

Our Goal:

ELIMINATE FGM IN IRAQI KURDISTAN!

WADI set out to end the mutilation of girls in a concerted region-wide effort

WADI's multilayered approach with a focus on persistent face-to-face awareness had proven effective in areas where the teams had raised awareness over several years. Numbers had dropped considerably and over time most people came to reject the practice. WADI alone, however, lacked capacities to cover the whole Kurdish region.

Then in June 2014, UNICEF support made possible that WADI started to

train members of six NGOs from various corners of the region. They learned about the awareness methods and reporting standards WADI had developed over the last ten years. Meanwhile, WADI's teams continued their usual work in the villages.

In October the new teams were ready to work in the field for the first time. They were extremely motivated and proud to be part of this historic effort.

From then on they raised awareness on FGM in the villages and towns of their home areas, occasionally accompanied by WADI's experienced trainers who gave many advice, but were generally pleased by the

performance and attitude of the newcomers.

The numbers of beneficiaries rose to new heights: From June to December, WADI's teams and the new teams combined organized 403 community dialogues in various locations where they reached out to a total of 6,275 female participants.

In 2015, each of the new teams will proclaim a new FGM-free village in their area which will join the existing FGM-free village network consisting of seven villages so far. The villages have publicly sworn to stop FGM completely.



Trainings of professionals were conducted as an accompanying measure in order to raise awareness among decision-makers and relevant groups of professionals, such as police officers, lawyers, nurses, doctors,

psychologists, members of parliament, NGO staff and activists...

Some of these trainings were covered by a number of radio and TV channels. The new teams were

involved in preparation and conduct of these events in order to make them understand WADI's approach and prepare them for similar future activities.



TV and radio reaches millions - even in neighbouring Iran where FGM is practiced, too. In cooperation with media professionals, WADI produced four high-quality TV spots and six radio clips. They will be aired on several stations over the months and years to come.

Additionally, more than 45,000 copies of various kinds of printed awareness materials were distributed.

Several reports in TV, radio and some newspapers accompanied WADI's activities. The invitation to a popular show called "Binewse" on Kurdsat TV was a highlight: A whole FGM-free village sat in the audience while the mayor and his wife were interviewed about the FGM-free village concept, why they stopped it, and the negative consequences of FGM. It was huge publicity for the idea of abandoning FGM.



WADI is determined to continue the programme - UNTIL THE GOAL IS REACHED

The programme is supported by

