



**RWANGA**  
Decide. Commit. Succeed.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



# 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

Following its primary mission for education, youths and working towards making quality education accessible for all. Rwanga Foundation during the year 2016, focused mainly on two sectors through a number of fundamental projects and activities to support and promote both formal and informal education, building and developing capacities of the youth especially those who have capability and qualifications but are in need of further improvement, support and guidance to start their professional life. Nevertheless, the vulnerable groups, including women, men, children and elderly in the local, refugees and IDP communities also remained an important component in Rwanga's goals and projects.

Considering the importance of education, in particular children's education, the foundation implemented six projects which included renovating schools, distributing schools supplies to students as well as a capacity building workshop. The projects were funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Act Now Children's Fund, The Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Erbil, Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd., and a number of private donors. The projects were conducted in coordination with the relevant Government authorities including the Ministry of Education, Governor Offices, General Directorate of Education, General Directorate of Health and Hawler Medical University.

On the other hand, considering the current economic crises with a large labour force in Kurdistan and the approach of 'support people to support themselves', Rwanga Foundation also focused on human capacity development, training, guidance and employment mainly for the youths. Rwanga Foras funded by Silatech and Microsoft, and activities like Rwanga Annual Awards funded by private sector donors were among the vital projects in this sector.

With regards to the vulnerable groups, considering the economic crisis in the region with the war against ISIS, the Foundation's focus in the year 2016 was mainly on the vulnerable families of the martyred Peshmergas who were killed in the war against ISIS as well as on the vulnerable IDPs families and children. The projects were funded by Marathon Oil Corporation, Kuwait Red Crescent Society and a number of private donors and implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Peshmerga Affairs, Ministry of Martyrs and Anfal Affairs, Mayor Offices, Camp managements and the concerned Governmental and non-governmental organizations.

**During the course of 2016, Rwanga Foundation implemented nineteen (19) projects in three sectors of Education, Youth, and Vulnerable Groups by providing aid and support to 286,516 beneficiaries in three communities of local people, IDPs, and refugees.**



# 1.0 EDUCATION



## 1.1 SCHOOL RENOVATION

The Foundation, funded by private donors during the campaign of ‘Donate to Educate’, renovated Nishtiman Basic School (226 students and teaching staff) which is one of the oldest schools in Erbil built in 1939. The renovation included repairing dilapidated roofs and floors, painting interiors and exterior walls, provision of desks, whiteboards, heaters, water dispensers and sports facilities. A number of youth volunteers also contributed to the project by painting child-friendly drawings on the walls. Also, in partnership with the Emirates Red Crescent school supplies including backpacks, uniforms, and sports equipment were also provided to the students.

Moreover, in a joint project with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Rwanda Foundation renovated 9 schools (6 in Erbil and 3 in Duhok) which accommodated IDPs, refugees and local students. The project, based on cash-for-work



aimed to provide temporary job opportunities for the vulnerable people, benefiting 669 skilled and unskilled labours as well as sheltering 4,500 students who currently study at these schools. The total number of people who benefited from the project, including indirect beneficiaries were 25,614 including 3,564 IDPs and 1,404 refugees.





## 1.2 SCHOOL SUPPLIES

In partnership with Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd., school supplies including books, ping-pong tables, and air coolers were distributed to 10 schools (5 in Erbil and 5 in Koya) benefiting around 7,000 students.



Moreover, in partnership with Act Now Children's Fund, equipment and furniture including office desks, sofa sets, closets, desks, whiteboards, and water dispensers were distributed to Isyan, Mam Rahan and Garmawa IDP camp schools in Duhok which accommodates more than 1,300 students and teaching staff. The project, all together, benefited 5,069 people including the indirect beneficiaries.



Moreover, in partnership with the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Erbil, 440 school packages including pencil case packages, colour exercise books, colour pencil sets, exercise books and student backpacks were distributed to 440 IDP and local school children at Mamilyan Primary School (Mamilyan IDP camp) in Akre in October 2016.



## 1.3 CAPACITY BUILDING

Rwanga Foundation funded a three-day workshop organized by Hawler Medical University - Midwifery Department in coordination with the General Directorate of Health to introduce and regulate the national rules and regulations in relation to education and practice of midwifery. The workshop also included topics about registration, licence issuance, scope of responsibilities, private clinic regulations and standards as well as establishing strategies to improve antenatal and postnatal care in the primary healthcare centres. The workshop was attended by the Vice President of Hawler Medical University, Director of Planning Department in the General Directorate of Health, the Dean of Nursing College, Head of Midwifery Department, CED of Rwanga Foundation, Doctors, Nurses in addition to 42 students of midwifery department.



# 2.0 YOUTH

## 2.1 RWANGA FORAS



As of January 2016, Rwanga Foundation, funded by Silatech and Microsoft started implementing the Foras Project called 'Rwanga Foras'. The Rwanga Foras is a platform which brings together different resources, provides opportunities and initiatives for everyone, mainly youths and University graduates, who are eager to learn, work and develop but don't know where to start from. The project operates all over Iraq and it offers the youth with free access to a wide variety of resources through online and offline training courses, including personalized advice on how to make CV, career guidance tools and virtual advising to help young people determine their career path that best matches their life aspirations. Further, it also works as a medium to register companies, organizations and other employers by creating a network between the employers and the job seekers.

The ultimate objective of Foras Project for 2016 was to engage 200,000 youths through online guidance, offline/online training, and connect them with 1000 employers throughout Iraq. However, the Rwanga Foras teams achieved substantial results beyond the planned target as a result of their hard work efforts during the entire year. 221,109 youths have been engaged in the project including applications and registration of the job seekers and offline/online trainings. Additionally, 1,152 employers have been registered in the portal, 4,552 vacancies were announced and 1,570 youth have been placed in the jobs. As a supplementary part of the project in August 2016, Rwanga Foras organized a Job Fair event to connect job seekers and employers in Erbil which witnessed a successful participation of around 6000 people mainly youths.





## 2.2 RWANGA AWARDS

Rwanga Annual Awards was born to discover and encourage the youth talents and support them to further develop their ideas, skills and projects. Rwanga Awards 2016 final ceremony was hosted at Zanko Hall in Duhok City. The impetus for Rwanga Foundation's decision to hold the event in Duhok was to demonstrate the ceremony is held for Kurdistan and it is planned that each year

Rwanga Awards will be hosted in a different city to award the talents in a fair manner.

With the success of this project in 2014 and 2015. In 2016, Rwanga Foundation was able to tie up and attract sponsorship from well established companies in Kurdistan including Phonetic Tone (Diamond Sponsor), Carrefour Hyper Market, Legacy Construction, Hawkari Group, Life, Mono Art and Rixos Hotel (Gold Sponsors). The sponsors have partnered with Rwanga Foundation's initiative to be involved in Rwanga Awards to remain steadfast in the crucial pursuit of both retaining and cultivating youth talent.

The competition accepted work from youths in Kurdistan across eight different sectors: Entrepreneurship, Photography, Recycled art, Scientific innovation, Short film, Short story, Drawing and Solo musician. Talent sector was chosen by the foundation based on a vision and support for the youths and their creativities; thus, one winner was selected from each category based on their submitted work to their respective panel of judges. Overall, 377 youths participated in the 2016 Rwanga Annual Awards and 8 were selected as the winners.





## 2.3 MYEDREAM ERBIL BOOTCAMP AND CHAMPIONSHIP DAY

The MyeDream Erbil Bootcamp and Championship Day was a joint effort from Rwanga Foundation and MyeDream for supporting youths, which kicked off on 19th August - World Humanitarian Day with 165 youths (aged 16-35) registered, 37 ideas pitched, a 12-day hackathon and workshop, supported by and carried out at Rotana Hotel, Erbil. On September 1st 2016, Rwanga Foundation celebrated the achievement of the joint effort with MyeDream for Championship Day event. Amongst the thirteen ideas, three were awarded for the most creative work: Online Appointment project took the first place, Freelancers project took the second and the third winner position went to Best Discount team's project.

The Championship Day event attended by H.E. the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, H.E. the US Consul General, International Organizations, Representative from the Ministry of Culture and Youth and other notable members of the Kurdistan Regional Government, Business communities, and Civil society. Also, media agencies were present to take interviews and to cover the main parts of the event.





3.0

# VULNERABLE GROUPS



# 3.1 PESHMERGA AND SECURITY FORCE MARTYRS ENDOWMENT

The war against ISIS and current economic crisis in Kurdistan and Iraq made the vulnerable people more vulnerable, and the families of the martyred Peshmergas are amongst those who are constantly in dire need of immediate assistance to be able to support themselves and meet basic livelihoods. Especially, if they lost the main breadwinners of their families.

Rwanga Foundation, funded by Marathon Oil Corporation, launched a project in September 2016 to distribute cash assistance of US\$ 850 to 1600 families of the martyred Peshmergas and security forces in Erbil, Sulaimani (including Raparin and Garmiyan Administrations), Duhok, Kirkuk and Halabja who were killed in the war against ISIS from the beginning of the war until September 30th 2016. Until the end of the year 2016,

the teams distributed cash assistance to 1,170 families. The project which continued until March 2017, was conducted in coordination with the Ministry of Peshmerga Affairs and Ministry of Martyrs and Anfal Affairs in the Kurdistan Regional Government. It is worth mentioning that in 2015-2016, the Foundation in partnership with private donors distributed cash assistance of US\$ 1,000 to 961 families of the martyred Peshmergas across Kurdistan.





## 3.2 LOCAL COMMUNITY

Shortage in potable water is one of the concerns, which some people mainly those who live in villages face in Kurdistan. 1,300 people who live in Maluma village, Chwarta District-Sulaimani, were facing shortage in water due to lack of proper water network and water pump.

Rwanga Foundation in coordination with the Directorate of Water in Sulaimani made a thorough assessment and renovated the water network system and constructed 300 m<sup>3</sup> water storage in 2015. Towards the completion of the project in 2016, Rwanga Foundation also provided and installed a water pump with a capacity of (30 H and 80 m<sup>3</sup>). Thus, the people in Maluma village currently have adequate quantity of potable water on regular basis.

### 3.3 VULNERABLE CHILDREN

During crises, the vulnerable communities children are those who end up being extremely vulnerable. Rwanga Foundation, in coordination with the relevant Government and Non-government organizations, continued to look for any opportunity to improve the situation of the vulnerable children and their families.

The Foundation supported two university students in the Department of Social Work for making a survey on children working at the traffic lights - a phenomenon which has become quite visible in Kurdistan especially after the influx of IDPs and refugees during the recent economic crisis. The project aimed at raising awareness of children, their families and the community as a whole about the consequences of child labour on the life of children and their adulthood.

The findings of the research were presented in a seminar in the Department of Social Work at the University of Salahaddin-Hawler in order to be included in the department's focus and projects in future.

Moreover, on the occasion of the International Children's Day, Rwanga Foundation through private funding and in coordination with TDH-Italy, for the second year celebrated



the occasion to raise awareness of the public about the child's rights to protection, education, entertainment, and togetherness. The activity also included distributing 500 toys to IDP children in Debaga Camp and in coordination with a group of volunteers, the Foundation distributed an additional 400 toys to another group of children in the same camp. Last but not the least, in cooperation with Barzani Charity Foundation (BCF) and private donors, winter jackets were distributed to 1,200 IDP children in Khazir camp to withstand the harsh weather conditions during the winter.





## 3.4 VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Since September 2013, Rwana Foundation has had initiatives to extend humanitarian aid to the vulnerable IDPs and refugees in Kurdistan. The Iraqi displaced people and Syrian refugees had a remarkable share of Rwana's budget for emergency relief projects in 2014 and 2015. In 2016, the refugees and IDPs were also included in online/offline capacity building, guidance and support to find jobs under the Rwana Foras project. It is estimated that around 90,000 IDPs and refugee youths were engaged in Rwana Foras project.

Moreover, in June 2016, in partnership with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, the Foundation distributed foodstuffs and cash vouchers to 130 vulnerable IDP families (around 800 people) in Kasnazan district, Erbil. Each food basket weighed 26kg and consisted of fourteen items including rice, lentils, tomato paste, oil, etc., and thirty vouchers valued at US\$ 50 each.

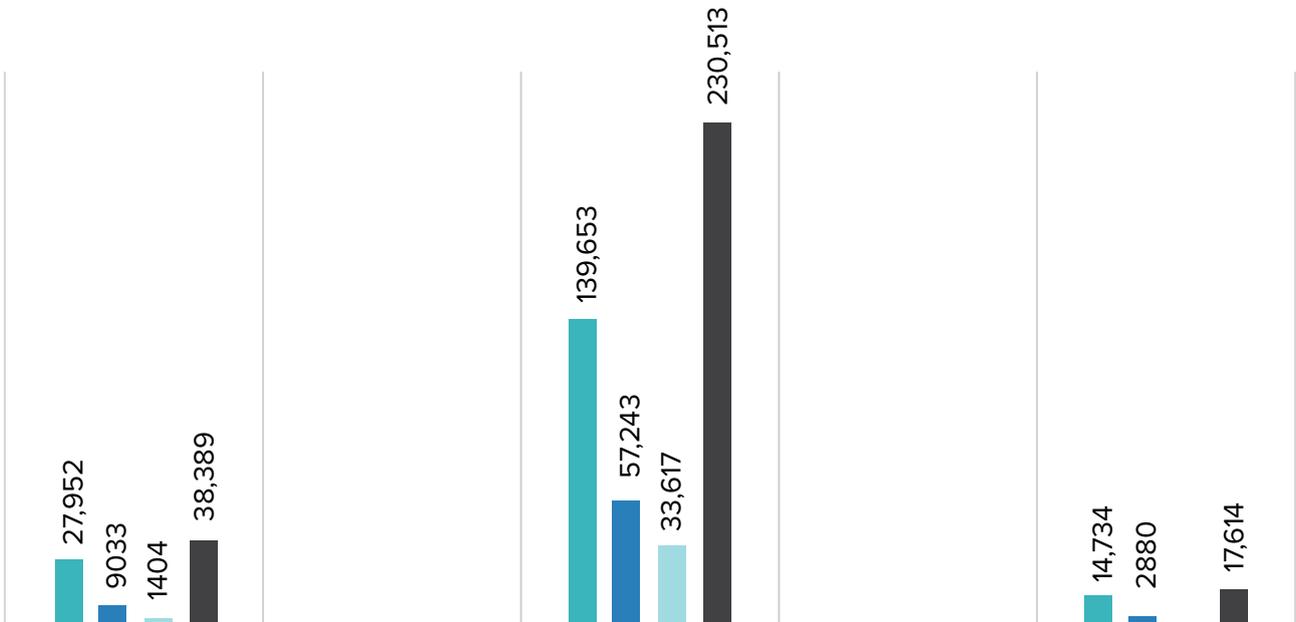




THE BREAKDOWN  
AND INFO-GRAPHICS OF PROJECTS,  
SECTORS AND BENEFICIARIES

Sector	Projects	Local People	IDP	Refugee	Beneficiaries
Education	6	27,952	9,033	1,404	38,389 (13%)
Youth	5	139,653	57,243	33,617	230,513 (81%)
Vulnerable Groups	8	14,734	2,880		17,614 (6%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>182,339 (64%)</b>	<b>69,156 (24%)</b>	<b>35,021 (12%)</b>	<b>286,516 (100%)</b>

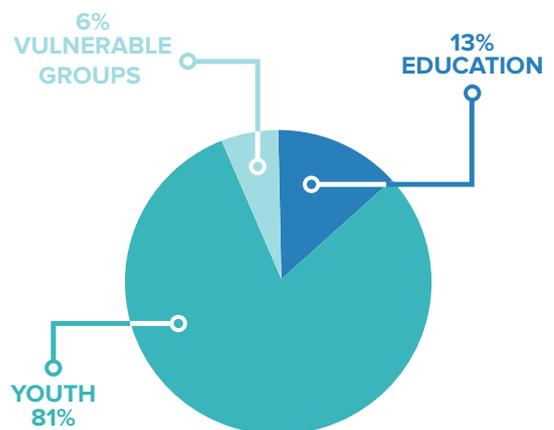
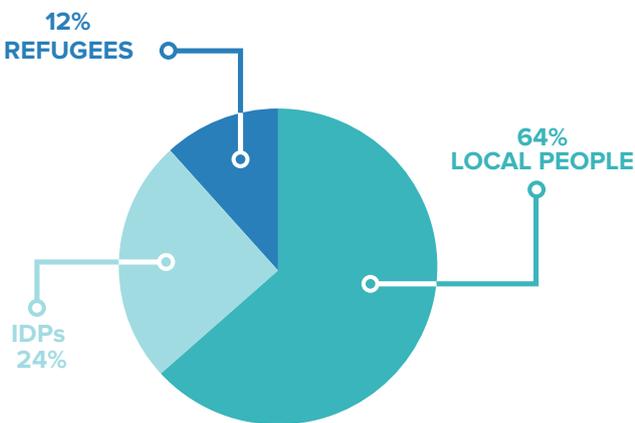
■ LOCAL 
 ■ IDPs 
 ■ REFUGEES 
 ■ TOTAL



**EDUCATION**

**YOUTH**

**VULNERABLE GROUPS**



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