

Women Together Stronger Together Project

Evaluation Report

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Project Objective

This report presents the monitoring and evaluation findings of the “Women’s Solidarity for Strength” Project, implemented by the Yüksekova Women’s Association (YUKADER) with the support of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee under the 2024–2025 grant program titled “Advocates for Change – Civil Society Support for Türkiye.”

The impact objective of the project was defined as increasing awareness around gender issues and promoting gender equality in Hakkari.

One of the main outcomes of the project was to identify the needs of women in Hakkari through a gender-sensitive needs assessment, thereby generating knowledge about the realities and requirements of women living in the region.

Another key outcome was to enhance women’s awareness of gender issues and women’s rights at the local level and to support their empowerment through women’s gatherings, technical assistance, and mentorship provided by YUKADER.

Finally, the project also aimed to strengthen the understanding and knowledge of local civil and public actors regarding gender equality, women’s needs, and action planning.

The primary target group of the project was women living in Hakkari. Throughout the project, cooperation was developed with local authorities and the bar association in Hakkari. Additionally, women’s rights organizations and civil society actors—particularly those based in the Southeastern Anatolia Region—engaged in awareness-raising, advocacy, and service delivery were included in the project’s broader stakeholder group, with efforts made to foster dialogue and collaboration.

Project Evaluation Process and Methodology

The project evaluation process began in January 2025 and was completed in July 2025. During this period, preparation for field research was a key component. As the project budget provided by the grant did not include a specific line for preparatory support for fieldwork, these costs were covered through the association's own independent budget.

Prior to and during the field research, I supported the field research team on issues such as research methodology, appropriate conduct and attitudes in the field, survey design, and data storage and processing. Following the fieldwork, the collected data was analyzed by myself. The field research report can be accessed from the website of the association. During the analysis process, regular meetings were held with YUKADER. In these meetings, the field team shared their observations, and preliminary findings from the survey data were also shared with the association.

One of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee's activities for its grantee organizations included an impact evaluation training. In March 2025, Koç University's Social Impact Forum provided this training to the staff of the funded organizations. By coincidence, I was also one of the trainers of this training. This coincidence contributed to strengthening the theoretical understanding of evaluation among the YUKADER team and helped to establish a common language during the evaluation process.

Conducting the analysis of the field research played a significant role in understanding the impact of the project activities and in identifying potential short- and medium-term outcomes. The analysis of field data, collected through both quantitative and qualitative methods, proved especially useful in providing detailed insights into the local needs of the region.

The data used in this evaluation report was significantly supported by the project team. The regular verbal and written feedback provided by the association's staff, as well as the qualitative data collected through surveys and focus group discussions, played a crucial role in the evaluation. Specifically:

- Observation notes taken by the association's team members following group sessions with women in four districts of Hakkari were utilized.
- At the end of the project, an online focus group discussion was held with women involved in women's organizations from four districts (one woman from each district), in line with the project's overall objective.
- Data from the online evaluation survey shared after the Regional Women's Meeting—organized at the end of the project with participation from women's

organizations based in Hakkari and other major provinces in Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia—was used in the evaluation.

- Two lawyers who provided legal rights awareness and individual legal counseling support to women in Hakkari were also sent an evaluation survey, and the data collected from them was included in the report.

Risks and Limitations

One of the limitations during the evaluation process was that it had to be conducted remotely through online meetings, which restricted my ability to use observation skills as an evaluation expert. This limitation was only partially overcome thanks to my active role in the field research process. The testimonies and qualitative data gathered during the fieldwork enabled me to observe the women and their needs in the region, thereby contributing to a more realistic evaluation.

Another limitation was the lack of written evaluation data collected directly from women following the meetings and seminars held in the field. This was due to the high rate of illiteracy among women and the risk that filling out a survey at the first encounter might prevent them from feeling safe. To address this, the team collected verbal feedback at the end of the meetings and documented it. Three different members of the association kept separate notes during these meetings, recording the women's statements. Although there is a risk of subjectivity, the comparison of the three sets of notes showed consistency. Furthermore, the data collected from the lawyers who led the seminars was consistent with these meeting notes.

Despite these limitations, the project aims to create a long-term impact in Hakkari by promoting sustainable engagement among women and enhancing their use of rights through grassroots organizing. However, this evaluation focused primarily on women's knowledge and awareness levels, as well as their willingness to engage in potential medium- and long-term changes. Given the duration of the project and the evaluation, only short- and medium-term insights could be covered.

Finally, bias within the stakeholder group was inevitable. The survey data was collected only from those who agreed to participate, and as with any survey-based study, respondents were likely to be those already engaged with or affected by the project—whether positively or critically. Voluntary participation was prioritized in this evaluation.

In summary, the evaluation was carried out with full awareness of these risks and limitations, and with a commitment to preserving the trust-based relationship between the women and the association—an element that was considered critical to the integrity of the project.

Needs identified in the field

The core activities of the project were planned based on the needs identified during the field research conducted in February 2025. Therefore, this section briefly outlines the main findings of the field study.

The field research was carried out in four districts of Hakkari, primarily in disadvantaged neighborhoods, and included interviews with a total of 301 women. The research was conducted by women volunteers from the Yüksekova Women's Association. In most cases, the women were reached through home visits, and the surveys were administered verbally.

The study aimed to understand the participants' educational background, economic status, access to employment, access to inheritance rights, marriage practices, needs during pregnancy and child-rearing, experiences or witnessing of violence, as well as the public services most lacking in their neighborhoods and their related demands.

Based on the data, the main problems identified were:

- Unemployment
- Lack of social spaces and inability to socialize
- Prevalence of violence
- Inaccessibility of healthcare services
- Lack of activities and social spaces for children and youth
- Social and cultural pressure
- Security concerns
- Environmental pollution
- Air pollution
- Poor road conditions and limited public transportation
- Water shortages

Among the identified issues were forced marriages, unintended pregnancies, the burden of domestic caregiving, deprivation of freedom, and exposure to psychological, physical, economic, and sexual violence—as well as the normalization and acceptance of such violence. The findings revealed a pattern of life in which rights violations have become normalized. It was observed that nearly all women had

not exercised their legally protected right to inheritance. Instead, they either willingly or under pressure—often through coercion—signed documents transferring their inheritance shares to their brothers in accordance with customary practices.

The patriarchal structure of society, the prevalence of polygamy, and the presence of conservative and religiously devout communities in certain neighborhoods have all contributed to women marrying at an early age, dropping out of education, and being excluded from employment.

YUKADER aimed to increase women's awareness of the rights violations they experience, and to support grassroots organizing among women that would respond to their needs and mobilize around their demands. Furthermore, the association sought to engage with local municipalities, inform the relevant units providing services to women about these issues, and improve dialogue between these units and the women themselves.

Within this framework, the main activities of the project supported by the Norwegian Helsinki Committee were clearly defined. The contact established by YUKADER with women during the field research contributed both to the broader reach of the project's activities among women and to their planning through an evidence-based approach.

Evaluation of Local Awareness and Women's Organizing Efforts

Meetings were held with women in the districts of Esendere, Yüksekova, Şemdinli, and Çukurca in Hakkari as a first step toward establishing grassroots women's organizing. Collective action among women and their solidarity plays a key role in enabling them to demand services from public institutions and find solutions to the problems they face. Based on this understanding, YUKADER organized group meetings with women in each neighborhood, where they discussed local issues—taking into account data from the field study—and held conversations about women's legal rights. Most participants were housewives, both married and unmarried. Depending on the availability of the women, some group meetings were held over two or three half days, while others lasted a full day.

The group meetings began with women introducing themselves and sharing the story of their names. By asking about the story behind their names, the facilitators encouraged the women to reflect on their emotional connection with their names and, in turn, with themselves. Then, members of the association provided information on the difference between prejudice and discrimination, the meaning of gender equality, and the types of violence. They also assumed a facilitative role, encouraging women to share the forms of discrimination they experienced and to identify their own needs. Women were encouraged to reflect and converse about the challenges they face in communication—particularly with their spouses—as well as gender equality and violence.

Women shared experiences from their own lives, and each group touched upon different topics based on its own dynamic. These included the role of gossip in communication, the difference between “I” and “you” language, the challenges of growing up as a girl, the shame experienced during puberty and menstruation, having to ask permission from a father or brother to continue education, and needing their husband's permission to attend a course or even go to the market—all situations that restrict their freedom. Some of the women's statements are as follows:

“We are very afraid of men. Nothing is allowed.”

“This is a small town; whatever we do is immediately heard.”

“We can't even go to the hospital without permission from men.”

“I don't think we say yes to everything men want because we're afraid, but maybe because we simply don't want to resist. If we resisted, we would win.”

“In the village, they would say to us, ‘You're women; you can't go to the

city.' We were very afraid when we saw police or soldiers."
"I don't forgive my brother for taking me out of school."

To understand the impact these meetings had on women, YUKADER relied on the observation notes taken by its facilitation team. Based on the women's statements and the association's observations, it became clear that the women developed trust in both the YUKADER team and one another during the meetings. As awareness of the issues being discussed increased, women shared more examples from their personal lives. The meetings also made the women feel seen and valued. For example, in the notes from the introductions, when the facilitators asked about participants' favorite colors and foods, one woman remarked:

"No one has ever asked me what I like before," indicating that she was not used to such a question.

As women began sharing their experiences of rights violations, they also became more curious and enthusiastic about organizing. They expressed ideas about establishing cooperatives or forming associations. In some districts, the idea of establishing a cooperative was discussed more, while in others, forming an association was more prominent. In the meetings, women who were more ready to engage in organizing also spoke about the importance of unity and solidarity.

"I got married at 18 and endured violence for 18 years. I wish we had women's associations back then."

According to YUKADER president Hatice Temir's notes from the meetings, the sense of solidarity that emerged not only empowered the women who were interviewed, but also strengthened the women already organized in Yüksekova. Her reflections are as follows:

"In the first week, we began to get to know ourselves. The more we talked, the more we realized; and the more we realized, the stronger we became. We saw how beneficial these gatherings were for us, and how much we actually have in common. Now we are braver, more aware, and closer to one another."

Group work sessions in districts	Number of participants	Date	Group name
Session in Çukurca	25 women	28-29 April 2025	Güçlü Kadınlar Grubu (Strong Women)

Session in Şemdinli	19 women	20-21 March 2025	Kardelenler (Snowdrops)
Session in Yüksekova	17 women	2-3 May 2025	Gökkuşakını Doğuran Kadınlar (Women Who Birthed Rainbow)
Session in Esendere	38 women	25-28 March 2025 (2 different group sessions were held)	Jin Jiyan Azadi ile Umutlu Kadınlar Grubu (Jin Jiyan Azadi and Hopeful Women)

Legal Awareness Activities

Another key activity of the project was the delivery of training sessions for women in the four districts. These sessions provided information on the legal aspects of organizing, including the definition and role of the bar association, the work carried out by women's rights centers within bar associations, the differences between associations and cooperatives, their respective legal frameworks, and Law No. 6284 on the Protection of the Family and Prevention of Violence Against Women, along with the legal mechanisms available for protection from violence.

The topics covered in the training sessions were structured around the following guiding questions:

- What is organization?
- What does women's organization mean?
- What is an association?
- What is a cooperative?
- What does Law No. 6284 entail, and what are the legal avenues for protection from violence?

The trainings were delivered alternately by Lawyers Leyla Alipur and Rojda Turgut. Evaluation and impact data regarding the sessions were collected through trainer evaluation forms and observation notes taken by the association's team.

The training sessions took place in various venues, which can be seen as an indication of the project's capacity to collaborate with a range of local institutions.

The women who participated in these sessions included those attending vocational courses at the Public Education Center in Şemdinli, women participation trainings at the Family Support Center, women receiving of Social and Economic Support (SED) from the Social Services Directorate, and women previously contacted by the association during field visits.

District trainings	Number of participants	Date – Place	Trainer
Çukurca	20 women	29 April 2025 / Community Learning Centre	Adv. Leyla Alipur
Şemdinli	53 women	6 April 2025	Adv. Rojda Turgut and Ümmühan Yağmur from Social Service Centre
Yüksekova	23 women	5 May 2025 / Community Learning Centre	Adv. Rojda Turgut
Esendere	23 women	8 May 2025 / Municipality of Esendere	Adv. Leyla Alipur

Review of district-specific training reports shows that, as also indicated in the field report, participation in Şemdinli—despite its conservative social structure—exceeded the association’s expectations. Women’s interest in the training was reported to be very high. Following the training, two women filed formal complaints related to violence. This development was interpreted by the association as a direct outcome of the training, reflecting both the impact of creation of the safe space in the trainings.

“Two women filed complaints of violence after the training. This development demonstrated that the legal information shared and the safe environment created had a tangible impact on the women.”
(Association representative)

In Yüksekova, the fact that the Yüksekova Women Association was already organized in the district, some women were already familiar with it and this made it easier to build trust. The association noted that women in Yüksekova showed particular

interest in forming cooperatives and engaging in production-based models of economic empowerment.

In Çukurca, as in the other districts, the association team observed that women's level of knowledge regarding legal rights, the bar association, and organization was very low, and that the training contributed significantly to increasing their knowledge.

“Women who did not know what the word “bar association” meant expressed curiosity and asked for clarification. They explained that the terms “bar association” and “organization” carried negative connotations for them. Lawyer Leyla provided the correct definitions and helped clarify the concepts that had previously been misunderstood.” (Association representative)

In addition to the observations made by association staff about the serious need for legal information, rights-based support, and empowerment activities, the lawyers who delivered the trainings also emphasized the significant lack of knowledge among women about fundamental rights and legal terminology.

“Providing even partial answers to their questions and reminding them of their rights was not only mentally beneficial for me, but I believe these were very valuable trainings for them as well. It saddened me to see that most women had little or incorrect information on so many topics.”
(Lawyer 1)

“I realized just how many women we have failed to reach—and how many remain unaware.”
(Lawyer 2)

The fact that women asked questions at the end of the sessions was another indicator of the participants' interest and that the training had achieved its intended goal. The fact that the training was delivered by a lawyer also seemed to have had a positive impact on both trust and participation.

In Esendere, a staff member from the Esendere Municipality attended the training sessions. This officer, the only woman civil servant in the municipality and the one tasked with planning and leading women's programming, was found to have increased her understanding of the needs and issues facing local women through the training sessions. The impact of YUKADER's work on this municipal employee became apparent during the final focus group discussion of the project:

“Before I met the association, I was always surrounded by men. I’m the only woman working at the municipality. After I met the association and attended the trainings, I started to notice many things. For example, I’m from Yüksekova, and because divorce rates were low there, I used to say, ‘Family ties must be very strong here.’ But then I witnessed many people staying silent despite severe hardship and not being able to make their voices heard. I was shocked when I heard women speaking out during the trainings—it marked the beginning of my awareness. It was through attending YUKADER’s trainings that I realized all of this. I still have many gaps, and there are things I still don’t fully grasp, but I continue to learn.”

This municipal employee reported that she had only been participating in YUKADER’s activities since April, suggesting that even within a short time frame, the training had a significant impact on her awareness.

Another woman who participated in the focus group and had recently become a volunteer in the organizing efforts in Yüksekova stated that she had known YUKADER for three years and had experienced significant personal empowerment during that time. Although her comment refers to the association’s long-term impact more broadly, it still speaks to the deeper effects of its presence, even beyond this specific project:

“I used to avoid expressing myself, even when I was right, because I didn’t want to upset the person in front of me. It was because I didn’t recognize my self-worth. After working with them, I discovered my self-worth. I learned to express myself without hurting or being hurt. They supported me in so many positive ways.”

The training also had a notable impact on the lawyers themselves. In the survey conducted with them at the end of the project, both lawyers expressed that they were very happy to have delivered the training and to have informed the women. They reported experiencing positive personal change as a result. Moreover, the training made them realize the extent to which the women they reached lacked knowledge of their rights and were disconnected from the bar association and women’s legal support centers.

Regional Meeting and the Assessment of Women's Organizations in the Region

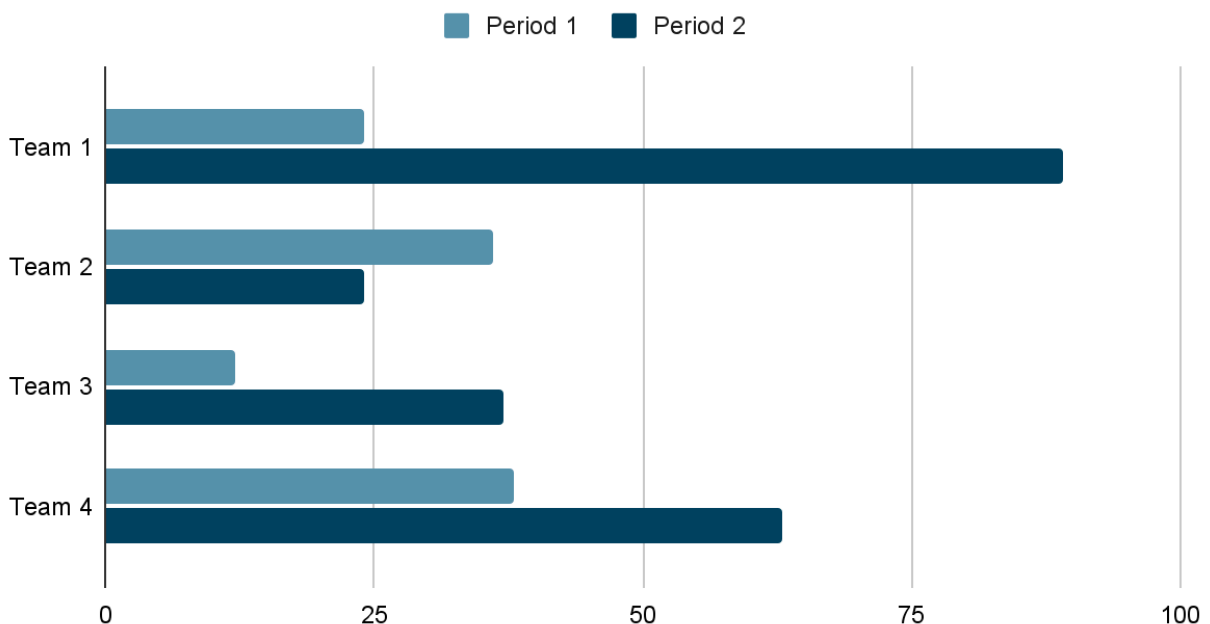
In the final phase of the project, the Yüksekova Women’s Association organized a half-day event called the Regional Women’s Meeting to strengthen women’s initiatives in Hakkari and foster collaboration. YUKADER invited Civil society

organizations operating particularly in the Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia regions..

A total of 65 women from different age groups and professional backgrounds attended the Regional Women's Meeting. The majority of participants were either representatives of civil society organizations or housewives from Hakkari. Among them were NGO representatives from Van, Diyarbakır, Şırnak, and Mardin. In addition, women from a variety of professions also took part in the event, including pharmacists, lawyers, teachers, urban planners, chefs, and entrepreneurs. A civil servant from the Yüksekova Youth Center and a representative from the Esendere Municipality also joined the meeting. Mine Yıldırım from the Norwegian Helsinki Committee was also in attendance.

The meeting began with introductions and continued with a presentation of the field research report. The report was presented online by Dr. Duygu Güner, who authored it, but the presentation could not be completed due to internet connection issues. Following the presentation, participants were divided into working groups based on thematic issues covered in the report. The design of this group work was jointly prepared by the YUKADER team and the project's impact evaluation specialist. Participants discussed six key problems commonly faced by women in their respective regions at different tables, focusing on the root causes of these issues, potential solutions, and institutions that could play a role or be potential collaborators

Points scored



solving them. Below is a summary of the discussions at each table based on the association's notes. The full notes of the regional meeting have been documented separately.

Table 1 – Refugees and Migration:

At this table, women discussed the challenges faced by migrant and refugee women and explored potential support mechanisms that could be developed in response.

Table 2 – Violence Against Women:

This table included seven participants—two from Van, one from Diyarbakır, and four from Yüksekova. The group consisted of a lawyer, a field assistant, a tailor, and a young unemployed woman. Discussions focused on psychological and digital violence, with particular emphasis on generating solutions to address digital violence.

Table 3 – Livelihood Struggles and Poverty:

Five women from Diyarbakır, Cizre, and Yüksekova participated in this session. The group discussed lack of employment opportunities, unregistered and insecure work conditions, and how male outmigration in search of work affects women. Suggestions were developed to increase women's participation in production.

Table 4 – Women's Health and Psychosocial Support:

This group was mostly composed of women from Yüksekova, including housewives, a lawyer, and a pharmacist. Participants highlighted the urgent need for Kurdish-speaking interpreters in hospitals.

Table 5 – Access to Education for Women and Girls:

Participants noted that access to education for women and girls in Yüksekova remains a significant issue, particularly in rural areas. The group emphasized that this issue is multilayered—stemming not only from economic factors but also from cultural, social, and normative gender barriers—and that any effective solution must address all these layers simultaneously.

Table 6 – Issues Faced by Young Women:

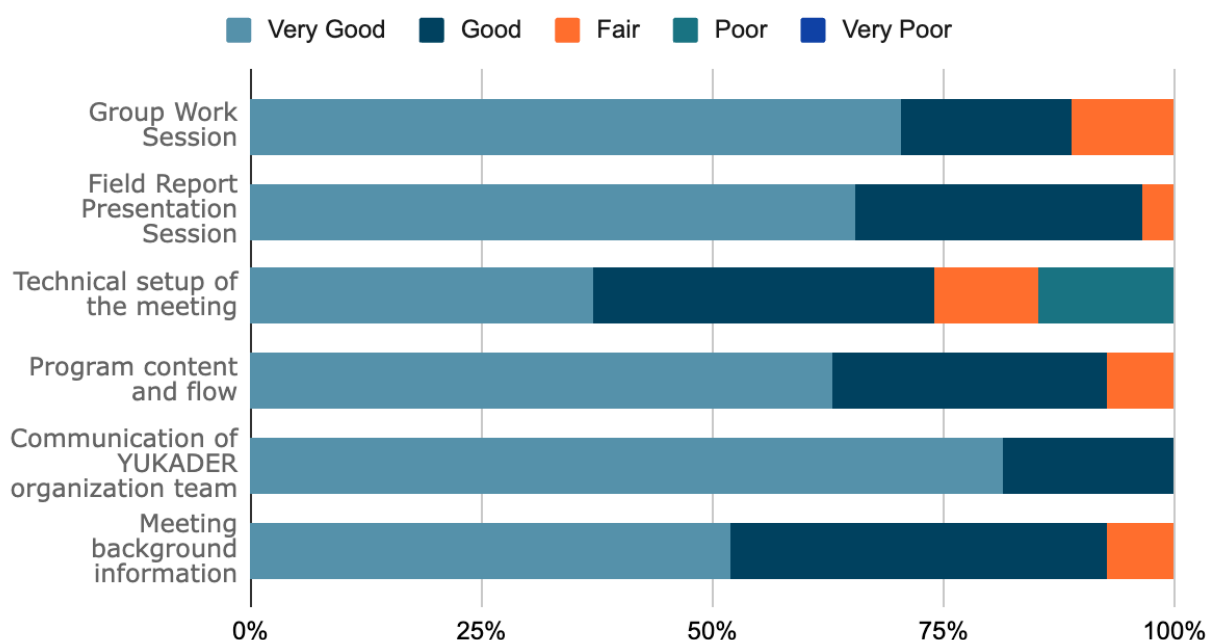
This group consisted of eight young women residing in Yüksekova who are currently not employed. Their discussions addressed unemployment, the prevalence of gender inequality within families and schools, and the lack of socio-cultural spaces. The group developed proposals to expand employment opportunities for young women.

Across all tables, a shared outcome was the increased motivation among women to work together, the emergence of a desire for collective action, and the beginning of trust-building among women active in the region. These are all essential

components for advancing collaborative women's organization. In addition meeting outcomes were used to create a new action plan for the association.

To assess whether the meeting achieved its goals, an online survey was designed for participants. Since many of the participating housewives were unfamiliar with online surveys, the initial plan was to administer the survey before the meeting ended—allowing them to complete it with the support of other attendees. However, due to conditions on the day of the event, this was not possible. The survey link was later shared with participants, and **27 women completed the survey**. The data collected provided valuable insights for the overall evaluation of the meeting.

Technical and Logistical Evaluation of the Meeting



First and foremost, it can be stated that participants were generally satisfied with the flow of the meeting. There were no negative assessments regarding the group work, the overall structure and content of the program, or the field research report. A few participants were undecided during the group work sessions. Feedback from participants was gathered under two communication-related headings: the first concerned pre-meeting information, and the second focused on the YUKADER team's communication. Among these, the most positively rated aspect was the team's communication; participants also praised the YUKADER staff's sincerity and attentiveness in the open-ended responses.

One area to consider for future improvements is the venue conditions. A few participants rated the technical conditions of the meeting room as "poor." This was due to a power outage in central Hakkari during the report presentation, which resulted in a weak internet connection.

Notably, none of the participants rated any aspect under technical and planning as "very poor."

When we look at the evaluation questions related to the meeting's objectives, the results are satisfactory. The aim was not for every participant to initiate a project or partnership following the event, but for at least some women to take steps toward these goals—which was indeed achieved. According to the survey responses, 19 out of 27 women agreed with the statement: *"There were people/institutions with whom I decided to develop a project or collaboration."*

Moreover, nearly all respondents indicated that they gained knowledge about the problems faced by women in Hakkari and that their motivation to develop solutions had increased. 21 out of 27 women stated that they had generated new project ideas during the group work and met individuals or organizations they could potentially collaborate with in the future.

"The meeting was productive and promising. It was very enriching to speak with women from different areas of the women's movement and to share experiences. We had the opportunity to explore different perspectives on the issues."

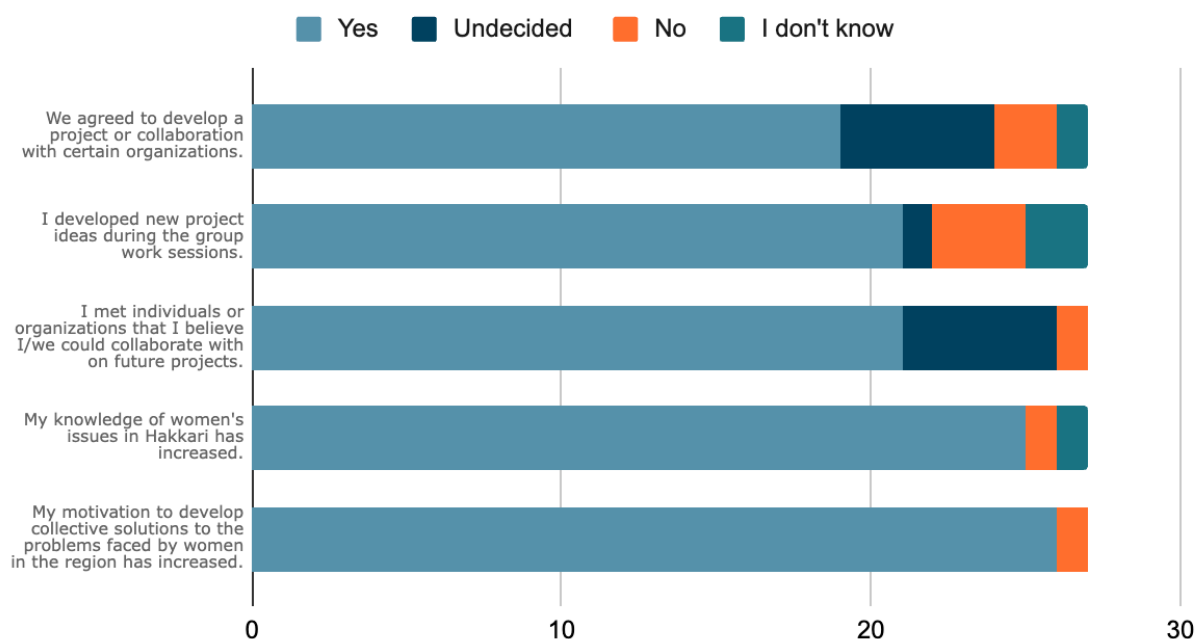
(Representative of an NGO or similar institution)

When asked, *"Are there any initiatives you've decided to pursue following this meeting? If so, would you like to share them with us?"*, women from different professions responded with various examples reflecting their motivation:

"To contribute to the Women's Association in Şemdinli." *(Representative from the Bar Association)*

"To raise awareness about the importance of gender equality in my community." *(Participant)*

Impact of the Regional Meeting on Participants



In the final section of the survey, participants were asked whether they had any specific requests from YUKADER. The only requests expressed were that the association continue its work and that similar meetings and field activities be expanded.

Areas for Improvement Identified During the Meeting

For YUKADER, this meeting—being the first time that organizations from outside the city participated—also served as a learning opportunity. Therefore, it is essential to reflect on challenges experienced during the event and to propose suggestions for improvement. This section is also considered a key part of the monitoring and evaluation process.

Participation of Children in the Meeting

One of the most important areas identified for improvement was the need to provide services for mothers attending the meeting with their children. Based on the association's prior fieldwork, it is well known that women carry a significant burden of childcare responsibilities. Some women who were unable to leave their children at home attended the meeting with them. However, the topics discussed during the

meeting were not appropriate for children and posed potential risks to child safety, as well as causing disruptions or distractions during the sessions.

Two participants who observed this situation shared the following reflections:

“We were once again reminded of how important it is to have child-free spaces during meetings. We also saw how powerless women can be—even when trying to attend awareness-raising meetings like this—when they are unable to leave their children with their spouses. This meeting gave us an opportunity to observe the deep social role assigned to women, who are so thoroughly integrated into domestic work.”

“Having children present in the meeting room was extremely unsafe for the children. At times, we discussed violence and other sensitive issues.”

For future meetings, it was suggested that a volunteer could be designated to supervise the children in a separate area, where a parallel activity could be organized. Since the age range of the children is likely to vary, having multiple contingency plans would be beneficial.

Meeting Venue and Technical Setup

Although it is known that YUKADER conducted a preliminary venue check, it is recommended that a live technical test be carried out in advance to anticipate and prevent potential problems that may arise during the event.

Increasing Participation from Public Institutions

Among the participants were a municipal employee from one district, a staff member from an education center, and lawyers from the bar association. It is noted that increasing the participation of public institutions that work with women and children at the local level, as well as interested private sector stakeholders, could significantly enhance the impact of future meetings.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It has been observed that the *Women Together Stronger Together* Project has played an active role in Hakkari in enabling women to learn about their rights, come together to meet their needs, get to know one another, and take the first steps toward solidarity. The project's initial activity, the field research, has generated valuable knowledge for the public sector, academia, and civil society. The dissemination and visibility of this knowledge are of great importance. To this end, it is recommended that support be sought from the Helsinki Norwegian Committee, relevant public institutions in dialogue, and civil society organizations.

Progress regarding the project's three main expected outcomes is summarized in the table below:

Planned Outcomes	Realized Outcomes
Gaining knowledge about the needs of women living in Hakkari from a gender perspective	In-depth interviews were conducted with 301 women in Hakkari's four districts using structured questions, and their needs were identified.
Enhancing local women's knowledge and empowerment in the areas of gender and women's rights	<p>Women who participated in group meetings and trainings gained knowledge about women's rights. Following the trainings, some women sought help regarding violence. However, the most significant indicators are the emerging grassroots organization efforts by women in all four districts.</p> <p>In this context, the <i>Women's Labor and Solidarity Association</i> was established in Şemdinli. In Esendere, support is being provided for the empowerment of municipal staff during the establishment process of the <i>Women's Affairs and Counseling Unit</i>. In Çukurca, the association actively supports the revitalization of women-focused initiatives within the municipality and provides mentoring to the existing women's cooperative.</p> <p>Lastly, in Yüksekova, women's organizing efforts have increased, and more women have begun to engage</p>

	<p>with local associations through the project. Moreover, a newly established association working in the field of children's rights in Yüksekova requested support from YUKADER during a regional women's meeting. A mentoring process has begun to support this organization in its foundational phase.</p> <p>All these developments demonstrate that women in the region are entering a process of empowerment regarding their rights at the local level.</p>
<p>Enabling stakeholders in both the civil sphere and the public sector to develop an understanding and gain knowledge on gender equality, women's needs, and the action plan.</p>	<p>The project contributed to updating knowledge within civil society—particularly through the regional meeting—regarding women's needs, and promoted dialogue by fostering joint efforts to find solutions to shared problems. These efforts have strengthened civil dialogue in the region and opened pathways for potential collaborations. However, the limited participation of public sector actors remains an area with room for improvement.</p> <p>Throughout the project, the association engaged with various public institutions such as the police department, the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), and Public Education Centers. The partnerships developed with district municipalities in Hakkari represent important steps in this direction. Nevertheless, future steps should focus on expanding public sector engagement, reaching a broader range of personnel, and deepening institutional relationships.</p>

The project's implementation across four districts in Hakkari has the potential to foster collaboration and solidarity among women from different neighborhoods. For the newly established associations and the revitalized women's cooperative in Çukurca to grow stronger, **it is essential that women receive both in-kind and financial support. The continuation of this support under the mentorship of YUKADER will help sustain the momentum gained and contribute to the permanence of women's organizing efforts.** YUKADER's respected and leading role among women in the region positively influences these organizational processes. Therefore, ensuring that women feel supported by YUKADER will help them maintain their motivation.

Based on field data and the observations of association staff, it has become clear that **regular awareness-raising and informational activities, when combined with income-generating initiatives and legal education, would be particularly effective.**

The project's effort to bring together civil society organizations working in the field of women's rights and women themselves through the regional meeting represents a significant initiative. It contributes to strengthening solidarity among organizations working on women's issues and enables the participation of new women from the field in addressing these challenges.

Increasing the diversity of participants in such meetings—including the presence of women attending with their children—will improve the effectiveness of the work. In such cases, implementing the institution's pre-prepared child protection protocol will help maximize impact while minimizing potential risks.