



*We
stand
together*

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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Letter from the Founder and CEO



Some years are harder than others. At ICAN, 2021 was one of our toughest. We had long predicted the rising threat against peacebuilders and in 2021 many of our worst fears came true. In addition to the lockdowns and ill-health, it was also a year of increased violent upheaval for many in the global Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL) network we spearhead. Among the 90+ member organizations across 40 countries, we now have colleagues who are imprisoned unjustly, others forced into exile and those who have lost their children. Why? For daring to imagine and work for a peaceful, just future in their countries.

By summer we hoped for some respite as the world opened up, but in August, Kabul fell to the Taliban. Our Afghan partners and their networks of peacebuilders came under direct threat. Over 300 peacebuilders came to us for help, because nobody came for them. By year's end, we had raised \$389,556 and were providing funds for safe houses and livelihoods in Afghanistan and working to evacuate and resettle over 2000 people, many of them children.

We expected that governments which had pledged to protect women peacebuilders would stand by us, as we stood with our partners, but we witnessed a different reality. Kabul's stray dogs and cats were evacuated, but women peacebuilders were not. Nevertheless, where systems failed, individual heroes emerged. Extraordinary people within governmental ministries walked alongside us and our Afghan partners, far beyond their mandate. The effort continues.

As I reflect on the year, despite all the difficulties, my team's commitment and professionalism was remarkable and we sustained WASL's connectivity and solidarity with weekly virtual gatherings. Our core mission and dual approach of seeking to influence international practices while supporting our partners' in-country work remained pertinent. Our holistic strategy of providing personal,

professional and institutional support to our partners was validated by an independent evaluation.

Through ICAN's Innovative Peace Fund (IPF) we disbursed \$1.63 million to 27 WASL partners across 18 countries. In Yemen, Sri Lanka, Nigeria and elsewhere our partners leveraged their flexible COVID-19 grants to expand their peacebuilding and mediation with armed groups, and governments to promote ceasefires, reconciliation and justice, including addressing sexual violence.

Our international advocacy pertaining to the recognition, protection and funding of women peacebuilders expanded into new venues and partnerships. Through WASL, the *She Builds Peace* campaign, which we launched in 2020, expanded into 30 countries.

As I write this letter, Russia's war on Ukraine is entering its second month. The devastating implications for Ukrainians, Europe and the world are unfolding daily. The combined impact of this war and the Taliban's victory that's given new impetus to transnational

extremist movements, is forcing us into uncharted territory internationally: multilateralism predicated on human rights, peacebuilding and development is waning, while militarism, evidenced by a new arms race is rising. As international attention and financial resources are channeled to Ukraine, elsewhere the onus of fostering peace, and addressing the multifaceted security issues arising from conflict, climate change and the pandemic, will be on national leaders and local communities.

In this context, what holds true is that citizen peacebuilders who have the imagination to envision a better world, and the heart and courage to step up and take responsibility to protect others, are needed more than ever. At ICAN we have the privilege of working with many of these individuals.

I remain grateful for the unwavering support of the ICAN board of directors, and the faith and resources that states, foundations, companies and individuals have put in us.

Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE



Everyone in the field knows they [ICAN] are an actor to be reckoned with. As a result [of their work], more countries have signed on to the [WPS] normative framework, and engaged in more sophisticated actions with a more integrated gender perspective."

— Peer Organization, External Evaluation, Merits Partnerships



Our Mission

The International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) is a US-based non-profit organization that promotes inclusive and sustainable peace in countries affected by violent conflict, extremism, militarism, and closing political space. Recognizing the gendered impact of conflict and the transformative role of women peacebuilders (WPBs), we fulfill our mission through a dual strategy of:

- Shaping and influencing the peace and security policies of governments, multilateral organizations, and the wider international community by providing thought leadership, strategic advice, and gender-responsive analysis and operational guidance; and
- Sustaining and strengthening a global movement of innovative, locally-rooted WPBs to have voice and influence wherever matters of peace, violent conflict, rights, and human security are determined.

ICAN brings the word and spirit of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the global Women, Peace and Security agenda to life.

Our Programs

Women’s Alliance for Security & Leadership (WASL)

A leading alliance of locally-rooted, globally connected independent women peacebuilders and women-led peacebuilding organizations addressing violent conflict, militarism and extremism by fostering peace, resilience, equality, and pluralism.



Gender & Extremisms (G&E)

Transforming the policy and practice of preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) through gender analysis, technical support, training, and advocacy that advances the pioneering work and expertise of women peacebuilders.



Better Peace Initiative (BPI)

Providing cutting-edge policy and programmatic guidance and strategic accompaniment to peacebuilders and international actors to enable gender responsive and inclusive peace processes.



Innovative Peace Fund (IPF)

The only independent, multi-donor global fund dedicated to financing and providing technical assistance to women-led peacebuilding organizations.



She Builds Peace (SBP)

An ICAN and WASL global call to action to stand with women peacebuilders by recognizing their work, ensuring their participation in peace and security processes, and guaranteeing their protection and sustainable funding.



External Evaluation

External Evaluation (2018-2020)

Throughout 2021, Merits Partnerships conducted an external independent evaluation to assess progress across ICAN's programmatic areas over the two-year period of December 2018 to December 2020. The evaluation methodology included consultations with a total of 42 key informants, including donor governments, peer organizations, and WASL members from 21 countries. The evaluators also reviewed 45 IPF grant reports, as well as ICAN's advocacy strategy, technical resources, and impact in accordance with our mission objectives.

Evaluation Criteria:

Relevance, Effectiveness, Impact, Sustainability

Across the 2-year evaluation period ICAN disbursed



Projects reached at least:

1.29 million beneficiaries
across a wide spectrum of genders and ages



ICAN has one of the most important roles in bringing forward the perspectives of women peacebuilders into this space... ICAN is at the forefront of building and leveraging listening to women peacebuilders into advocacy in policy conversations."

— Peer Organization, External Evaluation, Merits Partnerships

Selection of Key Findings:

Relevance

"Gender inclusiveness in peacebuilding processes is a long-term agenda to which ICAN's most relevant and significant contribution so far has been through the relationships and connections built among WASL members, and the ripple effects these have on their empowerment and activism."

Effectiveness

"ICAN's facilitation of collaboration/alliance-building among women peacebuilders and women-led peacebuilding organizations represents an important space for validation, solidarity, and knowledge sharing."

Impact

"The improved capacities of grant recipients have enabled them to enhance the capacities of their own beneficiaries and to intervene in local/national policy spaces"

Sustainability

"ICAN's holistic approach to the support it provides to its WASL partners has resulted in a grant-making dimension that has contributed to strengthening grant recipients' organizational capacities, which in turn enable them to strengthen their relationships with diverse stakeholders and to better support their beneficiaries."

2021 Key Highlights

2021 Key Highlights

21 in 21 Event Series • Warfare & Peacemaking in the 21st Century with Her Royal Highness the Countess of Wessex, Visaka Dharmadasa, Abir Haj Ibrahim, and Baroness Minouche Shafik.

BPI • 3 Better Peace Animations released in Ukrainian.

21 in 21 Event Series • Elite Bargains & Political Expediency: Sacrificing Women's Lives in the Name of Security with General (ret) Patrick Cammaert, Wazhma Frogh, and Cerue Konah Garlo.

SBP • We celebrated the one-year anniversary of the campaign at the sixty-fifth session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65).

BPI • Launch of *10 Steps to Ensure a Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Constitution-Drafting Process* in English and Arabic.

IPF • Investing in Peace, Investing in Trust event at 2021 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development.
• Conducted a 3-part virtual site visit to Advocacy for Women in Peace and Security Africa (AWAPSA), Kenya.

WASL • Rapid response initiative for the protection of Afghan partners commenced.

IPF • Conducted site visits to Odessa for Woman Development (Odessa) and Al-Tahreer Association for Development (TAD) in Iraq.

21 in 21 Event Series • The 21st Anniversary of the WPS Agenda: Progress or Regress? with Dr. Hanan Ashrawi and Ahlem Nasraoui.

G&E • Release of *Case Studies on the Role of Gender and Identity in Shaping Positive Alternatives to Extremisms*.

Award • WASL member Zarqa Yaftali receives Kroc School of Peace Studies Women Peacemakers Fellowship.

21 in 21 Event Series • Why Women's Lives Don't Matter: Ignoring Sexual Violence in Conflict with UN Special Representative Pramila Patten, Surood Mohammed Falih and Robinah Rubimbwa.

IPF • Joint launch of *Fund Us Like You Want Us to Win: Feminist Solutions for More Impactful Financing for Peacebuilding*.

Awards • WASL member Mahbouba Seraj honored as BBC 100 Women 2021.
• Anderlini attends investiture ceremony to receive MBE for services to International Peacebuilding and Women's Rights (New Year's Honours list 2020).

JAN

MAR

MAY

AUG

OCT

DEC



FEB

APRIL

JUNE

JULY

SEP

NOV

21 in 21 Event Series • Talking to Extremists: Gender, Power, and Belonging with award-winning documentary film director Deeyah Khan, Shannon Foley Martinez, and Mossarat Qadeem.

21 in 21 Event Series • Predatory States and Ungoverned Spaces: Who assumes the responsibility to protect? with the former International Criminal Court's Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, Hamsatu Allamin, and Muna Luqman.

BPI / IPF • Delivered two online training sessions (with simultaneous Arabic translation) on *Gender, Peace, and Security: The Fundamentals* to nine local Syrian organizations.

21 in 21 Event Series • Survival and Activism under Occupation with Secretary General of Amnesty International Agnes Callamard, May Sabe Phyu, and Lucy Talgieh.

BPI • Release of *Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Constitution-Drafting Process* in Farsi.

SBP • Launch of the *She Builds Peace Frameworks for Action* in Farsi.

BPI • *Redesigning Peacebuilding for the 21st Century: Peace, Power and Sharing Responsibility* event.

SBP • Launch of the *She Builds Peace Frameworks for Action* in French.

21 in 21 Event Series • Is Peace Just the Absence of War? with Lieutenant-General (ret) Roméo Dallaire, Guissou Jahangiri, and Rosa Emilia Salamanca.

WASL • Launch of the Afghan Solidarity Coalition.

Award • WASL member Esther Omam nominated as USIP Women Building Peace Award Finalist.

G&E • Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, UN Special Rapporteur, joined the weekly WASL call to discuss the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

21 in 21 Event Series • Putting Peace Back into Politics with Professor Monica McWilliams, Halima Mohamed, and Dr Amina Rasul.

Events • Queen's Lecture 2021 by Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, *MBE Blueprint for Peace in 21st Century*.
• 3-day ICAN Team Strategic Retreat, Virginia, USA.

BPI • Anderlini, nominated as Co-Chair of the International Commission on Inclusive Peace.

IPF • Conducted site visits to Rescue Me and Mobaderoon in Lebanon.

Award • WASL member Wai Wai Nu nominated as Diane von Furstenberg (DVF) Awards Honoree.

WASL Community Virtual Calls: 47

ICAN in the Media



"If the UK is concerned about women's safety, it shouldn't cut the GCRF. The cuts will hit organisations helping women and girls to evade violence and access justice, say Christine Chinkin and Sanam Naraghi Anderlini"

THE Higher Education: March 29, 2021



The international community can also learn from these mistakes – and drive resources and political support directly to women's rights, gender justice and feminist activists. This is not an impossible task. International feminist organisations such as the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), Madre and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) are all experts on how to do this."

Open Democracy: September 7, 2021



How much do you know about the UN's women, peace and security (WPS) agenda?

Pass Blue/ICAN quiz: November 13, 2021

New Internationalist

"Women in war zones are the best peace-makers, yet they rarely get a place at negotiation tables dominated by men. Iranian gender activist and senior adviser to the UN Sanam Naraghi-Anderlini is working to change that"

New Internationalist: March 7, 2021

PLOUGHSHARES FUND



Ploughshares: December, 2021

INTERNATIONAL POLICY DIGEST

Witness Somalia, a Human Rights Org, Offers an Alternative to Al-Shabaab - an op-ed by ICAN's Senior Program Officer, Stacey Schamber.

International Policy Digest: December 2, 2021



January, 2021



"From Nepal and Yemen to Northern Ireland or Israel, Palestine, we have seen the political

and military elite, at war with each other, unable to agree to anything—yet they stand united when it comes to excluding women peacebuilders from the processes. I think it's because they are afraid of the women. They are afraid of being held accountable."

— Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE,
Ms Magazine: July 31, 2021

Participation and Recognition

Participation and Recognition of Women Peacebuilders

By 2021 the UN had adopted 10 Security Council Resolutions calling for women's meaningful participation in peace negotiations and peace processes, and 51% of UN member states had developed their National Action Plans on WPS. Despite this, international diplomatic, development and security institutions have not put this political and normative shift into practice.

Our efforts in 2021 had a sharp focus on drawing attention to women who emerge and become peacebuilders. Our work focused on recognizing their specific contributions and credibility as actors addressing conflicts and violence, taking on the responsibility to protect civilians and build peace.

In line with ICAN's mission, our strategy was two-fold:

- Engage the international policy arenas, through partnership with governments, the UN and other multilateral organizations; and
- Support our partners' peacebuilding efforts nationally and at the grassroots. Through the expansion of the She Builds Peace campaign we supported their efforts to reach and engage a wider local population.

The recognition of women peacebuilders and their participation in peace and security policymaking and practice is central to all our programmatic areas.

- Through our BPI program we provided real-time support, tools and resources, and strategic accompaniment for WASL members engaged in peace processes and political transitions.
- Our G&E work elevated the role of women peacebuilders in addressing and responding to violent extremism. The Gender and Identity in Extremisms case studies, published in 2021, feature the pioneering work of WASL partners and other organizations in delivering positive alternatives to extremism.
- Through the IPF we invested in and supported WASL members' peacebuilding activities and P/CVE activities including their community-based COVID-19 response efforts.



“Members’ affiliation with ICAN through WASL provides them with a legitimacy and credibility that they did not previously enjoy, which allows them to enter policy-making spaces at the local and national level.”

— External Evaluation,
Merits Partnerships



International Advocacy

In 2021, in partnership with the London School of Economics Centre for Women, Peace, and Security, and the Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy, we co-hosted the discussion series *The Coming of Age of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda: 21 in 2021*, with the purpose of bringing the work and personal stories of women peacebuilders to a wide, global audience. Almost every month, ICAN’s Founder and CEO, Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE hosted conversations with WASL members and leading global figures on issues of peace and security.

“
My success as a local organization happened when I joined ICAN... ICAN opened the world for us... I cannot reach these levels if I don’t have support.”

— WASL Member, External Evaluation, Merits Partnerships

IMAGE (TOP): COMPILATION OF SPEAKERS FROM THE ‘21 IN 21’ DISCUSSION SERIES.

In July, during the 2021 UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development ICAN partnered with the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the missions of South Africa and Mexico to the UN, to host a hybrid event *Re-designing Peacebuilding for the 21st Century: Peace, Power and Sharing Responsibility*.

Speakers included Germany Foreign Minister Heiko Maas; South Africa’s Permanent Representative (PR) to the UN Ambassador Mathu Joyini; Mexico’s PR Ambassador Juan Ramón de la Fuente Ramírez; UN Women’s Assistant Secretary General and Deputy

Executive Director Anita Bhatia and ICAN’s Sanam Naraghi Anderlini. Onscreen zooming in from Tripoli, Libya and Khartoum, Sudan were Dr. Rida Altubuly, Director of Together We Build it and member of the Mediterranean Women’s Mediators’ Network and Enass Muzamel, Executive Director of Madanyiya and member of WASL. Francesca Donner, the New York Times’s Gender Editor moderated the event, prompting a frank and candid discussion on the current state of peacemaking internationally, and how to improve on the 50% failure rate.



IMAGES: 2021 UN HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

Participation and Recognition

The Principles for Peace (P4P) is a global participatory initiative to develop a new set of principles, standards and norms that will fundamentally reshape how peace processes are structured, sequenced, and actualized. In November 2021, Sanam Naraghi Anderlini MBE was nominated to be a Co-Chair of the International Commission on Inclusive Peace (ICIP) which consists of a diverse group of eminent experts and leaders who will kickstart the global participatory process to reframe thinking on the global peace agenda. As an organization, we have joined the Stakeholder Platform, a coalition of entities who will accompany the ICIP in the development of the P4P.

“Those of us who live in peace take it for granted – it’s the invisible canvas upon which we paint and live our lives,”
— Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE



SANAM NARAGHI ANDERLINI WAS NOMINATED TO BE A CO-CHAIR OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON INCLUSIVE PEACE (ICIP)

Queen’s Lecture 2021 by Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE

A collaboration between Technical University Berlin, the British Embassy in Germany, and the British Council in Germany, each year a renowned British scientist delivers a lecture on their area of expertise. The 2021 Queen’s Lecture was opened with a message from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who founded the annual lecture as a gift to the City of Berlin on her state visit in 1965.

Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE spoke of the positive developments in peacebuilding practices as well as the missed opportunities and the untapped potential of global grassroots campaigns. She challenged the audience to consider how feminist perspectives offer alternative solutions and the difference it makes to have women peacebuilders present as recognized delegations of peace actors in war and peace negotiations.

“This year’s Queen’s Lecture focuses on the situation of women and their role in peacebuilding in international conflict zones. Sanam Naraghi Anderlini will not only speak about peace in the 21st century, but also about the role women play in conflict regions and in peacebuilding processes, as well as about the impacts climate change has by fuelling conflict situations.”

— HM Queen Elizabeth II



QUEEN’S LECTURE 2021 BY SANAM NARAGHI ANDERLINI, MBE BLUEPRINT FOR PEACE IN THE 21ST CENTURY, NOVEMBER 2021.

Participation and Recognition

Peace Process Accompaniment

Through 2021, we provided flexible and wide-ranging support to a number of our partners engaged in peace and political transition processes. We also provided advice to governments, international institutions (such as the UN), and others to promote effective dialogue and sustainable outcomes.

Cameroon

Leading up to the Cameroonian Women's National Peace Convention held in late July, we provided strategic advice to our partners regarding their role and participation as well as practical guidance on effective coalition-building. Our Cameroonian partners, Pathways for Women's Empowerment and Development (PaWED), Reach Out Cameroon, Center for Advocacy in Gender Equality and

Action for Development (CAGEAD), and Hope Advocates Africa invited fellow WASL member Rosa Emilia Salamanca, Executive Advocacy Advisor at Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica (CIASE) from Colombia, to the convention to share her experiences and lessons from the Colombian peace process.

CAMEROON'S FIRST EVER WOMEN'S NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR PEACE, PALAIS DES CONGRÈS, YAOUNDÉ, JULY, 2021.



“We’re a national organization... ICAN has given us a platform to advocate for our cause in international fora. They’ve internationalized a common agenda.”

*— WASL Member, External Evaluation,
Merits Partnerships*



Participation and Recognition

Yemen



Our experience in Yemen, reflected in so many other countries mired in conflict, is clear evidence that women's participation cannot be left to negotiation or to the will of conflict parties - doing so is a guarantee that our rights will be demoted in favor of patriarchal philosophies of mediation that reward violence. The UN must defend the standard for women's participation."

— Rasha Jarhum, Director, PeaceTrack Initiative at Security Council Open Arria-formula Meeting, 8 March 2021

Peace Track Initiative (PTI)

Through the IPF, we provided core organizational support to PTI for ongoing work on their Feminist Peace Roadmap in Yemen, a guiding framework for comprehensive peace negotiations and a transitional period, drafted in consultation with 30 Yemeni women peacebuilders and validated in communities

across the country. We hosted a virtual meeting for PTI to share and gain feedback on the framework draft from fellow WASL members and ICAN's founder Sanam Naraghi Anderlini contributed to the PTI-led 5-day High-level Virtual Convening on Feminist Peace in Yemen.

Abductees Mothers' Association (AMA)

We connected AMA to policy spaces and supported the production, translation and launch of their special report on the situation of arrested and detained women in the Central Prison in Sana'a, Yemen. *I am Afraid to Die and*

No One Knows, was the first report in the WASL Publications Series, a curated compilation of original research and expert analysis by women peacebuilders around the world.

Food4Humanity

In addition to providing flexible funding to Food4Humanity for projects to strengthen women-led civil society in Yemen, we supported the organization's Founder, Muna Luqman through regular strategy discussions which enhanced her role and participation in security dialogues related to the Yemen conflict.

We also partnered with Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) at the University of Notre Dame on a research initiative to strengthen collaboration between international peacebuilding organizations and local women peacebuilders, where we provided research support to Luqman in her fellowship at the Women Peacemaker program.



MUNA LUQMAN, FOUNDER, FOOD4HUMANITY, AT ECOSOC EVENT ON THE TRANSITION FROM RELIEF TO DEVELOPMENT, JUNE 22, 2021

Participation and Recognition

Guinea Conakry

In June, the UN Country Team in Guinea Conakry invited WASL member Esther Omam, Executive Director of Reach Out Cameroon, to advise the Guinean women peacebuilders "Coalition des Femmes Leaders de Guinée pour la Paix" on effective strategies for gender-responsiveness and inclusion in peace processes. Omam utilized the ICAN Better Peace Tool (BPT) animation video to increase the participants' understanding of the issues.

The 27 Guinean women representing diverse age, educational, ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds found the BPT highly valuable. They were able to agree on a common vision and mission to contribute to the construction of peace in Guinea. Omam continues to mentor Dorcas Nema Dione, the Coordinator of the coalition, who has since been admitted into the Guinean Conseil National de Transition (CNT), that was established to ensure a smooth transition of power from military to civilian rule in Guinea.

CAPTION TO BE COMPLETED



After watching this BPT video, I retained two things: the role of gender-specific analysis in conflict resolution and the need for the government to develop plans for the whole population, rather than for select groups of people."

— Guinea Training Recipient (translated from French)

After watching the [BPT] video... I recall visuals that explain a conflict situation with a visible absence of women around the negotiating table.

This encouraged some women to create a feminist lobby group with a view to including women in decision-making bodies, by women and for women."

— Guinea Training Recipient (translated from French)



Women Peacebuilders and Positive Alternatives to Extremisms

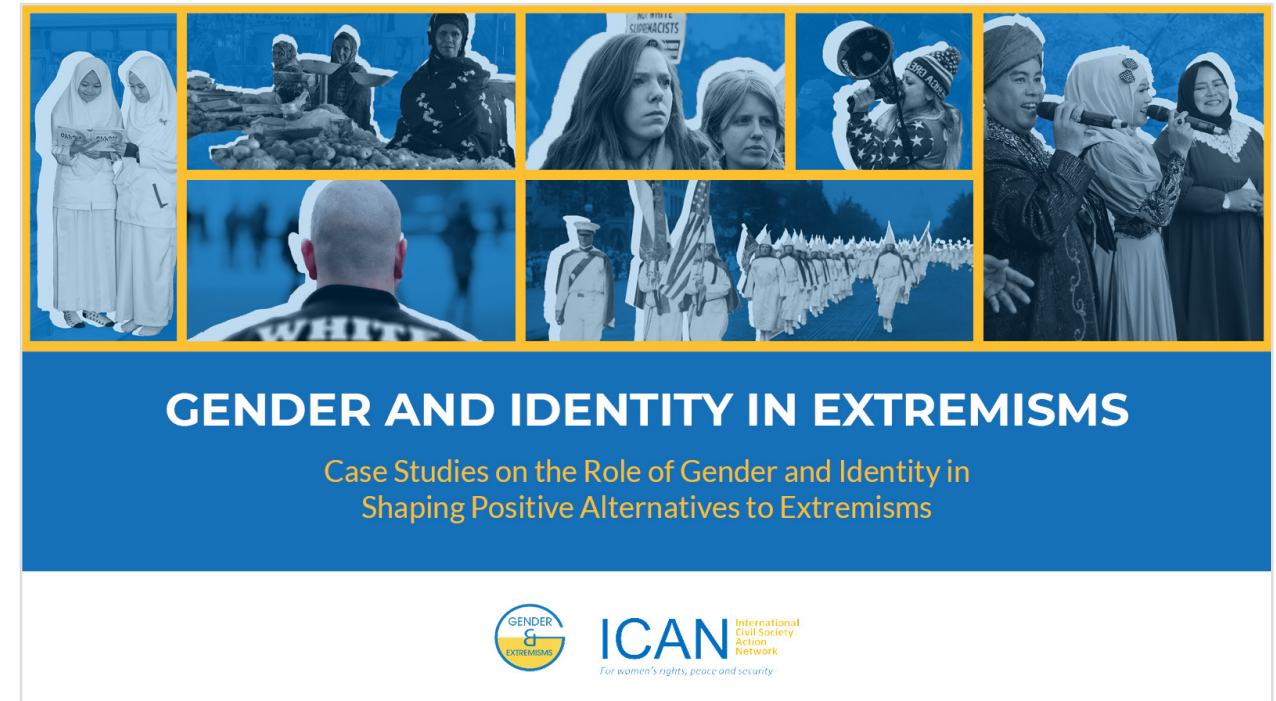
Through the IPF, we continued our support to WASL partners transforming extremism in various countries including Nigeria, Pakistan, Indonesia, Kenya, and Iraq. Their innovative work provides positive alternatives to participation in violent extremism, grounded in peace, resilience, equality, and pluralism. Interventions ranged from strengthening psychosocial support to survivors of gender-based violence inflicted by violent extremist groups, countering extremist hate speech on social media, and developing peace education manuals to strengthening relationships between communities and security forces in order to jointly address extremism.

With the support of Global Affairs Canada (GAC), ICAN also continued our thought leadership through the development of knowledge products related to understanding and transforming violent extremism and their gender dimensions. This included a set of five *Case Studies on the Role of Gender and Identity in Shaping Positive Alternatives to Extremisms* in Somalia, Sweden, the United States, Iraq, and Indonesia. We profiled examples of peacebuilding,

deradicalization, reintegration and counternarrative work by WASL partners and others. The case studies cover key themes pertaining to P/CVE and Counter-Terrorism work, including white supremacy, the role of masculinities in recruitment and disengagement, addressing mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in rehabilitation, and engaging religious leaders to promote peace, pluralism, and gender equality.

Asian Muslim Action Network Indonesia

The Indonesia case study covers the work the Asian Muslim Action Network Indonesia (AMAN) led by WASL member Ruby Kholifah. To respond to the rise in conservative and radical Islamic narratives on Indonesian social media that threaten to restrict gender equality and women's participation in the public sphere, Kholifah co-convened the Indonesian Congress of Women Scholars (KUPI). KUPI brings together women ulama – female religious scholars – to promote peaceful, tolerant interpretations of Islamic texts.



COVER IMAGE OF THE STUDIES SERIES.

For instance, these scholars challenge narrow, extremist interpretations of the meaning of jihad as a physical, violent struggle, and instead shows how Islamic texts define jihad as a spiritual and moral struggle for good that can be realized by working for civilization and humanity. They also proclaim gender equality as a foundational basis of Islamic teachings and have issued fatwas prohibiting sexual violence, child marriage, and the destruction of nature.

There is a long history of women ulama as trusted authentic sources of religious authority in Indonesian society. Given their deep roots in their communities, status and influence, women Ulama are well positioned to challenge and deconstruct extremist ideology. The case study reflects on their success in addressing the conditions conducive to violent extremism and terrorism.

Participation and Recognition

She Builds Peace Campaign: 30 Countries Around the World

We celebrated the one-year anniversary of the *She Builds Peace* campaign in March 2021. By the end of the year, 31 WASL members had launched the campaign in 30 countries, with partners in Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Palestine and Turkey joining in 2021.

“Under the *She Builds Peace* initiative in my area of work in Pakistan we responded immediately to COVID-19, supporting the government and reaching out to communities to stop extremist groups from filling the void. We provided PPE, food, medicine, cash. Strategically using this campaign, we countered misinformation in the name of religion and mitigated hate speech and extremist messaging.”
— Mossarat Qadeem, Co-Founder,
PAIMAN Alumni Trust, Pakistan

“*She Builds Peace* for me, is more than a campaign, it allows our voice to be heard and it is an opportunity to make women really visible in our communities.”
— Rudina Çollaku, Executive Director,
Women's Center for Development and Culture,
Albania

HOPE ADVOCATES AFRICA, CAMEROON LAUNCH THE SHE BUILDS PEACE CAMPAIGN.



Throughout these countries WASL members launched campaign activities to raise awareness and recognition of peacebuilders in a variety of ways, examples include:

Sri Lanka

Led by the Association of War Affected Women (AWAW), peer committees organized events with district authorities at the local level to educate them about UNSCR 1325 and the unique role of women peacebuilders who bridge divides in their communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The authorities saw increased value in women peacebuilders building trust and providing services in their communities.

Palestine

WASL partner Wi'am convened two roundtables with civil society women and key government stakeholders to explore women's role as mediators and peacebuilding efforts which shifted the attitudes of conservative leaders in their views on women in decision-making spaces.

Liberia

Launched by the Women Education and Development Organization of Liberia (WEDOL), the SBP campaign enhanced the recognition of women peacebuilders among local women who learned about it from door-to-door canvassing and local community radio stations. The 400-person launch inspired peace initiatives throughout the country and encouraged women to raise difficult topics like sexual and gender-based violence. It drew the attention of government officials and journalists.

Philippines

WASL partner, the Philippine Center for for Islam and Democracy (PCID) launched the *She Talks Peace* podcast, which has been listened to in 40 countries. Their Department of Education and two universities have used the podcast as part of their peace curriculum with 600,000 schoolteachers. The Office of the Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process has also used the podcast to train peacebuilders.





Spotlight: Youth Participation

Ugandan WASL member establishes first Youth Elections Observatory Centre to prevent violence

Uganda's 2021 general elections were highly anticipated and deeply concerning given the history of election violence in the past decade. During election periods, youth (under the age of 30), who represent over 75% of Uganda's population, are often coopted into violent contestations between political parties. At the same time, many young people feel disenfranchised and powerless to create change through fair and free elections. This disengagement is particularly strong among young women, whose participation is limited due to persistent stigmatization of women's leadership, lack of knowledge of enabling laws, and lack of confidence.

To tackle this problem, the Coalition for Action on 1325 (CoACT) implemented an ICAN supported program to increase inclusiveness and youth participation in election processes. Through consultative meetings with over 80 youth leaders, CoACT sought to understand the barriers that prevent youth participation in politics and peacebuilding, in particular the double burden young women face. CoACT then developed a comprehensive training program to increase youth leadership and advocacy capacity, knowledge of election processes, and peacebuilding skills.



If it was not for this Observatory Centre, Kasese and Ntungamo would be on fire by now. The Youth Elections Observatory Centre is really an effective mechanism in preventing election related violence. Actually, the centre should be maintained for early reporting and response to all forms of peace related issues."

— ASP Francis Ogweng, Uganda Police Official

Ahead of the 2021 general election, CoACT initiated the world's first Youth Elections Observatory Center, a youth-led mechanism for preventing violence before, during and after elections. In preparation for its launch, CoACT held leadership bootcamps to train male and female youth on election monitoring, observation, and reporting. Twenty youth were accredited as election observers upon completion of the training.

During the election, the Youth Elections Observatory served as a central hub for early warning and rapid response to election-related violence across four districts: Kampala, Kasese, Ntungamo, and Kabarole. The center was managed by four youth observers who operated a toll-free telephone line for members of the public to report instances of violence. The 16 other youth observers were deployed to potential hotspots

of violence to look out for incidents such as gender-based violence, obstruction and attacks on observers and agents, inconsistencies in the voter register, malfunctioning biometric machines, and voter bribery and intimidation. They reported a total of 112 election related issues to the center, where the Ugandan Police and Electoral Commission analyzed and coordinated real-time responses.

The role of the center as an early warning and reporting mechanism and the presence of youth observers significantly improved election-related security in the districts where they were operating. This impact was particularly obvious in Ntungamo and Kasese districts, where the 2021 election period passed peacefully compared to the 2016 general elections, which witnessed high rates of violence.

Protection of Women Peacebuilders

Throughout 2021, ICAN and WASL members experienced the continued rise of threats against women peacebuilders. On paper and in policy settings our awareness raising and advocacy to seek governmental support and protection for women peacebuilders has made progress. But the dangers facing women peacebuilders outstripped the commitments made.

For example, in addition to the UK government's pledge to uphold our *Operational Guidance to Establish and Enhance the Protection of Women Peacebuilders*, the Government of Canada launched their #PeacebyHer campaign in 2021, echoing our calls for protection and recognition of women peacebuilders.

While difficult to document, in 2021 we witnessed first-hand the increased threats to women peacebuilders. This corresponds with the reported escalation of killings of women human rights defenders, journalists, and trade unionists in 7 conflict-affected countries, as cited by the UN Secretary-General in his 2021 Women, Peace and Security report. In August, as the Taliban took over Afghanistan, women peacebuilders were amongst the first to be harassed, threatened, and disappeared. By and large, the international community's pledges and commitments of protection for women peacebuilders were not realized.

Our work during the year was shaped by the attacks against WASL members in Afghanistan, Cameroon, Iraq, Kashmir, Sudan, Colombia, Myanmar, and elsewhere. Because of their courage to speak out about authoritarianism, their work addressing violent extremism, and their commitments to upholding human rights, justice and peacebuilding, our partners were victims of intimidation, incarceration, and physical violence – including online attacks and targeted hate speech.



This [She Builds Peace] campaign is very important to me because it calls for protection measures for women peacebuilders. It is asking for proper recognition and appreciation for the vital and courageous work women peacebuilders carry out in their community."

— Clotilda Andiansa Waah,
Coordinator, CAGEAD, Cameroon



"Women peacebuilders put themselves on the line every day as they engage across the deepest divides in our societies, leaving them at risk and alone as even their own communities distrust those who would speak to the other side."

— Melinda Holmes,
Program Director, WASL

Building on our 2020 *Protection Framework for Action*, we supported WASL partners in a variety of ways including the provision of digital security assessments, mental health and self-care capacity building, and in-country grant-making for the implementation of protection strategies.

In response to the crisis in Afghanistan, our efforts focused on facilitating evacuation, relocation, and resettlement, as well as in-country safe houses and financial support for our Afghan partners, their families, and other highly at-risk people (more on Page 56).

As part of the *She Builds Peace* campaign, several WASL members focused on the protection pillar. For example, Justice for Human Rights and Gender Civil Association in Mexico convened a three-day conference: *From Victims to Activists for Justice and Peace: A Transnational Forum on Generating Justice in Transition*. WASL Program Director, Melinda Holmes and WASL members from Colombia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Syria participated to explore peace and justice in crisis contexts from a feminist perspective, highlighting the human rights violations affecting women peacebuilders and the importance of support networks.

“
Their membership in WASL and engagement in specific initiatives like the *She Builds Peace* campaign gave them a sense of belonging and inspiration to keep doing their work. WASL acts as a support system for its members... This was considered quite unique compared to other funders.”

— External Evaluation, Merits Partnerships



FROM VICTIMS TO ACTIVISTS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE EVENT BANNER, JANUARY 2021

Digital Security

Given heightened physical and online threats, we piloted a digital risk and security assessment among WASL members in Afghanistan, Iraq and Cameroon.

Together, we identified several challenges pertaining to online security and IT knowledge, developing organizational capacity, lack of funding and access to technology. The WASL members who participated in the assessments received customized reports with recommendations for their organization to develop risk and security protocols. Through IPF's flexible funding, we supported our partners to access technology, resources, and training to strengthen their institutional capacity in digital security.

For example, we enabled a partner in Cameroon to purchase security cameras, lock boxes and secure cabinets to enhance office security and hire a consultant to train their staff on digital security and protect their organization's website.

“
Now, the warring factions understand my role better... I feel more protected because of ICAN.”
— WASL Member, External Evaluation, Merits Partnerships

“
For me, being involved in the WASL group is most effective. Information and encouragement from them are so useful, I feel I'm not alone - they are sisters around the world. If I request something, I'm confident that they can all stand with me. That gives me mental security and encouragement.”
— WASL Member, External Evaluation, Merits Partnerships



Spotlight: Protecting Peacebuilders

CIASE Colombia's "Safe, Here and Now" Tool

We partnered with Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica (CIASE) Colombia to conduct extensive research on the specific characteristics of women peacebuilders and their role in peacebuilding and redefining security from a feminist perspective. The findings highlighted several themes including tensions around the visibility/invisibility of women peacebuilders, identifying threats, the role of emotions in managing risk, and the protection of human rights in peacebuilding.

CIASE identified five dimensions of security: physical, political, cognitive-emotional, spiritual, and economic. Within each of the five securities, they developed indicators for identifying and measuring risk and strategies to mitigate them through protective actions and care routines. This was collated in *Secure, Here and Now*, a practical tool and guidance framework. Using a participatory process, CIASE validated the tool with Colombian women peacebuilders, active in rural and urban areas. *Secure, Here and Now* is relevant for women peacebuilders, human rights defenders, organizations, donors and others engaged in this work.



"CIASE's approach completely transforms how we think about our security, incorporating care and our lived realities as integral to the security of ourselves, our organizations, and our communities."

— Stacey Schamber,
Senior Program Officer, ICAN

CIASE launched a podcast, *Now That We are Twenty*, to share critical findings from the research and provide an initial introduction to the tool. They presented their research to WASL members, who found it relevant to their experiences. The tool will be piloted in Colombia, Mexico, and globally through WASL partners in 2022.



This tool has been designed to broaden the definition of risk, looking at women's safety in a holistic manner...We are convinced that it is a tool that, with cultural adaptations, can be useful to many women peacebuilders in the world."

— Rosa Emilia Salamanca, Executive Advocacy Advisor, CIASE, Colombia

Funding Women Peacebuilders

Funding Women Peacebuilders

In 2021, ICAN sustained its targeted advocacy work to shift and improve donor practices. Through the IPF we tailored our grant-making capacities to meet the needs of WASL partners as they address the complex impacts of the pandemic, continued violence, and rising authoritarianism.

In August, responding to the Afghan crisis and pleas for direct financial assistance, we developed two Rapid Response Windows (RRWs) to enable organizational and individual partners to receive funds (more on Page 58).

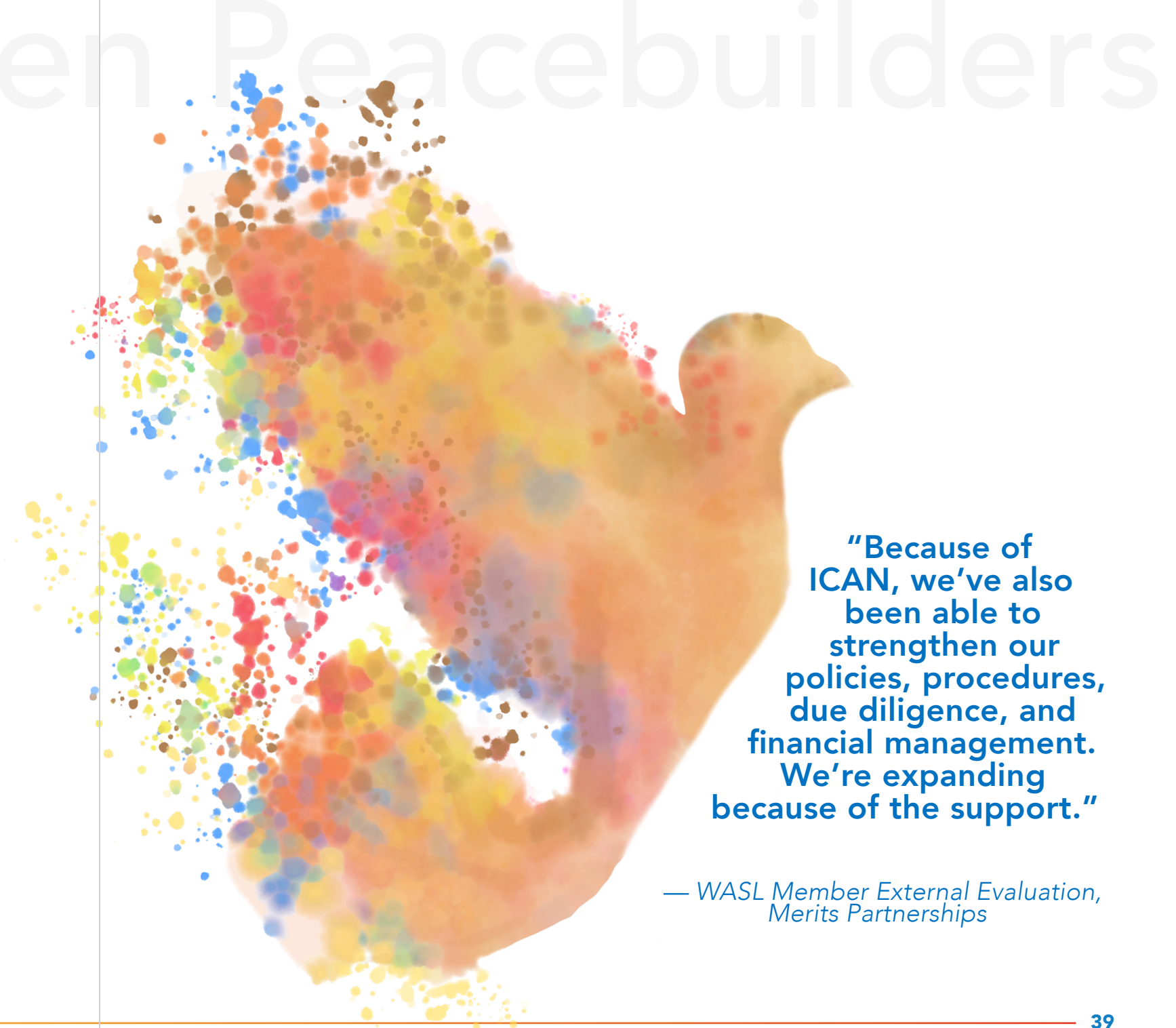
Funding Advocacy and Partnership

In 2021, we had a two-track advocacy strategy to ensure more effective funding of women's peacebuilding work. Building on the 2020 *ICAN Funding Framework for Action*, we shared our knowledge of best practices and recommendations through:

- Systemic bilateral discussions to donor agencies and foundations; and
- Collaboration with like-minded organizations and participation in multilateral financing processes to echo and amplify the need for flexible funding and other financing tailored to women peacebuilders in crisis contexts.

Bilateral Dialogues:

Throughout the year we held regular bilateral discussions with governments, foundations, and the UN to sustain attention to the financing of women-led peacebuilding organizations. Our focus was to provide practical solutions that address donors' legal restriction, while ensuring equitable and sustainable resourcing of CSOs active at the frontlines of crisis.



**“Because of
ICAN, we’ve also
been able to
strengthen our
policies, procedures,
due diligence, and
financial management.
We’re expanding
because of the support.”**

— WASL Member External Evaluation,
Merits Partnerships

Funding Women Peacebuilders

Collaborations

Throughout the year we convened peacebuilding and feminist organizations to unite efforts and amplify key shared recommendation for targeting resources and improving funding mechanisms for women-led peace efforts.

Key events included:

- A roundtable with governments, the UN, and CSOs at the 2021 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development;
- Publication of *Fund Us Like You Want Us To Win: Feminist Solutions for more Impactful Financing for Peacebuilding*, a background paper to inform the 2022 UN High-Level Meeting on Financing for Peacebuilding. The paper and recommendations were produced in collaboration with five partners: the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Kvinna till Kvinna, MADRE, and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). It was yet another opportunity to share our analysis and effective funding solutions to donors.

- Input to the Global Alliance for Sustainable Feminist Movements, which is an emerging multi-stakeholder initiative focused on exponentially increasing, sustaining, and improving financial and political support for women's rights and feminist organizations and movements.
- Membership in the Generation Equality Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA). We contributed to the WPS-HA thematic working groups and outcome paper on a) ensuring women's participation and inclusion of gender-related provisions in peace processes; b) protecting and promoting women's human rights in conflict and crisis contexts; and c) financing the WPS agenda and gender equality in humanitarian programming.

As a result of these efforts, we have witnessed a growing interest among existing donors and other governments and foundations in the recognition and financing of women's peacebuilding organizations and global networks, and the importance of long-term flexible funding. Our focus continues to be on ensuring their funding practices come in line with the equitable best practices we have identified and those we practice through the IPF.

“ICAN “invests in trust” and values the knowledge and access that women peacebuilders have developed in communities that drive how they respond to crises. The IPF funding streams give partners the ability to determine their priorities and define their own programmes, while offering strategic and technical support based on individual need.”

— *Fund Us Like You Want Us To Win**

*International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Kvinna till Kvinna, MADRE, and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)



ICAN TEAM, STRATEGIC RETREAT, NOVEMBER 2021

Site Visits

In 2021, we conducted several site visits to assess our partner organizations' programs and activities. Through observation and multiple meetings with senior management, staff members, and beneficiaries, the visits allowed us to identify institutional and strategic needs and capacities for that ICAN can provide assistance to further optimize their impact.

Iraq, Lebanon, Kenya

ICAN's Monitoring and Evaluation Expert conducted a 10-day site visit to Mosul and Erbil, Iraq in August 2021, where she met with Odessa for Woman Development (Odessa) and Al-Tahreer Association for Development (TAD) staff members and beneficiaries. In November, we conducted a 2-week site visit to Lebanon to meet with Rescue Me and Mobaderoon staff members and beneficiaries. During these visits, we collected data and evidence demonstrating the short- and long-term impacts of IPF funded projects at the organizational level, conducted monitoring and evaluation trainings, and provided individualized proposal development support for staff.

We also conducted a virtual site visit with the Advocacy for Women in Peace and Security Africa (AWAPSA) in Kenya. Held across three sessions via Zoom we observed one of their Women Engagement Forums and met with their team and beneficiaries regarding the efficacy of AWAPSA's work on identifying and reporting gender-based violence (GBV) as it relates to the phenomenon of violent extremism in their communities.

The IPF in 2021



It is the whole package that makes ICAN's support work, with financial resources that help us to keep doing our work, with solidarity and exchange of ideas and experiences, with learning tools that we can use with our own partners."

— WASL Member, External Evaluation, Merits Partnerships

Funding Women Peacebuilders

Our Innovative Peace Fund Supports:

Peacemaking and Peacebuilding

- Peace shuras and circles
- Peace education
- Supporting national peacebuilding networks
- Incubating community CSOs
- Local mediation
- Combating hate speech
- Promoting social cohesion
- Protection of women peacebuilders
- Engaging youth and women in peace and political processes
- Localizing 1325 and developing NAPs

PVE, Deradicalization, and Reintegration

- Detecting early warning signs of radicalization
- Reintegration of women associated with extremist groups
- Peace Clubs to prevent radicalization
- Rehabilitation of survivors

Peace, Development, Health, and Livelihoods

- Humanitarian response
- COVID-19 response
- Afghanistan crisis response
- Community income generation

Conflict-Related Sexual and Gender-based Violence

- Engaging the police to address SGBV
- Survivor support
- Combatting workplace harassment
- Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)
- Litigation of SGBV cases
- Improving state response

Spotlight: Flexible Funding

Flexible Funding and the Road to Reconciliation in Sri Lanka

Through the IPF, we have supported the Association of War Affected Women (AWAW) in Sri Lanka since 2013. Since 1998, AWAW has been a leading voice in promoting peace, justice, and reconciliation in Sri Lanka with a unique vantage point of being locally-rooted, working with women across the country's ethnic and religious communities,

and engaging the government, parliament, and security sectors.

Visaka Dharmadasa, Founder and Chair of AWAW, spoke to our IPF Program Director, France Bognon, about how flexible funding in their current project yielded unexpected results.



France Bognon: What was the initial project you proposed and what changed?

Visaka Dharmadasa: Our project seeks to promote reconciliation from multiple viewpoints. Since the Easter Bombings in 2019, our society has been even more polarized and online hate speech has been a serious concern. At AWAW, we



have held workshops for women and youth to provide them with the awareness and tools for combatting this divisive and dangerous phenomenon. We carried out the initial part of this training with 36 civil society actors and planned to conduct other trainings with university students. However, we were unable to because of COVID-19, and were forced to think again.

Funding Women Peacebuilders

Having the flexibility to change our activities allowed us to take a new approach. We conducted an analysis of the peace process in Sri Lanka to understand what has gone wrong and what role civil society was playing in peacebuilding.

We assembled 15 key civil society actors from diverse backgrounds, religions, and professions to collaborate on this research. The group has since formalized and is now known as the Sri Lankan Collective for Consensus (SLCC). We didn't originally anticipate forming this collective. We thought we would focus only on the research as individual actors, but the project's flexibility gave us the freedom to form this group, resulting in unexpected impacts that will continue far past the end of this project's implementation period.

FB: What was the impact of creating the SLCC?

VD: SLCC engagements have contributed to major shifts within the government. The SLCC engages with the government to promote reconciliation and good governance. This has historically been a

challenge because the government has a reputation of suppressing civil society. However, the SLCC engaged in honest and frank dialogues with the government. As a result, we were able to successfully transfer the NGO Secretariat, which was originally housed in the Ministry of Defense, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This shift has enabled greater dialogue between civil society organizations (CSOs) and the Sri Lankan (SL) government and created more space for CSOs to operate.

Now the SL government is more willing to engage with different actors. This was witnessed when the UK Minister for South Asia, North Africa, and the United Nations Lord Ahmad [of Wimbledon] came to Sri Lanka and met the President and Foreign Minister. The President asked Lord Ahmad to organize a meeting with Sri Lankan diaspora. This was a new signal that the government is more willing to engage with this population, which is a strong indication of reconciliation.


Because of the tense relationship between CSOs and the government, the SLCC has received criticism for engaging with state.

However, we made it clear that dialogue is a technique of peacebuilding, and we will speak with all parties if it will bring peace. Even if they are perpetrators of violence, if engaging in dialogue could save a life, we will speak with them. That is what differentiates us as peacebuilders.

FB: How did the IPF's flexible funding mechanism enable you to have greater impact in your community?

VD: Without the flexibility and trust that came with the IPF grant, the SLCC wouldn't have existed. We wouldn't have had the opportunity to meet with the SL President and other senior government officials.

I was able to accept meetings and explore opportunities with government and other key stakeholders that I wouldn't have otherwise been able to do. By being able to use our funds for things like travel and accommodation, we were not dependent on others and were able to maintain a position of neutrality – which is essential for our legitimacy. There is unanticipated potential when organizations have the flexibility to adapt and adjust as new situations present themselves. If flexibility and trust are there, then you can get back the results of every penny you put in. Multi-year funding is also extremely important because it gives you the assurance for the next year.



Flexible multi-year funding gives us the space to think, strategize, and be proactive, rather than always having to focus on specific project outputs and worrying about where the next grant will come from. These elements of the IPF are critical to successful peacebuilding interventions."

Afghanistan: Our Response

Afghanistan: Our Response

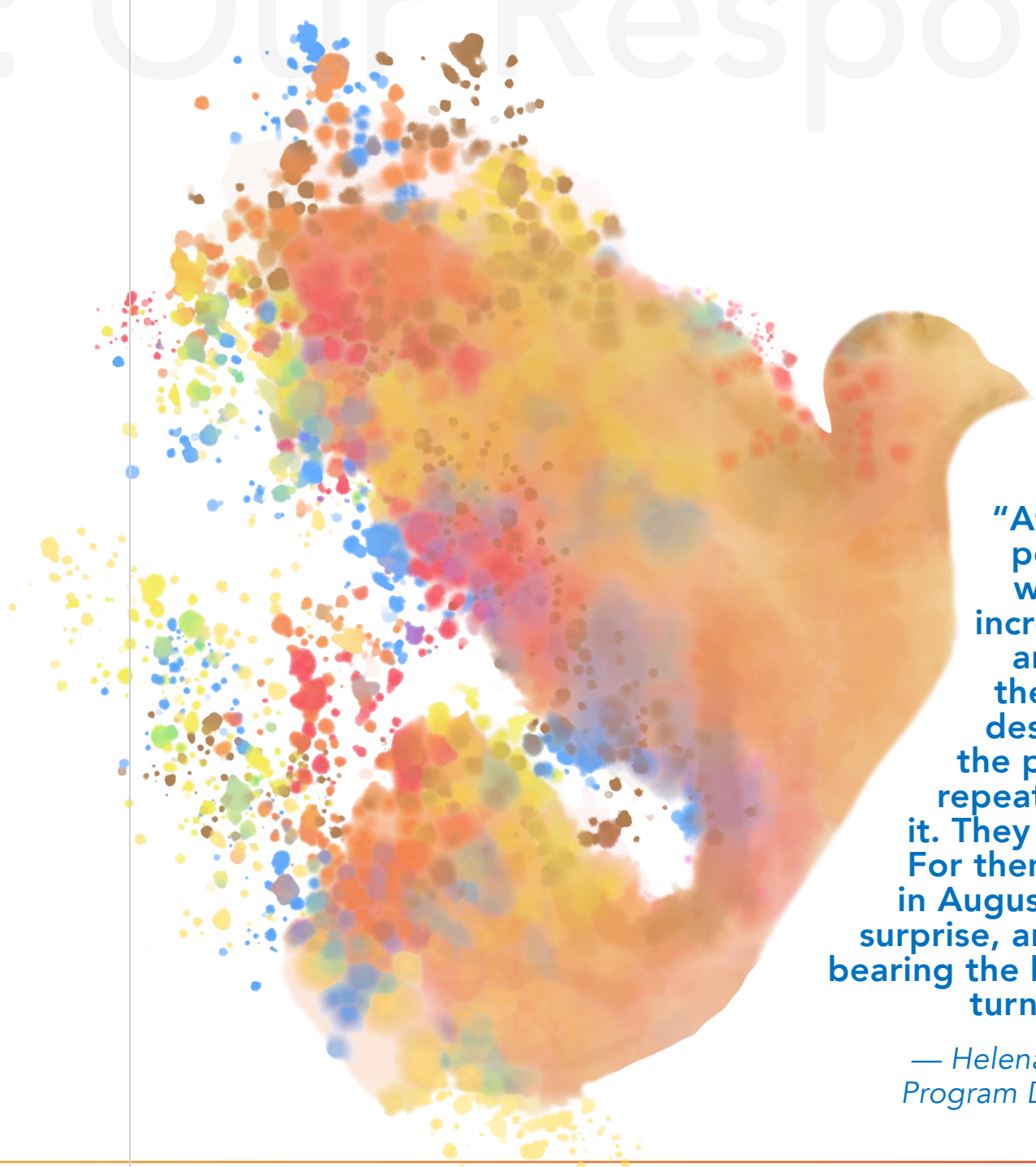
We have advocated for years for the inclusion of Afghan women peacebuilders in the Doha negotiations and other peace talks with the Taliban, the Afghan government, and international community. Our concern was always that the protection of civilians and the safeguarding of human rights, including the rights of women and minorities, would not be prioritized and that the implications would be devastating.

Based on our decades of experience and research, ICAN's premise was that Afghan women peacebuilders' presence in direct negotiations could mitigate these concerns. By August, as NATO's military withdrawal accelerated and the Taliban advanced, many of our greatest fears were realized.

Despite many governments' pledges of protection for women peacebuilders and their claims to support women in the security sectors, judiciary, and government, we found WPBs abandoned and in fear for their lives.

In line with our mission, our three-part strategy is as follows:

- Advocacy to the international community on behalf of and alongside our Afghan partners;
- Direct support to Afghan partners and others at-risk seeking evacuation and resettlement; and
- Financial and practical assistance to organizations and individuals inside Afghanistan.



"Afghan women peacebuilders warned about increasing violence and attacks by the Taliban. They deserved a say in the peace talks and repeatedly asked for it. They were sidelined. For them the takeover in August 2021 was no surprise, and now they are bearing the brunt. We cannot turn away."

— Helena Gronberg,
Program Director, BPI

Afghanistan: Our Response

Advocacy: Taking the Lead from Afghan Women Peacebuilders

APRIL

Open Letter to Friends of Afghanistan and Champions of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda with over 50 individual and organizational sign-ons providing practical actions to guarantee the participation of women peacebuilders in the peace talks, including by:

- Inviting an independent delegation of women peacebuilders as a party to the negotiations; and
- Ensuring inclusivity and gender expertise in state and UN diplomatic delegations.

Published in English, Dari, and Pashto and shared with Ministers, Special Envoys and other high-level officials engaged in the talks.

JUNE

The following documents/tools were translated into Dari and launched widely among Afghan partners and the policy community:

- ICAN's *She Builds Peace Frameworks for Action*
- *10 Steps to Ensure a Gender Responsive and Inclusive Constitution Drafting Process*.

Demands by Women Peacebuilders for Peacebuilders included the call to:

- Evacuate and resettle women peacebuilders and women human rights defenders (WHRDs) most imminently under threat;
- Protect civil society activists remaining in Afghanistan and build a safety net for their physical, legal and political protection;
- Protect the broader population of Afghanistan by urging neighboring countries to open their borders and allow for a humanitarian corridor for food and medical supplies; and
- Do not disappear or ignore Afghans - support the provision of emergency satellite communications and insist on the safe presence of international organizations.

AUGUST

As Kabul fell, we issued a statement: *Demands by Women Peacebuilders for Women Peacebuilders* calling on UN member states to put their existing commitments on the protection of peacebuilders into action.

SEPTEMBER

Open letter and practical recommendations on *Gender-responsive humanitarian aid delivery* prior to the Geneva humanitarian conference addressed to development ministers and senior officials at USAID, the EU, the UN, UK, Norway, and other countries.

Extract: *Without particular effort to include women, the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence cannot be fulfilled, as millions of Afghan women will not be able access aid and will be made even more at risk. This must include the protection, respect for and participation of Afghan women-led CSOs and women in decision making and delivery of all sectors, including ... health, education, security, justice and governance."*

OCTOBER

Action Points to Guarantee the Rights, Safety and Health of Women and Girls in Afghanistan. Building on the letter, we developed a practical set of recommendations to ensure the following outcomes:

- I: Afghan women and girls across all communities receive the humanitarian aid they need;
- II: All violence against the Afghan population, especially women, girls, and minorities ends;
- III: Afghan women and girls continue to get an education, access public life, and go to work, including equal participation in legal, judicial, and security sectors;
- IV: Afghan CSOs, including women-led organizations, continue their work safely and sustainably.

DECEMBER

In December, we joined the Women Mediators Across the Commonwealth (WMC) in issuing letters to female heads of state calling for urgent action to protect our Afghan peacebuilders across all professional sectors.

Afghanistan: Our Response

In the Media: Our Afghanistan Response

The New York Times

"Two nonprofit organizations that have been trying, with disappointing results, to help scores of prominent Afghan women and their families escape their country have been finding increasingly formidable obstacles in their paths. Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, the founder and chief executive of the Washington, D.C.-based International Civil Society Action Network, said the group has been trying to find room on charter flights for the Afghans, who include journalists, human rights activists and others."


New York Times: August 28, 2021

CNN "Do we take them for their word and say: 'Oh it's going to be fine, this is Taliban 2.0, they've evolved.' Or do we take them for their actions?" said Sanam Naraghi Anderlini."

CNN: August 22, 2021

OPINION

Why Don't Afghan Lives Matter? | Opinion



SANAM NARAGHI ANDERLINI, FOUNDER AND CEO, INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY ACTION NETWORK

ON 9/3/21 AT 6:30 AM EDT



ICAN Program Officer, Malalai Habibi tapes her mouth in symbolic silence over the international community's abandoning of Afghanistan.

BBC Persian: August 13, 2021

Newsweek

"Since the fall of Kabul, my small team and I have frantically tried to get names on lists, lists to government contacts, for their evacuation convoys and plane manifests, assuming they would take on the responsibility to protect the Afghans they have now put at high risk."

— Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE
NewsWeek: September 3, 2021

BUSINESS INSIDER "Small teams of committed people are moving mountains to get people out of Afghanistan, but they can't do it alone - they need our continued support."

Business Insider: October 10, 2021



"Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, who is the founder of the International Civil Society Action Network, says providing protection and resettlement for Afghan women is an effort that's been years in the making."

WTop News: August 31, 2021

The Washington Post

"Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, founder and chief executive of the International Civil Society Action Network, ... said she had received reports in recent days that women who tried to go to work at public-facing jobs in the western city of Herat were told to return home."

Washington Post: August 17, 2021

THE NEW YORKER "You can't say you stand for human rights and do this," Sanam

Naraghi Anderlini, the founder and C.E.O. of the International Civil Society Action Network, a nonprofit that promoted peace talks and women's rights in Afghanistan, said. "She predicted that the withdrawal is 'not the epilogue to the end of the war on terror: you're actually creating war forever, because you're not doing it in a responsible way.'"

The New Yorker: October, 16, 2021

VOA ICAN Program Officer, Malalai Habibi on Voice of America Dari.
Voice of America VOA: June, 2021



Afghanistan: Our Response

Evacuation and Resettlement Support to Afghan Partners

Though evacuation and humanitarian assistance are not part of ICAN's core mission, we could not abandon and ignore the hundreds of phone messages and emails we received. We became a de facto hub not only for our WASL partners and their families, but also for other vulnerable individuals and groups who were referred to us.

With a small group of NGOs, women peacebuilders, activists, women's rights defenders, journalists, artists, and academics, including the London School of Economics (LSE) and University College London (UCL), we formed the Afghan Solidarity

Coalition to facilitate safe houses in Afghanistan, provide livelihood support for partners, and, where possible, support evacuation and resettlement.

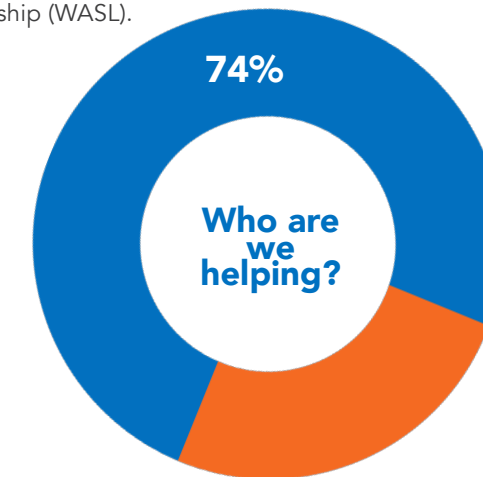
Together we raised funds to enable evacuation and support for those in transit, including in Afghanistan's neighboring countries and further afield in Albania, Turkey, the UAE, and Mexico. We persisted with our advocacy for resettlement visas in the countries that claimed to value, respect, and protect Afghan women peacebuilders and funded them through ICAN's IPF.



When this horrible chapter of history is written, it will show that we, as private citizens, with no power, shouldered this responsibility to protect lives, while the most powerful leaders in the world, shirked theirs... Trying to prevent this man-made disaster is not benevolence, it is salvaging our own humanity."

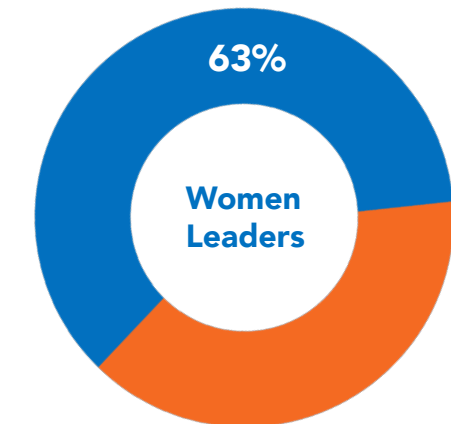
— Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE
NewsWeek: Why Don't Afghan Lives Matter? (September 2021).

74% (1,676 people) are affiliated with ICAN partner organizations and members of the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL).



26% (595 people) are at risk journalists, police officers, artists, judges, academics, or civil society activists and their family members who were referred through our network because they had no where else to turn for support.

63% (348 families) have women principals, meaning they are at-risk due to the work or activism of a female family member.



37% have male principals who worked for women's organizations and/or peace and development.

In total, we endeavored to assist **559 at-risk families**, equal to a total of **2271 individuals** (including **651 children**) in their efforts to relocate out of Afghanistan. The diagrams above break down these numbers.

Between August and December 2021, **58 families (10%)** were resettled to countries where they have long-term or permanent residency, including Canada, Germany, Sweden, and the United States. More than 100 additional individuals have been approved for resettlement but remain in Afghanistan awaiting a safe route out of the country. The remaining continue to live inside Afghanistan, many in hiding and internally displaced, all living in fear and uncertainty about their futures.

Afghanistan: Our Response

Financial Support to Afghan Peacebuilders

In the wake of the Taliban takeover, the imposition of sanctions, and the freezing of bank accounts, we received desperate pleas for direct financial assistance from our Afghan partners. In response, we quickly developed two Rapid Response Windows (RRWs) specifically designed to enable organizations and individuals to receive funds.

The Afghan Institutional RRW enabled all seven of our WASL partner organizations to keep their doors open and provide support to staff and beneficiaries across the country. The goal has been to enable these organizations to continue their vital work, including care for victims of violence, psychosocial support to women and girls, and mitigating the extremist practices of the Taliban in various communities.

With our Afghan Individual RRW, we supported safe houses for those at great risk and provided funds to over a dozen families for food, rent, winter clothes, and heating bills. We also provided treatment and transportation for cancer patients. For those who received visas, we supported relocation and evacuation costs. All funding was provided and transferred to beneficiaries in compliance with US sanctions and in a manner that ensured the safety of recipients. We received pro-bono legal advice in this regard.

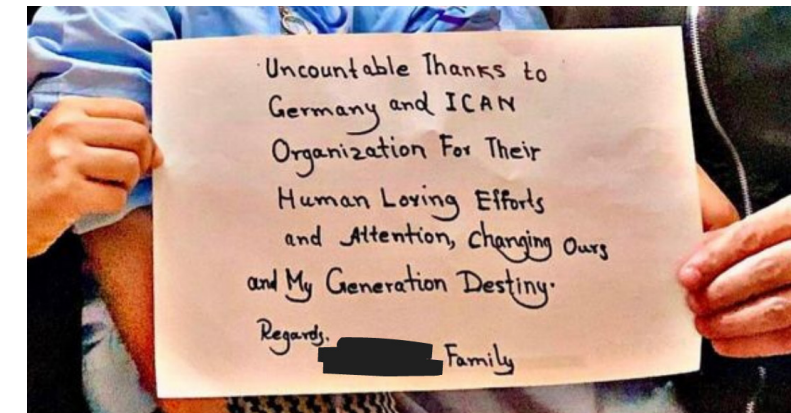
Our advocacy regarding the sanctions regimes has prioritized the need to help, not harm, Afghans that are most at-risk. Given our partnership with various donor governments, we have also called for greater coordination and coherence across their sanctions policies.



“When members of our network were left without financial support or security and [with] depression and frustration, ICAN showed that they were still with them.

Their endurance and self-confidence increased, and their mental depression decreased... They used the money for rent, food, health issues, communication, childbirth expenses.”

— Afghan WASL Member



We want to thank the ICAN team for successful resettlement of our family in Germany. I wish you all the very best... Life is peaceful and we are safe. All your efforts throughout the difficult times are really appreciated.”

— Afghan Peacebuilder



Financials

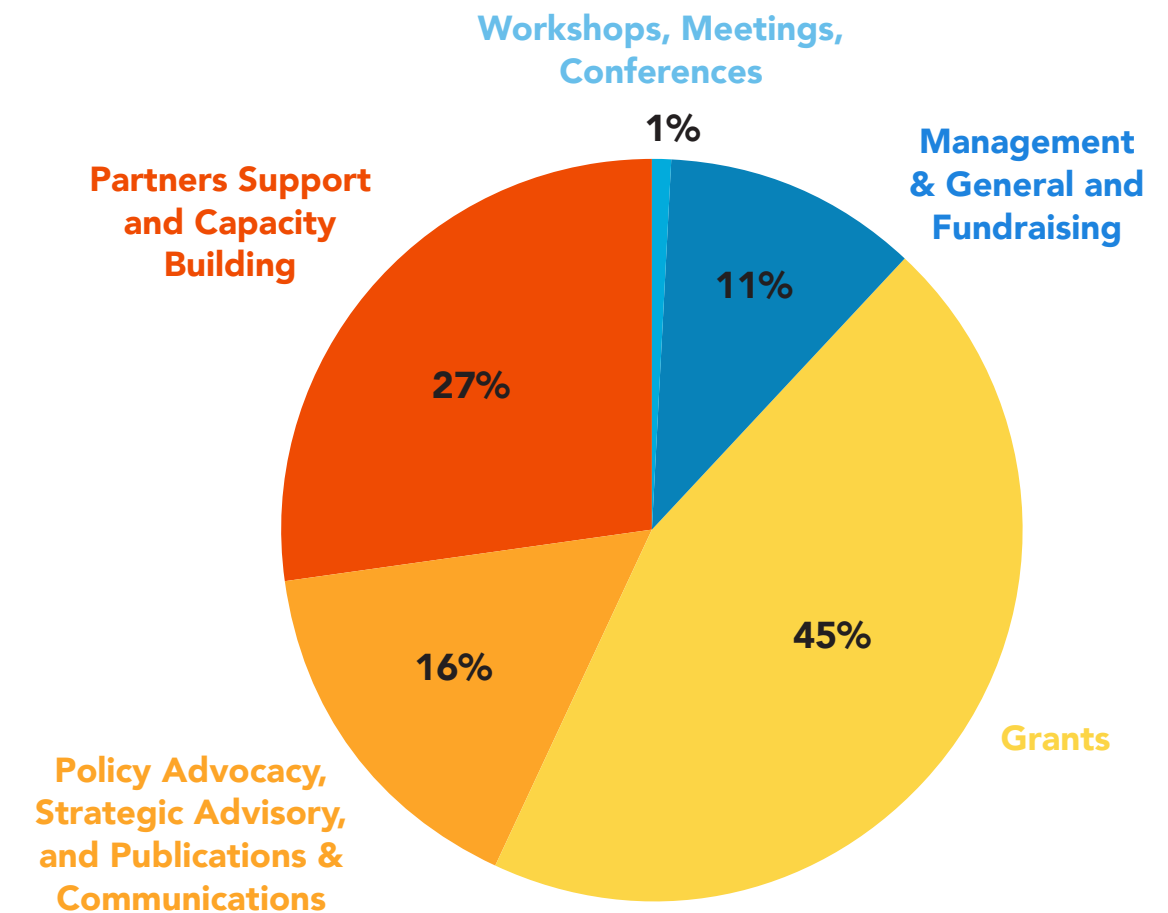
Financials

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT IN NUMBERS 2021	
INCOME	
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	105,382
FOUNDATIONS AND CORPORATE GRANTS	607,400
GOVERNMENT / IGO GRANTS	2,615,247
FEES FOR SERVICE	48,538
OTHER (MISCELLANEOUS) REVENUE	1,774
TOTAL INCOME	3,378,340
«EXPENSES»	
PROGRAM SERVICES	3,070,779
MANAGEMENT & GENERAL OPERATIONAL	358,562
FUNDRAISING	14,795
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,444,136
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(65,796)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	
ASSETS	
CASH, INVESTMENTS & EQUIVALENTS	1,005,362
GRANTS & OTHER RECEIVABLE	129,932
PREPAID EXPENSES	202,779
DEPOSITS	4,452
TOTAL ASSETS	1,342,525
«LIABILITIES»	
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	70,044
DEFERRED REVENUE / ACCRUED EXPENSES	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	70,044
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	293,077
RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	979,404
TOTAL NET ASSETS	1,272,481
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	1,342,525

ICAN allocates nearly 90% of its funding to program services: grants, capacity building and other forms of partner support, and advocacy. 45% of our total 2021 expenses was direct financial support to our partners. In 2021 ICAN's income increased by 16% (approximately \$465,000). Nearly all of these additional funds were raised for our Afghanistan Emergency Relief and spent on evacuation, resettlement and other financial support of our partners and their families inside and outside of Afghanistan.

Expenditure by Activity, 2021



2021 Supporters

2021 Supporters

ICAN is grateful for the support of the following entities, without whose support our work would not be possible.



PLOUGHSHARES FUND

FAMILJEN
Löfbergs
STIFTELSE

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Fund

SHIPLEY FOUNDATION, INC.

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GLOBAL CADENCE

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LLC

Afghan Solidarity Coalition

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated to the Afghan Solidarity Coalition. Your contributions are saving lives.



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“Afghanistan has been plunged into chaos due to the resurgence of the Taliban. Vicious conflicts continue across Africa, and war has broken out in Europe. In this environment, ICAN’s work has never been more crucial.

ICAN knows that working with women is the best route to a sustainable peace. If we can get them a seat at the table where decisions are made - we stand the best chance of an inclusive, peaceful world.

I am proud to sit on ICAN’s board, and support the work they do, through creating practical and effective means to bring women’s wisdom, skills and compassion where they are most needed: into the vital work of building peace.”

*— Deeyah Khan, ICAN Board Member,
Award-winning Documentary Filmmaker
and Human Rights Activist*

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Glossary

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- **BPI**
Better Peace Initiative
- **BPT**
Better Peace Tool
- **CSO**
Civil Society Organizations
- **CVE**
Countering of Violent extremism
- **G&E**
Gender and Extremisms
- **IGO**
Intergovernmental Organization
- **IPF**
Innovative Peace Fund
- **MHPSS**
Mental Health Psychosocial Support
- **NGO**
Non-Governmental Organization
- **P/CVE**
Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism
- **PD**
Program Director
- **PPE**
Personal Protective Equipment
- **PREP**
Peace, Resilience, Equal Rights and Pluralism
- **SGBV**
Sexual and Gender Based Violence
- **UN**
United Nations
- **UNDP**
United Nations Development Program
- **UNSC**
United Nations Security Council
- **UNSCR**
United Nations Security Council Resolution
- **WASL**
Women's Alliance for Security Leadership
- **WPB**
Women Peacebuilder
- **WPBO**
Women Peacebuilding Organizations
- **WPS**
Women, Peace and Security



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“What holds true is that citizen peacebuilders who have the imagination to envision a better world, and the heart and courage to step up and take responsibility to protect others, are needed more than ever. At ICAN we have the privilege of working with many of these individuals.”

— Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE

We stand together

ICAN International
Civil Society
Action
Network

For women's rights, peace and security