



BWA

جمعية نساء بغداد
Baghdad Women Association

ANNUAL **2025**
Baghdad Women Association
REPORT

Vision, Mission, and Strategic Direction

Vision

to combat all forms of violence against women and girls, while ensuring their legal protection, equality, respect and all human rights.

Mission

To limit and mitigate violence against women and girls by providing all required services for women survivors of violence; by calling to implement the appropriate laws, policies, and government programmes to support women, while aiming to increase the political involvement of women through the development of leadership skills through knowledge, growth, and capacity building.

Operational Locations - 2025



- Main Office: Baghdad Governorate
- Sub-office: Duhok Governorate

Field Implementation Areas:

- Duhok Governorate: Khanke Camp
- Ninewa Governorate: Al-Hamdaniya District / Qaraqosh Subdistrict, Sinjar District
- Anbar Governorate: Ramadi, Fallujah
- Southern Iraq: Basra, Thi Qar, Karbala
- Kirkuk Governorate

Strategic Direction - 2025

During 2025, Baghdad Women Association continued to focus on strengthening the protection and empowerment of women and girls in a context marked by a transition from humanitarian response to recovery and peacebuilding, while challenges related to fragility and conflict and their prolonged impacts persist.

Baghdad Women Association is driven by a firm belief that sustainable change can only be achieved by empowering women to be key actors in designing solutions and responding to the needs of their communities.

In this context Baghdad Women Association worked on:

1. Strengthening protection services and psychosocial support for survivors and at-risk women by providing integrated services, including psychological support, legal counseling, case management, and improving access to services, especially in conflict- and displacement-affected areas.
2. Responding to emerging challenges, particularly digital violence against women, by building the capacities of service providers, raising community awareness, and enhancing coordination to ensure a comprehensive and multi-dimensional response.
3. Empowering women economically and socially by supporting life and financial skills, improving access to livelihoods, and creating enabling environments for women's participation in economic activities.
4. Enhancing women's participation in decision-making by developing community-based female leaders and supporting their engagement in public and political spaces, strengthening their role in peace and recovery efforts.
5. Promoting social cohesion and peace by supporting youth- and women-led initiatives, fostering community dialogue, addressing hate speech, and preventing violent extremism.
6. Supporting women-led civil society organizations through capacity-building programs and strengthening their role in advocacy and community accountability, contributing to more effective representation of women and marginalized groups.

Context Analysis – Iraq 2025

In 2025, Iraq experienced a state of relative stability compared to the peak years of the humanitarian crisis. However, this stability was not accompanied by a full or comprehensive recovery. The country continued to face structural challenges related to its dependence on the oil-based economy, financial pressures, weak public services, and the ongoing impacts of displacement. In addition, the worsening effects of climate change and the water crisis continued to affect the most vulnerable populations. International indicators suggest that Iraq maintained a degree of internal stability despite regional tensions, yet it continued to suffer from structural imbalances in the economy, public administration, and employment opportunities.

On the humanitarian front, the response in Iraq during 2025 increasingly shifted from emergency relief toward early recovery approaches, durable solutions, and the integration of humanitarian action with development and peacebuilding efforts. This shift was reinforced by the signing of the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework between the Government of Iraq and the United Nations for the period 2025–2029, reflecting a gradual transition toward supporting long-term national priorities. Nevertheless, humanitarian needs remained significant, with approximately one million internally displaced persons still present, alongside millions of returnees, many of whom continue to face challenges related to reintegration, access to services, and livelihoods.

The climate and water crisis also emerged as key drivers of vulnerability throughout the year. Increasing pressure on local communities resulted from declining water resources and their impact on agriculture, livelihoods, and public health, particularly in rural and fragile areas. These conditions prompted international organizations to expand their focus to include community resilience, migration and displacement management, climate adaptation, and the rehabilitation of basic services.

Regarding key actors, 2025 saw the continued presence of international organizations such as the United Nations, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). However, there was a gradual shift in the nature of their interventions—from direct humanitarian assistance toward supporting early recovery, promoting stability, and strengthening national systems.

At the same time, local civil society organizations emerged as essential partners in implementing these transitions at the community level. They played a pivotal role in reaching the most vulnerable populations, delivering protection services, promoting social cohesion, and empowering women and girls, benefiting from their proximity to communities and deep understanding of local contexts.

Despite the importance of this role, civil society organizations continued to face persistent challenges, including restrictions on civic space, limited resources, and insufficient long-term support, as well as growing concerns related to the rights of women and girls. This highlights the need to strengthen partnerships between international and local actors and to support the sustainability of civil society organizations to ensure a more inclusive and effective response.

Despite ongoing challenges, 2025 witnessed several important achievements in the humanitarian and recovery sectors. These included continued rehabilitation of infrastructure and services in conflict-affected areas, expanded national discussions on the Women, Peace, and Security agenda, the launch of child-sensitive social protection initiatives, and the establishment of longer-term partnerships between Iraq and the United Nations system. However, these achievements do not indicate the end of vulnerability rather, they reflect gradual progress within a context that still requires sustained investment in protection, social justice, gender equality, and sustainable peacebuilding.

Executive Summary

In 2025, Baghdad Women Association (BWA) continued to play a key role in supporting the rights of women and girls and strengthening their participation in peacebuilding and recovery efforts in Iraq. This was achieved through the implementation of a set of integrated programmes that responded to the evolving needs of communities, particularly in conflict-affected and fragile areas.

Baghdad Women Association interventions went beyond service delivery, focusing instead on fostering sustainable change by combining protection, empowerment, capacity building, and social cohesion within a rights-based approach and in partnership with local and international actors.

In Ninewa and Anbar “Iraqi Female Changemakers” project served as a pivotal platform for enhancing the participation of women from marginalized communities in decision-making processes. It supported the development of community-based women leaders capable of leading awareness and advocacy initiatives, contributing to violence prevention, and strengthening social cohesion.



In Anbar, the “Women’s Voice and Leadership” project continued to provide comprehensive protection services for women through a listening and psychosocial counseling center. This included psychological support, legal counselling, judicial representation, and protection-linked economic assistance, within the framework of a regional partnership supporting women’s rights organizations.



In Sinjar, the “Rights-based approach to combating violence against women and girls and social cohesion among IDPs and host communities” project represented a key intervention in supporting the most vulnerable women and girls. It provided case management services, psychosocial support, and strengthened referral systems, alongside community-based activities that promoted social cohesion and women- and youth-led advocacy initiatives.

Building on these efforts, the project “Souter” aims to reinforce the principles of justice and peaceful coexistence by involving different segments of the community in dialogue sessions and awareness-raising initiatives.



in Khanke Camp, the “Voices of Resilience: Empowering Displaced Women and Girls” project focused on providing safe spaces and integrated protection services for displaced women and girls, including psychosocial support, legal counselling, and capacity building for service providers, thereby strengthening a survivor-centered response based on the needs of beneficiaries.



Baghdad Women Association also continued to work on emerging issues, where the “Facilitating Resilience to Support Victims and Survivors of Technology Facilitated Violence Against Women in Jordan and Iraq” project in Dohuk addressed the phenomenon of digital violence through awareness-raising, capacity building for service providers, strengthening coordination among stakeholders, and establishing a local network to support a sustainable response.



In Anbar, the “Strengthening Women’s Rights Movements on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Three Fragile Contexts” project focused on strengthening the institutional capacities of women’s rights organizations and supporting their role in advocacy and social accountability, contributing to more effective representation of women and marginalized groups in decision-making processes.



The Association also launched the “Promoting Participation, Peaceful Coexistence and Equality” project in Baghdad and Anbar, which focused on improving the quality of protection services provided to women, enhancing legal and digital awareness, and delivering psychosocial support. This contributed to preventing violence and strengthening a comprehensive response.



In southern Iraq, the “She Can” project contributed to supporting women’s economic empowerment through capacity building, strengthening local partnerships, and creating a supportive community environment for women’s role in economic development and public participation.



In Kirkuk and Anbar, the “Strengthening Community Resilience for the Prevention of Violent Extremism” project worked to empower youth and promote community dialogue through trainings, capacity building, and community initiatives. These efforts contributed to strengthening social cohesion and countering hate speech.



Baghdad Women Association worked on developing and testing the “Nawat” app to enhance survivors’ access to safe and reliable information and services in Iraq, Palestine, and Yemen, through a participatory and interactive approach. The project focused on assessing the feasibility and safety of the platform in providing case management and psychosocial support services, as well as building the capacity of service providers and enabling them to deliver remote support. It also included awareness-raising efforts to ensure the inclusiveness and sustainability of the service.



The “Call to Action Field Implementation CAFI” aims to promote a transformative approach that shifts leadership to women, girls, and service providers in affected contexts, ensuring the connection between global efforts and effective local leadership. The project seeks to drive change and strengthen accountability in humanitarian action by integrating prevention and response measures for gender-based violence and ensuring the delivery of safe and inclusive services from the earliest stages of emergencies.



In the Nineveh Plains (Alqosh, Sheikhan, and Bashiqa), the project “Contribution to Inclusion and Social Cohesion in Post-Conflict Communities in Iraq” strengthened the concepts of diversity and justice by engaging young women and men, as well as community leaders, in peacebuilding initiatives and conflict analysis activities.



Key achievements and initiatives:

In addition to implementing its programmes and projects, the Baghdad Women Association continued in 2025 to strengthen its institutional presence and its role as an active national partner through a range of qualitative initiatives and activities that contributed to expanding its community impact.

In this context, the Association strengthened its partnerships with government institutions, implementing two volunteer activities in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports. One was held in Karbala Governorate, while the other took place as part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign. This included the organization of an awareness-raising marathon with broad community participation, aimed at increasing awareness of gender-based violence issues and promoting community engagement.



Key achievements and initiatives:

The Association also actively participated in the 16 Days of Activism campaign through the implementation of a series of awareness-raising and community activities across its various projects. These included awareness sessions, community initiatives, and advocacy activities, which contributed to strengthening community dialogue and highlighting issues related to the protection of women and girls.



The Association helped strengthen social cohesion and inclusion in post-conflict communities across Bashiqa, Sheikhan, and Alqosh through community Service Projects that promoted interaction, empowerment, and a shared sense of identity.



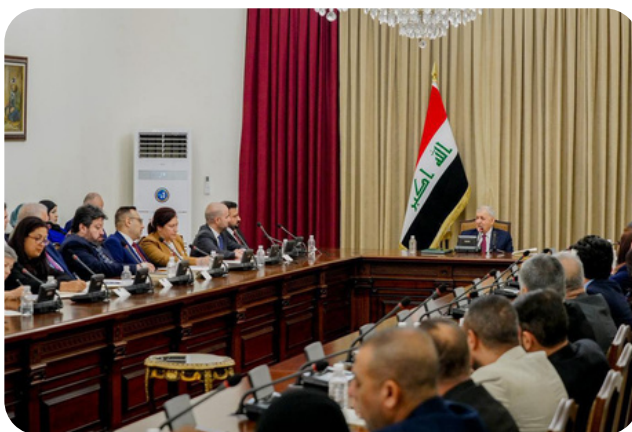
At the institutional recognition level, the Association received letters of appreciation from both the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Commission of Integrity. It was also honored during a closing conference, reflecting its efforts in supporting community issues and promoting principles of integrity and community participation.



The Association also contributed to voter awareness efforts for the 2025 elections by implementing a set of awareness activities, including the production of podcast episodes and the organization of awareness workshops targeting diverse groups within the community, including persons with disabilities. These efforts contributed to strengthening civic awareness and encouraging inclusive participation in the electoral process.

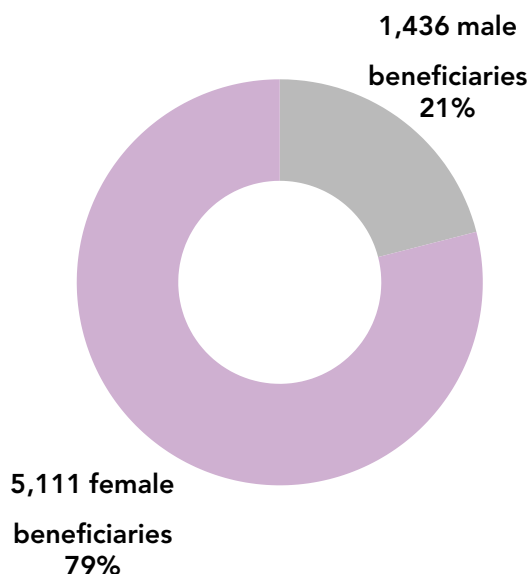


As part of strengthening its institutional presence, the Association's President and staff participated in a number of events, conferences, and meetings with governmental and international actors inside and outside Iraq. This contributed to expanding the Association's network and strengthening its strategic partnerships.



Qualitative indicators of achievements:

Baghdad Women Association reached 6,547 beneficiaries through its implemented projects during the year. Women constituted the majority, with 5,111 female beneficiaries (79%), compared to 1,436 male beneficiaries (21%). This reflects the programs' focus on women's empowerment, while also ensuring the engagement of men as an essential part of achieving social change and strengthening a comprehensive response.



External trainings and engagements:

As part of Baghdad Women Association's commitment to strengthening the capacity of its team and adopting best professional practices, the Association's staff participated in 56 external trainings and engagements during 2025. These covered a range of areas aligned with the Association's objectives, including project proposal development and financial management, digital violence and data security, international resolutions and conventions, mental health and psychosocial support, as well as financial and narrative reporting.

These trainings and engagements reflect the continued approach adopted by Baghdad Women Association over the years, aimed at empowering its team and enhancing their capacities, thereby contributing to improving the quality of projects and services provided to targeted groups.

Regional Participation

1. Baghdad Women Association participated in the regional meeting as part of its membership in the Ru'ya Network (the Arab Feminist Network) to review and define the network's priorities for the coming period, and to discuss challenges and lessons learned, in Amman, Jordan.
2. Association also participated, on 27-28 October 2025, in a learning workshop on digital services under the Nawat project, supported by Oxfam, in Amman, Jordan.
3. BWA team also took part in a series of trainings delivered by the Arab Women Organization in Amman on financial and administrative reporting, financial management, advocacy, and campaigning.
4. Association facilitated a session titled "The Role of Women's Civil Society Organizations in Monitoring and Overseeing the Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda" within the Regional Forum on Women, Peace and Security (WPSA), held in Amman, Jordan.
5. Baghdad Women Association also participated in the regional workshop "Voices Across Borders: Twenty-Five Years of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda," organized by CARE Egypt with support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, with participation from several countries including Sudan, Egypt, and South Sudan, held in the Arab Republic of Egypt.



International partners and donors that supported the Association's activities during 2025.

