

ICAN International
Civil Society
Action
Network

For women's rights, peace and security



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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LETTER • FROM • THE • CEO



In 2022, we hugged again. At the ICAN Women, Peace and Security Forum — convened after the pandemic hiatus — we hugged our Ukrainian partners who had fled their homes into exile. We hugged our Palestinian partners living with the grinding occupation. We hugged our Burmese, Cameroonian, Yemeni, and Syrian partners and others living with the violence of dictatorships and wars started but not stopped. 63 of our partners from 39 countries in the Women’s Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL) attended the Forum. More than ever, it was a space for solidarity, sharing experiences, and reaffirming the uniqueness of the alliance.

2022 was a productive year otherwise too. We helped over 900 at-risk Afghans — mostly women peacebuilders and their families — evacuate and resettle. Our She Builds Peace campaign expanded into 32 countries. Our advocacy ranged from informing feminist foreign policy debates and preventing sexual violence in conflict to contributing to the UN’s counterterrorism policy and peacebuilding financing architecture. We published four case studies on the innovative ways our partners prevent and deradicalize violent extremists. I keynoted four events and with ICAN’s Program Directors we contributed to over 40 public policy events.

We expanded our grantmaking. Our rapid response grants enabled our Afghan partners’ earthquake responses to reach female-headed families, and our Pakistani partner’s who mobilized their women’s network to support their communities against devastating floods. Our Innovative Peace Fund (IPF) — in its 7th year and still the only independent multi-donor fund dedicated to local women-led peacebuilding organizations — disbursed \$1.1M through 20 grants in 19 countries. We visited partners in Cameroon, Kenya, Iraq and Turkey to witness and evaluate the impact of their peacebuilding.

This return to human contact was in contrast to the prevailing winds of 2022. The inhumanity of Putin’s tanks rolling into Ukraine in February, with civilians as fodder and refugees flowing across Europe, impacted our partners globally. As a women’s peacebuilding alliance, we found ourselves at the center of a web of intersecting and escalating crises. The interrelatedness of climate change, environmental degradation and conflict were more evident. The weaponization of ethno-national and religious identities that sow division was more prevalent in mainstream politics. By year’s end over 300 million people globally lived in need of dire humanitarian aid and 24 percent of the world’s population lived in fragile states. In every instance women were more affected.

The inconsistencies between these crises and global responses to them were stark. Talk of a new world order became fashionable. But it is a new order recycled in Cold War era bottles. In the name of peace, human rights and the rule of law, the U.S., Europe, India, China and others amped up military spending to an unprecedented \$2 trillion. But states' financing of international development and peacebuilding was slashed, and peacefulness globally dropped to its lowest levels since 2008.

Meanwhile the global counter-terrorism agenda has given rise to authoritarianism and closing civic space. In 2022 only 3.2 percent of the world's population lived in countries with open conditions for civil society. With multilateralism in crisis and the UN responding too late and with too little, peacebuilders like ICAN and our WASL partners are carrying an increasing burden of responsibility to protect communities.

The inconsistencies were also political. In September 2022, the world was inspired by the courage of Iranian women and girls who, for the first time in history, launched a revolution with a feminist clarion call of "Woman, Life, Freedom", uniting people across gender, ethnicity, class, faith, geography and generations. Yet, little attention was paid to Afghan women and girls who continued resisting the Taliban's violence. Feminist foreign policy is in vogue, but women's rights are under attack globally.

At the May 2022 ICAN Forum, "Redefining Security, Reclaiming Power", collectively we assessed the geopolitical landscape and asked tough questions: If crises are multiplying and women peacebuilders are more burdened and threatened, can we continue? How do we thrive? The response was resounding:

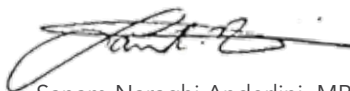
1. Despite the complexity and threats facing their societies, our partners remain committed to act: to mitigate violence, foster trust and coexistence, and address their societies' needs;
2. The solidarity, connectivity, and collaboration they have in WASL and through ICAN are essential to enabling their work, creativity, and well-being; and
3. The exchange of knowledge and impactful practices inspires them to continue.

These messages, together with the results of a four-year independent evaluation of ICAN's work, validate our strategy: to strengthen WASL as a movement, while remaining agile in response to crises and new opportunities. As 2022 ended, we set our 2023 priorities to:

1. Strengthen our WASL partners' capacities to be self-reliant in addressing the nexus of peacebuilding, humanitarian and development needs. Facilitating our partners to access technologies (solar panels, water purification systems etc.) deepens their peacebuilding, and ability to safeguard democratic spaces and mitigate violence through addressing community needs;
2. Deepen and scale the She Builds Peace campaign to tap into the enthusiasm and demand among women and young people to engage in peace work; and
3. Push new boundaries with our research, advocacy and practice to offer creative and practical solutions to national and international actors and document what works well.

In this emerging geopolitical landscape, top-down action is necessary but not sufficient. The eco-system of locally rooted, globally connected civil society, to which ICAN contributes, is even more relevant. I thank all who continue to trust and support our work. When others ask "Is peace possible?", we simply remind them: "Without peace, everything else is impossible".

Sincerely,




Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE, Founder and CEO, ICAN

OUR • MISSION

The International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) is a U.S.-based independent 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.



Silencing the guns and agreeing to end a war so that a genuine culture of peace can take root will always be difficult; but if left only in the hands of the minority who believe in violence as a pathway to power, wars and their root causes will perpetuate.

While that vocal and violent minority is needed to end the fighting, we cannot afford to ignore the often silent, peaceful, but equally active majority."

- ICAN's Better Peace Tool (2015)

GUIDING • PRINCIPLES

To foster positive, peaceful, socio-political change, our guiding principles at ICAN are as follows:

We are dedicated to supporting our partners' interventions while also conducting our own advocacy in the international space. We believe that words and information are integral to prompting action, and are committed to producing high-quality analysis and research.



We trust and help sustain the existing capacities of our partners, highlight the history of pluralism in their contexts, and provide the assistance that they request.

We encourage synergy and connectivity between our partners to establish movements that change social attitudes and policies. We complement existing efforts of like-minded organizations to raise a unified voice and message.

We do not wish to be gatekeepers — we want our partners to have the capacity to do the work themselves. We share and publish our knowledge freely.

We continuously innovate by tackling cutting-edge issues and by providing alternative perspectives on existing topics.

The principle of connectivity is at the core of our work. We are strategic and pragmatic about long-term change while maintaining the flexibility necessary to respond to immediate needs and opportunities.

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.



WOMEN'S ALLIANCE FOR SECURITY LEADERS
Preventing Extremism by Promoting Rights, Peace & 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.

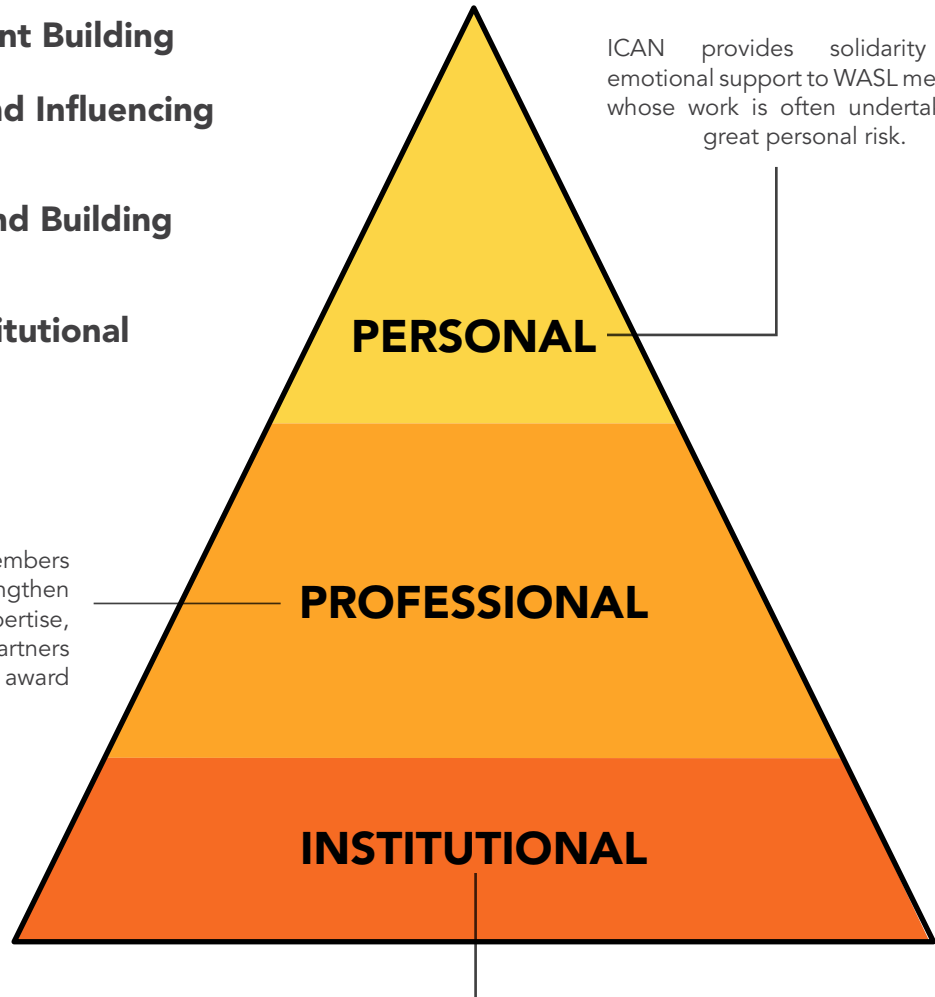


HOW • WE • WORK

ICAN takes a holistic approach to the nature and practice of its alliance building through trusted relationships with our partners by providing personal, professional, and institutional support.

- 1. Network and Movement Building**
- 2. Thought Leadership and Influencing Policy**
- 3. Knowledge Sharing, and Building Skills and Expertise**
- 4. Grant-Making and Institutional Support**

Through the ICAN platform, WASL members are afforded opportunities to strengthen their skills, demonstrate their expertise, and broaden their impact with partners across other fellowships, funding and award platforms.



ICAN provides solidarity and emotional support to WASL members whose work is often undertaken at great personal risk.

Leveraging its knowledge and expertise, ICAN works to strengthen the programming, management, and fiscal sustainability of WASL's member organizations, as well as provide strategic guidance for the next generation of peacebuilders and activists.

NETWORK • AND • MOVEMENT BUILDING



This is not a movement which wants peace just for women, this is a women-led movement for peace and pluralism for all of us... when authoritarianism flexes its muscles, feminist movements also have muscles to flex."

- Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE, Founder and CEO, ICAN

WASL Members and ICAN Team at ICAN Forum, May 2022





Panelists at the Open Forum event at ICAN Forum, May 2022

Since its launch in 2015, the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL) has grown into a global community of 150 individuals representing 90+ women-led peacebuilding organizations and networks across 41 countries worldwide.

Through WASL, ICAN brings synergy and greater coherence to the existing collective efforts of women peacebuilders. ICAN enables WASL members' access to international policy arenas,

and demonstrates the added value of a gendered lens, as well as the pragmatic solutions that women peacebuilders bring. The She Builds Peace campaign, launched in 32 countries worldwide, enables our partners to reach deeper into their societies to raise awareness about peacebuilding and draw young women and men into this locally rooted, globally connected, women-led peace movement.



She Builds Peace is really important because it's an opportunity to offer a new narrative about women who live in conflict settings. A lot of times we hear this narrative of women being passive victims of war... it's important to change that narrative.

Women have been taking up initiatives all over the world for centuries to help their societies and build peace, it's time that the world sees this, understands it and recognizes women peacebuilders."

- Aicha Madi, Peace Track Initiative, Yemen



IN THE WORLD: KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2022

USA

United Nations, New York

Zarqa Yaftali, WCLRF (Afghanistan)
Protecting Participation: Addressing Violence Targeting Women in Peace and Security Processes

United States Institute of Peace (USIP)

Wazhma Frogh, WPSO (Afghanistan)
Protecting Women's Participation in Peacebuilding

UK

Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) Conference

Robinah Rubimbwa, COACT (Uganda);
Najlaa Sheikh, Kareemat (Syria);
Hnin Shwe Zin Hlaing, GEN (Myanmar);
Zarqa Yaftali, WCLRF (Afghanistan);
Mossarat Qadeem, PAIMAN Trust (Pakistan); and
Abir Haj Ibrahim Mobaderoon (Syria)

GERMANY

Principles for Peace

Dr. Amat Al-Salam Al-Haj, Mothers of Abductees Association; Muna Luqman, Food4Humanity; Rasha Jarhum, Peace Track Initiative (Yemen); and Naraghi Anderlini
Presentation of the Yemeni Feminist Road Map

SWITZERLAND

United Nations Geneva

Nicoline Nwenushi, Cameroon Women's Peace Movement (Cameroon)
United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

AWARDS

Dr. Amat Al-Salam Al-Haj, Abductees' Mothers Association (Yemen)

Doria Feminist Fund: "To Want and To Dare" Award

Caryn Dasah, Hope Advocates Africa (Cameroon)

Democracy Today: 11th International Young Women's Peace and Human Rights Award

Muna Luqman, Food4Humanity (Yemen)
Euphrates Institute: Visionary of the Year
USIP: Women Building Peace Award - Finalist

NORWAY

Oslo Forum

Kay Soe, AGGIP (Myanmar) and Naraghi Anderlini

UKRAINE

Kvinna Till Kvinna

Nina Potarska, WILPF (Ukraine)
*Perspectives of Women, Girls and LGBTQI
People from Ukraine*

SYRIA

Sania Farooqui Show

Rawan Kahwaj, DARB (Syria)

INDONESIA

KUPI Conference II

Ruby Kholifah, AMAN Indonesia;
Hamsatu Allamin, Allamin Foundation
(Nigeria);
Abir Hajibrahim, Mobaderoon (Syria); and
Melinda Holmes, ICAN

OMAN

International Conference on United Human Values and Sustainable Development for All

Ruby Kholifah, AMAN (Indonesia);
Clotilda Andiensa Waah, CAGEAD; and
Caryn Dasah, Hope Advocate Africa
(Cameroon)

YEMEN

National Consultation and Reconciliation Authority

Rasha Jarhum, Peace Track
Initiative (Yemen)

Esther Omam, Reach Out (Cameroon)
*Pathways To Peace: Exceptional
Women of Peace Awards - Distinction*

May Sabe Phyu, Gender Equality Network
(Myanmar)
*Franco-German Prize for Human Rights
and Rule of Law*

Hindrin Muhammad (Syria)
*USIP: Women Building Peace Award-
Finalist*



COMMUNITY CALLS

In 2022 we continued to hold weekly WASL community calls, started during the pandemic, as a space for solidarity, collective analysis, and sharing good practices among members of WASL and invited guests.

During the year, ICAN held 44 calls on topics including:

- Economic security of women peacebuilders and the role of the private sector;
- Religious leader engagement by women peacebuilders;
- Global impact of the war in Ukraine on peacebuilding;
- Engaging men on the Women, Peace, and Security agenda;
- The nexus of peacebuilding and climate resilience;
- The Principles for Peace “Peacemakers’ Covenant” (KUPI);
- The 2nd Indonesian Women Ulema Congress;
- The #WomanLifeFreedom protests in Iran.

We also hosted guests including Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Edinburgh (formerly the Countess of Wessex); Norwegian Member of Parliament and Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Ine Eriksen Soreide; and Libyan parliamentarian Ibtesam Al Rubai.



ICAN’s high level of responsiveness to WASL members and its facilitation of partner organizations’ vision and priorities over time contributes to strong contextual sensitivity and greater local rootedness as well as encouraging further local-level innovation in programming.”

- Final Evaluation, Merits Partnership

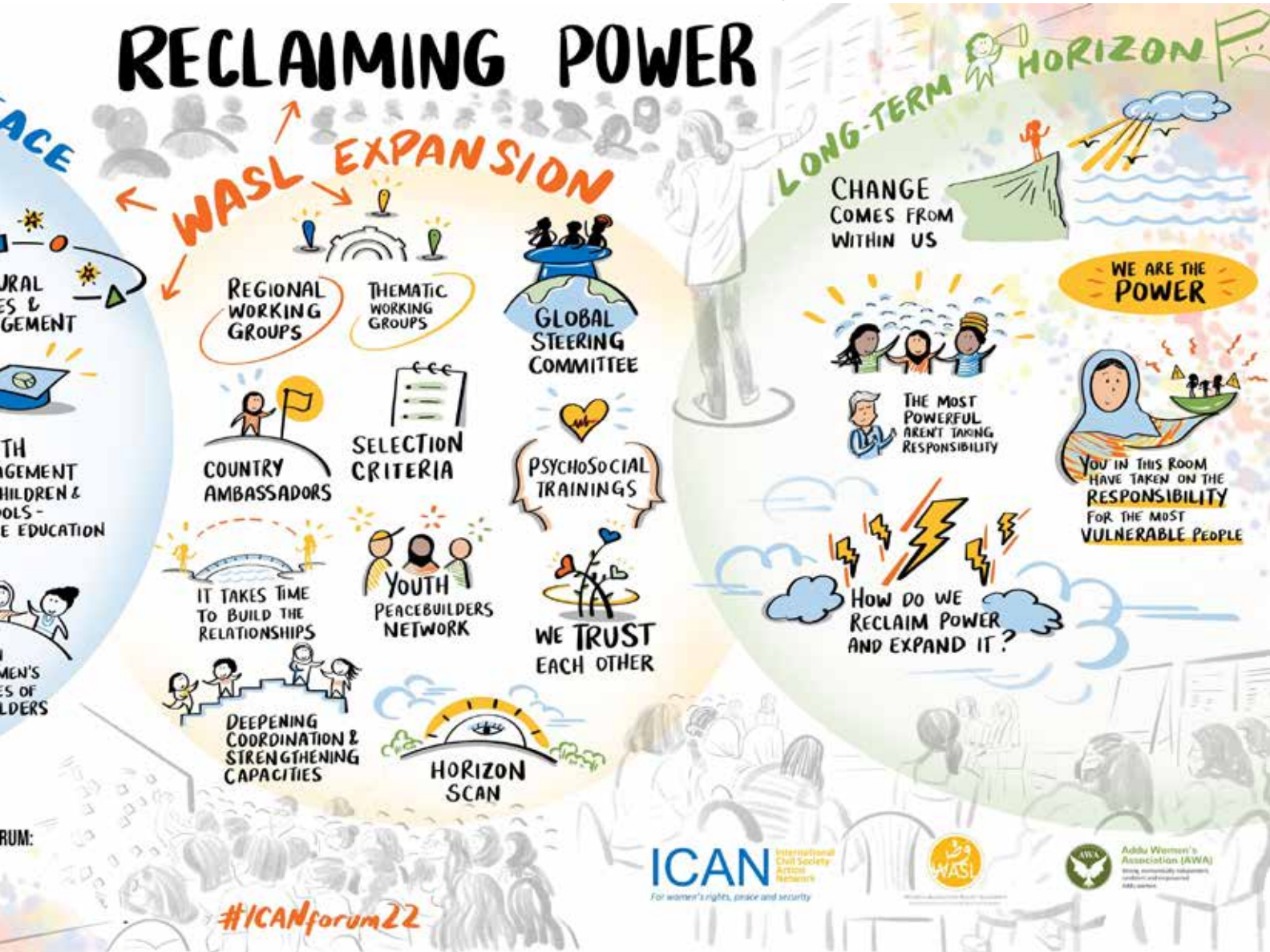




I am a proud member of WASL, WASL has connected me to myself - first of all, to my community, to the world. It's amplified my voice on the issues that I represent, the country that I represent, and it's also brought me together with a collective network of powerful, experienced and knowledgeable women."

- Muna Luqman, Founder, Food4Humanity, Yemen

RECLAIMING POWER



SHE BUILDS PEACE CAMPAIGN

The *She Builds Peace* (SBP) campaign promotes awareness and action around recognizing, protecting, and financing the critical work of women peacebuilders. In 2022, 22 WASL partners from 15 countries were supported as campaign coordinators in their local contexts. With four new campaigns launched, a total of 48 partners from 32 countries are implementing the campaign to date.

Throughout the year, WASL members raised public awareness about peacebuilding work through podcasts, videos, and local community mediation to challenge existing norms and gain

support for women peacebuilders. They engaged key stakeholders including local government representatives, traditional leaders, the private sector, and civil society.

In early 2022, we translated the SBP Frameworks for Action on Participation, Protection, and Funding, into Turkish language. At the forum, we presented the frameworks, each of which consists of a brief, operational guidance, pledge, and action tool for implementation. During these sessions WASL members could discuss their experiences and how they might apply the frameworks in their country contexts.

SHE BUILDS PEACE: AROUND THE WORLD



LIBERIA - WEDOL

WEDOL initiated the campaign in Margibi County, Liberia, with a parade and public event with over 300 participants, including women peacebuilders, youth groups, heads of community-based organizations, a cultural dance group and the Liberian national police.

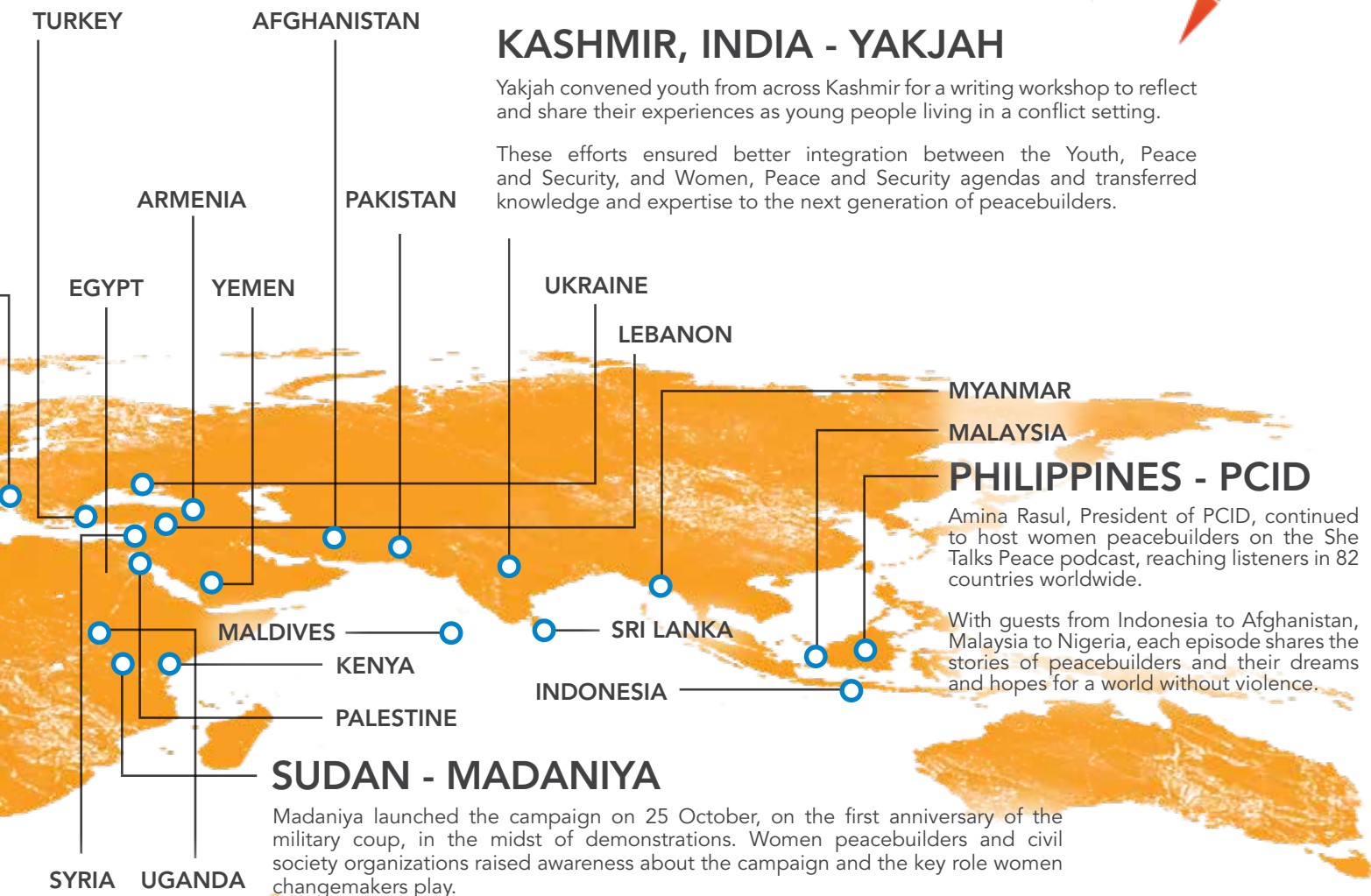
On the back of the launch, ten peacebuilder “focal points” came together to create a “village savings and loan association.” They meet regularly to pool funds, discuss and resolve community concerns, develop advocacy plans and oversee any campaign-related work and peacebuilding activities in their communities.



KASHMIR, INDIA - YAKJAH

Yakjah convened youth from across Kashmir for a writing workshop to reflect and share their experiences as young people living in a conflict setting.

These efforts ensured better integration between the Youth, Peace and Security, and Women, Peace and Security agendas and transferred knowledge and expertise to the next generation of peacebuilders.



Amina Rasul, President of PCID, continued to host women peacebuilders on the She Talks Peace podcast, reaching listeners in 82 countries worldwide.

With guests from Indonesia to Afghanistan, Malaysia to Nigeria, each episode shares the stories of peacebuilders and their dreams and hopes for a world without violence.

Madaniya launched the campaign on 25 October, on the first anniversary of the military coup, in the midst of demonstrations. Women peacebuilders and civil society organizations raised awareness about the campaign and the key role women changemakers play.

The following day Madaniya, with the Sudanese Female Cyclists Initiative, conducted a cycling tour with slogans, posters, and publications about women's rights and the importance of their inclusion. Madaniya uses cycling as a tactic for women to reclaim public space, pushing the boundaries of gender norms in Sudanese society.



Opening Ceremony at ICAN Forum, May 2022

ICAN'S 2022 WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY FORUM



“Convening after 2.5 years of isolation, sharing and holding space is an incredible privilege. Solidarity, care, and presence are vital to creating a peaceful and more just world.”

- Helena Gronberg, Program Director, Better Peace Initiative, ICAN

In May, we finally gathered in person for the 9th ICAN Women, Peace, and Security Forum: Reclaiming Power, Restoring Peace. In partnership with Addu Women's Association (AWA) of the Maldives, 63 members of WASL – representing 39 countries across 4 continents – came together with local and international policy makers.

Being physically together provided opportunities for analyzing and strategizing ways forward for women peacebuilders dealing with the intersecting crises of rising authoritarianism, violence, climate fragility and sense of isolation in many contexts. It was also a time to hug, and to share our joys and traumas and to regenerate the energy and will needed to continue the challenging work of building peace, resilience, equality and pluralism (PREP).



In the days and months to come we will continuously be seeking international expertise to navigate these uncharted territories; your insight and counsel will be invaluable to us.”

- Hon. Usthaazaa Mariya Didi,
Maldives Minister of Defense,
ICAN Forum Opening Ceremony

Key themes and sessions over four days:

- 4 context and strategic analysis plenaries on current trends, challenges and opportunities and planning for our global collaborative She Builds Peace campaign;
- 20 parallel sessions on topics including peace education, addressing extremisms, peacebuilding from the diaspora, risk and security assessment, indicators for protection and care, sustainable livelihoods, monitoring and evaluation, podcasting, and capacity-building for project management;
- 2 hours bilateral governmental meetings to plan future programming;
- 23 video interviews for storytelling and legacy-building;
- 3 psychosocial support sessions;
- 8 hours bilateral discussions among partners for peer learning and joint planning; and
- 1 visit and tour of Guraidhoo Island, with gratitude to Guraidhoo Council and Women’s Development Committee for their warm welcome and hospitality



The scenarios in our countries are constantly and rapidly changing, we need to find our own equilibrium in these evolving spaces. Events like ICAN’s forum help us to step out, find our bearings and ground ourselves.”

- Salma Yusuf, Lawyer, Human Rights Specialist and Peace Practitioner, Sri Lanka.



This is an essential forum for women peacebuilders to draw from this collective strength before they go back to their fragile and conflict-affected contexts to do challenging peacebuilding work.”

- WASL Member, Annual Forum Survey

During the forum, women peacebuilders identified seven actions and strategies that center self-reliance, movement-building, and innovative collaborations to expand their reach, impact, and communities of practice:

- Emergency First Responders in Climate Crises and Conflict
- The Triple Nexus in Practice: Food, Water, Energy, Health, Education, Livelihoods, and Peace
- Self-Reliance through Self-Resourcing and Solidarity
- Advocacy through Public Activism
- Citizen Peacebuilding: Raising Awareness, Broadening Participation
- Peace Education for a Pluralistic World
- Diaspora as Peacebuilders



In the midst of a world in turmoil, the solidarity, energy and solutions that peacebuilders shared at the ICAN 2022 Forum revealed new depths of possibility and potential for positive change.

Scaling the work of women peacebuilders across communities to create a vibrant ecosystem of community led efforts is both possible and necessary.”

- Reclaiming Power, Restoring Peace: Key Findings from ICAN's 2022 Women, Peace, and Security Forum



ICAN Forum, May 2022

THOUGHT • LEADERSHIP • AM



A strength of ICAN is the ability to bring the voices of women peacebuilders into different conversations; they are a challenge to the general discussion."

- Peer Organization, Final Evaluation, Merits Partnership

Naraghi Anderlini at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean, Women Committee Meeting in Rome, Italy; July 2022



ND • INFLUENCING • POLICY

Thought leadership to inform and influence global policy making is a key pillar of ICAN's mission and programming. By offering a unique perspective and nexus on many of the most pressing issues of our day, and implementing new solutions, ICAN helps to define, broaden, and improve the discourse and practice of peace, the resolution of wars, and the prevention of violent extremism.

ICAN also acts as a bridge to connect its locally rooted partners with the international policy community. In 2022, we contributed to diverse policy priorities related

to the umbrella Women, Peace, and Security agenda including inclusive peace processes, countering violent extremism and the prevention of sexual violence in conflict (PSVI).

Our participation included conducting targeted bilateral dialogues with key governments, four keynote speeches and over 40 panel presentations, to policy and academic audiences. The events also provided our WASL partners opportunities to engage in global policy making spaces.



ICAN's advocacy model is firmly based on the principle of amplifying the voices of its network members to allow them to reach decision-making spaces... Coupled with the fact that ICAN communicates effectively with decision makers, it is able to collaborate with other key actors in the field to collectively promote the WPS agenda."

- Final Evaluation, Merits Partnership



Gronberg at the Cumberland Lecture on Women, Peace, Security, UK: Nov 2022

INCLUSIVE AND GENDER RESPONSIVE PEACEMAKING

FEB

"Townhall: Participation for Peace: Women's Agency in Conflict and Humanitarian Crises", Naraghi Anderlini spoke at Munich Security Conference.

MAR

"Women, Peace, Security in Military Operations Conference", Naraghi Anderlini keynoted at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

APR

"The Making of War and Unmaking of Peace: Division of Power and Responsibility", Naraghi Anderlini keynoted the York University Political Studies Association Annual International Conference.

JUNE

"The Oslo Forum 2022" Naraghi Anderlini attended the leading international network of conflict mediation practitioners. Co-hosted by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD), the Oslo Forum regularly convenes conflict mediators, high-level decision-makers and key peace process actors in a series of informal and discreet retreats.

AUG

"11th UN High-Level Seminar on Gender and Inclusive Mediation Strategies", Oslo, Norway, Naraghi Anderlini presented two core ICAN publications: the Better Peace Tool (BPT) and She Builds Peace Participation Framework.

WASL members and ICAN Team with MP Ine Eriksen Søreide, Chair of Foreign Affairs Select Committee, Oslo; Nov 2022



OCT

“Unmaking Wars and Decolonizing Peace: Feminism in Practice” Naraghi Anderlini keyed the SOAS Politics Department 60 Anniversary Speaker Series, London.

“Women Peacebuilders as Agents of Change: Gender, Peace, Security”, BPI Program Director, Helena Gronberg keyed the Cumberland Lecture on Women, Peace, Security for LSE General Course students.

NOV

WASL Member Dr. Mariyam Shakeela (Maldives), Enass Muzamel (Sudan) and Olha Zaiarna (Ukraine) joined Naraghi Anderlini and Senior Program Officer, Stacey Schamber, in Oslo for meetings with Norwegian Parliamentarians, women ambassadors to Norway, NORAD, civil society groups, and Norway’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“Time to Act: Women Stand for Peace”, Naraghi Anderlini spoke at the Women’s Forum Global Meeting in Paris, France, and the “Halifax International Security Forum”, in Washington D.C.

Throughout the year, Naraghi Anderlini attended various events as Co-Chair of the International Commission on Inclusive Peace, including the fifth convening in Amman, Jordan in June.



WASL pin on the Norway parliament building LEGO model

PREVENTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT



Local organizations are first responders, they read situations accurately as they see the conflict dynamics changing over time.”

- Hnin Shwe Zin Hlaing, Gender Equality Network, Myanmar



MAY

“Ending Gender-Based Violence as Prerequisite for a Feminist Foreign Policy”, Naraghi Anderlini spoke at the Women7 Dialogue, Germany.



NOV

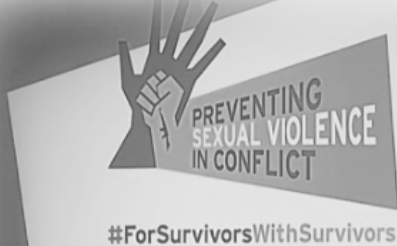
“Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: Women Peacebuilders and Women’s Rights Organizations as First Responders”, ICAN and GAPS-UK co-hosted panel discussion at the UK’s Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) Conference in London.

On the panel, WASL members, Robinah Rubimbwa from Uganda, Najlaa Sheikh from Syria, and Hnin Shwe Zin Hlaing from Myanmar joined peacebuilder Anna Tazita Samuel from South Sudan and Kat Fotovat, Senior Official, Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues, U.S. Department of State.

The peacebuilders, who are all front-line responders to a multitude of crises, including conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), shared their strategies, explored the resistance and risks they experience as they address CRSV, and advocated for increased recognition and resources. ICAN developed an associated guidance document on sustainable prevention of sexual violence in conflict, which we shared with governments and other stakeholders.

Interrelated Areas of Action for PSVI





Najlaa Sheikh
Director, Kareem Foundation (Syria)

CoACT (Uganda)

Hnin Shwe Zin Hlaing
Gender Equality Network (Myanmar)

Kat Fotovat
US

Anna Tazita Samuel
ED, Women for Change (South Sudan)

#ForSurvivorsW



Panelists at the UK's PSVI Conference, ICAN / GAPS-UK hosted discussion, London; Nov 2022

Humanitarian
Actors'
Responsibility

"Shift the Shame
and Fear"
Campaign

Social and
Economic
Justice

Holistic Care for
Survivors

Recognition,
Protection and
Resourcing
of Women's
Organizations

Security
Sector Reform
Emphasizing
Rights,
Protection and
Human Security



Naraghi Anderlini at UNOCT "High-Level International Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counterterrorism", Málaga, Spain; May 2022

TRANSFORMING EXTREMISMS



If we are serious about addressing terrorism, we have to foster peace, resilience, equality and pluralism. We need an ecosystem - of states, the UN, regional organizations, local and international civil society to work together - to complement each other and above all to trust and respect each other."

- Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE; Founder and CEO, ICAN



JULY

“Advancing Partnerships to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism”, Senior Program Officer Rosalie Fransen, and WASL member Fatima Akilu from Neem Foundation, Nigeria, presented at an Inclusivity-based Community of Practice (CoP) Meeting, organized by the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers in the margins of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

Fransen presented on building partnerships to counter misogynistic, faith-based extremist messaging, citing examples of gender-responsive interventions from our Case Studies on the Role of Gender and Identity in Shaping Positive Alternatives to Extremisms, published in 2021.



SEPT

“Gender and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism”, Naraghi Anderlini and Rosalie Fransen took part in a Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) Countering Violent Extremism Working Group side event hosted by Canada, Australia, and Indonesia, where they presented findings from the case studies.



NOV

“How Women Peacebuilders Engage Religion to Advance Gender Justice and Social Peace in Muslim-Majority Contexts”, WASL Program Director Melinda Holmes hosted a panel event at the 2nd Indonesian Women’s Ulama Congress (KUPI) in Semarang and Jepara, Indonesia.



If extremist groups are masters at creating division and conflict, how do we champion pluralism and peace?”

- Rosalie Fransen,
Senior Program Officer;
Gender & Extremisms, ICAN

FEMINIST FINANCING

Through 2022 we developed analysis and documented lessons learnt on grant making to women's peacebuilding organizations to inform and improve international and multilateral funding policies and programs.



France Bognon at the UN Peacebuilding Fund Roundtable: Results and Resourcing; April 2022



APR

"UN Peacebuilding Fund Roundtable: Results and Resourcing", ICAN's IPF Program Director, France Bognon, was invited to provide recommendations in connection with the General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Financing for Peacebuilding.



We were pleased to see our recommendation to reevaluate funding eligibility to include women's networks was taken up in the UN Peacebuilding Fund's Outcome Summary Document."

- France Bognon, Program Director, Innovative Peace Fund, ICAN



Hybrid High-level Meeting on Innovative Solutions for Feminist Funding; April 2022

Throughout the year we co-convoked peacebuilding and feminist organizations, informally known as the “Feminist Financing Group”, to coordinate efforts and amplify key messages to increase resourcing and improve funding mechanisms. Some achievements were:



JULY

“Outcome Document from the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Series on Innovative Solutions for Feminist Financing for Peacebuilding”, publication summarized the findings from the series of roundtables and dialogues hosted by the group.



AUG

Input into the UN General Assembly Resolution on Financing Peacebuilding, adopted on 12 September 2022, in collaboration with colleagues at the Canadian Mission in New York, on the importance of supporting women’s meaningful participation in peacebuilding and sustaining peace from the design of funding mechanisms to the implementation of programming.



SEPT

Hosted an informal discussion between Member States, UN partners and civil society on how to implement the newly adopted UN resolution to improve the quality of financing for women-led peacebuilding, including the distinct roles and responsibilities of stakeholders.



THE
HEAT

AFGHANISTAN

Women's Rights, Education and the Humanitarian Crisis

WASL member Mahbouba Seraj and Naraghi Anderlini on CGTN America; Feb 2022

AFGHAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS

As the world's attention shifted from Afghanistan to other crises, ICAN remained determined to keep the needs and demands of Afghan women peacebuilders at the forefront of our advocacy.

Throughout the year, we worked closely with the German government to evacuate and resettle at risk Afghan women peacebuilders and human rights defenders in our network. By December 2022, approximately 900 individuals were eligible for resettlement in Germany.

We continued our public and bilateral advocacy around gender-responsive and inclusive humanitarian aid, sanctions, the travel ban, resettlement, and the need for flexible funding for Afghan women peacebuilders and broader civil society. Our recommendations were shaped by continuous 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 faced.

Our advocacy efforts comprised of public statements, public policy events and media interviews. Our advisory work included direct bilateral interactions with officials from the US, UK, EU, and the UN including the Rapporteur on Human Rights in Afghanistan.



SEPT

"Afghanistan Exit One Year On: Launch of APPG for Afghan women and girls" Naraghi Anderlini spoke at the UK Parliament.

"What Happened in Afghanistan Isn't Staying in Afghanistan", opinion piece by Naraghi Anderlini published in **Common Dreams**:

"Despite the Challenges, Donors Must Continue to Support Struggling Nonprofits in Afghanistan" opinion piece co-authored by ICAN Program Officer, Malalai Habibi, published in **The Chronicle of Philanthropy**.



The Biden administration triggered a global green light on gender-based violence. While Afghan women and girls are most impacted, women worldwide are paying the price for the resurgent extremism."

- Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE,
Founder and CEO, ICAN



ICAN was instrumental in preparing my visit to Kabul, connecting me to women's rights defenders, ultimately ensuring a closer alignment of EU policy with the agenda of those active on the ground. I especially value ICAN's work in linking those active in the international community and the diaspora to actors and debates on the ground."

- Hannah Neumann,
Member of the European
Parliament (MEP)

"Afghanistan Crisis Workshop: Mapping the way Forward", ICAN and the Afghan Solidarity Coalition convened a one-day closed workshop in London, UK. The workshop aimed to map lessons learned and strategize the way forward on issues



WOMEN, LIFE, FREEDOM IN IRAN

In October 2022, the arrest and murder of Mahsa (Jina) Amini in Iran sparked nationwide protests that captured the world's imagination. School girls and university students, men and women in provincial towns and cities across Iran, protested the Iranian regime's violence and decades of gender-discriminatory laws. The regime's reaction was brutal: hundreds killed, thousands arrested, countless tortured with allegations of sexual violence in detention. But the resistance persists. The movement's clarion call of "Woman, Life, Freedom" signaling the first feminist revolution in history, is resilient and alive.

Reflecting on the events in Iran and offering a comparative analysis and lessons from other contexts, in the last quarter of 2022, ICAN's CEO spoke in a series of public events, bilateral policy meetings and on the media about the significance of the unfolding events in Iran.



OCT

"In solidarity with the women on the streets. Feminist foreign policy demands towards Iran", Naraghi Anderlini joined German Federal Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, Kristina Lunz and others for a virtual event hosted by the Center for Feminist Foreign Policy (CFFP), Berlin.

"Today, girls and women in Iran have picked up the gender equality fight of the generations before them", Naraghi Anderlini interview published in San Diego Union Tribune.



The treatment [of women] and their loss of rights once the Islamist forces won [in the 1979 Iran Revolution].. has informed and shaped not only my personal but also my professional life since 1996... When women protest and resist and mobilize to lead, their movements are overwhelmingly and consistently nonviolent."

- Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE
at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean, Women Committee Meeting, Rome, Italy; July



"Iran protests: Young women fight for the failed hopes of past generations, and this time they won't back down."

- The iPaper; October

INTERCEPTED

"What's extraordinary about what's happening is that this is the first time in history, that we see a feminist call being the clarion call to unify people across class, and religion, and gender divisions, we're seeing men stand with women."

- Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, "**Iran's Protest Movement and Its Future**", The Intercept Podcast; November.



"If you look at Myanmar or Egypt... the surge of the public presence can change things, but you can't underestimate the responses and the systemic structural forces that are there."

- Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, CNN International; October



Naraghi Anderlini with Anna Coren on CNN International; Oct 2022

KNOWLEDGE SHARING • BUILDING SKILLS • AND • EXPERTISE



WASL members constitute a tightly knit network of like-minded organizations, whose technical, thematic and managerial capacities vary greatly.

By sharing its own thematic knowledge and facilitating experience sharing, ICAN supports learning about technical issues such as preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE), and the link with peacebuilding more broadly.”

- Final Evaluation, Merits Partnerships

Throughout the year, we provided a range of support, including strategic accompaniment, capacity building and rapid response grants to WASL members engaged in peace and political transition processes. We also facilitated peer-to-peer, multi-stakeholder, and cross-country learning and exchange of analysis, strategies, and solutions.

Our practical guidance and advisory services include gendered conflict- and peace analyses, inclusive peace process design, and innovative multi-media and multi-lingual tools, such as animated explainers and advocacy briefs.

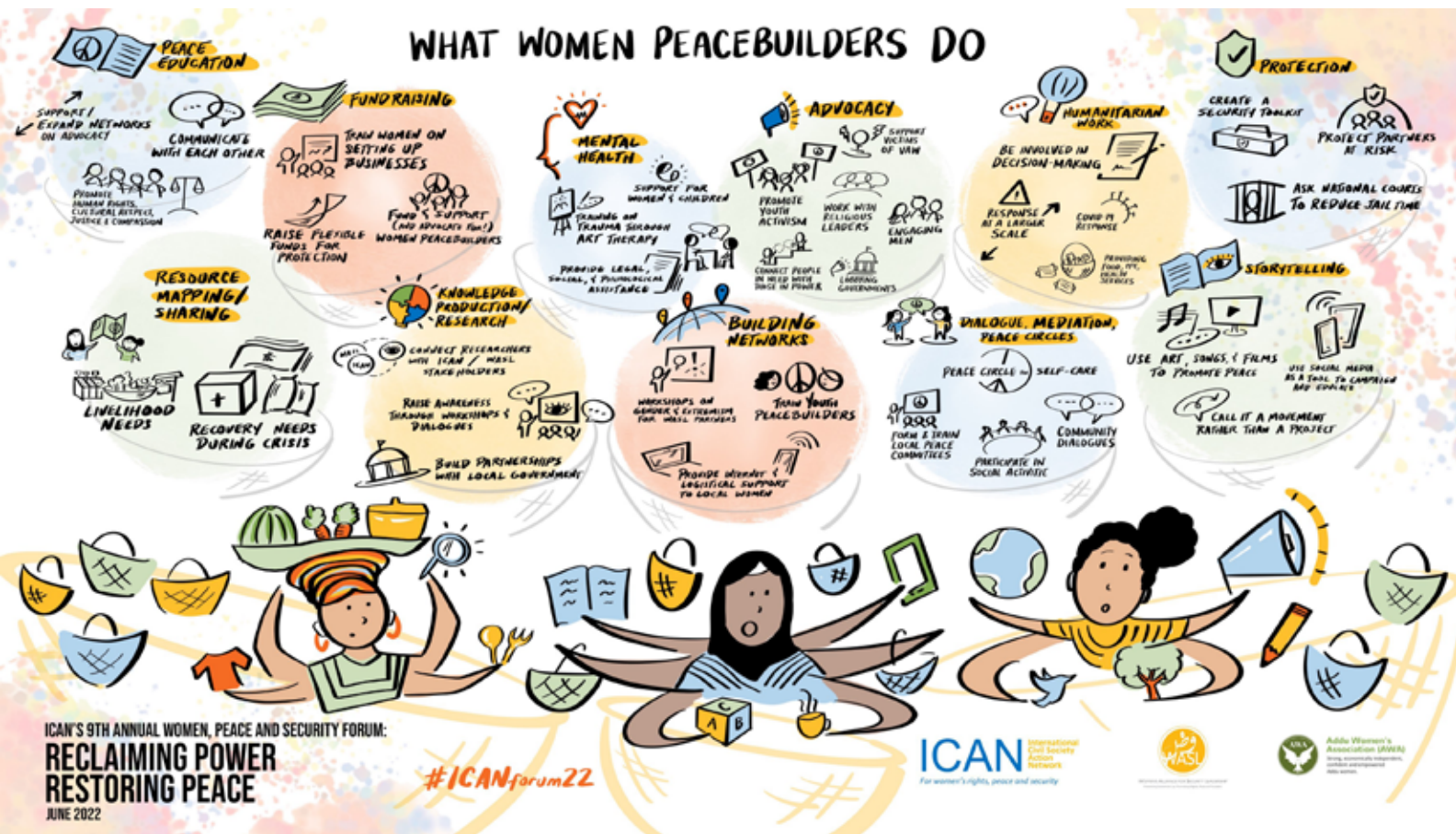
In 2022 we translated the ICAN Better Peace Tool (BPT) into Turkish. The BPT offers guidance on why inclusivity and gender responsiveness in peace and security matters and how to put principles into practice. It is now available in 13 languages and used widely across many sectors.

As part of our ongoing series, we also published four new case studies on effective gendered practices in preventing and countering violent extremists.



ICAN has put together these helpful policy briefs, they are thoughtful and strategic to identify gaps, particularly in terms of making 1325 concrete and real."

- Donor, Final Evaluation, Merits Partnerships



STRATEGIC ACCOMPANIMENT: 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



“

ICAN advised me on my speech at the “Whither Syria” Conference. My intervention focused on my role as a peacebuilder, my vision for a future Syria and the reality of the Syrian women that I represent. Through my experience with ICAN and my colleagues in WASL I have learned to be strong and have the courage to appear and express my opinion in the media.”

- Ahlam Almilaji, Executive Director, Zenobia Syrian Women’s Association, Syria

STRATEGIC ACCOMPANIMENT: 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



CAMEROON

In January, ICAN provided accompaniment to Esther Omam, Reach Out, as she prepared her discussion on multitrack approaches and women’s inclusion in peace processes at the Basel Peace Forum, a yearly meeting that addresses peace across sectors.

SUDAN

In December, the signing of a “Framework Agreement” presented new openings for civil society engagement. ICAN provided strategic advice to Enass Muzmel and her organization Madaniya to strengthen their input in a civil society organizations consultation to garner feedback on the agreement, and inform next steps.

SYRIA

In February, ICAN advised Ahlam Almilaj, Zenobia, as she prepared for "Whither Syria?" a conference led by the Syrian opposition on mechanisms to move forward the transitional process. At the meeting, which brought together the Syrian opposition with think tanks, civil society, Syrian immigrant organizations, Syrian media and others, Almilaj discussed the economic and living conditions in Syria, the impact of the conflict on particularly women, her work as a peacebuilder and drawing on ICAN's participation framework - the need for women to be present in discussions about the future of the country.

SRI LANKA

As the latest political crisis in Sri Lanka unfolded in March-April, ICAN held emergency discussions with partners in Sri Lanka and the region to strategize and mobilize support. During the pandemic ICAN provided funds to the Association of War Affected Women (AWAW) to establish a civil society justice and reconciliation platform for engaging the government. The platform continues to be active and ICAN's CEO has provided strategic mentoring to AWAW on moving the process forward.

YEMEN

In March, ICAN facilitated the participation of Peace Track Initiative, Food4Humanity, and Mothers of Abductees in the "New Era, New Imperatives" meeting of the International Commission on Inclusive Peace and the Principles for Peace Initiative. The Yemeni WASL partners presented their Feminist Peace Roadmap (a guiding framework for transforming the peace process). The meeting served as a pilot for potential further engagement with the Commission.



Participants at the ICAN / Commonwealth Secretariat Gender and Extremisms Training, Yaoundé, Cameroon; March 2022

CAPACITY BUILDING: GENDER AND EXTREMISMS

CAMEROON TRAINING: COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

In March, Senior Program Officer, Rosalie Fransen and BPI Program Director, Helena Gronberg facilitated a training on gender and violent extremism organized by the Commonwealth Secretariat's Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Unit in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The participants were comprised of women civil society actors who have been working to address violence and build peace in their communities both in the Northwest and Southwest regions affected by the Anglophone crisis, and in Cameroon's far North which suffers from Boko Haram insurgency.

WASL member Hamsatu Allamin, founder of Allamin Foundation for Peace and Development, joined in-person to share her expertise transforming violent extremism in neighboring Nigeria. WASL member Halima Mohamed, Executive Director of the Coast Education Center in Kenya, also called in to share

her experiences advocating for a gender-responsive national action plan for preventing violent extremism (PVE). Cameroonian WASL members Clotilda Andiensa Waah, Caryn Dasah, Noline Nwunushi Tumasang Wazeh, and Esther Omam joined as participants in the workshop.

To complement the workshop, ICAN developed a training resource, "Supporting Civil Society in Cameroon to Implement Gender-Responsive Initiatives to Transform Extremisms", which was submitted to the Commonwealth Secretariat in September. The resource contains guidance on P/CVE terminology and policy landscape, grounding interventions in positive values, integrating gender and identity considerations in interventions, designing gender-responsive interventions, and building alliances and partnerships to transform extremists.

IRAQ TRAINING: UNDP

In October, ICAN and UNDP Iraq held a two-day workshop on gender responsive approaches to transforming extremists in Erbil, Iraq. Close to thirty participants attended, including civil society organizations across Iraq, members of the Women's Empowerment Department and representatives from the governorates of Basra, Diyala and Thi Qar. They discussed the role of gender in violent extremist ideologies and recruitment, how this applies to the Iraqi context, and mapped civil society engagement, responses and gaps within this context. Naraghi Anderlini and Senior Program Officer Stacey Schamber, represented ICAN at the workshop.



Women have a great role in building a cohesive, conscious, and educated society through the ideas that they impress upon their sons and daughters. We must work to educate women by engaging them in training courses that help them build their capabilities and increase their knowledge."

- Hassan Abdulhadi Ali, Adviser to the Governor of Basra, Chairman of the Countering Violent Extremism Committee, Workshop Participant

Participants at the ICAN / UNDP Gender and Extremisms Training, Erbil, Iraq; Oct 2022



RESEARCH, ANALYSIS AND DOCUMENTING INNOVATIVE PRACTICE

Adding to a decade of research and publications on gender and extremism, in 2022 we published four new case studies on “The Role of Gender and Identity in Shaping Positive Alternatives to Extremisms.”

The case studies, which are part of an ongoing series started in 2021 with support from the Global Affairs Canada (GAC), demonstrate the importance of Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) in understanding and addressing violent extremism. The studies document the strategies and innovative peacebuilding, deradicalization, reintegration and counternarrative work of WASL partners and others.

The cases were officially launched in September at the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) Countering Violent Extremism Working Group side event hosted by Canada, Australia, and Indonesia. An abbreviated version of the Sweden case study was included in the GCTF “Gender and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Policy Toolkit”, which references several of ICAN’s publications.

We also presented the studies at other events including an Inclusivity-based Community of Practice (CoP) Meeting, organized by the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers in the margins of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). To accompany the case studies, we have produced interviews with WASL partners, Bushra Hyder on her peace education work in Pakistan and with Shahrazad Magrabi on the Islamic Peace Tool in Libya.

CASE STUDIES: 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



USA (2021)

Adjacency to Power: Gender, Trauma, and Violence in White Supremacist Extremism in the United States

CAMEROON (2022)

Courage in the Crosshairs: Women in Cameroonian Peace and Conflict Networks

This case study discusses how Cameroonian conflict actors have systematically targeted, excluded, and co-opted women and radicalized men to promote a patriarchal culture of violence and militarism.

It considers the role of women-led peace networks, such as the South West / North West Women’s Taskforce (SNWOT) and Cameroon Women’s Peace Movement (CAWOPEM), as a source for challenging structural inequality, maintaining collective agency, and providing support in the face of risk.

SWEDEN (2021)

Reconstructing Identity: The Role of Gender in Driving and Dismantling White Supremacy in Sweden

JORDAN (2022)

Institutionalizing Equality: Shifting Gender Roles in Jordanian Counterterrorism Responses

Drawing on the work of the HASBANI project, a Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Project implemented by Global Affairs Canada, this case study discusses facilitating factors, and challenges to expanding women's roles in counter-terrorism responses.

The study considers how combining women's participation with a community policing approach strengthens the ability of the security sector to provide a positive alternative to participation in violent extremist groups.

PAKISTAN (2022)

Signs of the Times: The Role of Education and Gender in Shaping the Cultural Mindset in Pakistan

This case study focuses on how peace education curricula provides a positive counterweight to the identity-based divisions fostered by violent extremist groups in Pakistan.

Drawing on the work of Bushra Qadeem Hyder of Qadims Lumiere School and College, it discusses how taking a broad educational approach and promoting community resilience enables direct intervention with students and parents to respond and prevent them joining violent extremist groups.

INDONESIA (2021)

Heiresses to the Prophet: Women Religious Scholars Transforming Violent Extremism in Indonesia

LIBYA (2022)

Champions for Peace: The Role of Alternative Narratives in Reclaiming Women's Political Participation in Libya

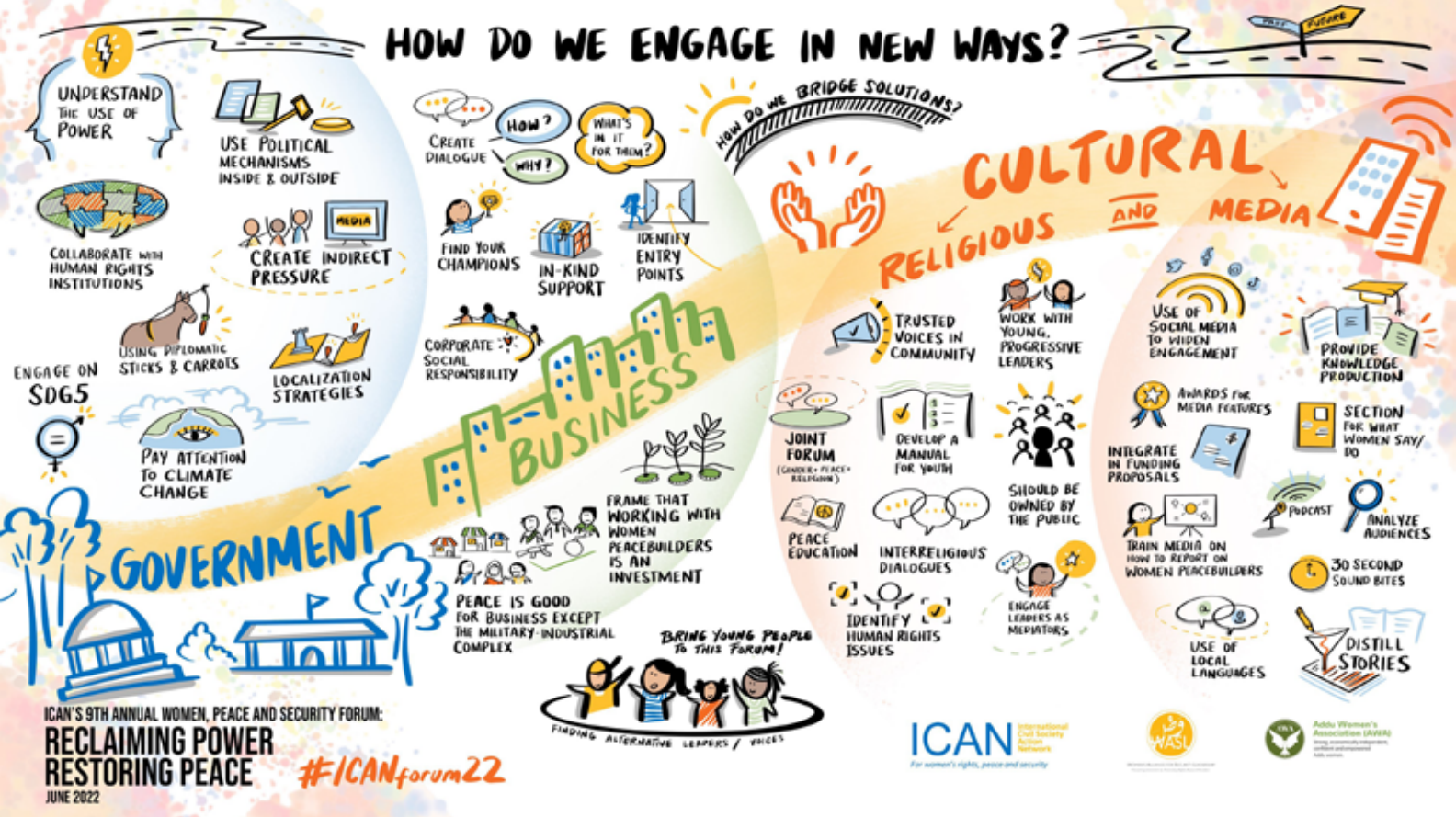
This case study discusses how militant groups in Libya have become home to extremist narratives rooted in conservative, misogynistic interpretations of Islam.

This case highlights the Islamic Peace Tool (IPT), a guidebook developed by the Libyan Women Forum which draws on peaceful, pluralistic interpretations of Islam to support female inclusion in peacebuilding and politics.

SOMALIA (2021)

Agents of Change: Transforming Gender Roles and Extremism in Somalia





GRANTMAKING • AND • INSTITUTIONAL • SUPPORT



“Unlike most other funders, ICAN offers its WASL network partners a holistic “package” of support.”

- Peer Organization, Final Evaluation, Merits Partnership

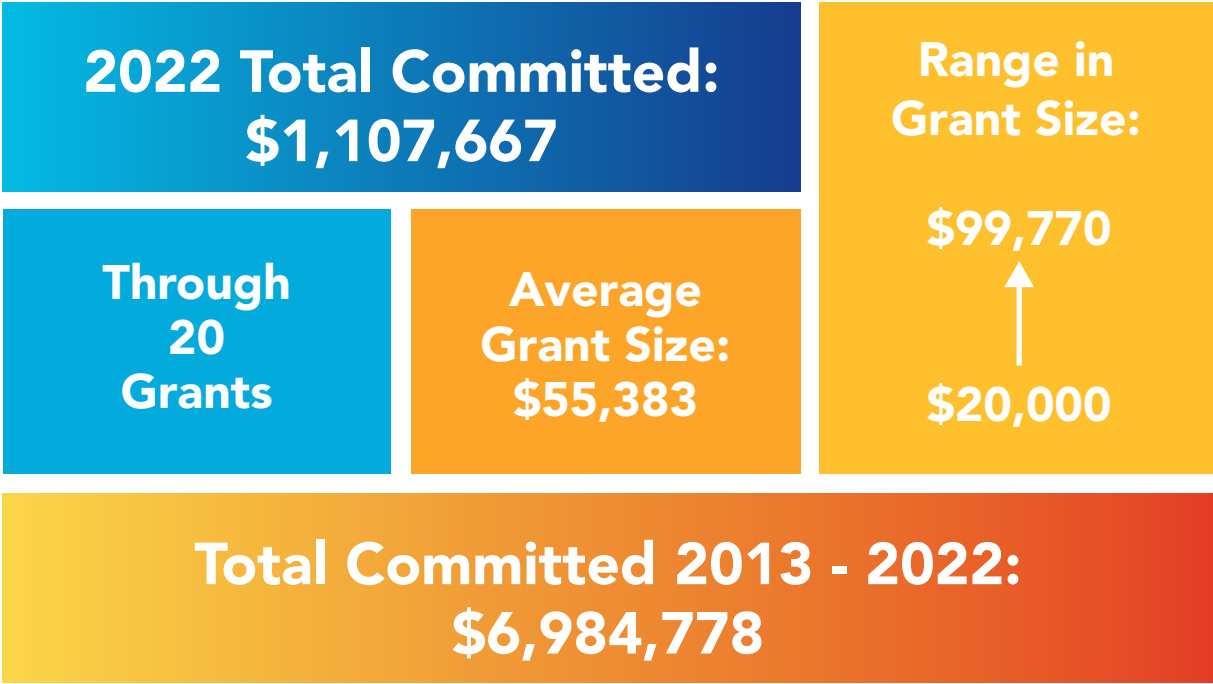
Established in 2015, the Innovative Peace Fund (IPF) remains the only independent multi-donor fund dedicated to women’s peacebuilding organizations. Through the IPF, ICAN has developed tried and tested modalities to ensure the secure management and transfer of funds to independent local women-led peacebuilding organizations in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

In establishing the IPF, our objective was to:

- Bridge the gap between donors’ interest in supporting local women’s organizations and their actual practices;
- Lessen the administrative burdens of complex reporting for our partners; and
- Trust local organizations to identify priorities and enable innovative practices relevant to their needs and realities, instead of being driven by donors’ demands.

The IPF offers wrap-around support, combining the funds with strategic advice and technical support for institutional development in project design, budgeting, and monitoring and evaluation. By helping to build institutional capacities and facilitate access, ICAN enables its local partners to engage with others, secure additional resources, and expand their reach and impact at local, national, or international levels.

In 2022, ICAN partnered with the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) Rapid Response Window to deliver short-term grants and strategic support to women’s civil society organizations that address barriers to women’s influence and participation in Track 1 or Track 2 peace processes, or the implementation and monitoring of a peace agreement. Through this partnership we supported WASL member Reach Out Cameroon and took on a new partner in South Sudan, Women Relief Aid.



In 2022 the IPF issued 20 new grants, in addition to managing 23 ongoing grants, across 19 countries.

INNOVATIVE PEACE FUND: 2022 GRANT SPOTLIGHTS

MEXICO - JHRGCA

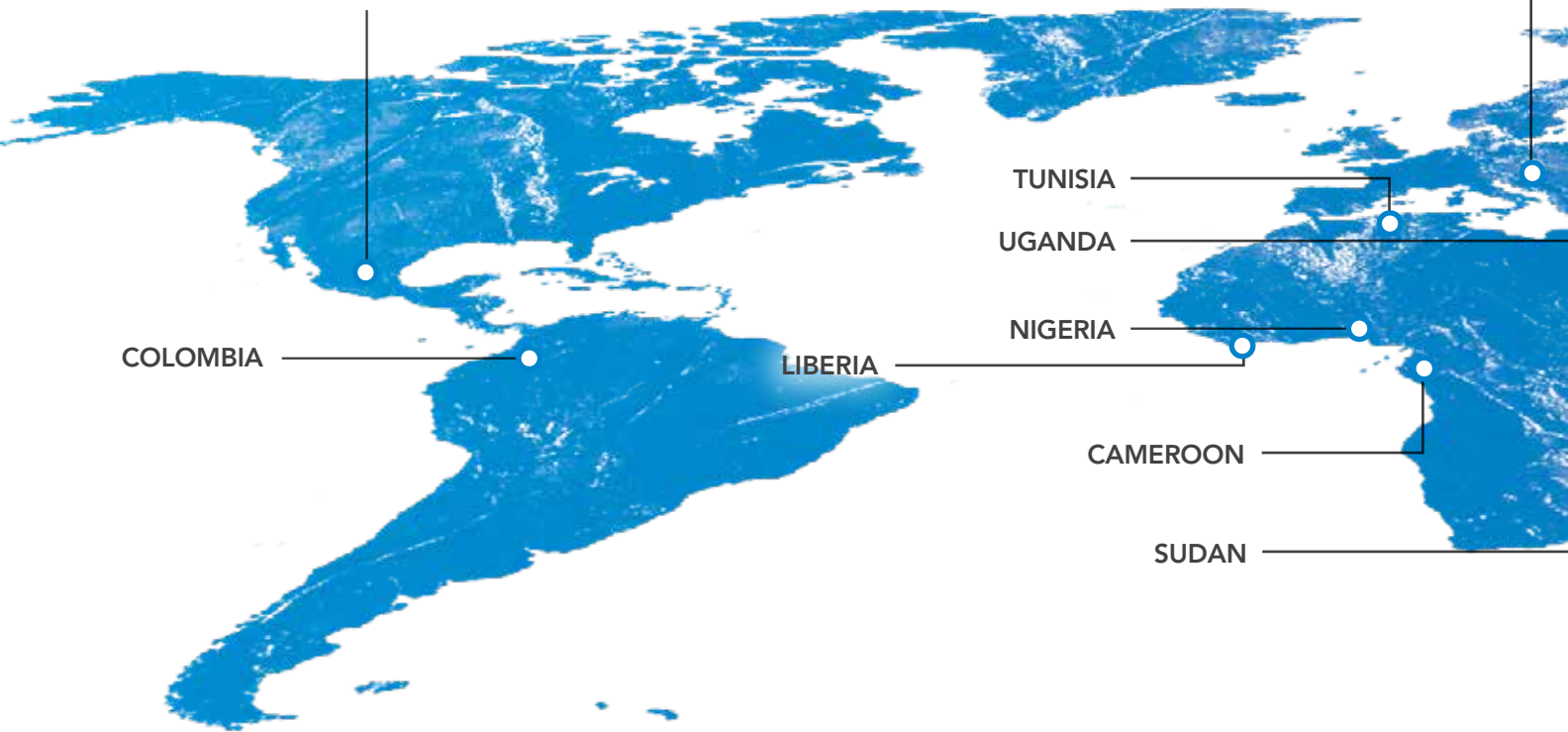
JHRGCA works to improve access to justice for families of femicide victims and survivors of SGBV and seeks to improve the response of the State and other organizations.

Supported by the IPF, JHROCA provided strategic litigation and political, legal, and media accompaniment to 18 cases of SGBV and femicide. Their achievements include 5 convictions, identification of perpetrators, the inclusion of gender analysis in legal arguments, as well as other forms of justice.

ALBANIA - WCDCA

WCDCA promotes the role of women and youth peacebuilders in Albania.

WCDCA utilized funding from the IPF to implement a training of trainers program to enable women leaders to localize UNSCR 1325 and identify security concerns in their communities. Through their work, they gained the support of the Vice President of the Albanian parliament and met with local municipality leaders to promote women's inclusion in local security councils and explain the importance of UNSCR 1325 locally.



EGYPT

LEBANON - RESCUE ME

Rescue Me has a vision of social development and safer homes, schools, and communities through crime prevention and countering violent extremism in Lebanon.

Through their IPF grant, Rescue Me created a legal process for managing the rehabilitation of violent and extremist prisoners. In order to generate dialogue and acceptance of the rehabilitated prisoners, they have raised awareness of the new legal pathway among the families of prisoners, civil society organizations, and the public.

AFGHANISTAN

IRAQ

KENYA

YEMEN - PEACE TRACK INITIATIVE (PTI)

PTI promotes feminist peace in Yemen by supporting the inclusion of women peacebuilders and women leaders in all tracks of the peace process.

PTI utilized their IPF funding to organize dialogues and meetings between women leaders and relevant international and national peace stakeholders to bring the priorities and voices of grassroots women leaders into peacebuilding processes. Actors that had previously excluded women from these spaces now request participation in PTI's dialogues to hear and learn from women.

SRI LANKA

SYRIA

PALESTINE



ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

ICAN's staff conducted several site visits and training workshops for WASL partners throughout 2022.

Between July and October, ICAN's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) expert, Randa Yassir, provided M&E trainings for WASL members in:

- Mombasa, Kenya: Coast Education Center (COEC) and Advocacy for Women in Peace and Security Africa (AWAPSA);
- Gazientap and Kilis, Turkey: DARB, Zenobia Syrian Women's Organization and Kareemat Center.

The main purpose of the training sessions was to align each organization's mission, vision, and strategy to their proposals and program design, with emphasis on how best to monitor and evaluate the impact of their work. The workshops aimed to increase staff capacities in this area and Yassir used an assessment methodology before and after the training to track their development of skills and knowledge.

In total, the workshops involved 41 participants, the majority of whom were female. Over 90% of participants reported feeling more competent in designing indicators and linking M&E throughout the design, implementation, and beyond the end of their projects.

For the future, some participants requested more advanced-level training in some M&E topics and specific training on proposal writing, organizational vision, and strategy development.

In 2022, the ICAN team also conducted site visits to Cameroon, Turkey, Iraq, and Kenya to assess our partner organizations' programs and activities. Through observation and multiple meetings with senior management, staff members, and beneficiaries, the visits allow us to identify institutional and strategic needs to inform how ICAN can provide assistance to further optimize their impact.

In Cameroon, ICAN staff attended a peace café event with Reach Out Cameroon that brought together diverse women in dialogue with regional and governmental delegates, including the local mayor. March 2022





We brainstormed mitigation and protection strategies with CAGEAD staff, including fundraising for a car. The security implications of the location of the CAGEAD office, and lack of basic utilities, like running water and a vehicle, were alarming. The area is insecure and activities are held in various localities that are not easily accessible.”

- Helena Gronberg, Program Director, Better Peace Initiative, ICAN



It’s not until you are sitting with their local beneficiaries that you realize the impact of our partners’ work. Because the communities trust them, our partners identify nuanced obstacles and develop holistic programs.

For example, we met a Syrian woman, trained by Zenobia, who brought Turks and Syrians together and helped to reduce conflict between them and stop the bullying of Syrian refugee children.”

- France Bognon, Program Director, Innovative Peace Fund, ICAN

Bognon at the newly opened Kareemat Center, Kilis; Dec 2022



SITE VISIT SPOTLIGHT: ODESSA, IRAQ

In June, ICAN's M&E Consultant, Randa Yassir, travelled to Mosul, Iraq for a site visit to Odessa Organization for Women Development (Odessa) to assess the impact of Odessa's IPF-funded "We Build Peace" project. The initiative promotes women's participation in decision-making and influences local policymaking to reintegrate families associated with ISIS into the community.

During the visit, Yassir conducted a focus group discussion with women associated with ISIS, who participated in Odessa's project. As a result of their former association with ISIS, they had felt social isolation and guilt, lacked knowledge about their legal rights, and had limited opportunities to associate with other women in Mosul. The women shared testimonies of how the project transformed their well-being and status within the community. The project enabled them to create networks with other women in the community and legally document their children. Some were able to pursue educational opportunities. The women are disseminating the knowledge and skills gained with others in their circles, further promoting the reintegration and social cohesion of women in Mosul.

An unexpected outcome was the change in the participants' views on early marriage. The women involved in the project are now raising awareness around this topic and are no longer marrying their daughters off at an early age.



WHAT WOMEN PEACEBUILDERS SAY

OPPORTUNITIES

ISOLATIONISM
CORRUPTION
INADEQUATE FUNDING FOR WOMEN PEACEBUILDERS
RISE OF INEQUALITY
HOW TO STAY MOTIVATED?
ANXIETIES

INCREASE TECHNOLOGY ACCESS TO REMOTE AREAS
BUILDING COLLECTIVE MEMORY
USE TECHNOLOGY FOR ORGANIZING PEACEBUILDING

ICAN FORUM SAFE SPACES
INVEST IN PEACE, DIVEST FROM WEAPONS
CLONE PEACEMAKERS

ALLIANCES, NETWORKS
STRENGTHENED CIVIL SOCIETY
STORYTELLING
RAISING OUR VOICES
ACTIVISM & ORGANIZING
RECOGNITION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



AFGHANISTAN FUNDING

Throughout 2022, ICAN continued support and funding to WASL member organizations in Afghanistan as well as Afghan individuals in need. With legal advice, we navigated the complex international sanctions regimes, donor restrictions, and local dynamics to transfer funds safely and efficiently to our partners in Afghanistan.



ICAN grants to Afghan
women-led CSOs
totalled
\$410,500

SPOTLIGHT: WPSO, AFGHANISTAN

Women and Peace Studies Organization (WPSO) is a local peace-building organization active since 2012. The IPF has supported WPSO since 2018 through six grants. In 2021, despite the Taliban takeover, WPSO continued its work by facilitating self-help groups, skills learning sessions, and psychosocial support for women and girls. During this time, ICAN's support to WPSO was continuous.

In June 2022, Afghanistan's southeastern region was hit by a strong earthquake that rattled over 10,000 homes. WPSO turned to ICAN and flagged the immediate needs of female-headed households, which were being sidelined because most of the aid workers were male and couldn't enter the women's homes. Trusting that women peacebuilders on the ground were in the best position to assess the risks and determine the best mitigation strategies,, we responded by mobilizing additional funds for WPSO to support these marginalized families.

More recently, in December 2022, the Taliban decree banning female staff from working in NGOs put WPSO in a compromising position. Instead of halting support, we immediately came together with WPSO and other Afghan partners to figure out how to sustain activities. After many consultations, WPSO shifted tactics and developed a new approach to continue operations and maintain its female staff and network of focal points.



The relationship between WPSO and ICAN has not been that of a typical donor and grantee, but an equal partnership that flourished over the years. Despite many difficult days in Afghanistan, WPSO and ICAN have remained in constant communication, sharing needs and realities from the ground, and proposing solutions. ICAN is always by our side – valuing our expertise in Afghanistan and trusting our approach, while offering the institutional support, strategic guidance, and the solidarity we need to sustain our organization.”

- Wazhma Frogh, Founder, WPSO Afghanistan

WPSO MHPSS session



OUR • INTERNSHIP • PROGRAM

ICAN has hosted 23 interns from across the world since 2017, ranging from high school students and undergraduates interested in Women, Peace, and Security to graduate students and young professionals seeking additional experience. Three interns became members of ICAN's fulltime team.

Over the last five years, ICAN has professionalized the program to provide compensation for our interns, an orientation program, and tailored individual learning goals and evaluations. ICAN accomplishes so much more with our interns' commitment and positive energy; they are forever part of our ICAN and WASL network.



Working at ICAN was an amazing experience. The entire team is so dedicated to their work and to building inclusive and sustainable peace.

It was heartwarming and unique to see how the ICAN team builds relationships of trust with so many women peacebuilders across the world - creating a space to support them, amplify their work, and build a network. As so many WASL members called it, a family of peacebuilders! I feel inspired by the work they all do!"

- Charlotte Morgan, UK; WASL Program Intern, 2022



ICAN interns join the weekly WASL community check-in calls; Sept 2022



ICAN's bottom-up approach to both funding and programming made me reflect on the importance of respecting local agency, local knowledge, and local needs of the partners.

The conventional assumption made by many multilateral organizations and international community that local people lack necessary expertise to build peace tends to be false. ICAN's work proves it.

I hope that someday ICAN will expand and cover even more countries."

- Saadat Musabaeva, Kyrgyzstan; IPF Program Intern, 2022

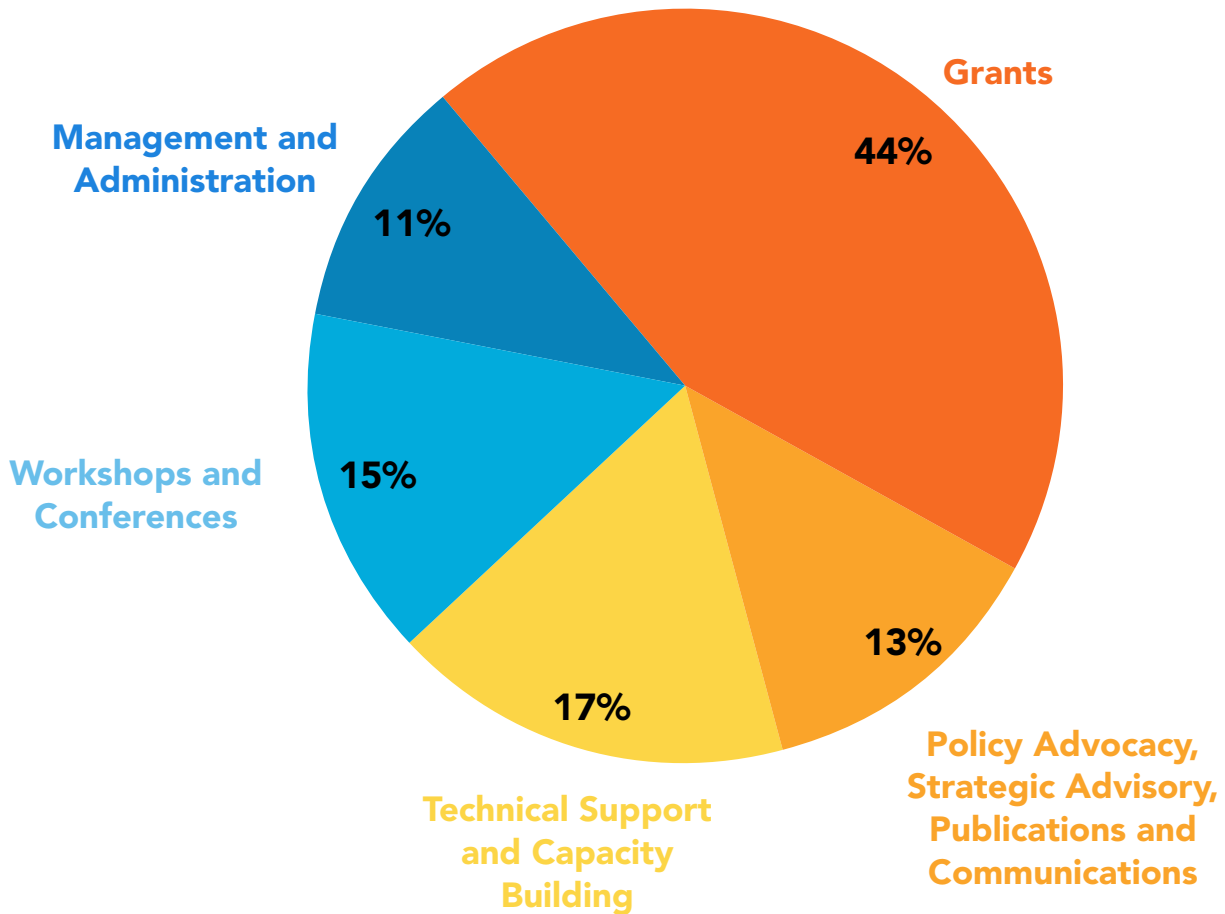
FINANCIALS

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT IN NUMBERS 2022	
INCOME	
GOVERNMENT / IGO GRANTS	2,690,179
FOUNDATIONS AND CORPORATE GRANTS	664,452
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	46,188
FEEES FOR SERVICE	47,166
OTHER (MISCELLANEOUS) REVENUE	10,947
TOTAL INCOME	3,458,933
«EXPENSES»	
PROGRAM SERVICES	3,581,594
MANAGEMENT & GENERAL OPERATIONAL	352,770
FUNDRAISING	79,331
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,013,695
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(554,762)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	
ASSETS	
CASH, INVESTMENTS & EQUIVALENTS	1,302,257
GRANTS & OTHER RECEIVABLE	173,993
PREPAID EXPENSES	13,600
DEPOSITS	3,332
TOTAL ASSETS	1,493,182
«LIABILITIES»	
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	225,743
DEFERRED REVENUE / ACCRUED EXPENSES	549,721
TOTAL LIABILITIES	775,464
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	313,757
RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	403,961
TOTAL NET ASSETS	717,718
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	1,493,182

ICAN allocates nearly 90% of its funding to program services: grants, capacity building and other forms of partner support, and advocacy. 44% of ICAN's total 2022 expenses was direct financial support to ICAN's partners.

EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITY, 2022



2022 • SUPPORTERS

We extend our heartfelt thanks to institutional and individual donations and for all in-kind contributions.

Canada 



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs



Norad



OAK
FOUNDATION



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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

ICAN team meeting, DC; May 2022



STACEY SCHAMBER

Senior Program Officer

MALALAI HABIBI

Program Officer

YODIT WILLIS

Operations Officer

LAUREN MELLOWS

Communications Manager

DANIEL CABRAL

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ICAN board and leadership meeting; Dec 2022





ICAN's commitment to gender equality and peacebuilding is crucial to creating a more just and peaceful world. By amplifying the voices of women and providing them with the tools and resources they need to lead, ICAN is helping to build a better future for us all. It is a privilege to be part the Board of such a dynamic and transformative organization."

- Haideh Chubin, ICAN Board Member

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PHILIPPINES

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Peace Track Initiative (PTI)

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Youth Leadership Development Foundation

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GLOSSARY

- **BPI**
Better Peace Initiative
- **BPT**
Better Peace Tool
- **CSO**
Civil Society Organizations
- **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
- **PREP**
Peace, Resilience, Equal Rights and Pluralism
- **PSVI**
Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative
- **SBP**
She Builds Peace
- **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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When others ask ‘is peace possible?’
Our response is a simple reminder:
Without peace,
Everything else is impossible.”

Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE
Founder and CEO, ICAN

*Reclaiming Power,
Restoring Peace*

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

