



F Fa'ela and FG4W projects aim to contribute to the effective participation of women in public life in Libya.

Fa'ela (15 June 2020 - 14 Dec. 2022) a European Union and Embassy of Canada funded project, is implemented in partnership with Jusoor Center for Studies and Development. FG4W (15 October 2021 - 15 May 2022) is a Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office funded project.

* FG4W : Firmer Ground for Advancing Women Participation in Libya

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Overall Fa'ela and FG4W Achievements

- Fa'ela is proud to have established trustful relationships with local civil society and women leaders and activists in Libya.
- The Fa'ela team directly engaged with over 36 local CSOs and more than 40 women leaders from all around Libya.
- The real impact and success of this is highlighted through the growing network of Fa'ela, the increased audience engagement and expressed interest in participating in future activities.
- Tadamon Coalition provided opportunities for women leaders to network with the members from the MENA region. Libyan women were able to participate in regional events organised by the regional organisations.
- With the support of the co-funding from FCDO to the Fa'ela project, 13 subgrant projects were successfully completed by the respective WROs. The Fa'ela team facilitated the process for WROs to implement their projects in their local communities (4 South, 5 East, 4 West including middle). As a result, a total of 727 individuals (99% women) benefited from these projects around Libya.

Regional Tadamon Coalition

The Tadamon Coalition succeeded in connecting 25 Libyan women activists and CSOs representatives from all Libyan regions with five representatives of women's organisations from other countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region (Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia) to share experiences with their Libyan counterparts.

The Fa'ela team facilitated several meetings for the members one of which was a face-to-face meeting held in Tunis in March 2022. During this meeting, the Tadamon Coalition brought together 20 Libyan Women Leaders from all regions covering the variety of cultures, backgrounds and political affiliations in a post-conflict, political agitated context. These women sat together and discussed women issues and struggles in Libya and produced two plans focusing on two main priority issues to work together on throughout the year, as well as issued its founding statement.



Change Stories from Fa'ela

quarterly NEWSLETTER



Newsletter N3



“When we started working, we noticed huge political differences between us, we decided to overlook them and put the women’s issue as a priority” - one participant noted. “We need to transcend political differences and focus on what unites us” – added Fatma Taleb – Abaad organisation

While the initial idea was to establish a Peer-to-Peer Network through which organisations can support one another in exchanging on challenges and lessons learnt, this however has turned into a bigger entity, a coalition, that plans to work together on advocacy campaigns.

The coalition is now a Libyan led entity gradually moving towards working autonomously. It is currently holding meetings and discussions with external stakeholders, such as the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the Cairo Constitution Group. The coalition is now working on finalising their website which serves as tool to support it in promoting their work, their advocacy efforts, and their own visibility.

While Tadamon is yet to function in its full capacity, however, with over 25 local and regional members the visible progress of the coalition is a success in bringing together civil activists and leaders, ensuring the right tools are provided and suitable mentorship is made available.



Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office





Manahel a Project Implemented by Fanar Organisation for Development and Peace

The organization revitalised the civic scene in Sirte by repairing and renovating a local public library that was bombed during the liberation war on ISIS in 2016 for women to use it as a women only space. Fanar's project "Manahel" aimed at creating a safe space for women in a very difficult context, where women are denied the right to talk with each other and connect outside of the family context. Fanar renovated the library, restocked the shelves with academic and fiction books, and opened it for public use, showing the community around them how civil society can enhance the lives of locals.

In parallel to renovating the library, the Fanar worked on establishing a small book club, whose first sessions launched the opening of the library. Eight additional discussion sessions on different books were held ever since. The activities continue despite the escalating security situation and the alarming media campaign against the work of civil society in Sirte, as attendees were inspired and interested in meeting as a book club even after the conclusion of the project.



The library remains open for the until even today, rich in books and resources and welcoming to all Sirte women who wish to have a safe space of reading, conversation and sharing ideas.

Capable Parliamentarian Project Implemented by Women Forum for Development

The project began with four-day soft skills set workshop, followed by an intense 12-day political training that covered the basics of political participation, representation and decision-making skills. A particular focus was on fostering exchange and peer learning. Participants in the simulation sessions reported that this was an especially successful step towards a more aware political elite in Libya. Political public figures and academic experts participated in this activity as guests, in addition to the High Council of State members, former National Conference members and current Members of Parliament.



The impact of the training was visible in the sessions as trainees performed astonishingly in the simulation, presenting, negotiating, and debating with passion and professionalism.

Attendees, trainees and the implementing team are all enthusiastic about repeating this project as it has proved the impact of the needed training among women leaders, along with the high demand of many candidates (women and men) who wish to be included in similar future projects.

Rasela Project Implemented by Perpetual Peace



The organisation conducted several sessions, discussions, surveys and trainings that targeted their community, exploring why women struggle to find representation in politics and/or to become politicians, and why the community refuses women in political positions.

As a result, multiple reports were developed with recommendations and findings, where several skills were highlighted as essential to enable women's political participation, such as negotiation skills, leadership skills and networking. The findings of this work strongly recommend to regularly implement discussion sessions to keep the conversations going, as social hinderances were reported as one of the biggest challenges Libyan Women politicians face. However, it was also clear from the results that there is a need for more research to explore the socio-economic factors that can either support or hinder women's political engagement. As for Perpetual Peace's team, the project was a training opportunity where new staff were mentored by the more experienced staff. They worked together on the project from its beginning. Perpetual Peace reported that this opportunity was an essential step to their personal growth. The organisation decided to work on an organisational policy to institutionalise the induction of new staff and less experienced activists, giving them the chance to learn and grow.



Entrepreneurship & Community Development and Peace (ECDP) Project Implemented by the Federation of Business-Women in the South



Through the ECDP project, the organisation trained a number of women who own small businesses in the southern region of Libya and connected them with other stakeholders. Aisha Mehrez, a teacher who established a club that holds a weekly bazar for women crafts in Sebha, was one of the beneficiaries of the ECDP project. Already prior to joining the ECDP project, Aisha had used her club as a network to enhance women's skills in handicrafts and to support their small businesses.

Through the ECDP project, Aisha and the members of her network received training and support to enhance their knowledge and skills on how to mobilise resources for their small businesses. The ECDP project also supported them with promotional activities by helping them to reach out to media and to network with other women-led businesses.

Through the trainings, the network's members gained a clearer idea of their objectives, how to achieve them, and how to better organise their work. They also managed to register some of their businesses in the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Aisha acquired skills and knowledge on how to develop a general strategic plan for the network and specific strategic plans for smaller projects/businesses. She also acquired the knowledge and skills for developing a general work plan and a marketing plan which helped her in better organising her own work.



The New Journalist Project Implemented by The International Organisation for the Protection of Children and People with Disabilities (IOPCPD)

Through this project the organisation highlighted women's stories in Libya. This project was conceptualized based on the rationale that there is a gap in the media scene where not many women have access or experience to produce news and stories. The project included a two-week training which built the capacities of women journalists and equipped them with necessary skills that would widen their career options. It also provided participants with the tools to access the media scene in Libya and strengthen women representation. At the final stage of the training, participants worked in groups to produce visuals and written stories. Many chose to tell their own stories and stories of inspiring women or women who would have been forgotten. Please refer to this link for all videos produced by the trainees.

The carefully selected trainees showed high commitment to the training as it continued during challenging times with power-cuts, and Covid-19 precautions. The project continues to provide promising participants with job interviews at local media companies and TVs.



Many participants reported that they are not just happy to have had the opportunity to move forward with the careers they love and enjoy, but that they also feel proud to voice Libyan women's perspectives and to write their own story.



Political Entitlements Project Implemented by Women Project implemented by Shaba W Atta

A major success of the project was the active participation of women parliamentary candidates. The candidates acquired new knowledge and skills and some of them expressed their willingness to be part of Shabab W Atta and election observation processes. Shabab W Atta created a WhatsApp group to which they added all beneficiaries of the project, thereby creating an important platform for future communication and coordination between local communities and the legislative body. It also helps the organisation in implementing their role as a civil society organisation to better monitor the work of the legislative.





Quotes by participants:

- “The sessions [conducted by Shabab W Atta] gathered active and influential women which helps the promotion of sharing experiences and information among women.”
- “My participation with Shabab W Atta motivated me to participate and volunteer in my community to change the hard realities that we live in because women play a significant role in achieving change processes.”

Shabab W Atta reported that as a result of working with Fa'ela, they were able to promote for their work on women political empowerment which was something they had always worked towards to. Shabab W Atta also reported that the capacity development interventions provided by Fa'ela positively impacted their way of activity implementation and provided them with the opportunity to network with other organisations. They see a potential for future partnerships as well.

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