ICAN
International Civil Society Action Network
For women’s rights, peace and security

We stand together

ANNUAL REPORT 2021
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 ceasefire, 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 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
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.

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 extremisms by fostering peace, resilience, equality, and pluralism.

Gender & Extremisms (G&E)
Transforming the policy and practice of preventing and countering violent extremisms (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.
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

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.”

Across the 2-year evaluation period ICAN disbursed

$1.93 million to
33 women-led CSOs through
45 grants in
21 countries

Projects reached at least:

1.29 million beneficiaries across a wide spectrum of genders and ages
2021 Key Highlights


BPI • 3 Better Peace Animations released in Ukrainian.


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).

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


BPI • Launch of the Afghan Solidarity Peacebuilding and Women’s Rights (New Year’s Honours list 2020).

WASL Call to discuss the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

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.

IPF • Anderlini attends investiture ceremony to receive MBE for services to International Peacebuilding and Women’s Rights (New Year’s Honours list 2020).

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

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

APRIL
21 in 21 Event Series • Predatory States and Ungoverned Spaces: Who assumes the responsibility to protect? with the former International Criminal Courts Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, Hamasat 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.

JUNE
21 in 21 Event Series • Survival and Under Occupation with Secretary General of Amnesty International Agnes Callamard, May Sabe Phyu, and Lucy Talgiah.

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

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

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

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

SEP

WASL • Launch of the Afghan Solidarity Coalition.

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

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

OCT
21 in 21 Event Series • Putting Peace Back into Politics with Professor Monica McWilliams, Halima Mohamud, 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.

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

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

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

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

“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

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

“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 peacemakers 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

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

Pass Blue/ICAN quiz: November 13, 2021

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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&I work elevated the role of women peacebuilders in addressing and responding to violent extremisms. 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 extremisms.

• Through the IPF we invested in and supported WASL members’ peacebuilding activities and P/CVE activities including their community-based COVID-19 response efforts.

— 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.

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.

― WASL Member, External Evaluation, Merits Partnerships

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

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.
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
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.
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

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.

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.

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.

Yemen Peace Track Initiative (PTI) Abductees Mothers’ Association (AMA) Food4Humanity

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

Muna Luqman, Founder, FOOD4HUMANITY, AT ECOSOC EVENT ON THE TRANSITION FROM RELIEF TO DEVELOPMENT, JUNE 22, 2021

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

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.

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)

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Women Peacebuilders and Positive Alternatives to Extremisms

Through the IPF, we continued our support to WASL partners transforming extremisms 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 extremisms.

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 extremisms 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.

For instance, these scholars challenge narrow, extremist interpretations of the meaning of jihad as a physical, violent struggle, and instead show 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.
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 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

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.

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.

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 center should be maintained for early reporting and response to all forms of peace related issues.”

— ASP Francis Ogweng, Uganda Police Official
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.

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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 Andiensa 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.

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 CTQWPfvjgyotnf-H+TgsWgvudqGVjKPi+oOeqEpGpv that they can all stand with me. That gives me mental security and encouragement.”
— WASL Member, External Evaluation, Merits Partnerships

Digital Security

Protection of Women Peacebuilders

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
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 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.

“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

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“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.”

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

“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.”

— Rosa Emilia Salamanca, Executive Advocacy Advisor, CIASE, Colombia
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 we’re expanding because of the support.”

— WASL Member External Evaluation, Merits Partnerships
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 funding 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 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)
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, and beneficiaries, the visits allowed us to identify institutional and strategic needs and capacities for ICAN to provide assistance to further optimize their impact.

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.

Iraq, Lebanon, Kenya

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

The IPF in 2021

Total committed: $1.63 million

Through 25 Grants

Across 18 Countries

Range in Grant Size:
$110,000
$12,000

Total Committed 2013 - 2021:
$5,871,576

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
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
- Combating workplace harassment
- Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)
- Litigation of SGBV cases
- Improving state response

**Funding Women Peacebuilders**
- PVE, Deradicalization, and Reintegration
- Conflict-Related Sexual and Gender-based Violence
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.

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.

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

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

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
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.

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:

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.

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 to 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.

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.

Our advocacy consistently highlighted the need for inclusivity and gender-responsiveness in the actions of the international community, including security interventions, diplomacy, and humanitarian response. We based our recommendations on communication with our Afghan partners inside and outside the country, and on our global experience. We tailored our guidance to the real-time events and issues that governments and the UN system were faced with. It comprised both public statements and direct bilateral interactions.
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

“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.”

Washington Post: August 17, 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.”

Business Insider: October 10, 2021

“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

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.”

VOA: June, 2021
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.

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.

Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE
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.

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
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**

- **Partners Support and Capacity Building**: 27%
- **Management & General and Fundraising**: 16%
- **Policy Advocacy, Strategic Advisory, and Publications & Communications**: 45%
- **Grants**: 11%
- **Workshops, Meetings, Conferences**: 1%

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**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT IN NUMBERS 2021**

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| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS            | (65,796) |

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

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2021 Supporters

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

Afghan Solidarity Coalition

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

Board of Directors

MOBINA S.B. JAFFER, QC
Chairman of the ICAN Board, British Columbia Representative, Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion.

SANAM NARAGHI ANDERLINI, MBE
Founder and CEO, ICAN.

HAIDEH CHUBIN
Treasurer, Managing Director, Deloitte.

DEEYAH KHAN
Documentary Filmmaker and Human Rights Activist, Fuuse Founder, Sisterhood Magazine Founder, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador.

MARIE JOELLE ZAHAR
Professor of Political Science and Director of the Research Network on Peace Operations Fellow, Centre for International Research and Studies, Université de Montréal. Former Senior Expert, Office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations for Syria.

“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
ICAN Team

SANAM NARAGHI ANDERLINI, MBE
Founder and CEO

OLGA ANDREW
Finance Director

FRANCE BOGNON
Program Director, IPF

HELENA GRONBERG
Program Director, BPI

MELINDA HOLMES
Program Director, WASL

ROSALIE FRANSEN
Senior Program Officer

MAYA KAVALER
Senior Program Officer

STACEY SCHAMBER
Senior Program Officer

MALALAI HABIBI
Program Officer

YODIT WILLIS
Operations Officer

LAUREN MELLOWS
Communications Manager

SAMEEN ZEHRA
Communications Consultant

DANIEL CABRAL
Social Media and Video Editor

PREETI SANKAR, AURA ROMERO,
VYONNE AKOTH, IFRA SHAH, Tara Zia and
Ararat Ameen
Program Interns

Consultants and Services

Auditing
Alta Cpa Group, Llc
Boniface M Mundu

Monitoring And Evaluation
Merits Partnerships
Randa Yassir

IT And Digital Security
District Creative
M3 Technology Consultants

Communications And Design
Global Cadence
Crowley & Co
Abdel Azim Mohamed
Modus

Interpretation And Translation
Mandi Mourad
Marianne Kedemos
Aziz Hakimi
Lama Drebati
Linda Gueye
The Spanish Group

Professional Development
Centering The Margins
Alder Associates
Headington Institute

Editing And Research
Rana Allam
Morgan Mitchell
Sohaila Abdulali
Amel Grami
Shannon Foley Martinez

Travel
C.N.T. Travel
## WASL Members

### Afghanistan
- Afghanistan Women Network
- Afghan Women Skills Development Center
- Afghan Women’s Organization for Equality
- Armanashar/OPEN ASIA Women & Children Legal Research Foundation
- Women & Peace Studies Organization

### Albania
- Women Center for Development and Culture

### Algeria
- Djazairouna Association of Families and Victims of Islamist Terrorism
- Hafida Benchehida

### Armenia
- Women for Development NGO

### Cameroon
- Center for Advocacy in Gender Equality
- Hope Advocates Africa
- Pathways for Women’s Empowerment and Development
- Reach Out Cameroon

### Colombia
- Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica

### Cyprus
- Magda Zenon
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Gender, Citizen Participation, and Development Consultation Office

### Egypt
- Women’s Center for Guidance and Legal Awareness
- Women for Justice Foundation

### India
- Yajah Reconciliation & Development Network

### Indonesia
- Asia Muslim Action Network
- Empathico (My Empathy)

### Iraq
- Ala Ali
- Al Tahveer Association for Development
- Iraqi Al Amal Association Odessa Organization for Women’s Development
- Women’s Voice for Peacebuilding

### Kenya
- Advocacy for Women in Peace and Security-Africa (AWAPSA)
- Coast Education Center (COEC)

### Lebanon
- Farah Salka
- Randa Yassir
- Rescue Me
- Sawssan Abou Zahr
- Women Human Rights Defenders MENA Coalition

### Libya
- Almanara Foundation for Rights and Freedoms
- Ata Al-Khair Foundation for Charitable and Awareness Works
- Libyan Women Forum

### Malaysia
- IMAN Research

### Maldives
- Addu Women’s Association

### Mexico
- Justice, Human Rights, and Gender Civil Association

### Morocco
- Fatima Ouakb

### Myanmar
- Gender Equality Network
- Women Peace Network – Arakan

### Niger
- Allamin Foundation for Peace & Development
- Neem Foundation

### Pakistan
- Bushra Hyder Gadeem
- Huma Chughtai
- Insan Foundation Trust
- PAIMAN Alumni Trust

### Palestine
- Wi'am: Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center
- Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling

### Philippines
- Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy
- Women for Justice in the Bangsamoro

### Somalia
- Abdirahman Hassan Ali
- Faiza Abdi Mohamed

### South Sudan
- Dr. Pauline Riak

### Sri Lanka
- Association of War Affected Women
- Salma Yusuf

### Sudan
- Madaniya
- Nuba Women for Education and Development Association

### Syria
- Center for Civil Society and Democracy
- Deepening Awareness and Restoring Bridges
- Hope Revival
- International Supporting Woman Association
- Kareemat Foundation
- Mobaderon: Active Citizens in Syria
- Zenobia Syrian Women’s Association

### Tajikistan
- Zarina Alimshoeva

### Thailand
- Dr. Amporn Marddent

### Trinidad and Tobago
- Sabrina Mowlah-Baksh

### Tunisia
- Dr. Amel Grani
- Dal and Senda Association for Peace

### Turkey
- Dr. Ayse Betül Çelik
- Isil Bas

### Uganda
- Coalition for Action on 1325
- Kitgum Women’s Peace Initiative

### Yemen
- Abductees’ Mothers’ Association
- Bridges to Peace and Solidarity
- Food4Humanity Foundation
- Peace Track Initiative (PTI)
- ToBe Foundation for Rights and Freedom
- Youth Leadership Development Foundation

### International
- Deeyah Khan
- Jennifer Freeman
- Karin Ryan
- Dr. Mia Bloom
- Dr. Naelam Raina
- Nika Saeedi
- Sahana Dharmapuri
BPI
Better Peace Initiative

BPT
Better Peace Tool

CSO
Civil Society Organizations

CVE
Countering of Violent extremism

G&E
Gender and Extremism

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
“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