A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The IDPs and Refugees have limited access to fundamental resources, fewer opportunities for education, and little influence over the decisions that shape their lives. Each of these denials is an assault on human dignity. To the best of its ability, WRO has struggled to provide for the IDPs and Refugees within the Kurdistan Region.

I'm proud to announce that WRO has successfully put into practice 5 projects in order to serve and provide for the people in need on different capacities. I want to give special thanks to my always hard working, active, and motivated team. Without them, none of this could have been made possible.

It is also certainly not possible to talk about consistency and co-dependency without acknowledging our funders. I would like to extend my appreciation and gratitude to UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, MISEREOR, and IFA for their significant role in implementation of all the projects that have been successfully fulfilled in this year. Their contribution and efforts have made enormous differences in people’s lives.

May we always continue to work tirelessly together to change lives and provide for the deprived.

Jihan Mustafa Ibrahim
Women Rehabilitation Organization is a non-profit, non-governmental, voluntary and independent organization that was established in 2003 by Jihan Ibrahim Mustafa, who’s now the executive director of the NGO. It was officially registered by the Kurdistan Regional Government under the name of “Women Rehabilitation Organization” in 2007.

WRO’s work aims to increase the social, political, and economic participation of women in all aspects of society. This is done through the provision of educational and awareness raising initiatives that focus on women’s legal rights and capacity development projects that promote the economic and political participation of women. WRO also believes that in order to ensure full awareness for women, we need to enhance their levels in education and health.

WRO has a ten year history of collaborative work at the national, regional and international level working with organizations such as the UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, MISEREOR, UNOPS, the Global Fund, NDI, IRI, US Embassy regional reconstruction and Provincial teams and the Iraqi Civil Society Program Organization. Since its establishment, WRO delivered over 20 projects/initiatives on the areas of women’s health, legal rights and political and economic participation.

WRO’s core focus for 2014 has been the victims of ISIS, in particular women and girls. WRO will continue to strive to provide and support the IDPs and refugees of the Kurdistan Region.
2014 Projects
With the support of UNFPA, two women centres were launched to embrace the displaced women of both Shekhan district in Dohuk and Bahirke district in Erbil who have fled from Sinjar and Ninavah plains, and provide them with necessary support.

The foundation of this project, which started in September 2014 and was extended to 2015, was to provide psychosocial support and protection against sexual and gender-based violence to IDPs of the area and women who were held as hostages by ISIS, and escaped.

In the last three months of 2014, a total of 1,200 women and girls visited the Jian Centres and were provided with psychosocial support. Moreover, 29 sessions were held within the centers to educate women on topics regarding health, GBV, conflict management, and child care.

Another major activity of this project was the vocational training courses in order to assist financial independence of the IDP women. A salon and cosmetics and tailoring training courses were offered in Shekhan and Bahirke, respectively, to encourage women’s economic Participation. In total, 431 women and girls were successfully trained and are now qualified to work and put their skills to use.

Furthermore, outreach visits were conducted by WRO staff to girls intermediate schools in order to educate young girls and parents on the importance of education, GBV, conflict resolution, and other essential topics. A total of 418 girls and 160 parents were informed and educated.

Other provided assistance included follow-up and referral services for the reported cases. A sum of 44 cases were followed up and provided with referral services.
FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER & CHILD FRIENDLY SPACE

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT & RECREATION CENTER FOR IDP WOMEN & CHILDREN

In collaboration with *UNICEF*, in the interval between October and December 2014, a sum of 873 women and 739 children were reached out to and supported in Khanke camp in Dohuk.

This project's core content contained psychosocial support, woman-to-woman informative sessions regarding health, hygiene, and protection education, as well as entertaining and educational activities for children which were conducted in the Child-Friendly Space.

Various activities including music, dance, and educational activities such as drawing and painting, and instructive lectures concerning good manners and hygiene.

Through this project a sum of 1612 women and children were outreached and benefited.
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EMERGENCY AID FOR IDPS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN IN KHANKE & AINKAWA

Women Rehabilitation Organization, in association with MISEREOR, was able to lend a helping hand to a total of 4,670 IDPs in both Ainkawa district in Erbil and Khanke camp in Dohuk. This initiative commenced on Nov. 01, 2014 and will continue until March 31, 2015.

This project was comprised of two main activities; distribution of winterization and hygiene products and lectures and group discussions on women related topics.

The distributed products included blankets, winter jackets, children’s clothing, socks...etc. In addition, hygienic products such as soaps, tooth brushes, pads and other sanitary products were handed out to 4,000 IDPs of both Ainkawa district and Khanke camp.

Topics such as such as sexual violence, family conflict management, ways to reinforce family relationships were addressed in the group discussions. A total of 16 focus groups from both Ainkawa and Khanke were organized to implement this section of this project. A total of 670 women attended and participated in these group discussions.

WRO staff did not only provide physiological and material aid, but also listened to their needs, so that further assistance could be provided.
In association with MISEROER, WRO reached Dohuk. In association with MISEROER, WRO reached camp in Dohuk.

JIAN JOB CENTER
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROJECT
FOR IDP WOMEN AND MEN

Funded by Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, WRO established a Job center in Kawergosk camp in Erbil to create job opportunities for Iraqi IDPs and Syrian Refugees.

This project initiated by conduction an assessment survey. The survey contained information regarding gender, age, educational background, previous work experience, preferences and etc. This assessment was conducted to determine the number of people with degrees, number of people with no degrees, number of employed and non-employed people. This information will be used to find them suitable jobs that correlate with their educational background, experience, and interest in the future. This assessment was done in both Erbil and Dohuk. A total of 406 jobseeker’s forms were filled out in this assessment.

In Kawergosk, a sewing training course was provided for the refugee women. This course was to provide women the skills necessary to work as tailors and contribute the financial state of their families. A total of 97 women productively completed their training and are now qualified tailors.
WRO, in association with UNHCR, launched Jiancenter for women to embrace the displaced women and girls in Sharia camp in Dohuk who have fled from Sinjar, Ninavah and other cities and provide them with necessary support. The foundation of this project, which lasted from November to the end of February, was to provide psychosocial support, legal aid, and vocational training to internally displaced women and girls of the area. In three months' time, a large number of women and girls visited the Jian centres and were supported. The skills and abilities of the project staff was also reinforced by providing them with training workshops.

Activities commenced by the work of the mobilization team, who made tent-to-tent visits to attain information regarding each family. A total of 780 tents have been visited in a period of three months. Various cases have been registered and reported in the course of this project. A total of 155 psychological and 71 legal cases were provided with assistance. Additionally, 46 cases were referred to other institution that WRO coordinates with, in order to provide them with the assistance they need.

The vocational trainings, which were a fundamental component of this project, consisted of two different courses; computer and hairdressing. The purpose of these courses was to encourage economic participation and financial independence of the women and girls so as to enable them to lead a better life for themselves and their families. In three months' time, 2 computer courses were provided and a sum of 49 girls productively completed their training. Likewise, 2 hairdressing courses were given and a total of 52 participants benefited and successfully accomplished the course. Certificates were awarded to all participants, along with a package of hairdressing products for the hairdressing course participants to enable them to jump-start their work.

A 2-day workshop at the end of the project was held in order to discuss Gender-based violence and KRG Law regarding GBV. The core topic that was discussed was how to minimize GBV within the Kurdistan region. Participants included other NGOs, Judges, parliament members, and media.
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