

DRL CoP Annual Stakeholders Workshop 2022



Search for
Common Ground



On November 7 - 10, Search for Common Ground (Search) hosted the 2022 DRL Annual Stakeholders Workshop in Istanbul, Turkey. 40 participants - both primes and subgrantees - from the CoP community attended the workshop (excluding Search and DRL staff). The four-day workshop facilitated a greater connection between DRL and CoP members, as well as between CoP members and their subgrantees themselves to build robust collaborations and share knowledge - further strengthening the CoP community. Indeed, it allowed participants to discuss operational realities and share best practices to improve programming.

Throughout the workshop, Search organized specific and structured sessions that allowed the community to network and establish ideas for collaborations around sectors, geographies, and the context. By doing so, Search enabled participants to develop more robust plans for programming and collaborations. As detailed by one participant this

"provided an opportunity for us to learn from each other in terms of challenges, opportunities, priorities and also think creatively and strategically about the future of our program."

Indeed, one CoP member noted that the geographic break-out groups

"put us in a rehearsal on how to communicate in the field."

In addition, Search ensured that CoP members could engage directly with DRL to ask them specific programming questions through one-on-one sessions and roundtables, in addition to technical sessions led by DRL on grants management and M&E. Moreover, to elevate the voice of local partners, Search held a panel discussion led by local partners to hear their experiences on the ground - which provided members with a more realistic picture of the operational realities.

Weaved throughout the sessions, Search ensured participants got to know each other on a personal level to create a comfortable environment conducive to fruitful discussions.



Icebreaker activities took place during the day to maintain the engagement of the CoP members and allow them to interact in less serious manner. Moreover, a dinner and excursion to Topkapi Palace and Hagia Sophia was organized that offered informal networking opportunities for CoP members to discuss their programming and establish areas for collaboration.

Overall, participants enjoyed the workshop and were able to share knowledge and establish opportunities for collaboration. Seventy-four percent of respondents rated the workshop a five (the highest rating). Indeed, one member valued "getting the chance to nail down concrete action plans for upcoming collaborations with fellow grantees." To that end, one individual noted that

"I've learned a lot and met lots of new people who are implementing strategic projects which will be useful for collaboration in the future."

Many CoP members made concrete plans to continue and expand on the relationships developed. Internews, for example, found that the International Republican Institute, the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, and the National Democratic Institute are working on similar objectives to connect around. The Free Yezidi Foundation discovered the same with organizations: SEED and Jiyar Foundation. In turn, the Institute for International Law and Human Rights is positive that they established areas for mutual cooperation with SEED Foundation, International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, 1325 Network, and possibly Terre Des Hommes, to name a few. To that end, the workshop facilitated greater discussions and collaborations between CoP members on a more substantive level that will enhance programming implementation and impacts.