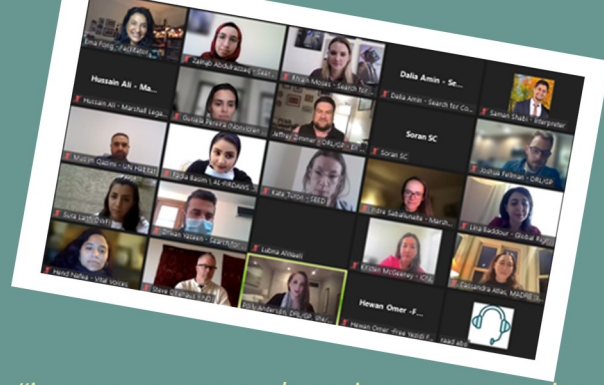


DRL CoP Annual Stakeholders Workshop

This reporting quarter witnessed the Annual Community of Practice (CoP) Stakeholders workshop which, following concerns over COVID-19 and the Omnicron variant, Search for Common Ground (Search) successfully shifted to a virtual format. Search brought together the CoP in Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance to 1) build their technical skill sets through training on particular areas of interest; 2) provide CoP members and their subgrantees with space to discuss operational realities and recommendations; and 3) encourage CoP members and subgrantees to collaborate, share knowledge, and further strengthen the CoP community. Over four days, a total of 69 participants (40 females and 29 males) were given the opportunity to discuss ongoing projects funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) to advance programs in Iraq.



"it was a great learning opportunity for my organization, a well done workshop, and met all my expectations." - Saja Mohsin, Global Jothoor Foundation

Furthermore, the workshop portended to future collaboration between CoP members, 62.5% of respondents reported that they were able to develop new relationships with other CoP prime or local implementing partners as a result of the workshop. Of those who responded "yes" many reported that they had established contact with other implementers and hoped that further collaboration would come from their new network.

"I found others who are working in the same field and the cross cutting sectors with my program" - Hayder Alkaales, International Republican Institute.

"This will contribute to joint cooperation in the future on human rights issues" - Fadia, Al-Firdaws.

The workshop agenda covered CoP Member Successes, Monitoring and Evaluation, Grants Management and Compliance, and Emergency Rapid Response Mechanisms. In addition, participants took part in two group Fireside Chats, and one group Knowledge Sharing session. During the Knowledge Sharing session participants were divided into small groups to answer guiding questions and provide feedback to DRL, in addition to encouraging forward-thinking discussions about programming opportunities in Iraq.

Following the workshop, CoP members demonstrated that they felt more empowered to reach out to other member organizations when in need of support. For example, SEED circulated a request for support for legal services in Baghdad, which was then responded to by Terre des Hommes and the Iraq Legal Clinics Network.

Feedback from the Annual Workshop was positive. Following the workshop, 27.5% of survey respondents reported that the workshop was "excellent" and 42.5% reported that the workshop was "good."

With the current ongoing transition from humanitarian assistance to development programming in Iraq, it was significant to create a space for CoP members to connect, and plan to coordinate future efforts in substantial ways. Furthermore, The Annual Stakeholders Workshop provided a unique opportunity for CoP members to not only improve their own individual programming, but also to articulate recommendations to DRL within the evolving Iraqi context.

"Overall, my expectations were met and I felt this was a well organized and helpful workshop." - Cassandra Atlas, MADRE.

