About Us

Rwanga Foundation is a non-governmental organization which envisions a world where quality education is accessible for all. Its mission is to provide services, build capacities and design policies to ensure access to education and to raise educational standards in Kurdistan and the greater global community.

Rwanga’s strategic goals are to develop platforms for youth to discover talents and fulfill their potential, introduce technology into the education process, and increase the educational standards, creativity, self-confidence, and positive thinking in particular among the youth.

Rwanga Foundation is based in Kurdistan and officially launched its activities in September 2013. It conducts projects and activities to weaken the trauma in sectors of education, youth, environment, and vulnerable groups.

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During the course of the year 2018, the Foundation continued carrying out projects and activities in the four sectors of Education, Youth, Environment, and Vulnerable Groups. The Foundation, during the period of twelve months - January through December 2018 conducted thirty eight projects, which included various activities, providing assistance and support to more than half a million people of different ages, gender, and communities including host, IDPs and refugees, with a particular focus on female and male youth.

The projects and activities included the design and development of human capacity, mainly of the youth aged 15-35, through providing vocational training, formal and non-formal education courses as well as creating platforms and opportunities for the youth to network, learn, and cooperate, work, including voluntary work, to become socially and economically active and self-reliant.

Improving the infrastructure of schools and other educational facilities has been another significant component of the Foundation’s program to develop the educational environment of children and youth.

Raising awareness of the public, especially the youth, in particular about the importance of education, environmental protection, the role of youth in developing societies, and the pursuit of continuous achievement throughout the course of the year.
Additionally, the Youth Volunteers Initiative provided basic support and assistance to help people in need, mainly during emergencies, to enable them to become more resilient and self-dependent.

The thirty-eight projects were conducted in close coordination with the relevant government authorities as well as other concerned stakeholders, including targeted non-governmental organizations and other civil society organizations.

The main donors and partners of the Youth Foundation included international and local organizations, among others: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), HELP - German Foundation, Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft, World Vision, UNICEF, Save the Children, and others.

The projects benefited more than twenty million people in the host, IDP and refugee communities.
2.0 Our Sectors

OurDoners

Our Sponsors

Our Partners

Education in Rwanga dictionary is not only what we gain from schools and universities. In this sector, we talk about practical learning to make individual lives and society status better. Rwanga Foundation aims to make everyone’s life a learning journey.

Youth is the driving force of today and the future aspirant leaders of tomorrow, therefore developing them in the current society is very important and necessary to empower them with the right skills and lead them in the best way.

Environment protection being a global concern, it is also the area of concentration for Rwanga Foundation. Through awareness programs, and providing public service and basic needs, Rwanga Foundation strive to preserve, protecting and keeping clean the earth planet.

Poverty filled with fear is a cause for learning providing the vulnerable groups with basic needs to enjoy continue their education and develop the mind but Rwanga Foundation’s main objectives are to support people in need to integrate in the society to become a part of it for a brighter future.
2.1 Education

Education is not limited to the knowledge acquired in schools or university, but its outcome is a learning process through hands-on and innovative approaches. Rinasiga Foundation believes that quality education should be accessible for all and strives to improve the educational sector of learning and education. At the last year, Rinasiga Foundation in coordination with partners and youth international and local organizations conducted 19 hand and soft projects in the sector of education benefiting more than 170,952 people.

31 schools
20,000 students
1,500 youth

Funded by German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in partnership with GIZ and in coordination with Ministry of Education. Rinasiga Foundation renovated 31 schools in Erbil, Sulaimani and Dohuk, where more than 20,000 students, teachers and administrative staff were involved in the education process every academic year.

The projects included thorough renovations such as fixing doors, windows, water and sanitation systems, electrical facilities, walls and ceiling cracks, in addition to plastering, painting and cleaning the schools.

The project’s primary objective was to improve the living standards of many young women and men by the renovation or construction of schools, through the school renovation projects, around 1,500 girls and male youth from the host, IDP and refugee communities were provided with temporary employment.
Moreover, financed by a generous fund, Whanga Foundation, confident governorates, renovated four schools, provided educational materials and equipment to 26 schools. In Margar and school in Khan, extended workshops and tours for 200 students, and painting in the Art Institute in Heliopolis, and arranged free renovation of the building of the Director of Education Eribi.

The beneficiaries of the eight projects provided services to more than 60,000 students, teachers, and administration staff.

The Foundation also implemented other soft projects through its own funds such as the Mathematical Convention, University Video Guides for high school graduates, Whanga Book Project, etc., in addition to ornamental parks, environment guidance for students, and youth.

Additionally, in partnership with the International School of Chouette, Cairo Private School, School, and Viva, Whanga Foundation conducted other educational projects and established learning platforms benefiting about 2,000 people.

Involving youth in creating positive changes and developing society is an absolute necessity. Therefore, supporting and developing capabilities of youth is a significant task of Whanga Foundation. Whanga Foundation views youth through providing various support for the youth to display talents and be a pillar of developing society in all aspects.

During the course of the year 2019, Whanga Foundation conducted ten projects in the sector of youth assisting and supporting around 240,000 females and male youth from host, IDP, and refugee communities.

Also, another 200,000 youth received direct or indirect beneficiary of project and activities carried out under the other three sectors of education, environment, and civil society. The projects in the youth sector mainly included developing skills and capabilities, creating networking platforms, sharing educational workshops, activities, livelihoods, and employment for female and male youth.
Foras - فراس
Working for a Better Future

One of the main youth projects implemented by Rwanga Foundation is Rwanga Foras which is a platform that brings together different sources of opportunities and initiatives for young people, mainly youth and university graduates, who are looking for work and need guidance to start.

Rwanga Foras, which has been managed by the Rwanga Foundation in partnership with Altech Foundation and Microsoft Corporation for the successful “Better Opportunities” project, offers a variety of opportunities through online and offline training programs, including personalized advice on how to write CVs and train in interview skills and work ethics.

It should be noted that the projects also included the Rwanga Foras Internship Program which took place in September and October in 2016, in which 1,200 local and international companies, organizations, and universities participated, and over 15,000 jobseekers were able to establish connections with employers and submit their CVs for potential job opportunities.

120 local and international companies attended
15,000 jobseekers attended
Rwanga Awards

The Rwanga Awards 2018 consisted of 10 categories: Short Film, Short Story, Recycled Art, Drawing, Scientific Innovation, Enterprise, Music, Software Development, Poetry, and Photography. With the goal of improving and fostering youth talents, the Rwanga Annual Awards encourage students, scientists, artists, journalists, and scientific projects produced by the youth aged between 15 and 25.

After a thorough evaluation by an independent committee of experts, a two-hour ceremony on the 6th of December 2018, thirty winners had been announced as first, second, and third place winners for the ten categories.
Moreover, in connection with carrying out the livelihood activities for youth, Rwanga Foundation initiated youth in the Comitato di coordinamento delle Organizzazioni Non Gliate -lenitività (OSV) and funded by the European Union, implemented the project “Resilient Communities, Supporting Livelihoods, Education and Social Services for Syrian Refugees and Host Population Benefitting more than 800 Host, refugee and IDP youth. The project included vocational training courses of mobile maintenance, mechanical maintenance, sewing and tailoring. Following business development support courses, as well as sessions on writing CV, writing cover letters, and interview skills as a contribution by Rwanga Foundation. Additionally, funded by the World Bank, the Foundation implemented “Promoting Private Sector Employment for Male Job Seekers” project. The project was motivated to help youth to become financially independent and self-reliant.

The project started with an initiative to train over 4000 women who were registered as job seekers on the Ejobs Portal and succeed in finding work and becoming self-supporting. The challenges they face, and in what way the challenges can be addressed and possibly resolved. The project also included guiding and supporting women who were interested in building up their own businesses, mainly in the private sector.
On the other hand, through its own-generated funds, Rwanga Foundation launched the project of Youth Volunteer Initiative. Voluntary work is generally considered an altruistic activity often intended to promote goodness and improve quality of life. However, volunteers usually need some support to carry out such activities.

Therefore, in order to pave the way towards promoting the culture of voluntary and community work among the youth, Rwanga Foundation launched the project encouraging the youth to participate in a competition to identify and support projects for the best benefit of the public.

Out of 115 submitted projects, 10 projects were selected (3 in Eía, 2 in Sejwama, 2 in Dukul, 1 in Kikul, and 2 in Kibabii). It’s worth mentioning that 10 youth volunteers will be implementing the projects benefiting about 17,000 children, youth, women, and elderly in the five mentioned governates.

The project of TalkiRwanga has also been launched in the first half of this year, which is a platform for the talented and successful youth to share their experiences and successes in creating public and community initiatives through various communication and social media channels.

The TalkiRwanga Videos have been shared through local and social networks like YouTube, and Rwanga Foundation’s website; 2,690 views have been involved watching and commenting the videos during 2018.
3 projects
45,297 beneficiaries

Environment

In December 2018, Rwanda Foundation, in coordination with the G20 Quick Action Programme, which is funded by the European Union Regional Trust Fund (RtF) and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), launched the project of Vocational Training and Business Start-up Courses which includes 47 vocational courses and 12 business start-up courses in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI).

The project targets about 4,000 hosts, IDP refugees and returnees youth in the four governorates of Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Dohuk and Kirkuk. The project will continue until April 2019.

In partnership with MIF Group, a nationwide campaign was launched in Kurdistan which included environmental activities in public and visiting basic and high schools in Erbil, Sulayma-niyah, Duhok, Halabja, Zaliko, Alm, Sinjar, German and Soran to raise awareness and encourage students, teachers, youth, to recycle and re-use products.

Environmental protection and environmental education, which is a global concern, holds an important place in Rwanda’s vision and mission. Rwanda Foundation through awareness-raising campaigns, environmental guidance, and provision of basic materials, plays a significant role in helping improve the environment and protect the Yemeni market that over 45,000 people benefited from the environmental projects and activities carried out by the Foundation during the year 2018.

The activity was conducted in connection with the World Environment Day 2018 theme: ‘Beat Plastic Pollution’ which was a call for action to reduce plastic pollution in the world.
Moreover, funded by the USAID and in coordination with the local Water Directorate, the Rwanga Foundation implement-ed the Water Conserving Behavior Change Project in Hwalian and Zhoian neighborhoods. The project aimed to raise awareness and change the behavior of the residents in the two neighborhoods about the importance of saving water in order to cope with water scarcity and unsustainability. The project included community meetings, distribution of flyers, posters and brochures, sending phone messages, Friday speeches through mosque minarets, and short videos.

The project activities reached out to over 30,000 people and were reported by the Water Directorate, stating that the project had a considerable impact on decreasing water consumption in the two mentioned neighborhoods.

Also, in partnership with Darawat Group, the Rwanga Foundation developed gardens and green spaces, including planting trees and flowers, in fifteen schools in the Sylamine governorate, benefiting about more than 1,000 students and teaching staff.

2.4 Vulnerable Groups

30,000 beneficiaries

33,988 beneficiaries

6 projects
Considering the concept of giving a man a fish and you'll feed him for a day, teach a man a fish and you'll feed him for a lifetime, Riiwiga Foundation, partnered with HLF (German Foundation) and funded by the Germany Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), is continuing implementing the project of improving the Career Opportunities for Young Refugees in Duhok.

The project, which started in 2017, is to develop the vocational skills of one thousand female and male youth from the IDP refugee and host communities to become qualified to enter the job market. During the course of the year, 479 female and male host and refugee youth have been trained in tailoring, hair dressing, hand crafts, computer maintenance, air conditioning, motor mechanics, carpentry, PWC work, etc. It is noteworthy mentioning that the project benefited 190 youth in Duhok governorate during 2017-2018.

Also, through the HELP German, the project of Vocational Training courses on Water Network Maintenance was conducted in Duhok town, Duhok governorate. The project was to develop vocational skills for fifty youth in sanitation and plumbing work to carry out maintenance works to the water network project in ten villages in Bashiqa sub-district.

Furthermore, funded by BMZ and implementing partnership with GO with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA), Riiwiga Foundation continues operating the cross-community social support centers in the six IDP camps of Kochar, Kochar-e, Chamraki, Sharya, Bhajandala, and Riiwiga Community of Duhok with more than 30,000 people mainly youths. This project, which started in 2017, is to provide services to the camp populations including legal counseling, case building, vocational training informal and non-formal education courses, general awareness training music, arts and sports courses, and entertainment and learning activities.

The project aims to support the IDPs in the six camps to become self-sufficient, connected, and to have sufficient capacity to overcome socio-dependent. During 2018, 340 activities have been conducted in the six IDP camps benefiting around 45,000 children, women, men and elderly IDPs.
Another fundamental need is the need for integration and self-sufficiency of the disabled. This calls for employment training as an important component of rehabilitation and social services. In many cases, it is necessary to establish new small-scale business projects.

The Rwanga Foundation organized a four-week English and Computer course for one hundred female and male youth in Erbil and supported the qualified participants in gaining positions in companies and organizations.

The foundation also held two sewing courses for thirty women, heads of households, in Saser and Herêrê. They were also given sewing machines and materials to start up small-scale business projects.
Additionally, Marwan al-Olail and Rahma Foundation arranged a program to raise funds from the project of Cash Assistance to the Martyrs’ Families, which has been implemented since 2012 to conduct income-generating projects for the nearest family members in order to support them to become qualified to work and economically self-dependent.

Hence, Rahma Foundation organized a two-month English and Computer course for one hundred female and male youth in Erbil and supported the qualified students in the practical sections in companies and organizations.

The Foundation also held two sewing courses for thirty women, heads of households, in Halabja and Khanaqin. They were also given sewing machines and materials to start small-scale business projects.

Other activities in the sectors of vulnerable groups included providing clothing to children at the Autism Center in Kirkuk town in coordination with the Center Development Center (CCD) in Sulaimaniyah, and providing uniforms, stationary materials, summer outfits, and food to children with specific needs in Sulaimaniyah.

The Rahma Foundation organized awareness sessions for parents of children with specific needs in Erbil, and supported the International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations (IFMSA) in Sulaimaniyah and Dental students of the Sulaimani University to provide health awareness sessions and make various medical and dental checks for about 1,000 students from the sweet Juni-Egyptian, Nineveh government.
**Environment**

3 projects
45,297 beneficiaries

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**Vulnerable Groups**

- Male: 36%
- Female: 64%

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**Data of 2018**

- 6 projects
- 33,988 beneficiaries

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**Data of 2013 - 2018**

- Total projects: 170
- Total beneficiaries: 2,089,680

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**Beneficiaries by Geographical Location**

- 38 projects
- 543,596 beneficiaries

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**Type of Beneficiaries**

- Education
- Environment
- Vulnerable Groups

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**Percentage of Beneficiaries by Sector**

- Education: 5%
- Environment: 9%
- Vulnerable Groups: 86%

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**Beneficiaries per Year**

- 2013: 11
- 2014: 36
- 2015: 35
- 2016: 19
- 2017: 31
- 2018: 38
Education
- Renovate schools, particularly the overcrowded schools in disadvantaged areas, where students from host, IDP and refugee communities are involved in educational processes.
- Support schools and students with educational supplies, stationery and other necessary school materials.
- Create opportunities for students to participate in events and competitions and support and reward the talented ones to further pursue their future dreams.
- Create and publish educational programs and brochures in relation to formal and informal education through social media and other channels of communication.

Youth
- Continues the Rwanda Focus Project, including the Rwanda Focus International Job Fair, to provide vocational training to unemployed youth and to connect them to meaningful and major job opportunities, providing them with bridge to youth employment opportunities.
- Continues to select the opportunity to provide vocational training and education to female and male youths, placement in job, and support them in starting their own businesses.
- Provides platforms for female and male youths to take part in events and competitions, promoting their leadership skills and motivate other youths to take the path to success.
- Create opportunities for support female and male youths to be involved in volunteering activities for the benefits of public.

Environment
- Raise awareness of public about environmental protection, water conservation, saving energy and different environments through community meetings, social media channels, videos, TV programs, campaigns, etc.
- Participate in activities related to the environment and in partnership with international and local NGOs, such as the concern about government authorities and local communities.
- Encourage youth participation in activities related to the planting of trees and other green activities.

Vulnerable Groups
- In partnership with the GIZ continue to support the six community social centers in the six IDP camps in Duhok to strengthen their resilience of the vulnerable IDPs and support them to become self-reliant.
- Implement projects and activities to support the vulnerable groups from the host, IDP and refugee communities, both inside and outside of camps, to become economically independent and self-reliant.
- Conduct projects and activities to develop vulnerable groups and support them to establish small businesses or live on their land.

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