
KURDISTAN ORGANIZATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

KOHRW



KOHRW MANUAL

PROFILE

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION



1. BASIC INFORMATION

Name of Organization: Kurdistan Organization for Human Rights Watch

Abbreviation of Organization: KOHRW

Motto: “The Sky’s the Limit”

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Year of Establishment: 1989

Place of Establishment: Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Legal status: Registered with two Directorates of NGOs. The KRI is registered in Erbil and federal Iraq registration is in Baghdad

2. INTRODUCTION

Kurdistan Organization for Human Rights Watch (KOHRW) is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization that was established in 1989. KOHRW was registered as an NGO in Iraq in 2005. The vision of KOHRW is to serve as a beacon of light for those Iraqis who were denied democracy and human rights. KOHRW has contributed to many humanitarian services and different development programs in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and federal Iraq. This has ranged from constructing shelters for IDPs to protection, human rights promotion, election preparedness and monitoring, civil society and NGO capacity building and training, women's rights and democracy initiatives. KOHRW has extensive experience in bridging the gap between different ethnic and religious groups in Iraq.

Our service centers are a permanent part of the Iraqi community and KOHRW has a strong grassroots presence throughout the KRI as well as federal Iraq. KOHRW's work is modelled on the principles of community revitalization through democratic action which emphasizes community participation in all development projects and collaboration with local officials, community leaders, local residents and other NGOs. For more than twenty years, KOHRW has demonstrated its expertise to successfully manage major projects across Iraq. Our main office is located in Erbil with district offices in Duhok and Sulaimanya in the KRI as well as in Ninawa, Salahaddin, Anbar and Baghdad in federal Iraq. We also have mobile offices in other areas such as Kirkuk, Missan, Basra, Diyala, and other governorates.

KOHRW works with a network of other Iraqi-based grassroots civil society groups and NGOs. We also support the role of women and families in accordance with local cultural traditions and norms through health and social awareness programs. KOHRW's model is based on its extensive experience working with diverse men and women throughout Iraq and emphasizes community participation and cooperation with local officials, regional representatives and parties.

3. VISION

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

4. MISSION STATEMENT

Promoting human rights, democracy, gender, and equality to empower and enable IDPs, returnees, refugees, host communities and other vulnerable communities to achieve individual and community integration, self-sufficiency and well-being.

5. OBJECTIVES

KOHRW strives to achieve the following objectives:

1. Coordinate with governmental and non-governmental entities to support the most vulnerable aspects of the community that include children, women, low income families, unemployed youth, elderly, physically and mentally challenged persons, etc.
2. Provide protection and assistance where needed, especially for IDPs, refugees, returnees and other vulnerable groups in the community.
3. Aims at establishing peace and stability by inspiring the principles of fraternity, tolerance and coexistence in Kurdistan and Iraq.
4. Promotes social awareness in regards to human rights, freedom, principles of democracy, international human right agreements and elimination of violence.
5. Promotes volunteer work in general and encourages the involvement of youth in policy-making processes in Kurdistan and Iraq.
6. Establish bridges of communication and cooperation with international organisations and UN agencies alongside governmental and non-governmental entities in Kurdistan and Iraq. We do this by providing consultation and technical advice to improve laws and regulations to improve compatibility based on international criteria.

6. CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Transparency and information-sharing to all members of the organisation and with all governmental and non-governmental agencies.
2. Consider principles of human rights and democracy in all units of the organisation.
3. Gender balance in staffing as well as in the number of beneficiaries.
4. Following all KRG and Iraqi laws.
5. Humanity, impartiality, independence in all missions of KOHRW.
6. Integrity. We maintain high standards of integrity and we are conscientious in our approach to work.
7. Respect. We genuinely acknowledge and respect each other's individual values, beliefs, efforts, and ideas.

8. KEY STAFF OF KOHRW

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MAIN KOHRW PROGRAMS IN IRAQ

KOHRW offers thirty years of community service programs in the KRI and federal Iraq. Our organization advocates for basic human rights of all Iraqi people. KOHRW's programs in Iraq were expanded to include village development and family health services. It has now grown into a respected humanitarian organization that provides humanitarian services and development activities for IDPs, refugees, returnees, impoverished communities and other vulnerable groups as well as emergency response across the country as needed.

SECTOR 1: SHELTER & WASH

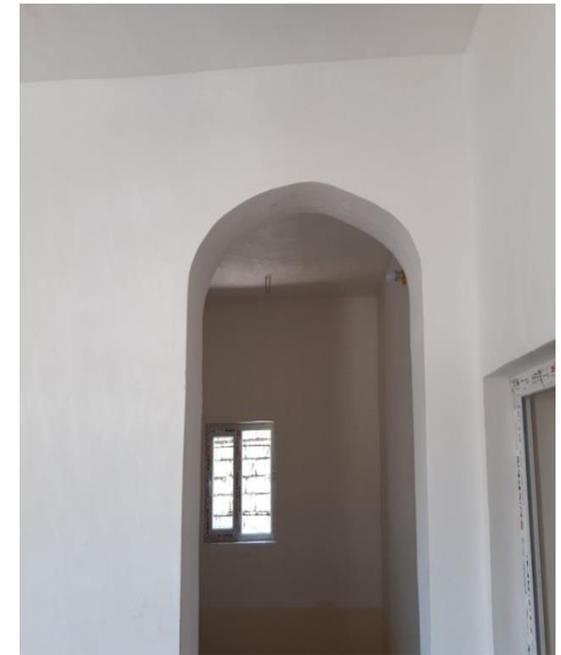
This sector focuses on reconstruction of shelters and WASH facilities for vulnerable families who lost almost everything when the war with ISIS and the military operations to eliminate them were taking place.

1. DURABLE HOUSING REHABILITATION FOR 300 VULNERABLE FAMILIES IN BEIJI, SALAH AL-DIN

2019: The project was implemented in partnership with IOM and funded by OFDA. The project successfully rehabilitated war damaged houses for 300 returnee families and others who remained in Beiji District, Salah Al-Din Governorate. Please click on the link for a short documentary on this project [here](#).



Before



After

2. DURABLE HOUSING REHABILITATION FOR 200 VULNERABLE FAMILIES IN WEST ANBAR

2018: This program was supported by IOM and included housing rehabilitation for 200 families whose homes were damaged by terroristic attacks and/or military operations in Anbar. Click on the link for a short documentary about this project [here](#).



3. SHELTER REHABILITATION IN NINAWA (ZANJILI, YARMUK, MAGHREBI, BASHIQA)

2018: KOHRW with support of UN-HABITAT rehabilitated 417 war-damaged houses in Ninawa governorate west of Mosul. Those shelters were for returnees of minorities, mainly from the Shabak and Christian communities. Handover of project was completed in February 2018.



4. REHABILITATION OF SADA BAWIZA AND GOGJALI VILLAGES (SHABAK MINORITY)

2010: This program was supported by UNOCHA-ERF (Emergency Response Fund) and included rehabilitation of 207 houses for families whose homes had been damaged by terrorist attacks in September 2009. Rehabilitation took place in Sada Bawiza and Gogjali villages in Ninawa on Shabak minorities. The program provided emergency shelter assistance and core materials to provide shelter protection for those families.



5. RECONSTRUCTION OF WARDAK VILLAGE (KAKAI MINORITY)

2009: This project was supported by UNHCR-North and included reconstruction of 262 houses for families whose homes were damaged by the terrorist attack of September 10, 2009 in Wardak village. Beneficiaries of the project included Kakai minorities who were victims of the attack in addition to other vulnerable families in the village. The program provided emergency shelter assistance and core materials to provide shelter protection for those families.



6. SHELTER REHABILITATION IN QAIM

(Returns and Recovery of IDPs in Anbar Programme)

2021: KOHRW in partnership with IOM funded by PRM-DOS implemented the returns and recovery of IDPs in Anbar. The project aimed to facilitate durable solutions for returnees and host communities living in areas of returnees through area-based recovery interventions in the sector of livelihood & shelter. The project included rehabilitation of 175 war damaged houses for returnee families in Al-Qaim and Rummana. Click on the link for a short documentary about this project.

[Link](#)



SECTOR 2: FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD

This sector includes different projects and activities such as providing livelihood training and social cohesion.

1. EMPOWERING RETURNEES IN ANBAR, SALADIN, NINAWA

2020: The project is supported by UNDP and covers a wide geographical area in western Anbar and Salahadin, mainly providing vocational training for youth and women groups to earn an income through livelihood projects and link them with existing local businesses.



2. AHALINA CAMPAIGN

2020: In the light of Covid-19 epidemic, KOHRW Started the Life Support Packages “AHALINA Campaign” in Ninawa, Saladin and Anbar. The project has reached out to more than 12,670 beneficiaries on its first phase of implementation. While, more than 15,800 beneficiaries on its Second phase of implementation.



3. GREEN HOUSES FOR IDP CAMP IN BAHRKA

2017: KOHRW established eight (8) green houses (small businesses) for vegetables in Bahrka IDP camps. The project aim was to change these camps from being consumer to productive camps and also improve economic development and livelihoods of IDPs. This project was supported by Mass Group Holding and able to cover the vegetable needs of each camp. This program is on-going.



4. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE (HAC)

KOHRW formed this committee in 2014 along with 30 local NGOs to provide humanitarian relief for IDPs, refugees, new comers following ISIS occupation in Mosul. Through this committee KOHRW was able to cover the humanitarian needs for more than 40,000 IDPs. This program is on-going.



5. LIVELIHOOD AND SELF-RELIANCE PROGRAM FOR IDPS

2014-2015: KOHRW in cooperation with UNDP started a different type of project which focused on helping IDPs to help themselves (helping them to find jobs or to start small businesses). There were 1,821 total direct beneficiaries. This project was divided into four parts: Assessment, training, CV database, and grants for MSMEs. There were many success stories of this project been shown on local media.



6. DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD ITEMS AND NON-FOOD ITEMS IN MOSUL, KIRKUK, DIYALA, SULAIMANYA AND ERBIL

Refugees, IDPs and vulnerable host communities are severely affected by the lack of humanitarian relief essential for daily survival. KOHRW worked to meet the urgent needs of 50,500+ unassisted families/individuals in Erbil, Duhok, Sulaimanya, Kirkuk, Diyala and Mosul through the distribution of food items and non-food items. This program was supported by UNHCR.



7. BENEFICIARIES SELECTION, CAPACITY BUILDING AND BASELINE ASSESSMENT NINAWA, KIRKUK, SALAH AL-DIN, DIYALA AND ANBAR

2021: KOHRW in cooperation with UNDP, initiated a response to cover beneficiary selection for cash for work (CFW) projects & capacity-building activities. Which covered 3,501 beneficiaries' selection for cash for work projects in five governorates (Kirkuk, Diyala, Anbar, Salah Al-Din, and Ninewa).



8. KHOTWA (Small Business Support- SMEs)

2021: KOHRW, in partnership with UNDP and support from the Government of Canada, has been running the Youth Innovation & Creativity Award across Kirkuk & Mosul governorates to fine-tune their innovative ideas, develop entrepreneurial skills and create sustainable business models. In this program 20 final business ideas were the final winners with a 5,000 USD grant per business idea to procure essential item to start their business, plus coaching and mentoring services.



SECTOR 3: SOCIAL COHESION

Part of all our programs is an effort to facilitate improved social cohesion amongst all religious groups, ethnicity, genders, age and other societal differences. Our programs create dialogue amongst community leaders and encourage a culture of tolerance, pluralism and mutual respect.

1. Empowering Community Based Organizations for Social Cohesion project (Ninawa, Salahaldin and Anbar)

2019-2020: KOHRW implemented Empowering CBOs project in partnership with UNDP covering three governorates (Ninawa, Anbar and SalahAl-Din) to empower the local CBOs. Eventually, 31 CBOs were provided with grants to implement their peace initiative and social cohesion projects in their respective areas.



2. EMPOWERING COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS (CBOs) TO PROMOTE SOCIAL COHESION IN KIRKUK, DIYALA, SALAH AL-DIN, AND NINEWA - PHASE II

2021-2022: CBO-II is a project implemented by KOHRW and UNDP with support of German cooperation, after successfully achieving phase-I. KOHRW was successful in implementing the project in the 5 governorates and reaching even beyond the set goals, in capacity building of 317 CBOs, and forming about 10 partnerships among them, providing grants for 50 CBOs for social cohesion projects.



3. ESTABLISHMENT, AND EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN GROUPS IN THE GOVERNMENTES ANBAR, DIYALA, SALAH AL-DIN, KIRKUK, AND NINEWA

2021-2022: The project is supported by UNDP and covers a wide geographical area of Anbar, Diyala, Salah al-Din, Kirkuk, and Ninewa, which aims to develop the capacity of Youth and women groups by establishing and empowering effective groups to implement creative peace initiatives proposed at the community level, the project has reached out to more than 2149 beneficiaries. 50 groups of youth and women were developed, and provided with small grants for peace initiatives.



SECTOR 4: ADVOCACY

Legal Reform was improved through the Constitutional Review Program in Iraq, leading to the creation of NGO law in the KRI 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 gives guidelines on coordination mechanisms.

1. PROGRAM OF NGO LAW IN IRAQ

KOHRW as leader of COF coalition of 70 NGOs in Iraq called COF-Coalition of Freedoms, since 2004 worked on issuing a new law for NGOs in Iraq that protects their independency and agrees with international criteria, this was a long-term program supported by many agencies mainly **UNOPS, ADF-ICSP, ICNL**. The new law was successfully passed by Iraqi parliament in March 2010; it is called law number 12/2010 and its on-going program including working with Iraqi government on improving the implementation of the law, ease the NGOs registration procedure. Etc.



2. ENABLING LEGAL ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

2018-2019: The project brings all relevant stakeholders to do enactment for working modalities of NGO law in the KRI and Iraq. The same law was approved in the KRI and the GoI bringing CSOs and Government Line Department on the same page. The project is funded by ICNL/SIDA.



3. CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW PROGRAM- IRAQ

KOHRW as leader of COF-Coalition of Freedoms, worked on the constitutional review program for amendments in the Iraqi constitution. This included mainly article 46 of Iraqi constitution that puts more restrictions on the rights and freedoms of Iraqi citizens. In cooperation with CRC-constitutional review committee we have been able to amend the article and include it in the constitutional review process. This program was supported by UNOPS 2007.

.....الاشكالية.....

يعني، لدى سوغ بند تقييد الحقوق في الدستور العراقي، الى حماية الحقوق من ان تنتهك بتسريع لانحسي قوي، وذلك بالاسرار على انه لايمكن لتانون من هذا القبيل ان ينتهك "جوهر" الحق.

المشكلة هي ان هذه الصياغة تعرضت الان لانتقاد لاذع يدع الى انهاء بالية وفضة بمسورة لانتساب مع شواغل حقوق الانسان المعاصرة.

ببساطة، يمكن القول ان جوهر احد الحقوق ليس دائما ما هو المطلوب مراعاته عند تقييد احد الحقوق. فالتقييد يجب ان يزول احيانا جوهر الحق، ولكن لغرض ما، او لغشة من الناس، او لغشرة ما، او رهنا ببعض الضمانات الاجرائية.

والمشكلة الثانية في اختيار "الجوهر" هي انه قد يفسح تيسر ما هو "جوهر" احد الحقوق.

تقييد الحقوق وتعليقها (الانتقاص منها)

* يلزم التمييز بين ما يشار اليه "تقييد" للحقوق وما يشار اليه بانه "تعليق" لها (او انتقاص منها)..

* فتقييد الحقوق هو نتيجة للاطار التشريعي / الانحسي الذي تجري ضمنه الممارسة اليومية للحقوق الاساسية.

* اما الانتقاص من احد الحقوق، او حتى من العديد من الحقوق، او تعليقها، فهو يحدث عند وجود حالة طوارئ. وهو قد يؤدي الى تقليص ذلك الحق أو حتى الى تعليقه تماما.

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المادة 46
من دستور العراق الدائم :

"لا يكون تقييد ممارسة اي من حقوق و الحريات الواردة في هذا الدستور او تحديدها الا بقانون او بناء عليه. على الا يمس ذلك التقييد والتقييد جوهر الحق او الحرية"

4. CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW PROGRAM- KURDISTAN

Through shadow constitutional committee- the KRI that includes more than 40 CSOs, KOHRW has been able to provide advice and consultation to the constitutional committee of the Kurdistan parliament. In June 2015, we were able to submit a complete alternative draft constitution to the Kurdistan parliament.



5. E-REGISTRATION SYSTEM

2019: With funding from ICNL/Danida, KOHRW initiated the online registration system for NGOs in the KRI.



6. NGO LAW IN KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ

This was a parallel program along with Iraqi NGOs law, KOHRW through COF- Coalition of Freedoms worked on NGOs law in Kurdistan region since 2004, started as volunteers' program without funding, then got support of many international agencies such as **UNOPS, ADF-ICSP, ICNL**. The new law for NGOs in Kurdistan region was successfully passed by Kurdistan parliament in April 2011, it's called law number 1/2011 its on-going program, KOHRW continuous helping KRG and parliament to improve and enabling legal environment and civic space in Kurdistan region.



7. COMPACT OF COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY

With support from UNOPS and participation of more than 100 NGOs through a two-year program we have been able to draft, develop, and issue the (compact of cooperation between public authorities and civil society) program. It includes many events, workshop, seminars, and training in Iraq and in Europe. The compact was passed by the Kurdistan parliament in June 2013 by decision number 5/2013.



8. ASSOCIATION LAW IN KURDISTAN REGION

With support from SIDA and ICNL, KOHRW led a program to amend law number 18/1993 that is known as association law. More than 188 associations, syndicates, unions, centers and CSOs participated in the program. The draft of amendments was submitted to the Kurdistan parliament. KOHRW continues to provide technical assistance to the Kurdistan parliament and advocates to issue a modern law for associations that protects the civic spaces and enables citizens' participations in decision-making process.



9. JUDICIAL REFORM PROJECT

In partnership among KOHRW, UNAMI, NPA, PAO, the Judicial Council, the reform project of judicial authority in the Kurdistan region started in March 2015. The program covers different aspects of judicial reform (Laws, capacities, structure, and e-courts).



SECTOR 5: HUMAN RIGHTS

KOHRW since establishment is 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.)

1. HUMAN RIGHTS TRAININGS FOR POLICE OFFICERS

2010-2011: This program was supported by the British Embassy included human rights training courses for police officers of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior and also officers from KRG MOI. As a result of these training sessions, KOHRW have been able to create 60 human rights trainers, 30 in the Baghdad MOI and 30 in the KRG MOI in Erbil. Those are police officers working in different agencies of the MOI and continuing human rights training for other staff in their agencies.



2. HUMAN RIGHTS TOT FOR SECURITY (ASSAYSH) OFFICERS IN KRG

2016-2017: KOHRW with support of the Switzerland Embassy conducted training of trainers (TOT) sessions on human rights for security officers. As a result, the program outcome was 26 human rights trainers in 8 security agencies in the KRI. They trained more than 200 police officers and staff of security agencies.



3. GBV (GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE) TRAINING FOR PESHMERGA FORCES

2016-2018: KOHRW with support of FDFA, foreign department of the Switzerland government started this program that included GBV training for officers of all 16 Peshmerga brigades, and 32 GBV awareness seminars for Peshmerga units and many other GBV awareness activities. The total beneficiaries included 6,440 Peshmerga members. (impact: ministry of Peshmarga established Gender unit as permanent structure of the ministry)



4. HUMAN RIGHTS AND GBV (TOT) FOR SECURITY FORCES in KRI AND IRAQ

2016: This project is supported by FDFA, one of the departments of the Swiss government. The aim of this project is to train security forces in both Iraq and the KRI on human rights and GBV. So far, KOHRW has reached over 6000 members of Iraqi police, MOI, MOD, Peshmerga, and other security agencies.



5. MONITORING OF IRAQI PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS

2018: This project was supported by DAI-USAID and covered monitoring of all stages of Iraqi elections in the KRI. It started with electoral campaigns and continued with special voting days, general voting days and post-election procedures. Please click on the link to see a short documentary on this project [here](#).



5. OPENING THE SQUARE

2021-2023: Through Opening the Square: Protecting the Right to Peaceful Assembly in Iraq, the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) supported by DRL-DOS, (KOHRW) seek to empower local partners to actively monitor restrictions on the freedom of assembly and offer resources and technical expertise to reform restrictive laws, decisions, and policies so as to enable the full enjoyment of this right in Iraq. Reporting on protest violations.



7. STRENGTHENING MEDIA FOR DEMOCRATIZATION IN THE KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ

2021-2022: Is a project implemented by KOHRW funded by UNDEF which aims to strengthen journalism and media freedom in Iraqi Kurdistan, which targets 500 journalists in four governorates (Erbil, Sulaimaniyah, Duhok, Halabja) in addition to security forces on how to deal with journalists.



8. PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS TO PROMOTE PEACE AND DEMOCRACY

2022: The project was funded by the British Embassy which aims to empower the human rights defenders so that they can promote peace and democracy in Iraq and KRI. KOHRW increased the capacity of security personnel to protect human rights defenders in all 18 governorates.



9. VOTER EDUCATION PROJECT EDUCATING YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN VOUTING PROCESS IN ERBIL, DIYALA AND BASRAH

2021: KOHRW and UNDP with support of UNAMI. The project aimed to promote knowledge and capacities of youth in the community in three governorates on rights and responsibilities of the youth in electoral system, new election law, KOHRW was successful in implementing the project and reaching even beyond the set goals, in educating and capacity building of 3130 youth through (trainings, awareness sessions and focus group discussions) and aware 60,000 youth



SECTOR 6: 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 assistances centers for IDPs, refugees, returnees, and vulnerable groups in Ninawa and Kirkuk providing legal consultation case management for victims.

1. PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE CENTERS (PACS)

2006-2009: The establishment throughout Iraq of a network of independent PACs formerly Legal Aid and Information Centers (LAICs) aimed to find durable solutions for refugees, IDPs, returnees and other UNHCR persons of concern. This solution ensures the protection and provides assistance to various people through UNHCR by facilitating the return (or relocation) of IDPs and refugees and reintegration of returnees through the provision of information, legal services. This program was supported by UNHCR.



2. MONITORING AND NEEDS ASSESMENT FOR IDPS IN THREE NORTHERN GOVERNORATES:

2007-2010: This project identified and monitored IDPs in Erbil, Duhok and Sulaimanya due to heightened violence after the Samarra Askariya Holy Shrine bombing as a consequence of IDP movements, assessing their needs, and suggesting and implementing immediate and medium-term projects in places of displacement. later project named DTM. This program was supported by IOM.



3. LEGAL CLINICS FOR IDPS AND REFUGEES

2011-2012: KOHRW with support of USAID established two legal clinics for IDPs and refugees in Khabat and Ainkawa. Both are in Erbil governorate. These two legal clinics provide lawyers, social workers and researchers as well as legal and social services to IDPs, refugees and other vulnerable groups free of charge to help them overcome their legal problems.



4. DISTRIBUTION OF SOLAR LAMP AND MOBILE PHONE CHARGING KITS TO IDPS

2014-2015: With support from UNOPS, KOHRW distributed 25,000 solar lamp kits for new IDPs (post-ISIS) in Erbil and surrounding areas. With this project, KOHRW has been able to provide clean energy sources and help IDPs to use it for the purpose of lighting and charging mobile phones. This also helped the government to reduce the use of public electricity, especially in the KRI as it still had around 2 million IDPs and refugees during those years.



5. LEGAL DEFENSE CENTER FOR MIGRANT LABORERS IN THE KURDISTAN REGION

2017-2020: This program was supported by UN-OHCHR - Geneva. It included a team of lawyers and case managers to provide legal support, PSS and case management services for migrant labourers in the KRI.



6. RDPP - Regional Development Protection Program

2021-2022: The project is implemented in partnership with Oxfam and Under building pathways for durable solutions for IDPs and refugees. The project focus on advocating on two main topics: Child labor and Civil documentation.

