Iraq Foundation
المعهد العراقي

1420 N Street, NW, Suite 102
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: (202) 347-4662
Fax: (202) 347-7897
Email: iraq@iraqfoundation.org
Web: http://www.iraqfoundation.org

Women against Violence and Extremism (WAVE)
Project No. DSH-4000001484

Funded by
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Netherlands

Final Narrative Report

For the period: 04 June, 2018 - 30 June, 2019

Locations: Nenawa, Anbar, and Salaheddin governorates, Iraq

October 1, 2019

Table of Contents

I. Project goal and description 3

II. Project Objectives and Activities 4

1. Objective One: Building capacities of fifty six WLs to support women in their local communities . 4

Activity One: Launch events and selection of trainees 4

Activity Two: Training workshops for WLs/coaches 5

2. Objective Two: Supporting local women to identify markers and indicators of radicalization and violence in their families and local communities and evolve strategies to counter violent extremism .. 8

Activity Three: Dialogue meetings with community women and feedback sessions 8

Activity Four: Interactive events for families in the target locations and feedback sessions 10

Activity Five: Feedback and reflection sessions 11

3. Objective Three: Raise awareness and advocate for the role of women in combating violent extremism within societies 12

Activity Six: Production of a documentary film with testimonies 12

Activity Seven: Community meetings to present the documentary 13

Activity Eight: WLs met with leaders in their communities to build a common agreement around indicators 14

Activity Nine: Meeting in Baghdad at the Embassy of the Netherlands 15

Activity Ten: Conference in Baghdad 16

III. Examples of success stories: 18

IV. Recommendations: 19

V. Outputs, Outcomes and Key performance indicators of activities 20

VI. Annexes 29

Annex 1: Final Questionnaire Analysis Report (attached) 29

Annex 2: M&E Report from Integrity M&E Ltd (attached) 29

Annex 3: Pictures of the project's activities 29

I. Project goal and description

As bereaved mothers, sisters, daughters, and wives, women bear the brunt of violence brought on by radicalization. They therefore have a vested interest in peace and stability for their families and communities, and they should be empowered and mobilized to be at the forefront of countering violence and extremism (VE).

Iraq Foundation (IF) implemented a 13-month pilot project in 4 locations[1]: the city of Mosul and Hamdaniya in Nenawa governorate; Hayy Al-Mal'ab in Ramadi, Anbar governorate; and Hayy Arba'een in the city of Tikrit, Salaheddin governorate, with the **goal of equipping women to build family and community resilience against violence and extremism.** The project provided a core group (56) of returnee (and IDP) women who are survivors of violence with training to enable them to coach and guide a broader segment of women in their communities. Trained women "coaches" reached out to and worked with a broader group of women in the community to increase their understanding about VE and coached them to recognize extremist and violent behavior, build family resilience, and evolve strategies and tools to promote tolerance and moderation, and to resolve conflicts peacefully.

While addressing women directly, the project also addressed stresses and tensions faced by families and therefore had a "whole community" dimension. The goal was to enable women, particularly those who have lost loved ones, to become agents for peace and moderation, to bolster resilience to radicalization among family members, and to develop women-led, community-based solutions to the problem of violence and extremism. The project allowed women to discuss challenges, define markers of VE from their own experiences, and came up with family-based interventions and community based activities that can be effective within the family framework. The project took into account ethnic and religious diversity in post-conflict locations, and seeks to reflect diversity, and tolerance of diversity, in its programming.

Preparation for the project activities:

During the month of June, 2018 IF signed agreements with three NGOs for four locations:

- One location in Anbar governorate, AL-Tadhamun, Iraqi League for Youth
- One location in Salaheddin governorate, Al-Noor Universal Foundation

[1] IF chose the Mal'ab area of Ramadi and Hayy Arba'een in Tikrit, where we implemented the Empowering Returnee Women's (ERW) leadership program in 2017 and can benefit from our existing work with women and communities in those locations. In Nenawa, we chose the Eastern sector of the city of Mosul, which offers a large returnee population. In addition, we also focused on Nenawa Plain, which offers demographic diversity.

- Two locations in Nenawa governorate, Al-Tahreer Association for Development (TAD). In February 2019, since TAD couldn't finish the job, IF signed an agreement with Public Aid Organization (PAO).

IF signed an agreement with I. Mentor, a training and consultancy firm in Iraq, to train 56 WLs to support and lead women in their local communities against extremism and violence. The MOU with I. Mentor includes the development of a questionnaire, an analytical report of questionnaire results[2], and reports on the training workshops.

IF followed up with I. Mentor on the preparation of the questionnaire for Activity One, and the training materials for Activity Two, including modifications to the training materials following input, printing and distribution of materials, and preparation and analysis of the questionnaire for training purposes.

IF also had commissioned an M&E Report from Integrity M&E Ltd, an Iraqi consultancy firm which helped to measure the success of the WAVE Project against the project's goals (see Annex 2, attached).

IF reached out to the Women's Office in the Committee of Follow Up and Implementation of National Reconciliation, as well as to local authorities in the three governorates to inform them of the project and secure their support and assistance.

II. Project Objectives and Activities

1. Objective One: Building capacities of fifty six WLs to support women in their local communities

Activity One: Launch events and selection of trainees

During the month of July 2018, a launch event was conducted in each location with the attendance of 134 women and 71 men, for a total of 205 participants comprising women, community leaders and local officials.

IF Project Manager (PM) traveled from the head office in Baghdad and attended all the launch events to monitor and evaluate performance. IF PM and our partner NGOs presented the project and led the discussions. The PM noted the energy and enthusiasm of the women and the men who attended the meetings, and the outspokenness of some of the women present. (In the Mosul location, women wanted a closed session for women only in order to speak

[2] See Annex 1, Final Questionnaire Analysis Report.

freely. One woman spoke about GBV in the community). Reports from our PM and the NGO partners indicate active participation in the dialogue by attendees of the launch events, and lively discussion of what constitutes violence and extremism. Some of the debate was reflected in the questionnaire distributed and filled out by 185 attendees (please see Annex 1).

Two hundred and five people (205) attended the launch meetings. One hundred and eighty five (185) people filled out the questionnaire; 75% of them were below 40 years of age and 25% were between 40 and 50, from both sexes, and with different marital status' (40% unmarried and 45% were married, 9% widows and 6% were divorced). Depending on the location, they were from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds (especially in Hamdaniya and Mosul) working in diverse professions. 44% of them had Bachelor degrees.

This group represents local communities in Mosul city, Hamdaniya, Tikrit, and Ramadi, and their opinions can be regarded as a sample to study knowledge and attitudes toward violence and extremism, the importance of women's role in peace building and countering VE in the target locations, and the main strategies and approaches that can be adopted by the project to address these issues.

Outputs:

- 205 community members (women and men) attended launch events
- The goal of the project, objectives and strategy explained to 205 attendees
- Questionnaire circulated to receive input and opinions of attendees
- 114 women applied to join project
- 56 women selected

Indicators:

- Attendance sheets showing number of people attending launch events
- 185 questionnaires collected from participants
- Applications submitted by women
- MOUs signed by 56 women
- Reports from partner NGOs
- Monitoring by IF staff

Outcomes:

- Raised awareness among 205 attendees on combating VE
- Local communities and officials ready to support project activities and goals
- Insight gained into attitudes of communities from questionnaire
- WLs understand project and are willing to actively contribute to activities and goals

Activity Two: Training workshops for WLs/coaches

One hundred and fourteen (114) women applied to become partners in the program. The selection of 56 women aimed for diversity in age, education, and life experience, with preference given to women who had demonstrated previous civic engagement. The selected women were informed of their responsibilities in the project, and IF signed an MOU with all the selected participants who accepted the conditions of participation and agreed to enroll.

Below is a table of the demographic profile of the selected women:

Education		Marital status		Work status		Age	
Primary school	3	Married	23	Working	27	18-25	14
Middle school	8	Separated	4	Not working	29	26-40	20
High school	6	Widow	8			41-55	20
Associate degree	7	Single	21			Over 55	2
BS degree	32						
	56		56		56		56

During the months of August and September 2018, three training workshops (3 days duration each) were held with the participation of 56 WLs (two WLs couldn't attend the first workshop due to family circumstances). The audio-visual training materials were developed by I. Mentor with final approval by IF. Trainers were selected jointly by IF and I. Mentor. Workshops sought to be interactive, encouraging women to participate actively, provide their input, and build on their experiences.

The first workshop was held on "The Concept of Violence and Extremism and the Role of Women in Peacebuilding". The workshop addressed definitions of terms, possible drivers of extremism, potential indicators, identification of signals of extremism, the impact of violence on the family and society, ways to combat radicalism and extremism through monitoring and engagement, and promoting dialogue, tolerance and moderation through peace-building and conflict management. **The second workshop** addressed techniques of problem exploration and analysis, overcoming challenges, conflict management, the GROW model for negotiation, communication and mediation skills, as well as preparing the WLs to coach other women in the community on reducing violence and peace-building skills. Women participants shared real situations from their own lives and experiences as exercises in defining, recognizing, and addressing violent behavior and the means to addressing such behavior in the family and community. Women also formed groups to discuss problem-solving and approaches that work.

IF PM visited selected workshop sessions in all locations to monitor progress, training delivery, and levels of participation. Despite disparities in age, life experience, and education levels among the participating women, they acknowledged the persistence of extremism and violent behavior in their communities and the need for peace-building and moderation. IF PM noted an

interest in learning from the training and a desire by women to change their social environment. IF PM explained the role that will be played by the women participants in the project, the role of the partner NGOs, and the role of IF.

The women launched social media communication tools. In Al Anbar the WLs started a Viber group to stay in touch and exchange information and experiences. As for Salaheddin, the WLs started a WhatsApp group. In Nenawa (both locations) the WLs set up Facebook pages and WhatsApp to stay connected with each other and informed about any updates.

IF staff and our NGO partners participated in these social media groups and contributed to the dialogue.

During September 2018, **the third workshop** was held by I. Mentor with the participation of 55 WLs, the same group of women who participated in the first and second workshops. The 3-day workshop was devoted to learning coaching skills and applying coaching skills to family-based P/CVE. This included approaches to explaining and discussing the impact of VE on families and communities, how to recognize markers of radicalization, how to communicate to others the values of moderation, toleration and co-existence as alternatives to extremism and radicalism, and how to engage constructively with family members, especially youth. Women learned how to use skills in mediation, negotiation, and communication to avert violence and mitigate conflict. The sessions emphasized that their role is to train (coach) other women from the local community on all the skills they have learned and apply them on the ground. Women also developed strategies for dialogue meetings and family events that will be carried out at a later stage.

Outputs:

- Preparation and distribution of training materials to women
- Three 3-day workshops conducted in 4 locations
- 56 WLs are trained on VE and conflict mitigation skills.
- Trained women establish communication networks
- 55 WLs[3] trained on coaching skills, and to develop strategies for implementation.

Indicators:

- Training manuals
- Before-and after surveys of trainees
- Reports from partner NGOs
- Monitoring by IF staff
- Personal testimonies from 4 locations

[3] From the 56 women chosen, one woman dropped out after the first workshop. Therefore the project continued with 55 women leaders.

- WLs in:
    - Nenawa created FaceBook and WhatsApp accounts in both locations
    - Anbar created Viber accounts
    - Salaheddin created WhatsApp accounts
- Attendance sheets submitted by partner NGOs
- Pre-and post- training evaluation sheets filled by 55 women
- Reports of training session from trainers and NGO partners

Outcomes:

- 56 WLs understand the concepts of VE and can identify indicators and cases
- Women have acquired skills in problem analysis, negotiation, and problem-solving
- WLs are more confident and active in addressing cases of family violence.
- WLs start solving problems within families
- Women are more aware of domestic and other forms of violence, and gain confidence in solving cases of domestic violence
- 55 WLs are ready to contribute actively to project activities using coaching skills to support local women
- 55 WLs can apply event design and implementation
- Four teams of WLs in each location formed to hold dialogue meetings
- 55 WLs are able to enlist support of local authorities for the project and to contribute to the CVE initiative

2. Objective Two: Supporting local women to identify markers and indicators of radicalization and violence in their families and local communities and evolve strategies to counter violent extremism

Activity Three: Dialogue meetings with community women and feedback sessions

In the period 1 September 2018 - 28 February 2019, teams of WLs in Ramadi, Tikrit, Mosul and Hamdaniya held 12 dialogue meetings with local women in each location. 48 dialogue meetings were held in all locations, with the participation of 480 community women. The local women were mothers from the neighborhood or members of extended families. The dialogue meetings were designed to provide a safe space for women, to build trust, allowing women to speak freely, and to elevate understanding of violence and extremism. The dialogue meetings also conveyed knowledge on how to recognize and address VE within families and communities through personal narratives, observations, and reports. Meetings were held in homes, local schools, and NGO locations that are accessible to women. Following the dialogue meetings, WLs held “feedback” sessions with the same participants, to assess the progress of participating women in identifying problematic situations within the family or community and using skills to address them (see Activity 5).

The dialogue meetings, and the initiatives undertaken by WLs, have highlighted problems that present potential flash-points. These involve ISIS families (or those suspected of ISIS connections), children who have suffered trauma from violence, religious discrimination and intercommunal fears, family violence, and other forms of actual or latent forms of extremism. In a number of cases WLs have been able to address and resolve problems of violence or helped other women to resolve them.

A noteworthy outcome of the training and the dialogue meetings has been the increased confidence and acquisition of skills of the WLs, and the trust they have gained with other women and families as coaches and mediators, with the ability to address situations of actual or potential violence.

As this activity progressed, the WLs (WLs) successfully established credibility and trust, including with male members of their communities. Local women became more receptive and willing to open up and share their observations and experiences. The dialogue meetings explored the understanding and knowledge of the concepts of violence and extremism, their drivers and indicators, and the role women can play in reducing VE, with examples and stories from their own lives. WLs moderated the sessions and encouraged participants to speak from their own experiences and observations. Over the course of this period, local women acquired knowledge that helps them recognize and often deal with conflict and aggressive behavior within their families.

One of the moderators was Dr. Shaha Daham, a physician from Salaheddin, who summarized the findings of the meetings and feedback sessions:
In discussing the causes of violence, women in the discussion groups identified ignorance, misuse of religion, economic hardship and unemployment, and mothers who are ignorant and cannot monitor their children. They identified indicators that can point to emerging violence and extremism: isolation and loneliness, violent interactions between children and their peers; refusing others' opinions and rejecting discussion; sexual and verbal harassment of women in the household or in public. Women considered these as indicators that require monitoring and close attention by mothers.

Women participants agreed that mothers could and should play an important role. Mothers should be a source of positive energy in their family and community, monitor and educate their children, and be a leader in the household. Dialogue with the father (in the case of a two-parent household) is necessary to avert problems. But to act successfully, women need to be educated on how to face and resolve violent situations peacefully. Women must also strengthen relations with neighbors and the community, and communicate regularly with their children's school.

Outputs:

- 55 WLs held 48 dialogue meetings with local women
- 480 local mothers engaged in candid dialogue and shared their experiences in the fight against violence in their families and communities
- 55 WLs coached local women and actively encouraged women to participate in countering violent extremism
- 480 mothers acquired understanding of P/CVE and mechanisms to combat VE in their families.
- Interactive events planned and agreed on
- Referrals provided where needed

Indicators:

- Number of dialogue and feedback meetings held
- Reports from NGOs,
- Reports and discussions on WhatsApp groups created by WLs

Outcomes:

- 480 local mothers are better able to recognize and confront manifestations of violence and extremism within their families and communities.
- WLs gain the trust of local communities and local authorities.
- Mothers are better able to help families to build resilience, to reject extremism and adopt moderate behavior.

Activity Four: Interactive events for families in the target locations and feedback sessions

During the months of February and April 2019, four interactive family events were carried out at each location (a total of 16 for all 4 locations). Eighty mothers with their 160 children (age up to 16 years) participated in each activity. Most of the participants were the same women who attended the dialogue meetings held over the previous months. Additionally, the events were attended by local officials, including provincial and district council members, Community Police Command, civil society leaders and clergy.

The aim of the events was to reinforce what women learned during the dialogue meetings and train mothers, as well as WLs, on observing children's behavior for signs of violence and antisocial behavior, or conversely, for signs of moderate, cooperative, and non-threatening behavior. The activities were designed to be competitive, with declared winners, while equally providing an environment that encouraged healthy community interaction. The events helped strengthen community cohesion, gave local women and their children an opportunity to express themselves in diverse ways without fear or pressure, and mitigated the impact of violence on them and their families. The events also aimed at bringing women and children who are often isolated and deprived into self-expressive social activities that can build a positive self-image ad community spirit. These events coincided with ongoing dialogue

meetings during the project period, allowing mothers to monitor children's behavior and see signs of hostile behavior or intolerance that may arise during their collaboration.

Outputs:

- 16 family events (4 in each location) held for mothers and children.
- 80 mothers (20 in each event) with 160 children (40 in each event) participated.
- WLs and mothers observed children's behavior during competitive games and activities.

Indicators:

- Mothers and their children attended and participated in family events.
- Local officials attended the family events, praised the events and suggested expanding the program.
- Mothers started monitoring signs of violence and extremism in their children.
- Mothers asked for more events like these to bring the community together, build social networks, and train mothers to observe the behavior of their children.

Outcomes:

- The events helped strengthen community cohesion, gave local women and their children an opportunity to express themselves in diverse ways without fear or pressure, and mitigated the impact of violence on them and their families.
- By observing the actions and reactions of children, mothers were sensitized to what actions and attitudes might represent aggressive and violent behavior and what alternative, peaceful approaches are available.
- WLs have acquired considerable skills in coaching other women and families, moderating behavior, and advising changes in behavior.
- Officials who attended the events were engaged and supportive; they understood the value of social events that promote peaceful interaction.

Activity Five: Feedback and reflection sessions

The Feedback sessions were short briefings that followed the family events, performed by WLs for women who participated in the events and dialogue sessions to discuss their opinion and the impact on them in terms of dealing with their children and their families. Those feedback sessions helped to assess progress of participating women in identifying problematic situations within the family or community and in using skills to address them. They also showed an increased capacity of women to monitor their children's behavior and to determine if the child is experiencing any extremism. Furthermore, the feedback sessions highlighted improved interaction between children and their mothers and the enhanced cohesion within the community. It also showed that the project increased the ability of mothers to communicate more with children and that it enhanced their confidence. Women are now more aware of their children's actions.

Outputs:

- 44 feedback sessions were held
- 366 women participated in feedback sessions
- Women assessed the increase in their understanding of CVE and reflected on addressing possible challenges

Indicators:

- Participation and openness of community women talking about VE.
- Women engaged in self-evaluation in group settings
- Community women informed other women in their families and communities about those sessions.
- Community women asking WLs for their advice about VE signs.

Outcomes:

- Community women have acquired greater capacity for critical thinking; they observe their social environment, behavior and traditional beliefs of family members and others.
- Women are more aware of and able to recognize indicators of violence, aggressive behavior, and extremist beliefs.
- Women are able to recognize and deal with problems they have within families or the community. Some women have changed their own behavior, or have helped others to change behavior
- As a result of both the dialogue and the feedback sessions - women are now able to:
    - Use their understanding of mechanisms to combat VE in their families
    - Confront manifestations of VE within their families and communities.
- Women encouraged others to talk to WLs about problems of VE.

3. Objective Three: Raise awareness and advocate for the role of women in combating violent extremism within societies

Activity Six: Production of a documentary film with testimonies

IF contracted a professional company to produce a 45 minute documentary film of personal testimonies from participants in the dialogue sessions who were survivors and who were personally affected, or their families, by violence through death or injury.
In recounting the impact of violence, the message of the documentary was that although women endure the aftermath of violent extremism, they are motivated and capable of building resilience, rebuilding their families and homes, and confronting VE. Seven Women survivors, from different religions and sects, told their own stories, and three WL spoke about the impact

of the project. The documentary included testimonies of loss, but also of positive change and increased confidence in women's capacity as a result of their participation in the project, and called for greater involvement of women in P/CVE. The women witnesses appeared in the documentary on condition not to show their faces and identities, but the three WL appeared unconditionally. The documentary has been aired on several national TV stations: Sumaria, Furat, and Al-Rasheed. A version with English subtitles will be produced for non-Arabic-speaking audiences. It was presented at community conferences in each of the 4 locations of the project (see Activity 7).

Outputs:

- A 45-minutes documentary film covering the project's four locations (Mosul, Hamdaniya, Ramadi and Tikrit)
- The appearance of 10 women (7 women survivors and 3 WLs) in the documentary and the completion of filming as required.
- Broadcasts on national TV stations

Indicators:

- Women were willing to appear on camera and tell their stories to the media.
- Women survivors told their stories candidly and spontaneously.
- The ability of WLs to coordinate and cooperate and gain confidence of mothers in telling their stories and problems.

Outcomes:

The documentary showed that

- VE is indiscriminate and targets all Iraqis, regardless of religion or sect.
- Women are strongly motivated to oppose violence and extremism in their families and communities.
- Women are resilient; they must re-build lives and maintain family cohesion, and therefore they can build resilience in those around them.
- Despite loss of loved ones, women are not merely victims, but can be empowered to become agents for moderation and peace.

Activity Seven: Community meetings to present the documentary

Field teams in collaboration with WLs, held a community conference in each location to showcase the documentary. The conferences were attended by local families, local NGOs, representatives of local authorities, community leaders and media representatives. The total number of attendees exceeded 120 in each location. The screening of the documentary was a starting point for community discussion about the importance of the role of women. During the conference, mothers who had participated in the project presented their experiences on how they benefited from the project to improve their understanding and capacity to address

extremism issues. The meetings presented the role of women and thus helped advocate for giving women a leading role in building resilience.

Outputs:

- 460 people attended the documentary screening conference.
- The presence of a large number of officials supporting the role of women and encouraging them in society.

Indicators:

- The screening of the documentary was a starting point for the community discussion about the importance of the role of women.
- The presence of a large number of women and participants of the conference and their interaction with the film and active participation in the discussions and the presentation.
- Good interaction by all participants, including leaders, and their opinions in favor of supporting the status of women in communities and provide moral support for women.

Outcomes:

- The local community was sensitized to the impact of violent extremism on families and communities.
- Participants, especially men, agreed that women are well placed to recognize early warning signs of extremism or violent behavior and are capable of effecting change towards more moderate and peaceful behavior.
- The conferences provided a leading role for women, and participants praised the role of women in the period of displacement as well as in the post-return period.
- The conferences emphasized the importance of women to continue the project and that it should be generalized throughout the provinces as they need such activities.

Activity Eight: WLs met with leaders in their communities to build a common agreement around indicators

These meetings brought together WLs and school principals and teachers, members of the Community Police, clerics, local officials, provincial council, local council and other stakeholders. WLs presented their experiences and observations in carrying out their activities over the course of the project. Participants examined indicators and early-warning signs, and arrived at broadly accepted definitions that can lead to more effective interventions by multiple stakeholders, through changes in family dynamics, social practices, or official policies. The outcome of these deliberations will be published as a paper for future action and as a guide for others working on CVE.

Outputs:

- 98 people attended the meetings.

- Officials, professionals, and clerics have become more familiar with the work of the project.
- Participants arrived at broadly accepted definitions and criteria of indicators that can lead to more effective interventions by multiple stakeholders.
- Paper with findings will be published as a guide for future action.

Indicators:

- Attendance of officials, community leaders, clerics and academics and their interest in the project.
- Open discussion of sensitive topics that are relevant to VE.

Outcomes:

- Community leaders agreed on the indicators observed by WLs during the project activities.
- Endorsement of the project by local officials, clerics and teachers, and acknowledgement that this is what the community needs.
- Trust of the attendees, especially men, in the work of IF and WLs. They emphasized the intention of continuing cooperation with them.
- WLs have become well-known by local officials. Local officials started providing assistance to them to help with individual cases.

Activity Nine: Meeting in Baghdad at the Embassy of the Netherlands

At the request of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Baghdad, on 18 March 2019, IF brought to Baghdad twelve WLs from the four locations together with the leaders of the implementing NGOs for a private meeting at the Embassy with Mr. John van der Zande - Regional CT & P/CVE coordinator on Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon, Mr. Eric Strating - Deputy Head of Mission, and Mr. Mikhail - Representative of the Dutch Embassy. This meeting provided Dutch diplomats an opportunity to hear firsthand the impact of the project, the accomplishments of WLs, and the challenges these women and their communities face in pursuing their CVE mission.

WLs described the project and their role, their achievements, challenges they encountered, and how they overcame these challenges. They spoke of their increasing confidence to address community problems and to recognize indicators of actual or emerging violence or extremism in their social environment, and especially among youth. Through their agency, local women were emboldened to open up and seek help.

The women told stories about actual or potential cases of violence and crises in their community that were resolved or mitigated through their intervention. They spoke about building trust with local women and families through the dialogue meetings, family visits, and interventions; and they cited referrals to professionals, such as school principals, when the

situation required. The WLs also presented the difficult situation of families suspected of association with ISIS, and ways in which they have been able to help some families.

Output:

- 12 WL attended the event and participated in the discussion with the Netherlands officials.

Outcome:

- The Regional Coordinator for CT & P/CVE and the diplomatic staff at the Embassy had the opportunity to engage with the WLs and the partner NGOs, ask questions about the project, and be informed about their work, their achievements and challenges, and the impact on the community.

Activity Ten: Conference in Baghdad

IF held a conference in Babylon Hotel in Baghdad on 23 June 2019 under the auspices of Dr. Bashir Al – Hadad, the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament. Selected WLs shared our model of empowering women as agents of peace to effect change within their communities. They presented their experiences and advocated for incorporating women as essential participants in countering violence and extremism.

The conference was attended by the Ambassador of the Netherlands, who gave an address following Dr. Al-Hadad, representative of several embassies, members of parliament, representatives from GOI agencies, members of civil society organizations, and the media.

In his keynote speech, Dr. Al-Hadad, cited Shakespeare on the essential role of women in the society: “In describing the woman and explaining her power and strength, Shakespeare said women are the sun that brings light to men who are enlightened by it, without them, men stay in darkness.”

He pointed out that the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches aim at eliminating all forms of discrimination against women. He emphasized the importance of renewing faith and conviction with regard to basic human rights and to the dignity of the individual, including combating gender discrimination. He underlined the need to protect the family from violence and to ensure justice and equality as well as economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights of women. With regard to the UN agreements that encourage the empowerment of women in a practical and operational manner, he urged the Iraqi Government to continue efforts and join forces of all state institutions in this post-ISIS era of construction and development. “Since this requires mobilizing all efforts, more energies are needed in addition to the energies we already have. Half of these energies are the women’s.”

In his address, the Ambassador of the Netherlands, Mr. Matthijs Wolters, underlined the importance and timeliness of the work done by IF with the WAVE project in the post-ISIS era. He expressed the support of the Dutch government for the goals of the project to build family

and community resilience against violence and extremism. Since the promotion of human rights is one of the cornerstones of Dutch policy, the WAVE project's focus on strengthening the resilience of women and communities against violent extremism is regarded as an essential action to complement and implement Dutch policies. The Ambassador thanked IF for their work, and thanked state, regional and local institutions whose support to strengthen women's capacities and their rights is key for obtaining sustainable results and success.

Ms. Rend Al Rahim, President of IF, described the WAVE project and thanked the Government of the Netherlands for its support, as well as Iraqi state institutions for their cooperation. Women, she stated,

"Have the motivation to preserve themselves and their families, and the ability, because of their intimacy with family dynamics, to monitor extremism and violence at the earliest beginnings within the family. It is the women who can build immunity, especially among the younger generation, to guard against the evil of extremist thought that leads to violence, or violence that produces extremism. Women encourage moderation, dialogue and openness to the other. "

A discussion panel followed, comprising 5 WLs and moderated by Ms. Dhefaf Al Jarahi, IF Country Manager. The WLs spoke of their experience with the WAVE project, its impact on their lives, and the help they were able to give to families or individuals who were suffering from or were at risk of violence, extremism, or conflict. They described the process of trust-building in their interactions with both women and men in the community: As an important result, they found that developing trust within the community is a cornerstone to building community resilience. As another result of the project WLs highlighted the increased confidence, and greater openness by community women to discuss issues of concern to mothers and families. The panelists emphasized the need for such projects to rebuild social relations and peaceful communication.

A condensed version of the documentary film was shown at the conference.
In a follow-up discussion, the audience praised the women who had shown the courage to appear in the documentary and to talk about what ISIS inflicted on them. They admired the extent to which these women benefitted from the project, and can now raise children to renounce violence and extremism in favor of peaceful coexistence.
Attendees asked several questions about the project and the possibility of expanding it to other areas of the same governorates. They asked the WLs about the methods and activities of the training and whether they can continue their work when the project is finished. Government Officials showed interest in the project, including the Director of the Civil Society Directorate (within the PM's office), as well as officials from the Ministry of Interior, the Community Police, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The conference was covered by several TV channels, and received coverage in the local press.

Outputs:

- A high profile and successful conference was held under the auspices of Dr. Bashir Al – Haddad, the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament and with the participation of the Ambassador of the Netherlands.
- 5 WLs participated in a panel discussion and answered questions.
- A short version of the documentary film was shown.

Indicators:

- 165 people attended this event. The attendance of MPs and senior officials, indicating the importance of the goals of the project and its relevance to security and stability in Iraq
- Wide media coverage
- The confidence of WLs who were on the panel and spoke with assurance about their experiences and the value of their work

Outcomes:

- WLs had the opportunity to tell their own stories and talk to the media.
- The WLs received moral support in order to continue implementing the project and spread it widely in all districts of each governorate.
- Gaining the confidence of and encouragement by decision-makers to continue work to raise the role of WLs and activate it in society.
- Recognition of the significant role of women and their active contribution to P/CVE and establishing peace in communities: Women can be successfully trained as leaders and agents for P/CVE in their communities.

III. Examples of success stories:

Al-Anbar, Ramadi:

- Five satellite channels (Al Sharqiya, Al-Anbar, Al-Taghyeer – Al-Iraqia, Voice of Youth, Journalists Syndicate - Media) covered community meetings to present the documentary.
- WLs succeeded in reconciling conflicts between families without resort to police intervention.
- The Department of Health in Anbar offered to train local women on first aid and primary medical assistance for free, as support for the project.

Tikrit, Salaheddin:

- WLs met with the Director of Ibn Rushd Clinic, to discuss GBV. She promised to pay special attention to cases of domestic violence and signs of GBV.
- WLs met with the staff of Al Rifqa School and talked about violent extremism and the mechanism to reduce. The school will invest some lessons to talk about violent

extremism and follow-up on any case that shows symptoms of violent extremism in children.

- WLs submitted a request to the provincial Governor about the need to find a shelter for battered women and orphans and the elderly, and now a team from the Governors' office is following up on this issue.

Nenawa:

- Family activities provided a great opportunity to rebuild trust between women from different religions and sects by bringing them together in a safe environment, to learn their customs, traditions and way of thinking.
- WLs from different sects are working together in harmony. They represent a model of a small society which can be replicated to fight violence and extremism in the society.
- WLs have learned the art of listening to the problems of others, how to identify the right solution and succeed in making positive change within the community.

IV. Recommendations:

- Conduct intensive workshops on working against/preventing and countering extremism and violent extremism, and other workshops to educate women and children.
- Continue to develop the capacity of WLs on violent extremism.
- Expand the geographical area of the project, to include more districts in the provinces, especially areas that have suffered from terrorist attacks.
- Increase the number of WLs to train more local women.
- Strengthen the framework of cooperation between community police and WLs.
- Hold cross-governorate discussion sessions to exchange experiences among WLs in all governorates to learn about challenges and how to overcome them, and how to benefit from successful interventions.
- Raise awareness among local communities and advocate for a greater role for women in combating violent extremism within communities.
- Launching awareness campaigns in schools and universities on the importance of renouncing violence and violent extremism based on sectarian or ethnic basis.
- Support and encourage women to engage in field work, and enhance their self-confidence towards building a peaceful generation free from violence and extremism.
- Activate the role of social researchers in schools in particular.
- Establish economic projects for young people to give them economic stability and keep them away from extremist thought.
- Activate the role of moderate religious clerics of mosques by focusing on unity and positive messages.

V. Outputs, Outcomes and Key performance indicators of activities

Objectives	Activities	Outputs	Indicators	Outcomes
Objective One: Building capacities of 56 WLs to support women in their local communities in Nenawa, Anbar and Salaheddin governorates to combat violence, extremism and radicalization.	**Activity One:** Launching events and selection of trainees (total of 4 events)	- 205 community members (women and men) attended launch events - The goal of the project, objectives and strategy explained to 205 attendees - Questionnaire circulated to receive input and opinions of attendees - 114 women applied to join project - 56 women selected	-Attendance sheets showing number of people attending launch events -185 questionnaires collected from participants - Applications submitted by women - MOUs signed by 56 women - Reports from partner NGOs - Monitoring by IF staff	-Raised awareness among 205 attendees on combating VE -Local communities and officials ready to support project activities and goals -Insight gained into attitudes of communities from questionnaire -WLs understand project and are willing to actively contribute to activities and goals
	Activity Two: Training workshops for WLs (total of 12 workshops)	- Preparation and distribution of training materials to women - Three 3-day workshops conducted in 4 locations - 56 WLs are trained on VE and conflict mitigation skills. - Trained women establish	-Training manuals -Before-and after surveys of trainees -Reports from partner NGOs -Monitoring by IF staff -Personal testimonies from 4 locations -WLs in: a- Nenawa created FaceBook and	-56 WLs understand the concepts of VE and can identify indicators and cases -Women have acquired skills in problem analysis, negotiation, and problem-solving -WLs are more confident and active in addressing cases of family violence.

		communication networks - 55 WLs trained on coaching skills, and develop strategies for implementation	WhatsApp accounts in both locations b- Anbar created Viber accounts c- Salaheddin created WhatsApp accounts - Attendance sheets submitted by partner NGOs - Pre-and post-training evaluation sheets filled by 55 women - Reports of training session from trainers and NGO partners	-WLs start solving problems within families -Women are more aware of domestic and other forms of violence, and gain confidence in solving cases of domestic violence - 55 WLs are ready to contribute actively to project activities using coaching skills to support local women -55 WLs can apply event design and implementation - Four teams of WLs in each location formed to hold dialogue meetings - 55 WLs are able to enlist support of local authorities for the project and contribute to CVE initiative
Objective Two: Supporting local women to identify markers and indicators of radicalization	**Activity Three:** Dialogue meetings with community women	- 55 WLs held 48 dialogue meetings with local women - 480 local mothers engaged in candid dialogue	- Number of dialogue and feedback meetings held - Reports from NGOs, - Reports and discussions on	- 480 local mothers are better able to recognize and confront manifestations of violence and extremism within their families and

and violence in their families and local communities and evolve strategies to combat violence and extremism.		and shared their experiences in the fight against violence in their families and communities - 55 WLs coached local women and actively encouraged women to participate in countering violent extremism - 480 mothers acquired understanding of P/CVE and mechanisms to combat VE in their families. - Interactive events planned and agreed on - Referrals provided where needed	WhatsApp groups created by WLs	communities -WLs gain the trust of local communities and local authorities - Mothers are better able to help families to build resilience and reject extremism and adopt moderate behavior
	Activity Four: Interactive events for families in the target locations and feedback sessions	- 16 family events (2 in each location) held for mothers and children; -80 mothers (20 in each event) with 160 children (40 in each location) participated. -WLs and mothers observed	- Mothers and their children attended and participated in family events. - Local officials attended the family events, praised the events and suggested expanding the program. - Mothers	- By observing the actions and reactions of children, mothers were sensitized to what actions and attitudes might represent aggressive and violent behavior and what alternative, peaceful approaches are

		children's behavior during competitive games and activities.	started monitoring signs of violence and extremism in their children. - Mothers asked for more events like these to bring the community together, build social networks, and train mothers to observe the behavior of their children.	available. - WLs have acquired considerable skills in coaching other women and families, moderating behavior, and advising changes in behavior. - Officials understood the value of social events that promote peaceful interaction.
	Activity Five: Feedback and reflection sessions	-44 feedback sessions were held. -366 women participated in feedback sessions. -Women assessed the increase in their understanding of CVE and reflected on addressing possible challenges.	- Participation and openness of community women talking about VE. -Women engaged in self-evaluation in group settings. - Community women informed other women in their families and communities about those sessions. - Community women asking WLs for their advice about VE signs.	- Community women have acquired greater capacity for critical thinking; they observe their social environment, behavior and traditional beliefs of family members and others. - Women are more aware of and able to recognize indicators of violence, aggressive behavior, and extremist beliefs. - Women are able to recognize and deal with problems they have within

				families or the community. Some women have changed their own behavior, or have helped others to change behavior. esult of both the dialogue and the feedback sessions - local mothers are now able to: heir understanding of mechanisms to combat VE in their families ont manifestations of VE within their families and communities. - Women encouraged others to talk to WLs about problems of VE.
Objective Three: Raise awareness and advocate for the role of women in combating violent extremism within societies	**Activity Six:** Production of a documentary film with testimonies.	- A 45-minutes documentary film covering the project's four locations (Mosul, Hamdaniya, Ramadi and Tikrit). - The appearance of 10 women (7 women survivors and 3 WLs) in the documentary and the	- Women were willing to appear on camera and tell their stories to the media. - Women survivors told their stories candidly and spontaneously. - The ability of WLs to coordinate and cooperate and gain confidence of mothers to tell their stories	- VE is indiscriminate and targets all Iraqis, regardless of religion or sect. - Women are strongly motivated to oppose violence and extremism in their families and communities. - Women are resilient; they must re-build lives and maintain family cohesion, and therefore they

		completion of filming as required. - Broadcasts on national TV stations.	and problems.	can build resilience in those around them. - Despite loss of loved ones, women are not merely victims, but can be empowered to become agents for moderation and peace.
	Activity Seven: Community meetings to present the documentary	- 460 people attended the documentary screening conferences - The presence of a large number of officials supporting the role of women and encourage them in society.	- The screening of the documentary was a starting point for the community discussion about the importance of the role of women. - The presence of a large number of women and participants of the conference and their interaction with the film and active participation in the discussions and the presentation. - Good interaction by all participants, including leaders, and their opinions in	- The local community was sensitized to the impact of violent extremism on families and communities. - Participants, especially men, agreed that women are well placed to recognize early warning signs of extremism or violent behavior and are capable of effecting change towards more moderate and peaceful behavior. - The conferences provided a leading role for women, and participants praised the role of women in the period of displacement as well as in the post-

			favor of supporting the status of women in communities and provide moral support for women.	return period. - The conferences emphasized the importance of women to continue the project and that it should be generalized throughout the provinces as they need such activities.
	Activity Eight: WLs met with leaders in their communities to build a common agreement around indicators.	- 98 people attended the meetings. - Officials, professionals, and clerics have become more familiar with the work of the project. - Participants arrived at broadly accepted definitions and criteria of indicators that can lead to more effective interventions by multiple stakeholders. - Paper with findings for future action will be published.	- Attendance of officials, community leaders, and academics and their interest in the project. - Open discussion of sensitive topics that are relevant to VE.	- Community leaders agreed on the indicators observed by WLs during the project activities. - Endorsement of the project by local officials, clerics and teachers, and acknowledgement that this is what the community needs. - Trust of the attendees, especially men, in the work of IF and WLs. They emphasized the intention of continuing cooperation with them. - WLs have become well-known by local officials. Local officials started providing

				assistance to them to help with individual cases.
	Activity Nine: Meeting in Baghdad at the Embassy of the Netherlands	- 12 WLs attended the event and participated in the discussion with the Netherlands officials.		- The Regional Coordinator for CVE and the diplomatic staff at the Embassy had the opportunity to engage with the WLs and the partner NGOs, ask questions about the project, and be informed about their work, their achievements and challenges, and the impact on the community.
	Activity Ten: Conference in Baghdad	- A high profile and successful conference was held under the auspices of Dr. Bashir Al – Haddad, the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament. - 5 WLs participated in a panel discussion and answered questions. - A short version of the documentary film was shown.	- 165 people attended this event. The attendance of MPs and senior officials, indicating the importance of the goals of the project and its relevance to security and stability in Iraq. - Wide media coverage. - The confidence of WLs who were on the panel and spoke with assurance about their experiences and	- WLs had the opportunity to tell their own stories and talk to the media. - The WLs received moral support in order to continue implementing the project and spread it widely in all districts of each governorate. - Gaining the confidence of and encouragement by decision-makers to continue work to raise the role of WLs and activate it in society. - Recognition of

			the value of their work.	the significant role of women and their active contribution to P/CVE and establishing peace in communities: Women can be successfully trained as leaders and agents for P/CVE in their communities.

VI. Annexes

Annex 1: Final Questionnaire Analysis Report (attached)

Annex 2: M&E Report from Integrity M&E Ltd (attached)

Annex 3: Pictures of the project's activities

Activity One: Launching Event

Al Anbar

Activity Two: Workshop #1

Al Hamdaniya – Nenawa

Salaheddin

Activity Two: Workshop #2

Mosul – Nenawa

Al Hamdaniya - Nenawa

Activity Four: Families' events

Nenawa, Hamdaniya

Nenawa, Mosul

Al-Anbar, Ramadi

Salaheddin, Tikrit

Activity Ten: Conference in Baghdad

Attendees of the conference

Dr. Al Hadad, the Deputy Speaker of the House

Mr. Wolters, Ambassador of the Netherlands

Ms. Al Rahim, IF President

WLs discussion panel