

Arab Regional Cooperation Programme (ARCP)

The GICHD ARCP Gender Focal Point Capacity Development Programme 2020-2022 helped build sustainable capacity for gender and diversity mainstreaming in the mine action sector. Participants acquired the knowledge and skills to become an effective Gender Focal Point within their organisation.



INTERVIEW

What have been your main gender and diversity mainstreaming achievement since participating in the training?

Since my participation in the programme, we have incorporated gender and diversity considerations into MAG Iraq's reporting forms to improve gender and diversity in data collection. We also encouraged women to participate in Community Focal Point sessions and gave them a leading role to voice their opinions and share their ideas. Finally, we prepared a presentation on gender and diversity inclusion and used it as a tool to provide training to Iraqi MAG staff.

Did you manage to negotiate a clear role and responsibilities as a gender focal point in your organisation?

Yes, I negotiated with the management of MAG, and they encouraged me to be a gender focal point. They always provide support when needed. They also committed to create my terms of reference to reflect my new responsibilities as gender focal point.

Do you liaise with community representatives regarding gender in mine action activities?

Yes, I visit local authorities, such as key informants (mukhtars, clergymen, etc.) and explain to them that women and girls have an important role in protecting their families because they are sisters, mothers and girls and they can share information or stories, so it can be useful information to do our work and build a secure future for the next generations

WHAT IS NEXT?

The next steps are to better include people with disabilities in our mine action activities. Also, to continue to provide gender and diversity trainings to all MAG Iraq staff. Finally, we aim to have gender focal points (one or two) in each base and create a group to share ideas and discuss any gender and diversity related topic.

GET TO KNOW

SARA SALIM
Gender Focal Point

Sara Salim works at the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) Iraq as a Community Liaisons Team Leader.



'This programme allowed me, as a woman, to face the difficulties that I encountered in my community and strengthened my ability to broaden the concept of gender. It is important that women and men are on an equal footing, whether in terms of rights or duties.'