ANNUL REPORT 2015

SYRIAN CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM PROJECT

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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2015

المنصة المدنية السورية
Syrian Civil Society Platform

CONTENT ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The field of civil society and non-governmental organizations in Syria is an emerging one. Its lack of deep experience is due to the dictatorial period which prevailed Syria under the rule of the Assad family. However, following the Syrian revolution, activists encountered a large area to form organizations aiming to bridge the gap that had resulted from the absence of governmental institutions, particularly in the areas outside of the government's control (called 'liberated' areas). In addition, there was a widespread desire to build an open-minded, united community. This experience was nascent and new and it suffer from several problems, one of which was misunderstanding the rules that govern civil society organizations, particularly those concerning the conflict on power and their attitude toward it. It is a common approach public that organizations must play an impartial role, disengaged from politics, and thus according to that

people must see that organizations have to stand impartial toward dictatorship, and sometimes ignore violations in order to save whatever can be saved.

Political transition

Political participation is a political activity stands for citizens' participation and their rules within the political system's framework . According to the definition of Samuel Hintington and John Nelson, political participation specifically means activities carried out by regular people which aim to influence the governmental decision-making process, including both individual or collective activities, organized or spontaneous, connected or disconnected, peaceful or violent, legal or illegal, effective or ineffective.
To obtain this participation we need a ruling system that enjoys legitimacy as well as a stable structure. There is no possibility of

having real political participation in the shadow of authoritarian regimes. For this reason the Syrian Civil Society Platform (SCP) emerged as one of the pressure groups to push the political transition process forward and break tyranny. The SCP has two main goals. The first is to give an opportunity to everybody to participate effectively in building the country's future. The second is to achieve a permanent and sustainable peace, which will not be achieved without ending the violence, conducting a transition and building a modern constitution to end tyranny.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank everyone who has participated in pushing this project forward, especially those who share their own time for the success of the project and gave advises and technical support. In addition we would like to thank all the organizations that believed in the project and engaged effectively in it.

CONTEXT

The SCP does not aim to build a coalition to offer humanitarian aid or health services, despite the importance of these sectors. Rather, the SCP focuses on the political role of civil society, and its role in the political transition stage, which will draw the features of the country's future. The SCP aims to be a channel for the people's voices in the negotiations; to ensure that these voices are included; to put the demands of Syrian civilians on the negotiation table; and to pressure local and international decision makers to take these demands in consideration. The SCP also initiates to offer solutions and recommendations to think out of the box, and to find solutions to push the political process in Syria forward. It is not a goal of the SCP to form a collective body which becomes a burden on the shoulders of its participants, and it does not aim to transform into a tool to bring funds or profit. Instead, it focuses on collaboration mechanism and networking among organizations. Thus, these organizations can be more able to convey people's voices as well as propose solutions and build files regarding the Syrian situation, such as political transmission, stopping bombardment, detainees and many others.

MOBILIZATION AND ADVOCACY

The SCP initiative began with a consultation meeting involving 40 civil society organizations in Gaziantep, Turkey, including the Center for Civil Society and Democracy (CCSD).

By October, 2014 ten consultations were carried out with civil society organizations and independent civil society leaders in Gaziantep. By November, 2014, 15 consultations were conducted, including Skype meetings, with a group of networks and Syrian organizations in both of the Turkish cities of Gaziantep and Urfa.

Several meetings were conducted with international and governments as well as the United Nations aiming to define the project and its goals.

Since the project began, the participation of women was taken into account, and two consultation sessions were conducted with 36 female members of Women for Syria Future (I Am She network).

A list of 150 civil society organizations was prepared to support CCSD in building a strong structure for the platform.

The first formal consultation conference was conducted in the Uğurlu Hotel, and it gathered 13 groups of organizational actors, networks and individuals at the end of December, 2014.

Concerning neighboring countries:

Kurdistan Iraq: The SCP coordinator there held nine individual meetings for civil society organizations, and an expanded consultation was conducted in on December 26, 2014 including 16 representatives of civil society groups.

Jordan: The SCP coordinator there held 14 consultative visits, including nine civil society organizations.
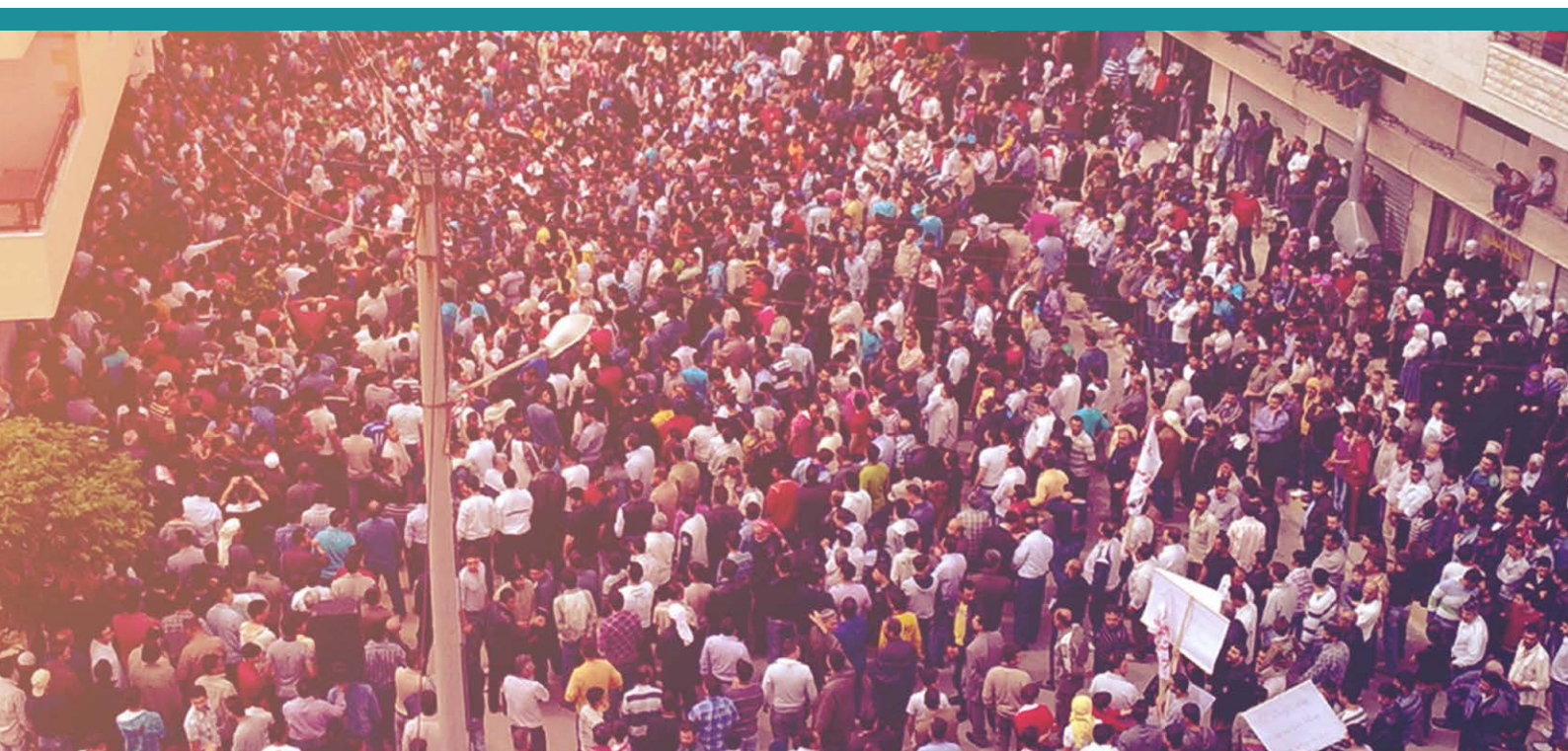
With the beginning of 2015 CCSD collected opinions and gathered consultations about civil society participation in the political solution by:

• Targeting people inside Syria and in the neighboring countries (Lebanon, Jordan, Kurdistan Iraq) with an electronic and paper survey, and gathering several opinions from civil society organizations and individual leaders.

• Conducting individual and group meetings with approximately 35 civil society actors and individuals in Gaziantep, Turkey.

Following this, the SCP Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from civil society networks and organizations, as well as individuals, held seven formal consultative meetings where the participating organizations had discussions, in addition to drafting temporary documents, conditions and standards which structured the SCP's work.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Trainings

Through May, 2015 three training workshops were carried out with the local founding committees. In addition, one training was held in June and another in July. The trainings were distributed between Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Kurdistan Iraq. During these five trainings an inclusive and comprehensive vision about the SCP project was made considering the political vision and the short- and long-term goals, in addition to presenting a complete explanation about the bylaws and the project's organizational structure. They also shed a light on every task of the local founding committee and local platforms, clarifying differences between every committee and platform's work according to each time's requirements.

A space was given to the participants to ask questions, and these questions were answered. The trainings also focused on empowering participants with some techniques relevant to facilitating discussions, tools used for analysis, and basic planning techniques. The latter were used in the last day of the training to create the plans which every founding committee will follow.

LOCAL PLATFORMS

From the end of May up to the current date, local platform founding committees worked on implementing the established inclusion plans, and the Kurdistan Iraq, Deir Ezzor, Idlib, Hassakeh, Lebanon, Jordan and Raqqa local platforms were truly launched in the beginning. The platforms of Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Qunaitra, Daraa, Damascus Suburbs and Suwaida were established in the period before the beginning of January. The following is a brief over view of the stages of work that the launched platforms passed through.

- **Kurdistan Iraq**
- **Jordan**
- **Lebanon**
- **Deir Ezzor**
- **Raqaa**
- **Hassakeh**
- **Qamishli**
- **Urfa**
- **Idlib**
- **Qunaitra**
- **Suweida**
- **Hama**
- **Daraa**
- **Aleppo**

KURDISTAN IRAQ

After conducting trainings in Kurdistan Iraq, the founding committee convened a conference aiming to create a plan for the mobilization process to form the platform. An agreement was made during the conference to divide work into the three provinces where organizations in the founding committee were located (Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaimanieh) in order to consult with and engage all groups in the area. Good progress was achieved by the founding committee related to mobilization and consultation in July; during the first expanded committee conference 21 organizational actors were included, in addition to the participation of 10 independent, local community leaders.

During August the Kurdistan Iraq platform were launched in a meeting attended by 37 people, among them 25 organizational actors and 12 independent leaders. The conference took place over five hours and was located in the city of Erbil. During the meeting, discussions were held about the bylaws draft of the local platform and setting standards to choose delegates for the platform to the National Committee. Fourteen people were nominated and after many rounds of voting Zakaria Alhussri and Jalila Auja were elected.

JORDAN

The founding committee training was completed in Jordan at the beginning of June. Following that, a series of individual and group meetings began in order to clarify the idea and goals of the project and to answer all of the questions concerning the proposed work plan. In addition to these meetings an expanded meeting was conducted in July during which the founding committee agreed on the inclusion techniques and work plan. The meeting was attended by representatives of five organizations in addition to many individual community leaders. The work continued at a low pace up to September 6, when another expanded meeting was held. However, it did not meet expectations. Nevertheless, starting from mid-September, the foundation committee work started to develop through inclusion process and its success, bearing in mind the fact the work difficulties relatively in Jordan according to the Syrian non-governmental organizations which work on supporting and empowering civil society. The executive secretariat faced many difficulties concerning the needs of having security agreement to enter Jordan aiming to complete the work perfectly and effectively and to give the sufficient support to the foundation committee. Despite these obstacles, the local platform of Jordan was launched on October 31, 2015 in the presence of seven organizational actors in addition to five independent community leaders, and the delegates or the local platform were elected.

LEBANON

The Lebanon platform training was held on July 5, and it produced a complete work plan which began implementation directly after the training. A series of meetings were conducted, and then the first expanded meeting was held, which included the executive committee as well as a group of guests, and during which the project was introduced and explained. The platform launch meeting was held in the middle of October with the participation of 15 organizational actors. In total, there were 26 organizational participants, but the groups in Arsal and Bekaa were not able to attend because of the intensified security on the Syrians movements from that areas to Beirut and the majot cities.

DEIR EZZOR

After the training attended by the Deir Ezzor platform founding committee, the committee worked on developing the inclusion plan that it created during the training attached with the budget expected for the work. This plan was implemented through July and August and the outcomes were complete since the geographical distribution of the province was regarded. The launching meeting of the Deir Ezzor platform was held with more than 70 people represent different civic groups. During the meeting, a male and a female delegate for the platform were elected, in addition to an executive committee of nine members and a 'wise people's' committee to ensure that the future consultation process would go smoothly.
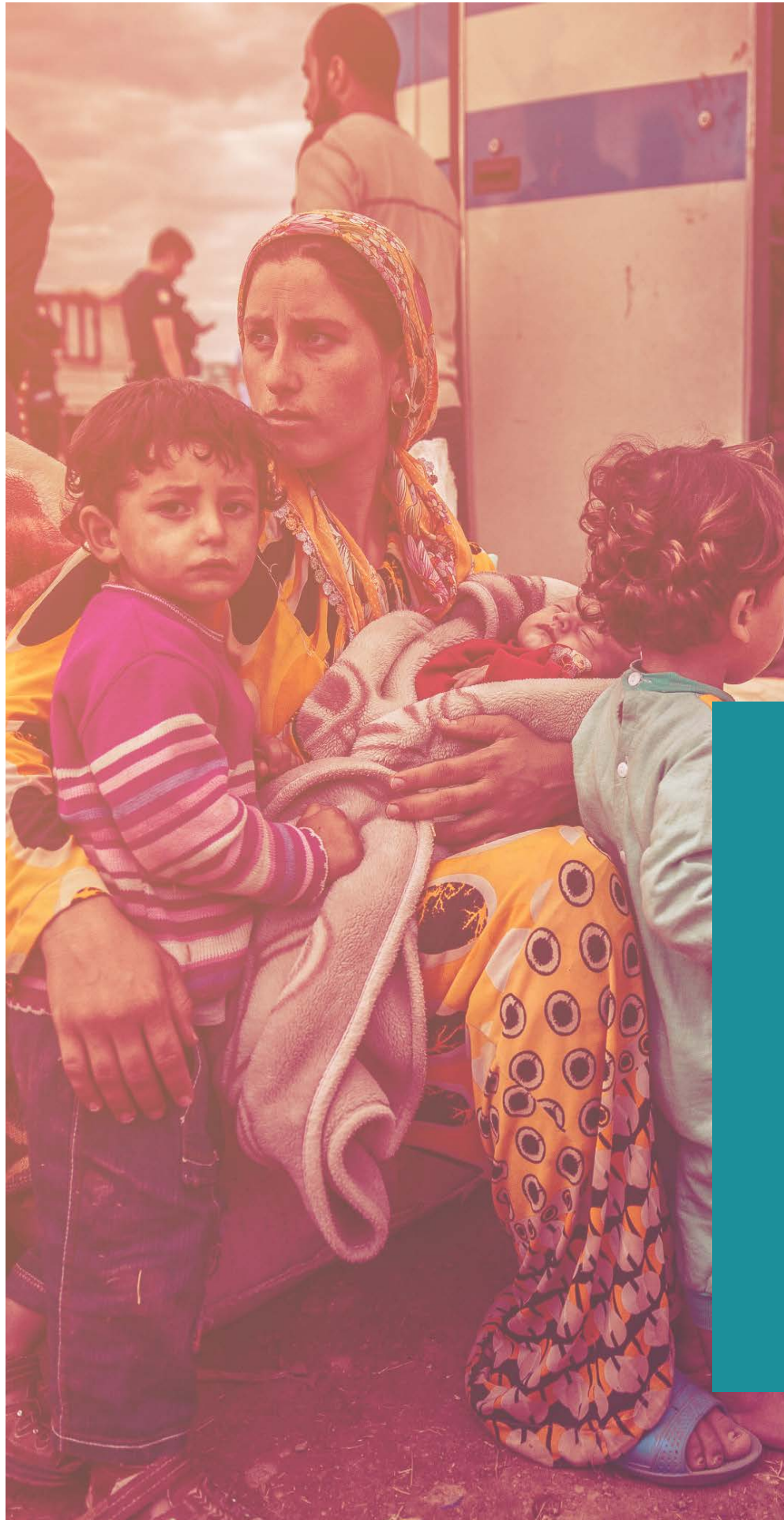

RAQAA

The work of the Raqaa platform has faced many difficulties, including the emigration of some of the founding committee members after the training, as well as the fact that the other members within the project were not active enough. These obstacles were overcome in August when the work was accomplished in a better way and new, effective members joined which led to continuing the inclusion process. The Raqqa platform was launched on October 19 in the presence of 40 civil and tribal stakeholders of the province. A male and female delegate were elected to be members of the National Committee, as well as executive and consultation committees.

HASSAKEH

Qamishli and its countryside:
After working with the founding committee on setting a clear plan for the inclusion process in the area, the committee implemented a series of individual introductory meetings followed by a series of seven expanded meeting for the founding committee. The first was attended by six organizations who determined the work methodology within the founding committee. After the inclusion process was finished according to the plan, the local platform of Hassakeh was announced on September 15 in the presence of 33 civil society organizations and delegates to the National Committee were elected.

URFA

Following the mutual training which was attended by a number of organizational actors that work in the civil society sector inside Syria, the founding committee in Urfa, Turkey worked on inclusion. They introduced the idea of the project and consulted with people in the Turkish province. An expanded introductory meeting was held at the beginning of September followed by another meeting after ten days, and the Hassakeh platform was announced in Urfa on October 30.

IDLIB

The work to establish the local platform of Idlib province went   more smoothly despite of the   situation on the ground. There has been work on establishing the local platform in Idlib where forming a special department for women organizations, independent and active women since these women were elected for the national committee on behalf of the province. The meeting was held at the beginning of October and at the same time work was done to mobilize organizations to participate through a series of introductory visits. All of the target organizations were invited to the launching meeting of the Idlib platform, which was held in the presence of 15 organizational actors and eight individual community leaders from different civil sectors. During the meeting a delegate to the National Committee was chosen.

QUNAITRA

The establishment of Qunaitra platform took place after conducting many consultations with stakeholders of different groups working in the province, where the founding committee that contains two members who implemented a series of meetings with more than 20 organizations working in several sectors in the province. These meetings led up to the platform's launch, which was attended by 20 organizations in addition to a number of individual community leaders and three women. Delegates were elected to represent Qunaitra local platform to the National Committee.

SUWEIDA

The work of the Suweida platform was implemented in secret through some trusted local leaders who connected with the local organizations for security considerations. A series of meetings were conducted with the platform organizations in general to give a space for answering all of the questions about the work methodology and inclusion in the areas controlled by the regime. The Suweida local platform was launched in a meeting attended by representatives from three organizations in addition to seven independent community leaders, and a male and female delegate were elected as representatives to the National Committee.

HAMA

The work in Hama had to be implemented in two different areas because of the civil situation in the province. The first area is in Salamieh and its countryside, and the local platform committee there is under the regime's control; the second area is the province's northern countryside down to the province's refugee camps on the Syrian-Turkish borders.

In the first area consultations were held in secret with a number of civil organizations, leading to the launching invitation which was attended by three organizational actors in addition to some independents community leaders. A female delegate to the National Committee was elected. The meeting of the other platform committee was held in the town of Sarmada on the Syrian-Turkish border and was attended by three organizational actors in addition to 11 independent community leaders. A male delegate for the local platform to the National Committee was elected. Both wings of the platform are now working to network together through the two delegates and also through the project team of the Executive Secretariat.

DARAA

Regarding the Daraa platform, working on establishing it was done through the networks of members of the local platforms in Jordan and Qunaitra , in addition to the founding committee who attended trainings outside Syria and the project staff. Intensive meetings were conducted with a number of organizations and independent community leaders to ensure the work would be successful, and the Daraa local platform was launched on January 28. The platform includes 21 organizations, among them an organization representing the Women's Union in the province and three women leaders.

ALEPPO

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among them
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o establish the Aleppo platform faced many obstacles. None of
g committee members could attend the training in Turkey since
were completely closed and the internal administration of Afrin
e the work permission. In addition there was great difficulty
nting a meeting inclusive of all the regions and communities
ince because the raging conflict between the armed factions
the province into pieces. All these factors led to many wasted
delays in the work to launch the local platform of Aleppo. This
platform team and partners organizations in the province used
techniques. For example, they intensified the focus on local
define the project and its goals. These meetings concentrated
of Aleppo and the western and southern countryside, as well as
in the northern countryside. At the same time, meetings were
to include the Kobani region (Ain Arab) and its countryside with
society groups that are based in Turkey aiming for a greater
different components in this stage, opening the door for all
s to be included in the next stage in case the situation changes
nd.

ng meeting was held in the city of Atareb in the western
of the province through two separate meetings for men and
security reasons) and it was attended by 40 participants,
14 women. A male and female delegate were elected for the
rm, while a delegate was mandated for the Kobani region until
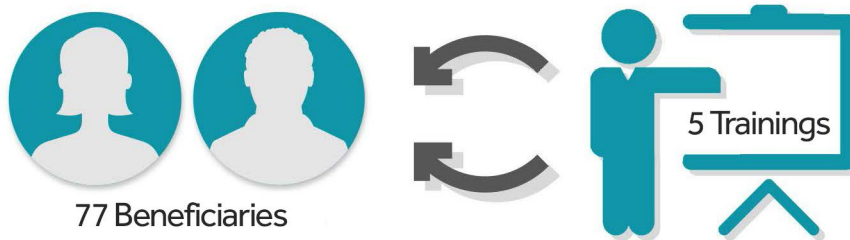on process in Afrin is completed.

CONCLUSION
2015

In the end, it is worth mentioning all the efforts that have built up to this moment in implementing the Syrian Civil Society Platform project and transforming the vision into reality. This is just the beginning of a series of monitoring and intensifying efforts to ensure that the goal to deliver the voice of civil society to the negotiation table is achieved and to ensure the effective participation of civil society in decision making on every level.
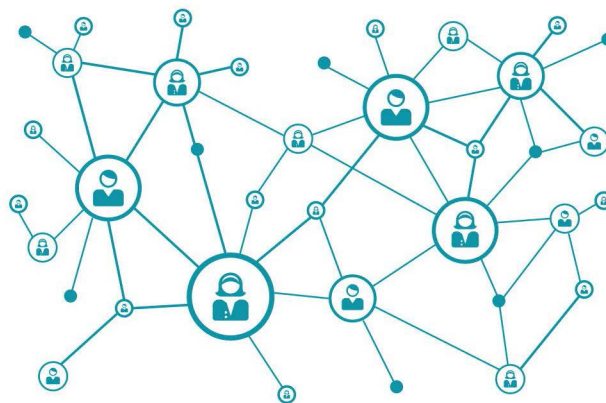
EVALUATION

Despite the difficulties that faced the project and the unstable conditions, it was able to achieve most of its goals. At the beginning, mobilization and advocacy were done between networks and organizations. The project was able to form a Steering Committee which has contributed. However, some members withdrew from it for many different reasons.
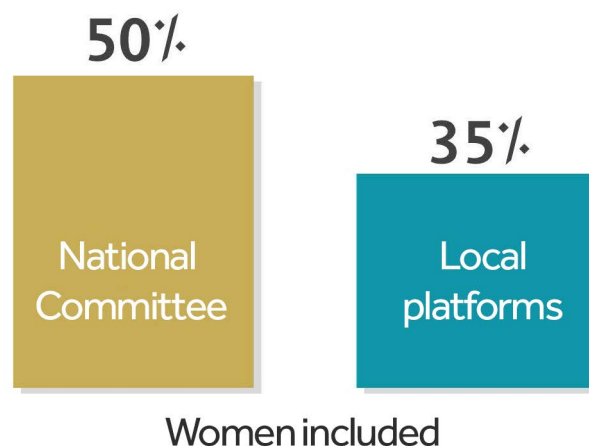

77 Beneficiaries   5 Trainings

The project was able to implement a number of trainings for the local founding committee members, totaling five trainings, and reaching 77 beneficiaries.
Fourteen platforms were established out of the 18 that were planned; some platforms were not established because of security reasons.

On the inclusion level, the project was able to achieve a good proportion since the rate of women's involvement was 35% of the total number of local platform members, and 50% on the National Committee level. Concerning the involvement of all of the diverse Syrian communities, the project failed to include them all in some provinces such as Aleppo and Hassakeh.

50%

35%

National Committee

Local platforms

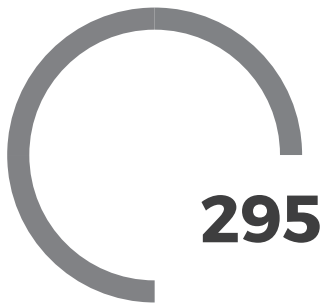Women included

STATISTICS

In Antep 40 meetings

- 25 meetings with civil society organizations
- Two meetings in Urfa with more than 30 organizations and 15 community leaders
- Five consultative meetings
- Two consultation sessions with 36 women

- A meeting for 13 organizations and a network for five days
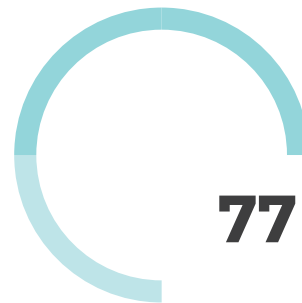
Neighboring countries:

- 16 meetings in Kurdistan
- 14 meetings in Jordan
- 12 meetings in Lebanon
- More than 50 meetings inside Syria
- A meeting with six international organizations and five countries

AUDIENCE NUMBER

295

	ALEPPO	40
	DARAA	21
	HAMA	14
	SWIDAA	10
	IDLEB	23
	HASAKA	33
	RAGA	40
	DEIR ZOAR	50
	LEBANON	15
	JOURDAN	12
	KURDISTAN IRAQ	37

TRAINERS' NUMBER

77

	GAZIANTEP	20
	URFA	15
	Kurdistan Iraq	17
	Jordan	12
	Lebanon	13

الميزانية

	Platform Financial report	
تقرير المنصة المدقق ماليا لعام 2014	Summary by category / main type of expenditure – amounts in USD	**2014**
طبيعة النفقة	Expenditure category	Actual
رواتب واجور موظفين واستشاريين	PERSONNEL & contractual services	11.120,00
تنقلات وسفر	TRAVEL	8.540,01
مواد وعدد داعمة	SUPPLIES	1.765,55
تكاليف مباشرة اخرى	OTHER DIRECT COSTS	2.160,38
تكاليف غير مباشرة	Indirect Cost	-
		-
اجمالي نفقات المشروع 2014	Total expenditure for the project	23.585,94

	Platform Financial report	
تقرير المنصة 1 المدقق ماليا لعام 2015	Summary by category / main type of expenditure – amounts in USD	**2015**
طبيعة النفقة	Expenditure category	Actual
رواتب واجور موظفين واستشاريين	PERSONNEL & contractual services	176.933,16
تنقلات وسفر	TRAVEL	94.508,26
مواد وعدد داعمة	SUPPLIES	43.539,80
تكاليف غير مباشرة	Indirect Cost	5.140,13
تكاليف مباشرة اخرى	OTHER DIRECT COSTS	35.396,07
اجمالي نفقات المشروع 2015	Total expenditure for the project	355.517,42

	Platform Financial report		النسبة المؤية
تقرير المنصة 2014-2015	Summary by category / main type of expenditure – amounts in USD	**2015**	**2015**
طبيعة النفقة	Expenditure category	Actual	%
رواتب واجور موظفين واستشاريين	PERSONNEL & contractual services	188.053,16	50%
تنقلات وسفر	TRAVEL	103.048,27	27%
مواد وعدد داعمة	SUPPLIES	45.305,35	12%
تكاليف غير مباشرة	Indirect Cost	7.300,51	2%
تكاليف مباشرة اخرى	OTHER DIRECT COSTS	35.396,07	9%
اجمالي نفقات المشروع 2015	Total expenditure for the project	379.103,36	100%

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