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"مدد": الصندوق الائتماني الأوروبي



EuroMed Feminist Initiative
المبادرة النسوية الأورومتوسطية
Initiative Féministe EuroMed

Baghdad, 17 December 2018

Press release

Iraq Country Advisory Committee

“Strengthening access to protection, participation and services for women refugees, Internally Displaced People and host communities”

Meeting 17 December 2018, Council of Ministers, Baghdad

The 2-year multi-country project “Strengthening access to protection, participation and services for women refugees, IDPs and host communities in Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan”, funded by The European Union Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the [“EU MADAD Fund”](#), was kicked off in both Iraq and Kurdistan Region of Iraq (Iraq/KR-I) with the first meeting of the Country Advisory Committee, chaired by H.E. Dr. Mahdi Al Alak, Secretary General of the Council of Ministers. This meeting took place on the 17 December 2018 at the Council of Ministers, Baghdad, and was organized by EuroMed Feminist Initiative and the consortium members in Iraq/KR-I, Baghdad Women Association (BWA) and the Women Empowerment Organization (WEO). It followed the conference presenting the national report of the implementation of Iraq national action plan on UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security, held on 16th December 2018 under the patronage of H.E. Mr. Abdul Mahdi, Prime Minister of Iraq.

High level representatives from relevant Ministries from Federal Iraq and Kurdish Regional Government as well as the project consortium members attended the meeting as part of the Cross Sector Task Force on the implementation of National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR1325.

H.E. Dr. Al Alak opened the meeting, underlining that this project’s timing and contribution to the development and the implementation of the second NAP on UNSCR 1325 which is will start as of year 2019.

In a message delivered in the Committee, H. E. Ramon Blecua, Head of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Iraq, highlighted the added value of the project which lies in the fact that the security and resilience of women will be enhanced through supporting and coordinating comprehensive and structured services and referral mechanisms. He further underscored that this will be reinforced at policy level, where institutional capacities will be strengthened to effectively address gender based violence and women’s rights.

Ms. Liza Hido, President of BWA and Ms. Suzan Aref, Director of WEO and Coordinator of CSTF presented the objectives and the main activities in Federal Iraq and KR-I explained comprehensive approach which includes provision of comprehensive specialized services to women survivors of GBV, improving institutional cross-sector coordination and capacities to better address the needs of women and girls, supporting social dialogue in favor of women, campaigning and advocacy for improving awareness and legislation favoring of women’s rights.



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Mr. Qasim Alzamil, Head of the Secretariat of CSTF 1325 at the Council of Ministers stressed on the importance of building of the technical capacities at the Secretariat of CSTF 1325 in order to improve the visibility and communication with local communities.

Ms. Boriana Jonsson, Executive Director of EuroMed Feminist Initiative presented the regional governance structure of the project and opened the discussion on roles and responsibilities of the Country Advisory Committee, as well as on channels of communication on national and regional level. She underlined the importance of coordination with other relevant actors in order to promote synergies and avoid duplication. For this purpose, the EuroMed Feminist Initiative and project consortium in Iraq invited the UN Women Country Representative, Ms. Dina Zorba as an observer. Ms. Zorba pointed out that UN Women in Iraq share mutual approach.

Representatives from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and Secretariat of Cross Sector Task Force 1325 at the Council of Ministers, as well as Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, and Department of Foreign Relations from KRG discussed the importance of the project and their role as Country Advisory Committee. They agreed on the importance of holding regular quarterly meetings and providing an oversight and guidance during the implementation of the two years project.