

NEWSLETTER

Women, Youth, Peace and Security Program



ABOUT WEO

Established in 2004, Women Empowerment Organization (WEO) is a women-led, national non-governmental organization registered in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq devoted to empowering women socially, economically, and politically.

At WEO, we work diligently to enhance women's influence, combat all forms of violence against them, and advocate for policy development and reform that supports equality between women and men.

WEO is dedicated to delivering its services in the sectors of Protection, Livelihoods, Advocacy, and Humanitarian by offering a comprehensive range of services, including socio-economic and psychological support, access to finance, individual and institutional capacity development, legal assistance, and advocacy for inclusive approach and meaningful fulfillment of sustainable peace and security.

ABOUT SFCG

Search for Common Ground (Search) is the world's largest dedicated peacebuilding organization envisioning a world of safe, healthy, and just societies, free from the threat of violent conflict. Founded in 1982, Search works on the frontlines of today's most consequential conflicts where millions of lives are at stake and manages over 150 awards from over 50 different institutional donors. Our core methodology is called the Common Ground Approach, through which we help adversaries learn to trust each other, create avenues for collaboration, and generate breakthroughs for peace.

Search works in countries across the Levant and Arabian Peninsula with our MENA Regional Office based in Amman. We have a strong and evidenced history of operating in difficult and volatile contexts to bring societies together. Search's presence in Iraq began in 2016 and sought to expand its work in 2018 and establish a fully-operational office in Erbil.



The Search Iraq Country Office team is small and relies on strategic local-partner organizations to effectively implement projects in tandem with a wide variety of all-level stakeholders with strong partnerships with local communities, partners, and authorities across the country on issues of social cohesion, climate change, women peace and security, equality between males and females, youth empowerment, community resilience, inclusion, and religious tolerance.

Brief Introduction to WYPS Program

The WYPS is a four-year regional program that aims to strengthen women and youth's meaningful, enduring participation in advancing inclusive peace and security in Levant countries and Yemen.

In Iraq, Search has partnered with Women Empowerment Organization (WEO) to amplify the influence of youth and women peacebuilders at the grassroots level, catalyze broad inclusion of grassroots peacebuilders in municipal and national institutions and peace processes, and advance social norms that support meaningful inclusion of diverse stakeholders in peace and security.

The program will also foster strong alliances with men and boys to sensitize and mobilize influential male allies to promote and support women and youth's participation and leadership in peace and security and advancing regional networks, synergies, and cross-fertilization to strengthen inclusive peace and security, including through sustained relationships and networking building for Youth Peace and Security (YPS) and Women Peace Security (WPS) practitioners over Search's digital platform 'ConnexUs'. Connexus is a new global peacebuilding platform, that seeks to improve coordination and collaboration across sectors to increase the effectiveness of programming in conflict-affected contexts.

Something that has been identified as a strong shortcoming in the WPS efforts in Iraq. Under the regional umbrella, the program ensures that national and sub-national WPS/YPS agendas, including but not limited to NAPs, benefit from lessons learned and best practices in other countries. In this way, synching the national and regional activities as complementary and mutually reinforcing efforts.

WEO Activities for 2023

Thematic Capacity Building Training:

1. Sensitivity to Diversity in Feminist Work for Women, Peace, And Security Agenda

Women Empowerment Organization, in partnership with Search for Common Ground conducted a training on "Sensitivity to diversity in Feminist Work for Women, Peace, And Security Agenda" in Erbil during the month of May 2023.

This workshop is a part of Thematic Capacity Building for 20 Iraqi local organizations supporting women's rights under the WYPS project in Iraq. Participants from women rights organizations (WROs) and women-led organizations (WLOs) were trained on WPS agenda and feminist strategies for transformative change.



2. Networking, Coalition and Advocacy for Women's Issues

Women Empowerment Organization implemented a two-day training workshop during the month of August 2023 in Erbil on women's advocacy, networking, and coalitions, under the Women, Youth, Peace and Security Program in partnership with Search for Common Ground, which was provided to 20 WRO/WLOs.

The training dealt with a set of conceptual frameworks and practical foundations for developing advocacy plans for women's issues and mobilizing efforts through coalitions and networks, based on the principles of equality, and focusing on analysis tools that take into account equality between men and women, beside discussions about the importance and challenges of networking and how to address it.



WEO Activities for 2023

Coordination Meeting Event Between WYPS project WRO/WLOs and Existing Iraqi WPS Networks:

In order to enhance the engagement of leading women rights organizations (WROs) and women-led organizations (WLOs) with existing networks and coalitions working at the national level to promote the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, Women Empowerment Organization (WEO) in partnership with Search for Common Ground (SFCG) organized this coordination meeting aiming at strengthening links among them.



SFCG Activities for 2023

Search, with the support of the Women Empowerment Organization (WEO), worked on different components in this project, which include the assessment of operations and thematic capacity building. Trainings have been conducted for women's rights and women-led organizations, covering different topics like Design, Monitoring, and Evaluation (DME), finance, and safety and security.

Additionally, the program covers topics related to the code of conduct and safeguarding. One of the main components we worked on is the School of Peace, where 19 youths have been selected and trained during this year. Search, with the support of our partner, will work to achieve all the objectives of the project and enhance the participation of WLO/WRO in this project.



Project women rights organizations (WROs) and women-led organizations (WLOs)



Shams Al Anbar
Organization for
Women and Child



Iraqi Al Firdaws Society



NWE Organization



Widows Training and
Development Center
(WTDC)



Peer Organization for
Youth Development



The Best of Women
Association for Relief
& Development



Kurdistan Women Union



Nahnu Al Ghad
Organization



Skilled Iraqi Women
Foundation



Civil Development
Organization



Amiability Organization
for Women and Child



Dak organization
for Ezidi women
development



AlShabak Women
Association



Hawaa Organization for
Relief and Development



Awan Organization for
Awareness and Capability
Development



Light of Mercy
Organization for Human
Rights



Al-Hayat
Al-Jadeedh Charity
Foundation



Al Mada Foundation for
Human Rights



Ur Organization for
Women and Child Culture



Parsa Organization for
Sustainable Development

Connect with us

Women Empowerment Organization

Location

Erbil Office (HQ): Ankawa, 4 Towers, Building C, 13th Floor, Office No. 64A and 65A

Baghdad Office: Al-Mansour, Business Avenue Building, 1st Floor, Office No. A12

Email

info@weoiraq.org

Phone Number

(+964) 750 229 2525

Website

www.weoiraq.org

@weoiraq

