



**seed foundation**  
Social Educational Economic Development



SEED Foundation

# Annual Report Brief

2021



## Dear partners, supporters, and friends,

The year 2021 brought continued uncertainty and renewed opportunity. With ongoing waves of COVID-19 requiring adaptive measures to ensure the safety and health of our staff and clients, and increasing political and security unrest in Iraq, SEED Foundation's dedicated staff demonstrated steadfast commitment to our mission - to protect, empower, and support the recovery of survivors of violence and those at risk across Kurdistan.

We delivered compelling results across eight major programs funded by the governments of the United States, Germany, and the Netherlands, and through the Vital Voices Global Partnership, with the support from our generous private donors.

Despite high numbers of people living in humanitarian need across Iraq and Kurdistan, increasing vulnerabilities, heightened economic uncertainty, and dramatic rises in the level of gender-based violence (GBV) and "honor"-based killings, we saw discussions begin about winding down the UN-led humanitarian response and a marked decrease in donor funded programming. This has led to a dramatic reduction in services to those most in need.

Despite these hurdles, SEED's team continued to grow to 250 staff becoming one of the largest national NGOs in Kurdistan. Through our unique integrated approach, we provided support services to those most vulnerable, while working to strengthen skills, systems, and institutions for a better tomorrow.

With the opening of our newest SEED Centers in Sulaimani and Qadia Camp in Duhok, joining our centers in Bardarash Camp and Erbil city, and the STEPS Center, shelter for trafficking survivors, our team directly delivered life-changing services to over 2,700 people who survived war and conflict, gender-based violence, human trafficking, and persecution. SEED operated the STEPS Center, Iraq's only private shelter for trafficking survivors in partnership with the Kurdistan Government for the second year.

We also invested in Kurdistan's long-term development launching a new program with Kurdistan's largest public university, to build the next generation of social workers equipping students to support vulnerable people and prepare them for employment.

Our training and capacity building programs also expanded, with the training of 358 individuals to strengthen the government protection response. We also introduced the first comprehensive child protection training for first responders in Duhok, a five month long intensive training that ensures the next generation have the opportunity for a brighter future. We also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Salahaddin University, Erbil, Social Work Department, through which SEED aims to strengthen the curriculum so that graduates are better equipped with the skills they need to serve their communities, and to ensure students have suitable practicum experiences.

We pursued changes in law, policy, practices and attitudes. SEED provided technical leadership and advocacy for the Yazidi Survivors Law, which passed in March 2021, and worked in a coalition to push for survivor-centered, rights-focused implementation of this ground-breaking legislation for survivors of sexual violence in conflict. We advocated for legislative and policy improvements including on the domestic violence law, labor law, migrant worker regulations, policy frameworks for the reintegration and rehabilitation of former child soldiers, improved implementation of the anti-trafficking law, and others.

In late 2021, we launched our SEED Girls empowerment program to support girls in Kurdistan to lead healthy lives, build strong and healthy relations with their families and communities, make smart life choices, and ensure that girls have the skills, knowledge, and support to be safe, and reduce their risk of violence.

As we enter a new year, we will continue to collaborate closely with government and civil society stakeholders to further the localization agenda by building capacity and skills, and demonstrating the leadership potential of local organizations like our own. We remain committed to delivering holistic programming that ensures that while people are being served, the systems and institutions around them are changing too.

SEED is grateful for the support of donors and partners who enable us to work to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable, conflict-affected people in the world.

With best wishes,



Sherri Kraham Talabany  
President and Executive Director



# CONTENTS

## WHO WE ARE

• Leadership	06
• Where We Worked	07
• Mission & Vision	07
• Goals	07
• SEED At a Glance	08
• Values	09
• Objectives	09

## OUR FOCUS

• Gender Equality & Gender-Based Violence	10
• Strengthening Child Protection	12
• Combating Trafficking in Persons	14
• Improving Mental Health and Psychosocial Well-being	16

## OUR WORK

<b>SERVICE DELIVERY</b>	18
• Case Management	18
• Mental Health Services	19
• Psychosocial Support	21
• Legal Services	22
• Cash Assistance	23
• Anti-Trafficking Services	23



<b>TRAINING &amp; EDUCATION</b>	25
• Supporting Government to Deliver Trauma Informed Support Services to Survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	26
• Enhancing the Capacity of First Responders to Address Child Protection Risks	28
• Improving Protection and Response to Survivors Trafficking in Persons in Kurdistan	29
<b>POLICY &amp; ADVOCACY</b>	32
• Promoting Gender Equality and Combating Gender-Based Violence	33
• Combating Trafficking in Persons	36
• Yezidi Survivors' Law	37
• Improving Mental Health and Psychosocial Well-being	38

## OUR APPROACH

• Accountability & Safeguarding	39
• SEED Academy	40

## OUR DELIVERY

• Programs	41
• Partners	42
• Financial Report	43

# WHO WE ARE



**Sherri Kraham Talabany**  
Co-Founder & President



**Tanya Gilly Khailany**  
Co-Founder & Vice-President

## MISSION

To protect, empower, and support  
the recovery of survivors of violence  
and others at risk.

## VISION

A prosperous Kurdistan with equal opportunity and protection of rights for all.

## GOALS



**Promoting Gender Equality & Countering Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**



## Strengthening Child Protection (CP)

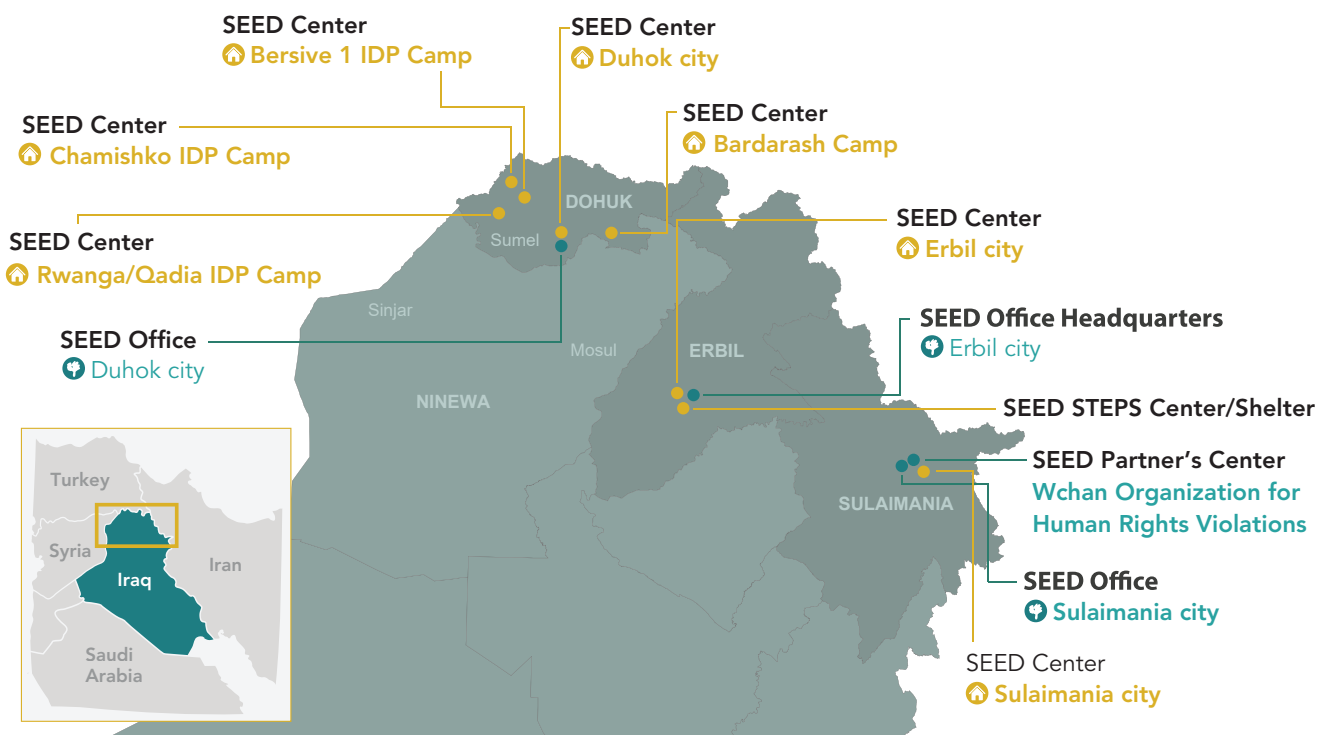


## Combating Trafficking in Persons (TIP)



## Improving Mental Health and Psychosocial Well-being (MHPSS)











## WHERE WE WORKED



## SEED At A Glance 2021

### SERVICE DELIVERY

SEED delivered survivor-centered, trauma-informed support to our clients through comprehensive services.

	Clients Received Case Management Services	942		Countries Survivors of Trafficking Originated From	14
	Clients Received Mental Health Services	363		Clients Provided Shelter	121
	Clients Participated in Psychosocial Support Activities	2788		Clients Received Legal Assistance	437
	Survivors of Trafficking Served	122		Clients Received Cash Assistance	516
	Survivors of Trafficking Repatriated	73		Total Cash Assistance Provided	\$318,315

### TRAINING & EDUCATION

SEED strengthened the capacity of service providers, and government actors, and others working to support and protect survivors of violence and those at-risk through education, training, and capacity building programs.

Kurdistan Regional Government Officials Trained	358
Kurdistan Regional Government Agencies Trained	5
Kurdistan Regional Government Officials Trained in Gender-Based Violence	260
Kurdistan Regional Government Officials Trained in Trafficking in Persons	98
Kurdistan Regional Government Officials Trained in Child Protection	41

### POLICY & ADVOCACY

SEED advocated for institutional and social change by engaging diverse stakeholders through advocacy, awareness-raising, policy development, and technical assistance to strengthen protection and services for vulnerable people.

Changes Achieved in Law, Policy, Regulatory, Process and Practice	11
Individuals Reached Through Awareness Campaigns	1,311,012

### STAFF WELL-BEING



Well-being Activities  
150

SEED Academy Training

-  93 Service Providers
-  31 Training Modules
-  7 Thematic Sections





## VALUES



### INTEGRITY

Committed to doing the right thing and being accountable.



### IMPACT

Delivering quality, by combining international expertise and local know-how to achieve results.



### PEOPLE-FOCUSED

Belief in equality and invested in people.



### TEAMWORK

Collaboration, because together we can achieve more.



### COMMITMENT

Striving for sustainable change. We're here for the long run.

## OBJECTIVES



### SERVICE DELIVERY

SEED promotes the empowerment and recovery of survivors of violence and at-risk individuals, through transformational, comprehensive care; including case management, mental health services, psychosocial support, legal services, cash assistance, anti-human trafficking services and shelter.



### POLICY AND ADVOCACY

SEED works to achieve sustainable structural and social change by engaging diverse stakeholders through research and analysis, advocacy, awareness-raising, technical assistance, and practical tools and recommendations, that aim to strengthen policies and laws that will protect and serve survivors of violence and those at-risk.



### TRAINING AND EDUCATION

SEED strengthens the capacity of first responders and service providers working on GBV, Trafficking in Persons (TIP), Protection, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) through our unique blended learning approach, which fosters classroom learning, with a key component of hands-on capacity building through on-the-job coaching.



### OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

SEED ensures operational excellence by working to consistently strengthen SEED's organizational capacity, management, and approaches, and by fostering a collaborative and supportive working environment.

### Gender Equality & Gender-based Violence

As in many other parts of the world, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to hamper progress in Kurdistan in 2021. Despite shifts toward reduced lockdowns and restrictions, the rate of gender-based violence (GBV) continued to rise, setting back progress on gender equality, including women's participation in the labor force.

Between 2020 and 2021, reports showed a 125 percent increase in GBV across Iraq, totalling over 22,000 cases. Decreasing household income and resources led to increasing tensions and stress in the home. COVID-19 forced men out of their expected gender roles as breadwinners, challenging their identity and risking the reassertion of their masculinity by exercising greater power and control over those around them, such as women and children. In 2021, SEED Foundation responded to the increasing needs of survivors and those at risk

of GBV by boosting public awareness raising efforts and providing targeted training to 194 government first responders; as well as working with the KRG to provide technical assistance and develop analysis of existing laws for the protection of survivors and prosecution of perpetrators.

COVID-19 also pushed violence online, with an alarming increase in the rate of technology facilitated GBV (TFGBV) - with UN Women reporting that 70% of women and girl survey respondents in Iraq reported having experienced TFGBV in the last 12 months alone. This motivated SEED to work with the UN to establish a nationwide Technology Facilitated GBV Task Force under the GBV Sub-Cluster Iraq. SEED is leading this effort together with NGOs, CSOs, the government, and UN entities to address the escalating issue of online violence, particularly against women and girls in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

#### 1. MOU with DCAVW

SEED and Directorate of Combating Violence Against Women and Families (DCAVW) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance cooperation on countering GBV in Kurdistan. The MOU specifically aims to strengthen the quality of protection services, including delivery of comprehensive mental health and psychosocial support services, case management, and legal assistance, to those affected by GBV in Kurdistan, with special emphasis on supporting women and girls.

#### 2. Legal Analysis of Domestic Violence Law

SEED completed an in depth analysis of Kurdistan's Combating Domestic Violence Law No. 8 of 2011, identifying key gaps in the legislation that limit the scope of the law and its ability to protect survivors of GBV and those at risk, and advocated for several key recommendations that would ensure that all in need have access to protective and other services

### 3. Legal Framework for GBV

SEED developed the Legal Framework for Gender-based Violence in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq which provides an analysis and overview of the primary laws and legally binding protections that apply to survivors of GBV and those at risk in Kurdistan and Iraq. The Framework was designed as a quick-reference resource for key stakeholders.

### 4. Policy Briefs on Gender and The Status of Women

SEED produced a series of three policy briefs on gender and the status of women in Kurdistan to help government actors, NGOs, civil society organizations, and the private sector develop gender-informed policies, strategies, and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

### 5. Launch of SEED Girls

SEED launched the SEED Girls program which aims to empower girls with the knowledge, skills, and supportive relationships to navigate the gender and social barriers, risks, and challenges they face as young women in Kurdistan

### 6. GBV and Protection Training

SEED delivered its comprehensive GBV and Protection Training program to 94 representatives (39 women) from DCVAW and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

### 7. GBV and Protection Training

100 Emergency Police completed SEED's one-day GBV and Referral Training program. The training introduced GBV concepts and guiding principles, referral mechanisms, and helped improve the officers' ability to recognize signs of domestic violence and human trafficking.

### 8. #StopDomesticViolence Campaign

SEED launched a 3-month online awareness campaign, #StopDomesticViolence, in coordination with, and with support from, DCVAW. The campaign aimed to raise public awareness on the prevention of GBV, the protections the law offers in current form, and the importance of its amendment.

### Strengthening Child Protection

In Iraq and Kurdistan, where many individuals have repeatedly been exposed to war and conflict, violence has become pervasive in the daily lives of many children, who often cannot access protection, medical and mental health services that they require.

Despite almost four years having passed since the defeat of the Islamic State in Iraq, many survivors - including Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups (CAAFAG) - remained displaced and traumatized by their experiences. These children and their families were yet formally recognized, nor had they been provided reparations, including access to mental health services, legal counsel, and financial support. These children were subjected to one of the internationally recognized, worst forms of child labor - forced to fight or to work for ISIS in armed conflict.

Following the launch of SEED's report 'Supporting the Recovery and Reintegration of Former Child Soldiers' in 2020, we continued to prioritize the urgent needs of children affected by war and conflict in 2021. SEED activated its service delivery, training and education, and policy and advocacy teams to deliver a three pronged response to address their critical needs, making an effort to serve the immediate recovery and reintegration needs of CAAFAG clients through mental health and psychosocial support, legal and cash assistance, while also engaging government personnel through targeted training on child protection, and providing technical assistance and recommendations which led to the adoption of the Yazidi Survivor's Law.





### ACHIEVEMENTS

#### 1. First Child Protection-Focused Training

SEED premiered its first child protection-focused training program, designed to strengthen institutional mechanisms to provide better access to protection services for children and other vulnerable groups. SEED piloted the training with 41 frontline responders and service providers from KRG's MOLSA, DCVAW, and Ministry of Health (MOH).

#### 2. Art and Play Therapy

SEED launched new approaches to mental health support for children, including a range of art and play therapy techniques which use non-verbal activities to support emotional regulation, healing, and processing.

#### 3. National Action for Child Protection

SEED joined the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism Country Task Force (the first and only national NGO to do so) and supported the development of a National Action Plan (NAP) - which aims to serve as a governmental framework for preventing recruitment and supporting reintegration

#### 4. CAAFAG Task Force

As a result of SEED's national advocacy efforts, a national level CAAFAG Task Force was established.

#### 5. IC Thinking

SEED contextualized the first expansion of Integrative Complexity (IC) Thinking – an innovative method of countering and preventing violent extremism, sectarianism, and intergroup conflict that aims to equip individuals and groups to live well with difference. The adapted methodology will be piloted in 2022.

## OUR FOCUS

### Combating Trafficking In Persons

In 2021, SEED's seventh year serving survivors and those at-risk of human trafficking, new and complex challenges emerged amidst the on-going pandemic and subsequent physical and economic barriers. In Iraq and Kurdistan, we witnessed an increase in cases and more severe abuse being experienced by survivors, while at the same time national and international COVID-19 restrictions limited access to lifesaving services and dangerously lengthened the time for survivors to get to safety. Survivors of human trafficking were experiencing increased levels of violence, abuse, and deprivation during the pandemic, particularly during intermittent lockdowns. Migrant workers in general, and African migrants in particular - a majority of SEED's clients in 2021 - received harsher treatment, with more physical and emotional abuse. As a result of the COVID-19 induced economic downturn, labor exploitation among local and migrant communities escalated, including nonpayment or underpayment of wages, which in turn led to increased food deprivation, and work in more exploitative situations. Those exposed to COVID-19 were often unable to seek medical care because of the expense or because they were confined by their traffickers.

Once survivors were able to seek help, the duration of their stay at SEED's shelter, or other accommodation, was significantly extended. International travel bans prevented some survivors from returning home for long periods, required extensive quarantine or insisted that they undergo COVID-19 testing - all of which carried additional costs.

However, despite these challenges SEED continued to deliver comprehensive services through its dedicated shelter for survivors and those at-risk of human trafficking - the first and only shelter established through a private partnership in Iraq. SEED's training and policy and advocacy work also served to raise awareness and knowledge of TIP in Kurdistan, and provided new tools and approaches to first responders.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

#### 1. STEPS Center

SEED continued to operate the STEPS Center - Iraq's only private, licensed shelter for survivors of trafficking amidst the on-going pandemic. In 2021, we housed 63 individuals, with an additional 14 provided with emergency shelter in other safe locations.

#### 2. Case Management

SEED provided comprehensive case management services to 122 survivors of trafficking from 14 countries, including to a group of 34 women who were part of a mass rescue operation by the TIP Police.

#### 3. Repatriation

SEED supported the repatriation of 73 survivors, including their safe travel, and referral to support services in their country of origin.

#### 4. TIP Training for Government

SEED delivered its advanced training on best practices in screening, identification, protection, and access to justice for victims and survivors of TIP to 98 government personnel, including from the TIP Police, Erbil Residency Directorate, and MOLSA.

#### 5. Agreement with MOI

SEED renewed a two-year agreement with the Ministry of Interior (MOI) - an MOU to continue collaboration to combat TIP.

## OUR FOCUS

### Improving Mental Health and Psychosocial Well-being

In 2021, SEED continued to advocate for the importance of prioritizing mental health and psychosocial well-being. As in many other areas of SEED's work, the lasting impacts of the pandemic on Kurdistan society's mental health had reversed multiple gains and increased the instance of negative coping mechanisms.

Over the course of the pandemic, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) sought to prevent and contain the spread of the COVID-19 through measures such as lockdowns, restrictions on mobility, social distancing, and service reductions. While intended to protect lives, these measures exacerbated security, health, and financial strains, isolated individuals, and reduced access to crucial support services--leading to a toxic mix of stress, vulnerabilities, control, and abuse of power in homes.

In a society already suffering from the stigmatization of mental health and with a lack of available support services, we witnessed increased violence in the home - towards both partners and children - with a 28% increase in cases of domestic violence reported to DCVAW from 2020 to 2021.

This motivated SEED to bolster its efforts to provide comprehensive and survivor-centered care to individuals living or residing in Kurdistan, by expanding the number of service centers, introducing new techniques and approaches to improve mental health and well-being, and continue its advocacy and awareness on suicide prevention and positive coping mechanisms.



SEED Foundation President, Sherri Kraham Talabany joins a panel on gaps in mental health in Kurdistan during Kurdistan Health Summit.



### ACHIEVEMENTS

#### 1. New Urban Centers

SEED opened two new urban centers in Dohuk and Erbil, expanding its capacity to provide case management, mental health, legal, and psychosocial support services to urban-based clients in an accessible, private, and confidential space.

#### 2. New PSS Initiatives

SEED launched several new and unique PSS initiatives, including SEED Girls, a program designed to empower girls (aged 17-12) as they navigate gender and social barriers, risks, and the challenges they face during adolescence, and Sounds of Change, an activity designed to use music to communicate with nonverbal children.

#### 3. Serving Across Kurdistan

SEED operated 8 service centers and offices across Kurdistan in 2021, including four in urban centers (Erbil, Sulaimani and Dohuk) and in four IDP and refugee camps (Bardarash, Bersive ,Chamishko, and Qadia camps).

#### 4. Reaching Those in Need

SEED's qualified psychologists provided mental health support to 363 clients, and SEED's psychosocial support coordinators and facilitators engaged 2,788 individuals in structured and unstructured PSS activities.

## SERVICE DELIVERY

SEED delivers holistic trauma informed services to survivors of violence and those at risk, including case management, mental health services, psychosocial support, legal services, cash assistance, anti-human trafficking services and shelter.

1. In 2021, SEED opened two new urban centers in Dohuk and Erbil, expanding its capacity to serve host community members, in addition to urban-based refugees and IDPs in an accessible, private, and confidential space.
2. In total, SEED operated 8 service centers and offices across Kurdistan in 2021, including six in urban centers (Erbil, Sulaimani and Dohuk) and in four IDP and refugee camps (Bardarash, Bersive 1, Chamishko, and Qadia camps). SEED believes in accessibility and quality of care, and provided comprehensive and multi-layered services to holistically address the needs of clients.

### Clients Served:



Case Management  
942



Mental Health  
363



Legal Services  
437



Cash Assistance  
516



Psychosocial Support  
2788



Shelter  
121



Anti-Human Trafficking Services  
122

## Case Management

SEED provides case management services to ensure clients receive targeted support by first assessing their risks and vulnerabilities across SEED's six domains of care:



PHYSICAL HEALTH



MENTAL HEALTH



PROTECTION AND LEGAL SERVICES



HOUSING AND SHELTER



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, LIVELIHOODS, AND EDUCATION



SUPPORT SYSTEMS

1. Following assessment, clients are referred to receive SEED services including cash assistance, shelter, mental health, psychosocial support and legal services. Importantly, SEED also maintains strong relationships with government offices, other NGOs, and United Nations agencies, to ensure referrals.
2. Case management services provide the foundation for SEED's multi-layered approach to service delivery for clients.

### Mental Health Services

1. SEED's mental health services were provided by specialized psychologists who are experienced in providing an array of survivor-centered and trauma-informed mental health interventions and techniques. Increasingly, with growing internal capacity, SEED augmented individual and group therapy with family therapy, helping strengthen support systems and increasing their capacity to support family members with complex trauma.
2. Mental health clients included IDPs, refugees, host community members, migrant workers, and other foreigners, who are survivors of violence or those at risk.
3. SEED psychologists evaluated each client's needs using a structured clinical assessment to better understand their potential vulnerabilities, resilience, resources, and motivation for recovery. Interventions included traumatic stress relief, narrative exposure therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, mindfulness and progressive muscle relaxation, somatic interventions, sensorimotor psychotherapy, and eye movement desensitization and reprocessing.

### EYE MOVEMENT DESENSITIZATION AND REPROCESSING (EMDR)

In November 2021, SEED incorporated Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) within our comprehensive service delivery. EMDR is an evidence-based treatment where bilateral stimulation, such as repetitive eye movement or tapping, is used to treat clients with severe mental health symptoms. This facilitates non-verbal processing and reduces the distress associated with traumatic memories.

Having completed a two-year training program, SEED's psychologists are among the few practitioners certified to provide EMDR in Iraq. They have now integrated EMDR within their therapeutic toolkits, using this technique with individuals and groups and with children and adults who are experiencing trauma-related symptoms, including depression and anxiety. SEED's psychologists continue to receive positive feedback on its effectiveness as a non-verbal approach for children who struggle to speak about their trauma.



### Art and Play Therapy

SEED serves clients from age six but while adults can use language to express their emotions, children often struggle to express their needs, articulate their emotions, understand their behaviors, and manage them appropriately. This is especially true when children have been through a traumatic experience, are victims of abuse, or have been exposed to violence.

In response to these needs, in 2021, SEED introduced a range of art and play therapy techniques. SEED therapists created a safe and natural environment to support children with emotional regulation, healing, and processing. Activities such as arts and crafts, coloring, drawing, and games were used to instill valuable life skills, including impulse control and anger management, problem solving, perspective taking, communication, and conflict resolution. These methods are particularly appropriate for children associated with armed forces and groups (CAAFAG), who may have lost fluency in their native tongue during captivity and may struggle with behavioral challenges that impede reintegration.





## OUR WORK

### Psychosocial Support

SEED's psychosocial support (PSS) activities are designed to support individual recovery through strengthened emotional well-being, social well-being, and skills and knowledge. SEED offers structured (implemented based on a manual or curriculum) and unstructured (knitting, planting, music, soccer, volleyball, etc.) activities which provide a space to learn, share and connect

In 2021, SEED launched several new and unique PSS initiatives, including SEED Girls, and Sounds of Change, which were delivered by specialized PSS facilitators and coordinators.

#### SOUNDS OF CHANGE

A PSS activity focused on nonverbal communication, Sounds of Change (SoC) was originally developed by two former musicians, Lucas and Hashem, after they visited refugee camps in Jordan. Today, SoC is being delivered by several NGOs in a number of countries, providing an innovative way for people to communicate and process their trauma, without having to talk. In 2021, Lucas and Hashem trained SEED's PSS staff and community mobilizers on how to conduct SoC sessions for children and teenagers. The training uses an action-based learning approach, so that participants do not rely just on listening to the trainers explanation; instead, they practice the techniques with each other, their families, and the groups they are a part of.



**SEED Girls**

An innovative and unique program targeting girls aged 12 to 17, from displaced and host communities in Kurdistan, as they navigate the gender and social barriers, risks, and challenges they face during adolescence.

Delivered through weekly online sessions, the six-week program aims to inspire and support participants to build supportive networks with their peers, value and prioritize their education, strengthen their critical thinking skills, and believe in their potential to improve their lives, communities, and the world.

In addition to the girls' training, the mothers' are invited to dedicated sessions in which they are provided a synopsis of their daughter's training and supported with the skills and knowledge they need to enrich and develop their relationships.

"I know my rights and now I have very strong self-confidence. Before, my parents were not asking for my opinion on issues and decisions that affected me, but now my parents, and especially my mother, are making an effort to be my friend and ask my opinion on everything related to me," a SEED Girls graduate.



SEED Girls swag distributed to all participants.



## OUR WORK

### Legal Services

SEED lawyers provided effective legal counsel to its clients, and were successful in resolving cases regarding civil documentation, family law, protection against GBV, and TIP. SEED also hosted legal awareness sessions for clients and the wider community to empower them with vital information on their rights and protections, enabling them to better navigate the legal system.

SEED also works closely with relevant government ministries and departments to advocate for the rights of survivors and at-risk individuals and communities, often resulting in the reduction or elimination of fines, charges or incarceration time.

#### ● MOHAMAD'S ■ STORY

*"I want to exist on paper to follow my dreams,"*

Mohamad\*, a teenage boy who was abandoned by his biological parents, told SEED's lawyer.

Mohamad's birth parents gave him up early in his childhood, leaving home with no memory of his full name, or birth date. Mohamad grew up under the care of a foster family, but, lacking legal documentation, he could not enroll in school, find employment, register for government support, or access other services that require documentation. After taking on the case, SEED's lawyer worked with the hospital of Mohamad's birth to identify his parents and birth date. Despite having located his birth parents, the lawyer was still unable to obtain all the information and documents needed to issue an ID because Mohamad's

birth parents did not have his birth certificate or recall his birthday. They also did not have any legal documents of their own - and Iraqi and KRI regulations state that IDs cannot be issued to children whose birth parents are not registered and do not have a marriage certificate. To obtain an ID for Mohamad, the lawyer first had to work on obtaining IDs and a marriage certificate for his birth parents. Despite court closures and movement restrictions from COVID-19, the SEED lawyer successfully obtained the documents required by the court to proceed with Mohamad's case. The court then issued his papers, which the lawyer personally delivered. "We did not know how to proceed on this issue and who could help us. We did not have money for a lawyer and didn't know where to start," the foster family said, thanking SEED.

*"I have many possibilities now. I can enroll in school, get a driver's license, get married one day, and buy a house,"*

Mohamad exclaimed.

\*A pseudonym has been used to protect client confidentiality



## OUR WORK

### Cash Assistance

SEED provided cash assistance to clients to enhance their well-being and assist their recovery. Support was provided to individuals and families to cover costs including basic needs, emergency shelter for those at risk of violence, rent, food, clothing, school supplies, urgent medical care, medication, transportation, access to livelihoods, and repatriation costs for survivors of human trafficking.

**SEED distributed over \$318,000 in cash assistance to 516 clients, amounting to an average of \$616 per client**



**\$318,000**



**516**  
clients



**\$616**  
per client

### Anti-trafficking Services

STEPS Center Residents from 14 countries:



Cameroon



Iraq



Ghana



India



Indonesia



Kenya



Nepal



Philippines



Sierra Leone



Sudan



Syria



Tanzania



Togo



Uzbekistan

SEED provides comprehensive protection services to survivors of trafficking and those at-risk, including shelter - through its STEPS Center, mental health and psychosocial support, legal services and cash assistance.



No. survivors and those at risk of trafficking repatriated in 2021: **73**

SEED's shelter-based clients, as well as individuals based in the community and those provided emergency shelter in other safe accommodation, were able to benefit from SEED's comprehensive support services, including:

- Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services
- Medical and health care
- Shelter provision
- Legal services
- Translation and interpretation services
- Repatriation and return support services
- Advocacy and referrals
- Cash assistance



## OUR WORK

### Case Management



#### TARA'S STORY

Tara came to Kurdistan in 2018, having been recruited for a well-paid domestic worker position. Upon arrival, her employment agency failed to obtain her residency permit, instead moving her to several locations around the country. While in Federal Iraq, the employment agency was

blacklisted for smuggling migrant workers and closed. Desperately, she went to their office seeking support, but they were closed, leaving Tara stranded in Erbil without her belongings and passport. While attempting to force her way through the agency's locked office door, neighbors called the police. Without the employment agency sponsoring and helping Tara to obtain her residency, she was detained for being in Kurdistan without legal documentation and placed in a women's detention center. The TIP Police referred Tara to SEED for safe shelter. When she arrived at the STEPS Center she was experiencing severe trauma requiring extensive physical and mental health support. Working with Tara, SEED's team developed a survivor-centered care plan to support her physical, mental, emotional, and psychosocial well-being. A SEED lawyer worked with Tara to acquire the required legal documents to be able to return home, including a temporary travel document from her home country's consulate. Unfortunately however, Tara's scheduled repatriation was postponed due to the pandemic. While Tara was forced to remain at the STEPS Center for over 12 months before travel restrictions were lifted, her time at the shelter allowed her to focus on her physical, mental, and emotional well-being. She volunteered to make coffee, cook, and perform small errands, giving her a sense of belonging, normalcy, and control over her life. Tara eventually retrieved her passport with support of the TIP Police, and, by the start of 2021, an escort was identified to accompany her home. As Tara prepared to leave Kurdistan, she cried often at the thought of leaving the Center, and, while excited to return home, she wept on the day of her departure at having to say goodbye to the SEED staff and friends she had made at the Center. Tara's family was at the airport to welcome her back when she arrived home.

\*A pseudonym has been used to protect client confidentiality



## OUR WORK

### TRAINING & EDUCATION

SEED's training and education programs are designed to help increase the capacity of frontline responders and equip them to better serve the needs of survivors and those at-risk of violence, both now and in the future. SEED utilizes a unique, tailored, and intensive learning approach, with hands-on capacity building.



Three sessions of 1-week of classroom instruction with technical experts



3-4 weeks of on-the-job coaching to help participants apply new skills and knowledge



Support to improve collaboration and cooperation across key government ministries and departments (across a 3-6 month period)]

In 2021, SEED delivered in-person training to 358 government personnel from 22 locations across the Kurdistan Region, including comprehensive training on GBV, protection, child protection and anti-trafficking, as well as targeted workshops to improve referral processes, and managers workshops.

**113**  
WOMEN

**245**  
MEN



**780+**  
HOURS OF CLASSROOM  
INSTRUCTION COMPLETED



**PARTICIPANTS FROM  
22 LOCATIONS ACROSS  
THE KURDISTAN**



**TOTAL 358**  
GOVERNMENT  
PERSONNEL TRAINED





## OUR WORK

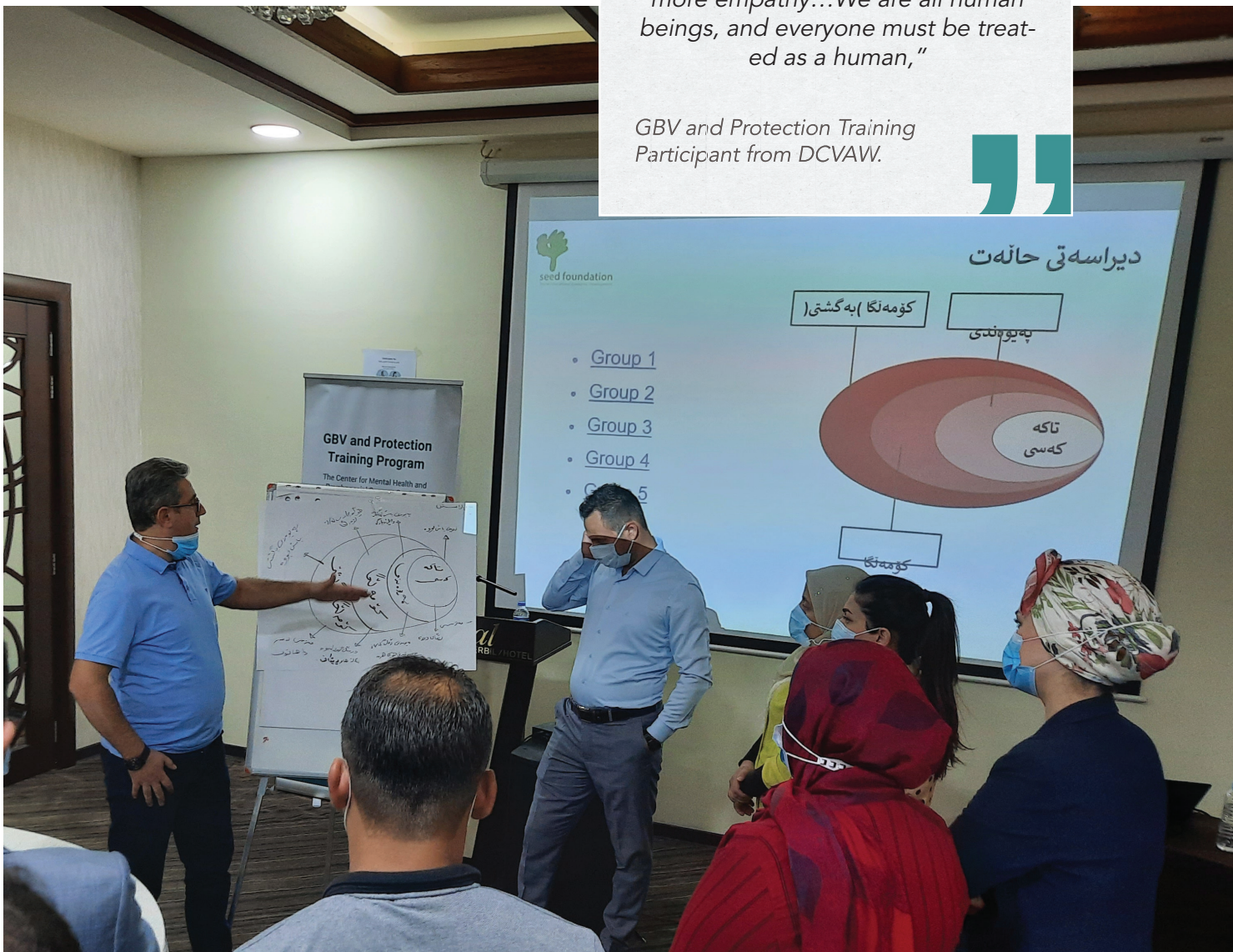
### Supporting Government To Deliver Trauma Informed Support Services To Survivors Of Gender-based Violence (Gbv)

SEED delivered its comprehensive GBV and Protection Training program to 94 representatives (39 women) from DCVAW and MOLSA. Participants were selected from offices in Sulaimani and Erbil and included law-enforcement officers, social workers, case managers, and psychologists. Twenty-three managers, including 6 women, from DCVAW and MOLSA also completed a one-day workshop which provided them a high-level overview of what their staff learned, as well as the needs and challenges of the staff. This workshop was designed to aid the managers in supporting their staff to understand and implement the content and learnings of the training program.

Participants demonstrated increased awareness and understanding of the importance of informed consent, and privacy and confidentiality for clients, with some participants, and their managers, reporting that they now interview clients alone, away from others to create a safe space.

*"This training opened my mind. The trainer challenged me to put myself in someone else's shoes. What would I think if this happened to someone in my family? This question tickled my thoughts, made me put myself into the survivors' place and I felt more empathy...We are all human beings, and everyone must be treated as a human,"*

GBV and Protection Training Participant from DCVAW.





## OUR WORK

Another key takeaway highlighted by participants was their improved ability to recognise the signs and symptoms of different case types and being able to effectively and appropriately make referrals. This new knowledge was bolstered by the networking opportunity fostered through SEED's blended cohorts, building connections between staff from MOLSA and DCVAW offices in the same governorates and municipalities.

The communication and interviewing skills modules were also reported to have impacted how participants work, with several reporting that they now pay more attention to a person's body language and ask open-ended questions without judgemental inferences.

In addition, 100 police officers completed referral training to ensure survivors of GBV and those at risk are more likely to be connected with the service providers they need to support them.

“

*“We no longer ask “what’s wrong?”; we ask “what happened?”; we give time, space, and water to the clients,*

*GBV and Protection Training  
Participant’s Manager*

”





## OUR WORK

### Enhancing The Capacity of First Responders to Address Child Protection Risks

In 2021, SEED premiered its first child protection-focused training program. Designed with the objective of improving protections and reducing violence against children, 41 representatives commenced training, including 24 women, from MOLSA, DCVAW and the Ministry of Health (MOH).

The program focused on upholding human rights and supporting governmental officials to implement existing laws. Participants were selected from across Dohuk and included law-enforcement officers and child protection service providers, such as, social workers, case managers and psychologists. Participants completed classroom modules which emphasized developmentally appropriate responses to trauma and a child-centered approach to delivering protection services, as well as content on international, national, and legal frameworks guiding institutional responses and mechanisms for child protection; child protection case management; serving unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and children associated with armed forces and groups (CAAFAG); and community based child protection mechanisms (CBCPM).

This was not only a training-first for SEED, but for many of the participants too, who were grateful to receive targeted training. Participants emphasized the importance of coordination and selfcare as new tools that enable them to do their job more efficiently, better serve clients and look after themselves.



*"SEED's idea to gather the three directorates was the best step in increasing coordination and sharing information and experiences, as this course allowed us to identify the map of services for each institution,"*

*"The training and coaching session left a positive impact not only on the trainees, but it had a positive impact on surrounding individuals (like family members), through applying self-care techniques, psychological first aid for children, and preventing suicide cases,"*

*Child Protection Training Participant.*





## OUR WORK

### Improving Protection and Response to Survivors Trafficking in Persons in Kurdistan

For the first time, SEED brought together representatives from across Kurdistan's anti-TIP agencies, the TIP Police Units, Erbil Residency Office and MOLSA - each having a crucial role in combating human trafficking - to train together, and to better facilitate collaboration on cases.

Forty-seven participants were selected from across Erbil to participate in the Best Practices in Screening, Identification, Protection and Access to Justice for Victims and Survivors of Trafficking Training program. In addition, 50 non-specialized TIP actors from Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA), the Department of Foreign Relations and the Independent Human Rights Commission, from across Erbil, Duhok and Sulaimani, participated in one-day referral training.

All participants completed training on a broad range of topics including international best practices on combating trafficking, Kurdistan's Anti-Trafficking Law of 2018 and other laws, how to protect victims and support survivors while prioritizing their rights, needs and wishes, and, how to collaborate between government entities and local partners to achieve justice for victims and prosecute traffickers.



“

*“I can sense changes in myself in terms of having an increased knowledge and understanding of TIP cases, and I have started to use various methods to support and protect the survivors. I am also able to explain the best ways of supporting survivors of trafficking, and I am able to recognise TIP cases (even if the victim is unaware of it),”*

*Screening, Identification, Protection and Access to Justice for Victims and Survivors of Trafficking Training Participant.*

”

### SELF-CARE: HELPING YOURSELF TO HELP OTHERS

Self-care was a new concept for many participants in SEED's 2021 training programs. Several participants have continued to practice self-care techniques at home and at work, and with their clients, and many managers have reported that staff are performing their roles better as a result of self-care.

For Bassma and Hemin, working in a difficult environment everyday was taking its toll. The emotional strain and demand to be available at all hours of the day, was having an impact on their mental health and their relationships with their families.

Bassma, 36, is a data collector for MOLSA's Planning Department, working at the Correctional Facility for Women and Children in Erbil. *"I learned how to practice self-care, how to offer help, and how to be a good listener to everyone. This training has taught me to listen to every one and remain neutral."*

Hemin, 37, is a Major, leading the Movement Department for DCVAW's branch in Koya. *"I feel my attitude has changed after completing this training; in the way I work with clients. I've noticed this in myself. My communication skills have improved, and that has helped in facilitating my duties."*

Bassma and Hemin joined SEED's training on GBV and Protection in 2021. Self-care was a key topic that resonated with them both, with each attesting to the realization that if they practice self-care, they are better able to support their clients.

*"The changes that I have noticed in myself following the training is that I feel the clients we work with in our office feel more safe and calm when working with us. The clients themselves say 'you're different from the other police members'," explained Hemin.*







**115**

**SELF-CARE  
ACTIVITIES  
CONDUCTED**

*"I had participated in many trainings in Sulaimaniya, Erbil, and Duhok, but this is the first time I heard about self-care and prioritizing myself and learning how to take care of myself with these techniques,"*

*GBV and Protection Training Participant.*

*"A few days after the first week of training, I was back at my DCVAW office, and the first case I received was a young girl... she was very nervous and scared, so I decided to use the Psychological First Aid (PFA) techniques I learned in the training. I asked her to look around the room, describe what she saw, the colors, the materials in the room. This activity helped in calming her a little...we practiced deep breathing exercises, and I asked her to think of a happy place while we both did the butterfly-hug. Wow! It worked! She became a lot calmer and was able to tell me what had happened. I realized that what I learned was so useful and I am so happy I am able to help my clients more,"*

*GBV and Protection Training Participant.*

### POLICY & ADVOCACY



# 1.3 million

**PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH SEED'S  
SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS-RAISING**

SEED worked to achieve sustainable structural and social change through the following of two broad goals: 1) Strengthening laws, policies, regulations, and institutional practices and processes through informing formal decision-making processes, supporting survivors to access protection services and reparations, and supporting authorities to build and grow sustainable institutions to provide MHPSS and respond to GBV, human trafficking, and other protection risks; and, 2) Promoting transformative change to harmful social norms, beliefs, attitudes, behaviors, and negative coping mechanisms through research, technical assistance, and public awareness campaigns.

SEED's efforts centered on advancing the rights of, and protections for at-risk individuals and groups in Kurdistan and Iraq.

SEED pursued these goals in close collaboration and cooperation with NGOs, UN agencies and civil society organizations, working to achieve common advocacy goals by capitalizing on collective expertise and best practice.

## OUR WORK

### Promoting Gender Equality and Combating Gender-based Violence

SEED led a strategic advocacy campaign to strengthen GBV protections, first by advocating for amendments to the domestic violence law. Second, SEED created a tool for all GBV actors to know the protections in law. This tool is publicly available and provided to all trainees.

#### SEED's recommendations called for:

1. A revised law with an expanded scope to protect every individual, against all forms of gender-based violence, within and outside the scope of the family
2. The adoption of a survivor centered approach to guarantee safety, confidentiality, respect and non-discrimination
3. A sufficient annual budget and resources, along with actionable and comprehensive implementing regulations to achieve robust implementation.

SEED developed a clear and convincing advocacy strategy that was well received by key stakeholders. A recommendation letter and annotated draft law, outlining changes article by article was developed and delivered to relevant representatives from the KRG, Parliament, the Presidency and independent commissions, and supported by technical assistance and the provision of tools and guidance that would make these recommendations more easily actionable. At the time of reporting, the draft law remains under deliberation and SEED continues its efforts to meet and advocate with relevant stakeholders to push forward its recommendations.

### Legal Framework for Gender-based Violence in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

In 2021, SEED's legal team developed the Legal Framework for Gender-based Violence in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq which provides an analysis and overview of the primary laws and legally binding protections that apply to survivors of GBV and those at risk in Kurdistan and Iraq. The Framework was designed as a quick-reference resource for first responders, government actors, lawyers, NGOs, and others working on GBV; or for policy and advocacy efforts, with the ultimate goal of increasing awareness of the protections and services available for survivors and those at risk of GBV, and to help them claim their lawful rights.



### Legal Framework

For Gender-Based Violence in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq 2021



## #StopDomesticViolence

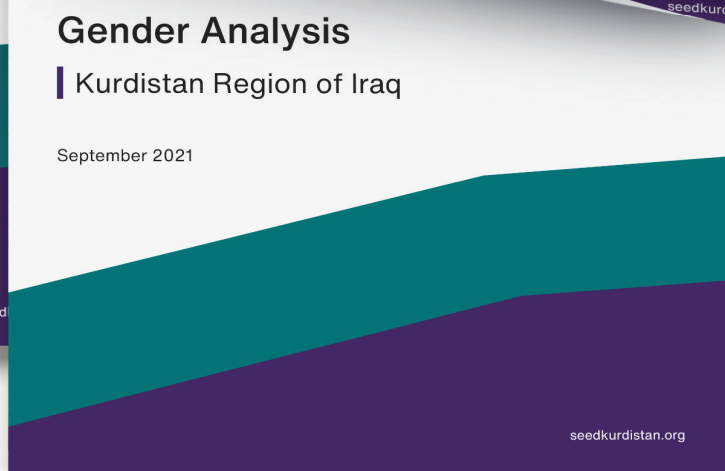
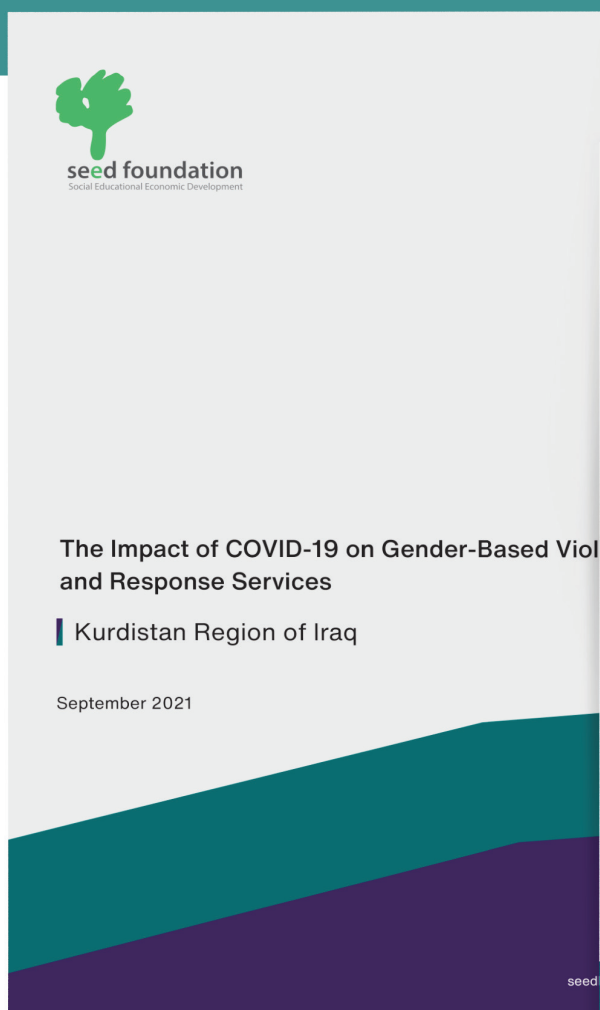
SEED launched a 3-month online awareness campaign, **#StopDomesticViolence**, in coordination with, and with support from, the Directorate for Combating Violence Against Women and Families (DCVAW). The campaign aimed to raise public awareness on the prevention of GBV, the protections the law offers in current form, and the importance of its amendment. The campaign included messaging, information and articles related to the law and prevention of domestic violence, in addition to three animated videos focused on the dangers and impact of domestic violence on women, children, and family units as a whole. The campaign had a reach of almost one million people across Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and SEED's website.

Critically, SEED promoted the DCVAW 119 GBV hotline throughout the campaign; after which DCVAW reported a significant increase in the number of calls to the hotline.



## SEED'S SERIES ON GENDER AND THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN KURDISTAN

SEED produced a series of three policy briefs on gender and the status of women in Kurdistan to help government actors, NGOs, civil society organizations, and the private sector develop gender-informed policies, strategies, and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.





## OUR WORK

### Combating Trafficking in Persons

SEED's legal team undertook a comprehensive legal analysis of MOLSA Regulation No. 2 of 2015, which regulates foreign workers' rights in Kurdistan. A number of gaps in the proposed amended draft law were identified, and SEED proposed several amendments to key articles and sub-articles to ensure the regulation is detailed enough to serve as a strengthened legal framework that regulates and provides strong protection to foreign workers in Kurdistan.

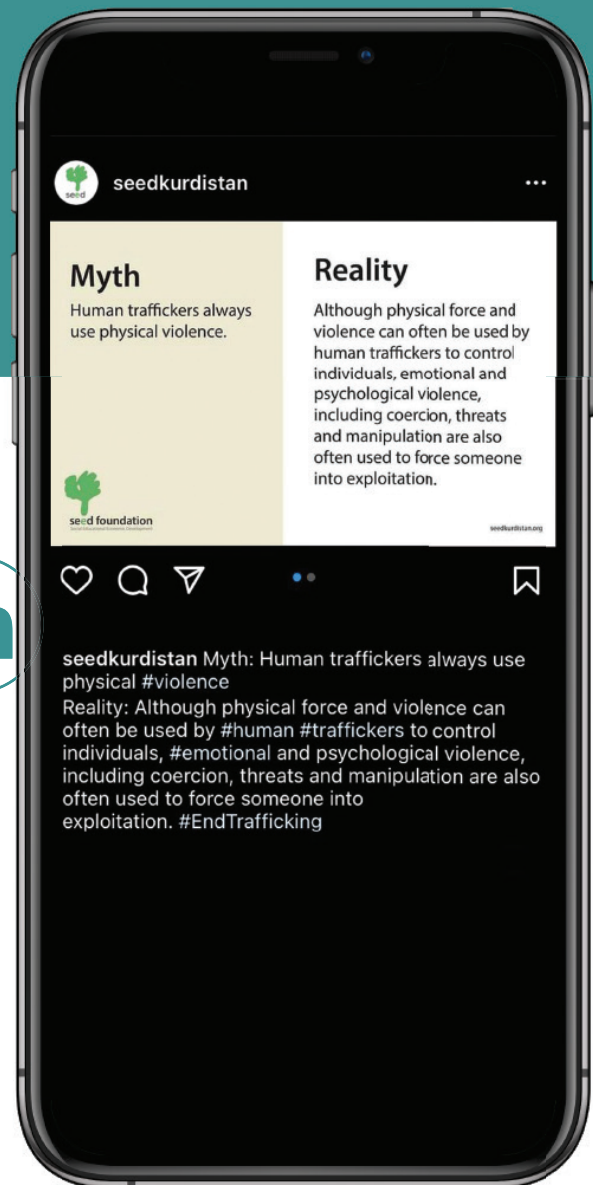
SEED also recommended a new structure and design of the new regulation, to ensure there is no space for any loopholes or misinterpretation and that its content is understandable for all parties, including foreign workers. At the time of reporting, this work is ongoing.

The campaign had a reach of almost **60,000 people** across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.



### #EndTrafficking

SEED launched a 2-month, online awareness campaign, **#EndTrafficking**, aimed at mythbusting some of the common misconceptions about human trafficking and educating local audiences about what constitutes trafficking, how it might manifest, and what the impact is on survivors.



## OUR WORK

### Yezidi Survivors' Law

SEED reviewed the draft bill, completed a comparative legal analysis of the proposed legislation against other relevant frameworks, and developed a letter containing recommendations and proposed revisions which, after being widely disseminated among parliamentary committees, was subsequently considered in the second reading of the draft bill and a parliamentary debate. Within the law itself, we were able to advocate for broader eligibility criteria in order to push for the right to reparations without discrimination, and ensure the protection of eligible beneficiaries in pursuing their right to reparations.

SEED supported its recommendations with intensive private lobbying with key stakeholders in the Government of Iraq - including as a coordinating member of the Coalition for Justice Reparations, and strong public advocacy through interviews, podcasts, and SEED's "Say YES to Survivors" social media campaign. The Yezidi Survivors Law was passed on March 2021 and was a concrete step toward justice and reparations for women and children survivors of ISIS. The recognition of the crimes, establishment of the directorate and committee to receive and decide survivors' application, remote access, and diversified services are among the most important rights guaranteed in the law and its regulations.

The comprehensive reparation measures, both material and symbolic, envisioned under this legislative framework have the potential to be life-changing for survivors of ISIS from the Yezidi, Christian, Turkmen, and Shabak communities. However, progress toward implementation has been slow and no sustainable source of funding yet identified. At the time of reporting, SEED remains committed to sustained momentum and pressure to ensure the implementation of this law.

### CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH ARMED FORCES AND GROUPS (CAAFAG)

As a part of SEED's commitment to advance child rights in Kurdistan and Iraq, in 2021, SEED joined growing advocacy efforts to strengthen legislative protections for CAAFAG.

Despite its obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict, and ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, Iraq currently has no legislation that explicitly prohibits the recruitment and use of children by non-state armed groups. Iraq also has no formal process for their release and reintegration.

Recognising the critical needs of CAAFAG, SEED joined the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism Country Task Force (the first and only national NGO to do so), on the development of a National Action Plan (NAP) - which aims to serve as a governmental framework for preventing recruitment and supporting reintegration of CAAFAG. SEED used this platform to identify gaps in the proposed action

plan, advocate for the involvement of key Kurdistan government stakeholders in its finalization, and stress the overall need for stronger coordination mechanisms between relevant actors in Iraq. As a result of SEED's engagement, a national level CAAFAG Task Force was established. The task force convenes monthly to enhance coordination and ensure tools and technical guidance are in place to standardize responses to CAAFAG.

SEED also worked to identify several opportunities to secure necessary reforms to prevent the recruitment and use of children through draft legislation on labor and child rights. At the time of reporting, work is on-going.

## OUR WORK

### Improving Mental Health and Psychosocial Well-being

SEED's advocacy for improved mental health and psychosocial well-being for all is cross-cutting, directed toward and serving survivors of GBV, human trafficking, child protection risks and other forms of violence. In 2021, as the pandemic subsided, SEED continued to advocate for the importance of prioritizing physical and mental health in the transition back to work.



### Accountability & Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a crucial process to promote the wellbeing of community members, protect them from harm, abuse, and neglect, and ultimately uphold their dignity and rights.

SEED is highly committed to safeguarding, and emphasizes the safety and security of our clients through Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Child Safeguarding. SEED is dedicated to holding its staff, partners, consultants, and volunteers accountable for their actions and behaviors. Safeguarding falls under our accountability framework, and is an integral part of our operations; therefore we work as a team across SEED to strengthen our systems and mechanisms.

In 2021, with the guidance of our Child Protection and GBV experts, SEED updated and strengthened our PSEA/Sexual Harassment and Child Safeguarding policies and developed an organizational safeguarding action plan. We also developed a number of safeguarding tools to support the implementation of these policies, which will be used and updated continuously. We introduced two mandatory online training sessions to be attended by all SEED staff, on safeguarding and PSEA. During 2021 we also selected safeguarding

focal points in all of our SEED offices and centers who will receive on-going training in 2022. Various departments have received, and will be receiving, department-specific guidance and training to strengthen safeguarding in every facet of SEED's operations.

SEED's Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) unit developed complaint and feedback posters with email and contact numbers that are displayed in all our offices and centers. We have also developed a separate complaint and feedback register for confidential complaints that are only accessible to members of a dedicated complaints and grievance committee. The MEAL unit has also conducted intermittent feedback surveys with our clients to make sure that we are accountable and adaptive to their needs. We developed a comprehensive MEAL structure during 2021 and different levels and aspects of safeguarding and accountability are distributed among all MEAL staff. The vision of safeguarding and accountability is to join hands together as a team to serve our stakeholders, clients, and beneficiaries with their dignity and rights.



Two mandatory online training sessions for all SEED staff, on safeguarding and PSEA



staff completed 138 online training on safeguarding



PSEA/SH and Child Safeguarding policies to strengthen protections and uphold international standards



Safeguarding focal points in each center and office



Tools for safeguarding incident reporting, safeguarding monitoring report, checklist for friendly space, complaint and feedback poster, investigation guidelines, and complaint feedback trackers

### SEED Academy

SEED places a strong emphasis on training and education for current and future service providers and building the capacity of its own staff.

SEED created SEED Academy with the aim of providing a comprehensive training program for its employees, in particular the service delivery staff. The training is designed to strengthen the delivery of services by ensuring all staff have the same level of foundational knowledge, skills, and expertise required to do their work well.

During 2021, SEED developed a series of training modules across seven different thematic sections, including SEED's services and approaches, GBV, Child Protection, and a variety of MHPSS skills. Each module went through an extensive development and review process, before being translated to Sorani Kurdish and Arabic. SEED established five different cohorts based on location and language preference, which included 93 service delivery staff.



82% of trained staff now have a better understanding and skills to be able to work with their clients



86% of trained staff are now more confident that they could apply the things they have learned]

In 2021, SEED staff learned a lot through SEED Academy, motivating all participants to push forward, achieve more, and learn more together.



## OUR DELIVERY

### PROGRAMS

SEED Implemented eight programs in 2021, funded by the U.S. Department of State, the Government of the Netherlands, the German Society of International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Vital Voices Global Partnership. In addition, several generous private foundations and individuals provided in-kind and cash donations, enabling SEED to build on its institutionally funded programming to provide urgent and life-saving support to survivors of violence and those at risk.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



Implemented by  
**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

In addition to our program funding, SEED received over \$315,000 in donations from generous individuals, companies and foundations.

### PARTNERS

SEED believes in the strength of collaboration and teamwork to enable mutual success, growth and opportunity. We value our partnerships with governments, international and national NGOs, and other actors, which enable us to better serve survivors of violence and those at risk, and ensures our clients will have ready access to additional services through well established referral mechanisms. SEED would like to thank the partners listed below for their continued support and commitment to serving the most vulnerable individuals:

- Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG)
  - Ministry of Interior (KRG)
  - Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (KRG)
  - Ministry of Health (KRG)
  - Ministry of Higher Education (KRG)
  - General Directorate of Combating Violence Against Women and Families (DCVAW)
  - Directorate of Combating Human Trafficking
- 
- Coalition for Just Reparations (C4JR)
  - Salahaddin University-Erbil Social Work Department of the College of Arts
  - Wchan Organization
  - The Lemon Tree Trust
  - International Organization for Migration (IOM)
  - Danish Refugee Council
  - University of Kurdistan Hewlêr
  - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
  - United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation

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## OUR WAY FORWARD

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While considerable progress has been made toward the recovery of conflict affected communities across Kurdistan - including the remaining refugees and displaced Iraqis - it is critical that we maintain momentum and plan for a strategic and gradual transition to development.

As many NGOs - including SEED - face shifting funding sources and cycles, we remain committed to serving the most vulnerable and at-risk populations through our three-pronged approach: Policy and Advocacy, Training and Education, and Service Delivery.

In 2022, new programming will focus on awareness raising at the community level - including new methodologies for engaging men and boys in gender equality, and efforts to build knowledge in federal Iraq to service returning populations will be achieved through targeted NGO training initiatives. SEED will continue efforts to adapt and overcome the challenges of the changing context and international response, welcoming new partnerships and renewing existing agreements with institutional and private donors.

Critically, despite the focus moving away from humanitarian programming, SEED's life-saving services will remain available throughout the region in 2022 and beyond, including for survivors and those at-risk of gender-based violence, and human trafficking, thanks to the continued support of our generous donors.



[www.seedkurdistan.org](http://www.seedkurdistan.org)



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