

KOHRW

Kurdistan Organization for Human Rights Watch

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- Pank city , Ainkawa , Erbil , Iraq
- www.kohrw.org



About Kurdistan Organization for Human Rights Watch

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, Livelihood, Social Cohesion, and Education.

OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

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.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear friend of Kurdistan Organization for Human Rights Watch,

Kurdistan Organization for Human Rights sought to improve unsafe living environments for people living in camps, informal sites, and critical shelters. This year we assisted nearly 28,000 beneficiaries in IDPs, refugees, returnees, and host communities. We supported vulnerable IDPs and returnees with livelihood support, protection, shelter, social cohesion, and education. We couldn't do it without our generous funding partners. Thank you for your continued support!

OUR INTERVENTION IN 2021

KOHRW assisted nearly 28,000 people in need across Iraq in 2021. KOHRW provided support in seven thematic areas: human rights, protection, education, shelter, livelihood, social cohesion, and peacebuilding. Through enormous efforts by field staff, KOHRW largely managed to maintain regular programme activities as well as scale up the response to Covid-19. KOHRW's capability to move and physically engage with people in need in some locations was hampered by government restrictions on mobility. KOHRW invested in digital programme activities and focus on overcoming access challenges (through the hard-to-reach strategic ambition) proved very useful in the pandemic response and crucial to KOHRW's ability to maintain its programme response.

WE ENHANCED HUMNA Rights and DEMOCRACY

We investigate and report on abuses of human rights in Iraq and support sustainable democracy in Iraq.

Through the Opening the Square Programme: Protecting the Right to Peaceful Assembly in Iraq, we empowered observer teams 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. Our observer teams monitored hundreds of protests across Iraq and we shared more than 100 reports with the agencies and NGOs about the human rights violation during protests.

Through Voter Education Programme, we trained more than 4000 youth and women in Erbil, Diyala and Basra for the Iraqi Parliamentary Election in October 2021. We equipped young people with necessary information about the election process and people increased knowledge about their rights and responsibilities in the election process.

JUST LIVELIHOOD

We are fighting for a just and sustainable livelihood that has people at the center, promotes equality, and helps end poverty. In 2021, through the KHOTWA programme we trained, coached, and granted many youths to start their business in Kirkuk and Ninewa. Also, through the Beneficiary Selection Programme we trained hundreds of women and youths in Ninewa, Kirkuk, Diyala, Sala Din, and Anbar on life skills, job orientation and financial literacy.

Maryam Ismael



Throughout the service provision of cash grant and life-skills training, Maryam Ismael from Diyala who has a mini market in her house was able to prepare her small shop with materials and goods to sell. “I didn’t have any source of income to purchase the materials so I can sell them and start benefiting. Knowing that the grant is small, but the materials helped me to initiate my small business and support my family” Maryam says.

Shayma’a Sultan



“I was struggling in supporting my family with a very difficult situation. Very limited sources of income which didn’t help me to feed my family. Thanks to the cash grant and the training I received, I have purchased clothes and materials while opening my very small shop to sell them. This is now helping me to feed my family and ensure that they have a proper life” says Shayma’a whom benefited from the livelihood’s intervention in Jalawla’a district.



Feeling useful to the community

Mohammed grew up in Hawija, Kirkuk and has applied to the Khotwa project for the purpose of developing his economic situation. He now owns a photography studio and a photo printing lab, which he considers useful for his neighborhood that can now benefit from having access to such kind of services. “Originally, I had no idea about the level of success or failure in this project. However, throughout following the training provided by the project, I was able to learn about the basics of the project,” he says.



Re-establishing good sports hygiene to women in my area Ajyal grew up in Bashiqaa, Ninewah, and has applied to the Khotwa project for the purpose of becoming financially independent, and bond with new friends out of the district. She now owns gym equipment and was able to establish a female gym, which was nonexistent until then in her area. “I particularly enjoyed the information presented by trainers, the process of developing a project, and all the new friends I made through the project,” she says.

ADVOCATING FOR THE RIGHTS OF REFUGEES& DISPLACED PEOPLE/ PROTECTION

KOHRW's advocacy in 2021, both private and public, resulted in or contributed to drafting a Child Labor policy that has a concrete positive impact on the lives of thousands of children. Through Regional Development and Protection Programme, we strongly advocated for preventing child labour and IDPs and returnees to access civil documentation. Our advocacy efforts convinced the judicial system in KRG to facilitate the IDPs to obtain civil documents.

EMPOWERING CBOs, YOUTH AND WOMEN GROUPS TO BUILD SOCIAL COHESION

We believe that CBOs, youth and women groups have the power to make change happen and hold those in power to account. We empower CBOs, youth and women groups to restore social cohesion in the returnee's areas. Through the CBO programme, we trained and granted more than 50 CBOs to take initiatives to enhance the social fabric in Ninewa, Kirkuk, Sala Din, Diyala and Anbar.

Through the Empowerment of Youth and Women Groups, we trained and granted more than 50 youth and women groups to build social capital and trust between different social groups in Anbar, Diyala, Salah al-Din, Ninewa and Kirkuk.



Zeina Abdulfattah, the head of Hope Probe a Community Based Organization in Samara, Salaheddin, was full of hope to help her community's peace and had a lot of initiatives in the district. Her participation in the project gave her the capacity to search and identify the community problems better, and have solutions that will improve social cohesion, she also had the chance to implement the initiative of her team by winning a small grant from the project.

She is now well-known in the Samara district and is working closely with different stakeholders to have more such initiatives, to better serve her community and improve social cohesion.



Ahmed Jasim Muhammad, head of Alnoor CBO, in Baquba – Diyala, was struggling in how to reach the donors to have the funds for his projects. He explains how the project improved his work:

“The project implemented by our organization with KOHRW had a significant impact on our CBO in terms of developing implementation mechanisms and innovation in implementation in order to achieve the goals, as well as through the follow-up of KOHRW coordinators with us, we have witnessed a development in the organizational, administrative and financial aspect of our institution.

On a personal level, working in partnership with KOHRW made me look at peace issues in a more professional and objective manner in terms of targeting segments in need of this subject.

Working with KOHRW opened a new door for us to continue with the DT Institute on the issue of countering violent extremism in Jalawla, as well as creating activities that made us a new work with UNDP in Baquba”

OUR REACH

In 2021, we directly reached nearly 28,000
Through our programmes on human rights, protection, education, shelter, livelihood, social cohesion and peacebuilding.

OUR IMPACT

Evidence shows that by the end
of 2021, our work improved
livelihood, shelter, protection
and social cohesion.

