and initiative design. These women actively contributed to community reconciliation, decision-making, and policy discussions through structured engagement with local governance and peacebuilding committees. In Abu Ghraib , the Widows Training and Development Center (WTDC) facilitated structured dialogue workshops, enabling 56 displaced women to develop advocacy and negotiation skills. These women engaged directly with government officials to communicate their community's needs, leading to tangible policy discussions and commitments from decision-makers.