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Peaceful Empowerment, Advocacy and Cooperation to End violence (PEACE) Final Report

Executive Summary:

The PEACE aimed at promoting peace and ending violence against women. The project started in September 2012 and most of its activities were implemented in line with the project's proposal; except for the Second National Conference that was held during the no cost extension period in the 22nd of December 2014.

IF successfully implemented all project activities and exceeded the planned output of all three objectives. According to the external evaluation report, IF overall evaluation of the project's alignment with the M&E plan was excellent.

One of the major accomplishments of the project is providing the legal consultation for 1583 women among them 550 women received free legal representation and tracked in courts. IF created a database for the 1583 victimized women which includes data collected from the legal clinics in Baghdad, Basra, Diyala, Erbil and Babil. The database contains detailed information on 1583 victims of violence including widows, IDPs, orphans, GBV survivors, and wives of fighters who received assistance and consultation from PEACE project legal clinics.

IF pays gratitude to the exceptional efforts of the 408 volunteered task force members who dedicating their time and efforts to in promoting fort PEACE National charter and urging the Iraqi Government to take action by adopting the first recommendation of the National charter released on the First national conference. The first recommendation was "Emphasize women's political participation and increase their representation in decision-making at all levels of state institutions; Include women in all conflict management and mitigation efforts on the national, regional, and international levels particularly in regards to peace-building and in accordance with the terms of UNSCR 1325. As a result of these efforts, Iraq became the first country in the Middle East and North Africa Region to launch the NAP.

Furthermore, The first tangible result out of holding the 53 hearing sessions for the victimized women was forming a committee in Al-Sadr city council in Baghdad to deal with the issues and needs of victimized women and provide assistance and referrals when needed. The advocacy meeting resulted in obtaining 13 support statements to the national charter from high rank government officials.

By end of project period, IF has fulfilled all its contractual obligations, finished the implementation of all project activities, and exceeded the requirements of all the F-Indicators listed in the contract.

Addendums include:

- SF – PPR
- SF-PPR-B – PEACE
- PEACE FFR SF 425 04-30-15

- Link to PEACE project page at Iraq Foundation website:
 - <http://www.iraqfoundation.org/projects/peace-project/>
- Link PEACE project Facebook page which reflect more than 500 likes:
 - [IF FACEBOOK PAGE](#)
- Link to Arabic webpage Jousour covering the second national conference:
 - <http://www.e-joussour.net/ar/node/6520>

- Link to news about the second national conference by Iraqi Network for Social Media
 - [Iraqi Network for Social Media](#)
- T.V. program with task force member in Al-Baghdia T.V. to talk about the efforts towards ending violence against women in Iraq
 - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1_IKj-pNuE
- T.V. program in ASIA T.V. Task force member in KRG explain the efforts towards ending violence against women.
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRkatvtJtkU&feature=youtu.be>
- Publishing the National charter in the Civil society activists
 - http://alsamer85.blogspot.com/2013/11/blog-post_10.html
- Basrah coalition meeting published in Al-Adwaa news agency
 - <http://www.aladwaa-news.com/2013/11/1325.html>
- Article in Baghdad news website about Iraq Foundation efforts in the field of ending violence against women
 - <http://www.baghdadiabian.com/news.php?action=view&id=56957>
- The National Charter published in Kitabat website:
 - <http://www.kitabat.info/subject.php?id=40550>
- PEACE project website created by Iraq Foundation
 - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%85%D9%83%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%84%D9%85%D9%8A-%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%A1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%86%D9%81/366816413463090>
- National charter published in Hahtam website:
 - <http://www.hadham.info/info.php?limit=10,10>
- Task force efforts to end violence against women. Article published at Al-MADA press
 - <http://www.almadapress.com/ar/news/22364/%D9%85%D9%86%D8%B8%D9%85%D8%A9-%D9%86%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%B9%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%86%D9%81-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B3%D8%B1%D9%8A->
- Publication of the National Charter- WEO NGO in KRG

- <http://www.weoiraq.org/Ebook/First%20National%20Conference%20in%20Baghdad.pdf>
- Link to a radio program for the 1st Hearing session with Basrah provincial council members
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIR1kHekteM>
 - Link to a Video for a victimized women who has been raped and asked for assistance at the legal clinic in Erbil
<http://youtu.be/tgPdFQWg4Hs>
 - Link to various T.V. interviews with Erbil Task force to introduce the National charter
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsZXbCBJys&feature=youtu.be>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2nkdXusZdyE&feature=youtu.be>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ay1leFSuwNI&feature=youtu.be>
 - T.V. program with task force member in Al-Baghdia T.V. to talk about the efforts towards ending violence against women in Iraq
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 - Publication of the National Charter- WEO NGO in KRG

<http://www.weoiraq.org/Ebook/First%20National%20Conference%20in%20Baghdad.pdf>

- Link to radio spot
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39910m7l0To>
- Link to first TV spot
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_oo168-f1M
- Link to second TV spot
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gw0IDttpO8U>
- Voice of KRG website publishing the national charter [Voice of KRG link](#)

I. Activities and evaluation of progress on goals/objectives

Long term goal # 1: Build regional and national coalitions to end conflict and combat violence against women.

Short-term goal # 1: Interviews with women (Achieved)

Interviews with 100 victimized women were conducted by mid-January 2013. As of January 15, 2013, 102 women were interviewed. The purpose of the interviews was to bring to the foreground the hardship that conflict, a weak rule of law and exclusion have inflicted on women and their families, and understand their needs and the measures necessary to integrate them and their families into society. The women victims of violence willingly provided all necessary information, which IF included in the database. The results of the interviews were used to develop the Case Study Report. The activity resulted in deeper knowledge and understanding by IF and partners about the nature of suffering endured by these women.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Name of the Partner NGO</i>	<i># of women interviewed by each NGO up to date</i>
1	Hawa'a Organization For Relief and Development-Diyala	20
2	Women for Progress Center	20
3	Women Empowerment Organization -Erbil	22
4	Bint Al-Rafidain Organization-Babil	20
5	IF-Basrah Office	20
	Totals	102

2. Short-term goal # 2: Facilitate meetings of women leaders' caucuses in the provinces (Achieved)

Women caucuses were formed in January 2013. Five women caucuses meetings were held in Babil, Baghdad and Diyala, Basrah and Erbil. The meetings discussed the difficulties, needs and factors affecting victimized women, which are illustrated in the Case Studies Report and the recommendations of UNSCR 1325.

3. Short-term goal # 3: Forming local coalitions of men and women (Achieved)

IF and partner NGOs successfully formed one local coalition of men and women in each of the five provinces by May 2013. Each coalition consists of 20 members (10 women leaders and 10 men leaders in the community) from different layers of the society. The coalitions conduct periodic monthly meetings to follow on the progress achieved towards the implementation of the National Charter recommendations.

4. Short-term goal # 4: Adoption of a National Charter and formation of Task Force (Achieved)

IF held the first national conference on the 7th of September 2013. The conference was attended by 38 representatives of the five coalitions and the partner implementing organization. The conference resulted in drafting a national charter with 10 recommendations to improve life conditions of the GBV victims and practical steps towards ending violence against women.

The Second day of the first National Conference was held on October 3, 2013. The conference was attended by 105 high rank government officials, civil society activists and representatives of the five coalitions and the partner implementing organizations. The conference resulted in approving the recommendations of the National Charter with 10 recommendations/terms to improve living conditions of the GBV victims and practical steps towards ending violence against women. The conference also resulted in the formation of a Task Force that organized their efforts to implement the National Charter recommendation approved by the coalition. The National Charter recommended the following terms:

- 1- Emphasize women's political participation and increasing their representation in decision-making at all levels of state institutions; Include women in all conflict management and mitigation efforts on the national, regional, and international levels particularly with regard to peace-building and in accordance with the terms of UNSCR 1325; Urge the Iraqi government to adopt a national plan which specifies the government priorities towards the implementation of UNSCR 1325 at the local level.
- 2- Develop effective mechanisms to protect internally displaced women with focusing on the special needs of women and girls during resettlement, rehabilitation, re-integration and in post conflict settings; Put pressure on the government to secure the rights of migrants, ethnic and religious minorities, according to the recommendations made in the report of the Universal Periodic Review of human rights in Iraq.
- 3- Engage clerics and tribal leaders as partners in reducing violence against women to increase moderate religious awareness and reject harmful behaviors and misperceptions in the name of religion.
- 4- Re-evaluate the social security allocations by the state for women in particular; Urge the government to support the social security Department of Women's Care by raising the department's current allocations from the annual government

- budget; Increase the salaries of allowance for widows and heads of families; Motivate state ministries to develop financial allocations for projects related to women's economic empowerment.
- 5- Work on issuing fair legislation for women and activating the constitutional laws regarding women's rights, economic and political equality in line with international conventions and UNSCR 1325 and in compliance with development of the Iraqi democratic society.
 - 6- Include the principles of human rights in general and the principles of women's rights in particular in school curriculums as a mean of promoting peace in the community and urging the government to adopt legislation which stops all types of community violence.
 - 7- Activating the role of the family protection units and encourage the government to accelerate the implementation of family protection law from all forms of violence; Conduct awareness campaign with civil society organizations and the media; Enhance the role of the personal status courts covering family affairs; Strengthen the training of staff of the relevant ministries and civil society organizations to document and address cases of trafficking in women and children; Provide early identification of victims to protect them and to develop programs to rehabilitate them
 - 8- Create an accurate and comprehensive database for all widows and divorcees to support policy making and program plans; Create a special database for all GBV victims for use by official agencies in coordination with civil society organizations in all government ministries and international organizations and follow up cases of victimized women to reduce their suffering and defend their needs and re- integrate them into society.
 - 9- Encourage the government to expedite launching a national strategy for the women advancement and the National Strategy of Combating Violence against Women which was ratified in March 2013. The Task Force should coordinate with the government to take measures and procedures to activate the strategies and allocate necessary resources for implementation.
 - 10- Follow up and monitor the performance of women in the Parliament and Provincial and Districts Councils. The coalition will evaluate how supportive women leaders are of women's rights in order to promote positive efforts and provide support when needed.

- **Formation of the task force:**

To build a National Coalition with a unifying platform, the project took a local-to-national, or bottom-up approach to building the National Coalition, in order to ensure that the national platform is grounded in the real needs and conditions of women survivors. A local-to-national approach enabled the Task Force and NGOs to remain in touch with the daily situations confronted by women and to credibly pressure local governments for action.

The task force prepared a work plan and divided the recommendations of the national charter among the members and engaged citizens in peace building and achieving progress in implementing the recommendation of the national charter.

The number of task force members increased from the project target number which is 100 members in October 2013 to reach 408 members from the five provinces by September 2014. The task force members included civil society activists, religious leaders, local and national government officials. The task force members are distributed as the following:

Province	Number of task force members
Baghdad	230
Babil	55
Basrah	43
Diyala	40
Erbil	40
Total	408

The task force members voluntarily led the efforts to hold hearing sessions, advocacy meeting and publishing and disseminating the National Charter through local print and social media to raise awareness among local and national government decision-makers about the recommendations of the National Charter. The recommendations have been presented and discussed in conferences, seminars, radio and TV programs, all over the country to attract more stakeholders to join Iraq Foundation’s efforts to towards ending violence against women in Iraq.

Long-term goal # 2: Improve support for women who are victims of VAW, through enhancing the ability of local NGO partners to provide professional legal counseling and to raise awareness about the legal obstacles to the advancement of women’s rights.

1. Short-term goal # 1: Train lawyers to provide professional and specialized legal assistance and counseling to victims of GBV (Achieved)

The activity has been successfully completed by training 25 lawyers representing the five provinces. IF chose an expert trainer to conduct legal training in the five provinces. Lawyers were trained on recognizing GBV, means for the women to receive legal redress and access to the court system. The lawyers were contracted to start providing services to the targeted 1500 women at the offices of partner NGOs in the five provinces.

2. Short-term goal # 2: Provide legal assistance to victims of GBV while documenting and monitoring legal cases to feed into the policy process for more informed decision-making (Achieved)

IF and the partners designed a work plan to guide the provision of the legal assistance to the 1500 women within the proposed timeline. The legal clinics were launched in January 2013 immediately following the completion of the lawyers’ training. 1583 women benefited from the legal clinics from their establishment until the end of March 2014. These women were distributed among the five provinces of Basrah, Babil, Baghdad, Daiyala and Erbil. The lawyers update the data base daily with information about each

victimized woman, including the progress in providing consultation and legal assistance provided to the women

March 31, 2014 was the last day of the legal clinic as stated in the timeline and the contract. IF successfully exceeded the target set in IF indicators by provided legal services and tracking in courts for a total of 1583 victimized women. IF staff conducted field visits to the five legal clinics to monitor partners' performance and provide assistance when needed.

The NGOs in Baghdad, Babil, Daiyla have obtained excellent knowledge and allocated enough resources to continue their legal clinics to support victimized women as contribution until 31st of March 2015

<i>Item</i>	<i>Name of the Partner NGO</i>	<i>Number of victimized women provided with legal assistance</i>
1	Hawa'a Organization For Relief and Development-Diyala	313
2	Women for Progress Center-Baghdad	325
3	Women Empowerment Organization -Erbil	330
4	Bint Al-Rafidain Organization-Babil	309
5	IF-Basrah Office	306
	Totals	1583

IF and partner NGOs have made some observations about the problems and difficulties faced by victimized women. Among these observations are the following:

- 1- The majority of the women who visited the legal clinics were widows due to previous and continuing instability in Iraq. Therefore, the lawyers have established procedures to provide support to the women and have enabled the women to officially register with the social affairs directorates, making them eligible for financial assistance through following necessary procedures and gathering the documents needed.
- 2- One of the major problems among the victimized women is displacement. This issue has negatively affected women's ability to access their financial and legal rights. The lawyers helped the women obtain their documents and process their paperwork.
- 3- Wives of ex-combatants especially in Diyala married without having the legal documentation. The lawyers have set parameters to improve access to much needed assistance and provide support more effectively for their children to receive proper education through providing documentation for schools and other services.
- 4- The registration of the children of wives of militias fighters by the name of their grandmothers since their fathers can't go to court due to the arrest orders against

them. This is one of the biggest problems for the victimized women in Dayla since they can't document their children in addition to being rejected by the society and the government.

- 5- Some wives of the militias fighters faces harassments by the police while visiting their husbands and relatives in prison or even during visiting police stations.

Long-term goal # 3: Implement cooperative efforts in advocacy and awareness-raising

1. Short-term goal # 1: National Charter publication and dissemination(Achieved). IF and the partner NGOs started the publication of the National Charter immediately after its approval on October 3, 2013. The Task Force prepared a work plan to engage citizens in peace building efforts by introducing the importance of women's participation in peace building efforts and engaging women at all levels of peace building.

IF, partner NGO's and Task Force team members engaged government officials on the national and the provincial level to seek endorsement of the Charter through letters and statements in the media. These efforts culminated in 13 support statements as follows:

- Obtaining 3 support letter in KRG from the following government identity(Erbil provincial council, General Directorate of combating violent against women in Erbil, Erbil cultural center)
- Nadhim Nimer – Member of Basra Provincial Council and Chairman of Political Prisoners Committee.
- Two support letter from MPs Qusay Al-Ebady, Alia Nesaif
- Abdul Kareem Abdullallah deputy of the minister of human rights.
- Basima Al-Salma – Member of Basra Provincial Council and Chairman of the Communication committee.
- Sajid Al-Mahdawi – Journalists Syndicate Chairman in Diyala
- Sameria Al-Shabli – Executive Director for Diyala Satellite Channel.
- Osama Nadhim Ibraheem - Head of the Office of the House of Representatives in Diyala.
- Abdullah Hammoud – Cleric and Imam of Saad Ibn Mouath in Diyala
- Mahdy Qasim Office of the Ministry of Human Rights in Basra.

2. Short-term goal # 2: Case-studies report publication and dissemination(Achieved)

500 copies of case studies report were printed and distributed to partner NGOs and related stakeholders in the five provinces of Baghdad, Babil Diyala, Basrah and Erbil.

3. Short-term goal # 3: Awareness-raising among local and national government decision-makers(Achieved)

The Task Force and partner NGOs in The partner NGOs held 53 awareness raising and hearing session (14 in Erbil, 12 in Baghdad, 9 in Babil, 10 in Diayala). The hearing

sessions were held with provincial level officials, which allowed women affected by violence to share their stories with government officials. This group also conducted high-level advocacy meetings between the Task Force and government officials to push forward the agenda of the National Charter.

4. Short-term goal # 4: Awareness-raising in the media(Achieved)

(IF) and the National Coalition members in the five provinces continued efforts to publish and disseminate the National Charter. Members publicized the Charter through local print and social media to raise awareness among local and national government decision-makers about its recommendation and terms. The recommendations have been presented and discussed in conferences, seminars, radio and TV programs nationwide. Disseminating recommendations aims to attract more stakeholders to join Iraq Foundation efforts towards ending violence against women in Iraq.

IF and partner NGOs worked collectively to broadcast the TV and radio spots in the national and local media. Outlets which broadcast the media spots included Al-Iraqia Al-Rasheed Radio , Al-Furat in, ISHTAR TV, voice of Basrah Radio, Al-Madania Radio in Diyala which broadcast the spots in both Arabic and Kurdish language. The spots and radio program highlighted the effects of conflict and violence on women as well as legislative gaps that prolong suffering. The spots also aimed to endorse the National Charter and raise the visibility of Task Force members as effective advocates for peace. The task force members participated in the following programs:

- Two radio programs of 15 minutes were led by Basrah task force members to talk about PEACE project; the legal clinics, 1325 and the recommendation of the national charter. The programs were broadcasted by Al-Basrah radio during Hawa program which focus on women issues.
- Diyala local radio hosted two task force team to present and discuss the recommendation of the national charter.
- Erbil task force members presented the national coalition efforts towards ending violence against women in ASIA T.V. by a task force member in Erbil. Another female taskforce member participated in a famous program presented by Al-Baghdaia T.V. to talk about GBV in Iraq and the efforts of the national coalition to end the violence against women in Iraq.

IF reached out to TV stations to broadcast PEACE TV spots for the campaign. The 2 TV spots were broadcasted on the channels of Al-Furat and Al-Rasheed. IF has broadcasted the final version of the Radio spot (**Please see addendums**) during PEACE media campaign, the radio spot was broadcasted 20 time in local Radios in the four provinces of Baghdad, Erbil, Basrah and Babil while it has

been broadcasted 40 time in Diyala which raise the total broadcasting for the spots to 120 times.

IF Printed 5000 posters and 6000 brochures in Arabic and Kurdish languages to present the national charter and the importance of women empowerment.

Brochures and posters were distributed in the five provinces covered by PEACE project. The brochures highlighted the legal obstacles to the advancement of women's rights, and provided information on how to seek legal assistance and guidance

IF created an Arabic page for PEACE project in FACEBOOK on December 12, 2013. The page was updated on daily basis by IF staff with activities and achievements of the partners in the five provinces. The page got 3724 likes by March 31st 2015 which surpasses the contractual obligation to achieve (500) likes.

5. Short-term goal # 5: Second National Conference and publication of the score card(Achieved)

The second national conference took place in Baghdad on the 22nd of December 2014 at Al-Mansour hotel in Baghdad. The conference was headed by IF's President Ms. Rend Al-Rahim and was attended by 136 individuals representing wide range of stakeholders including the government, non-governmental organizations, and the media.

The participants reviewed the achievements of the PEACE project, the next steps to utilize the project's momentum, progress achieved on the National Charter, and the PEACE project score-card. The score-card measures the progress of legal, social, and economic reforms based on the indicators established by the National Charter and the progress made by national and local government agencies.

To develop the score card, the IF PEACE project team surveyed 46 taskforce members from Baghdad, Babil, Bara, Erbil and Diyala on progress implementing the National Charter recommendations and the effectiveness of the project's approach (e.g. legal clinics, public awareness of GBV prevention and peace building efforts, decision makers' awareness of the importance of female empowerment) and recommendations to improve future government interventions and plans to combat GBV.

The IF project team also presented the PEACE project database, which includes data collected through the lifespan of the project including from the legal clinics in Baghdad, Basra, Diyala, Erbil and Babil. The database contains detailed information on 1583 victims of violence including widows, IDPs, orphans, GBV survivors, and wives of fighters who received assistance and consultation from PEACE project legal clinks.

The database categorized violence in three categories: domestic violence, institutional violence and community violence. The database also captured various information about the victims such as:

- Province name
- Age group
- Marital status (widowed, internally displaced, orphan , women, wives of armed outlaws) and educational status of their husband
- Denial from making a decision on marriage
- Number of children
- Profession
- Ownership of housing
- Whether the victim was subjected to physical violence because of the security situation.
- Are you a victim of compulsory marriage outside the court through intimidation?
- Do you suffer from multiple marriages? Compulsory divorce? Or prevention from divorce
- Are you a victim of displacement?
- Are you of a victim of trafficking?
- Denial of the right to work in a particular profession for political reasons or because of the threat of a particular party or militia
- Do you suffer from deprivation of education at a certain stage of education?
- Are you unable to access health care?
- Forced by relatives to work in prostitution
- Victim of incest
- Prevented from going out outside the house
- Who were the authorities that were contacted after the assault occurred?

The participants discussed the contribution of Iraqi women in political life, peace negotiations, and development strategies. Women are excluded from the peace dialogue and have no place among the negotiators as a part of groups, institutions or even within their parties' organization. The participants highlighted several reasons behind their weak participation :

- Misinterpretation of religion and history
- Social heritage
- Lack of economic resources
- Legal obstacles which hinder women's participation in political action effectively such as: the absence of a law governing political parties and a clear law for public freedoms.

The role of civil society in supporting the National Action Plan in implementing the UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

- Raising awareness about the resolution to all segments of society (e.g. educational institutions, religious and cultural groups, the public and private sector, youth organizations, and activists)
- Creating ties with political parties in order to implement political empowerment programs for female members of political parties and the formation of a development space for capabilities which taking advantage of activists' civic

- experience, including through systematic programs that are planned by women's organizations working in this field.
- Training female college students and activists on leadership skills to boost their social participation, which is the key to political participation, and bridging the gap between the community and politics, which is one of the most important factor in the weakness of the political participation of Iraqi women.
 - Implementing interactive communication programs between female civic activists and women in decision-making positions (legislative / executive), to bridge the gap between the two sides and deepen mutual trust and to provide vital programs that serve Iraqi women.
 - Planning for training programs for women (e.g women activists, politicians, and other staff) in the field of negotiation and conflict management, developing skills in this area, and granting women the experience of exercising capacity in the process of peace building.
 - Forming lobbying groups to advocate inclusion of an item in Iraq's budget for the implementation of the National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325.

Score card presentation and publication

Copies of the score-card have been distributed to all 136 participants, and the PEACE project manager presented the score card during the conference. To develop the score card, the IF PEACE project team surveyed 46 taskforce members from Baghdad, Babil, Bara, Erbil and Diyala. The score card measures progress towards achieving the National Charter's recommendations and the effectiveness of the project's approach (e.g. legal clinics, public awareness of GBV prevention and peace building efforts, and decision makers' awareness of the importance of female empowerment) and recommendations to improve future government interventions and plans to combat GBV.

The score-card measures the progress of legal, social, and economic reforms based on the indicators established by the National Charter and the progress made by national and local government agencies. Below are the major findings of the score card which demonstrate the progress towards implementing the National Charter's recommendations in Iraq. Full details of the findings of the score card will be illustrated in the final report of the PEACE project.

Recommendation# 1 Emphasize women's political participation and increasing their representation in decision-making at all levels of state institutions; Include women in all conflict management and mitigation efforts on the national, regional, and international levels particularly with regard to peace-building and in accordance with the terms of UNSCR 1325; Urge the Iraqi government to adopt a national plan which specifies the government priorities towards the implementation of UNSCR 1325 at the local level.

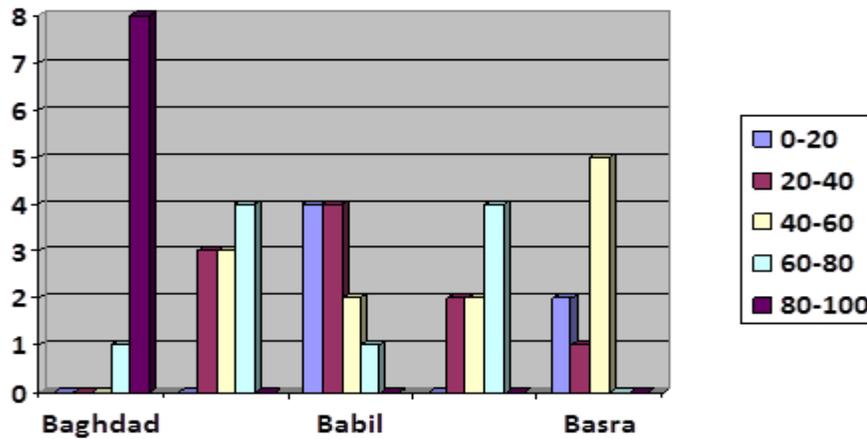


Figure (1) the highest political participation for women was in Baghdad at 80% and Babil was the lowest at 20%

Recommendation#2: Develop effective mechanisms to protect internally displaced women with focusing on the special needs of women and girls during resettlement, rehabilitation, re-integration and in post conflict settings; Put pressure on the government to secure the rights of migrants, ethnic and religious minorities, according to the recommendations made in the report of the Universal Periodic Review of human rights in Iraq.

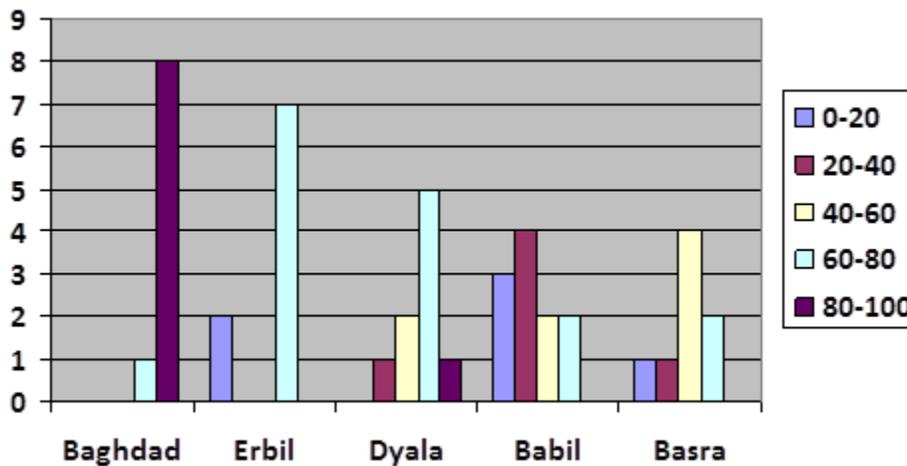


Figure (2) illustrates progress in developing active mechanisms to protect internally displaced women in Baghdad while progress rate is the least not more than 20% in Babil indicated by the government

Recommendation#3: Engage clerics and tribal leaders as partners in reducing violence against women to increase moderate religious awareness and reject harmful behaviors and misperceptions in the name of religion.

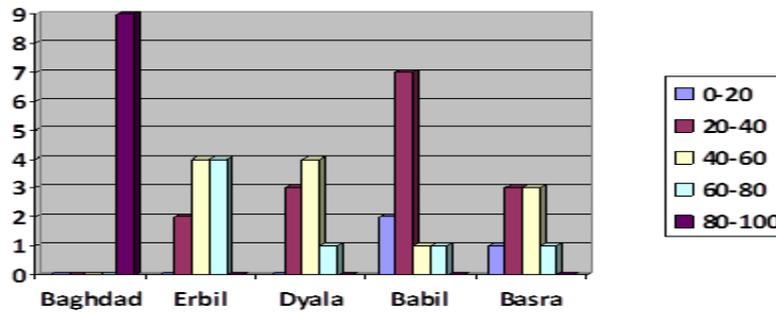


Figure (3) shows that the highest number of votes for the role of clergy and tribal leaders occurred in Baghdad and the least rate was in Babil

Recommendation# 4: Re-evaluate the social security allocations by the state for women in particular; Urge the government to support the social security Department of Women's Care by raising the department's current allocations from the annual government budget; Increase the salaries of allowance for widows and heads of families; Motivate state ministries to develop financial allocations for projects related to women's economic empowerment.

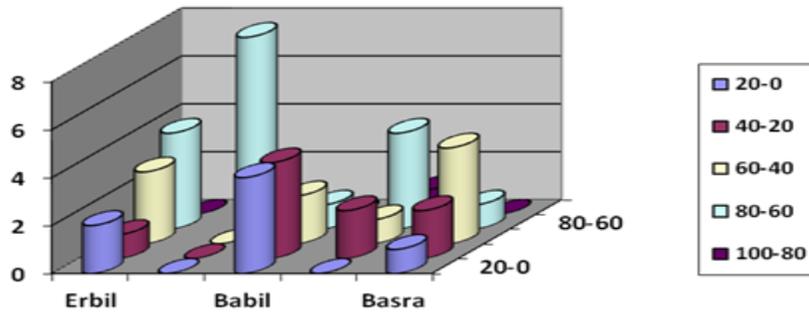


Figure (4) shows that there is an obvious and good progress regarding salary allocated to women by the department of welfare and social services, the amounts were disbursed to many women but still these amount are small and not enough as the highest rate was in Baghdad 60-80% while it was 0-20% in Babil regarding the implementation and distribution of welfare salaries or including women registered in welfare department.

Recommendation# 5: Work on issuing fair legislation for women and activating the constitutional laws regarding women's rights, economic and political equality in line with international conventions and UNSCR 1325 and in compliance with development of the Iraqi democratic society.

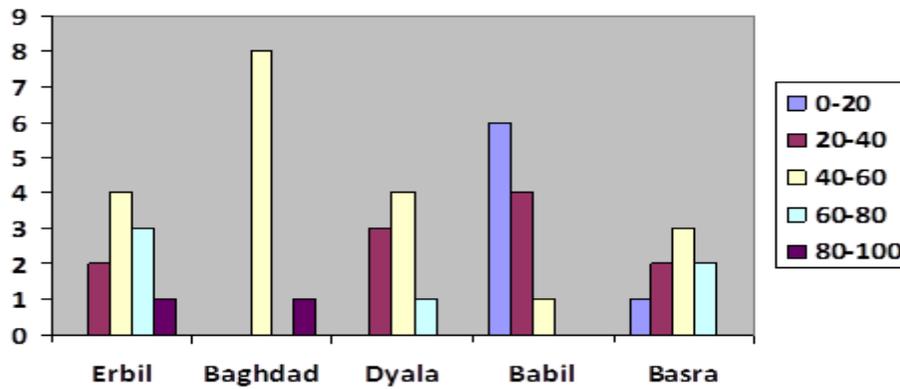


Figure (5) shows slight progress of government response to legislations reforms in Baghdad

Recommendation# 6: Include the principles of human rights in general and the principles of women’s rights in particular in school curriculums as a mean of promoting peace in the community and urging the government to adopt legislation which stops all types of community violence.

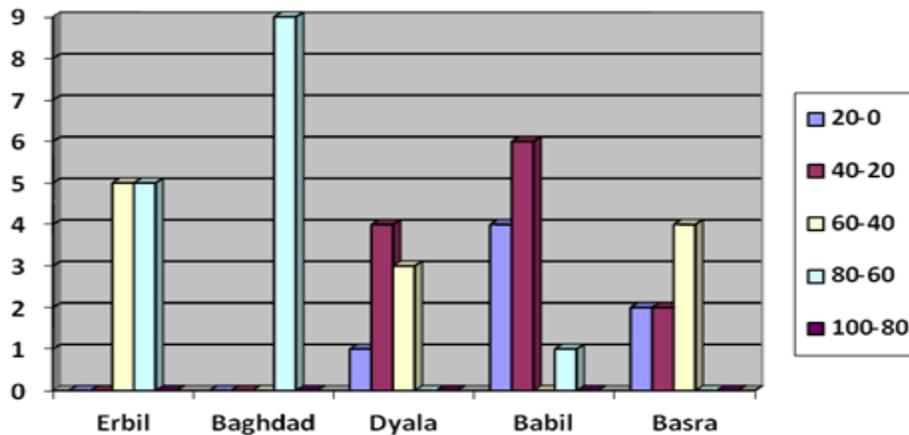


Figure 6 shows that there is a good progress rate (80%) in Baghdad regarding human rights principles and working seriously on including them in curriculums, while in Babil were the rate was the least (20%) these efforts are shy and exclusively done by civil society organizations.

Recommendation# 7: Activating the role of the family protection units and encourage the government to accelerate the implementation of family protection law from all forms of violence; Conduct awareness campaign with civil society organizations and the media; Enhance the role of the personal status courts

covering family affairs; Strengthen the training of staff of the relevant ministries and civil society organizations to document and address cases of trafficking in women and children; Provide early identification of victims to protect them and to develop programs to rehabilitate them

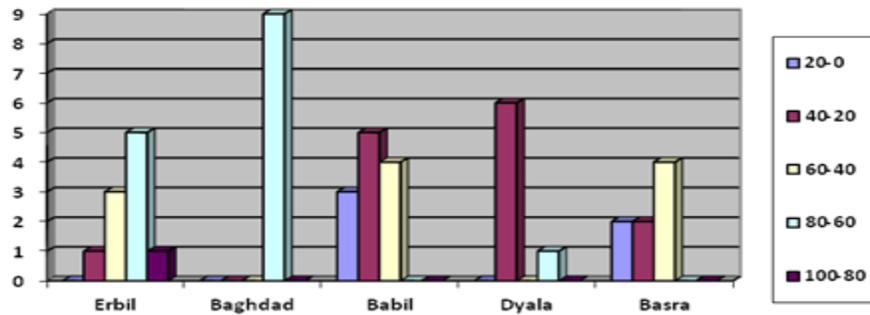


Figure 7 point out that the votes rate was (60-80%) in Baghdad and Erbil due to the opening of many centers for family protection unites in Karkh and Rasafa and the formation of domestic violence courts, activate the role of the social workers in civil affairs cases working in accordance with penal law 111 for 1996 that includes many discriminatory articles against women.

Article 8: Create an accurate and comprehensive database for all widows and divorcees to support policy making and program plans; Create a special database for all GBV victims for use by official agencies in coordination with civil society organizations in all government ministries and international organizations and follow up cases of victimized women to reduce their suffering and defend their needs and re- integrate them into society.

IF through the PEACE project adopted the establishment of a solid database that contains questions and information regarding women under violence who were interviewed according to legal clinics work in the project for 5 provinces, this database include all information and reasons behind women being exposed to violence as well as the way to follow up on these cases

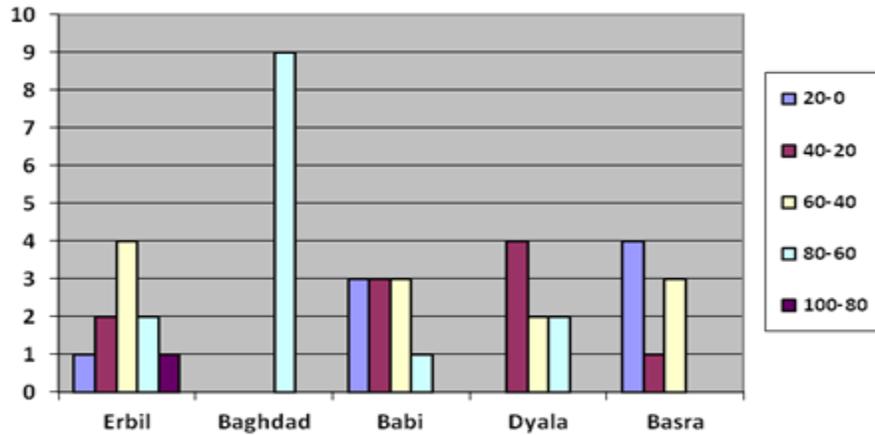


Figure 8 shows that the rate reached 80% in Baghdad which is good and need continuous updating while it was 20% in Basra where work on establishing database for women cases has stopped.

Recommendation# 9: Encourage the government to expedite launching a national strategy for the women advancement and the National Strategy of Combating Violence against Women which was ratified in March 2013. The Task Force should coordinate with the government to take measures and procedures to activate the strategies and allocate necessary resources for implementation.

The activation and application of strategies varies according to provinces depending on methods of implementation.

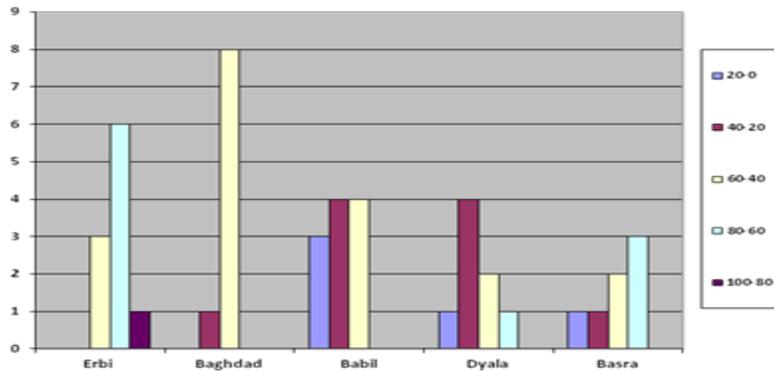


Figure 9 shows that the highest rate occurred in Erbil as it reached 80% which is good in comparison to the rate in Babil 20% which is the lowest.

Recommendation# 10 : Follow up and monitor the performance of women in the Parliament and Provincial and Districts Councils. The coalition will evaluate how supportive women leaders are of women’s rights in order to promote positive efforts and provide support There are a number of international agreements endorsed by the Iraqi government, at the same time the government still behind on implementing these agreements and allocate the necessary financial resources which was exclusively done by concerned organizations

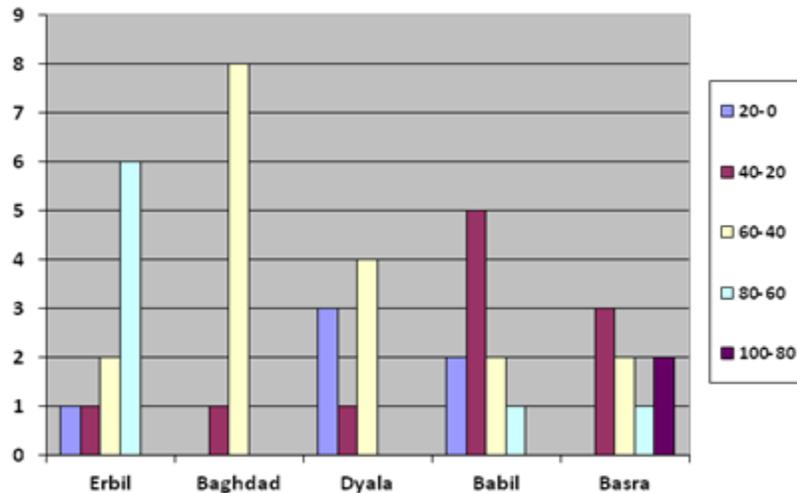


Figure 10 shows the highest rate in following up the performance of female parliament members and local government female members was achieved in Erbil as it was 80% while Dyala achieved only a rate of 20% which is considered weak in following up and evaluate women in important governmental positions.

II. Impact:

- Victimized women had the chance to reach out to government officials to tell their stories through the hearing sessions. The first tangible result of these sessions was the formation of a committee in the Al-Sadr city council to deal with the issues and needs of victimized women and provide assistance and referrals when needed.
- Women leaders who formed the mixed-gender local coalitions acquired the knowledge, experience, and confidence to promote themselves as peace makers and continue to act locally and nationally.
- Victims of GBV are better informed about their legal rights and are able to maintain their safety and have access to justice. Victimized women gained the courage to present their hardships on a national level and to high ranking government officials and suggested solutions to end their suffering.

- IF helped the 5 NGOs to build their capacity in providing legal assistance to victimized women. The NGOs in Baghdad, Babil, and Basrah have developed a greater knowledge of doing so and allocated enough resources to continue their legal clinics to support victimized women until December 31st 2014. These NGOs used their own resources to continue their efforts.
- The Task Force members in Baghdad, Babil and Erbil worked closely over the last months of the project with National government officials and other international workers to implement the first recommendation/term of the national Charter which encourage the government to make a work plan to implement 1325. These efforts have paid off as the government launched the National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2014-2018) on February 6th, 2014. Iraq became the first country in the Middle East and North Africa Region to launch such a program.
- 12 GBV victims from among the PEACE beneficiaries have been referred to the hearing center in Babil province where their skills have been evaluated. They were then provided with training programs which work to support them and improve their life skills to be better prepared in their community and more qualified for the job market.
- Production of one score card which measures progress towards achieving the National Charter's recommendations and the effectiveness of the project's approach

III. Deliverables:

- 1- Produced and published one case study book which summarizes the nature of the suffering endured by 102 victimized women in Iraq.
- 2- Provided legal assistance to 1583 victimized women by September 30, 2014 and developed a database of their information.
- 3- Formed a national coalition consisting of 408 members including high ranking government officials and civil society activists who worked voluntarily to implement the recommendation of the national charter.
- 4- Conducted the first and second national conferences which were attended by 241 high ranking government officials and civil society activists.
- 5- Achieved the first recommendation of the National charter regarding the adaption of the NAP to implement resolution 1325.
- 6- Conducted 53 advocacy meetings to raise awareness of the national charter's recommendations and conducted hearing sessions for victimized women to reach out to government officials to tell their stories. The first tangible result out of these sessions is the formation of a committee in the Al-Sadr city council to deal with the issues and needs of victimized women and provide assistance and referrals when needed.
- 7- Printing 5000 posters and 6000 brochures in Arabic and Kurdish to present the national charter and the importance of women's empowerment. Brochures and posters also highlighted the legal obstacles to the advancement of women's rights, and provided information on how to seek legal assistance and guidance

- 8- Obtained 13 statement of support for the national charter from high ranking government officials.
- 9- Reaching 3724 likes on the PEACE Arabic page on Facebook

IV. Progress on F indicators

1. Number of individuals/groups from low income or marginalized communities who received legal aid or victim’s assistance with USG support (Achieved)

Actual figure: 1583 of 1,500 and 553 out of the 500 tracking cases.

Target figure: 1,500 women receive legal advice and assistance; 500 women tracked.

2. Number of public forums resulting from USG assistance in which national legislators and members of the public interact (Achieved)

Actual figure: 5 public forums

Target figure: 5 public forums

V. Lessons learned

- Due to the violence caused by ISIS, Women’s rights in Iraq are suffering setbacks. However, all PEACE taskforce members emphasize the importance of continuing the efforts of women’s skills development through short and long term strategies supported by international organizations and implemented by local partners.
- Building provincial and national coalitions to end conflict and combat violence against women is a very practical and powerful tool in combating violence against women. However, more effort is needed to reach out to men and engage them in improving the status of women. It was evident in the efforts of the task force that women can make quicker steps forward when their male counterparts support them.
- Obtaining grassroots support and developing long term strategies in engaging both men and women in peace building efforts has proven to be very successful.
- Building bridges and trust between women at the provincial and national level is very important to empower women on both levels and is essential to enhance women’s living conditions.
- Women leaders who formed the mixed-gender local coalitions acquired the knowledge, experience, and confidence to promote themselves as peace makers and continue to act locally and nationally. It was evident from the efforts of the task force in the five provinces that women can make quicker steps forward when their male colleagues support them.
- Social and traditional media have proven to be a very important tool in advocacy and awareness-raising to address traditional stereotypes, attitudes and behavioral effects on women and men.

- Iraq has a constantly shifting environment which requires adaptive programs that are supported and maintained by the local context for an extended period in order to achieve sustainable impact.

VI. Challenges and remedial actions

Challenge	Remedial Action
The latest security deterioration in Iraq caused by ISIS’ atrocities has affected the implementation of the “Second National Conference” in Baghdad	IF is evaluating the situation on the ground and planning to conduct the “Second National Conference” during the month of October. If this option is not possible to accomplish, IF will submit a no cost extension request to postpone the conference.
The formation of the Iraqi government is not yet completed and government officials are a critical component of the conference. Their attendance and adoption of the recommendations of the conference will serve to extend and continue the endorsement of the previous government’s commitments and attention to the women, peace, and security agenda in Iraq.	IF is evaluating the situation on the ground and planning to conduct the “Second National Conference” during the month of October. If this option is not possible to accomplish, IF will submit a no cost extension request to postpone the conference.
The deterioration in the security situation in some provinces, including Baghdad, is affecting the implementation of some of the activities.	Selecting appropriate times and coordinating closely with all parties participating in the activities to ensure smooth implementation.
Women hesitate to talk during the first interview or look for solutions to financial problems	Lawyers and partner NGOs explained clearly the project goals and to tried to build trust with the victimized women. NGOs tried to link some victimized women with community leaders.
Some women withdrew their claims because they were afraid of tribal and family retaliation	Files were kept confidential with lawyers for future reference. The partner NGOs and lawyers were sometimes able to intervene to solve the problem with the family or the tribe to empower the woman to claim her rights.
Victimized women faced violence because of their poverty	Lawyers seek legal solutions to address women’s financial need and refer them to the social affairs police.
Social police ineffective	This issue was addressed during Women’s Caucuses meetings. Victimized women were present during these meetings.

<p>Divorce outside of the court created a problem of not having the husband's documentation; many women were not able to provide these documents so their case in court could be stopped due to lack of documentation.</p>	<p>Lawyers discussed the issue with judges to pursue divorce procedures by waiving the requirement of the husband's documents.</p>
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