



Rwanga Foundation Annual Report 2015

A world where quality education is accessible for all

Decide.
Commit.
Succeed.

About Us

Rwanga Foundation is a non-governmental organization, which envisages 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.

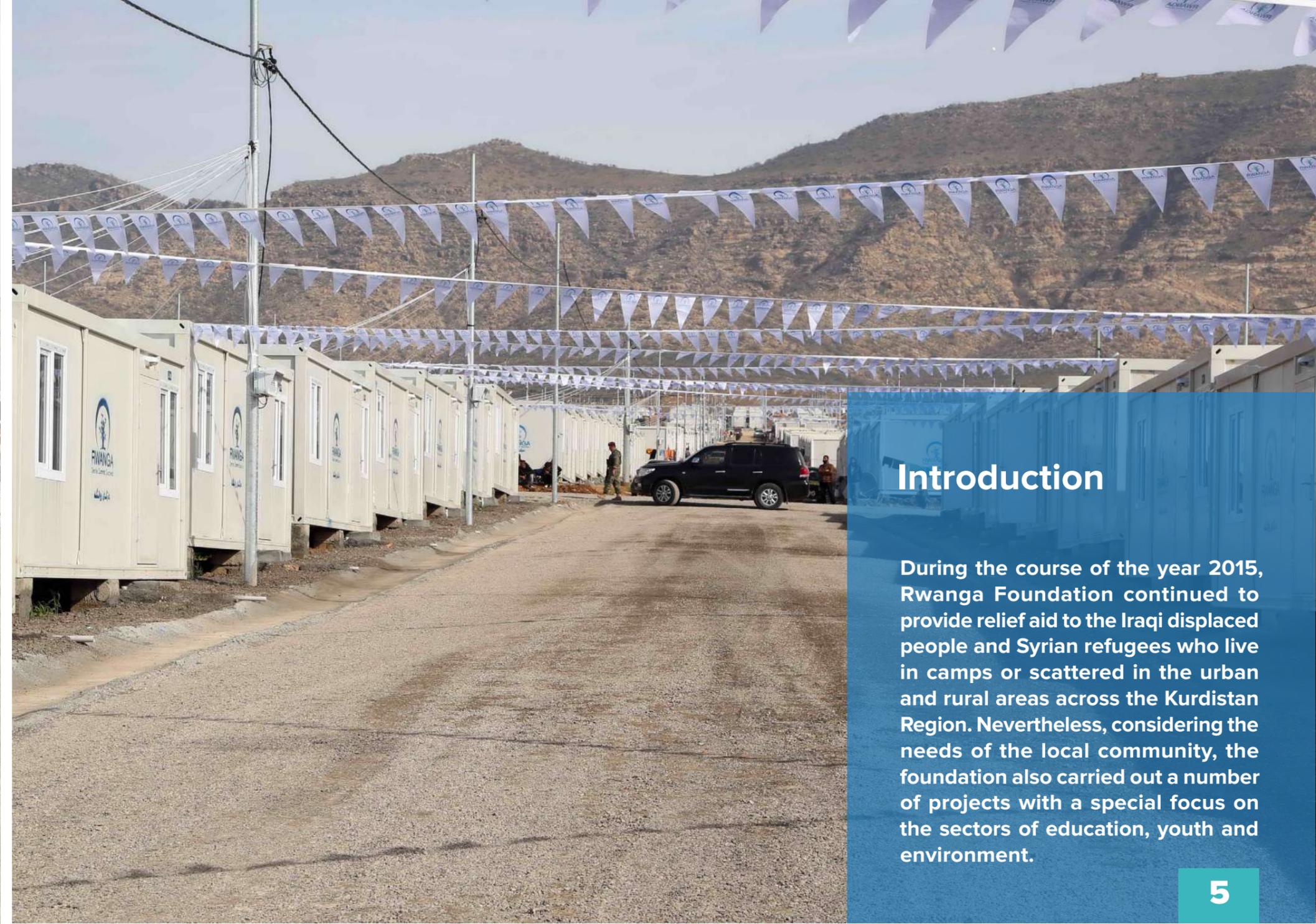
Rwanga's strategic goals are to develop platforms for youth to discover talents and fulfill their potentials, to introduce the latest technology, including e-learning system to the education process in order to meet the advanced international standards, and to create a culture and passion for learning 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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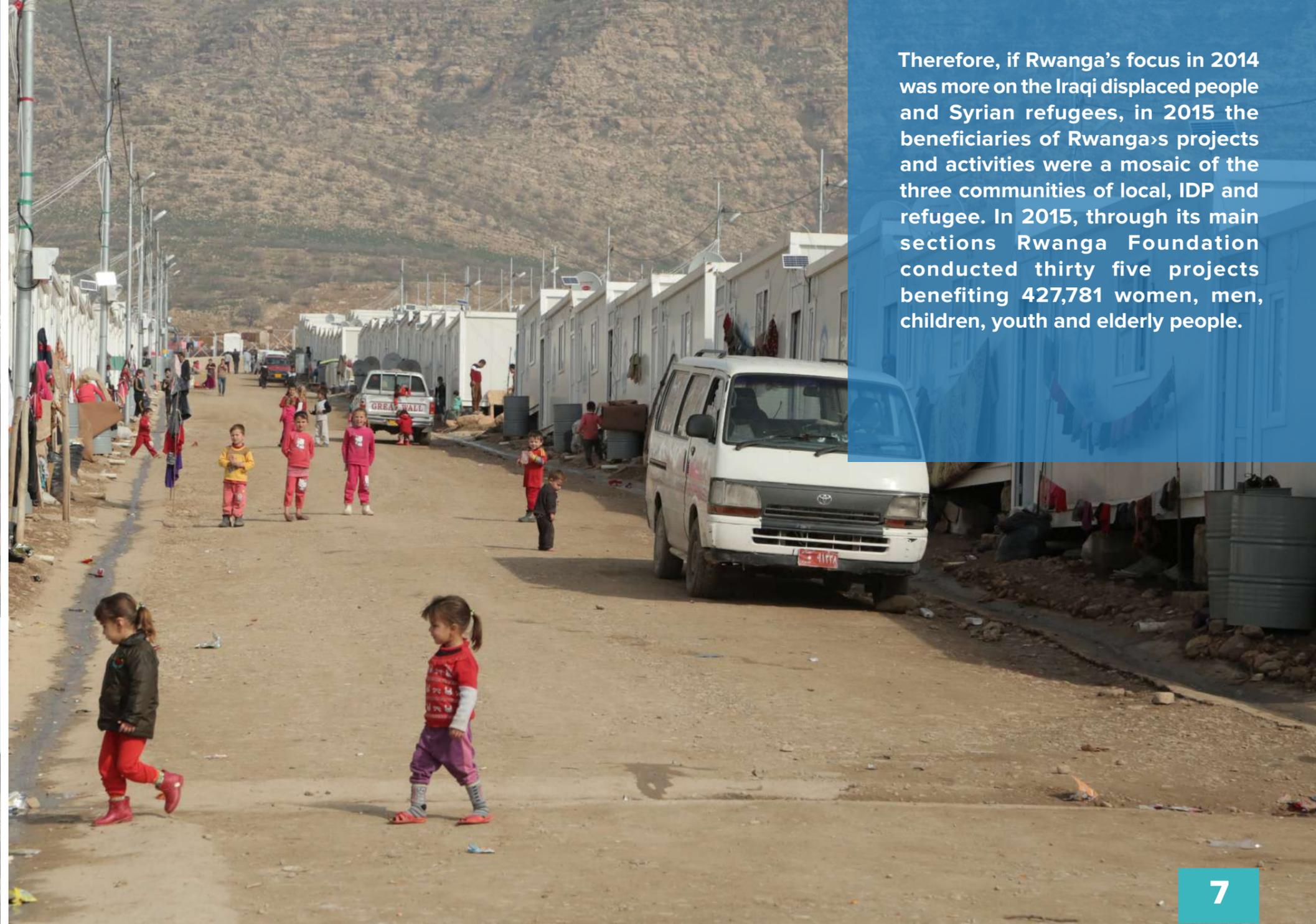


Introduction

During the course of the year 2015, Rwanga Foundation continued to provide relief aid to the Iraqi displaced people and Syrian refugees who live in camps or scattered in the urban and rural areas across the Kurdistan Region. Nevertheless, considering the needs of the local community, the foundation also carried out a number of projects with a special focus on the sectors of education, youth and environment.



It is also worth to mention that in some projects the local people, IDPs and refugees were combined to strengthen the peaceful coexistence and integration in Kurdistan. Regarding education as the key to success, wellbeing and prosperity, and the youth, who make more than %25 of the society, as the driving force and the future hope of the society, the foundation also contributed to these two vital sectors through providing capacity building and services as well as improving infrastructure. Rwanga has further continued its advocacy of environment protection for which a number of activities were conducted.



Therefore, if Rwanga's focus in 2014 was more on the Iraqi displaced people and Syrian refugees, in 2015 the beneficiaries of Rwanga's projects and activities were a mosaic of the three communities of local, IDP and refugee. In 2015, through its main sections Rwanga Foundation conducted thirty five projects benefiting 427,781 women, men, children, youth and elderly people.

Rwanga Foundation, believing in the concept of burden-sharing and complementary approach, conducted the projects and activities in coordination with the relevant government authorities, UN agencies, national and international organizations as well as the representatives of the target communities. Moreover, to conduct some of the projects, the foundation had partnerships with a number of international organizations, among others, Unicef, IRC, Emirates Red Crescent, Samaritan Purse, LOG, GIZ, Music for Peace, IMC, USAID-Foras, Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan Foundation. Additionally, the foundation partnered with private sectors organizations such as Carrefour, TAQA- Iraq, Claremont Group, Divan-Erbil, highcrest-Sulaimani, Amber Company, Babylon Media, UB holding, and Fastlink.





Projects and Activities



The prime focus of the Rwanga Foundation aims towards a comprehensive reform of education throughout Kurdistan through enabling capacity building and increasing the quality and access to education for all. In coordination with the Ministry of Education in the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and other relevant stakeholders, Rwanga spear headed a number of projects and activities to support education for the local, IDP, and refugee communities.

The key projects included building a primary school in Said Sadiq - Sulaimani along with providing the necessary furniture, distributing hygiene materials to 3,900 students in Sulaimani governorate, and building a kidZone and providing the necessary furniture and equipment in Rwanga Community in Qadiya - Duhok.



As to providing educational capacity building, through a pilot project in partnership with the KRG and Unicef, one hundred social workers have been trained to improve their skills and find reasonable solutions to the problems faced by the students with their schools or families. Additionally, in partnership with the aforementioned actors, training sessions were organized on Training of Trainers on Hygiene Promotion for the Humanitarian Context, Main Strategies to Change the Human Behaviours, and Environmental Journalism that were held in Erbil and Sulaimani cities. Such projects make up the initiatives undertaken by Rwanda in the educational reform and this shall further continue in future.





2.1. Youth Capacity Building

Youth is the driving force of today and the future of tomorrow. Therefore, a number of projects and activities for the youth were conducted by Rwanga mainly in the sectors of education, physical education, capacity building, vocational training, language courses, computer courses, employability skills and job fairs.





In partnership with the USAID-Foras, Rwanga sponsored a job fair in Erbil, and in coordination with the University of Duhok, Rwanga participated in a job fair in Duhok. More than five thousand university students and fresh graduates attended the two events to find suitable job opportunities. Moreover, in a joint project with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), training courses on English language, computer, and vocational skills were organized for seven hundred Syrian refugees living in Qushtapa refugee camp in Erbil.

By giving the youths the skills and opportunities they need to enter the local job sector, the foundation is bringing hope to the rest of Kurdistan to reduce the outflow of qualified potential employees from the region and adding to the career opportunities that are present in the country.





Rwanga Foundation, for the third year in row, organized football championship of Xoli Raperin for forty eight local football teams across Kurdistan. The foundation also built two football pitches benefiting hundreds of young football players in the rural areas in Sulaimani governorate. Delivering presentations on special sports programmes for women, children and youth in refugee and IDP camps in Erbil and a seminar in Salahaddin University-Hawler on physical education were among other activities in relation to physical education for youth.





2.2. Rwanga Awards

Youths need to feel successful at something whether it be a talent they have or an artistic piece they have created, but recognizing these skills is essential to build the confidence of the talented people and encourage them to further develop their abilities. Talents of youth usually include aspects like scoring good grades in school, having musical or writing abilities, being a good athlete, having scientific innovations, or other endowments. The youth who feel successful in positive ways are less likely to be involved in any serious negative activities.





Environment

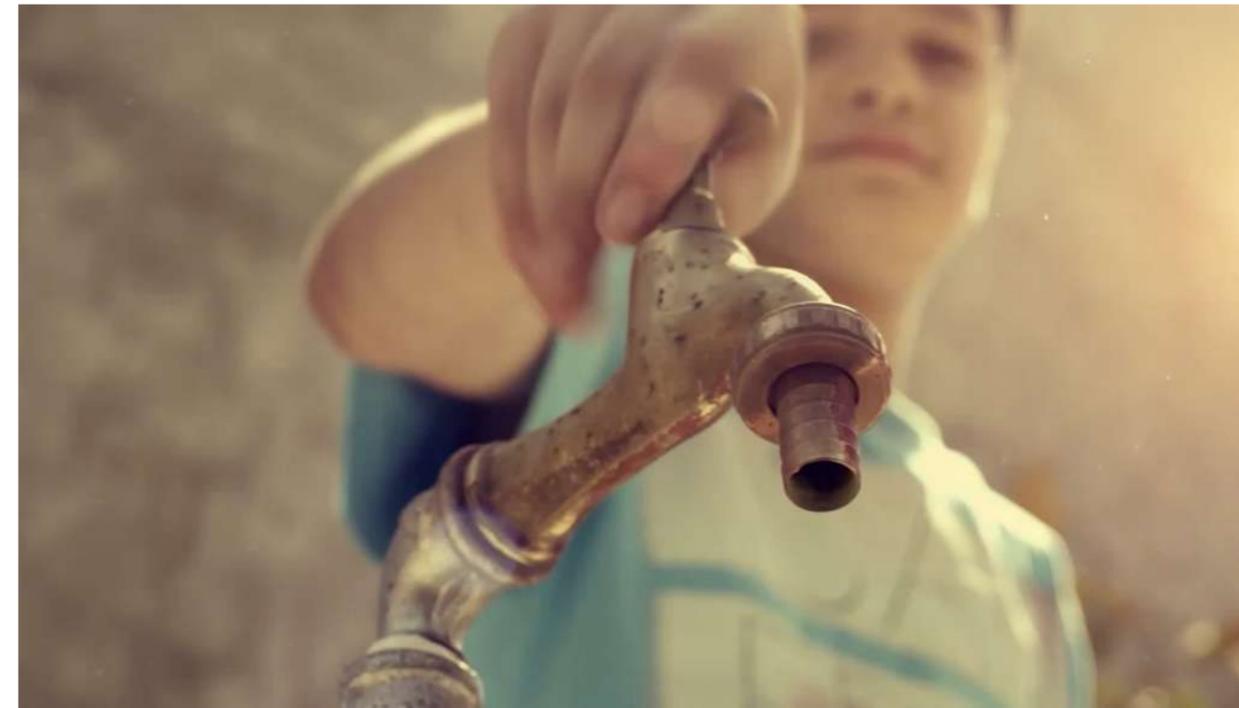
Environment protection, being a global concern, is also very much the focus of Rwanga Foundation. Through awareness raising sessions, public service announcements and provision of basic facilities, the foundation made a remarkable contribution to keep the environment cleaner and reduce the waste being thrown onto the streets and public areas in the cities and surrounding areas.



Rwanga Foundation produced and disseminated three short films, as public service announcements, on keeping the environment clean and preserving the fundamental resources of water and electricity. Through the local TV channels, webpages, and other means of media and social media, the three short films were broadcasted for about three months in the first half of 2015.



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Vulnerable Groups



Rwanga Community, which was officially opened in February 2015, has the capacity to offer accommodation to 24,000 IDPs through provision of 3,000 cabin units, two schools, kidZone - which includes various sport, art, and education facilities - two parks, a centre for women, and health centre with surgery and labour facilities as well as other public facilities including water, sanitation, electricity, and roads and camp administration unit. Rwanga Community, along with assistance and coordination with the government, NGOs and IGOs, have successfully initiated the next standard for organized IDP/refugee settlements, while affording the best sense of normalcy and comfort to IDPs possible. Innocent and vulnerable people who have been forced from their homes and displaced should always have the opportunity to live in a dignified way until they return to their homes and places of origin while bringing back a sense of normalcy to their war-torn lives.



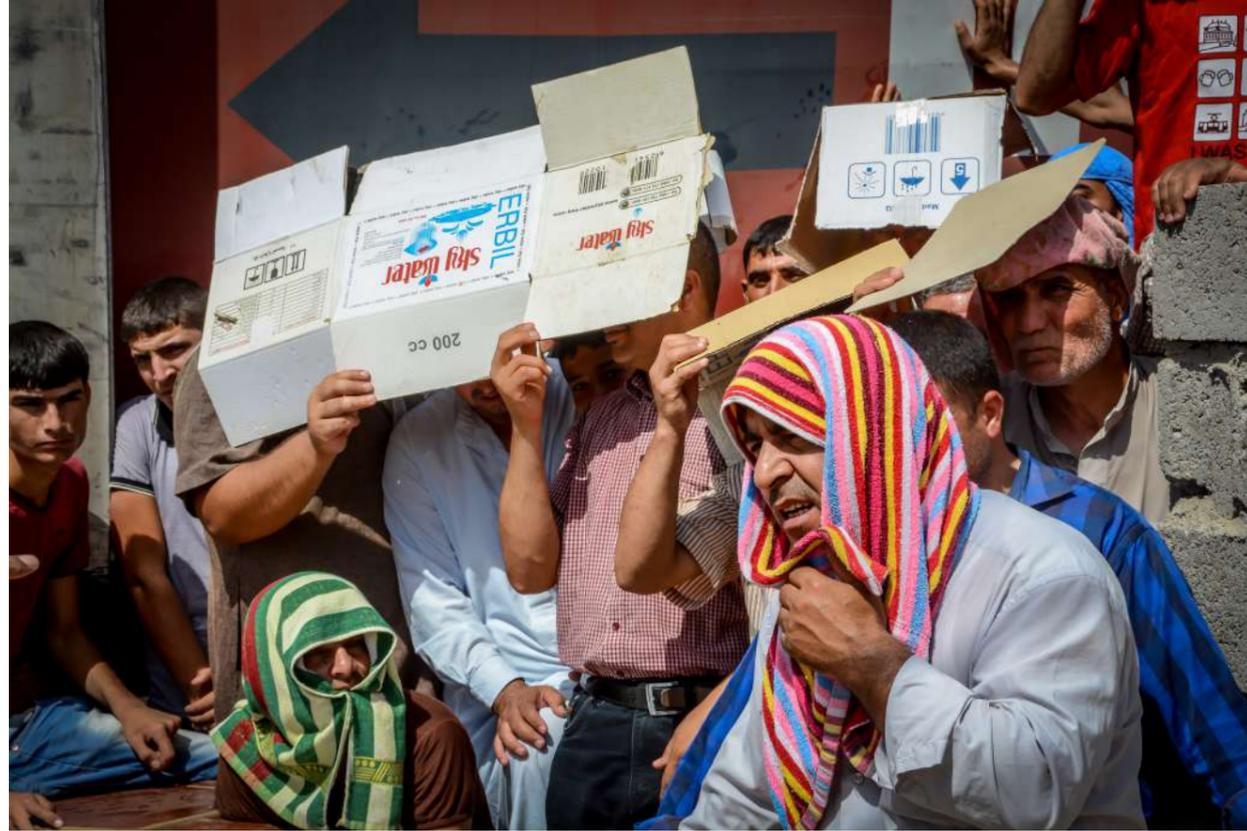
4.1. Rwanga Community - Qadiya

During the heinous takeover of large swaths of land in Iraq to ISIS groups during 2014, Duhok governorate has since been faced with taking a large number of refugees and IDPs who are seeking protection in the safe haven that is Kurdistan. There became an immediate need to mitigate inevitable strains correlated to the influx of IDPs while also maintaining a higher standard for displaced persons. Rwanga Foundation was compelled to act by creating a setting where displaced families would have more than a bare shelter to their name. Rwanga Foundation filled the need at a crucial time (June-July 2014) to alleviate the pain of the IDPs and pressures placed on Duhok governorate.



4.2. Relief Aid to the Iraqi Displaced People and Syrian Refugees

Due to the crisis in Syria as of mid 2011 and the attacks by the ISIS groups on Nineveh and Shingal (Sinjar) around mid 2014, more than one million and half Iraqi people and Syrian refugees sought asylum in Kurdistan Region. Rwanga Foundation was always one of the first humanitarian organizations present on the ground to assist the refugees and internally displaced people and has set an unprecedented standard of reactionary time and logistical support. Throughout 2015, the foundation provided emergency relief aid to 163,479 Iraqi displaced people and Syrian refugees. The relief aid included distribution of food and non food items such as bread, biscuits, water, juice, rice, oil, sugar, salt, cheese, tomato paste, tea, peas, powder milk as well as tents, clothing, shoes, mattresses, kitchen kits, blankets, hygiene materials, sanitary napkins, baby diapers along with some items and tools for people with special needs.



The distribution was conducted in close coordination with the concerned government authorities, representatives of the target groups and in partnership with international humanitarian organizations and private sector, among others, Emirates Red Crescent, Samaritan's Purse (International Relief), Wings of Help-Germany (LOG), International Medical Corps, Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan Foundation, and Music for Peace as well as Carrefour, Claremont Group, Amber Company, Smile Land and a number of private donors. All of these organizations have acted with Rwanga to bring immediate aid to those displaced by the ongoing crisis facing Kurdistan Region.



Furthermore, children, who need special care and attention and are the most vulnerable categories of people especially during challenges and crises, made a sizable number of Rwanda's beneficiaries. Children's basic needed items such as milk, diapers, nutritional food and drinks, and clothes were included in majority of the relief aid distributions. Moreover, for the occasion of new year 2015, International Children's Day, and Eid more than five thousand IDP and local children were provided with clothing, educational devices, and other types of support.

Rwanga Foundation's committed field teams worked day and night to help the Iraqi IDPs and Syrian refugees at the bordering points, camps, towns and villages across Kurdistan in a much needed relief effort.



4.3. Relief Aid to the Local Community

The vulnerable aspects of the local community were also a concern of Rwanda Foundation during 2015. Although the economic condition of the citizens of Kurdistan Region remarkably improved after 2003 and until 2013, but due to the recent economic, political and security challenges in Iraq and Kurdistan as well as the war against the ISIS the local people started facing economic and living challenges.





Therefore and in order to share burden with the local government and local community, the foundation conducted a number of projects and activities to provide support and assistance to the vulnerable local groups. The projects included cash assistance to 755 female headed households - families of martyrs in the war against the ISIS - and two water projects in rural areas in Sulaimani governorates. Providing presents and aid to the children at the orphanages, autistic children and their families through Human Organization for Autistic Children, and elderly people at the nursing homes were among the projects conducted for the local vulnerable groups. The foundation will further continue providing its support and aid to the vulnerable groups in the local community in future.



Statistical Report

Beneficiaries by Type



264,303



848



162,631

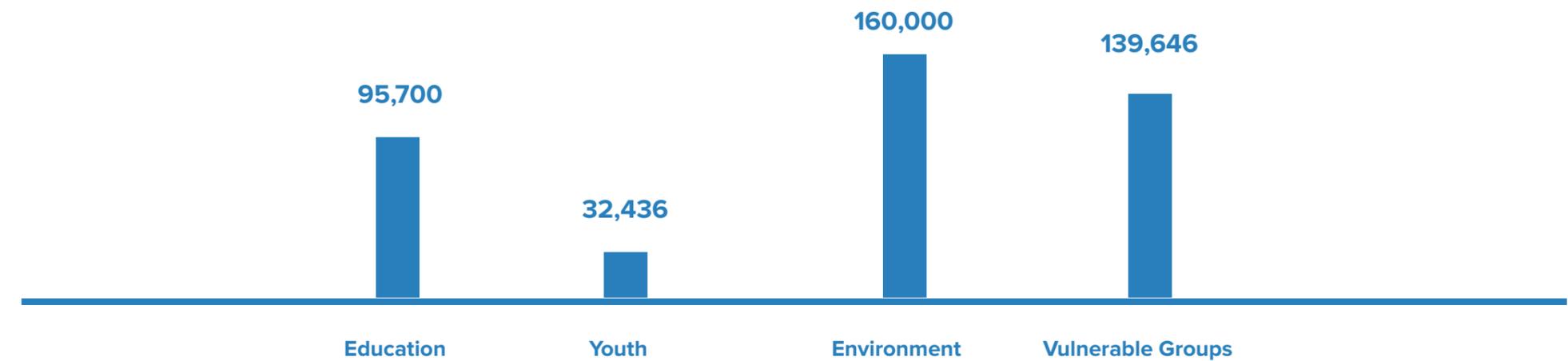
427,782

Beneficiaries

35

Projects

Beneficiaries by Sector



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