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Save the Children
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2007 annual report  
For every child: Health, Education, and Protection  
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Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC–KCF)

Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC–KCF) is an independent non-governmental Kurdish children’s organisation, working in Iraq in general and Iraqi Kurdistan in particular.

We have been around since 1991, founded by dedicated people who believed in every child’s right to a troublefree childhood.

We are working with children in various fields of child protection, sponsorship, health and education. Our main aim is to work directly or indirectly, to ensure a better future for all children, through improving and providing their various physical, medical, social, economical and educational needs.

Our main office is in Sulaimaniya in Iraqi Kurdistan. Kurdistan Save the Children is also registered in the UK under the name of Kurdistan Children’s Fund (KCF). KCF works as the international fund-raiser in London, and KSC works as the local implementing partner and fund-raiser in Kurdistan.

KSC mainly works in Iraqi Kurdistan Region. We have also extended some of the activities to include Baghdad, Kirkuk, Xanaqin and other liberated areas in the aftermaths of the Iraqi liberation operation. As security improves we intend to work in every part of Iraq.
KSC mission

**Kurdistan Save the Children** is a non-profit, non-political, and non-sectarian organisation that provides assistance without regard to race, gender, traditions, political or religious affiliation.

**Kurdistan Save the Children** exists to support social, and educational projects all over Iraq, relieving suffering, hardship and neglect wherever they arise and to help children overcome the trauma of war.

**Kurdistan Save the Children** works to improve the quality of children’s lives. By working hand in hand with local communities from these communities to create programmes that are driven and championed by local people.

**Kurdistan Save the Children** is committed to supporting long-term projects, helping people to help themselves.

**Kurdistan Save the Children** believes that children are our future. We work for their right to live in an environment which allows them to not only grow up healthy, but to realise their potential.
Work on Human Rights and Children’s Rights is not an easy task and organizations that translate the theory into practice often have to overcome many hurdles to achieve their goals.

Since its establishment, Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC) has been working in a number of ways to help and protect children in employment. Initially we reopened juvenile schools where the students could get a hot meal and training that would assist them to get suitable jobs. In 1997, we opened the Children’s Cultural Centres (Kaziwas) in several places. The centres are a wonderful and valuable resource for working children. First of all they can play together and have fun and just be children. More seriously the Centres protect the children from exploitation by adults, assist their integration back into school and enable them to try new subjects and activities to help them realise their potential.

In 2007, we decided to change the direction of our activities with working children. We would aim to try and limit the kind of work undertaken by children and to institute an age limit that would prevent young children from being employed. In essence we wanted to stop children from doing work that would have a negative impact on their health or morality and to prevent all children under fifteen years from doing any kind of work. We notified relevant organizations of our plans, consulted with them about various aspects of the project and then we started to implement our plans.

We met with the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), Mr. Necheravan Barzani, to discuss our plans to limit child labour. He endorsed the project and agreed to support it with funding and by writing to related governmental institutions to encourage them to cooperate with our work. We were delighted with the support of Mr Necheravan Barzani to open the KSC offices in Erbil and Duhok.

In a relatively short time a positive impact from the project could be seen. Whilst we were delighted with the speed of our desired result it was a cause of concern for some organizations which were also working with children. This caused some resistance and non-cooperation initially but after detailed discussions with the organizations involved we were able to allay their fears of being undermined and were delighted to have their support and for all organizations to work along side each other for the greater benefits to disadvantaged children.

Financial Pressures

In 2007 changes in financial exchange rates caused immediate and on-going problems for KSC, and in particular for the sponsorship programme. Economist theories suggest that when the price of currency increases, the price of goods will fall. However, the value of the Iraqi dinar has risen but so has the price of goods because of the falling value of the dollar against the Iraqi dinar. This has impacted on the Sponsorship Programme, which can no longer achieve its goals to fully provide for a child where the family is suffering financial hardships. In the past a child was given $10-15 dollars which was then equal to 200-250 Iraqi Dinars of that period. This amount was sufficient to cover the expenses of the family. Now, even though a child is given $20-30 dollars, it is not enough to fund school expenses.

Enabling and Supporting Medical Treatment

In 2006, a high number of children with congenital heart disease were identified. Preparatory work was begun to record details of the children in order to seek treatment for them. After a lot of effort 334 children were treated inside and outside of Kurdistan in 2007. However comparisons of current data with previous years showed a continuous increase in the number of sick children despite the significant number of treatments arranged by KSC. Specialist scientific research on congenital heart diseases is required to identify the causes of congenital heart disease and if possible how to prevent it.

As specialist treatment for children in Iraq is limited, KSC arranges for some of them to receive treatment abroad. Many countries are involved in the provision of treatment for the children Italy, Austria, Germany, Jordan, Iran and other countries. Most of the patients sent abroad for treatment do not have clinical reports or even if they have they are written in indecipherable handwriting or written on terrible scraps of paper that can’t be sent. Arranging treatment is a time consuming and difficult task often with some risk attached. Children travel with a carer, usually their mother. Both require passports. Passport applications are arranged by KSC and despite a lot of experience with the application process frequent visits to the passport Directorate are required.
particularly for G passports, and it takes several months before a passport is issued. Added to this is the risk that once abroad the patient and carer will not want to return to Kurdistan and try to seek asylum whilst abroad. This is detrimental to the work of KSC and the provision of treatment for children in the future.

Children’s Rehabilitation Centre

Throughout 2007 KSC continued to support the Children’s Rehabilitation Centre which provides treatment for physically and mentally disabled children. The number of children treated in the centre and attending the centre to date has been 17,995.

Education Sector

The Education Sector of KSC is working in several fields to help the children and youths realize their potential. The sector has a continuous programme of training and summer courses in the Youth Activity Centres, Kaziwa Centres and the Children’s Music Band. The Education Sector takes the largest budget of KSC. Every year, we have tried to reduce the budget, but without success, because of the great need of these centres by youths and children. Previous attempts to hand over the Kaziwa Centres to the Ministry of Culture, to release our resources for other activities, did not provide the range or quality of service KSC required for the children.

One of KSC successful experiences is the Youth Activity Centre and Kaziwa Centre in Kirkuk which regularly receive complimentary feedback from visitors and staff of the Ministry of Sports and Youth. The centres are good examples of the coexistence of Kirkuk people. The ‘Ministry of Sports and Youth of Baghdad’ own the buildings that house the centres and although they are impressed when they visit the centres they have asked us to move to other buildings and have attempted to have KSC evicted. This is likely to have been prompted by a wish to take over the centres. It takes up KSC time that would be better spent on the children. However, no formal notification to leave the building has been served on KSC.

Research, Training and Evaluation Sector

In 2007 KSC established a new department: the Research, Training and Evaluation Sector. The work of this sector is to evaluate KSC projects so that we can demonstrate their effectiveness. Also through research enable KSC, and other organizations providing services or treatment for children, to be informed about the impacts of psychological and social phenomena on the life of children and juveniles. We will then have clear evidence to guide and support our future work and to raise awareness about the needs of children. In addition to evaluation and research work the sector ran several training courses and workshops for the officers of the Juvenile Department, Observation House and Women’s Department of the Social Reformatory Directorate. Additionally, intensive courses were run for the Juvenile Police in the cities of Sulaimaniya, Erbil and Duhok.

Conclusion

Each year brings a new problem for KSC but every year there is a shortage of funds. This has been exacerbated by rise in the price of Iraqi dinars as well as the rising price of goods. This problem has affected all our work programmes, but in particular the Education Sector, and the livelihood of our staff members. This is the biggest problem we are facing in the coming year.

Dana Hussein Qadir
Programme Director
2007 was a year of expansion of the Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC) activities. This was despite the rising inflation and the problems this caused especially for the Sponsorship Programme: the amount of money given to the sponsor children is no longer sufficient for their needs.

However, in addition to continuing to offer services to children in the fields of Sponsorship, Child Protection, Health and Education, we established a new sector at the beginning of 2007: the Research, Training and Evaluation Sector. The purpose of the new sector is to arrange training courses for KSC staff members and officers of other related institutions and also to undertake research and evaluations for KSC projects.

Working Children
One of the first tasks carried out by the sector was a survey on working children in the cities of Sulaimaniya, Erbil and Duhok. The survey identified that 14,882 children were working. A considerable number of these children had dropped out of school. We are currently working to decrease the number of working children and prevent children working under the age of 12 and those who are working in inappropriate places. KSC has an intensive programme to limit and decrease the number of working children in the cities of Sulaimaniya, Erbil and Duhok in co-operation with Ministry of Labour and Social Affair and the Ministry of Interior. The Prime Minister of Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has given his support to this work.

Sick Children
In 2007, a great number of children with congenital heart diseases were treated in Iraq, and abroad, with KSC paying their medical expenses. We have continued to support the Children’s Rehabilitation Centre (CRC) for children with physical or mental disability. We have liaised with many international organizations and specialists to find treatment for childhood congenital diseases and especially congenital heart diseases. Additionally specialist in Autism and AIDS were invited, and welcomed, to Kurdistan to train doctors and others involved in the treatment of these conditions.

Education
On the 1st of June 2007, children from the Kaziwa Centres and the Sulaimaniya Children’s Music Band participated in the International Kids Festival in Erbil. In October 2007 six children and two trainers from the Drum Group of Darbandikhan Youth Activity Centre were sent to Italy to take part in the annual festival of Mediterranean counties. The group presented many wonderful activities at the festival which was held in Ostuni city. Ms. Christine, a trainer of the drum circle visited KSC from California to open training courses and use the drum as a psychological treatment. She opened a drum circle training course for drum trainers, the musicians and trainers of Children’s Rehabilitation Centre (CRC). The course lasted for five days and it was very effective to teach our training staff about drum circle and make plans to use it as a source of treatment in CRC. An Italian group, supervised by Roberto, visited Kurdistan to run “Making Flags” training courses for the children at the Kaziwa Centres.

Mohammed H. Tofiq
Sulaimaniya Programme Manager
The 32nd article of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child completely banned the exploitation of children for financial economy. There are tens of other legal and international articles that regulate child labour and prevent any work that will negatively impact on the morality, physical or mental growth of children or deprive them of education. The issue of child labour has been paid more attention on an international level, in an effort to limit it. KSC feels it has a moral duty to support and implement the Rights of the Child, and other laws, approved by the UN Convention to protect children.

It was a wish to support the application of these laws that prompted KSC to take the initiative to start a project that would set limits for child labour.

Limiting Child Labour Project

The Child Protection Sector is one of the sectors of Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC) that has been working to protect the rights of children since 1995. In 2007, in co-operation with the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and its related institutions, KSC initiated a project to restrict and regulate child labour in the cities of Erbil, Sulaimaniya and Duhok. The aim of the project was to decrease the number of working children and prohibit any work that negatively impacted on them socially or psychologically or causes them to drop out of school. The project began with KSC conducting a survey in each of these cities to find out the number of working children and the reasons that caused them to work. It learned also from the countries that had worked to restrict child labour and in particular to eradicate the dangerous work undertaken by children. The project welcomed the support of the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).

The primary activities of the project fall into two categories: financial support and application of the law.

* Financial support is provided for families that have relied on income earned by their children under the age of fifteen.

KSC field workers identify families with working children then an assessment is made of their financial circumstances. If they satisfy the assessment criterion for assistance they are offered monthly financial support so that the children need not work and can return to school. In Sulaimaniya city fourteen families are in receipt of financial support and seventeen children have been provided with clothes.

* Law: there is no doubt that the rights of children are protected through laws, and each country has its own laws to regulate and limit child labour and prevent them from undertaking work that may damage their health. Limiting child labour in the Kurdistan Region is dependant on the Iraqi labour law and juvenile inspection law. The General Directorate of Labour and Social Insurance, part of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, identifies child labour violations through its inspectors in Erbil, Sulaimaniya and Duhok directorates. KSC has signed an agreement and formed joint inspection committees with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the General Directorate of Labour and Social Insurance. Jointly they visit companies, factories and other workplaces that are breaking the law by employing children or where there are violations against working children. The committees interview employers who engage children to work and seek their agreement to regulate child labour and to improve the employment conditions for young people.
The joint committees visited 210 hotels and bar workplaces in Sulaimaniya, including 120 night visits. 90 daytime visits were made to petrol stations, supermarkets, hospitals, and different types of factories. As a result 17 children were released from working in bars and 3 others in guesthouses. Employers were warned that they would be breaking the law if they hired children.

The 24th and 25th articles from the Juvenile Care Law by the Juvenile Court forbids parents from sending their children out to work without parental supervision. If parents force their children to work they will be interviewed by the Juvenile Court and appropriate action taken; 137 parents of underage working children have been interviewed so far.

Training courses were run for the general police and in particular the juvenile police. The courses on educational, psychological and the positive treatment of children aim to raise the awareness and educate the police about the correct treatment and the protection of children. 375 police attended

the courses which were run by the KSC Research, Evaluating and Training Sector in co-operation with the Child Protection Sector.

Street Children Project

The Street Children Project resolved the problems of 21 children including reintegration with their families. Six families were provided with furniture and rent for a house.

Juvenile Delinquency Project

The Juvenile Delinquency Project, facilitated improvement in the relations between 25 juveniles and their families. Legal help was provided for 20 children, helping them through bail and five families were invited for personal interview. A room was made for an Observation House and furniture was provided for the Juvenile Department and Observation House. A separate area was made available for the Rania Police Directorate to enable them to separate detained juveniles from adults.
Child labour Protection

My name is Rozh. I am 12 years old. I have got four brothers and one sister. We live in Sulaimaniya city in Iraqi Kurdistan. We were in a terrible financial situation. My father was a construction worker. He didn’t spend the money he earned for our family but on drinking alcohol. He neither paid any attention to us nor did he love us. Sometimes, he left us for months and when he came back he didn’t ask us how we were doing. He also made trouble for us and argued with my mother. We couldn’t go to school as my father didn’t spend any money for us.

I started working with my little brother who was 10 years as peddler. We worked from 7o’clock in the morning till late evening. We knew that we were not allowed to work by law but we were obliged to do so to cover the expenses our family needed.

One day in the market, we were informed by the Juvenile Police that we must not work but study instead. They notified our family about the case. Then, they invited my father and he was interrogated by the Juvenile Court.

Kurdistan Save the Children’s staff members visited us and assisted my brother and me several times so that we could go back to school. They also promised us to continuously provide school needs and food for us. Now, instead of working 12 hours every day we go to school and play just like every other child.

All Child Labour under the age of 18 is prohibited without the supervision of their family members.

Labour Law/ Iraq
In 2007 the Sponsorship Sector in Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC) continued its activities to assist and provide financial support for families in need. Although funds for support were limited we were still able to revitalize the livelihood of many families.

By the end of 2007, the Sponsorship Programme had assisted 2,442 families. This was less than last year due to the lack of new sponsors from inside and outside Kurdistan. Because of the decrease in new sponsors the waiting list of children requiring financial support was closed to new entrants as 420 children were already waiting for sponsors. A large number of children on the list are sponsored by Mr. Jalal Talabani who has an on-going fixed number of sponsorship children. The number of children sponsored by people from abroad is in continuous decrease as the sponsors give up sponsoring. By the end of 2007 the numbers of children sponsored decreased to 428: Switzerland 119, Italy 99, Finland 54, Holland 51, England 44, Denmark 42, France 11, the United States 3, Austria 2, Germany 1, Australia 1 and Canada 1. The sponsors of 14 of these children have stopped sending their sponsorship support so we are now trying to find out why and if it is a temporary or permanent situation.

The relationship between the sponsor children and their sponsors is maintained by exchanging pictures and letters which are translated by a staff member of the sector before being sent to the sponsors.

During the year 415 children have “graduated” off the Sponsorship Programme as the situation of their families improved, or some of them became adults, some dropped out of school or got married. Before sponsorship is withdrawn a final assessment of their circumstances is made so that no hardships are incurred by oversight. The spaces that these children left on the programme were quickly filled with 350 new children requiring help. Before new children are accepted for sponsorship a visit is made to their home to evaluate the family circumstance. Beneficiaries are visited on a regular basis. This work is all done by KSC Sponsorship Sector field workers.

The Sponsorship Sector can make changes to the sponsorship list according to the Sector’s evaluation criteria. In the same way, foreign sponsors are absolutely free to decide to discontinue a sponsorship or continue sponsoring even if their original sponsor child grows up, drops out of school or gets married. In recent years increasing inflation has caused a significant problem for the Sponsorship Sector. In the past the sum of money given by sponsors provided a good source of living for the sponsored families but now the same amount covers only a small portion of their needs. This together with the decrease in new sponsors and existing sponsors not prepared to sponsor new children when their existing children graduate off the programme has greatly exacerbated an already difficult situation.

To find suitable solutions for these problems, the Research, Training & Evaluation Sector of KSC carried out research on the impact of the Sponsorship Programme. We hope that its results will help us resolve the funding problems and improve the livelihood of our beneficiaries.
Ari is a child from Penjwen district in Sulaimaniya city. His father died in the Penjwen Anfal campaign, just one of the atrocities dealt out by the former Iraqi Regime. After his father’s death Ari’s mother had to go to live in her father’s house with her children, Ari, his brother Aram, and his sister Chia. They lived there for four months until one of Ari’s uncles asked for the children to go to live in his house in Sulaimaniya. Then, Ari’s grandfather forced his mother to marry a man who has terrible psychological problems.

The children had a miserable life living in their uncle’s house. Their aunt mistreated them, but managed to hide this from her husband. She treated Ari and his siblings differently from her own children. She prevented them from going to school, would not buy them any new clothes or give them any money. Aram, the eldest child of the family was frequently in trouble with his aunt who asked his uncle to beat him and tie him up. Aram escaped and ran away but ended up living rough on the street. Fortunately the plight of Aram and his brother and sister was brought to the attention of the Child Protection Sector of the Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC). KSC arranged for Ari to receive sponsorship via the KSC Sponsorship Programme and Aram was sent to the Boy’s House and kept under the supervision there.

To try to help resolve the long-term problems of the three children, KSC bought a house for them in the Chwarta district of Sulaimaniya. And the Field Officers of the Sponsorship Sector tried several times to reunite them with their mother. Sadly this was not successful.

Despite the help given by KSC Ari and Chia were in a terrible condition so KSC decided to return them to live with their grandparent’s. Unfortunately the grandparents were now very old so they sent them away again to live in the house of another uncle in Sulaimaniya city. However, this time their life was better and this aunt was kinder to them. Then after Chia married a student in the Engineering College, Ari was left alone with his uncle’s family. This upset him and he repeatedly fought with his male cousin. This made his uncle angry and he beat Ari and imprisoned him in the house. Ari escaped and ran back to his grandparent’s house but instead of staying there he started working, first on a farm then as a waiter in a restaurant where he slept at night. KSC tracked him down and returned him, with Aram, back to their house in Chwarta. But once again Ari left and returned to Penjwen. KSC supervised his stay with a family there who treated him very well and he attended school. In his free time he worked as a waiter in a shop belonging to the family and saved up some money. Unfortunately after eight months the family experienced financial difficulties and Ari had to leave their home. Once again KSC provided help for Ari and his brother Aram so that they would not end up on the streets again. KSC took them back to their house in Chwarta and provided furniture for it. Aram was given employment in the Chwarta Kaziwa Centre which is run by KSC.

The brothers are now happily living in their own house. In 2007, Ari’s school attendance in the first grade of secondary school was erratic. However, he is returning to school for the coming year. He receives money from the Sponsorship Sector. At the same time Ari works in Chwarta and saves some money which is held by the Sponsorship Sector for safekeeping.

The family is very grateful to KSC and all its sectors that have helped them throughout their difficulties until they were able to find some stability in a home of their own. At last a happy ending.
In 1998, the first Youth Activity Centre was established in Sulaimaniya city. In 2000 Sara and Sarshaqam Kaziwa Centres were opened. Young people and children from all over Kurdistan asked for new Youth Activity Centres and Kaziwa Centres to be opened in their areas. We listened to them and to date there are six Youth Activity Centres: Sulaimaniya, Koya, Rania, Kalar, Darbandikhan and Khanaqeen and four Kaziwa Centres: Sara, Sarshaqam, Chwarta and Bazian. The Ministry of Culture requested three new Kaziwa Centres in Halabja, Qaladza and Rania. These were opened on the 7th of July 2007 and handed over to the General Directorate of Children’s Culture. In addition to these, the Education Sector of Kurdistan Save the Children runs three more important projects for children: Sulaimaniya Children’s Music Band, Sara Cultural Centre and Shaheed Jabar Exemplary Secondary School.

Kaziwa Centres for Children

The purpose of the Kaziwa Centres is to reintegrate children back into school. Many children dropped out of school because of their families’ social circumstances which put pressure on them to work instead of studying. The Kaziwa Centres have given these children a wonderful opportunity to learn new skills, practice their hobbies and realize their potential. The children can choose from a full range of subjects and interests in the Kaziwa Centres: computer studies, internet, library, plastic art (ceramics, painting and graphics), manual work, drama, music, sports and video games.

In 2007, 2,693 children aged 6-16 years visited the centres on a regular basis, enjoying and benefiting from, the facilities.

Youth Activity Centres

The purpose of the Youth Activity Centres is to give young people, over 14 years, an opportunity to spend time on the interesting activities that the centres offer and to realise their potential, to be able to express opinions freely, and to strengthen their friendships. Youth Activity Centre departments offer: computers, internet, library facilities, plastic art (painting and graphic), drama, music, sports (football, basketball, bodybuilding, Kung Fu, Tae- Kwon- Do, tennis and chess), hairdressing and cinematics.

In 2007 14,640 young people over 14 years visited, and enjoyed the facilities in the Youth Activity Centres.

Children’s Music Band

The Children’s Music Band project was started in 2004. It gathers together talented children from the Kaziwa Centres, who have learned about music, and school children who are interested in music or are gifted in it. All of the music instruments for the band are provided by KSC. 148 children participated in the band. Currently 127 children102 boys and 25 girls are being taught music.

Duhok Children’s Music Band

The Duhok Children’s Music Band was established in 2004 in co-operation with Duhok Children’s Culture Directorate. Since then 92 children have taken part. Currently there are 32 children, 19 boys and 13 girls, playing in the band. On most occasions, such as the International Children’s Day festivals, the children in the band usually undertake several different activities. They have also recorded a number of songs.

Shaheed Jabar Exemplary Secondary School

The Shaheed Jabar Exemplary Secondary school was established in 2001 in Sulaimaniya city. Kurdistan Save the Children supervises the school and provides the funds for its administration. The General Directorate of Education provides the school with teachers and some of the curriculum books. All the subjects are taught in English and the school admits 50 students for the first grade every academic year. In 2007, the school had 235 students, 105 boys and 120 girls. From the academic year 2007/2008, 25 students from the school entered university.
Sara Cultural Centre
The Sara Cultural Centre was established in 2001 and consists of a reading hall and a library hall. It provides books, magazines and newspaper for the readers, and is used by a great number of students, youths, and writers from Sulaimaniya.

Education Sector Activities in 2007

*Participation in the International Kid’s Festival held in Erbil on the 1st of June 2007. The festival lasted for seven days in which 150 children took part from the Children’s Music Band, Duhok Children’s Music Band, Drum Group of Darbandikhan Youth Activity Centre and Kaziwa Centres of Sara, Sarshaqam, Halabja, Rania and Qaladza.

*Summer courses on music and plastic art were attended by 100 children, 60 boys and 40 girls. The courses ran for two months and were provided in co-operation with the Shangal Charitable Society.

*A ‘Making Flags’ project with an Italian group, supervised by Roberto, was run for the children from Sulaimaniya Children’s Music Band and Kaziwa Centres of Sara, Sarshaqam, Halabja, Chwarta, Bazian, and Kirkuk.

*Children from the centres participated in a plastic art exhibition “Energy in My Life” in Austria. Their graphics and plastic art works were sent by post to the exhibition.

*In co-operation with Khurmal Shady Group, children participated in flying 100 kites in the International Children’s day in Khurmal Sub District.


*The Drum Group of the Youth Activity Centre of Darbandikhan took part in a Mediterranean festival in Italy. Kurdistan Save the Children paid the expenses for the group for the eight day festival.
Ms. Kristine Steven supervised participation in the Drum Group Circle activities in the Youth Activity Centre. A number of teachers children of Sulaimaniya Children’s Music Band, students of Exemplary Secondary School and youths of Sulaimaniya Youth Activity Centres, took part in the activities.

*From the 6th of August to the 10th of December 2007, Rania Youth Activity Centre opened training courses for 786 girls and boys of Hajiawa town. Courses were given for English language, computer studies, journalism, sewing and so on. They were taught in the Hiran Secondary School.

Problems and Issues

*The Kalar Youth Activity Centre has to share a building which means that the centre can only open in the afternoon as the building is used by others in the morning. The building is a small rented house which restricts the range of activities that can be undertaken. Similarly, the building of Darbandikhan Youth Activity Centre is too small to cater for the number of youths in the area.

*A great number of people are asking KSC to open new Youth Activity Centres and Kaziwa Centres, but the shortage of financial funds prevents this.

Planning for the projects of Education Sector in 2008

*Review and evaluate the activities of the Youth Activity Centres and Kaziwa Centres so that they can be adjusted, if necessary, to fit the current circumstances and needs of the children and youths.

*Open training courses for the project officers to provide them with information to broaden their knowledge, and skill level, about management and administration.
Before the Sarshaqam Kaziwa Centre for working children was established I was working. I only knew how to work and I spent most of my time working. When the centre was opened I started visiting it regularly. I felt that I wanted to pursue my hobbies. I visited all of the departments in the centre and I found that I was good at plastic arts. So, I began to visit the plastic art departments every day. I also enjoyed sports so I played them as well.

I made friends with other children in the department and we did art work jointly. The teachers gave us a lot of encouragement. We took part in the centre’s festivals. I compared myself with other children and I knew that I seemed to learn more quickly than them and I was able to do more activities. The teachers of the centre played a vital role in building my confidence and helping me to realise my potential. I also felt that I had a right to study so I kept studying.

According to the rules of Kaziwa Centres, when a child reaches 14, they are considered to be mature, so I was asked not to visit the centre any more. Then, the art teacher from the Sara Kaziwa Centre who taught plastic art, and the sculpture teacher from the Sarshaqam Kaziwa Centre decided to form a new group for us in the name of Kaziwa Xunchas. This was wonderful news because it meant we could continue the group for four more years. We were provided with a place in the Sara Kaziwa Centre where we worked and made preparations for the New Year’s party including making Christmas trees for children to create a party atmosphere for them for this special occasion. I planned my future in art. I applied to be a student to study art in the Fine Art Institute of Sulaimaniya. I had to be interviewed and tested and I am delighted to say that I passed them successfully and was accepted as a student of the Plastic Art Department. I became a successful student in the Sculpture Department. I am still doing my art work and also supervise the artistic work of a group of youths in a centre which belongs to Ministry of Culture of Kurdistan Regional Government.

Chenar doesn’t forget Kaziwa

Sulaimaniya Children’ Music band / International Children’s Festival - Erbil
Research, Training and Evaluation Sector

The Research, Training and Evaluation Sector was established in 2007 with the aim of showing the importance and effectiveness of KSC’s projects through evaluation. The sector works to show the factors and the impacts of psychological and social phenomena that are related to the life of children and juveniles through scientific research, raising the awareness and increasing the information of the people who directly or indirectly work with children and juveniles or who have influence on their lives through training and workshops.

Research and Evaluation

The staff members of the sector were trying to achieve the goals of the sector through the activities they conducted. In the field of research, a scientific research was carried out by the sector to show the effects of the Sponsorship Programme on the children who financially benefited from the programme. The aim of the research was to evaluate the programme from the beneficiaries’ point of view. 264 families were randomly taken as a sample for the research taking age, sex and place of residence into consideration.

A comprehensive survey was also conducted in the cities of Erbil, Sulaimaniya and Duhok to determine the number of working children in these cities. The survey is the strategy that underpins KSC’s work to decrease the number of children who are working on the street without the care and supervision of their parents. The results of the survey showed that the number of working children in these three cities was 14,878 children of which 8246 of them were from Erbil, 4,067 of them were from Sulaimaniya and 2,565 were from Duhok. Another survey was carried out about the homeless families who were living on a Kirkuk pitch. The aim of this research was to gather information about them and evaluate their living situation. The number of the families was 486.

Two projects were undertaken to evaluate the circumstances of detained and convicted juveniles in the Social Reformatory Directorate. The purpose of the projects was to find out the problems they experienced and allow them express their own suggestions for solutions. In addition to these, another evaluation project was undertaken to find out about the living situation of Duhok children and the problems they experienced.

Training

In the field of training, several training courses were opened to the officers of the Juvenile Police Department, Observation House and Women of Department of Social Reformatory Directorate with the aim of increasing the knowledge of the officers who have direct contact with detained juveniles. 22 officers benefited from the course. Another training course was opened to the officers of the Children’s Cultural Centre (Kaziwa) and Children’s Music Band to help them better understand the nature of child and adolescent growth and the changes they experience during this time, also to raise the officers’ awareness of this for their daily contact with the young people. 43 officers participated in the courses. Several other courses were opened for juvenile, emergency and municipality police in the cities of Erbil, Sulaimaniya and Duhok. The courses focused on effective methods of treatment for working children; 475 police and officers took part in these courses. A workshop was also arranged for KSC officers in the Sulaimaniya Office, Sulaimaniya Youth Activity Centre, and the Children’s Cultural Centres of Sara, Sarshaqam, Bazian and Chwarta. 57 officers participated in the workshop.

Lydia Shaswar / Senior Officer
**Health Sector**

In 2007, the primary activities of the Health Sector were in three fields:
* accessing and enabling surgery, inside and outside Kurdistan, for children.
* provision of training for Health Sector staff using modern methods.
* distribution of medical supplies to Kurdistan hospitals.

**Accessing and Enabling Surgery**
882 child patients were examined by the Health Sector’s doctor in 2007. Assistance is provided for the children according to their medical needs. Health Sector social workers visit the family of each child patient to discuss the child’s treatment and evaluate the family's financial circumstances. Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC) funds the cost of treatment for the children whose families are on low incomes. Practical support is provided to all regardless of income levels. Patients are classified according to their medical condition and the location of their treatment. Children who had treatment abroad were treated in various countries according to their medical condition.

KSC arranged for:
- ٣٦١ children to receive treatment and surgery from specialist doctors in the Kurdistan region and other parts of Iraq
- ٧٢١ children with heart, eyes, kidney, blood, bone and other conditions were treated in Iran
- ٥٣ children with heart, kidney, gullet and stomach conditions were treated in Italy
- ٥ children with heart conditions were treated in Jordan
- ٣ children were treated in Syria: two of these received cochlea transplants
- ١ child with a heart condition was treated in Korea.

The KSC Health Sector consulted a number of international organisations to seek help that would enable children to receive treatment abroad, especially children with heart disease. This resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding between KSC and the British organization Chain of Hope, the Austrian organization Help North Iraq/Kurdistan and the American organization Buy Shoes Save Lives. Three children were sent to Germany for treatment for heart disease through Chain of Hope, five children with heart disease were treated in Austria through Help North Iraq/Kurdistan, and four children were sent to Jordan for treatment for heart disease through Buy Shoes Save Lives. In co-operation with Rayala Centre five children who had congenital heart disease were sent to the Iranian city of Krmashant for treatment. Fortunately, all of the children sent abroad were treated successfully except 2 children.

**Training**
The Health Sector cooperated with the Imam Ali Cardiac Hospital in Krmashan to arrange treatment for children with heart disease. The hospital demonstrated their readiness to treat the children and train Kurdistan Health Department staff members so that they can provide surgery in their own hospitals at minimal cost; which will be about one third of cost of sending patients to Tehran hospitals. Krmashan would accept many Kurdish children for heart disease treatment.

The Health Sector staff contact foreign organizations continuously to seek treatment for children and for training to increase the knowledge of staff members. Full information is provided for these organisations to enable them to assist KSC in accessing treatment for children, training Health Staff members and the provision of medical supplies for Kurdistan hospitals.

**Medical Supplies**
KSC Health Sector established a link with Improve Health System for Iraq, an American organisation. The organisation provided four tons of medical supplies for Sulaimaniya hospitals. In cooperation with the Health Department KSC distributed the supplies to Teaching Hospitals, the Emergency Hospital, the Children’s Hospital and the Hiwa Hospital for blood diseases.

**Children’s Rehabilitation Centre (CRC)**
The Children’s Rehabilitation Centre is the only centre in Sulaimaniya city and the surrounding area that treats physically and mentally disabled children. Up to the end of 2007, 17992 children with a mental or physical disease were registered in the centre. After a child’s condition is diagnosed they are provided with therapy, surgery and appliances as necessary.
During 2007
* 1,019 new children were registered in the centre.
* 137,02 children were given medical checks.
* 3619 children were examined by the paediatrician and provided with treatment.
* 4,828 children were given therapy; which helped some to full recovery.
* 128,0 children were patients in the Psychological Department.
* 242 children were patients of the Social Department.
* 3,88,0 children were treated by the ENT specialist doctors; some of these children were provided with surgery.
* 94 children were treated by neurosurgeons.
* 1,017 children were provided with various aids and accessories e.g. toilet, pushchair, wheelchair, eating chair and supports for hands, legs, hips etc.
* KSC provided all the medical supplies and the instruments for the Centre’s Physiotherapy Department to enable them to make aids and supports for the children.

Capacity Building of Health Department Staff Members
Many institutions and organizations, such as Chain of Hope, Open Smile, ACD/VOCA, Buy Shoes Save Lives and Help North Iraq/Kurdistan have helped KSC to access treatment for children. In 2007, KSC invited a Swedish AIDS disease specialist to Kurdistan. He trained a considerable number of doctors, Health Department staff, barbers, hairdressers and so on in Sulaimaniya and Erbil. KSC also invited two Autism specialists from England who provided open workshops and training courses for health staff, psychotherapists, social workers, psychiatrists, special needs education teachers and parents of autistic children. A special sensory room for autistic children was developed and opened for use by autistic children visiting the centre. A support group for parents with autistic children has been started so that parents can support each other and exchange information and ideas. KSC invited the ACD/VOCA organisation and the Drum Circle Group to train a number of KSC’s officers and hold open workshops on playing the drum. This activity was arranged in co-operation with the Education and Research, Training and Evaluation sectors of KSC. The group visited the Children’s Rehabilitation Centre (CRC) and ran workshops and training courses for the officers of the centre. Then a team of psychotherapists and physiotherapists were formed to offer treatment through drum playing to centre patients. The therapists decided to have a drum playing activity five times a month in the centre. Also ACORN ran a training course about new ideas, techniques, and information for physiotherapist in the centre.
Sometimes, medical issues can cause social, economic and psychological problems for a family and its members. This may result in the disintegration of the family and psychological disorder for its members. This happened to a family in the city of Erbil, the capital of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). The family consisted of five girls who were living in a room and a hall with their parents.

A seventeen year old daughter of the family and her mother had psoriasis, an uncomfortable and disfiguring skin condition. The family had financial difficulties which meant that they couldn’t afford to pay for appropriate treatment. Consequently the girl’s face became disfigured and because of her embarrassment and discomfort about how she looked she became isolated at home. Her father abandoned her mother, because she also suffered from the same condition, and married another woman. As he was the family breadwinner the family’s financial situation worsened.

Fortunately the KSC Health Sector was informed about their circumstances. A member of the Health Sector staff visited the family and following an evaluation of their circumstances agreed that they should be assisted. KSC arranged an appointment with a specialist doctor in Sulaimaniya city for the girl and her mother and provided them with transport for the appointment, and subsequently for the year that they were required to travel for treatment. They received specialist and appropriate tests. Fortunately they have now both recovered from the condition and have a much happier life.

Returned to Good Health

In 2007 via KSC
127 children in Iran, 35 children in Italy, 3 children in Germany,
9 children in Jordan, 5 children in Austria, 2 children in Syria,
and one child in South Korea were treated
For the second time, KSC participated in a festival of the Mediterranean countries the ninth annual festival of Ostuni city, Italy, was held on October 15th 2007. The festival was arranged by the Ostuni Municipality and the Ministry of Social Affairs, managed in co-operation with Mrs. Gulala Salih.

Several Mediterranean countries and nine of Italian municipalities participated. KSC's involvement in the festival was through the Darbandikhan Drum Group which represented Iraqi Kurdistan. The group consists of seven drum players and a supervisor.

The purpose of the annual festival is to confirm peace between the Mediterranean countries and to exchange culture and folklore. The festival started in Ostuni city where the Drum Group presented their activities in the presence of a large audiences.

The Darbandikhan Drum Group jointly performed music with all of the Italian music groups throughout the festival. This was followed by the Group playing in the cities of Chester, San Vito, San Pancrazio, and Latino. Several poets, artists, prominent figures and municipality members attended the festival and the Group received awards in several places.

On the last day of the festival a big party was held in Chitabianka Hotel where several Italian music groups and the Darbandikhan Drum Group jointly presented Italian–Kurdish songs. Afterwards there was an open discussion about the festival and we were delighted when the Darbandikhan Drum Group was described as the best group in the festival. The Group was applauded and in return it applauded the Head of Ostuni Municipality and the manager and supervisor of the festival.
At the end of 2007, in spite of the adverse and instable security conditions, the Kirkuk Office of Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC) has offered a non-stop service to the youth and children of Kirkuk city for four years. This shows the loyalty and devotion of its staff members in the city.

Our organization believes in the basis of development and reform in society through providing equal rights for its individuals especially for the youth and children in the fields of education, health, economy etc. In spite of the fact that the people of Kirkuk do not speak the same language nor do they have the same ethnic origin, we serve them all on an equal basis through our on-going activities.

KSC runs projects in the fields of Education, Child Protection and Sponsorship. Through these projects we can raise the awareness of the youth and children, improving the financial situation of poor families, and reintegrating offending children and dropouts back into their families and school.

In 2007, the Kirkuk Office had many beneficiaries from both youths and children. The total numbers of KSC’s beneficiaries in Kirkuk city are as follows:

**Education Project:**

This includes the Kirkuk Youth Activity Centre and the Children’s Cultural Centre (Kaziwa) of Kirkuk. With the aims of strengthening friendship and coexistence the following activities were arranged:

- 208 courses were held for the youth and children in both the Youth Activity Centre and the Children’s Cultural Centre (Kaziwa) of Kirkuk. The courses were music, art, computer, internet and sport. The numbers of beneficiaries of all the courses were 7,696 of which 7,384 were boys and 312 were girls. There were also 35 workshops and meetings in both centres.
- 12 art gallery exhibitions opened for the youth and children of the centres.
- 25 children’s music parties were arranged in the centres. Five songs were recorded in all of Kirkuk languages and two dancing clips by Kirkuk’s Kaziwa Dancing Group were recorded to be shown on the local Kirkuk TV channels.
- Participation of the youth and children of both centres in the festivals arranged in the city and outside of the city on special occasions in 2007.
- Performing five children’s dramas in both centres in the presence of youths and children and various people in the centres.

**Sponsorship Project:**

The aim of the project is to provide a monthly amount of money for poor orphan children to overcome their difficult financial situation, resolving their problems and help them not to drop out of school.

- The numbers of the beneficiaries of the sponsorship project were 136 of which 75 were boys and 36 were girls.
- The numbers of families visited in 2007 were 136 families. We also paid visits to schools and we resolved the problem of one student with his school principal.
- Information forms were filled in for 10 children and also four forms were filled in for sick children to be treated.

**Juvenile Delinquency Project:**

The aim of the project is to ensure justice for juveniles for which we work in two directions:

1. Social direction which revolves around
social activities that are related to the family, resolving juveniles’ problems and examining the living condition of them and their families as well as providing them with their needs.

2. Legal direction which is the key to protect juveniles and to follow up their legal problems through a lawyer and social researchers in the stages of investigation and appeals in addition to following up their sentence and trying to reintegrate them back to society as healthy individuals so that they will not commit further crimes.

In 2007, the following activities were conducted:

- Decreasing the detention period of detained juveniles taking the Kirkuk situation into consideration and protecting the legal rights of the juveniles.
- Strengthening the relationship between detained juveniles and their families through visiting their families.
- Improving the health of detained juveniles and separating them from the adult.
- According to a survey that was conducted in 2007, there were 108 juveniles of which 77 juveniles took advantage of the project of KSC. Due to security circumstances in the south of Iraq we could not visit their families as some of the detainees were held in connection with terrorist acts.

Najmadin Nuri Faqe
Kirkuk Programme Manager
As part of its expansion programme Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC) established an office in Erbil city in December 2007. KSC had already started conducting a survey on working children in Erbil. The result of this survey was the starting point for KSC to work in the child protection field and the Erbil child labour project started in the last quarter of 2007.

The initial stages of the project required Erbil KSC officers to make contact with other organizations which either worked with children or dealt with children’s issues as part of their business. This allowed the officers to discuss KSC plans and aims to limit child labour and to learn how the other organizations operate and how organizations in Erbil might work together. Visits were made to a wide range of institutions, including:

- police stations which were related to child labour affairs
- Juvenile Court and Department of Behaviour Surveillance,
- Juvenile and Women Social Reformatory Directorates of Erbil
- Social Observation Directorate for the same purpose

Meetings were held with the General Directorate of Labour and Social Insurance in Erbil to agree inspection committees that would determine violations committed against working children in factories, restaurants, casinos and other places.

Meetings were also held with the Child Protection Directorate, General Directorate of Social Development and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and the organizations which work for the welfare of children in Erbil, Sulaimaniya and Duhok. The purpose of the meeting was to specify methods of working and to determine appropriate mechanisms for dealing with child labour issues. Additionally we wanted to encourage the organisations to meet with KSC on a regular basis to discuss work plans and objectives to restrict child labour.

KSC and the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs gave a presentation to organizations working for the benefit of children’s in Erbil and Sulaimaniya to tell them about the KSC’s plans and its objectives of its work with working children. Daily visits were made to the Juvenile Police Station to get an update on any new cases of working children and to accompany the Inspection Committee of the General Directorate of Labour and Insurance on workplace visits. These were limited to twice a week because of insufficient officers and cars. This work was often labour intensive: for example sixty five workplaces could be visited with only seven violations cases identified.

During the year, eighty nine forms were completed in the Juvenile Police Station for working children. Some of these children were over 15 and allowed to work by the law, some other children gave a wrong address. Thirty five children were visited and their circumstances evaluated to determine whether or not they needed financial assistance. Ten of these didn’t need any help, ten were provided with clothes and the remaining fifteen were given 80,000-150,000 Iraqi Dinars($70-$120).

In 2007, we also linked with KSC’s Health Sector in Sulaimaniya to find suitable treatment for the people who visited Erbil Office. Clients’ personal details were recorded: name, address, type of disease and other information and then the KSC Health Sector officer in Sulaimaniya visited them to confirm their medical condition and specifying appropriate treatment.

Abdulkadir A. Kakasur
Erbil programme Manager
Saia, an appreciative beneficiary of KSC services

Saia was born in 1998 she lives in Erbil city. Her family consists of six members, mother, sister, three brothers and her. Her father died in 2005.

Saia is in the fourth grade of primary school. One of her brothers works in a car repair shop. Her other two brothers are in the fifth and third grade of secondary school. Her little sister is in the first grade of primary school. Her mother has poor health due to a kidney problem that requires frequent visits to the doctor. Her brother, who is in the fifth grade of secondary school, has one leg disabled.

The family is in a terrible financial situation because they don’t have a good source of income. They depend on a pension they are given which is 110,000 Iraqi dinars plus the little money that Saia’s brother earns. This is not enough for a family with four children at school and they pay 400,000 dinars rent for their house. As a desperate solution, Saia’s mother decided to send Saia to work as a cleaner and housekeeper in the rich people’s houses. Because Saia had to work she couldn’t keep up with her school studies and her academic performance declined in all her subjects, especially in science, a subject that she hadn’t had any problems with before. Her relationships with her teachers weakened as she was not doing well at school. Her psychological and social condition became worse day by day as she saw her classmates go home after school. She had to go to work whilst they went home to do their homework, play and spend their time with their family and friends.

It is clear that the world of children should revolve around studying and playing instead of working for their families. Saia couldn’t understand why her situation should happen to her nor did she know what to do to set herself free from her terrible burden so that she could once again spend her time on her studies and play just like her classmates.

Her life went on like this up until December 2007 when KSC established its offices in Erbil and Duhok so that it could offer services in more Kurdistan cities. The Erbil and Duhok offices work only in the child protection field, as they have only recently opened, but they are assisted by the other sectors of KSC in the Sulaimaniya office.

The Working Children project was started in the Erbil office, in co-operation with the Child Protection Sector of KSC in Sulaimaniya, and other related parties. While the project’s Field Officers were doing their daily work they were informed about a girl who was working as a house cleaner instead of the usual work in the markets and around traffic lights. The officers noted her address so that they could visit her and find out more information about her situation. After interviewing Saia and her mother the officers assessed her case.

The details of the assessment showed that she was working because of her family suffered great poverty and they could not provide school expenses for her. KSC decided to provide on-going help for Saia so that she could stop working and return to school like every other child, and recover her good academic standards. Saia is hugely grateful to KSC and hopes that it will extend its activities to other cities of Iraq so that more children can be helped like she was.
Undoubtedly, national and international humanitarian organizations and agencies have a colossal role in educating and influencing public opinion about the right of every individual to have their basic needs satisfied and to have fair and just treatment. For several years Duhok children have not had the same opportunities as children elsewhere in Kurdistan. That is to be able to access schools, medical care or even to be fed, protected and cared for in a loving stable home; what most people would recognize as the basic right of every child. However, all that changed in the summer of 2007 when Duhok children received a very valuable visitor to their city. A visitor that would change the children’s lives in a very positive way. That visitor was Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC). KSC arrived in Duhok to open an office in the city.

KSC set to work quickly and in July 2007 began by organising and furnishing the Duhok office accommodation. In August the recruitment of qualified staff and operations planning were well under way. Simultaneously, six social researchers attached to the new Duhok office, in close collaboration with the staff of KSC’s main office in Sulaimaniya, began to design a survey that would find out about the activities of the children in Duhok city centre. In particular the survey questionnaire would record detailed personal information and data that would reveal the magnitude of the problem of working children.

The survey was duly carried out and the subsequent analysis of its data showed that there were 2,565 children, under the age of 18, working in various employments and locations around Duhok city.

By the beginning of October KSC Duhok started with the project that would aim to reduce, and eventually eliminate, the incidences of children working. By the end of 2007, more than 100 forms had been completed with details of working children arrested by the Juvenile Police. The forms were passed to KSC Duhok for follow up action. This meant a visit to each child’s family in order to find out more about the family circumstances and why the children had to work. These visits revealed many vulnerable families who urgently required financial assistance. KSC Duhok arranged for the families to receive the help they needed and thereafter the social worker visited the families regularly to check on their welfare and monitor any changes in their circumstances.

In addition to the project to reduce the number of children working, KSC Duhok also carried out a range of other activities that would make life better for the children in the city. The activities included:

- Coordinated with KSC Sulaimaniya Health Sector to arrange for a sick child, Jine, to get the required medical treatment in Iran.
- Purchased medicines for children suffering from chronic diseases.
- Purchased clothes for 20 needy children over a three-month period
- Managed the activities of the Duhok children music team.
- Arranged printing and distribution of Papola magazine to the children.
- Undertook regular visits to children’s kindergartens and collected survey information.
- Rescued three children from the streets, arranged for their inclusion in KSC sponsorship programme, and returned them to their families in coordination with the Directorate of Special Care.
- Provided materials for the Juvenile Police.

KSC Duhok has allocated all its efforts and capabilities to help children to have a happy and fulfilled childhood. The aim is to enable childhood to be the best stage of life, free from sadness and anything that might impair a child psychologically or physically. The existence of KSC generally in Kurdistan, and especially in Duhok, is appreciated by the citizens and Government departments and directorates. KSC Duhok plans to steadily increase and expand its activities to enable it to serve more children.

Abdullah Ibrahim masiki
Duhok Programme Manager
Bizav is an eight year old child who became a victim of problems between his parents. He was an innocent child whose problems started with difficulties between his mother and father who eventually separated. After his father remarried, Bizav’s life deteriorated as he became the daily target of his father’s drunken behaviour and his stepmother’s cruelty. Together the pair showed Bizav no mercy until he was so terrified of them he ran away. He became a vagabond, a homeless barefoot wanderer, without food and drink, with no one to provide for him, lost in the community. With each day his living conditions worsened. Many times he was the laughing stock of others. His dreadful life caused him to begin to commit crimes until he was caught and arrested by the Juvenile Police. This indeed turned out to be his lucky day as the Juvenile Police contacted KSC Duhok and told them about Bizav. KSC arranged for him to join a community care family to be looked after and he was bought new clothes. Within a few days of living in his new home he was a changed boy, full of life and energy and beginning to enjoy being a child. KSC plans that Bizav will benefit from their care to become an active and productive member of the community.

Finally, we thank Duhok children for welcoming and working with the KSC office in Duhok and Sulaimaniya.

2,565 children, under the age of 18, working in various employments and locations around Duhok city.
Acknowledgments

Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC-KCF) would like to extend its heart-felt appreciation to all who have contributed to our efforts to promote and protect the children rights of Iraq and Kurdistan.

We are extremely grateful to all our partners without whose continued financial and moral support, the achievements highlighted in this report would not been possible.

Additionally, we would like to say a very big thank you to all the individuals who have volunteered their time and effort in our sectors and overseas. Their contribution has been crucial in enabling KSC to fulfill its role as the biggest local NGO specializing in monitoring, protecting and promoting the rights of Iraq and Kurdistan children.
## 1.0 Total income by source of funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Iraqi Dinar</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>Donor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>62,168</td>
<td>Mr. Jalal Talabani</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>62,168</td>
<td>59,631</td>
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<td>10,460</td>
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<td></td>
<td>22,179</td>
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<td>Denmark (Dankurd)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>720</td>
<td>378600</td>
<td>Finland</td>
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<td></td>
<td>378600</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>Custom House America</td>
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<td>Total of distance sponsorship program</td>
<td>4734000</td>
<td>680,773</td>
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<th>2- All KSC’s projects in 2007</th>
<th>2856116600</th>
<th>Kurdistan Regional Goverment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3- Hawler and Dhok office support</td>
<td>450,000</td>
<td>Mr. Nechirvan Barzany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4- Shangal children’s support</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>Messrs Merabi &amp; Shabab Aloian</td>
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<tr>
<td>5- Building a Stadium in Halabja</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>Mrs Hero Ibraim Ahmed</td>
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<td>6- Street children- Baghdad office</td>
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<td>7– Health Sector</td>
<td>2,165</td>
<td>Finland</td>
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<td>TOTAL FUNDING:</td>
<td>2860850600</td>
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## 2.1 KSC expenditure on all KSC’s offices projects in 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>Iraqi Dinar</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1- Education</td>
<td>1289176000</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>2- Sponsorship</td>
<td>899720250</td>
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<tr>
<td>3- All KSC offices administration</td>
<td>844455168</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<td>4- Child Protection</td>
<td>428237900</td>
<td>10 %</td>
</tr>
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<td>5- Health</td>
<td>383119950</td>
<td>9 %</td>
</tr>
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<td>6- Building a Stadium in Halabja</td>
<td>210640000</td>
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<td>7- Papula children’s magazine</td>
<td>83797200</td>
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<td>8- Evaluation &amp; Research Sector</td>
<td>64776100</td>
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<tr>
<td>9- Shangal children’s support</td>
<td>28665550</td>
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<tr>
<td>10- Income Generation/ Halsho Project</td>
<td>25516500</td>
<td>0.6 %</td>
</tr>
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<td>11- students support</td>
<td>14557300</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>4272661918</td>
<td>100 %</td>
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Table 1.0 shows the KSC income by sources of funding in 2007. The greatest part of the funding came from Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), which funded the vast majority of the KSC projects. The Distant Sponsorship Program (DSP) brought in 680773 USD and 4734000 Iraqi Dinars. Every child is sponsored with approximately 15 - 30 USD per month. Together with various funds for other KSC projects, the grand total of funds came to 1356938 USD and 2860850600 Iraqi Dinars.

Table 2.1 shows the expenditure of all offices projects which was 4272661918 Iraqi Dinars. Education Sector was allocated most resources in 2007, 1289176000 Iraqi Dinars. The Sponsorship department spent 899720250 Iraqi Dinars. The administration of all offices projects spent 844455168 Iraqi Dinars. Child Protection was allocated 428237900 Iraqi Dinars, Health Sector spent 383119950 Iraqi Dinars. Also 210640000 Iraqi Dinars spent for Building a stadium in Halabja, 83797200 Iraqi Dinars allocated for Papula monthly magazine.

Also 64776100 Iraqi Dinars allocated for Evaluation & Research Sector, 28665550 Iraqi Dinars for Shangal children’s support, 25516500 Iraqi Dinars for Income Generation project in Halsho, and 14557300 Iraqi Dinars for students support.

Figure 2.2 illustrate, by percentage, the KSC expenditure on all offices projects in 2007. The majority of funds was used for the Education Sector (30%), followed by the Sponsorship Program (DSP) (21%). (20%) was used for the administration of all offices projects, (10%) for the Child Protection Sector. (9%) was used in the Health Sector, (5%) for Building a stadium in Halabja. (1.96%) was used for printing Papula Monthly Magazine, (1.5%) for Evaluation & Research Sector, (0.6%) for Shangal children’s support, and (0.6%) used for Income Generation Project in Halsho. Also, (0.34%) was used for students support.

NB: The funds received for Erbil and Duhok offices allocated for one year, and some of it remained for 2008.