



## Project Brief:

# Women, Peace and Security in the Arab States Phase II

Geographical Coverage:	Iraq, Lebanon, Tunisia
Executing Agency:	UN Women
Donor:	Government of Finland
Collaborating Partners:	Governmental and non-governmental organizations
Duration:	January 2019 – December 2021

## What is at stake?

Iraq has been experiencing over the past decades a series of armed conflicts and violence causing several waves of displacements, the most recent as a result of the occupation of large areas of the country by ISIL. Women and girls who have been living in areas under ISIL control have been exposed to rights violations, kidnappings, sexual slavery, rape and abuse. Iraq was the first country in the MENA Region to develop a National Action Plan (INAP) on the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 for Women, Peace and Security during the period 2014-2018. The aim was to achieve women's equal and full participation in decision making, prevention and resolution of conflicts, negotiations, peacebuilding, reconstruction and stabilization processes in Iraq. Under the Council of Ministers, a Cross-Sector Taskforce (CSTF) was established on Resolution 1325 to manage and support this process. After the expiration of the first INAP, Iraq decided to develop the second phase of the INAP to address the issues and needs of women and girls post conflict.

In January 2016, UN Women and the Government of Finland signed an agreement to cooperate across the Arab States region to further the implementation of the WPS agenda with the objective of promoting accountability and action on women's engagement in peace and security. Under this agreement, UN Women has been working with the League of Arab States (LAS), civil society partners and with host governments in Iraq, Jordan and Tunisia, to support the development and implementation of NAPs on UNSCR 1325.

Clear results were achieved in phase I during 2018 as articulated through an independent and comprehensive evaluation. However, there is a need to build further on the implementation of the WPS agenda. Hence, Phase II will focus on bolstering implementation capacity on UNSCR 1325 across programme countries to ensure that the needs and priorities of women and girls affected by conflict are met and addressed.

## The Programme:

The programme aligns with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 on “**Gender Equality**” and SDG 16 on “**Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**”. The programme aims to target the following SDG objectives:

- Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.
- Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including sexual, trafficking and other types of exploitation.
- Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

The three-year program covers two outcomes:

**Outcome I:** An enabling environment for the validation and implementation of WPS commitments is created, with support to government implementation and civil society oversight strengthened. The second phase of the programme will support the development and the passage of the second NAP on the implementation of UNSCR 1325. NAP will be led by the Government of Iraq in partnership with civil society organizations and women leaders. The process will be convened by the Cross-Sector Task Force on Resolution 1325, and the second iteration of the NAP will build on the challenges and opportunities identified through the first INAP – with an emphasis on ensuring implementation.

**Outcome II:** NAP implementation is undertaken by government and non-government actors through interventions to enhance social cohesion and protection. UN Women will support two Governmental and non-Governmental organizations to provide services to survivors of GBV, including psychosocial support, legal aid and income-generating activities and to deliver workshops to build the capacities of first responders working with survivors of conflict-related sexual and gender-based crimes. Moreover, UN Women will conduct capacity building trainings to develop the justice system in Iraq through strengthening the capacities of judges and prosecutors in the investigations of international crimes, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) committed by ISIS. Finally, trainings will be offered to enhance the capacities of the domestic police and security forces on gender equality, GBV and protection.

## How UN Women makes a difference?

- UN Women has provided technical and logistical support to the CSTF through conducting consultation meetings and workshops. The development of the second NAP was primarily done by the CSTF 1325, chaired by the Secretary General of the Iraqi Council of Ministers and the KRG Minister of Interior which hosted Representatives from the Federal ministries and institutions, representatives from the Ministries of the Kurdistan Regional Government, 1325 Alliance and 1325 Network.
- A second NAP was developed to implement UNSCR 1325 in Iraq with three strategic pillars: Participation, Protection and Prevention. The NAP was reviewed by the governmental stakeholders and the civil society. Although Iraq showed commitment to abide by the timeframe, the endorsement of the second NAP still experienced delays due the unstable political situation and the continuous changing of the government.
- A draft of an Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency Framework (OEEF) was developed to ensure the effective implementation of the second NAP by the CSTF 1325.

## What we aim to achieve?

- UN Women will continue to provide support to the development of the second NAP in Iraq through developing ministerial plans, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, communication strategies to the relevant committees and a costing analysis.
- Provide services to survivors of GBV, including psychosocial support, legal aid and income generating activities.
- Strengthen the Iraqi justice system capacity to investigate and prosecute international crimes, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) committed by ISIS.



Finnish Government



### Contact:

Dina Zorba

UN Women Representative

[dina.zorba@unwomen.org](mailto:dina.zorba@unwomen.org)