

# MID- ANNUAL REPORT JAN-JUN 2019

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 CRTDA

# ABOUT CRTD.A

The Collective for Research and Training on Development – Action (CRTD.A) is a Beirut-based, non-governmental organization that works across the Middle East and North Africa to promote gender and citizenship equality and social justice. Registered in 2003, CRTD.A’s programs and initiatives have helped many women in the region become politically, socially and economically autonomous and given them the voice and agency needed to participate in political and social societal spheres. CRTD.A is the Lebanon partner of the Women's Learning Partnership (WLP), a partnership of 20 autonomous feminist organizations from the Global South.

## OUR VISION

- A gender inclusive society where social justice and gender equality are practiced in the public as well as the private spheres
- Witnessing a generation of women and girls who are empowered and equally participating in decision-making in the public and private spheres in Lebanon, the MENA region, and globally.

Based on this vision, the CRTD.A has identified five main focus points, which shape our areas of activity. These areas of focus overlap and interconnect, as well as support and inform the other areas.



# THEORY OF CHANGE AND STRATEGIES

## CRTD.A's Theory of Change



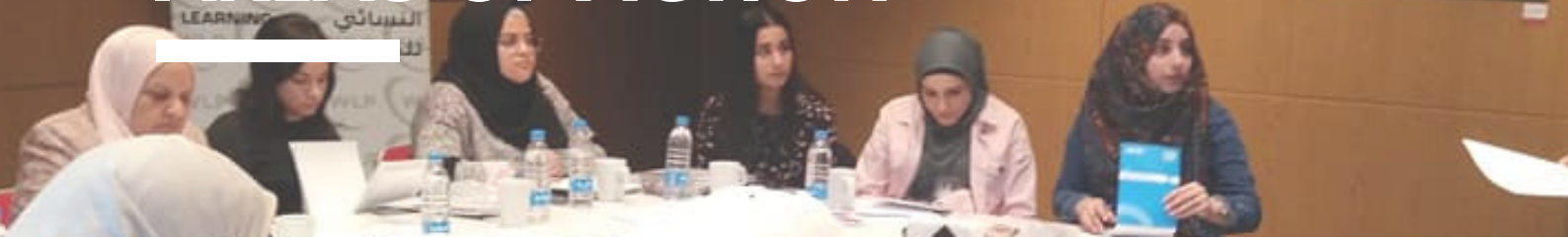
CRTD.A has adopted a theory of change that consists of three parts: knowledge generation, capacity building, and mobilization through advocacy. These three channels interact with each other, and knowledge generation, or research, leads to a more nuanced approach to capacity building and simultaneously informs best methods for mobilization. This theory is viewed through a lens of enabling women to be agents of change.

## Strategies

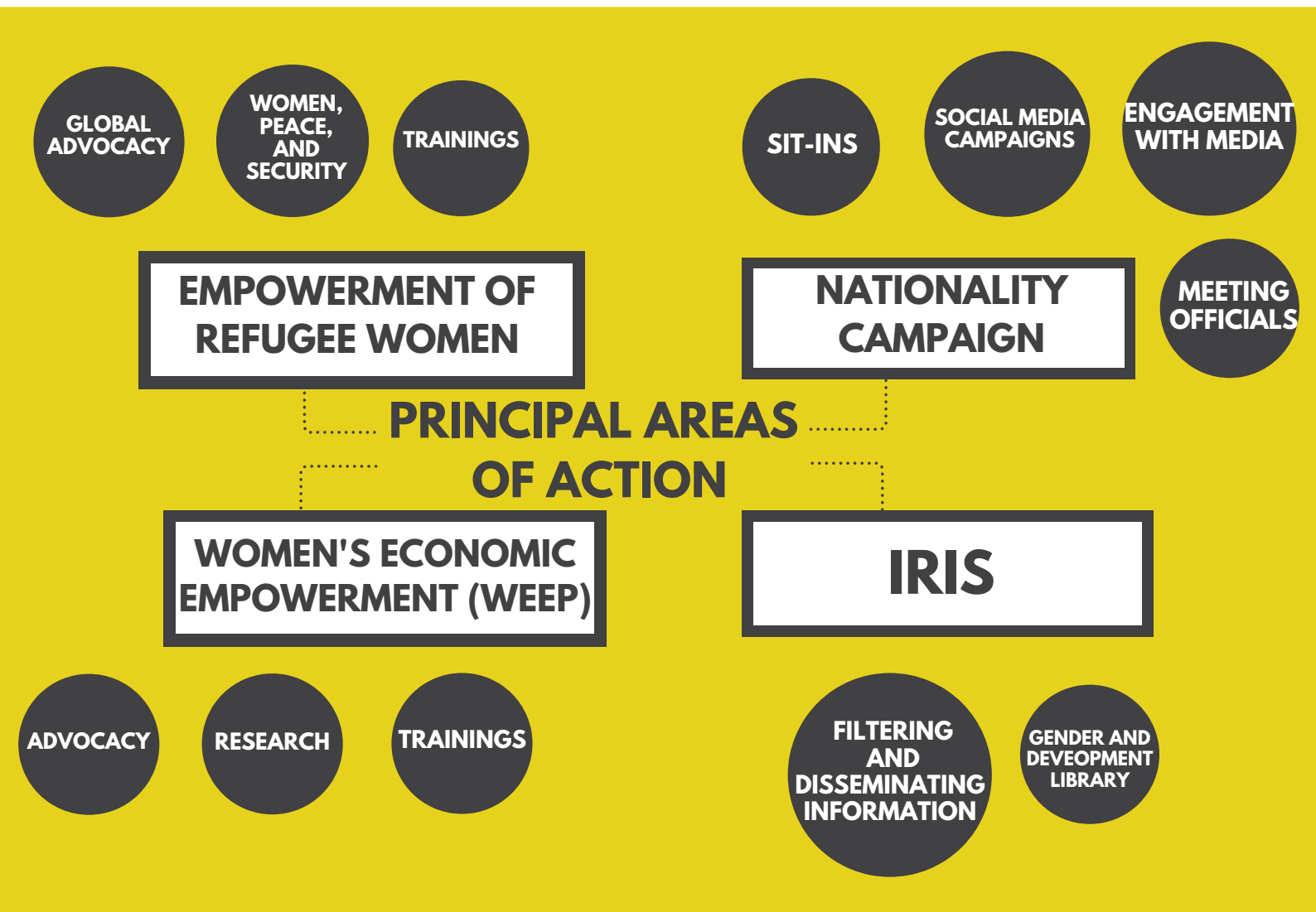
We have used our theory of change and our five focus areas to develop the strategies that we employ to achieve our vision.



# AREAS OF ACTION



Our focus areas have evolved to become four principal areas of action, informed by our theory of change and our strategies. Although each area operates independently, there is a high level of collaboration between the different areas.



The activities and initiatives mentioned here are the principal initiatives of each area of action, but are non-exhaustive.

Each of these programs invoke one or more of CRTD.A's focus areas in specific program activities undertaken.

The trainings mentioned are all variations of Leadership Trainings, but the curriculum is adapted to the specific context. The content is based on Women's Learning Partnership resources.

# NATIONALITY CAMPAIGN

## Activities and Initiatives

SIT-INS

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

ENGAGEMENT WITH MEDIA

MEETING OFFICIALS

The nationality campaign, publicly known as 'My Nationality: A Right for Me and My Family', which focuses on advocating for the right of women across the region to pass their citizenship onto their children, is mainly an awareness-raising, advocacy, and lobbying campaign. The strategies used for this area of action are therefore different to CRTD.A-wide strategies.

### 1. Engagement with the Public

Engagement with the public is achieved through social media, and through public actions, such as sit-ins, and town meetings.

- Town meetings have been revived in the last 6 months in an effort to mobilize and create public awareness of the campaign on a national level, as well as to build relationships with co-campaigners across Lebanon. 4 town meetings were held in the last 6 months: in Baakleen (May 9), Mahraya (May 25) and Qabrshmoun (13 June), and Makseh (June 29).
- A sit-in was organized on the 10 March 2019, which attracted significant media and public attention, and was the focus of a social media campaign, as well as a media engagement campaign.
- Several social media campaigns were launched, including:
  - a video campaign involving famous women, including Patricia Nammour (actress) and Tina Jarrous (TV Presenter with MTV).
  - a video campaign involving children and women affected by the discriminatory law, who were encouraging mobilization and participation in the sit-in on 10 March.
  - a documentary creating publicity for the sit-in

### 2. Meeting Officials, Engaging with Decision-makers

- A strategic meeting was held with Violette Safadi, Minister of State for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth. This meeting resulted in the Minister speaking out in favour of changing the nationality laws.
- There has also been more informal networking with individual members of Parliament and with UNDP which is active in the various arms of government in Lebanon. Meetings were also held with Hadi Abul Hassan, a lawmaker who supports the cause, and an agreement was reached to reject partial solutions.
- CRTD.A is also involved in a consultation process with the National Council for Lebanese Women - NCLW in the area of Lebanese nationality law reform. Although we maintain this relationship, CRTD.A has differed with the NCLW based on their draft bill, which CRTD.A does not think goes far enough and violates the principle of inclusiveness aimed at by the campaign.

### 3. Engagement with the Media

- The campaign generated enormous media attention from all over the region in the last 6 months. Media coverage of the sit-in was extensive. Media attention was also generated by the decision of Minister Safadi, and the meeting with Abul Hassan.
- CRTD.A has publicly rejected any partial measures that give some rights to children of Lebanese women, without granting full citizenship, and also that exclude some nationalities of partners.

### 4. Engagement with Global and Regional Partners

- Participation in conference in Istanbul hosted by Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights.
- Collaboration with regional partners for town meetings, sit-ins, and social media campaigns.



# NATIONALITY CAMPAIGN (CONTD)

## Outcomes

- Significant social media reach, with almost 20,000 followers on the campaign Facebook page.
- Significant media coverage, with almost **50 articles** in online and print journals in March alone, including: An-Nahr, El Nashra, Al Hayat, Al Akhbar, and Al Modon. Features also on Al Jadeed TV, MTV, and Future TV.
- Relationships built with **key lawmakers**
- Public support from the **Minister of the Interior and Municipalities** and the **Minister for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth**
- Increasing traction and attention, contributing indirectly in the **proposal of draft laws** granting a variety of rights to the spouses and children of Lebanese women who are married to non-Lebanese men. Two of the draft laws in parliament adopted the nationality campaign legal proposal. A third draft law issued by NCLW was presented but it does not adopt the inclusive approach of the campaign. All three are outputs of the efforts of the nationality campaign activism.



## Monitoring and Evaluation

- Evaluation of public awareness raising is done via social media statistics, which inform us of the reach of our social media. Our 20,000 followers are a testament to the traction being gained by the campaign.
- Evaluation is also conducted by tracking press coverage by month, and examining the activities that increase press coverage. This process showed a significant increase in press coverage due to the sit-in.
- The proposal of bills, creation of draft laws, and the public participation of lawmakers all testify to the efficacy of the campaign.



# EMPOWERMENT OF REFUGEE WOMEN



## Activities and Initiatives

GLOBAL  
ADVOCACY

WOMEN,  
PEACE,  
AND  
SECURITY

TRAININGS

### 1. Capacity Building

- Empowerment of refugee women during the reporting period was achieved primarily through the Women, Peace, and Security project, which focuses on capacity-building for Syrian refugees to advocate for themselves, as well as capacity-building for advocates from across the MENA region and Nigeria. Capacity-building under this project focuses on training trainers, in order to maximize its scope and reach. One regional training of trainers was conducted in February, and one national training of trainers in March, with a total reach of 46 participants. The training of trainers focuses on participatory leadership, women's political participation, GBV, human security, and conflict analysis.
- The regional training of trainers was attended by participants from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Turkey, Nigeria, Egypt, Libya, and Iraq, and lasted 4 days. Participants were selected based on their ability to transfer knowledge to the WLP partner organization's staff/trainers upon their return, and commitment to engaging on follow-up advocacy and training efforts.
- All ToTs were preceded by pre-ToTs, meetings between facilitators which ensured that the best possible training was provided.
- One evaluation workshop, with participants from the women, peace, and security trainings was conducted, with 12 participants.
- As a result of these, trainers trained by CRTDA held trainings in Iraq and Libya during this period. 2 workshops were conducted in Libya, including one which trained trainers in Leadership and the Role of Women in Peace and Security, which trained 20 people from several NGOs in Libya and which resulted in 4 projects. The second was a leadership and grassroots activism training. 31 trainers were trained in Iraq.
- Another national training of trainers, conducted with the UN Democracy Fund was conducted with a total of 15 participants.

### 2. Research

- A research paper on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Lebanon was funded, examining both how the UPR has looked at refugee women in the past, and how the focus of the UPR can be drawn to refugee women, and CRTDA's possible contribution.
- The IDRC has approved a concept note for a nationwide qualitative research project on Gender-Based Violence in refugee communities, which focuses on the coping strategies developed by refugee women, and how these can be used to inform policy. A proposal has been submitted which is now awaiting approval. If approved, the project will double as an empowerment program, a partnership-building exercise, as well as its use for advocacy, and to improve our trainings.

### 3. Advocacy

- This year was marked by the emergence of an advocacy component of the refugee initiative, with the UPR research. It was presented to stakeholders and partners in March, and will continue to be used for advocacy in the run-up to the UPR process.
- This area of action mainly aims to conduct advocacy through its capacity building exercises, aiming to empower women in Lebanon and the MENA region to become advocates or to focus and improve their advocacy activities.
- Participation in CSW63 (see other activities) was a part of this area of activity.

## Outcomes

- **61 people** empowered to conduct their own trainings through trainings in Lebanon.
- Trainings held in **Iraq and Libya** by the trainers trained in Lebanon. **20 trainers trained** and **13 people** trained in grassroots leadership in Libya. 4 projects in Libya resulted from the training of trainers. **31 trainers** trained in Iraq.
- **Relationships** built between regional activists, allowing for integrated advocacy messages and knowledge-sharing
- Constructive, in-depth **feedback** received in order to improve the trainings
- Research and advocacy conducted which will pave the way for **inclusion of refugee women in international human rights monitoring processes**.
- Process begun to conduct **qualitative research**, which will also act as an empowerment and partnership-building project.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

- Individual and group evaluations were conducted throughout the workshops in order to measure the usefulness of the trainings and to get feedback from the participants.
- 2 day evaluation workshop conducted which produced concrete, in-depth suggestions for improvements to the women, peace, and security trainings. These suggestions have informed changes to curricula.
- Impact mapping survey produced for WLP, our strategic partner in March, which evaluated in detail the impact and its scope of the Women, Peace, and Security trainings. This showed an increase in the level of influence on decisions of peace and security, particularly on a family and community level. 76 meetings or policy dialogues were conducted with institutional bodies on women, peace, and security by participants. 100% of train the trainer participants reported increased knowledge. A huge leap was registered on the level of engagement in dialogue processes at CSW and the UPR, indicating increased knowledge on the subject.

# WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



## Activities and Initiatives

ADVOCACY

RESEARCH

TRAININGS

The WEEP area of action, which has developed out of the refugee program since the inception of CRTDA, has developed swiftly since its inception. It can be seen as a semi-autonomous part of the refugee empowerment area of action. The economic empowerment project, which has the goal of strengthening the engagement of women in economy can be broken down into two phases: capacity building and research, then advocacy. The Income generating projects (IGPs) were established prior to the project and are not part of the project, however coaching the IGPs is part of the project. moreover there are several IGPs supported by CRTDA in the form of making them visible through social media as well as purchasing from them. It is currently funded by the African Women's Development Fund, and is mostly an advocacy project with capacity-building and research components woven in.

### 1. Capacity-building and coaching of IGPs, research

Including: training in grassroots activism and advocacy skills, research on the engagement of women in the economy.

### 2. Advocacy

Including: engagement with media, social media campaigns, dissemination and publicity around research project, grassroots activism conducted by the women trained in phase 1.

The first phase is now nearing completion, and the WEEP area of action is now starting to focus on the second phase. It will empower the women involved in the first phase to advocate for support for similar projects, a change in the perception of women in the economy and in economic policy, and to support similar projects.

### 1. Capacity Building

The capacity-building phase of WEEP, which is currently underway, works through empowering the women involved in the IGPs and others in leadership, grassroots activism, and advocacy skills.

6 trainings in grassroots activism and leadership were conducted, with a total reach of 156 women.

### 2. Research

A research project, which focuses on women's involvement in the economy is now underway. The research focuses on women's economic rights in Lebanon and how these are affected by economic and social policies as well as by political and cultural policies. This research has a desk research element, and a field research element. The desk research is now nearing completion, and the field research is underway. This research will be used to inform our capacity building, as well as our advocacy efforts.

### 3. Advocacy

- WEEP has now entered its advocacy stage. Advocacy is conducted in WEEP in two main ways: through empowering women to become advocates, and through our own advocacy efforts. The capacity-building in grassroots activism is preparing women for advocacy, and the IGPs will, in principle, be used as case studies for how women can be empowered to participate in economic activities. This advocacy is therefore the culmination of WEEP's work to date.
- The research project will also be used for advocacy purposes, achieved through dissemination and engagement with media.
- We have also maintained our advocacy efforts through the WEEP website ([www.weepportal-lb.org](http://www.weepportal-lb.org)), in conjunction with IRIS, which aims to engage and inform on issues that affect the economic rights of women.

## Outcomes

- **156 women** trained in leadership, advocacy, and grassroots activism. These trainings created an environment where women could meet other women which fostered collaboration on projects, and relationships were built between women that will encourage and improve advocacy capacity and future partnerships.
- **Research conducted** into women's participation in the economy, which is now entering its field research phase.
- A large amount of relevant information disseminated through the WEEP platform. (see IRIS section for user statistics)

## Monitoring and Evaluation

- Post-training evaluations are conducted based on the WLP evaluation tool to assess level of knowledge gained.
- Report produced with feedback from leadership training. The overall evaluation of the workshops indicated that the workshops achieved their goals. The feedback was generally very positive.



# IRIS, OTHER ACTIVITIES, ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Independent Resource and Information Service (IRIS)

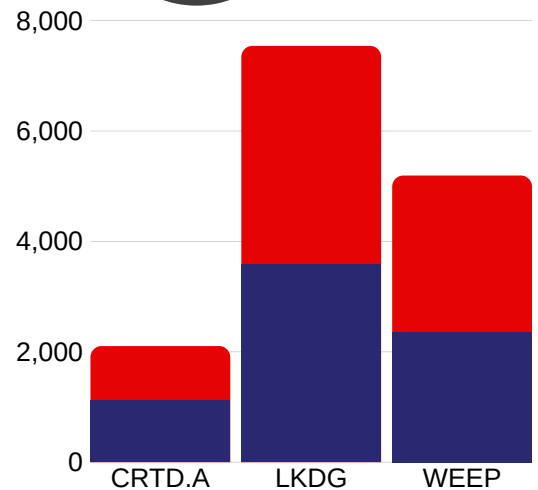
The Independent Resource and Information Services (IRIS) is an information repository and dissemination unit at CRTD.A. Its activities are cross-cutting to CRTD.A programs and projects.

- IRIS manages three internet knowledge platforms, for which it filters media sources in order to ensure that only relevant information is disseminated:

1. The CRTD.A website provides information on CRTD.A activities;
2. The Lebanon Knowledge Development Gateway LKDG website focuses on citizenship, rights, refugees, relief, economy, NGO news and gender issues;
3. The Women's Economic Empowerment Portal website focuses on women economic rights in the context of gender equality, and other relevant contextual information.

- IRIS manages CRTD.A's public library which consists of two sections: resources in the fields of community development and civil society (IRIS-Lib); and specialized resources in gender and development, women's rights and equality, including research and training resources

(GLIP-Lib). The library contains more than 7000 references ranging from books, reports, studies, and research publications in Arabic, English and French. The number of resources in the Library is increasing continuously as new additions are made on a monthly basis. The library serves the interest of students, researchers, media figures and individuals involving gender issues, and civil society. All areas of activity benefit from the upkeep and expansion of IRIS.



**Total new users for each website  
May (navy) and June (red).  
Total: 7043 (May); 7777 (June).**

## Other Activities

- CRTD.A as WLP-Lebanon hosted a side event at CSW63 in March entitled 'Redefining Human Security in the Public and Private Spheres', as part of the Women, Peace, and Security Project.
- CRTD.A is involved with the Ministry of Social Affairs in the design of the monitoring and evaluation tool for implementing gender mainstreaming strategy in the Ministry.
- CRTD.A participates in the advisory committee pertaining to the project 'Civil Society Actors and Policymaking in the Arab World' which entails planning and monitoring a hundred case studies on activism in several Arab countries, including the Gulf.
- CRTDA is also part of the national consultation for the design of the strategy to implement resolution 1325 on women peace and security.
- CRTDA is also involved in the drafting of the report to the CEDAW committee.

## Organizational Development

- Strategic 5-year plan adopted in December 2018 which has been guiding our focus and areas of action, and helped us to plan better for long-term initiatives.
- Core funding received during the reporting period from Kvinna Til Kvinna, as well as MATCH, and WLP, which enables flexibility in our initiatives and areas of action, capacity-building within the organization, more efficient responses to identified needs, and innovation within our initiatives.
- Registration of staff in a training on donor identification in the Center for Global Health in AUB.

# SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES JAN-JUN 2019

*Involvement in CSW63*

*Research on refugees in UPR completed and presented*

*Continued support of IGPs*

*Concept approval for qualitative research on GBV*

*Trainers trained from Libya, Iraq, Jordan, Nigeria, Syria, and Turkey*

*Beginning of advocacy phase*

*Workshops in Iraq and Libya by trainers trained*

*156 women trained in grassroots activism*

*61 trainers trained*

## Refugee Women Empowerment

## Women's Economic Empowerment

*Desk and field research on the involvement of women in the economy (underway)*

*Evaluation workshop for Women, Peace, and Security program*

# Summary of Activities Jan-Jun 2019

*Participation in Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights conference*

*Maintaining library*

*Sit-in*

## Nationality Campaign

## IRIS

*Social media campaigns*

*Filtering and disseminating information*

*Meetings with key lawmakers*

*Public rejection of partial solutions*

*Managing 3 websites*

*Significant media coverage*

*4 town meetings*

*NCLW consultation*

# PARTNERSHIPS AND LOOKING FORWARD

