

Annual Report 2022

July 2023

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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FOREWORD

Dear readers,

We are pleased to present our annual report for 2022.

The last year was marked by significant upheavals at an international level, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. The Russian regime has attacked the shared values and security framework that underpinned Europe's longest lasting peace since 1945. Elbarlament stands with Ukraine. We strongly believe that a strong civil society in Ukraine and Germany is crucial for providing effective support for Ukraine's victory and reconstruction efforts. Civic education and training programmes, especially with a focus on human rights, democracy, and civil society development, are important elements of a value-based response to the blatant violation by the Russian government of internal law. The project *Democracy Moves*, funded by the Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (BpB), has been inspired by this conviction, offering civic education courses and opportunities for networking and collaboration to Ukrainian women residing in Germany because of the war. In this way, we promote civic engagement of Ukrainian civil society activists in Germany as well as in Ukraine.

Human rights violations are on the rise in many countries, not least in contexts of state fragility. We started the implementation of our first EU-funded project in Yemen, which supports women Human Rights Defenders inside as well as outside of Yemen. As in previous years, together with our partner organisation *Women Now for Development*, we continued supporting women through a leadership programme in remote areas of Lebanon.

In addition, we massively increased our programme portfolio in Iraq. We ran new projects ranging from short-term feasibility studies related to civic education and climate change to training programmes on integrated water resource management and a big, multi-year project to create an online civic education platform for Iraqi citizens. At the same time, we continued our engagement in promoting the Women, Peace and Security agenda through capacity building and research. Last but not least, we trained Iraqi women in documentary filmmaking and showed their work at a film festival in Baghdad.

Women in particular face the effects of political unrest and insecurity as well as climate change. It therefore seems more pressing than ever to us to support women in their individual and societal struggles to combat political unrest as well as repressive governments in the MENA region. We published several papers on the topic while continuously promoting women empowerment within our many projects, focused on supporting civil society activism, women's political participation, societal justice, and

environmental protection, all the while exposing and removing structural barriers to inclusive governance. Alongside these grant-funded projects, we conducted several consultancy assignments through our company branch.

We are glad to report that 2022 was the first year in which we were active in all four of our thematic programmes in Iraq: Arts & Culture; Civic Education; Environment & Climate Change; and Women, Peace and Security.

We would like to thank our multinational international team. Without their commitment, our projects and initiatives, which are highly appreciated in the project countries, would not be possible.

We also thank our funders and partners for their continued support and commitment to our cause.

To keep abreast of our activities, please sign up to our newsletter at www.elbarlament.org/newsletter.



Dr. Birgit Laubach

Founder & Managing director



Sebastian Bloching

Managing director

ABOUT ELBARLAMENT

Elbarlament¹ is a peacebuilding and democracy support organisation, with a special focus on empowering women and youth. We implement democracy support and peacebuilding projects in four thematic fields: Arts & Culture; Civic Education; Environment & Climate Change; Women, Peace and Security. We support parliaments, governments, civil society actors and international institutions, implementing projects and delivering consulting services in German, English, French and Arabic. Our international and multilingual team is based in Berlin, Cologne and Erbil (Iraq).

We believe in the transformative power of culture and the arts as well as inclusive dialogue, especially in contexts of state fragility. Through our work we aim to:

- Promote peaceful coexistence between all groups in society
- Foster democratic norms and practices
- Support dialogue between civil society and political decision makers
- Increase environmental awareness and contribute to mitigating climate change-related conflicts

We follow an integrated approach in supporting locally-owned reform agendas, combining arts-based tools for peacebuilding and civic education with more classical tools like technical assistance.

Our services:

- Training and events
 - Civic education and leadership training
 - Technical assistance for governments and parliaments
 - Multi-stakeholder dialogue
 - Conferences and panel discussions
 - Creative writing and filmmaking training
 - Study trips
- Research
 - Baseline studies
 - Policy papers
 - Research publications
- Consulting work
 - Programme design
 - Conceptual advice

¹ This report covers our two legal identities, elbarlament GmbH and elbarlament e.V.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

GBV:	Gender Based Violence
HRD:	Human Rights Defender
MoD:	Ministry of Defence
Mol:	Ministry of Interior
MoJ:	Ministry of Justice
MoP	Ministry of Planning
NAP:	National Action Plan
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
ToT:	Training of Trainers
UNSCR 1325:	United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325
WTP:	Women Talking Peace

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY ELBARLAMENT E.V.

Women Talking Peace (ongoing)

- **Country:** Iraq
- **Duration of the project:** Since 2020
- **Project objective:** To empower women to access leading roles in organisations, institutions or peace processes in politics and society in Iraq and to strengthen the role of women in reconstruction and in peace processes
- **Main activities in 2022:**
 - Completion of the Training of Trainers (ToT) programme
 - Three ToT participants were supported to develop their own initiatives
 - Training workshops in Baghdad with the Iraqi Ministry of Interior (MoI), Ministry of Defence (MoD), and Ministry of Justice (MoJ) on UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325
 - Development of a ToT manual on UNSCR 1325 (to be finalised in 2023)
- **Funded by:** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)



The project continued to promote the participation of women in the peace and rehabilitation process in Iraq. For the first time and after three years of ToT training, three alumni members of the programme implemented their own initiatives related to UNSCR 1325 in different regions of Iraq. Through continuous workshops on UNSCR 1325, we enhanced women's participation in the peace and rehabilitation process in Iraq while promoting gender sensitivity. The above-mentioned project activities targeted high-ranking employees in different departments under the Iraqi MoI, MoD and MoJ, enhancing their knowledge on UNSCR 1325 and the related National Action Plan (NAP) for Iraq.



More information:

- [Women Talking Peace platform](#)
- Social media channels: [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) (in Arabic)

- Perspectives on Peace (available in [English](#) and [Arabic](#))
- Success stories of the ToT-participants: [Sahar](#), [Haifaa](#), [Manaar](#), [Heleen](#)

Mosul Tells – Restoring Community Links Through Art and Oral History (ongoing)



- **Country:** Iraq
- **Project duration:** September 2022 – July 2024
- **Project objective:** To contribute to the re-establishment of social cohesion through oral history and art and to increase the visibility of Mosul's cultural diversity.
- **Main activities in 2022:**
 - Kick-off workshop
 - Training on trust-building and methods of oral history
 - Field excursions to the Kurdish Heritage Center and the World Heritage region of Hwaraman
- **Funded by:** German Federal Foreign Office and Art+

The project started in September 2022, with Paia Agency as our Iraqi project partner. In 2022, our project participants started collecting stories of their choice from within their communities. Out of these stories, eight will be selected for the production of a graphic novel, animation movies and a puppet show in 2023. Stay tuned!

See more on the project [Facebook](#) page.

Women Leading the Water Sector in Duhok (concluded)

- **Country:** Iraq
- **Project duration:** August 2022 – February 2023
- **Project objective:** To promote the participation of women and men in gender-responsive Integrated Water Resource Management in Duhok, Iraq.
- **Main activities in 2022:**
 - Leadership training programme for women in technical or administrative positions in the Water Directorates in Duhok, Iraq
 - Ceremony and discussion with MENA practitioners
- **Funded by:** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)



The training covered topics such as climate change and water-related legislation and their effects on women. The Integrated Water Resources Management framework and gender sensitivity provided the main conceptual frames for the different thematic training sessions. Throughout the workshops, several of the participants started to reflect on their personal lives as well as their careers, demonstrating how impactful the project has been for many of the participants.

Iraq Thinks Ahead – a feasibility study assessing for an Iraqi climate and environment institute (concluded)

- **Country:** Iraq
- **Project duration:** February to July 2022
- **Project objective:** Assessing the feasibility of creating a climate and environment institute in Iraq
- **Main activities in 2022:**
 - Mapping of 100 stakeholders
 - Interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders
 - Development of a feasibility study
- **Funded by:** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the German Government

The project assessed the feasibility of creating a climate and environmental institute in Iraq. This institute would help advance the discussion and the development of better strategies for creating effective climate and environmental policies, to underpin related discussions and decisions with scientific expertise, and to involve a wide range of stakeholders in decision making processes related to climate change and the environment. The feasibility study documenting the results of the research was finalised in August 2022.



Democracy needs Civic Education – a feasibility study for a digital civic education platform (concluded)

- **Country:** Iraq
- **Project duration:** December 2021 to May 2022
- **Project objective:** Assessment of the existing civic education activities, gaps and potential for creating an online platform for civic education in Iraq.
- **Main activities in 2022:**
 - Mapping of 100 stakeholders and their activities in the field of civic education in Iraq
 - Focus group discussions and workshops in Erbil, Duhok, Baghdad and Basra
 - Civic education networking conference in Erbil
- **Funded by:** German Federal Foreign Office



The project identified the needs and formats for civic education activities through intensive consultation and dialogue with all relevant stakeholders in Iraq.

Towards enhancing the resilience of women human rights defenders in Yemen to advocate for women's and children's rights (ongoing)

- **Country:** Yemen
- **Duration of the project:** March 2022 to February 2024
- **Project objective:** To contribute to enhancing the resilience of women human rights defenders in Yemen to defend human rights, in particular women's and children's rights
- **Main activities in 2022:**
 - Online ToT resilient leadership training programme for 10 Yemeni Women human rights defenders covering topics such as leadership, resilience, trauma, communication, conflict solving, team building, power structures and resources-based approaches
 - Individual coaching for ToT participants
- **Official project partners:** Peace Track Initiative and TOBE Foundation for Rights and Freedoms
- **Funded by:** European Union



In 2022, we successfully delivered a tailored ToT programme on resilient leadership to 10 Yemeni women human rights defenders in Yemen and in the diaspora. The 10 ToT participants reported that they gained

relevant skills related to leadership, psychological resilience, team building as well as dealing with trauma in the work environment of women human rights defenders. In 2023, the 10 newly certified trainers will deliver the programme to 17 other women human rights defenders from Yemen.

Democracy moves: Socio-political participation of refugee women from Ukraine (concluded)

- **Country:** Germany
- **Project duration:** September 2022 – March 2023
- **Project objective:** To provide Ukrainian women refugees with the opportunity to acquire theoretical and practical knowledge about German democracy and its political and civil society structures.
- **Main activities in 2022:**
 - Comprehensive civic education programme offering three modular workshops (personal development, team building, conversation, and trust; German politics and civil society; and political and civic involvement in Germany)
 - Project alumni meeting with members of the German national parliament (Bundestag) and the parliament of the state of Berlin, as well as representatives of German and Ukrainian Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) working in Germany
- **Funded by:** Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (bpb)



The project provided a comprehensive civic education programme to prepare Ukrainian women residing in Germany for their effective socio-political engagement in Germany, Ukraine, or other countries. The programme was so successful that we hope to organise a follow-up programme in 2023.



The participants after the meeting with vice-president of the Bundestag Katrin Göring-Eckardt and Agnieszka Brugger, vice-head of the green fraction in the Bundestag.

More information:

- [Project page](#) on the elbarlament website
- Social media channels of the project: [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) (Ukrainian & English)
- [Democracy moves! - Socio-Political Participation of Refugee Women From Ukraine](#) (video about the project)

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY ELBARLAMENT GMBH

Artists: creators of social change (concluded)

- **Country:** Iraq
- **Duration of the project:** February 2021 to December 2022
- **Project objective:** Offering a large number of women in the cultural scene in Iraq the chance to network while also enabling them to participate confidently in the cultural, political and social spheres.
- **Main activities in 2022:**
 - Workshops on filmmaking topics (sound design, editing, public relations)
 - Exchange between Iraqi artists and artists in Germany
 - Baghdad Women Documentary Film Festival
 - Alumni meeting in Baghdad
- **Funded by:** German Federal Foreign Office

We organised a number of training workshops while also shooting four short documentaries that were produced by the participants. In December, three Germany-based artists travelled to Baghdad to meet with three Iraqi artists to network and discuss their work. Our Baghdad Women Documentary Film Festival culminated with the premiere of the participants' four short documentaries. An Alumni reunion marked the end of the project. The participants were Iraqis who have participated in projects and workshops organised by elbarlament since 2019.



More information:

- [Baghdad Tahrir Art Website](#)
- [Youtube channel of our filmmaking projects in Iraq](#)
- [Instagram and Facebook pages](#)

Women leaders for participation and peace (concluded)

- **Country:** Lebanon
- **Duration of the project:** July 2022 – December 2022
- **Project objective:** Contribute to realising equal rights for women in the Arsal area of Lebanon with a particular focus on female refugees and locals alike
- **Main activities in 2022:**
 - Leadership training programme for women based in Arsal, Lebanon (leadership skills, human rights, women's rights and women's participation, non-violent communication, mediation & conflict management, advocacy campaigns)
 - Financial support for a local initiative designed by the project participants
- **Funded by:** ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen



Involving Lebanese women alongside Syrian refugee women in joint training activities in the framework of an intensive leadership programme is a unique approach developed by elbarlament and our local partner organisation *Women Now for Development*. The project instilled self-confidence in the participants, enabling them to develop initiatives in support of other women – and other members of their local communities. A meeting with donor organisations brought these initiatives to the attention of potential funders.



New Water Leaders for Iraq- a leadership programme to foster peace in Mesopotamia (concluded)

- **Country:** Iraq
- **Project duration:** April to December 2022
- **Project objective:** Improve cooperation and soft skills of stakeholders to reduce risk of water-related conflicts in Iraq
- **Main activities in 2022:**
 - Series of workshops on topics such as trust building, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), gender-sensitive policy making in the water sector, combating corruption in the water sector, and conflict resolution
 - Excursion to Duhok Dam
 - Closing conference and ceremony in Bagdad
- **Funded by:** ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen

The project helped strengthen participants' self-awareness and self-esteem as well as their leadership and communication skills. Content-related workshops on IWRM helped them to get a solid understanding of IWRM. They also became aware of the link between gender and water and the importance of women leadership in the water sector.

More information can be found on the website: www.cleantigris.com

CONSULTANCY WORK IMPLEMENTED BY ELBARLAMENT GMBH & OUR EXPERTS

Systematic review of dialogue experiences in Iraq

- **Country:** Iraq
- **Project duration:** September 2022 – February 2023
- **Project objective:** To gather information on the documentation and systematisation of dialogue experiences in Iraq.
- **Main activities in 2022:**
 - Desk research
 - Interviews
- **Funded by:** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

This systematic review supports GIZ's Promoting Dialogue and Participation in Iraq (PDP) project which in turn supports government efforts in Iraq to create conditions for an open and inclusive environment for dialogue and participation. The Iraqi Ministry of Planning (MoP) is acting as the political partner of the project. Elbarlament's support to GIZ consists of gathering information on, documenting and systematising dialogue experiences to highlight experiences of GIZ projects in this area and to share common challenges and lessons learned with other organisations and stakeholders. Our experts drafted a publication enriched through interviews with GIZ staff and representatives of other international or national organisations. The project will be concluded in 2023 following a conference during which the results of the research will be presented in Baghdad.

Digital Participation Platform in Iraq – a feasibility study for a digital participation platform in Iraq

- **Country:** Iraq
- **Project duration:** October 2022 to April 2023
- **Project objective:** Evaluating the feasibility for the implementation and successful operation of a digital participation platform in Iraq
- **Main activities in 2022:**
 - Desk research
 - Interviews

- Online workshop about participation platforms in the development cooperation
- **Commissioned by:** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)

The Promoting dialogue and participation in Iraq programme (PDP) of the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) commissioned elbarlament to conduct a feasibility study for the development and operation of a Digital Participation Platform in Iraq.

Democracy Support Alliance (concluded)

- **Country:** worldwide
- **Duration of the project:** November 2021 - April 2022
- **Project objective:** To promote and protect democracy and human rights worldwide
- **Commissioned by:** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)

Elbarlament's Managing Director, Sebastian Bloching, supported the GIZ with designing an ambitious project in support of democracy worldwide. Next to facilitating and funding research on democracy support, the Team Europe Democracy (TED) Initiative comprises a network of EU institutions and Member States committed to working together to achieve greater impact globally, and a pool of democracy support experts that can be mobilised to support EU delegations and Member States in specific countries. Arguably, TED is highly relevant in a context of rising authoritarianism, where the EU and its Member States must work together more effectively to protect and promote democratic values and human rights.

More information about the Team Europe Democracy initiative is available [here](#):

Promoting Women's Political Participation: From Quotas to Parity- A Guide to Legal Options for the West and Central Africa Region (concluded)

On 10 February 2022, the UN WOMEN study „Promoting Women's Political Participation - From Quota to Parity“ was officially published. Elbarlament's Managing Director, Dr. Birgit Laubach, is the lead author of the study which is designed to increase the understanding of the legal obligations of countries in the West and Central Africa (WCA) region to achieve gender equality in decision-making. The study presents legal instruments and practical solutions for parity laws that can be used by lawmakers, parliamentary staff and women's rights advocates to advance the political participation of women.

The guide is available in [French](#) and [English](#).