REGIONAL CASCADE FINANCING PORTFOLIO

"Strengthening feminist CSOs for the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPSA) in Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine" funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) through FSOF and the Minka Peace and Resilience Fund

March 2023 – March 2026

IRAQ | JORDAN | LEBANON | PALESTINE

France

AFD
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EuroMed Feminist Initiative
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Initiative Féministe EuroMed

1325

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA

REGIONAL PORTFOLIO

REGIONAL CASCADE FINANCING PORTFOLIO

"STRENGTHENING FEMINIST CSOS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA (WPSA) IN IRAQ, LEBANON, JORDAN AND PALESTINE"

March 2023 - March 2026

Across four country portfolios, the project funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) through the Support Fund for Feminist Organizations (FSOF) and the Minka Peace and Resilience Fund strengthened feminist CSOs, networks and women-led CBOs as key actors in the implementation of Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPSA) and supported them to translate it into practical actions - from protection and participation to livelihoods, evidence, advocacy and regional cooperation.

Advancing the WPSA

From locally grounded action to regional feminist influence

4	4	39	61
Countries	National partners	Beneficiary organisations	Cascade-financed projects

Women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected by conflict-related crises. Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is exacerbated in situations of war and conflict. Women refugees and displaced women face heightened risks where notably legal status, living conditions and weak rehabilitation mechanisms limit protection and reintegration. Gender equality, VAWG, peace, security and human rights are closely linked. The WPSA recognises the continuum of VAWG and affirms the need of women's participation in peace and security.

Feminist civil society organisations (CSOs), networks and women-led community-based organisations (CBOs) are critical actors in advancing the WPSA. They maintain direct access to communities, provide frontline services and possess contextual knowledge essential for effective implementation. Yet many face limited resources.

Across Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine, contexts differ significantly in governance, institutional frameworks and operational constraints, but share exposure to conflict dynamics, political instability and structural gender inequalities. VAWG remains pervasive and underreported, protection services are uneven, and women's participation in decision-making continues to face structural barriers. These shared challenges underline the need to strengthen WPSA implementation by supporting feminist CSOs and women-led CBOs and their engagement in this implementation at national and local levels.

This context shaped the regional project "Strengthening feminist CSOs for the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPSA) in Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine", (March 2023 and March 2026) implemented by ***EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI)*** with a consortium of its members and national partners in the four countries: ***Women Empowerment Organization (WEO)*** in Iraq, ***Arab Women Organisation (AWO)*** in Jordan, ***Association Najdeh*** in Lebanon and ***Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development (PWWSD)*** in Palestine.

Four country portfolios, one regional agenda

Consolidated support brings strongest common results together

EUR 3.5M	EUR 2.07M	EUR 126K	EUR 129K
Total expenditure	Cascade financing	Capacity building	Regional networking and learning

Cascade-financed projects

Iraq 15 | Jordan 16 | Lebanon 15 | Palestine 15

Country-level expenditure

EUR 665K | EUR 650K | EUR 657K | EUR 668K

PORTFOLIO ARCHITECTURE

61

61 PROJECTS

Implemented across the four country portfolios.

39

39 ORGANISATIONS

Feminist CSOs, networks and women-led CBOs across the four countries.

19

19 THEMATIC TRAININGS

Country-level capacity-building across the four countries.

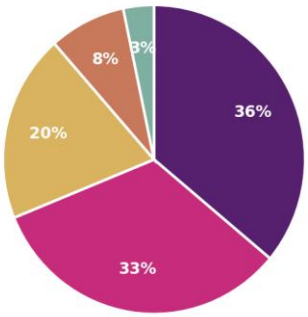
253

253 PARTICIPATIONS

In two Regional Forums advancing the WPSA

What the 61 projects focused on

A harmonised regional view with a dominant country focus



PRIMARY PROJECT FOCUS

Across the four portfolios, the strongest focus was on protection and women's participation, while livelihoods, psychosocial recovery and organisational systems reinforced the broader WPSA response.

22 projects GBV prevention, protection and access to justice

20 projects Participation, leadership & advocacy

12 projects Livelihoods & economic resilience

5 projects Psychosocial / humanitarian recovery

2 projects Organisational capacity/service systems

NB: This is a grouping for portfolio presentation purpose; several projects addressed more than one theme.

A REGIONAL PORTFOLIO WITH DIFFERENT COUNTRY EMPHASES

IRAQ

- VAWG prevention and protection
- Political participation and advocacy
- Livelihoods and economic resilience
- Organisational capacity/service systems

JORDAN

- VAWG prevention and protection
- Local governance, leadership and advocacy
- Economic resilience and entrepreneurship,
- Community monitoring and education.

LEBANON

- GBV prevention, protection and access to justice
- WPS participation, leadership and advocacy
- Psychosocial / humanitarian recovery
- Adaptive support during displacement

PALESTINE

- WPS participation, leadership and mediation
- GBV, protection, rights and monitoring
- Psychosocial and humanitarian recovery
- Public advocacy

Four national partnerships, four locally grounded portfolios

The same regional framework was adapted to distinct contexts, priorities and partners

IRAQ

15 projects | 9 organisations

Women Empowerment Organisation (WEO)

EUR 515 034 Cascade financing | EUR 17 797 Capacity building | EUR 31 036 Regional networking and learning

VAWG prevention, political participation, livelihoods, peacebuilding

JORDAN

16 projects | 7 organisations

Arab Women Organization (AWO)

EUR 518 618 Cascade financing | EUR 38 606 Capacity building | EUR 31 649 Regional networking and learning

GBV prevention, local governance, entrepreneurship, community monitoring

LEBANON

15 projects | 12 organisations

Association Najdeh

EUR 512 045 Cascade financing | EUR 33 679 Capacity building | EUR 35 350 Regional networking and learning

Protection, access to justice, leadership, livelihoods, conflict recovery

PALESTINE

15 projects | 11 organisations

Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development (PWWSD)

EUR 525 000 Cascade financing | EUR 35 769 Capacity building | EUR 30 843 Regional networking and learning

Leadership, mediation, rights monitoring, psychosocial recovery, advocacy

REGIONAL PORTFOLIO

Cascade financing in action

Four examples of how local projects translated WPSA priorities into practical support and participation.

IRAQ

ILP, Anbar | livelihoods & leadership

30 rural women received climate-smart agriculture training and practical inputs; three women-led tree-planting initiatives linked economic resilience with local leadership.

JORDAN

Saham, Irbid | political leadership

Leadership, GBV, advocacy and political-entrepreneurship activities culminated in a dialogue on women's and youth political participation with 150 participants.

LEBANON

HDA, Tripoli & Zgharta | local WPSA action

More than 670 community members were reached; 20 women from five women-led organisations strengthened GBV/PSEA skills and a Women's Club supported community-level WPSA advocacy.

PALESTINE

WAC, Gaza | psychosocial recovery

152 group PSS sessions reached 2,280 women and girls; 224 women and girls with higher psychosocial needs received structured individual support.

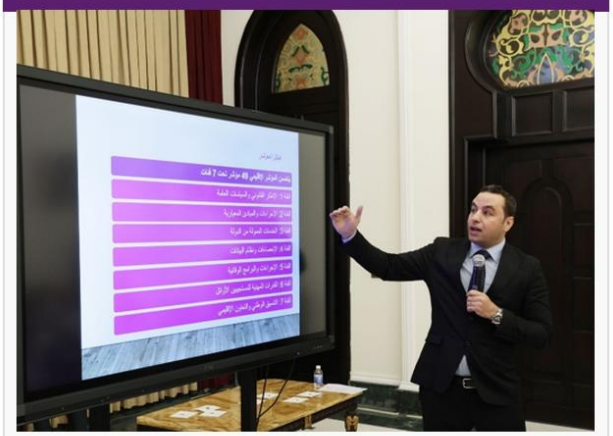
Selected project photographs and results drawn from the four country cascade-financing portfolios.

REGIONAL PORTFOLIO

What country projects contributed to

From evidence and local monitoring to recovery, mediation and women's leadership.

IRAQ



WPN | evidence to advocacy

Data for 49 Regional Index indicators were gathered and reviewed with ministries, experts and feminist CSOs, strengthening evidence-based advocacy on VAWG.

JORDAN

JOHUD | women's community monitoring

Three women's community monitoring teams were established across Mafraq, Irbid and Zarqa; dialogue roundtables engaged 158 stakeholders and informed three policy papers.

LEBANON

Community learning, protection & participation

Across Lebanon, women-led organisations combined GBV prevention, psychosocial and legal support, WPSA awareness, leadership and economic resilience with local advocacy and participation.

PALESTINE

ADWAR | women-led reconciliation

137 young women strengthened WPS/conflict-management skills; six women-led reconciliation councils with 60 young women connected local mediation with advocacy and accountability.

Selected project photographs and results drawn from the four country cascade-financing portfolios.

POLICY, ADVOCACY & COLLECTIVE ACTION

From local evidence to public influence

Selected changes and outputs that show how the four portfolios connected community action with wider WPSA priorities

01

"The Index gave us credible evidence we can use in dialogue with institutions and in our advocacy for women and girls."

Dr. Asmaa Jameel, Iraq

EVIDENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Iraq joined the 2024 Regional Index on VAWG reporting under 49 indicators. In **Palestine**, MSS documented 495 violations and analysed 395 violations across its projects, while monitoring structures linked 50 grassroots women's organisations.

02

"I never felt that I would be one of the leaders who would have a political influence, and I am impatiently waiting to participate in parties."

Balqis Athamna, Jordan

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

Jordan created three women's community monitoring teams and local dialogue spaces. **Iraq** engaged nine political parties around balanced participation. **Palestine** established reconciliation councils and Girls' Clubs, while **Lebanon** linked WPSA to municipal and community leadership.

03

"These sessions boosted my self-confidence. I have stopped feeling the need to justify myself all the time."

Participating woman, Palestine

PROTECTION AND PSYCHOSOCIAL RESPONSE

Lebanon reached 1375 women and girls with GBV/WPS awareness and adapted support during displacement. **Palestine** reached 2280 women and girls through group psychosocial support in Gaza, alongside individual support and community-based protection responses.

04

"This event gave me the confidence I needed to apply for jobs. Now I know exactly what to do."

Maya, 23 years old, Lebanon

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Women-led initiatives, micro-businesses, vocational skills, financial literacy and local livelihood support connected WPSA with everyday resilience - from **Anbar** and **Mafraq** to **Saida**, **Ramallah** and **Hebron**.

Building the people and systems behind WPSA action

Capacity strengthening ran through both the thematic trainings and the cascade-financed projects

19	363	292	71
Thematic trainings	Activists reached	Women	Men

WHAT CAPACITY BUILDING LOOKED LIKE

LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY	PROTECTION SYSTEMS / ACCESS TO JUSTICE	GENDER AND CONFLCIT SENSITIVE M&E	LIVELIHOODS & RESILIENCE
Public speaking, mediation, political participation and community dialogue.	GBV response, referral, psychosocial support, digital safety and legal rights.	Policies, strategies, monitoring structures, research and evidence systems.	Entrepreneurship, vocational skills, financial literacy and women-led initiatives.

SELECTED RESULTS FROM REPLICATION CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE FOUR PORTFOLIOS

IRAQ

42 WOMEN'S RIGHTS DEFENDERS

across four PDO trainings linked to the WPSA in Erbil and Duhok

JORDAN

330 LOCAL ACTORS

increased capacity on GBV prevention and WPSA through WWA trainings

LEBANON

315 WOMEN

trained by PARD in communication, peacebuilding, leadership and advocacy

PALESTINE

119 WOMEN

strengthened by RWDS in leadership, public speaking and advocacy

FOUR COUNTRIES, ONE REGIONAL WPSA VOICE

The campaign connected locally grounded feminist perspectives with wider public audiences, strengthening regional visibility of women's leadership in implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

Taking the WPSA messages to wider public audiences

In October 2025, the regional media campaign "Voices of Women, Visions for Peace" marked the 25th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 across Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine

The campaign translated the WPSA pillars into accessible public messaging, while amplifying women's leadership and feminist civil society voices. Thirty awareness messages and quotes from the four countries and graphic reels were disseminated in Arabic and English across Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn and YouTube.

7.04M	9.37M	1.18M	1155
PEOPLE REACHED	**IMPRESSIONS**	**ENGAGEMENTS**	**PARTNER SHARES**
Across social media platforms	Content exposure	Audience interactions	Across key social platforms

WHAT THE REGIONAL CAMPAIGN ENABLED

EXPLAIN Thirty awareness messages and quotes and two graphic reels translated the WPSA and UNSCR 1325 pillars into accessible bilingual content.	**AMPLIFY** Coordinated multi-platform dissemination expanded WPSA visibility across Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine, reaching more than 7 million women and men.
ENGAGE Campaign content generated 1.18 million engagements, reflecting active interaction with messages on participation, protection, prevention and recovery.	**CONNECT** Consortium partners, feminist CSOs and women-led CBOs reinforced a common regional advocacy voice through 1155 documented shares.

Turning four country portfolios into a regional learning space

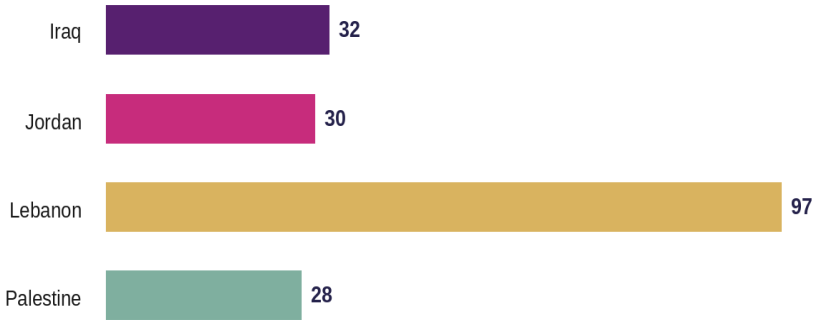
Two regional forums connected country CSOs with international organisations, UN agencies and decision-makers: 88 participants in the First Regional Forum and 165 in the Second

253

PARTICIPANTS

Repeat attendees are counted in each forum.

COUNTRY PARTICIPATIONS IN REGIONAL EVENTS



WHAT THE REGIONAL SPACE ENABLED

COMPARE	LEARN	INFLUENCE
Shared regional challenges, country-specific gaps and barriers to WPSA implementation	Peer exchange on implementation, monitoring, evaluation and good practices across contexts	Policy recommendations and stronger dialogue between feminist actors and stakeholders

FOUR COUNTRIES, ONE REGIONAL FEMINIST AGENDA

The strength of the portfolio lies in connecting local women-led action with national advocacy, institutional strengthening and regional exchange

WHAT THIS PORTFOLIO SHOWS

LOCAL ROOTS 39 beneficiary organisations translated WPSA priorities into community-based action across diverse contexts.	**FEMINIST CAPACITY** Training, mentoring, evidence and organisational systems strengthened actors who can continue the work beyond individual grants.
PRACTICAL PROTECTION Projects combined rights, psychosocial support, referral, GBV prevention and community resilience with women's leadership.	**REGIONAL CONNECTION** The two regional forums created a common space for learning, comparison and policy influence across Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine.

Regional Cascade Financing Portfolio | March 2023 - March 2026

Iraq | Jordan | Lebanon | Palestine

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