



NGO PROFILE

Kurdistan
Organization
for Human
Rights Watch

UPDATED JAN 2025



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NGO PROFILE

Our Identity

Kurdistan Organization for Human Rights Watch (KOHRW) is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization that was established in 1989 as a national NGO. KOHRW has contributed to humanitarian services and different development programs in the Kurdistan region and Iraq. KOHRW specializes in six areas of expertise: Human Rights, Protection, Shelter, Livelihoods, Social Cohesion, and Education.

Our Mission

Promoting human rights, democracy, gender, and equality to empower vulnerable communities to achieve individual and community integration, self-sufficiency and well-being.

Our Vision

A new Iraq where dignity, freedom, justice and human rights are protected for all.

Our Motto

Sky is the limit



OUR OBJECTIVES

1. **Coordinate** with governmental and non-governmental entities to support the most vulnerable aspects of our community, including children, women, low-income families, unemployed youth, the elderly, physically and mentally affected persons, etc.
2. Provide **assistance** where & when needed, especially for IDPs, refugees, returnees, and all other vulnerable groups in the community.
3. Contribute to **establish peace & stability** by inspiring through the principles of fraternity, tolerance and coexistence in KRI & Federal Iraq.
4. Promote **social awareness** in regards to freedom, principles of democracy, international human right agreements and elimination of all forms of violence.
5. Promote **volunteer work** in general and encourage the involvement of youth in policy-making processes in KRI & Federal Iraq.
6. Establish **communication & cooperation bridges** with UN agencies, international organizations, etc. alongside governmental and non-governmental entities in KRI & Federal Iraq, with a focus on improving laws and regulations.

OUR STRUCTURE

Board of Trustees

7 members who work voluntarily

Board of Directors

Executive body composed of 6 directors (Executive Director, Directors of Programs, Finance, HR/Admin, Procurement, MEAL)

Executive Director

Director of Programs

Director of Finance

Director of MEAL

Director of HR / Admin

Director of Procurement

OUR COVERAGE

Thematic Areas

- Shelter & WaSH
- Food Security & Livelihoods
- Social Cohesion
- Advocacy
- Human Rights
- Protection

Target Beneficiaries

- Women
- Youth
- Children
- IDPs
- Refugees
- Host Communities

Geographic Areas

- KRI
- Salah al-Din
- Ninewa
- Anbar
- Kirkuk
- Diyala
- Baghdad
- Basra

Key Numbers

2024: a total 88,500 people in need benefitted from our programs nationwide



 Main office

 Branch office

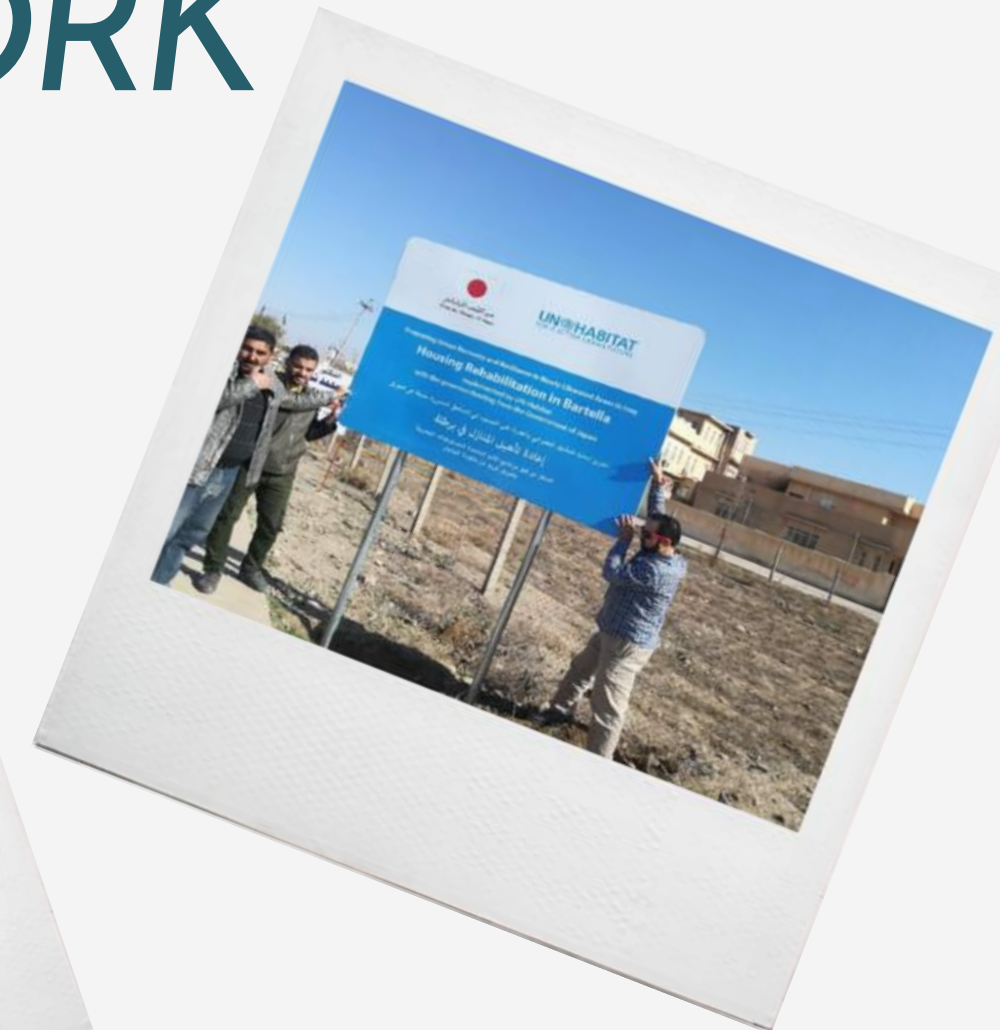
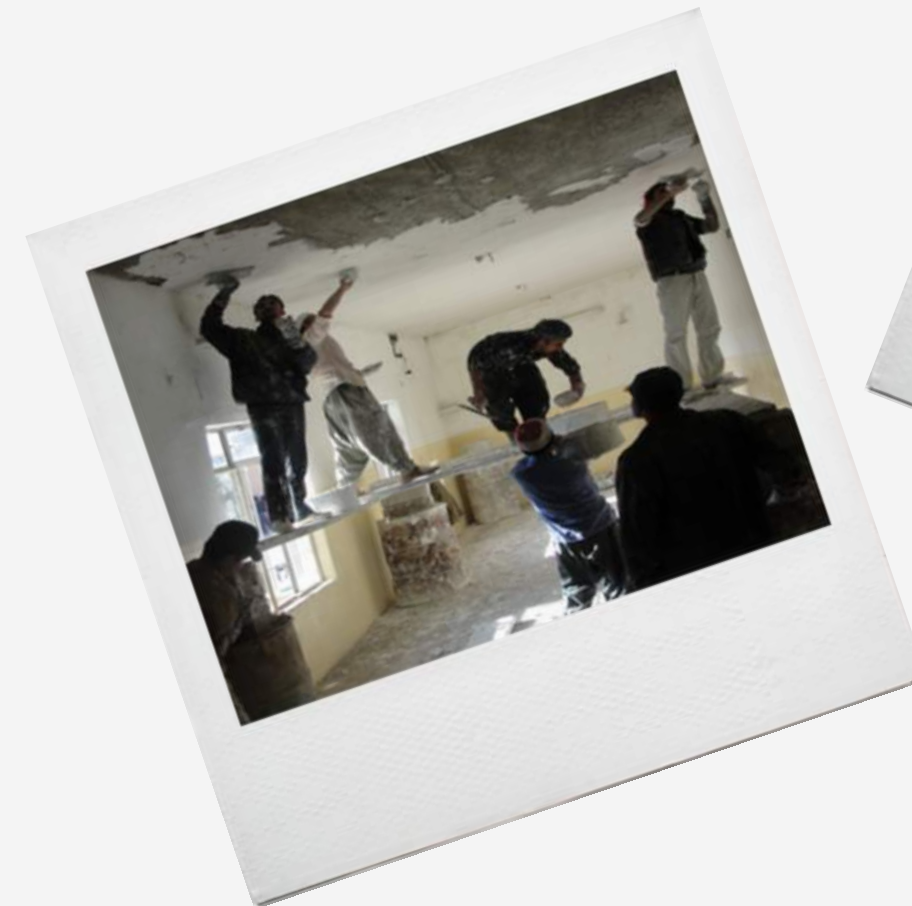
MAIN HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK



Shelter & WaSH

Sector focuses on shelter and WaSH facilities reconstruction for vulnerable families who almost lost everything during ISIS-Iraq War, including religious, ethnic communities and minorities.

- Shelter Rehabilitation for 175 returnee war-damaged houses (2021, Qaim/Rumanna, Anbar, funded by PRM - DoS, in partnership with IOM)
- Durable Housing Rehabilitation for 300 vulnerable families (2019, Beiji, Salah Al-Din, funded by OFDA, in partnership with IOM)
- Durable Housing Rehabilitation for 200 vulnerable families (2018, West Anbar, funded by IOM)
- Shelter Rehabilitation for 417 war-damaged houses (2018, Zanjili/Yarmuk/Maghrebi/Bashiqa, West Mosul - Ninewa, funded by UN-Habitat)
- Rehabilitation of Sada Bawiza and Gogjali Villages (Shabak Minority) - 207 war-damaged houses (2010, Ninewa, funded by UNOCHA ERF - Emergency Response Fund)
- Reconstruction of Wardak Village (Kakai Minority) - 262 war-damaged houses (2009, Ninewa, funded by UNHCR)

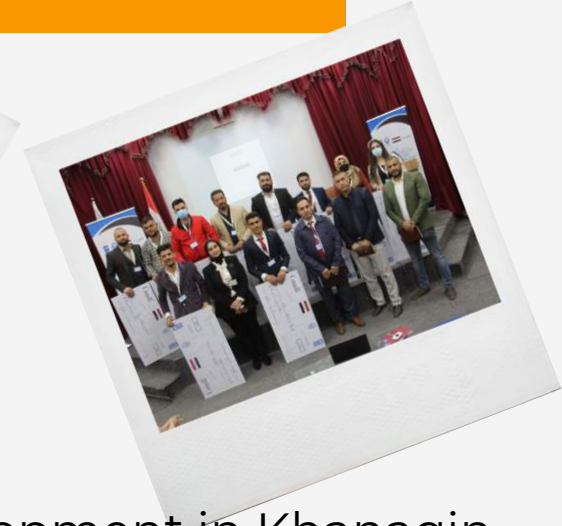




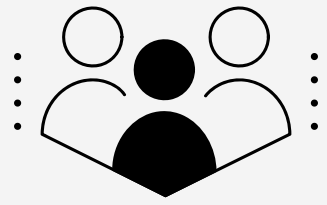
Food Security & Livelihoods

Sector focuses on local CBOs, youth, women, vulnerable communities empowerment, agriculture in IDP camps, humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities following ISIS occupation, vulnerable communities job placement or business creation & development.

- Beneficiary Selection, Capacity-Building and Baseline Assessment for 3,501 beneficiaries (2021-2022, Ninewa, Kirkuk, Anbar, Salah al-Din, Diyala, in cooperation with UNDP)
- Youth Innovation & Creativity Award "Khotwa" for 20 winners (2021-2022, Ninewa/Kirkuk, in cooperation with UNDP, funded by the Government of Canada)
- Empowering youth & women returnees (2020, West Anbar, Salah al-Din, Ninewa, funded by UNDP)
- Provision of COVID-19 Life Support Packages "Ahalina Campaign" to 28,470 people in need (2020, Ninewa, Salah al-Din, Anbar)
- Establishment of 8 Green Houses for IDP camps (2017, Bahrka, Erbil, funded by Maas Group Holding)



- Employment Promotion through Skills Development in Khanaqin, Dyala (2024): Supported by UNDP, the project provides vocational training for youth and women, linking them to local businesses. 270 trainees participated
- Humanitarian Assistance Committee of over 30 local NGOs for over 40,000 IDPs (2014-2016, Ninewa)
- Livelihood & Self-Reliance Program for 1,821 IDPs (2014-2015, in cooperation with UNDP)
- Distribution of food & non-food items to over 50,000 vulnerable communities (Erbil, Duhok, Sulaimanya, Kirkuk, Diyala and Mosul, funded by UNHCR)
- The Generation Unlimited Youth Challenge 2023, led by KOHRW and the Ministry of Youth & Sports with UNICEF support, aimed to help young entrepreneurs turn ideas into reality. Out of 300+ teams, 10 joined a 5-day Bootcamp and 2 teams represented Iraq in the global challenge among 50+ countries.
- The Erbil Citadel Enhancement 2023 project, led by KOHRW, UNESCO, and partners, focuses on restoring the Central Alley and visitor routes while empowering the local community through cultural heritage and 15,000 short-term job opportunities.



Peace Building & Social Cohesion

Sector focuses on local CBOs, youth and women groups as an effort to facilitate and improve social cohesion amongst all religious groups, ethnicities, gender & age & other societal differences. Programs aim at establishing dialogue amongst community leaders & encouraging a culture of tolerance, pluralism and mutual respect.

- Empowering over 80 CBOs for social cohesion (2019-ongoing, Ninewa, Kirkuk, Anbar, Salah al-Din, Diyala, in cooperation with UNDP, funded by German Cooperation)
- Establishment and empowerment of over 50 youth & women groups (2021-2022, Ninewa, Kirkuk, Anbar, Salah al-Din, Diyala, funded by UNDP)
- 2025-: support peace initiatives of women groups in Kirkuk and Ninawa 20 groups and unions were supported. program is funded by UNWOMEN.





Advocacy

Legal Reform was improved through the Constitutional Review Program in Iraq, leading to the creation of NGO law in the KRG and the amendment of association law. This also led to the establishment of Alliance of Iraqi Minorities (AIM) to create a new law to protect minorities. To strengthen cooperation between local authorities, NGOs, and Civil Societies, KOHRW has established a pact that provides guidelines on coordination mechanisms.

- 2024: Draft law of freedom of expression and protest in Iraq
- Enabling legal environment for CSOs (2018-2019, Iraq, funded by ICNL/SIDA)
- Judicial Reform Project (2015, KRI, in partnership with KOHRW, UNAMI, NPA, PAO, the Judicial Council, the reform project of judicial authority in KRI)
- Constitutional Review Program - KRI (2015, KRI)
- Constitutional Review Program - Iraq (2007, in cooperation with Constitutional Review Committee, Iraq, funded by UNOPS)
- NGO Law in KRI (2004-2011, KRI, funded by UNOPS, ADF-ICSP, ICNL)



- E-Registration System for NGOs in KRI (2019, funded by ICNL/Danida)
- The 2024 Iraq Civil Society Project, supported by ICNL, aims to improve the legal environment for CSOs and strengthen their capacity to operate effectively.
- Program of NGO law in Iraq (2004-2010, Iraq, funded by UNOPS, ADF-ICSP, ICNL)
- Compact of cooperation and development between public authorities and civil society (2011-2013, Iraq & Europe, funded by UNOPS)
- Association Law in KRI (KRI, funded by SIDA/ICNL)



Human Rights

KOHRW has been, since establishment regularly reporting on human rights violations. This includes monitoring, documentation, issuing reports and follow-up on human rights violations. This activity is not linked with a specific project but it includes: data collection, analysis, recommendations and regular visits to expected locations of human rights violations (detention centers, prisons, juvenile reformatories...etc.)

- Protect Human Right Defenders to promote peace & democracy (2022 - Ongoing, Iraq, funded by the British Embassy)
- Opening the square - Protecting the right to peaceful assembly (2021-Ongoing, Iraq, in cooperation with ICNL, supported by DRL-DoS)
- Strengthening Media for Democratization to 500 journalists & security forces (2021-2022, KRI, funded by UNDEF)
- Voter Education Project - Building Capacity & Educating over 60,000 Youth to participate in voting process (2021, Erbil/Diyala/Basra, in cooperation with UNDP, funded by UNAMI)



- Monitoring of Iraqi Parliamentary Elections (2018, KRI, funded by DAI - USAID)
- GBV training to 6,440 Peshmerga Officers (2016-2018, KRG, funded by FDFA - Foreign Office of the Swiss Government)
- Human Rights and GBV ToT for over 6,000 Security Forces (2018, KRI, Federal Iraq, including the Iraqi Police, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Defense, Peshmerga, other security agencies, funded by FDFA)
- Human Rights ToT for 26 Asayish Security Officers in 8 security agencies (2016, KRG, funded by the Swiss Embassy)
- Human Rights Training for 60 Police Officers (2011, Federal Iraq & KRI, funded by the British Embassy)



Protection

KOHRW is a leading organization in protection of vulnerable groups. With support from IOM, it contributed in the creation of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) of IDPs and ran three (PACs) protection and assistance centers for IDPs, refugees, returnees, and vulnerable groups in Ninawa and Kirkuk providing legal consultation case management for victims, among a plurality of initiatives since its establishment.

- Community Support Center (CSC) in Kirkuk, (2025) by KOHRW and UNHCR, provides refugees with legal aid, PHSS, GBV support, and child protection services. Legal Defense
- Center for Migrant Laborers (2017-2020, KRI, funded by UN-OHCHR)
- Distribution of 25,000 Solar Lamps & Mobile Phone Charging Kits to IDPs (2014-2015, Erbil, funded by UNOPS)
- Legal Clinics for IDPs & Refugees (2011-2012, Khabat/Ankawa, Erbil, funded by USAID)



- Regional Development Protection Program-Durable Solutions, focus on Child Labor & Civil documentation (2021-Ongoing, KRI, in partnership with Oxfam and Under building pathways for durable solutions for IDPs and refugees)
- Monitoring & Needs Assessment for IDPs in KRI (2007-2010, KRI, funded by IOM)
- Protection & Assistance Centers (2006-2009, Iraq, funded by UNHCR)

OUR DONORS



OUR MAIN NETWORKS & PARTNERS

- Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR)
- Coalition of Freedoms (CoF) - Founder
- NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq
- Alliance of Iraqi Minorities (AIM)
- Co-Chair of Durable Solutions Task Force (DSTF)
- Tawtin Network for Localization of Humanitarian Work



OUR CONTACT INFO

OFFICE



Iraq, Erbil, Ankawa, Pank City 132



+964 751 519 0234



www.kohrw.org



info@kohrw.org

