

RWANGA FOUNDATION

A world where quality
education is accessible for all.



ANNUAL REPORT 2017



RWANGA FOUNDATION

is a non-governmental organization envisages a world where quality education is accessible for all, and 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 youths 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 youths.

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.



EDUCATION



YOUTH



ENVIRONMENT



VULNERABLE
GROUPS



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INTRODUCTION

Rwanga Foundation, with the headquarter in Erbil and each a branch office in Sulaimani and Duhok, continued providing support and aid to various groups and communities in 2017 through its main four sectors of Education, Youth, Environment, and Vulnerable Groups. During the course of the year, the foundation conducted thirty-one projects benefiting more than 400,000 people, mainly the youth but also other segments, from the local, IDP, and refugee communities. It is also worth mentioning that since the beginning of its establishment in 2013, Rwanga Foundation conducted 132 projects providing aid and support to over 1.5 million people.



Considering the importance of education, youth capacity building, and human capacity development as a whole in enabling individuals and communities to gain skills, develop capacities and become more productive, in turn, resilient and self-reliant, Rwanga Foundation focused on improving quality of formal and non-formal education to provide educational and vocational support to the youth from the local, IDP and refugee communities. The projects included provision of facilities, educational tools and materials, opportunities for the talented youth through organizing competitions, awareness courses, vocational training courses, job placements, etc.

As an important part of Rwanga's program, Rwanga Foundation also conducted a number of activities and projects in the sector of environment, such as raising awareness of public and encouraging participation of people in environmental protection activities in order to have a better and healthier life. The activities were carried out in coordination with other concerned governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Moreover, considering the current economic crisis in the country, consequences of the war against the ISIS, and influx of 1.5 million IDPs and refugees to the Kurdistan region, the foundation carried out a number of vital projects to provide assistance and support to vulnerable children, elderly and women and men in the local, refugee and IDP communities. The projects included distributions like cash assistance or food/material support, as well as improving skills and capacities of the vulnerable people to become more resilient and self-sustainable.

The 2017 projects of Rwanga Foundation were funded mainly by and conducted in partnership with, among others, Silatech, Microsoft, GIZ, IFC, HELP, Marathon Oil Corporation, UNHCR, Act Now Children's Fund, COSV and Emirates Red Crescent Society. They were further coordinated with a number of relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations to maintain a complementary approach and avoid duplications for the best benefit and interest of the target beneficiaries.

1.0 EDUCATION





In partnership with various local and international organizations, the Rwanga Foundation implemented a number of projects and activities to improve the quality of education and provide educational support benefiting students and teachers from the local, IDP, and refugee communities. In 2017, the foundation implemented 9 projects in the sector of education, benefiting more than 65,000 people.



In partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the foundation was able to renovate nine school buildings (six in Erbil and three in Duhok). The project started in 2016 and in January 2017 the schools have been opened to receive and educate students. Also, through Kesta Company, two prefabricated classrooms were provided and installed in the Zini village primary school in Erbil.



Moreover, in partnership with the Emirates Red Crescent Society, 93 kerosene stoves could be provided to six schools in Erbil. Additionally, in a joint venture with Lara Private School-Erbil, an art exhibition for children had been organized with the proceeds of the event used to provide painting materials, educational materials and gifts to 100 amateur painter children, autistic children, and the teachers on the occasion of the World Autism Awareness Day on 2 April 2017.

The foundation also partnered with the International School of Choueifat to provide school kits to 647 disadvantaged students living in Mamzawa-Erbil. The funding was generated from an open-house event which was arranged by the International School of Choueifat – Erbil. Moreover, through its own generated funds, the foundation provided some essential items to Erbil Aulla School, which was the first primary school built in Erbil in 1930 where many writers, artists, scholars, and politicians of Erbil taught or got their primary education.





The school, being the oldest and the most famous in Erbil, was turned into a centre called 'Museum and Archives Centre of Education' by the Ministry of Education in Erbil in 2013. The items which were provided included provision of ceiling fans, printer cartridges, insecticides, electric lights, and projectors.

Rwanga Foundation also conducted a number of other activities related to education such as partnering with Hiwa Dental Volunteers to raise awareness of school children in Shaqlawa district

- Erbil on oral and dental health in a campaign called 'Smile for Life'.

Additionally, in partnership with Mono Arts, the foundation produced and broadcasted a video titled 'University Video Guide', which is a guiding tool for the 12th grade students and the high school graduates to have a better insight to colleges and universities, admission and enrolment systems, teaching qualifications, curriculums, possible job opportunities after graduation, etc.

2.0 YOUTH





2.1 RWANGA FORAS PROJECT

which has been managed by the Rwanga Foundation for the second year, 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 operates all over Iraq, provides the youth with free access to a wide variety of resources through online and offline training courses, including personalized advice on how to write a CV, as well as sessions on interview skills and work ethics. It is also a career guidance tool that provides virtual advising to help young people determine the career path that best matches their life aspirations. It is further to register companies and create a network between employers and job seekers. During the course of the year 2017, the project was a benefit for about 218,000 youth across Iraq. Since one of the main objectives of Rwanga Foras is linking the job seekers with employers and building a bridge of communication between them, a two days 'Rwanga Foras International Job Fair 2017' was organized on the 26th and 27th of July in Erbil. The Rwanga Foras International Job Fair was a unique networking opportunity for employers and recruiters from various sectors, including private, public and profitable/non-profit local and international organizations, to gather under one roof in order to meet and communicate with the prospective job seekers. About 100 local and international companies and organizations, as well as around 20,000 people, mainly youth and university students, participated in the Job Fair 2017.



Additionally, with the goal to discover, improve and foster the potential of the youth, the Rwanga Annual Awards was organized for the fourth year in a row. The 2017's Rwanga Annual Awards evaluated submissions from 284 participants aged 15-25 from the Kurdistan region, including IDPs and refugees, in the eight categories of short story, short film, recycled art, drawing, scientific innovation, entrepreneurship, solo musician, and photography. The winners were announced in a ceremony held in Erbil in attendance of thousands of people including government officials, organizations, companies, etc. The event was also covered by a number of mass media channels.

Considering that young people are usually energetic, enthusiastic and have many ambitions and creative ideas, but often not supported and empowered to reach their full potentials, and by understanding that economic self-reliance through livelihood and in-come generating projects is one of the best means towards resilience of vulnerable people and communities, Rwanga Foundation, in partnership with the Comitato di coordinamento delle Organizzazioni per il Servizio Volontario (COSV), implemented a project called 'Soft Incubation and Acceleration Opportunities for Entrepreneurship Ideas in Media Sector', which is promoting inclusive and sustainable growth in the Kurdistan region.





The project included five phases which are as followed: calling for business ideas, evaluating and selecting best ten project ideas, enriching the projects by organizing a ten-day training course, selecting and awarding four projects with 15,000 Euro each and in addition by providing an aftermath support and guidance in order to have the projects successfully implemented and run.

Youth capacity building has always been the main focus in the past years and will remain so in future. Rwanga Foundation, in 2017, implemented five projects in the sector of youth benefiting more than 238,000 young people across Iraq.



3.0 ENVIRONMENT





Environment, as in the past years of operating, remained as an important part of the foundation's vision and mission for which a number of activities were conducted mainly through awareness-raising campaigns about the importance of environment protection, preserving water, saving energy, etc.

Commemorating the Kurdistan Environment Day and Earth Day, three activities had been conducted in April. The activities included a campaign to clean the center of Bahirka town and Kasnazan picnic spots, both located in Erbil, as well as the picnic areas in Lomana and Zawita in Duhok, in addition to planting trees in the mentioned areas. More than 1,000 volunteers participated in the cleaning campaigns to distribute flyers, brochures and plastic bags to people and picnickers and raise their awareness on maintaining cleanliness of the public and tourist spots. Additionally, in partnership with UNHCR, GIZ, Harikar and the NGO Directorate of Forestry in Duhok, the foundation is taking part in the project of Renovating Zawita Park, which is about 15 km from Duhok city. The part of Rwanga Foundation in the project is raising awareness of people on environmental protection as well as distributing trash cans and displaying signboard inside and around the park encouraging people to keep the park and the town clean.

It is estimated that in 2017, through five implemented projects in the sector of environment, more than 30,000 people in the Kurdistan region, mainly in the governorates of Erbil and Duhok, had been successfully targeted.



4.0
VULNERABLE
GROUPS





The war against the ISIS, economic crisis in Iraq, and influx of refugees and IDPs are all the main factors that generated appalling conditions and increased the number of vulnerable people on various levels. To respond to the urgent humanitarian needs, Rwanga Foundation continued providing aid and support to the vulnerable groups from the local, refugee, and IDP communities.

In partnership with and funded by Marathon Oil Corporation, the foundation distributed a direct cash assistance to the families of martyred peshmergas and security forces who were killed in the war against the ISIS. The families are living in challenging economic conditions, since many of the martyred peshmergas were heads of the households. The project has started in 2016 and continued till mid 2017 through which 1,453 families (around 9,000 people) received a financial assistance in the amount of USD 850 each.

Furthermore, in partnership with the German HELP Organization and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the foundation conducted the project of 'Improving the Career Opportunities for the Young People in the Duhok Governorate', which is to develop vocational skills of 1,000 female and male youth from the IDPs, refugee and host communities in Duhok. The project's aim was, in addition to building skills, to support and guide the youth participants to enter the job market in order to be more able to support themselves and their families. Additionally, in partnership with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Business Edge training courses had been delivered to the host communities, Syrian refugees and IDP youth. The training sessions will continue in 2018 and the target is to train 500 youth in the Kurdistan region.

The other main achievements in the sector of vulnerable groups included distributing 3,000 food baskets to the IDP and returnee families in Rabiia and Zommar, which was carried out in partnership with Pharmacists of Nineveh Organization. Moreover, to eliminate vector-borne diseases among the IDPs and refugees at the camps and provide a safer living environment, the foundation, in coordination with the General Directorate of Health in Sulaimani, conducted insecticides sprayings at the two camps of Arbat, in which more than 15,000 IDPs and refugees live. In partnership with GIZ and in coordination with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA), Rwanga Foundation started operating community social centers in the five camps in Kabartu 1, Kabartu 2, Chammishku, Shariya and Bajikandal 2, in addition to the Rwanga Community Social Center (CSC) in Qadiya, where more than 10,000 IDPs live. Through these community social centers, regular services including legal and community

development activities, as community-based activities, are provided, targeting the entire camp population with a particular focus on young females and males. The aim of the project is to enable IDPs to become more self-reliant, better connected within and with the outside, and gain sufficient capacities to manage themselves at the family and community levels.

In the middle of October 2017 over 180,000 people had been displaced due to military conflicts. These IDPs were mainly Kurds but also Turkmens and Christians and had to flee from Kirkuk and the surrounding areas of Tuz Khurmatu to the Erbil and Sulaimani governorates. The families fled without their basic belongings, hence, when they arrived they faced enormous difficulties in having no shelter and lacking adequate food and non-food items. Therefore, the foundation, funded by private donors, contributed by providing food and non-food packages to 700 IDP families (over 4,000 people).



The vulnerable children and elderly people have also been given care and attention by the foundation. In partnership with Act Now Children's Fund 1,710 packages had been distributed, containing milk cans and diapers for children, in addition to 70 packages containing adult diapers, benefiting about 1,800 IDP children and elderly who fled Mosul and lived in Hassan Sham U3 camp. Additionally, funded by the Act Now Children's Fund, a project called 'Children of Peace' was conducted, which targeted 100 Yazidi IDP children and adolescents (aged 4 to 17), who escaped the ISIS captivity and now live in the Rwanga Community, Qadiya-Duhok. The project provided support through psychosocial counselling, music and art courses for traumatized children, in particular those who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).



Also, donated by a private donor, 130 vulnerable orphan children had been provided with new clothes and shoes (67 girls and 63 boys) in Erbil. During the course of the year 2017, twelve projects had been provided in the sector of vulnerable groups. Assisting and supporting more than 67,000 vulnerable people including children, women, men and elderly in the disadvantaged local, refugee and IDP communities in the Kurdistan region and Nineveh.



WAY FORWARD 2018

With education and youth capacity building, forming the core of Rwanga Foundation's mission and work, there are multiple strands to the foundation's substantive contribution to this strategy. These strands include supporting the formal education system in terms of capacity building, technical support, renovation of school buildings, and provision of essential educational materials. Providing vocational training courses and supporting the youth to work, start up businesses and participate in voluntary activities, in order to become more productive and self-reliant, will remain the focus of the foundation in 2018 and afterwards.

Therefore, Rwanga Foundation, in partnership with GIZ, started a project to renovate four schools in Erbil and twelve schools in Sulaimani at the end of 2017. Additionally, the project of 'Youth Volunteers Initiative', which is funded by donors in the private sector, is another essential project which also started at the end of 2017 and will continue in 2018 in order to develop the culture of volunteerism in the Kurdistan region. The foundation, in partnership with a number of profit and non-profit organizations, has plans to conduct more projects mainly in the sectors of education and youth in 2018 which includes, among others, Rwanga Foras Project, Rwanga Youth Initiative, Rwanga Annual Awards, Talk@Rwanga, Mathematics Competition, Mathematics for 12th Grade, Biology for 12th

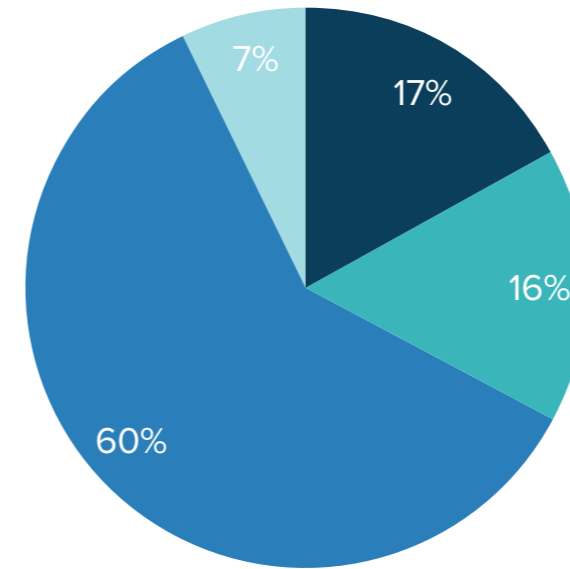
Grade, renovation of four schools in Erbil as well as environmental education through awareness-raising courses and campaigns.

Furthermore, the foundation will continue organizing capacity building courses, vocational training courses, and job placement for the female and male youth, mainly those in the disadvantaged communities, to become more self-reliant in order to support themselves and their families. To achieve these objectives a number of projects and activities are planned which include, among others, Rwanga Foras International Job Fair, woman and business, business start-up competition-phase2, training courses and income-generating projects for the vulnerable family members of the martyred peshmergas, 'Support Parents to Support Children', and operation of six social community centers in Duhok.

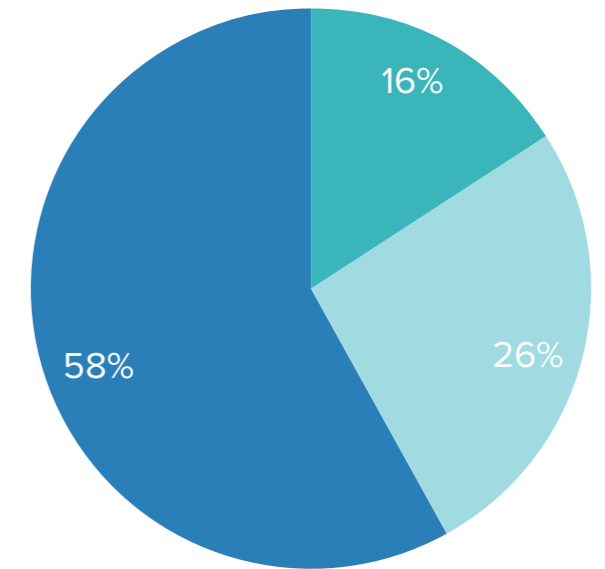
Last but not least, to address the basic and immediate needs of the vulnerable and disadvantaged people in particular during emergencies, the foundation has made a preparedness plan to intervene should there be a gap. The intervention will be done in coordination with the concerned governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to maintain complementary approach and avoid duplication.

STATISTICAL REPORT 2017

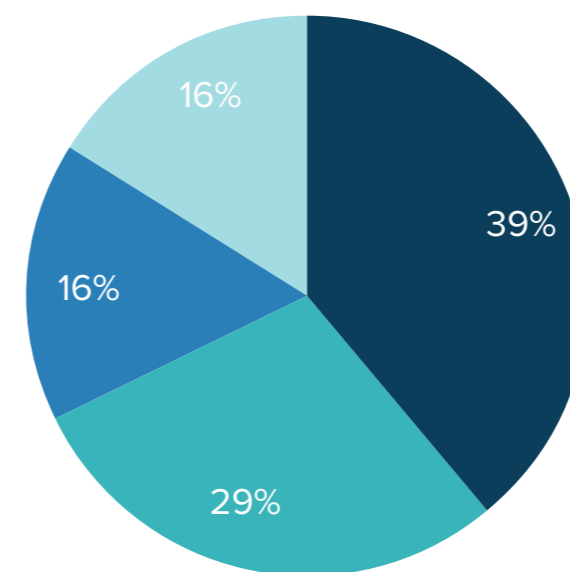
Number and Percentage of Beneficiaries per Sector



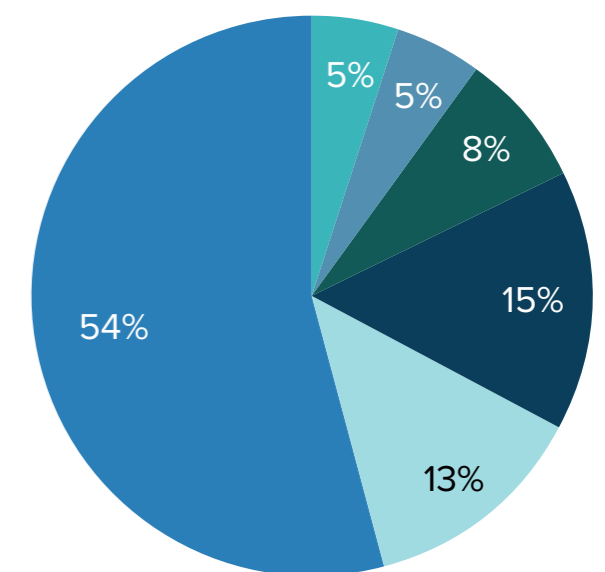
Number and Percentage of Beneficiaries in the Community



Number of Projects per Sector



Beneficiaries by Geographical Location



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