

# Rwanga Foundation

A world where quality  
education is accessible for all.

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18

## Annual Report



*Decide.  
Commit.  
Succeed.*

# 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 easy access to education for all and improve the overall 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 potentials, introduce the latest technology, including e-learning system to the education process in order to meet the advanced international standards, create a culture and passion for learning in particular among the youth.

Rwanga Foundation is based in Kurdistan and officially launched its activities in September 2013 to conduct projects and activities all over Iraq through its four main sectors of education, youth, environment and vulnerable groups.



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During the course of the year 2018, Rwanda 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 age, gender and communities including host, IDPs and refugees, with a particular focus on female and male youth.

The projects and activities included building and developing 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, share experience and 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 mainly of children and youth.

Raising awareness of the public in general and the youth in particular about the importance of education, environmental protection, the role of youth in developing society was another significant achievement during the course of the year.



 38 projects  
 543,596 beneficiaries

# 1.0 Introduction



Additionally, Rwanda Foundation 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 the target people, non-government and other civil society organizations.

The main donors and partners of Rwanda Foundation included international and local organizations, among others: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), HELP - German Foundation, Silatech Foundation, World Bank, Coordinamento delle Organizzazioni

per il Servizio Volontario (COSV), US-AID, Marathon Oil, Chamber of Commerce Antwerp-Waasland (VOKA), PASS, MRF Group, Darwaza Company, The International School of Choueifat-Erbil, Lara School, as well as a number of companies, public and private universities, and private donors.

170 projects  
2,089,680 beneficiaries

It is worth mentioning that since its establishment in 2013 until the end of 2018, Rwanda Foundation conducted 170 projects benefiting more than two million people in the host, IDP and refugee communities.



# 2.0 Our Sectors



Education in Rwanda 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. Rwanda Foundation aspires to make everyone's life a learning journey.



Youth is the driving force of today and the future aspirant leaders for tomorrow, therefore involving 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, is also the area of concentration for Rwanda Foundation. Through awareness programs, and providing public service and basic needs, Rwanda Foundation is highly involved in protecting and keeping clean the earth planet.



Poverty filled with fear cannot focus on learning! providing the vulnerable groups with basic needs to survive, continue their education and develop their skills are Rwanda Foundation's main objectives. Rwanda Foundation is committed to support people in need to integrate in the society to become a part of it for a brighter future.

## Our Doners



## Our Sponsors



## Our Partners





# 2.1 Education

Education is not limited to the knowledge one gains from school or university, but it is a continuous learning process through practical and innovative approaches. Rwanga Foundation believes that quality education should be accessible for all and strives to improve the various aspects of learning and education. As in the past years, Rwanga Foundation, in coordination and partnership with international and local organizations, conducted 19 hard and soft projects in the sector of education benefiting more than 170,952 people.

19 projects  
170,952 beneficiaries



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, Rwanga Foundation renovated 31 schools in Erbil, Sulaimani and Duhok, where more than 20,000 students, teachers and administrative staff were involved in the education process every academic year.

The projects included a thorough renovation 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 find employment for jobless female and male youth in the mentioned governorates. Through the school renovation projects, around 1,500 female and male youth from the host, IDP and refugee communities were provided with temporary employment.

Moreover, financed by its own generated funds, Rwanga Foundation, in Erbil governorate, renovated four schools, provided educational materials and equipment to 26 schools in Mergasor and a school in Piran, extended a workshop space for the students of sculpture and painting in the Fine Arts Institute in Rwandiz, and carried out basic renovation of the building of the Directorate of Education-Erbil.

The beneficiaries of the mentioned projects were around 8,000 students, teaching and administration staff.

The Foundation also implemented other soft projects through its own funds such as Mathematics Competition, University Video Guide for the high school graduates, Rwanga Book Project, etc., to provide non-formal education courses and guidance to students and youth.

Additionally, in partnership with The International School of Choueifat, Lara Private School, Scholar, and VOKA, Rwanga Foundation conducted other educational projects and established learning platforms benefiting about 2,800 people.

2,800 beneficiaries



Involving youth in creating positive changes and developing society is an absolute necessity. Therefore, supporting and developing capabilities of youth is one of the main objectives of Rwanga Foundation which is carried out through providing various opportunities for the youth to play a vital role and become a pillar of developing the society in all aspects.

During the course of the year 2018, Rwanga Foundation conducted ten projects in the sector of youth assisting and supporting around 240,000 female and male youth from the host, IDP and refugee communities.

Also another 200,000 youth were direct or indirect beneficiaries of projects and activities carried out under the other three sectors of education, environment and vulnerable groups. The projects in the youth sector mainly included developing skills and capabilities, creating networking platforms, internship and voluntary work opportunities, livelihood and employment for female and male youth.

10 projects

293,359 youth



# 2.2 Youth



One of the main youth projects implemented by Rwanga Foundation is Rwanga Foras which is a platform that brings together different resources, opportunities and initiatives for everyone, mainly youth and university graduates, who are eager to learn, work and develop themselves but do not know where to start.

Rwanga Foras, which has been managed by the Rwanga Foundation in partnership with Silatech Foundation and Microsoft Corporation for the third successful year, operates all over Iraq to provide host, IDP and refugee youth with free access to a wide variety of resources through online and offline training courses including personalized advice on how to write CV and learn about interview skills and work ethics.



It is a career guidance tool that provides virtual advising to help young people determine the career path that best matches their life aspirations. Rwanga Foras is also registering companies in order to bridge connections between job providers and jobseekers, by announcing job vacancies and establishing networking platforms in order to provide more job opportunities and improve the youth wellbeing.

It is worth mentioning that the projects also include the Rwanga Foras International Job Fair which took place on September 9th and 10th in Erbil, in which 120 local and international companies, organizations and universities participated and over 15,000 young jobseekers attended to establish connections with the job providers and submit their CVs for potential job opportunities.

120 local and international companies

15,000 jobseekers attended





The Rwanga Awards 2018 consisted of 10 categories: Short Film, Short Story, Recycled Art, Drawing, Scientific Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Solo Music, Software Development, Poetry and Photography.



# Rwanga Awards

With the goal of improving and fostering youth potentials, the Rwanga Annual Awards was launched to discover talents, strengthen confidence and call for artistic, literary and scientific projects produced by the youth aged between 15 and 25.

After a thorough evaluation by an independent committee of experts, in 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.





800 beneficiaries

Moreover, in connection with carrying out the livelihood activities for youth, Rwanga Foundation, in partnership with the Comitato di coordinamento delle Organizzazioni per il Servizio Volontario (COSV) and funded by the European Union (EU) implemented the project of 'Resilient Communities: Supporting Livelihoods, Education and Social Stability for Syrian Refugee and Host Population' benefiting more than 800 host, refugee and IDP youth.

The project included vocational training courses of mobile maintenance, mechanical maintenance, sewing and hairdressing, following by business development support courses, as well as sessions on writing CV, writing cover letter, and interview skills as a contribution by Rwanga Foundation.



4000 Women

Additionally, funded by the World Bank, the Foundation implemented 'Promoting Private Sector Employment to Female Job Seekers' project. The project was to motivate female youth to work, become financially independent and self-reliant.

The project started with a survey on over 4,000 women who are registered as job seekers on the Foras Portal in order to find out how many of them are still looking for jobs, what are their interests, 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 to work, mainly in the private sector.

# Youth Volunteer Initiative

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, and 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 be funded and supported to implement projects for the best benefit of the public.

Out of 115 submitted projects, 10 projects were selected (3 in Erbil, 2 in Sulaimani, 2 in Duhok, 1 in Kirkuk, and 2 in Halabja). It is worth mentioning that 101 youth were involved in implementing the projects benefiting about 17,000 children, youth, women and elderly in the five mentioned governorates.



10 projects  
17,000 beneficiaries



The project of 'Talk@Rwanga' has also been launched in the first half of the year, which is a platform for the talented and successful youth to share their experience and success stories with the public and communicate that to others through various communication and social media channels.



The Talk@Rwanga Videos have been shared through social media channels, YouTube, and Rwanga Foundation's website. 2,690 viewers have been involved in watching and commenting on the videos during 2018.

2,690 views

In December 2018, Rwanga Foundation, in coordination with the GIZ Qudra Programme, which is funded by the European Union Regional Trust Fund (Madad) and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development "BMZ", has started 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 is to target about one thousand host, IDP, refugee and returnee youth in the four governorates of Erbil, Sulaimani, Duhok and Halabja. The project will continue until April 2019.

47 vocational courses

12 business start-up courses



3 projects  
45,297 beneficiaries



## 2.3 Environment

Environmental protection and environmental education, which is a global concern, holds an important place in Rwanga's vision and mission. Rwanga Foundation, through awareness-raising campaigns, environmental guidance, and provision of basic materials, plays a significant role in keeping the environment clean and protected. It is estimated that over 45,000 people benefited from the three environmental projects and activities carried out by the Foundation during the year 2018.

In partnership with MRF Group, a nationwide campaign was launched in Kurdistan which included environmental activities in public and visiting basic and high schools in Erbil, Sulaimani, Duhok, Halabja, Zakho, Akre, Ranya, Garmian and Soran to raise awareness and encourage the students and youth to recycle and re-use products.

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 Erbil Water Directorate, Rwanga Foundation implemented the Water Conservancy Behavior Change Project in Havalan and Zhiyan neighborhoods in Erbil city. The project was a campaign 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 ensure sustainability. The project included community meetings, distribution of flyers, posters and brochures, sending phone messages, Friday Speeches through mosque Imams, and short videos.

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

Also, in partnership with Darwaza Group, Rwanga Foundation developed gardens and green spaces, including planting trees and flowers, in fifteen schools in the Sulaimani governorate, benefiting about more than 4,000 students and teaching staff.

30,000 beneficiaries



## 2.4 Vulnerable Groups

Natural and human-made disasters and conflicts have serious negative consequences on the lives of people as well as their learning and development processes. Although the focus is more on development projects, Rwanga Foundation provides basic humanitarian assistance to vulnerable groups, mainly during emergencies, to become more resilient and self-dependent.

During the course of the year 2018, the Foundation provided help and support to around 34,000 vulnerable children, women, men and elderly through conducting six new projects and continuing implementation of other two projects which had started in 2017.

33,988 beneficiaries

6 projects

Considering the concept of 'give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime', Rwanga Foundation, partnered with HELP (German Foundation) and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), continued implementing the project of 'Improving the Career Opportunities for Young People in Duhok'.

The project, which started in 2017, is to develop the vocational skills of one thousand female and male youths 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, IDP and refugee youth have been trained in sewing, hair-dressing, handicrafts, computer maintenance, air-conditioner maintenance, mechanics, carpentry, PVC work, etc. It is worth mentioning that the project benefited 910 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 Bashiqa town, Nineve governorate. The project was to develop vocational skills for fifty youth in sanitation and plumbing works to carry out maintenance works to the Water Network project in ten villages in Bashiqa sub-district.



Furthermore, funded by BMZ and implemented in partnership with GIZ with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA), Rwanga Foundation continued operating the six community social support centers in the six IDP camps of Kabarto1, Kabarto2, Chammishko, Shariya, Bajikandala, and Rwanga Community in Duhok where more than 90,000 IDPs - mainly Yazidis - live.

The project, which started in 2017, is to provide services to the camp populations including legal counselling, capacity building, vocational training, informal and non-formal educational courses, general awareness raising, music, arts and sports courses, and entertainment and learning activities.

The project aims to support the IDPs in the six camps to become resilient, connected, and to have sufficient capacity to become more self-dependent. During 2018, 458 activities have been conducted in the six IDP camps benefiting around 33,000 children, women, men and elderly IDPs.

Additionally, Marathon Oil and Rwanga Foundation agreed to use the remaining funds from the project of 'Cash Assistance to the Martyrs Families', which had been implemented during 2017, to conduct income-generating projects for the martyrs' family members in order to support them to become qualified to work and economically self-dependent.

Hence, Rwanga Foundation organized a two-month English and Computer course for one hundred female and male youth in Erbil and supported the qualified participants to work as interns in companies and organizations.

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



Other activities in the sector of vulnerable groups included providing gifts to children at the Autism Center in Zakho town in coordination with the Career Development Center (CDC) volunteers in Zakho University, and providing uniforms, stationery materials, winter-outfits and shoes to children with specific needs in Sulaimani.

The Rwanga Foundation also organized awareness sessions for parents of children with specific needs in Erbil, and supported the International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA) and Medical and Dentistry students of the Duhok University to provide health awareness sessions and make various medical and dentistry checks for about 300 vulnerable people in need in Tel-Esqoftown, Nineveh governorate.

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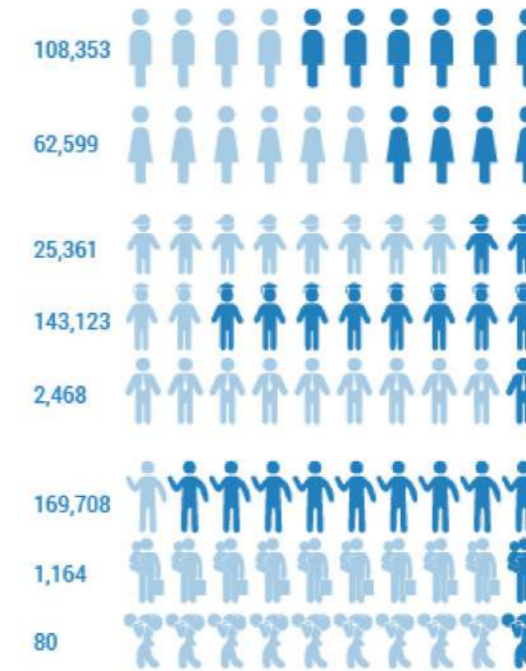
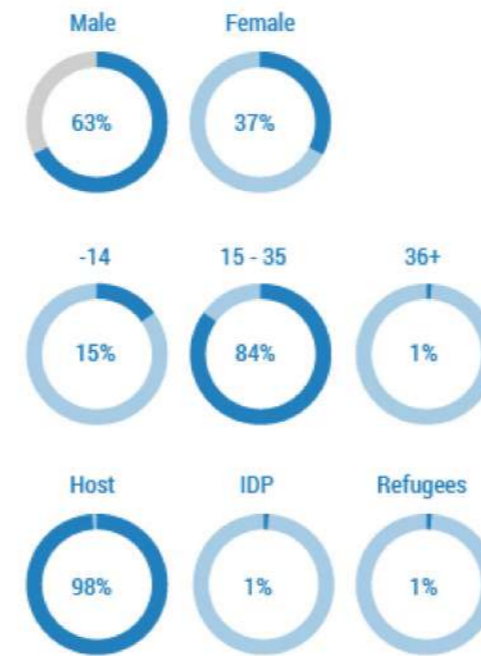


# 3.0

## Statistical Report

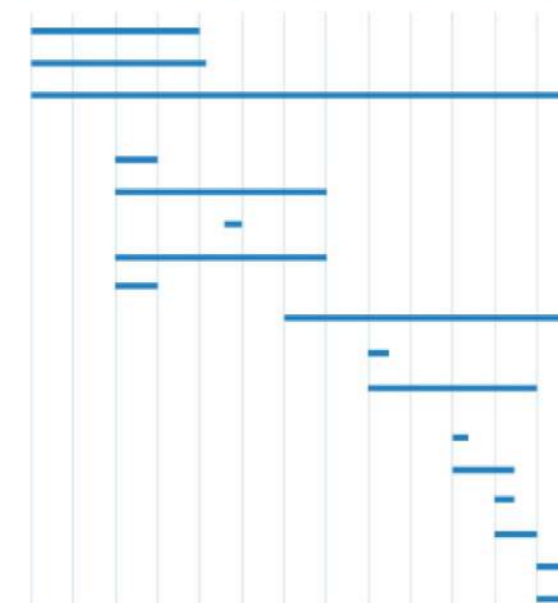
### Education

19 projects  
170,952 beneficiaries



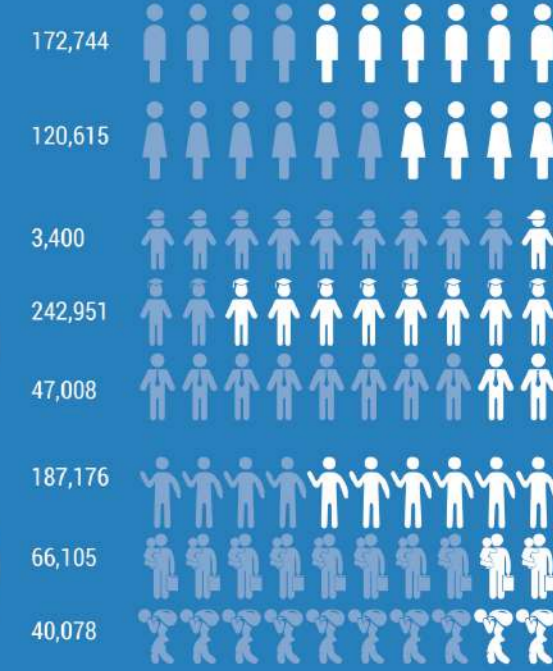
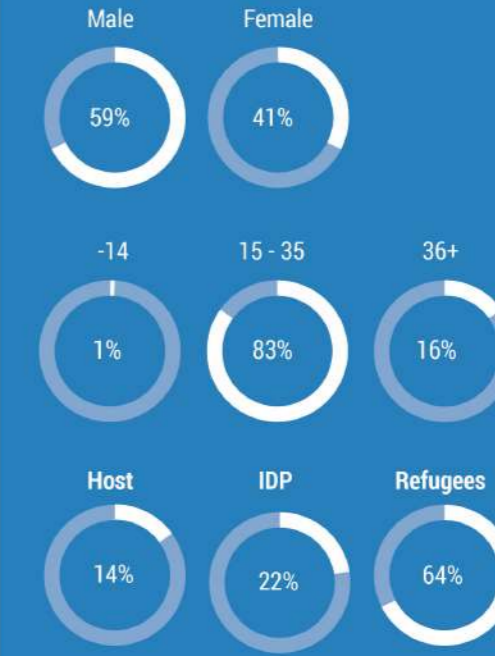
- Renovation of Four Schools in Erbil
- Basic Renovation of Twelve Schools
- University Guide Video
- Minor Renovation of Bahirkai Hawcharkh Basic School
- Lara Private School Fundraise Festival
- Supporting Piran High School
- Minor renovation in Zhwan Kindergarten
- Minor renovation in Hasarok High School
- Building Prefabricated Hall at Rawandiz Fine Arts Institute
- Rwanga Book Project
- Choose Your Specialization Conference (CYS)
- Income generation for IDPs, refugees and socially vulnerable households in host communities (Renovating 15 schools)
- Back To School Drive
- Minor Renovation of Talar City Basic School
- Minor Renovation of Rozak School
- Providing Whiteboards and Kerosene Heaters to 26 Schools
- Renovation of General Directorate of Education - Erbil
- Plato Project

2017 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec 2019



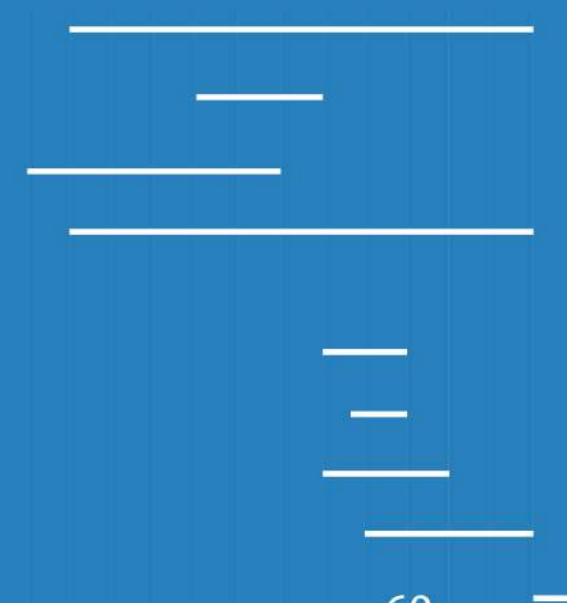
### Youth

10 projects  
293,359 beneficiaries



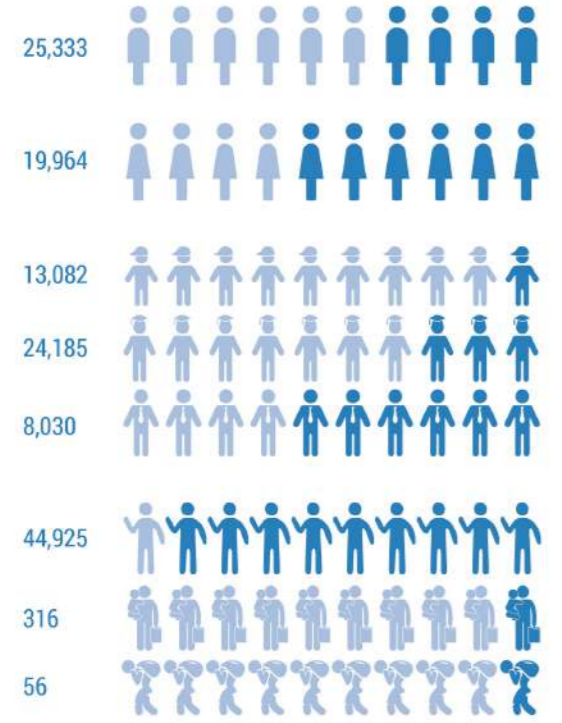
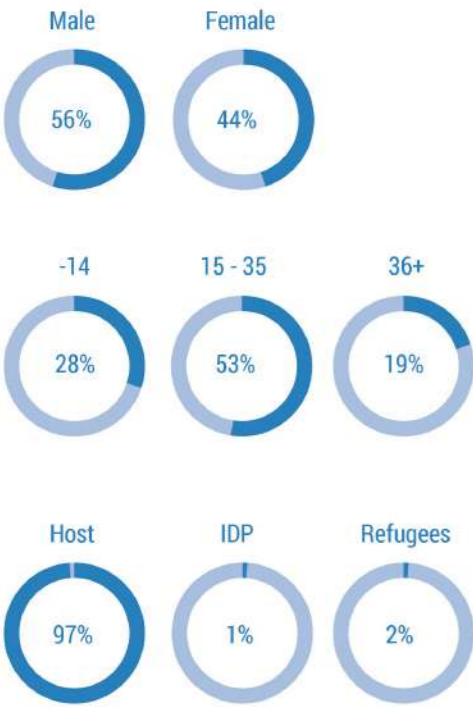
- Rwanga Foras
- Resilient Communities: Supporting Livelihoods, Education and Social Stability for Syrian Refugee and Host Population
- Youth Volunteers Initiative
- Talk@Rwanga
- Promoting Private Sector Employment To Female Job Seekers
- Who Is a Successful Youth?
- Android Mobile Application Training Course
- Rwanga Foras International Job Fair 2018
- Rwanga Annual Awards
- Vocational Training and Business Start-up Courses

2017 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec 2019



# Environment

3 projects  
45,297 beneficiaries

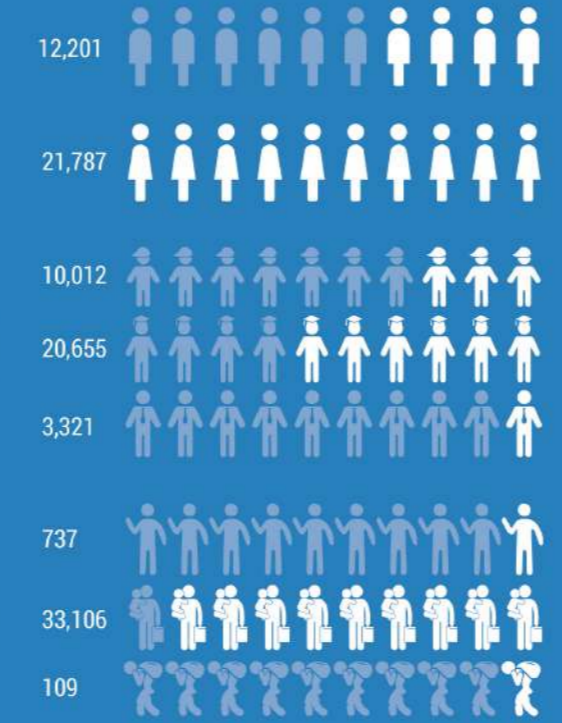
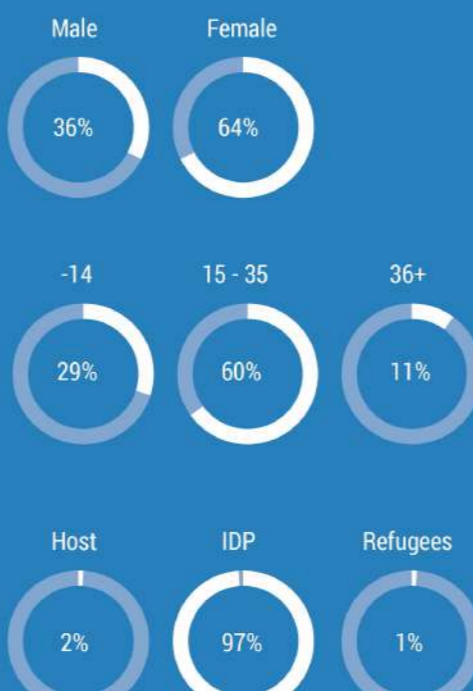


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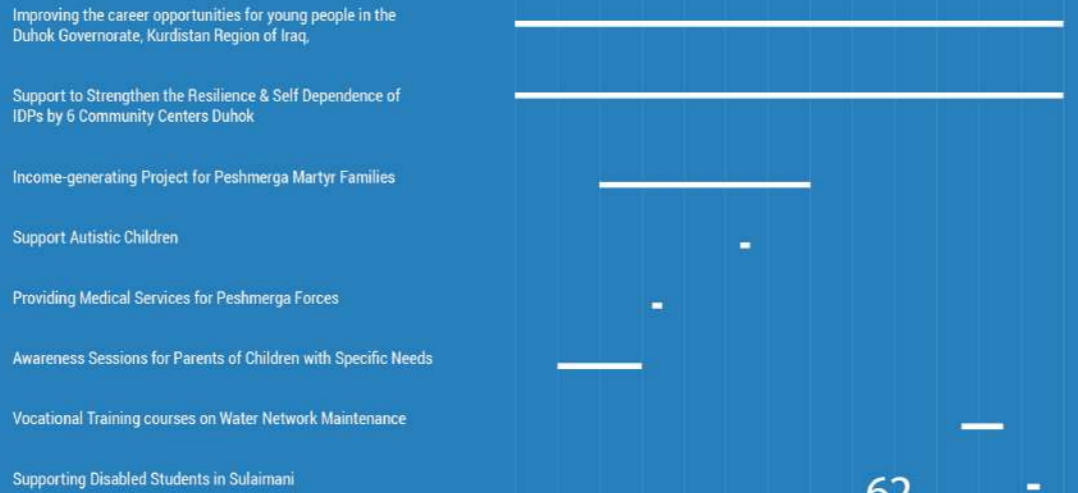


# Vulnerable Groups

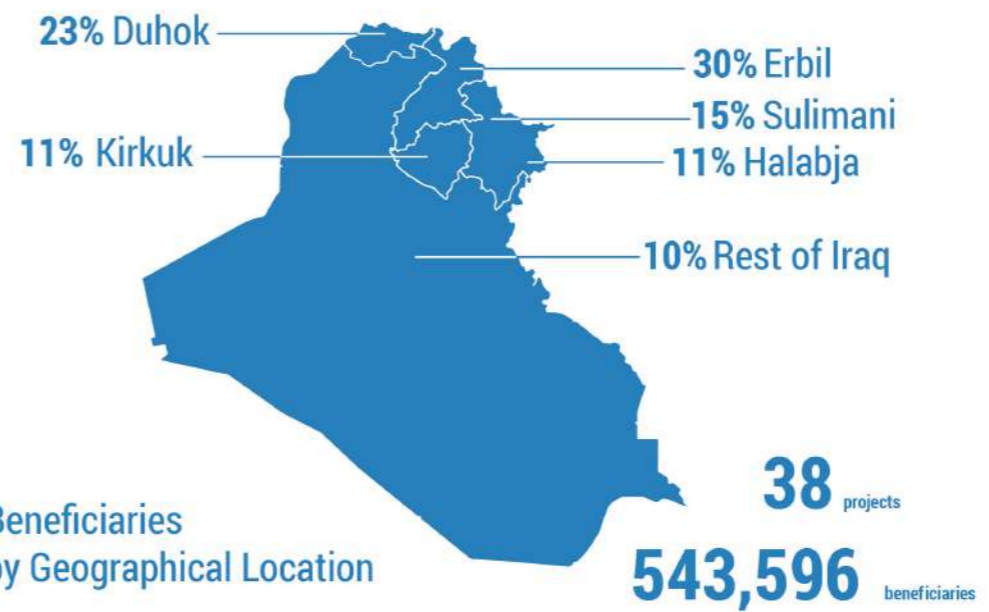
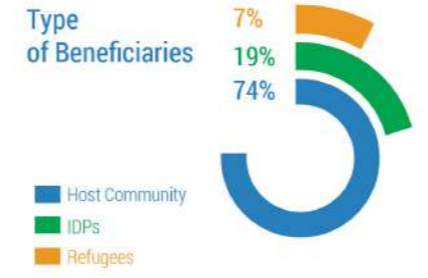
6 projects  
33,988 beneficiaries



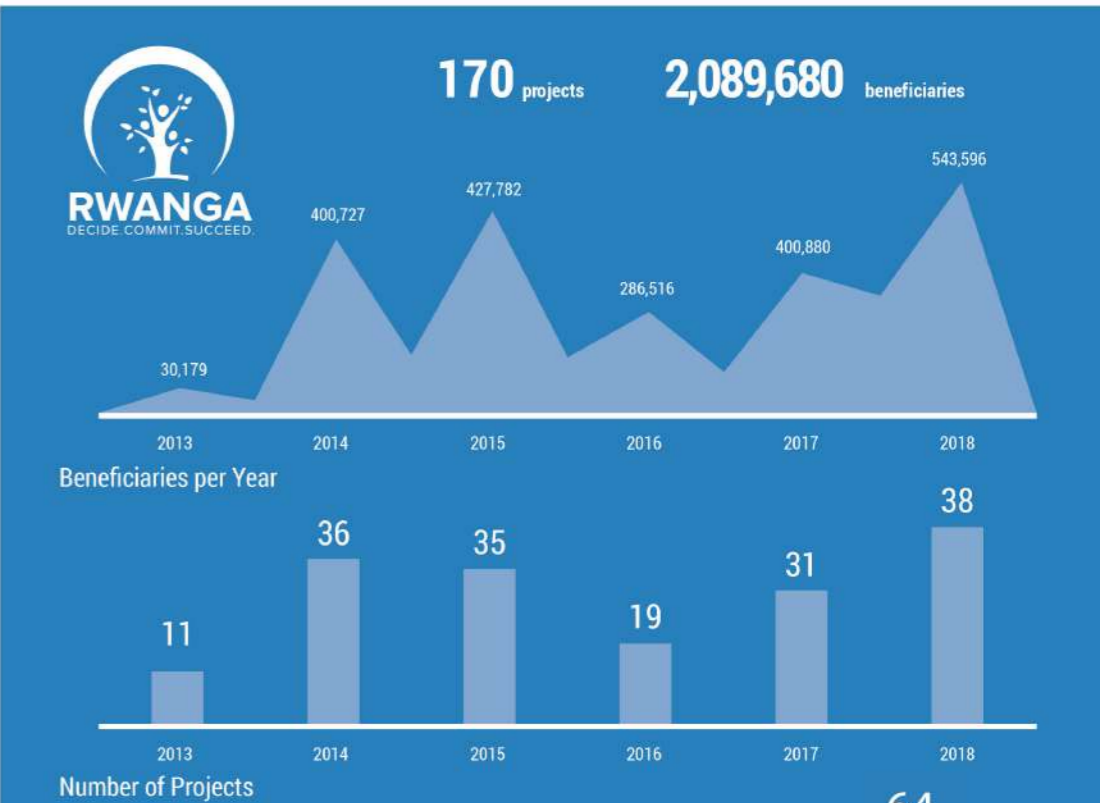
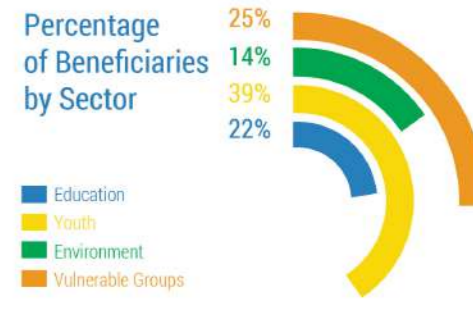
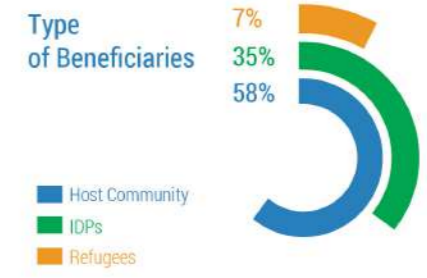
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# Data of 2018



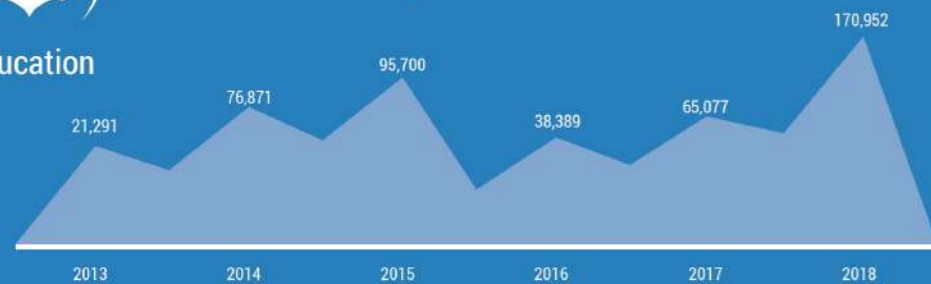
# Data of 2013 - 2018



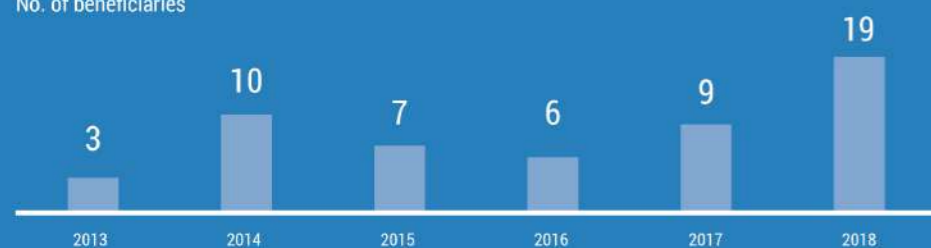


### Education

54 projects 468,280 beneficiaries



No. of beneficiaries

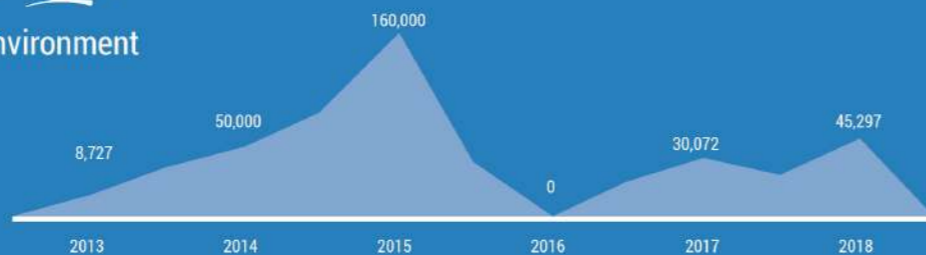


No. of projects



### Environment

19 projects 294,096 beneficiaries



No. of beneficiaries

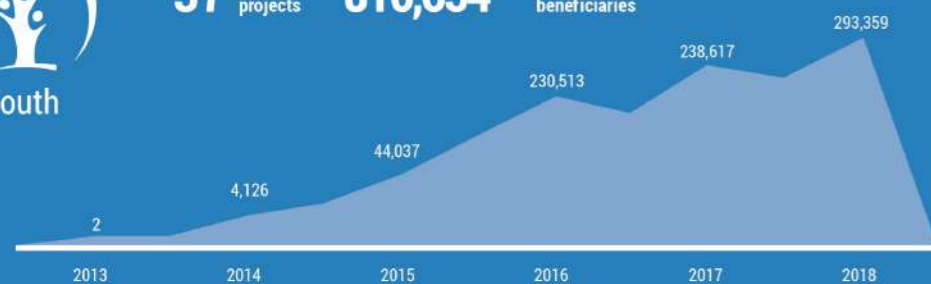


No. of projects



### Youth

37 projects 810,654 beneficiaries



No. of beneficiaries



No. of projects



### Vulnerable Groups

60 projects 516,650 beneficiaries



No. of beneficiaries



No. of projects

Envisioning the overall goal of sustainable development through developing capabilities and capacities of people and institutions to become more effective and self-reliant, Rwanda Foundation, in partnership with the international organizations and in coordination with the concerned government authorities, local NGOs and other relevant stakeholders has plans to conduct the following projects and activities during the year 2019:

# 4.0

## Way Forward 2019

## Education

- Renovates schools, particularly the overcrowded schools in disadvantaged areas, where students from host, IDP and refugee communities are involved in educational process;
- 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 learning programs and videos mainly in relation to formal but also informal education through social media and other channels of communication.

## Youth

- Continue the Rwanga Foras Project, including Rwanga Foras International Job Fair, to provide vocational training to unemployed youths and to connect the young female and male job seekers with job providers to bridge the gap towards youth employment;
- Continue to seize other opportunities to provide vocational training and education to female and male youths, place them into jobs, and support them to start their own businesses;
- Provide platforms for female and male youth to take part in events and competitions, whether face-to-face or online, to further develop their skills and motivate other youths to take the path to success;
- Create opportunities and 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 conservancy, saving energy and other environmental concerns through community meetings, social media channels, videos, TV programs, campaigns, etc.;
- Participate in activities related to keeping the environment clean in partnership with international and local NGOs as well as the concerned government authorities and local communities;
- Carry out and participate in activities and campaigns related to planting 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 resilience of the vulnerable IDPs and to support them to become self-reliant;
- Implement projects and activities to support vulnerable groups from the host, IDP, and refugee communities, both inside and out of camps, to become economically dependent and self-reliant;
- Conduct projects and activities to develop skills of the vulnerable groups and support them to establish small businesses including home-based business projects;
- Take part in humanitarian relief operations especially during manmade or natural disasters when it causes displacement of people.

# Contact US

info@rwanga.org  
www.rwanga.org

**Erbil**  
+964 750 815 5550

**Sulaimani**  
+964 751 010 1665  
+964 53 323 9211

**Duhok**  
+964 750 767 1995  
+964 750 767 1996

**Erbil Headquarter Office**  
Floor 16, Tower 4, Empire Business Towers, Erbil

**Sulaimani Office**  
German Village Villa No:4.

**Duhok Office**  
Rojvin Road, House NO (31) Takhy Botan of KRO Street, Kurdistan Iraq.

 /RwangaOrg

 /rwangafoundation

 /RwangaFdn

 /rwangafoundation

**Erbil**  
+964 750 815 5550

**Sulaimani**  
+964 751 010 1665  
+964 53 323 9211

**Duhok**  
+964 750 767 1995  
+964 750 767 1996



# Rwanga Foundation Annual Report

**Erbil Headquarter Office**  
Floor 16, Tower 4, Empire Business Towers, Erbil

**Sulaimani Office**  
German Village Villa No:4.

**Duhok Office**  
Rojvin Road, House NO (31) Takhy Botan of KRO Street, Kurdistan Iraq.