Kurdistan
Save the Children
2011
Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC-KCF)
2011 Annual Report
For every child: Health, Education, and Protection
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Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC - KCF)

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

KSC was founded in 1991 by Ms. Hero Ibrahim Ahmed and other 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, economic 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.

KSC mainly works in Iraqi Kurdistan Region; however, we have also been extending the activities to the disputed areas, such as Kirkuk and Khanaqin, as well as to Baghdad, which has slowly become possible since the collapse of Saddam Hussein’s government in April 2003. As the security improves in Iraq, there will be more opportunities to expand the work even wider.
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, we 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 potentials.
In 2011, Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC) continued its program for putting limits to child labour. The success of the program prompted KSC to start some new projects aimed at introducing children’s rights and their protection to both the professionals working with children and to the general public. Furthermore, more attention was given to the children with special needs, and some positive changes were made in other KSC ongoing programs and projects.

After the Iraqi liberation process, and from 2004 on, we had difficulties in getting funding for our programs because of the prevailing misconception that children in Kurdistan are more prosperous as compared to the children in other parts of Iraq. Because of this, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) came up with a decision to provide funding to local NGOs, based on submitted proposals, and since that time KSC has been receiving funding from KRG.

At the beginning of 2011, KSC was unable to implement its programs as was planned because of the six-month debates in the KRG Parliament on the KRG budget. The budget was approved only in the second half of 2011. To survive through six-month Parliament debates, KSC management had to reduce the KSC staff in all its offices, to cancel some projects, and to run the remaining projects in the survival mode. Hence, some of the KSC projects were less active, than before. I would not exaggerate if I say that KSC is the only NGO in the region that works both for children and for youth. During 2011, despite the budget shortages, we were able to send 300 children abroad for medical treatment, unavailable in the region. Upon the resumption of funding, work on all projects was intensified.

With regard to the KSC office in Kirkuk, we decided not to reduce their budget. The three KSC projects there – Hasar Kaziwa, Musalla Kaziwa, and Youth Center – remained open. No reduction of staff members was made, and the quality of work did not suffer. Throughout the year, the KSC projects in the Kirkuk office were an example of the possibility of peaceful coexistence in Iraq.
are mostly orphans and children from poor families. Since the start of the project, hundreds of sponsored children were able to finish secondary school. In 2011, the Sector provided sponsorship for 1478 children. Due to inflation and rise in life costs, the project efficiency became less compared to the previous years; yet, the support it provides is often vital for the poor families.

The KSC Education Sector was the focal point of our organization attention in 2011. One of the Sector’s concerns was reintegrating school dropouts into the school system and providing opportunities for developing potentials of children in Children’s Cultural Centers “Kaziwa” run by the Sector. The Sector runs both long-term and short term projects. The long-term projects include Kaziwas of Sara, Sarshaqam, Bazyan, Chwarta, Kirkuk and Musalla, as well as Shahid Jabbir School for bright students. The short term projects involved reintegrating school dropouts into the school system, conducting educational training programs, providing assistance to the internally displaced families in the Qandil Mountain area, and some joint projects with other KSC sectors.

The KSC Youth Sector was concentrating its efforts on further development of the KSC Youth Activities Centres. Despite budget cuttings, the work continued, for many youths conducted training at the centres as volunteers, and I wouldn’t be exaggerating if I stress that the quality of work did not suffer, but rather became better. Some of the Youth Activities Centres often stayed open late into the night. Due to the contribution of the youth volunteers, each centre was visited by 600-700 youths daily, coming there to read or attend the courses. Although there are some other organizations working for youth that have better buildings and better opportunities, the preference was often given to the services offered by the KSC Youth Activities Centres, with youth considering KSC centres as their own property, and giving their utmost in volunteering to serve it.

The KSC Health Sector: in 2011, 580 families visited KSC for the first time, 245 were sent outside Kurdistan Region to Iran, India, Tel-Aviv, Austria, Germany, UK, Jordan and Turkey for surgery. The Cochlear Implant surgery was made on 69 children with hearing disabilities. Following the rehabilitation process, these children are presently mastering the ability to speak.

The KSC Mobile Medical Team visited the villages around the Qandil Mountain. The team provided medical care and treatment for the sick children there. The Sector was also able to assist the Children’s Rehabilitation Centre (CRC). Two medical teams from Italy visited KSC, and conducted medical check-up and Echocardiography of children with congenital heart diseases. KSC was also able to send a group of doctors and medical staff to attend a conference on cleft lip and palate in Iran.

The Sulaimany program manager and the KSC doctor visited India, where KSC signed an agreement with Max Hospital for sending patients for treatment to India. Finally, a German delegation visited KSC proposing to open a center for children with special needs and to conduct training of the employees that would work at the centre.

The budget cuttings had a negative impact on the KSC Research and Training Sector. Nevertheless, the Sector was able to organize several workshops aimed at raising the professional standards of the government employees. An effort was made to organize family support groups involving children examined by Dr. Amitesh and Dr. Jaya in 2010. The Sector worked for the establishment of the Physiotherapy Department at the University of Sulaimany.

BPI is an Austrian Vocational Training Institute. It has 40 years of experience in vocational training of youth in installation of electrical, water and sewage systems, carpentry, interfusion, car mechanic, among others. For raising standards of vocational training in Kurdistan, KSC brought the institute experts to Kurdistan to nurture professionals working following the European standards.

Dana Hussein Qadir
Programme Director
The year of 2011 was, in many ways, a challenging year for the Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC). In response to these challenges, the organisation made some changes in its projects and plans, focusing mainly on projects dealing with the issues of children's rights and child abuse, and services contributing to the wellbeing of children with special needs. On the whole, in 2011, the difficulties facing KSC gave foundation to new experiences that assisted the organization’s growth and development.

The most challenging problem in 2011 was budget cuttings. For this reason, the KSC management had to reduce the number of staff working for KSC. Furthermore, most of the KSC budget, coming from the government, was suspended for six months. The budget cutting and suspension to a great extent paralyzed most of the KSC projects, and had a negative impact on the children in need of medical treatment.

Under these challenging conditions, the KSC staff – senior officers, project manager, field officers and other KSC members – mobilized their energy and creativity to provide best possible services to children within the limited budget. What follows is a short summary of the KSC Sectors activities in 2011.

**Child Protection Sector**

In previous years, the Sector allocated part of its budget for monthly financial assistance to working children to combat the occurrence of child labour in Kurdistan. The assistance was provided by all three KSC offices in: Sulaimaniya, Erbil, and Duhok. The Sector also provided monthly stipends to the children in orphanage, both male and female. After the budget cutting and suspension, the Sector approached the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for providing the required funding. After long negotiations, the funding was secured in Sulaimany, and partially secured in Erbil. The negotiations in Duhok are still under way up to the moment of writing this report. In the meanwhile, the Sector started a new long-term project, supported by the Ministry of Education: a series of workshops on children’s rights and abuse carried out against children.

**Health Sector**

The Sector made the following changes to procure treatment for as many sick children as possible.

An agreement was made between KSC and Sulaimany Health Department to reduce the KSC financial assistance to the Children's Rehabilitation Centre (CRC). According to the agreement, KSC would continue supervise the Centre and expanding its involvement with it. KSC would also continue to provide extra allowance to the CRC staff and funds for buying materials required by the Centre, as well as training. However, KSC was exempted from paying monthly wages to CRC doctors and staff, and would purchase only most necessary materials for the Centre.

A decision was made to change the criteria for financial compensation of the families of sick children undergoing treatment. The complete compensation for treatment would be provided only for the critical cases. Parents of children with less critical conditions were advised to bear the costs of the treatment, with KSC providing partial financial help after the treatment was over.

The Sector had to reduce the numbers of medical teams coming from abroad to treat sick children. Except was made for the teams coming to provide treatment for the children with various heart problems.

**Education Sector**

In 2011, the Sector undertook the following steps to withstand the budget cuttings:

There was reduction of staff working in the Sector’s Centres, with only key staff members left. The expenditure was considerably reduced to buying only the essentially necessary materials. The way of implementing activities was changed to reduce the costs involved.

Despite these changes, the Sector carried out a number of various activities at the Kaziwa Cultural Children's Centres and outside them throughout the year. The Sector was also able to provide assistance to the internally displaced families near Qandil Mountains.
After several visits there, the Sector organized several events to raise money for them.

**Youth Activities Sector**

The following changes were made to continue the work under the limitations of the reduced budget:

The number of staff working at the Youth Activities Centres was reduced, and the changes were made in the way the staff worked and the training courses were delivered. The expenditure of the Centres was reduced to purchasing only the most essential materials.

The Sector cooperated with the Media for advertising the Centres’ events, to reduce the costs of advertising.

Preference was given to organizing music and sport events and conducting them at the Centres’ playground, instead of taking them outside the Centre.

Some of the Centres’ activities, carried out outside the Centres, were hosted by Kurdistan TV, Gali Kurdistan TV and Kurdistan TV.

The Sector was able to obtain some assistance for the required materials, building playgrounds, and some music and sports kits. The Sector was trying hard to build premises for the Halabja Youth Activities Centre.

**Research and Training Sector**

To survive the budget cuttings, the Sector change the focus from workshop training to lobbying the Government for providing academic training in the fields of knowledge, presently unavailable in the Region. The main objective was to assist the government in identifying the projects that would better serve the needs of children with special needs and their families.

Working in close cooperation with the various Ministries and Departments of the Kurdistan Regional Government and with educational institutions abroad, the Sector was paving the way for bringing together the local government and NGOs to work together in a concerted effort in serving children with specific needs.

**Austrian Vocational Training Institute**

By 2011, the Austrian Vocational Training Institute has been functioning for two years. In 2011, the main focus of the training was shifted to home water / sewage / electric power installations, with the syllabus prioritizing a hands-on approach to learning installation of both hot and cold water supply systems.

To combat the budget cuttings, the Institute management cancelled monthly stipends previously paid to the trainees, and asked the trainees to pay the costs of their lodgings. However, the Sulaimany Chamber of Commerce stepped in by promising to provide for the trainees’ basic needs throughout the period of their training. It also promised to assist in procuring a piece of land for constructing a new Institute building in the future.

Apart from the change in the projects, KSC conducted an overall reduction of the employed staff both in its sectors and at the office. Generally, a sector staff was reduced to 2-3 members, and the number of drivers allocated to a sector was reduced to one. In case of new projects, the contract with new employees was signed for the duration of the project only. In the process of staff reduction, the contract with KSC permanent staff members was terminated only if the staff member had an additional source of income, apart from their salaries at KSC.

**Plans for 2012**

In 2012, the KSC is planning to be engaged in:

1- Carrying out educational projects and training programmes for the children with special needs.

2- Conducting the projects focusing on children’s rights, for social workers at schools and general public.

3- Reviewing the criteria of eligibility for distant sponsorship, and evaluating the activities of the KSC Sponsorship Sector.

4- Organizing the hands-on training of physiotherapists working at the Sulaimany Children’s Rehabilitation Centre by two professors in physiotherapy invited from India.

5- Conducting an intensive media campaign to promote the activities of the KSC Youth Activities Centres.
In 2011, Child protection sector started a new project for protecting children from different kinds of abuse. Underlying this project is implementation of Article 19 of the Convention on the Children’s Rights. The project focuses on protecting children in basic (primary-intermediate) schools from physical, psychological, sexual abuse and neglect. The project will last for three years; it will be implemented in Sulaimany city and its suburbs in cooperation with Department of Education and Departments of Sociologists and Educational Psychologists.

In 2011, the following projects were implemented in the areas of educational training, reuniting children with their families, juvenile delinquency, Kochar School Project, and family/child support and protection.

Educational Training – Protecting Children from Different Kinds of Abuse.

The aims of the project can be summed up as follows:

* Raising awareness of the social workers and school headmasters about the baselines of child abuse.
* Controlling violence among children.
* Protecting children from any type of violence in schools.
* Providing information to teachers on different types of violence.

In the course of project implementation, the following actions were taken.

* A five-day training course on children’s rights and child protection baseline was offered to 34 headmasters of basic (primary-intermediate) schools. The course was carried out from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm at the KSC Meeting Hall.
* A twelve-day training course in the A.R.T Model was offered to 79 social workers (41 social workers from Chamcharal town, 38 from Sulaimany). Three aspects of the Model were presented in the following sequence: Raising Social Skills, Anger Management, and Ethics training. There was also given information on children’s rights and child protection strategies.
* After each course, an evaluation was conducted to find out to what extent the courses were effective. According to the evaluation, 90% of the participants found the content of the courses to be of great importance to them.
* We provided 40 chairs, 6 tables, 4 curtain sets, one door, an office table and one rotating chair to the department of sociology and psychology of the Sulaimani Education Directorate.
* Organizing a 17-day workshop for the officers of the KSC Child Protection Sectors in Sulaimani, Erbil and Duhok, introducing to them the Aggression Replacement Training (ART) Model, aimed at helping children and adolescents improve social skill competence. The workshop also covered the basics of child protection from violence.

Reuniting children with their families

This project has been ongoing since the establishment of the sector in 1995. The main aim of this project is to help the children, who are victims of domestic instability, to get reunited with their families. We do our utmost to help such children to stay with their families, as it is the best place for children to live. But if the child's life in the family is unstable, the children are taken to the Social Care Houses, run by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The project is in progress in Sulaimaniyah province.

The objectives of the project are as follows:
* Providing safety for the children who are at risk in their own homes.
* Handing over children at risk to the Social Care Houses.

In 2011, the project implementation resulted in the following outcomes:
* 11 female cases were solved within their family.
* 14 male cases were solved within their family.
* 8 children were handed over to the Social Care Houses because it was impossible to solve the existing problems within their family.

Juvenile delinquency

This project also is an ongoing project, started in 1997. After eight years from its start, the Juvenile Delinquency Project developed into a program, embracing the following projects: establishment of Male and Female Observation houses, Juvenile Police Department, Juvenile Court, and Social Correction Facility. Presently, the project focuses mainly on the conditions of the juveniles held in custody. The main objectives of the project are as follows:
* Monitoring the situation of the juveniles held in custody in Juvenile police stations located inside and outside the cities.
* Helping to improve the conditions of detention.

In the process of the project implementation, the following actions were taken:
* For the purpose of highlighting the shortcomings in the juvenile police stations in the areas outside the main cities, and for improving the situation of juvenile held in custody there, the KSC officers visited the Deputy of Minister of Internal Affairs. Several visits were also made to the police stations outside the main cities, with the purpose of informing them of the risks involved when juveniles are kept together with the adult detainees. We have also suggested that Juvenile Police Departments be established in the densely populated areas, such as Chamchamal, Kalar, Rania, and Halabja.
* KSC was able to provide a vocational trainer for the Observation House and the Correction Facility.
* KSC provided a water pump for an artesian well, as well as a drinking water cooler for the Juvenile police department.

Kochar School Project:

This ongoing project started in 2010. It is carried out in cooperation with the Sulaimaniyah Directorate of Education. The project involves providing school education to the children of gypsies who live under the tents in the outskirts of Sulaimaniyah City. The project's ultimate aim is to prevent these children from
begging by providing educational services to them. The Directorate of Education provided a school building at the Aqari neighbourhood, whereas the KSC was providing logistic support to the school. In 2011, there were 30 students attending the school.

The main objectives of the project are as follows:
* Providing educational services for children living under tents in the outskirts of Sulaimaniyah city.
* Preventing them from begging.
* Providing the means of transportation to the students.
* Providing one meal per school day.
* Monitoring the educational process at school.

Child Support Project

The Child Protection Sector has been implementing this project as a background project since the establishment of the sector. The main objective of this project is to provide financial assistance to the people in dire need of help, who directly visit KSC seeking support.

By providing for various immediate needs of the poor families, KSC helps to create a better environment for their children.

Family/Child Support and Protection

In 2011 we were able to accomplish the following:
* Provide 6 month rental cost for a family who have 6 children and no any significant source of living.
* Provide milk and other needs for three families who have twins and were unable to feed them properly.
* Provide clothing for 617 children, donated by a benevolent person. We also provided clothes for 47 children living in the orphanages.
* Provide pocket money for 47 children living in orphanages, in addition to the stipend paid by the government. We also provided financial support for 18 children who once lived in orphanages and who presently live within their own families.
* Monitor and follow up 4 cases of violence against children in orphanages. Two children confessed that they had faced harassment by the employees of the orphanage. Because of this, these children were returned to their brother’s house and presently live there. The other two children with similar complaints were so desperate that one of them tried to commit a suicide.

These four cases of violence were reported to the officials of Sulaimaniyah Directorate of Social Affairs, as well as to the Attorney General Department. A joint committee was formed to investigate the allegations, with 2 officers of the KSC Child Protection Sector serving on it. The final report of the committee confirmed the reported instances of violence and found other violations in orphanages. As a result, the two social workers were transferred from the orphanage. However, in the Attorney General report, no other penalty was inflicted on the employees in the orphanage.
Ari Returns to School

Ari, a 6-year-old boy, was kept locked in a room by his parents from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm. Instead of going to school or playing with other children, he was staying alone at home, crying all the time, waiting for his mother or father return home and save him from being there all alone. His constant companions were fear and loneliness.

Since this situation continued for quite some time, the neighbours couldn’t stand it anymore. They got in touch with the KSC Child Protection Sector. When KSC learned about this case, the KSC Child Protection officers immediately paid a visit to Ari’s house in November 2011 at 3:00 pm to have first-hand knowledge about the situation in the house. When KSC officers found the house, they knocked at the door several times, but no one opened it. The officers asked the neighbours whether there was anyone in the house. They answered that there was only Ari, a little boy, there. They called, “Ari…. Ari….”. Finally poor Ari answered looking at them out of the window. He told them that he could not open the door because his mother locked the doors and his parents were at work. The officers promised him that this would be the last time for Ari to stay at home alone. They promised him that the neighbours would look after him until his mother and father returned home.

Next day at 9:00 pm, the Child Protection officers visited Ari’s mother at home. They asked her what her problems were. She told them that they were poor and she and her husband had to work to provide for their needs. She was working as a cleaner at a company, and her husband was a night guard there. Both of them had to work at the same time. She told them that she needed to have a day time job so that she could look after her son. KSC officers explained to her the risks of leaving their son at home alone and told her that she should never do that again. They also warned her that she had to send Ari back to school, on that very day. The KSC officer visited Ari’s school and completed the admission procedure so that Ari could start attending school soonest possible. Now Ari is at school and when he returns home his mother welcomes him in.
In 2011, Sponsorship sector continued to provide financial support to orphans and children from the low-income families.

In the past, the sponsorship program used to be one of the most effective KSC programs; however, due to inflation and ongoing price rises, its significance presently considerably decreased. Nevertheless, the programme still has positive impact on the children from the low-income families, and especially those who are in dire necessity of financial help, by motivating them to continue their education.

By the end of 2011, the sector provided financial support to the overall number of 1478 children in need, with 1200 children receiving financial support from President Talabani’s fund, and the rest of the children being supported by the overseas sponsors. The countries that sponsor children living in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq via KSC the Sponsorship Sector include Switzerland sponsoring 83 children; Italy providing help to 78 children; Holland lending a helping hand to 20 children; UK taking care of 25 children; Denmark helping 30 children; Finland taking responsibility for 10 children; Germany – 2; USA – 2; Australia – 1, and finally 27 children are sponsored by the local sponsors inside Kurdistan.

In 2011, the financial support was distributed once every two months, with 1989 field visits being made all over Kurdistan as follows, 421 visits were made to Sulaimaniy, 256 – to Qaladiza, 525 visits to Koya, 233 to Chamchamal, 248 to Halabja, and, finally to Kalar – 315 visits.

Field visits were made to 375 families for entering their children to the sponsorship program. New application forms were filled in for 277 families. Upon considering the application forms, 98 families were found to be ineligible for being accepted to the programme in accordance with the Sponsorship terms and conditions. In 2011, 195 children were excluded from the sponsorship program. Visits were made to 68 families for the purpose of delivering gifts from the children’s sponsors. Ms Maureen McLuckie, KCF coordinator in the UK, visited 11 families delivering gifts and support that came from the UK and Holland. Other 105 visits were made to the families for monitoring, follow up, taking pictures and sending them to the sponsors or letter writing to the sponsors.

From July to November 2011, the Sponsorship Sector received 269 letters from the sponsored children. They were all translated and sent to the sponsors either by e-mail or post. The letters included final letters, regular letters and thank-you notes.

Additionally, the Sponsorship Sector, to some extent, was able to provide support for 14 families who had various problems, such as lack of opportunities for getting proper education for their children, and lack of sponsors to provide the required financial support. Furthermore, the Sponsorship Sector was monitoring the educational success of the sponsored children by requesting a letter of certification from the school they attend, in order to be aware of their school performance and to be sure that they continue their education.

Moreover, in 2011 the sponsorship sector:
* prepared and sent 109 e-mails to overseas sponsors,
* received and translated 59 e-mails
* prepared and sent out 53 final reports
* prepared 1 regular report
* prepared 16 new reports
* translated and sent 13 receipts to the overseas sponsors.

The Sector has an extensive database wherein all information on the sponsored children is gathered and regularly updated.

At the end of 2011, the Sector’s team proposed some suggestions for making the sponsorship programme more effective in the coming year.
Ara’s father had a stroke and passed away when Ara was 7 years old. After his death, Ara and her mother were left with practically nothing. There was no money to live on, and no place to live in. Before Ara’s father death, the family used to live in a rented place, but since there was no money to pay for the rent, they had to leave. They moved to live with Ara’s grandmother, her mother’s mother, who, after her son’s loss, was psychologically quite unstable. She used to talk to herself and was often short tempered, particularly when spoken to loudly. Ara and her mother lived in a room that used to be a kindergarten. The building was once a place where children played but now the walls were black with soot, as people cooked on a fire built inside the rooms, as there was no enough money to buy kerosene. Ara was not allowed to play noisy games like other children because of her grandmother’s angry fits. Ara and her mother were afraid that Ara’s grandmother would lose her temper and would throw them out onto the streets.

After the KSC sponsorship officers visited Ara’s family and saw the family conditions, the Sector decided to enter Ara to the sponsorship program. Ara’s form was sent to Switzerland and fortunately a Swiss sponsor agreed to sponsor her. At that time, the amount sent by the sponsor's money was enough not only to cover Ara’s immediate needs, but also the needs of the whole family. Because of this, Ara and her mother were now in better relations with Ara's grandmother, as she had no breadwinner and lived on the people’s charity. The fund that the Sponsorship Sector provided to the family was the sole income for the family to live on.

As time passed on, Ara’s mother was getting older, yet she was persevering and, against all odds, continued helping her daughter get education. She found an employment and worked as a cleaner, receiving a small salary every month. Ara went to school and was studying very hard. Year after year, Ara’s mother proudly showed Ara’s final grades to the KSC sponsorship team, promising that Ara would continue attending school. She was thankful for the KSC’s continued support to Ara saying that it was the gift she would take with her to Ara.

On the day when Ara was to receive her final exam results, the KSC sponsorship officer was there with her. After completing the secondary school, Ara was admitted to an institute in Sulaimani. Both Ara and her mother were very glad for this because they would have been unable to afford the expenses of studying at college had Ara been admitted to it. Yet, both of them were greatly concerned whether they would be able to meet the education costs. Once again KSC helped them by covering Ara’s annual fees, providing monthly support and gifts, as well as food, clothes, and household stuff.

This year Ara graduated from the Institute. The KSC sponsorship officer attended her graduation party. The sponsorship officer gave her a graduation bunch of flowers, and took numerous photos with her on this memorable day. The KSC sponsorship team is sure that the help Ara received from KSC will teach her to be helpful to others in the future, in the same way as she was helped in the past.

Ara and her mother gave numerous thanks to KSC, yet KSC is forever grateful to that Swiss sponsor who didn’t let KSC and Ara down and sponsored her, for without his/her help it would’ve been impossible for Ara to finish education.
Education Sector

The KSC Education sector supervises 7 educational projects, wherein 114 officers and trainers are employed. The Sector’s main responsibility is coordinating these projects, providing for their financial and logistic needs, as well as administering and monitoring their activities. In each project there are several departments that provide services to children.

The Education Sector’s projects can be divided into long term projects and short term projects. The long term projects are as follows: Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centres, Shahid Jabbar Exemplary School, Sara Cultural Center, and Children’s Music Band. The short term projects are: reintegration of dropouts to school, conducting educational training workshops, and supporting the families of internally displaced living in refugee camps around Qandil Mountain, victims of the Turkish and Iranian bombardment. There are also joint projects carried out in cooperation with other KSC sectors.

Long term projects

Project 1: Shahid Jabbar Exemplary School

Opened in 2001 by KSC in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Shahid Jabbar Exemplary School is a mixed-sex school, providing intermediate and secondary education to its students from grade 7 to grade 12. Annually, the school admits 50 students who have completed the primary school with high grades. The admission is conditional on passing the school admission test.

Language of instruction in scientific subjects is English. The students are taught English, Kurdish, and Arabic languages. There are classes in Sports, Arts, and Music.
The school has developed and abides by a set of rules and regulations obligatory for all students, teachers, and members of administrative staff. In teaching, the school uses a method of small group teaching. The main objective of the school is to build the students’ self-confidence by listening to what they suggest and acting on them. For this reason, there is a student representative of each classroom on the teaching council.

Although Shahid Jabbar Exemplary School was not among the top schools for the academic year 2010-2011, but its outcome was really good. Out of 32 students, 29 completed the school and 3 decided to get transferred to other exemplary schools. Among those who completed the school, 27 were admitted to the Government universities (11 students – to medical colleges, 7 – to engineering, 4 – to Kurdistan College in Erbil, 3 – to Technical College, and 1 – to the College of Law). The remaining 2 students were enrolled by private colleges.

In 2011-2012 academic year, 299 students attended the school (124 male, 175 Female), with an average number of 50 students in each grade.

**Project 2: Sara Cultural Centre**

Started in 2001, this cultural project aimed at providing the people with a space for rest, recreation, and reading. The main objective of the project is to provide an opportunity for social interaction and integration. Another objective is to urge all people and, in particular, the youth to read books and other publications instead of wasting their time on something that does not contribute to their overall development. The Centre has two spacious halls, a library and a reading room. There are different categories of books in several languages in the library. A huge number of people drop in on this Centre every day.

This Centre is open from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm in winter, and in summer – from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. In 2011, 37010 people visited the Centre, of whom 33541 were males and 3469 – females.

**Project 3: Children's Music Band**

Children’s Music Band was opened in 2003, and it has been providing ongoing services to children ever since. Only children from the age of 8 to 16 are accepted in this project. According to their choice, they are taught to play the piano, flute, guitar, clarinet, violin, various kinds of drums, and santur. The children are taught free of charge by professional performers. In 2011, 125 children took part at the Music Band, of whom 47 were females and the rest was males.

**Project 4: Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centers**

Kaziwas are four educational projects, two of them, Sarshaqam and Sara Kaziwas are in Sulaimania city. Sara Kaziwa was opened in 1997, and Sarshaqam Kaziwa – in 2001. There are also two Kaziwas outside Sulaimania City: One of them, in Bazian district, was opened in 2005, and the other, in Chwarta town, – in 2006.

There are different departments in all Kaziwas, such as Drawing/Painting, Library, English Language, Computer, Ceramics, Music, Graphics, Folk Music, Theatre, Video Games, Video, Table Tennis and Educational Training. Children are provided an opportunity of ongoing learning through the participation in the activities of the department of their choice and interest.

The working time in the Kaziwas is from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. They are opened to children from the age of 6 to 14. Kaziwas provide an opportunity for every child to develop their potentials and get acquainted with their rights. The overall number of children who participated in Kaziwa departments in 2011 was 1862, of whom 1366 were males and the rest were females.

**Short term projects**

**Project 1: Educational workshop for teachers in Kindergartens**

This project is an educational project; aimed at raising the level of knowledge of the kindergarten staff about the child care. It was planned to carry out the project as a series of
workshops delivered directly to each individual kindergarten. The workshop content, based on the European models, was to cover the basic principles of working with children in kindergartens, including discussions on the way the kindergarten staff should treat children in various situations. Unfortunately, the Sector was unable to start this project in 2011 because of the cutting of the KSC budget, as well as the bombardment of the villages in the Qandil Mountain area, after which the priority was shifted to providing assistance to the people displaced by the direct bombardments of their villages.

Project 2: Providing an ongoing training for the children with special needs

This one-year project is focused on various aspects of special education, more specifically on providing assistance to children with special needs. The main focus of the project is on the children with hearing impairments and with speech problems, as well as children suffering from dementia and isolation. A special room for speech therapy was made ready to work with children having some of the above-mentioned problems. Initially, the Sector organized training for the employees who were interested in training children having speech problems. The training was done and supervised by Dr Nawzad Chamany, speech pathologist from Iran. The project targets children from low-income families who cannot afford the fees of specialized centres.

This project was launched on October 1, 2012 in Kaziwas of Sara and Sarshaqam. Before launching the project, leaflets, providing information on the project, were issued and distributed at schools. During November and December, 6 children attended Speech Therapy sessions in Sara Kaziwa and 2 – in Sarshaqam. The time-table for individual sessions was developed and given to the patients.

The project was carried out in cooperation with KSC Health Sector under an ongoing guidance and supervision of Dr Nawzad Chamany, the KSC speech pathologist.

Project 3: Reintegrating school dropouts into schools

KSC had problems in obtaining funding for this
project. Several possibilities were tried with no success. Finally, the Sector came up with an idea of raising a fund by selling the art works and handmade items made by the children in Kaziwas. When the Sector team explained to the Kaziwa children the project's objective, they were very happy and proud that they could contribute in providing help to their peers who were in need of it.

The sale of the Kaziwa handmade items was launched at the Amina Suraka Museum and lasted for two days. The income of the sale was sufficient for the project start. Among the children attending Sarshaqam Kaziwa, 21 school dropouts were identified. The Sector team was able to reintegrate 8 school dropouts back to school, but failed to do the same with the rest of them due to some existing problems. The most pressing problem was that 7 of the school dropouts, above the age of 10, were bread-winners of their families, and the other 3 were girls above the age of 11. Their families were adamant that, in accordance with traditional beliefs, they should contribute to the income of their families. The other 3 children were given clothes, and an allowance covering their school needs that their families were unable to provide for them.

Project 4: Supporting the internally displaced people living in the villages around the Qandil Mountain

For the purpose of supporting the internally displaced families of the Qandil area, the KSC Education Sector made several visits to the Qandil Mountain and its surrounding areas. In particular, the Sector's team visited the two camps of Gojar and Mangurayaty. The aim of the visits was to deliver aid and find out how children spent their time in the camp, and what they were doing during the day. After evaluating the situation of the families in the camp, KSC was able to provide basic needs assistance for the families. Additionally, the KSC doctor visited the camps to give a medical check up and to provide the prescribed medications.

On August 9, 2011, when the bombardment restarted, the KSC Education and Health Sectors visited the Gojar camp for internally displaced persons. Since the people in the camp had been staying in it for quite some time, the Sector's team decided to give each child a haircut using the facilities donated by a hair salon free of charge as a token of cooperation in the project. The KSC Health Sector provided medications and medical
equipment to the camp's population. Later, on September 5, 2011, KSC in cooperation with KRG Department of Children's Culture and Music organized a fundraising concert under the name of Hawary Khak (the Homeland Crying for Help) at the Azadi Park. In that event, 1,621,000 Iraqi dinars were raised and allocated for the needs of the internally displaced people in the area.

In November 2011, KSC revisited the camps, this time accompanied by Mr. Rajesh, a British lawyer who wanted to collect eyewitness's reports of the bombardment that would enable him to let the world know about them, and to prepare a legal case for submission to the Hague International Law Court. The KSC team and the lawyer visited Zudawa Village and made some interviews with people who survived the bombardment.

As the needs of the displaced people were growing steadily, KSC decided to organize another fundraising event: a book sale and a sale of handicraft items made by the children of four Kaziwas. The books on the sale were brought to KSC by Ms. Maureen McLuckie, KCF coordinator in UK. The event was a great success. The sale outcome amounted to 3,222,000 Iraqi dinars and 115 US dollars. The amount will be used for building a school at Bardaqisl village, which, together with other villages, was devastated by bombardments. Before the bombardment, the building previously occupied by the village school was a village stable. The KSC Engineering Department will supervise the building of a new school in the coming year.

Project 5: Renovation of Aliawa Foundational (Primary+Intermediate) School

The fund for renovating this school came from a German Donor Mr. Peter Strobel. The renovation process was supervised by Ms McLuckie, KCF coordinator in UK, and the KSC Education Sector. BPI (Austrian Vocational Training Institute) took part in the renovation process, which included installation of a running water system, and a boiler. The Sector is planning to expand the school in the coming year. There were no previous government plans for renovating the school.

Project 6: Organizing a workshop on the issue of protecting children from abuse

This is a joint project conducted by the KSC Child Protection Sector in cooperation with the Education Sector. Its main objective is to raise awareness of the social workers and school headmasters about the different kinds of child abuse facing children at school and at home.

The project started in May 2011 and would last for one year.

Education Sector's Activities in 2011

January 2011/

* Christmas gifts to children living in Zirguez camps were delivered

* A workshop on the topic of child social isolation was organized and delivered to the staff of Kaziwa Kindergarten in Qalawa neighbourhood of Sulaimaniah. The main focus of the workshop was on how to help children be more socially responsive through motivating them to play with other children.

February 2011/

* A workshop on the issues of environment was conducted in Chwarta town at Chwarta Kaziwa in cooperation with Department of Environment.

* A special ceremony of presenting flowers to the teachers and employees of the Shahid Jabbar School was held to acknowledge their role in their school being top among other exemplary schools in the Kurdistan Region.

March 2011/

* A musical party was held for the four Kaziwas at the Chwarta Kaziwa for promoting friendship between the children from different Kaziwas

* A picnic was organized for 93 children of Qwik village with the purpose of promoting friendship between the children from Kaziwa and the children of the village.

April 2011/

* Recording was made of a song performed by a child participating in the activities of the KSC Children's Music Band. The song under
the title of *We will live in reconciliation* was composed by Mr. Bryar Ismael, the Band's teacher.

* A workshop on the topic of how to deal with children was carried out for the staff of the Bazian Kaziwa. The topics discussed included the issues of self dependence, possible responses to children problems and using a Yes-and-No tactics in dealing with children.

**June 2011/**

On the occasion of the Children’s International Day on June 1, the KSC Education Sector, in cooperation with Mercy Corps, organized a party at the Azadi Park playground. The children and the staff of all of the Sector’s projects participated in this event. The main item on the program was a question answering competition, accompanied with a prize award. Another main attraction was an opportunity to use the facilities at the playground free of charge. Papula magazines and toys were given to children as a keepsake to remind them of the day. Music and songs were performed for the audience throughout the celebration.

Similar festivities were organized in Sara Neighbourhood of Sulaimani and at the Juvenile Observation Houses in Sulaimani.

**July 2011/**

A two-day sale of the handmade items made by the children of Kaziwas was conducted at the Amna Suraka Museum Gallery. The aims of the event were to introduce the Kaziwa activities to people and to sell the items on the display to collect the money for integrating school dropouts back into the school system. Kaziwa Drawing/Painting, Graphic, Ceramics, Weaving and Bead handicrafts Departments participated in the sale by displaying the handmade items at the exhibition hall. At the same time, Sarshaqam Kaziwa performed the Sheep Dance inspired by the Shaun the Sheep cartoon film, popular with children in the Region, for those gathered at the event. A data show of various KSC activities, prepared by the KSC Media Department, was also presented.

**August 2011/**

During this month, a series of first aid workshops were conducted for the staff of the
Education Sector’s long-term projects. The workshops were run by Dr. Hersh, KSC Doctor.

September 2011/

Another joint fundraising event was organized and conducted in cooperation with the KRG Department of Music and Arts, Department of KRG Martyrs, and other NGOs in September. The role of KSC in this event was mainly providing technical and logistic help in designing and printing leaflets and posters for the event.

Also, in September, Education Sector organized a musical and dance party to celebrate the start of a new school year. Kaziwas and Children’s Music Band jointly performed several musical pieces and dances.

October 2011/

The Sector participated in a two-day workshop conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) covering the issue of keeping up safety in nurseries, kindergartens, and child centres. The workshop was presented by Mr. Jaffer Maeem, expert on child related issues at MOLSA.

Later in the month, the Sector participated in a five-day workshop for Kaziwa staff on children’s rights and protecting children from violence, conducted by the KSC Child Protection Sector in cooperation with the Education Sector.

November 2011

The Sector donated toys and playthings for the children at the kindergarten of Zirguez camp for displaced people.

Also, on the occasion of introducing the Convention of Children’s Rights, KSC prepared a booklet and distributed it in different places. The booklet was prepared by the KSC Media Department and Child protection Sector. The aim of this activity was to let people know about the international conventions protecting children.

December 2011

The Education Sector organized the fundraising sale of books in English brought by Ms. Maureen Mcluckie, KCF coordinator in the UK, and handmade items made by the children of four Kaziwas for building a school at BardaQisl village. Those attending the exhibition could buy books and handmade ornaments. They could also put the donation directly to the donation box. While parents were examining the items put on the display, Kaziwa Art teachers helped their children to draw pictures in the corner specifically set apart for this purpose. The best drawings were afterwards printed in the Papula magazine. There was also a data show exhibiting other KSC activities during the event.
My name is Rasty Jamal Mohammed. I was born on March 30, 1987 in Sulaimani. I grew up in a family where artistic talents were abundant. It might be because of this that since my early childhood, I had a great passion for music.

When I was in primary school, the KSC Children’s Cultural Centre (Kaziwa) organized courses in music, stage performance, drawing, and some sports during the summer holidays. Since I had been always passionate about music, I decided to attend the music classes at the Sara Kaziwa. Miss Chiman, our instructor, taught us some music basics, which added to my knowledge about rhythmic instruments, especially drums.

By 2001, a group of my friends and I were still attending music classes at the Sara Kaziwa. At that time, our instructor was Mr. Hazhar. Under his instruction, I started learning how to play Saz and was able to fluently play some musical pieces on saz. During the years of 2002-2003, I became a leader of our music group. At that time, I participated in numerous festivals and parties organized by the Kaziwa.

After I finished the secondary school, I was employed by the Sulaimania Governorate. While working there, I continued to study, attending the evening classes at the College of Statistics and Computer. I graduated in 2010. During the whole period of my study, my interest in music never abated.

In 2005, I joined Sahand Music Group, and, as a member of this group, I made my first performance to the public. Then I became a music instructor at the KSC Kaziwa, a place where I first learnt how to play musical instruments. Because of my passion for music, I applied for transferrance from my job at the Governorate to the Sulaimany Department of Arts. I truly love my present work very much.

I am presently playing Saz, Lute, and other stringed instruments. I also compose music. I have composed numerous pieces of Kurdish and Eastern music. I presently work as a music instructor at the Sulaimany Institute of Music. Having participated in several seminars, TV shows, short films, concerts, stage performances, I continue to compose music.

I am very much grateful to KSC Kaziwas and wish them success in their ongoing efforts of helping children develop their potentials and make their dreams come to life.
The Youth Sector runs eight Youth Activities Centres situated in different places of Iraqi Kurdistan. These centres provide services to the youth living in the area, including those coming from different ethnic backgrounds, having different political views, or religious/sectarian beliefs. The main aim of the Youth Activities Centres is to provide a better future to youths by offering them better opportunities to discover and develop their potentials.

What follows is a brief presentation of the Sector’s activities in 2011.

SULAIMANIAH YOUTH ACTIVITY CENTER

The Centre was founded on July 27, 1998. Presently, it comprises the following departments: Computer, Graphic Arts, Hair dressing, Library, Language, Music, and Sports.

Total number of youths who attended the Centre in 2011 was 2025, of whom 1509 were males and 516 – females.

In 2011, the activities of each of the Centre’s departments were as follows:

Computer and Internet Department: There were organized 12 courses for 317 youths for teaching them how to use the following programs: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Data base, Hardware, Windows, Formatting, 3D, Max, Photoshop, Network and Internet browsing skills.

Music Department: The total number of 256 youths was taught how to play daf, drum, santur, flute, guitar, violin, and cello.

Graphic Arts Department: The department conducted 4 courses in drawing and painting wherein 163 youths participated. It also organized an exhibition at the Amna Suraka Gallery, which gave an opportunity for 17 participants of the courses to demonstrate their work.

Language Training: The department organized 14 language courses for mastering English, Arabic, and Kurdish languages.

Vocational Training Department: The department organized 12 training courses in hairdressing, wherein 179 youths took part. The main objective of the training was to empower youths for having better job opportunities.

Library: in 2011, 471 youths visited the library and checked out 103 books.

Sports Department: The department offered ongoing training in football, volleyball,
basketball, Kung fu, Thai kuan du, body building, and tennis to the total number of 560 youths. The Centre’s Football Team met in friendly matches with 18 other football teams in Sulaimany. The Centre’s Basketball Team took part in a championship with 14 other teams in Sulaimany and won the third place at the end of the championship. The Department also organized a competition for the school football teams at the Centre’s stadium, which started on January 22 and ended on February 10, 2011.

Extra Activities: The Centre organized a book sale exhibition on March 2, 2011. More than 5000 titles were put on a display, with 50% discount offered on each book on the sale.

The Centre also arranged a seminar on the topic of “the harm of smoking, including cigarettes and Hookah”, presented by Dr. Bakhan and attended by 65 youths.

KALAR YOUTH ACTIVITY CENTRE

Opened in 2002, the Centre offers educational opportunities for cultural and artistic development of the youth in Kalar. The Centre comprises the following departments: Computer and Internet, Graphic Arts, Music, Languages, Sports, Library, Tailoring, Hairdressing, and Music and Rhythm.

In 2011, the total number of 3158 youths took part in the Centre’s activities, of whom 2319 were males and 839 – females. Below is a summary of the departments’ activities:

Computer and Internet Department: The department conducted 36 training courses wherein 788 youths took part, teaching them how to use Word, Excel, Windows, Formatting, Internet and Media Studio.

Music Department: The department offered 18 training courses to 202 participants teaching them how to play violin, guitar, flute, and other musical instruments. In the outcome of the courses, a music group and a daf group, comprised of 26 performers, were established at the Centre.

Graphic Arts Department: The department offered 17 training courses in drawing and painting to 268 participants. It also organized three exhibitions wherein the paintings/drawings of the course participants were exhibited to the general public. Also, a one-month course in calligraphy was conducted for the youths interested in developing their penmanship skills.

Library: in 2011, 2940 people visited the Centre’s library and checked out 1040 books. During the year, 103 books were donated to the library by those who visited the Centre.
English Language Department: The department offered the courses of English, both at the beginner's and advanced levels to 1379 participants. It also provided an opportunity for the course participants to practically use the language via participation in dialogues on various topics, conducted in English.

Vocational Training Department: The department offered courses in hairdressing and tailoring to 104 youths, of whom 56 male participants were learning the skill of hair cutting and styling, and 48 females were learning the basics of tailoring.

Sports Department: The department offered training in football, ping pong, chess and volleyball to 2146 participants. Three football tournaments were organized, wherein 12 friendly matches were played. The department also organized 27 ping pong tournaments, and 8 chess tournaments, wherein 48 youths took part. Two volleyball tournaments were also organized, wherein 100 youths participated.

Extra activities: On October 24-25, 2011, the Centre, in cooperation with the Khanakeen Youth Activities Centre, organized the Youth Talents joint event, wherein the youth from Kalar and Khanakeen took part. The total number of 568 youths participated in the event, of whom 400 were males and 280 – females. The event included the Graphic Arts Exhibition, Ping Pong and Chess Tournaments, Music and Song performances. The Kalar Drum Group made its first performance during this event.

Seminars, poem-reading and intellectual meetings: The Kalar Youth Activities Centre, in cooperation with the Khanakeen Youth Activities Centre, organized a joint poem reading event for 6 budding poets from Kalar and Khanakeen, held at the Khanakeen Youth Activities Centre. In another event, the Centre invited a number of Kalar's intellectuals to meet the youth and answer their questions. The Centre prepared 4 radio programs talking on the youth related issues such as, participation of youth in organizational procedures, the effects of smoking on youth, youth and immigration, initiating youth into the educational process.

RANYA YOUTH ACTIVITY CENTER
The Centre was established on September 15, 2001 with the main objective of providing various services to the youth of Ranya via its different departments.
In 2011, the total number of 1812 youths participated in the Centre's activities, of whom 1435 were males and 377 – females.
The Centre provided services to the youth through the following departments:

Computer Department: The department conducted 11 training courses for 563 participants, teaching them how to use the following computer programs: Word, Windows, Photoshop, Formatting, and how to understand and use the Facebook Social network.

Music Department: The department conducted 7 courses, wherein 136 youths took part, to teach them how to play the violin, flute, clarinet, guitar, and sitar. The department also organized 7 music performances, held at the Center. Later on, some of the performers were invited to participate in the programs of Jamawar and Kursat satellite channels. They presented several pieces of music to the wider TV audience.

Graphic Arts Department: The department organized and conducted 6 training courses in drawing and painting for 440 youths. In order to demonstrate the artistic achievements of the courses participants, the department organized 6 exhibitions, which branched out into a new department under the title of Youth Gallery, opened specifically for exhibiting the works of the course participants.

Language Training: The Centre organized 7 language courses for 451 youths as follows: 5 courses for mastering English language, 1 – for Arabic and 1 – for Persian languages.

Library: in 2011, the total of 1677 youths visited the Centre's library, checking out 1503 books.

Sports: In 2011, the department offered its services to 2065 participants who participated in the following events: 110 youths participated in 7 shooting and chess tournaments organized by the department. The Centre's football team participated in 27 friendly matches with other teams in Rania.
The Centre also organized 2 football tournaments for 16 local teams of Ranya. In 2011, the department opened Thai Kuan Du and Kick Boxing courses, attended by 65 youths.

Drama: Ranya Youth Activities Centre opened a drama course for 13 youths, 9 females and 4 males.

Extra activities: This included conducting 6 meetings and seminars at the Centre on the topics evolving around the contemporary issues, such as, *the ethnic Kurdish identity and the national identity in Iraq, the concept of forgiveness in Kurdish Islamism*. It also organized four workshops for the youth.

Book Exhibition: The Centre organized two book exhibitions in cooperation with Aram, Ranma, and Chuarchra libraries and Saya foundation.

HALABJA YOUTH ACTIVITIES CENTER

The Centre was founded on August 20, 2008 to offer services to the youth of Halabja via its departments.

In 2011, the total number of the Centre's participants was 670 youths, of whom 473 were males and the rest were females. The services offered comprised:

Computer Department: The department organized 3 training courses for learning how to use Word and Excel programs, wherein 87 youths took part.

Music Department: The department organized 17 training courses for 180 youths teaching them how to play daf, violin, keyboard instruments, saz, and santur.

Library: The total number of 1657 youths attended the Centre's library and 297 books were checked out.

Sports Department: the total number of 1877 youths took part in the activities of this department in 2011.

Graphic Arts Department: The department opened two training courses in drawing and painting for 78 youths. It also organized a photography exhibition at the Halabja Gallery for the talented youths.

Tailoring Department: The department opened 11 training courses for 152 youths, of whom 105 participants started their own businesses in Halabja, upon the completion of the course. The department also organized a one-month training course in tailoring for 34 females at the Girdanez village, awarding a certificate of completion the course to its participants.

Extra activities:
Throughout the year, the Centre participated in the following events:

**March 16, 2011** – the 23rd commemoration of the Halabja bombardment by the chemical weapons – the Centre's Music Band presented a piece of music and two other activities during the commemoration ceremony.

**March 23, 2011** – the commemoration of the bombardment of Sewsenan village and its surrounded areas by the chemical weapons – the Centre's Music Band visited the area and participated in the commemoration ceremonies held there.

The anniversary of Kurdish Journalism – the Youth Centre organized a concert for the journalists of Halabja at the Halabja Kaziwa Hall.

**The Children's International Day** – the Halabja Youth Center, in cooperation with the Kurdish Association of Arts and Rhetoric, organized an artistic event to celebrate the occasion by presenting several pieces of music to the audience. The event ended by giving a reward to a child at the Halabja Public Park.

**June 21, 2011** – the Music World Day, the Centre's Music Department organized a party at the Halabja Public Park, presenting six songs to the audience.

**June 29, 2011** – on the invitation of Kursat satellite channel, the Centre's Music Group took part in the Rojeki Nwe (a new day) Talk Show.

**December 20, 2011** – the Centre's Music Group took part in a musical party under the name *The Longest Night with Nali* (the famous Kurdish poet).

There were also organized two seminars on the topics of Self Dependence and EMO Phenomenon.
SHORISH YOUTH ACTIVITIES CENTER

The Centre was founded on October 1, 2010; however, it took quite some time before it was ready to offer its services to the youths of Shorish. The Shorish Youth Activities Centre welcomed its first visitors on January 12, 2011 and has been continuing to do so ever since. In 2011, the total number of 1991 youths visited the Centre, of whom 1675 were males and 316 – females.

The Centre offers its services to the youths via the following departments:

Computer Department: The department organized 2 training courses for 50 participants, teaching them how to use Word, Excel, and formatting. Music Department: The total number of 27 youths took part in the activities of the Department; however, since there was no professional trainer employed, this department was less active as compared to other departments of the same Centre.

Library: in 2011, the total number of 3488 youths attended the library, and 227 book check-outs were recorded. The library received a donation of 196 books and 736 magazines from the people outside the Centre.

Sports Department: The department offered training in football, volleyball, basketball, tennis and kick boxing. There were 68 youths trained in playing basketball; 238 youths were trained in playing volleyball; 31 youths were trained in playing football; 2280 participants played table tennis, and 34 were engaged in kick boxing. A tournament was organized for 6 local volleyball teams, and 2 tournaments were organized for the table tennis players.

Graphic Arts and Sculpture Department: The department was opened at the beginning of November 2011. A number of youths attended this department in a hope that an exhibition could be organized in the future to present their works.

Vocational Training Department: The department organized a tailoring training course for 17 female participants on November 25, 2011.

Language Department: The department organized and conducted 6 training courses: 5 for mastering English language and 1 for Kurdish language.

Helping with Math Course: 5 training courses in math were conducted for 110 youths, of whom 74 were males and 36 were females.

Seminars and Cultural Meetings: The Centre organized 8 seminars on the topics of Reaching the Goals, Reasons Underlying Failure at School. Some intellectuals and writers were invited to talk over these issues with the youth.
KHAN AQEEN YOUTH ACTIVITIES CENTRE

Established on April 12, 2005, the Centre has been offering its services to the youths of Khanaqeen ever since via the departments of Computer and Internet, Music, Graphic Arts, Sports, Cultural, and Literature.

The total number of 1995 youths attended the Centre in 2011, of whom 1718 were males, and the rest were females. Below is a summary of the department activities in 2011.

Computer and Internet Department: The department offered 22 training courses on using various computer programs and 14 courses on internet browsing to 1790 youths.

Music Department: There were two music bands established by the department: one – for the players of string instruments, and the other – for those playing the percussion instruments. Two courses were conducted for 54 youths to teach them how to play daf, drum, piano, saz, violin, synthesizers, and guitar. At the end of the year, on November 24, 16 participants took part in a concert performing in front of a wider audience at the Khanaqeen Cultural Centre Hall.

Graphic Arts Department: The total number of 608 participants took part in 17 courses on drawing and painting and demonstrated their work in 3 exhibitions organized by the department.

Library: The total number of 478 youths attended the library and participated in 14 debates conducted inside and outside the Centre.

Sports Department: The total of 7941 visits was made to the department, of which 6330 visits were made by male participants and 1611 – female. The department organized 34 friendly matches and 4 tournaments for the volleyball, basketball, football, table tennis, and chess teams.

Extra activities: The following other activities were conducted at the Centre:

*poem readings and educational seminars* on the youth related topics, and 3 dialogues were organized and conducted at the Centre’s Library hall, as well as a poem reading event for 5 budding poets, two of whom were from Khanaqeen.

March 20, 2011 – the Centre organized an athletic festival on the occasion of Newroz celebrations, which was opened with a ceremony of building the Newroz bonfire and carrying the Newroz bonfire torch.

April 15, 2011 – the Centre organized a musical and poetic event, followed by a show of Kurdish national costumes, wherein 7 young poets recited the poems written in Luri and Sorani dialects of the Kurdish language, as well as in Persian and Arabic languages.

October 25, 2011 – the Centre participated in the festival under the name of Youth Talents, organized jointly with Kalar Youth Activities Centre and conducted at Kalar.

Graphic Arts Exhibition was organized for 23 youths of Khanaqeen. The Centre also arranged a table tennis tournament for 5 youths from the Centre, and 3 other youths from the Centre took part in a chess tournament.

November 24, 2011 – the Centre organized a musical and singing concert at the Khanaqeen Cultural Centre hall, wherein the Centre’s daf group gave a performance; the 16 musicians provided an accompaniment to the young poets reading their poems.

DARBANDIKHAN YOUTH ACTIVITIES CENTRE

The Centre was established in 1998. Initially there were few departments; however, presently the number of the departments has increased and the Centre is able to introduce a variety of extra-departmental activities.

There were 2104 youths who participated in the Centre’s activities in 2011, of whom 1752 were males, and 352 – females. The Centre’s activities in 2011 were as follows:

Computer and Internet Department: Throughout the year, the department offered its services to 4740 youths. The total number of 281 youths participated in the Computer Department activities. Out of this number, 62 youths (39 males and 23 females) attended 8 training courses organized by the department, wherein they were taught how to use Word, Excel, Access, and Photoshop; how to attend to the computer troubleshooting; how to format the computer, and how to make
computer programs. The number of daily visitors of the department was 167 youths. The number of youths that used internet services at the Centre was 4664, of whom 4358 were males and 296 – females.

**Music Department:** The department conducted 19 training courses for 215 participants (213 – males, and 2 – females) who participated in the following activities:

**January 11, 2011**– Hunar Ali Hatim, teacher of daf and director of the Centre's Daf Group, was invited by People's of Kurdistan TV to take part in the *Good Morning* program to introduce The Centre's Daf Group to the wider audience.

**February 2012** – The Centre’s Daf Group performance of "Erfani Music" in Darbandikhan and surrounding villages was filmed by Shahram Iladi, Iranian film director, as part of his film on "Erfani" spiritual music that he was making.

**April 14, 2011** - The Centre's Wafaiy Daf Group performed to a wide audience in the ceremony of commemorating the victims of Anfal in Rizgar area.

**July 16, 2011** – The Department took part in decorating and illuminating the stage for the concert, given by Ahmed Barzanji and sponsored by Kurdsat TV.

**September 1, 2011** – The Centre's Daf Group participated in the *Rojeki new Kurdsat* program shown on the first day of Ramazan Feast.

**October 24, 2011** – The Centre's Daf and Music Group participated in the Second Ser-shaqlam Theatre Festival, held in Darbandikhan.

**November 7, 2011** – The Centre's Daf Group participated in the *Rojeki new Kurdsat* program.

**Library:** The total number of 3997 youths attended the library; 2412 book check outs were made, and 307 books were donated to the library.

**Sports Department:** The total number of 3997 youths participated in the following sports activities: football, basketball, volleyball, tennis, chess, fitness classes for boys and girls, and Thai Kuan Du. On July 26, the department organized an exhibition under the title *Photo Archive of Sports Development in Darbandikhan*. It also organized a course on how to be a referee in sports games. The course, attended by 20 participants, was presented by Salah Hama Karim, an international and Iraqi referee.

**KOYA YOUTH ACTIVITIES CENTRE**
The Centre was established on June 20, 2002 with the main objective of providing services to the youth living in the area, irrespective
of their race, political views, ethnicity, or religious/sectarian beliefs by offering them the opportunities for discovering and developing their inner potentials. The Centre comprises the following departments: music, graphic arts, computer/Internet, library, languages, male and female physical fitness, Kung Fu, gymnastics, table tennis, chess, and football.

Each participant visiting the Centre has his/her own code number. In 2011, the total number of participants was 1515, of whom 939 were male and 576 – females, who participated in the activities of the following departments:

**Music Department:** The total number of 817 youths participated in the activities organized by this department, which included: four courses in learning how to play various musical instruments, wherein 232 youths took part; participation of the Centre’s Music Group in a competition organized by the Kurdsat TV presented on August 13, 2011 during Ramazan fast; participation of the Centre’s Music Group in a Rojeki Niwe TV programme presented on the Kurdsat TV on August 30, 2011; participation of the Centre’s Music Group, as well as the Centre’s Daff and Guitar performers at the festivities on the occasion of the anniversary of the Centre’s establishment, held on November 3, 2011. The total number of performers, who presented 17 pieces during the event, was 79 youths.

**Graphic Arts Department:** the total number of 185 youths participated in 8 training courses and in 5 exhibitions organized and conducted by the Department.

**Computer and Internet Department:** The total of 131 youths participated in the activities of the department with 59 of them taking part in 3 training workshops dealing with various computer issues.

**Library:** The total number of 610 youths attended the library, of whom 412 were males and 198 females. The total number of 473 books was checked out from the library in 2011.

**Sports Department:** The total of 1803 youths, of whom 1413 were males and 390 – females, took part in the activities of the department, including participation in 3 football games and in a sports festival held at the Centre.

There were delivered 10 training courses on Kung Fu and gymnastics during the period from January 1st to December 4th. The total number of 410 youths participated in the courses and took part in several provincial contests, winning several prizes.

The 12 courses introducing female body fitness workouts were offered to 208 girls. Part of the workout training involved doing 23 treks to the mountains surrounding Koya. Also, throughout 2011, there were delivered 11 male fitness workout training programmes to 419 youths to help them keep their bodies in good shape.

**Language Department:** The department conducted 4 training courses for learning English, wherein 160 youths took part.

**Vocational Training Department:** In 2011, the department organized 5 tailoring training courses for 122 female participants.

**Other Activities:**

The Centre organized 6 meetings, wherein some famous writers and intellectuals in the city were able to meet the youth, to talk to them and answer their questions. The Centre was able to conduct 29 seminars on various issues relevant to youth, which involved discussions on the pressing political and cultural issues, among others.

**Problems encountered by the Sector in 2011:**

There were several problems facing the Sector in 2011, such as:

* The Youth Centre in Halabja needs a more spacious building, specifically designed for the centre. The present building is a residential place rented for using it as a Centre.

* The building accommodating the Youth Centre in Darbandikhan is too small. It needs expansion.

* The building currently used by the Youth Centre in Khanaqin is small and does not meet the required health conditions.
Health Sector

In 2011, Health Sector continued providing ongoing medical services for children patients, especially for those having chronic diseases. On the whole, 580 new cases were recorded in the KSC database, whose parents visited KSC for the first time seeking support and treatment. Out of the total number of the newly recorded cases, 293 were male and the rest were female patients.

In accordance with the established procedure, forms were filled in for each new case. Afterwards, the Sector’s field officers visited the home of each newly recorded patient to collect information on the family’s general situation. The collected information was then recorded in the Sector’s database. Next step involved a subsequent medical check-up of a child by the KSC doctor. Taking into consideration the medical reports, the Health Sector team proceeded with providing treatment for each patient either inside or outside the Kurdistan Region, within the limitations of the KSC budget and facilities.

In 2011, KSC health sector was able to provide the required medical treatment for sick children on the KSC waiting lists in the following countries:

* 46 children were sent to Iran
* 17 children were sent to Tel-Aviv, Israel
* 30 children were sent to India
* 2 children were sent to Turkey
* 16 children were sent to Austria
* one patient was sent to Germany
* one patient was sent to the UK
* one patient was sent to Italy
* 3 children were sent to Amman, Jordan.

Inside the Kurdistan Region, the treatment was provided to:

* 27 children who underwent surgery in Sulaimania, Iraq.
* 12 children who underwent surgery in Erbil, Iraq.
* 69 children who received a surgically cochlear device in Sulaimania, Iraq.
Various forms of medical assistance were provided to:
* 8 children in Sulaimania, Iraq – medical services
* 14 children in Sulaimania, Iraq – digital headsets
* one patient – the required medication.
Medical teams from other countries were invited by KSC to perform surgery on children with congenital heart conditions in hospitals of Sulaimany.
* an American medical team performed heart surgery on 11 children.
* an Italian medical team performed heart surgery on 9 children.

**Mobile Clinic Team Project**
In 2011, the Health Sector’s mobile clinic team made several visits to the villages situated in the vicinity of the Qandil Mountain to conduct the medical check-ups of the children and adults stationed there and to provide the required medication to them.

**Children’s Rehabilitation Center (CRC)**
In 2011, KSC provided some basic tools and facilities to the Center.

**Establishing Close Relations with Medical Teams Abroad**
Throughout the year, the sector was engaged in establishing close relations with the members of medical profession from various places of the world.
* In 2011, American and Italian medical teams visited Sulaimania twice. They examined the children having heart problems, registered by the KSC Health Sector as the children in need of urgent medical treatment. The doctors performed echo heart test for all children with congenital heart problems on the KSC waiting list. The visit was concluded by Dr. Kirk and Dr. Novik performing heart surgery on several children.
* A KSC team consisting of the KSC Doctor and a member of the KSC staff went to Iran to attend a conference on children with cleft lip and palate held in Isfahan. The main speaker at the conference was Dr. Brian Csommerland, a specialist in congenital malformations and deformations in the UK.
* The KSC Sulaimania Program Manager and the KSC Doctor visited India with the purpose of signing an agreement with the Max Super Specialty Hospital to treat children referred there by KSC.
* A German team from Munich visited Sulaimany for the purpose of opening a center for children with disabilities and special needs, with KSC playing an important role in negotiations and providing support for this project.
Better Health for Sundus

Helping sick children is one of the main aims of KSC. That’s is why the KSC Health Sector is frequently visited by the families who are seeking treatment for their children, or cannot afford the cost of treatment for their children in specialized centers. KSC Health Sector has been involved in providing treatment and health care for sick children since its establishment.

One of the sick children who visited the KSC Health Sector was a 5-year girl, whose name was Sundus Yassen Hamid. Sundus suffered from the congenital heart disease. She was born on January 16, 2006 at Halaabia town in a poor family with low income. Sundus had two sisters: Sunbul, her younger sister, was born in 2003, and Kani, the youngest one, – in 2009. The family lived in a two-room house, made of mud bricks and wooden roof. Sundus’ father, who suffered from epilepsy, was a cleaner at a hospital. His salary was hardly enough to provide for the daily needs, and the family lived in a dire need.

The KSC Health Sector, after learning about the financial condition of the family, was able to send Sundus to India on October 25, 2011 for heart surgery and to pay for it.

Fortunately, Sundus’ surgery was successful, and she returned to her family on November 8, 2011. The family was very happy when she came back safe and in a better health than she used to be.
Search for Alternative Ways
The year of 2011 started with a big challenge – the immanency of funding cuts. Uncertainty about funding put at risk not only the Sector’s activities, but also most of the KSC projects. The pivotal question facing the Sector, and KSC as a whole, was how to continue working under the threat of funding cuts. The short and long term effects of persistent funding threats implicate the Sector and general mandate of the KSC and its employees such that unsecured funding chisels away at the morale and productivity and the outcomes of all the intended and required projects and programs. Only a reaffirmation and secured funding by Government can make the difference.

If childrens’ lives, health and well-being remain a priority then threats on funding need to be eliminated. If funding cuts remain impending threats, then it is necessary to ask some very important questions. Judicious internal and governmental reflection requires that we review the either or both the activities or and/or the approach to the way these activities are implemented. Is it possible that by changing an approach to achieve more than the organization survival, we might be able to take advantage of the adverse situation to bring about some far-reaching changes into the way NGOs function, and possibly influence the changes and demonstrate leadership into the way the whole society functions?

Initially, the distress and burden over funding problem was predominant. Baffling questions as to why funding was being cut remained felt ubiquitous, yet remained largely unarticulated. Life demanded that daily tasks be attended to and daily problems be solved. On the whole, through-out the year, the necessity to attend to daily routine won over the urgency of finding the answers to those questions. Yet, it is in the process of attending to daily tasks the answers to the quest-ions gradually started to emerge. This 2011 Report outlines how the Sector demonstrated inno-vative responses to the challenges of funding cuts by searching for alternative and improved ways of working.
In 2011, the Sector's work evolved around the following projects: (1) making efforts to organize several workshops aimed at raising professional standards of the government employees; (2) organizing Family Support Groups for monitoring the progress of children examined by Dr. Amitesh and Dr. Jaya, two esteemed professors from India, during their visit to Sulaimany in 2010; (3) lobbying for opening Department of Physiotherapy at the University of Sulaimany; (4) securing funding for sending 15 practicing physiotherapists to study in India; (5) attending to the needs of children with speech problems; (6) providing psychological counselling to parents of children with different kinds of disabilities; (7) participating in inter-organizational meetings, and conferences.

Outlined below is a description of the areas of focus and the project implementation processes.

Organizing Workshops

In 2011, several requests for organizing and conducting workshops were made. One of them came from the KSC Education Department for conducting a series of workshops for the staff working in Daycares and in the Kindergartens of Sulaimany on topics related to various aspects of working with children. The aim of the workshops was to raise professional standards of the kindergarten staff. The plan was to identify the issues specific to each kindergarten and to focus the workshop on these issues. The KSC initiative was welcomed and approved both by the kindergartens and by the Sulaimany Education Directorate.

The project was a joint project between the Sector of Education and Sector of Training. Initial visits to the selected kindergartens started in March; however, the project could not be completed because it required committed window of time for implementation, as well as total and undivided commitment which would have interfered with other activities of these Sectors.

The requests for raising professional standards of persons employed in education and health services continued to come. One request was made on March 3rd by the teaching staff of the Awat Institute for Children with Mental Disabilities when KSC visited the Institute. The administrators of the Institute asked for a series of training workshops for the teachers of the Institute on a wide topic, tentatively formulated as "Working for the children with mental disabilities". However, the implementation of this project needed an ongoing update on the academic research in the field of mental disabilities. For this reason and the reasons previously identified, it was not possible to affect the realization of this project.

Another request for conducting workshops came from the CRC physiotherapists. The indisputable professionalism displayed by Dr. Amitesh and Dr. Jaya in clinical examination of the CRC patients prompted the CRC physiotherapists to ask for a six-month workshop wherein they would work under close guidance of the doctors from India. However, organizing a workshop of this kind had to be postponed because there were two other projects initiated by Dr. Amitesh during his visit to Sulaimany that had to be attended to. One of these projects was organizing Family Support Groups and the other entailed lobbying for opening Department of Physiotherapy at the University of Sulaimany.

Organizing Family Support Groups

This project was an outcome of Dr. Amitesh and Dr. Jaya's visit to KSC in 2010. The main objectives of the project were to (1) monitor whether parents of the children examined by the doctors were doing the prescribed exercises; (2) record the impact / outcomes of the exercises on the children's health; (3) create a space for the parents where they could discuss their problems, get professional advice, and (4) whenever necessary, get support of psychological counseling.

Only the initial stage of this project was completed: reconstructing the database of the examined children. By the time the
database was completed, the funding cuts made the project impossible to complete.

**Lobbying for opening Department of Physiotherapy at the University of Sulaimany**

This project was also proposed by Dr. Amitesh and Dr. Jaya. Before they left in December 2010, they developed a "Proposal to systematically upgrade the qualification standard of practicing physiotherapists in Kurdistan Region, Republic of Iraq". The Proposal was discussed with and supported by Dr. Ari Sami, Dean of the College of Medicine of the University of Sulaimany in December 2010. This proposal gave impetus of looking at training from a strategic, comprehensive, and augmented perspective. Instead of conducting workshops, the Sector could put pressure on the government for providing an academic training in the fields of knowledge where such training was presently non-existent. This new insight became the basis for the Sector's project of **lobbying for opening the Department of Physiotherapy at the University of Sulaimany**.

In Kurdistan Region, practicing physiotherapists have a Diploma level (2 years) qualification, awarded by Technical Institutes. No further academic training is available, and upgrading Diploma qualification to a minimum of Bachelor degree in Kurdistan is ostensibly non-existent. The need for academic training in this field was identified in a report of the Canadian Inter-professional Medical Mission that visited Kurdistan in 2009. This Report identified "the magnitude of disability [in the Region and described it] as a population health issue". We believe the Sector could contribute to addressing this issue by changing its focus from work-shop training to lobbying the government for **secured academic training via access to quality education** in areas where such training was urgently needed. Achieving this goal became a moral imperative of the Sector's activities in 2011.

The realization of this goal depended on a step-by-step approach. Quality academic training was essential not only in the field of physiotherapy, but also in other aspects of rehabilitation services. Hence, lobbying for opening the Department of Physiotherapy at the University of Sulaimany seemed to be the appropriate first step to take. The work over this project brought occasional small victories, but mostly frustration and despair.

The project implementation started in January 2011 when Dr. Amitesh's proposal was submit-ted to Dr. Dlawar Abdul-Aziz Ala'Aldeen, Minister of Higher Education, and Scientific Research of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). Dr. Dlawar supported the project, but suggested that the initiative for its implementation should come from the University of Sulaimany, and all further negotiations should be conducted with the University.

As previously identified, Dr. Ari Sami (Dean of the College of Medicine of the University of Sulaimany) supported the proposal and submitted it to the College Council which approved the proposal to open the Department of Physiotherapy and passed it on to the University of Sulaimany Council.

In February, in a follow-up visit, the Sector representative met Dr. Nizar M. Mohammed Amin, Vice-President for Scientific Affairs and Postgraduate Studies of the University of Sulaimany. The purpose of the visit was to clarify whether the University Council approved the proposal to open the Department of Physiotherapy at the College of Medicine. Dr. Nizar's response was neither positive, nor negative. He said that presently there were some objections to opening the department at the Medical College. The objections were related to benefits conferred upon the graduates of the College of Medicine. He added, however, that the Department could be opened after the reform of the system of higher education in the region took place. The reform planned to introduce a Faculty system, wherein a Faculty would bring together all related branches of knowledge under its umbrella. For instance, a Faculty of Medical Sciences would bring together nursing, physiotherapy, speech / language therapy, social therapy.
and other related health sciences. The graduates would be awarded a degree in the branch of science that they chose to study. They planned to introduce the reform in two months’ time, which tentatively meant April.

In April-May, the reform was still not introduced, and by the end of May, it became clear that lobbying for the opening of Department of Physiotherapy at the University of Sulaimany had come to a standstill. In the long run, implementation of this project would have resulted in building up human resources via access to quality education. When it became clear that the department could not be opened, Dr. Amitesh started on working towards opening a Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPT) Bridge course in India, for the practicing physiotherapists from Iraqi Kurdistan. His efforts in this area started a new project that of sending 15 practicing physiotherapists from Kurdistan to study in India to earn a BPT Degree.

On May 19, 2010, physiotherapists met to discuss the problems they were facing on a daily basis. They identified a much needed opportunity for professional development, presently non-existent, as their main concern. Sending physiotherapists to study in India would address this concern. To have this project accomplished it was necessary to secure financial support for the physiotherapists who were willing to study in India, and the Sector started to work on getting the funding.

Securing Funding for Sending 15 Practicing Physiotherapists to Study in India

The implementation of the project was truly international. In Sulaimany, the Sector, in close cooperation with the Department of Physiotherapy of the Sulaimany Technical Institute (STI), developed the syllabus content taught at (STI). In India, Dr. Amitesh Narayan (professor at the Department of Physiotherapy, Kasturba Medical College (KMC) of the University of Manipal, Mangalore, India) worked hard for opening a BPT Bridge course at KMC. In June, the University of Manipal Board of Studies made a decision to open BPT Bridge Course for Technical Institute Diploma holders in physiotherapy from Iraq, admitting 15 candidates annually. The decision stipulated three elements: (a) the period of study would be two years of course work (b) plus 6 months of internship at KMC; and (c) the total cost of study for 15 candidates would amount to US $ 225,000 for the whole period of study.

In their official letter issued by the University of Manipal Registrar, the University of Manipal pledged "to provide quality education and good clinical exposure for the students" and invited the candidates to start admission procedures.

The obvious next step to take was to get the required funding. This proved to be the proverbial Gordian knot, which at the time of writing this Report still remains uncut. Throughout August to November, the Sector obtained the support for the project from Director of Rehabilitation / Rheumatology Centre in Sulaimany, General Director of Sulaimany Health Directorate, and finally from Minister of Health himself. Once again, in our efforts to get the necessary funding we met with more problems. While the Kurdistan Region Budget allocated funding for Human Capacity Development Programme, for incomprehensible reasons, the Programme excluded practicing physiotherapists, holders of diploma level qualifications, from the programme beneficiaries. Moreover, getting approval for payment of salaries to physiotherapists on a study leave was problematic.

At the end, the issue was taken to Dr. Barham Salih, Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government. He was unable to provide funding, but offered his help in opening a Department of Physiotherapy at the University of Sulaimany. Unfortunately, the meeting with him took place on December 30, 2011 when his period of service as Prime Minister was about to be completed.

This setback was bitterly felt. Six months of
dedicated and well-deliberated work over the project was ostensibly dismissed. However, the crucial importance of the project necessitated continued efforts to see the project through because children, families, and physiotherapists continue to need this project manifest.

Other related projects
Among other related projects were the following: (1) creating a preliminary database of children with speech disorders in cooperation with Dr. Nawzad, speech and language pathologist from Iran; (2) providing necessary psychological counseling to support and assist parents of children with different kinds of disabilities.

The first of these two projects (creating a preliminary database of children with speech disorders) later developed into an independent project conducted by the Sector of Education. The second one (psychological counselling) was a long-standing project conducted mostly by Dr. Lana Dawdi, a member of faculty staff of the University of Sulaimany, whose voluntary con-tribution and sincere commitment to helping children with disabilities and their parents were instrumental to the Sector's growing preoccupation with assisting children with disabilities.

Participation in Forum, Working Groups, Conferences
Prioritizing disability became the hallmark of the Sector's activities. One of the related activities was our participation in the work of the General Coordination Forum organized and conducted by the United Nations Assistance Mission – Iraq (UNAMI) with purpose of bringing together representatives of NGOs, government institutions, and private sector for having voice in addressing the most pressing problems facing the region. It is through the participation in this Forum that the Sector was invited to be part of the Protection Working Groups, Sub-group on Disabilities, organized and conducted at the Hawler / UN Regional Office. In both activities the focus was on working in close cooperation with the government, working as a team.

A slightly different but similar message of working as a team with the governmental and non-governmental organizations and representatives of private sector was conveyed in several con-fferences held in the Region that the Sector attended. The message at the Third Conference of the Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative, held in Erbil on October 8-9, was especially important because it asserted the importance of creating networks for putting united pressure on their respective governments to act in response to the people's needs.

Conclusion
As of the end of 2011, the impact of the Sector's activities was not yet clearly visible. The fail-ure to secure the funding for physiotherapists aspiring to upgrade their qualification level left frustration. It also congested the ability to think with clarity, and seemingly hampered the ability to be confident about alternative ways leading to success. The year of 2011 ended in sad and bitter disappointment. The hope that things could become better was indeed very slim in spite of the heroic efforts of the Sector members and our international colleagues.

However, upon reflection, there was a very important lesson to learn in 2011: NGOs can and should be given the fullest opportunity to contribute to society. They could become the catalysts that, by being aware of the people's needs and subsequently putting pressure on the government to act in response to them, could help the government to be truly, in Abraham Lincoln's famous words, the "government of the people, by the people, [and] for the people".

By being aware of the people's needs and putting pressure on the government to act in response to them, NGOs could be the catalysts that help the government be truly "the government of the people, by the people, for the people".
KSC - Kirkuk Office

As witnessed by the population of the Kirkuk city, 2011 was a year of social renovation, wherein KSC took an active part. Year after year, the KSC Kirkuk Office worked very hard to improve the quality of the services offered to the children and the youth of the city, despite numerous obstacles ever-present in the multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, and multi-sectarian communities of a city, like Kirkuk. The KSC Kirkuk team, to the best of their abilities, was able to overcome the ever-present difficulties and provide the required help to the children. Moreover, the KSC team was able to plant the seeds of brotherhood in youths and children coming from different backgrounds by offering them an opportunity to participate in the inclusive environment of the KSC projects. Inclusiveness and lack of discrimination are the main characteristics that have helped the KSC Kirkuk Office to earn a leading position among other active NGOs in the city.

In 2011, KSC was able to open a new Children's Cultural Centre (Hasar Kaziwa) at the rural area near Kirkuk, run by the Education Sector. The services provided by the Centre’s four departments have been greatly appreciated by the children living in the area and their parents.

The KSC Kirkuk office offers services to children and youth via the projects in the fields of education, child protection, and sponsorship. A specific work strategy is used in the implementation of the KSC Kirkuk Office activities.

The total number of children and youths who participated in the projects of the KSC Kirkuk Office in 2011 was 32252 persons.

1- Education

Education programme of in the KSC Kirkuk office comprises three projects: Kirkuk Youth Activities Centre, Kirkuk Children’s Cultural Centre (Kaziwa) and Hasar Children’s Cultural Centre (Kaziwa).

* Kirkuk Youth Activities Centre:

The Kirkuk Youth Activities Centre has numerous activities and ongoing projects to offer to the young people of Kirkuk. In 2011, the Centre was able to improve the quality of its services by providing support to the govern-mental offices that work with youth. It also provided support to the youth sports clubs in Kirkuk by organizing tournaments and competitions. The Centre was also able to build a badminton indoor stadium, in cooperation with the Kirkuk Branch of the Iraqi Association of Badminton.

World Children Day - Kirkuk Children Cultural Centre

[Image of children holding up coloring pages and signs]
The overall number of youths that visited the Centre and participated in its activities and projects was 13056 youths, of whom 9228 were males and 3828 – females.

Below is a brief summary of the activities carried out at the Kirkuk Youth Activities Centre in 2011.

* 12 training courses were conducted for 813 youths at the Department of Fine Arts.
* 12 training courses in computer programs were conducted for 473 youths by the Centre’s Computer Department.
* 12 courses teaching how to play different musical instruments were offered to 359 youth by the Centre’s Music Department.
* 12 training courses in learning English were offered to 359 youths. The courses were taught by the computer teacher, for there was no teacher of English at the Centre.
* 9 courses in football, badminton, table tennis and daily workouts for body building were offered to 1399 youths.

Other activities

* Artistic and cultural events: The Centre organized several exhibitions, and musical parties, wherein the youth attending the Centre was engaged. There were also several athletic competitions held at the Centre.

The Centre also participated in several tournaments inside and outside Kirkuk. It also provided a space for the students of the Kirkuk Sports College to be regular visitors at the Centre.

* The Kirkuk Youth Activities Centre has functioned as a meeting place for the students of different colleges near the center to drop by. It also housed a number of seminars and conducted workshops on various youth related topics. The Centre library doors were always open for anyone who wanted to read or borrow books. The students of the Kirkuk Sports College regularly visited the centre for training and practicing. There was a close cooperation between the Centre and the management of the Sports College. Additionally, the Center housed a number of meetings and seminars conducted by other NGOs working in Kirkuk.

Kirkuk Children’s Cultural Centre (Kaziwa)

In 2011, the Centre continued to provide ongoing services to the children of Kirkuk. The Centre’s team worked hard to improve the quality of the offered services. As a result of the hard work of Centre’s team, 5790 children visited the Centre in 2011, of whom 3238 were males and the rest were females.
Throughout the year, the Kaziwa offered 21 training courses to 382 children (239 males and 143 female), conducted by the departments of Music, Computer, Fine Arts and Sports.

Below is a summary of the courses offered by each department:

* 5 training courses in drawing were offered to 140 children
* 7 courses in music were offered to 106 children
* 2 training courses in computer were offered for 30 children.
* 7 training courses in various sports were offered to 106 children.

Among other activities, the Kirkuk Kaziwa organized several musical and dance parties, as well as several drawings/paintings exhibitions. It also organized a music and song party for the children of Chiman village near Kirkuk, in which 120 village children took part. The Centre provided a performance space for various Drama groups acting in the city. It also assisted the city kindergartens. The Centre organized an exhibition, wherein Lina F. Muafaq, a bright child artist from Kirkuk, displayed 30 of her art works. The Kaziwa also participated in sports competitions held by the city of Kirkuk.

Hasar Children’s Cultural Centre (Kaziwa)

The Centre was established in January 2011 in a rural area near Kirkuk (at approximately 45 minutes of driving) with the purpose of expanding KSC services to the children living in remote areas. The Centre provides services to the children population of two neighbouring villages, which house 370 families. In 2011, the overall number of visits made by the village children to the Centre was 13136, of whom 5505 visits were made by boys and 7631 – by girls.

The Centre organized and conducted several training courses in drawing, and computer. Numerous music and dance parties were also organized at the Centre. On the occasion of the International Children’s Day, an art exhibition was organized, as well as several sports competitions were conducted. There were 500 children who participated in this event, of whom 215 were boys and the rest were girls.

The Centre organized and conducted 3 exhibitions of children’s drawings and paintings.
Three computer courses were offered to 34 children. A seminar on the issues of 'hygiene', presented by a local physician, was conducted at the Kirkuk Health Department and attended by 80 children.

2- Child Protection
The Child Protection programme involves the implementation of the Juvenile Delinquency project.

This project has been one of the first projects carried out by the KSC Kirkuk office since its establishment. Its main objective has been to protect legal rights of children, especially those who are kept in custody by juvenile police stations, via monitoring their cases through regular follow-up visits, and guaranteeing the protection of their rights by being present at juvenile courts during court sessions. The Sector's officers strive towards reducing the duration of the time that the juveniles are held in custody and helping the juveniles released from custody to get reunited with their families and be reintegrated into the communities they come from.

The main objective of the project is to provide basic needs for the children held in custody and to raise their awareness. At the presence of the police officers, the Sector's team conducts awareness sessions and provides counseling to the detained children aimed at helping them understand why they were detained and urging them to avoid repeating the same mistake after their release. The team also helps the children released from detention to return to the society and find their place there.

In 2011, the total number of juveniles held in custody was 158. The KSC officers were able to provide support for 128 of them; 9 of them were transferred to the Kirkuk detention centers after reaching the age of 18; the rest 21 adolescents were sentenced according to the crimes they had committed. The KSC officers continue to negotiate for reducing the period of their detention.

The KSC Kirkuk office is the only NGO in Kirkuk that provides services for protecting the legal rights of children who are involved in legal issues. In this regards, the hard work of the KSC officers has been acknowledged both by the Kirkuk police officers and by the American embassy Attorney General. The latter awarded the Embassy honorary certificate to the KSC team. In return, the KSC officers presented the KSC logo to the embassy team who visited the city of Kirkuk.

3- Distance Sponsorship
Finding sponsors for children in need is another ongoing, effective project of the KSC Kirkuk office. Its aim is to render financial support to the low income families, single mothers, and widows, raising their children, who might otherwise resort to the socially unaccepted ways of earning living, which, in turn, might have a negative impact on their children. The financial support provided by KSC has been of great benefit to the families of sponsored children. It played an important role in reducing the number of children who quit school because of poverty. By paying regular field visits to the sponsored families, the KSC officers were getting firsthand knowledge of various social problems facing children at school and in their families, which helps them in finding possible solutions to most of them.

In 2011, 112 field visits were made to the homes of sponsored children, some of whom were located outside Kirkuk; 10 new forms were filled in; 5 final reports were written; and, finally, 6 letters of gratitude were sent to the overseas sponsors.

4- Health
Although there is no Health sector in the KSC Kirkuk Office, the Kirkuk KSC team fills in forms for the children, whenever their parents come to KSC seeking medical care for them. The forms are then sent to the KSC Health Sector in Sulaimany for an appropriate action.

In 2011, the Kirkuk office filled in 74 new forms for sick children and sent them to the KSC Health Sector in the KSC main office in Sulaimany.

Najmadin Nuri Muhammed
Kirkuk Programme Manager
In 2011, the Erbil Office of Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC) continued to work on a number of planned programs aiming mainly at improving the situation of children in Kurdistan Region. Similar to previous years, our work this year focused mainly on protecting children from all the forms of mistreatment in different areas: social, economic, educational, psychological, and others. Some obvious examples of our achievements in 2011 include successful reintegration of a significant number of drop-out children into the school system. The process of reintegration was accompanied with campaigning for raising awareness of children and their families of the importance of education that undoubtedly has and will have a positive impact on children, their families, and hence on our society, both in the present and in the future.

Another aspect of the Office activities in 2011 was offering a number of educational courses on the topic of “protecting children against abuse” to social workers, teachers, and other employees working with children, which is part of the wider KSC program of “child protection against all forms of abuse”. The main focus of these courses was on teaching the participants how to work with children without resorting to any form of violence. The focal point of the courses was introducing to participants some internationally accepted alternative behavioral methods in working with that exclude violence. The aim ultimate aim of the courses was to abolish any form of child abuse in the society. Furthermore, the KSC Erbil Office has continuously supported chronically sick children by making arrangements for their treatment inside Kurdistan or abroad.

Outlined below is the Office main activities in 2011 in the areas of Child Protection, Education (including protection from aggressive behavior), Health, General Support, and Media and Social Awareness.

**Child Protection**

In 2011, the program of “putting a limit to child labor” by reintegrating the school drop-outs into school was one of the main tasks of the Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC) / Erbil Office. The chief objective of this program was rescuing children from social and economic exploitation. The target groups of this program were children under the age of 15 working without their families’ supervision, as well as children over the age of 15 engaged
in work that could have negative impact on their physical health or moral conduct.

One aspect of this program was providing financial assistance to the low income families who were sending their children to work to increase the family income, provided that they complied with the conditions set down KSC, namely: not to send their children back to work again, but rather to encourage them to continue attending school.

 Started several years ago, the program continued throughout 2011. In the course of the program implementation, the following activities were carried out:

* 288 visits were made during day-time to licensed workplaces to detect the children under the age of 15, working without their families’ supervision; as well as the children over 15 engaged in work that might have negative impact on their physical health and/or moral conduct, in such places as hotels, bars, or heavy machinery factories.

* During these visits, 27 children were interviewed, and Family Information Forms were filled in for 21 families of these children.

* Our monitoring teams were able to detect two employers who were breaching the Iraqi Labor Law by employing children in violation of the Law.

* In cooperation with Juvenile Police, we were able to have 17 forms signed by the families of the children employed in violation of the Iraqi Labor Law to ensure that these families would not send their children to work again.

* 215 follow-up visits were made to the homes of the children receiving the KSC financial support to be sure that the families remained bound by the KSC condition not to send their children to work and, at the same time, encouraging the families to continue their children’s education.

**Education**

Generally speaking, there is an inverse relationship between education and child labor, meaning that quality education may increase the child’s motivation to study, and on the contrary, inferior education may influence the child to leave school and become engaged in child labor. Overall, better educational systems lead to a substantial reduction in the number of children leaving schools, and hence to a significant decrease in the instances of child labor.

For this reason, we directed our efforts to improving the education system. In 2011, this was done through the following activities:

* Reintegrating children who left school into the educational system.

* Promoting reciprocal relationships between pupils and school.

In the process of reintegrating children into the educational system, the following outcome has been accomplished:

* 26 children returned to their schools.

* 47 follow-up visits were made to the schools to monitor the reintegrated children.

* A seminar on children’s rights was organized for 100 children in the “Shaheed Fakir Mergasori” school.

**Media and Social Awareness Campaign**

Raising social awareness of people via media was another aspect of the Office activities. In 2011, the following activities were organized and conducted.

* Eight television interview programs about children in general.

* One radio program regarding the status of children’s rights in Kurdistan Region.

* Five newspaper interviews with the Kurdistan Region’s local newspapers.

* Participation in 30 conferences and workshops focusing on children related issues.

* Participation in four teaching courses.

**Health**

Despite the lack of health sector in Erbil’s KSC office, we have consistently provided health support for sick children by visiting their homes, filling in the Health Information Forms, and sending the forms to the main office in Sulaimaniya for further processing. The forms were filled in mainly for chronically sick children, in need of surgery either in Kurdistan or abroad.
During this year, we visited 28 children with various chronic disease, filling in forms with attached medical reports and sending them to the Health Sector at the main office in Sulaimaniya for further processing.

**General Support**

In this regard, the KSC Erbil Office has done the following in 2011:

* Buying clothes and basic school needs for three drop-out children who returned to school.
* Distributing 493 items of clothing to children from low-income families, and children from orphanage.

**Child protection against aggressive behavior**

Following the three years of work on the program of “putting a limit to child labor”, in the beginning of 2011, the KSC/ Erbil office submitted a draft of the program to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA) in Kurdistan Region with a request to incorporate this program into other social programs, conducted by MoLSA.

At the same time, KSC drafted another program under the name of “child protection against abuse”, aimed at protecting children against any aggressive behavior and abuse. The program was developed on the basis of Article 19 in the Children’s Rights Act. This program was implemented with the support of the Ministry of Education and Kurdistan Sociology Association in Kurdistan Region.

One of the components of this program was conducting an educational course for 50 social workers, wherein the ART (Aggression Replacement Training) model was introduced. The main objective of the course was to train the trainees for helping children and adolescents improve their social skills, better manage anger, and reduce aggressive behavior. It is interesting that only 43 participants out of 50 were able to successfully complete the course.

The wider aim of the program of “child protection against abuse” is to protect children against any form of child abuse either physical, verbal, emotional, neglect or sexual abuse. This could be accomplished via:

* Raising the social awareness and capabilities of the social workers, teachers and directors of basic (primary-intermediate) schools by organizing the Aggression Replacement Training (ART).
* Helping children acting aggressively to other children change their behavior.
* Protecting children against all forms of child abuse at school.
* Defining the forms of aggression both to teachers and to children.

In 2011, the following was accomplished in the process of implementing this program:

* Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops on child abuse, children’s rights and the ART model were offered to the KSC staff in Erbil, Sulaimaniy, and Duhok offices. The workshops lasted for 17 days.
* Getting approval of Ministry of Education for starting the program and conducting workshops for 50 social workers and directors of basic (primary-intermediate) schools inside Erbil city, as an initial phase.
* Selecting 50 basic (primary-intermediate) schools inside Erbil city, taking into account their location, and the school system types (ordinary, grammar or private schools) as the selection criteria.
* Teaching the ART model to 43 social workers, with a focus on its three main aspects: social skills training, anger control training, and moral reasoning training. The workshop also included training on children’s rights, and basics of child protection against abuse. The duration of the workshop was five weeks, from 9am to 12:30pm.

* Upon the workshop completion, an assessment form was filled in. In general, the participants noted the importance of the workshop modules for reducing an aggressive behavior of children in basic (primary-intermediate) schools.

* Upon the workshop completion, the participants were awarded Certificates of the course completion.

* Special forms were developed to detect
incidences of child abuse at schools and in families.
* These forms were distributed among the participants of the workshop to be filled in whenever incidence of aggression and abuse occurred.

**The plan of the KSC-Erbil Office Activities in 2012**

Below is an outline of the KSC-Erbil Office plan for 2012.
* Continuing to implement the program of “child protection against abuse”. The activities will include: conducting the project in ten basic (primary - intermediate) schools inside Erbil city and its suburbs as a pilot study. The implementation of this project will involve training of school staff, including teachers, school principals, and social workers on the issues of children’s rights, basics of child protection against abuse, and ART model. Upon the completion of training, a continuous follow up would be conducted for one year. Later on the final results and achievements in these ten schools will be assessed and the results will be analyzed in a seminar.
* Raising the social awareness of students and teachers in the basic (primary-intermediate) schools through posters and TV announcements.

* Establishing a Board for drafting a Law for Child Protection against all forms of abuse in the cities of Erbil, Sulaimaniya and Duhok. The Board will include representatives of the departments of psychology, and sociology, representatives of organizations working with children, representatives of social sector of Ministry of Education, representatives of school principals, representatives of Ministry of Labor and general directors of Directorates of Education.
* Continuing to implement the program of “putting a limit for child labor” by detecting children who work on the streets inside Erbil city in violation of Iraqi Labor Law.
* Implementing the project of helping children with disabilities by building ramps, stair rails, and toilets for children with disabilities at schools.
* Helping children from orphanages and other similar institutions to return to their families or relatives.
* Providing legal help and follow-up services to children, detained by and in custody of juvenile police.

**Shwan S. Marouf**

Erbil Programme Manager
Since the time of its opening in 2007, the KSC Duhok Office has been working on some programs aimed at raising awareness of the problems facing children and their needs. The realization of these programs required an ongoing training of the KSC staff and social workers to enhance their knowledge about the problems impeding the development of children's abilities and finding the ways of solving them. In the course of the urban/rural expansion, the problems facing children have been increasing. For this reason, identifying these problems and trying to find solutions to them demanded an ongoing awareness raising training.

Since its establishment, the KSC Duhok office has been able to successfully deal with children’s problems by finding a solution to them. From the very beginning, Duhok KSC office, with the help of other associated governmental institutions, was involved in implementing a program aimed at bringing to an end the child labour. Among other projects carried out by the KSC Duhok office was a survey conducted to identify the number of the working children in the Duhok city, and provision of financial help for sick children, as well as helping the low-income families to provide the required treatment for their children.

Presently, after four years of its existence, the KSC Duhok office introduced some new projects such as, child protection from domestic and social violence, which was conducted with the help of the Duhok governorate and the Juvenile Court. Other related areas of activities in 2011 included helping sick children by buying medicine for them and clothes whenever necessary; as well as helping children to develop their abilities by getting them involved in training and developing courses conducted by Zewa Center in Duhok. The KSC Duhok Office was also engaged in helping homeless children to a greater extent than it did last year, with a focus on helping children from particularly needy families. On the whole, in 2011, the KSC Duhok office was helping children to live in a more harmonious and peaceful world.

In 2011, the KSC Duhok Office was engaged in implementing the following projects:
Project 1. Preventing children from working

In 2011, the KSC Duhok team was able to:

* Identify 83 working children under the age of 15 in cooperation with the Juvenile Police Station. Forms were filled for all of these children; however, 28 of them returned to their jobs.

* Visit families of 42 children and provide clothes for 370 of those working children who are very poor.

* Visit families of 149 children aiming at helping them stop working and continue their studies.

On the whole, in 2011, the number of visits to children’s homes at night was 96, whereas the number of day visits was 84.

Project 2: Reducing Violence at Schools

In 2011, a 3-day workshop was opened for 21 school social workers, with the cooperation of the Directorate of Education in the Duhok Province. The main objective of the workshop was to reduce violence in some primary schools in the Duhok Province. In the workshop, the social workers were taught how to deal with children at school, how to conduct the follow-up on taken actions, and how to report the cases of violation.

Project 3: The Homeless Children Emergency Program

Child protection in emergency situations was another aspect of the KSC Duhok Office activities in 2011. After Van’s earthquake a number of families immigrated to Sheladz and Amedi Districts. As a result, the KSC Duhok office team felt that helping these families and children was their duty since the office primary mission is child protection. A visit was made to Sheladz district to closely evaluate the families’ conditions, which revealed that the families needed all kinds of help. For this reason, the KSC Duhok office, in cooperation some other organizations having the same mandate, as well as with some generous persons collected a good number of different items, such as food, 35 new heaters, 120
good blankets, some rugs and clothes. The aid was distributed on December 25, 2011. The families greatly appreciated the provided help.

Project 4: Protecting Children from Violence

Two children were reported to have faced violence and beating in 2011. The number of visits to these children’s families to deal with the problem was 39. The number of children who got benefit from this program was two children.

Project 5: Child Development

Fifty working children were sent to Zewa Centre (for child protection) in order to participate in the training courses delivered by this Centre. Two children with behavioural problems were sent to Haval Centre (for children behavioural problems) for helping them through the special courses delivered by the Centre.

Other Activities

Among other activities the following were carried out in 2011.

* 1877 copies of Papola and Snela magazines were distributed in kindergartens and schools of the city and the surrounding areas.

* Children music band were funded and encouraged to continue its work until 31/12/2011 by paying the band employees’ salary.

* The KSC Duhok Office team continued cooperating with other organization and governmental institutions working on similar issues by getting involved in new programs beneficial to children and learning how better to address children’s problems and their needs. In the course of the cooperation, the KSC Duhok Office participated in

* 11 bilateral meetings

* three workshops where various aspects of the working children phenomenon were discussed

* provided funding for the musical band, affiliated to the Duhok General Culture Directorate;

* provided an ongoing financial support for the Juvenile Police Centre by buying stationary for them and paying for their phone bills.

Abdulla Ibrahim Masiki
Duhok Programme Manager
Berufspaedagogisches institute (BPI) is an Austrian Vocational Training Institute, with more than 40-year experience in training youth in the fields of water, underground sewerage, electrical installations, as well as carpentry, and car mechanics, among others.

In Austria, BPI has trained a great number of young people who are presently working in the fields of their interest. By offering the training opportunities to the youth, BPI has developed good working relations with the related ministries, being able to help the unemployed young people all over Austria find jobs to earn their living.

BPI helps youth not only in Austria, but in other countries as well, making available the Austrian expertise in different areas of vocational training to them. BPI training teams work in Jordan, Palestine, Czech, Slovakia, Indonesia, Iran, Egypt, and other countries. In all these countries, BPI training has been highly successful and had a lasting impact on developing the vocational human resources in these countries. Presently, the countries that have the benefit of the BPI vocational training are able to rely on the local expertise and skills, gained from the BPI trainers.

After several visits to Kurdistan Region of Iraq and thorough evaluation of the needs of the region, BPI made a decision to offer training in two areas: electrical and water installations. The reason of choosing these two areas is that both of them are essential for the economic development of the Region both at present and in the future.

This consideration prompted KSC to make a decision to accept this project as part of other numerous projects that it runs.
KSC provided a building for the BPI institute and agreed to bear the expenses related to hiring staff and importing the required tools from Austria to Kurdistan Region. The overall cost of the project in 2011 was 500 thousand US Dollars. The KSC decision to participate in the project was historical, for the project is part of overall government efforts to revitalize the economy of the region.

The KSC goal is to open the BPI branches not only in Sulaimany but in other cities of Kurdistan. For this reason, KSC is presently searching for a mechanism that would allow to expand the BPI activities to the entire Kurdistan Region. Presently, most of the BPI trainees come from from the areas outside the Sulaimany city, which prompted KSC to provide residence for them.

After the KSC announced the opening of the institute, more people applied than it was expected. Because of this, after careful evaluation of the submitted forms, KSC gave preference to the candidates who either graduated from vocational schools or had previous experience of working in these two areas.

In the outcome of the hard preliminary work, the institute was finally established on January 9, 2011. The total of 32 students, of whom 19 were to study electrical installation, and 13 – water installation courses, were enrolled to the programme. The course of study included both theoretical and practical training, conducted by the teaching team consisting of 3 trainers and 2 assistants.

On December 14, 2011 the first batch of students successfully completed the course of study, and a ceremony of awarding the certificates of the course completion to the graduates was held to honour them.

Most of the graduates are presently employed and work in the fields of their studies. The next batch of students undergoing training, and better results are expected.

Mahdi Abdulla
Austrian Vocational Training Institute Manager - Sulaimani
## 1.0 Kurdistan Save the Children’s total funding income by source

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Iraqi Dinar</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>Donor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1- Distant Sponsorship Program (DSP)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>320,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Jalal Talabani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>33,324</td>
<td></td>
<td>Italy - Ivria</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>41,176</td>
<td></td>
<td>Switzerland (PIK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9,311</td>
<td></td>
<td>Holland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7,114</td>
<td></td>
<td>Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,320</td>
<td></td>
<td>Denmark (Dankurd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>360</td>
<td></td>
<td>Oliver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>330</td>
<td></td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,320</td>
<td>Iraqi Kurdistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OF DSP</strong></td>
<td>4,968,000</td>
<td>419,255</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2- All KSC projects in 2011</td>
<td>6,000,000,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kurdistan Regional Goverment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3- Darbandikhan Youth Centre</td>
<td>22,988,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kurdistan Regional Goverment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4- Health Sector - Cochlear implant</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Jalal Talabani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5- Child Protection Sector</td>
<td></td>
<td>13,440</td>
<td>Mrs Hero Ibrahim Ahmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6- Child Protection Sector</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Yusif F. Raza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7- Child Protection Sector</td>
<td></td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Dilman Boskani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8- Child Protection Sector</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>Talisman Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9- Student’s Support</td>
<td></td>
<td>29,760</td>
<td>Talisman Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10- Education Sector</td>
<td></td>
<td>250</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11- Halabja Youth Centre</td>
<td></td>
<td>600</td>
<td>Aso H. Muhamad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12- Health Sector</td>
<td>3,304,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Peshmarga Health Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13- KSC Duhok Office</td>
<td>8,880,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs Kamila, Mr Sabah Muhamad, Mr Muhamad Etiti and Mr. Azad Amedi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL FUNDING:</strong></td>
<td>6,042,140,000</td>
<td>766,705</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.1 KSC expenditure on all KSC projects in 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>Iraqi Dinar</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1- Health Sector</td>
<td>1,625,999,800</td>
<td>24.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2- Education Sector</td>
<td>1,005,552,000</td>
<td>15.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3- All KSC offices administration</td>
<td>938,609,000</td>
<td>15.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4- Sponsorship Sector</td>
<td>797,865,900</td>
<td>12.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5- Youth Sector</td>
<td>712,096,000</td>
<td>10.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6- Child Protection Sector</td>
<td>534,800,000</td>
<td>8.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7- Austrian Vocational Institute</td>
<td>525,000,000</td>
<td>8.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8- Papula Children’s Magazine</td>
<td>148,719,000</td>
<td>2.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9- Engineering</td>
<td>52,255,300</td>
<td>0.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10- KSC Youth Centre Stadiums</td>
<td>50,337,000</td>
<td>0.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11- Student’s Support</td>
<td>42,999,800</td>
<td>0.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12- Media Department</td>
<td>34,500,000</td>
<td>0.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL Expenditure</td>
<td>6,513,703,800</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2.2 illustrate, by percentage, the KSC expenditure on programs in all offices
Table 1.0 shows KSC sources of funds in 2011. A substantial amount of funding came from Kurdistan Regional Government, which funded the vast majority of KSC projects. DSP (Distant Sponsorship Program) funding amounted by 419,255 $U.S. and 4,968,000 Iraqi Dinars. Each child was sponsored with approximately 15 - 30 $U.S. per month. Together with various funds for other KSC projects, the grand total of funding was $U.S. and 6,042,140,000 Iraqi Dinars.

Table 2.1 shows the expenditure of all KSC projects for the total of 6,513,703,800 Iraqi Dinars.

1,625,999,800 Iraqi Dinars was allocated for the Health Sector. The Education Sector's funding was 1,005,552,000 Iraqi Dinars.

The Administration of all KSC offices spent 938,609,000 Iraqi Dinars.

The Sponsorship Sector spent 797,865,900 Iraqi Dinars, and the Youth Sector spent 712,096,000 Iraqi Dinars.

Also, 534,800,000 Iraqi Dinars went to Child Protection Sector, 525,000,000 Iraqi Dinars was allocated for the Austrian Vocational Institute, and 148,719,000 Iraqi Dinars was allocated for Papula monthly magazine.

Among other expenses, 52,255,300 Iraqi Dinars for Engineering, 50,337,000 Iraqi Dinars for KSC's Youth Centres Stadium, 42,999,800 Iraqi Dinars for Student's Support, and 34,500,000 Iraqi Dinars for Media Department.

Figure 2.2 illustrates by percentage, the expenditures of KSC on all KSC projects in 2011. Most of the funds were used for the Health Sector - 24.96%, followed by the Education Sector - 15.44%. For administration of all KSC offices was spent - 15.10%, and for the Sponsorship Sector - 12.25%.

Also, 10.93% of the funds went to the Youth Sector, 8.21% - to the Child Protection Sector, 8.06% - to the Austrian Vocational Institute, 2.28% - to printing of Papula Monthly Magazine, 0.80% - to the Engineering, 0.77% - to the Youth Centres Stadium, 0.66% to student support, and 0.53% - to Media Department.
Acknowledgments

Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC-KCF) would like to extend its heartfelt 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.
Kurdistan Save the Children’s 20th Anniversary

www.ksc-kcf.org

Design & Photo Rebwar Aziz
KSC Media Senior Officer