Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC-KCF)
2012 Annual Report
For every child: Health, Education, and Protection
Reg. Charity number in the UK : 1027522

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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, economical and educational needs.

Our main office is in Sulaimaniya in Iraqi Kurdistan. Kurdistan Save the Children is also registered in the UK under the name of Kurdistan Children's Fund (KCF). KCF works as the international fund-raiser in London.

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.
Kurdistan Save the Children in 2012

It was in 2011 when KSC set up a program of introducing the rights of children, protection of children’s rights, and protecting children from different types of violence and abuse. In 2012 further attention was given to defining child abuse, violence and the ways of treating children in a proper way. In 2012, the program implementation, in close cooperation with Ministry of Education, involved conducting a series of workshops on raising teachers’ awareness about the issues of children’s rights. In addition to this, Imams and religious preachers had a share in this program where they were invited to attend a workshop for raising awareness of general public on this issue. For the same purpose, posters and short commercials were produced and distributed at schools and public places on the issues of children’s rights and child abuse.

In 2012, the Korean famous actor “Jun Kwang-Ryul” known as “Dr. Hur Jun” for his role in Dr. Hur Jun TV series visited Kurdistan region. While he was in Kurdistan, he visited our organization and our projects. Apart from being a successful actor, he also works for a Korean charity NGO called “The Green Umbrella”. After he returned home, he encouraged the NGO he works for and another charity organization, “Child Fund of Korea”, to visit KSC. After their visit, these NGOs invited KSC Program Director and Program Manager to visit Korea. In the outcome of these visits, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between these NGOs. The Korean NGOs made a documentary film about the people’s condition in Kurdistan Region and Iraq, and used it for fund raising purposes. They invited a child who had a congenital deformity of both legs to Korea, where prostheses were made for him. The NGOs covered all the costs, including the travelling and staying expenses and treatment. They also pledged to donate an amount of US $ 130,000 for providing treatment to children with congenital heart diseases and buying Cochlear transplant sets for children with hearing impairments.

For the purpose of exchanging information and experience, a delegation consisting of a group of doctors and a KSC representative visited MAHAK charity organization for cancer stricken children. Later on, a delegation from MAHAK visited KSC and signed an MOU comprising the following points: to establish close bilateral relations; to train KSC doctors and staff, and to treat cancer stricken children sent by KSC to Mahak. The idea of Mahak inspired KSC to open a new sector to support cancer stricken children and their families.

The Italian medical team visited KSC three times throughout 2012. Also the American medical team visited KSC twice for screening and performing surgery for children with congenital heart diseases, kept on the KSC records. Also a team from Germany visited KSC in preparation for opening a center for children with special needs in Sulaimaniy.

Dr. Brian Sommerlad, Consultant Plastic Surgeon from the UK, visited KSC and performed surgery on children with severe Cleft Lip, Palate and other facial deformities. He also conducted a 4-day workshop for local doctors working in this field.

It was in 2012 that UNICEF and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs prepared the draft Law for Protection of Children’s rights. KSC participated in this program by making a questionnaire survey among children for identifying focal points made by children from different social groups, which were taken into consideration in the process of preparing and finalizing the draft of the Law.

The Child Help Line was set up in Erbil, the first of the Kurdistan Region cities to have it. Free of charge, the line gives an opportunity to children to report abuses and all kinds of violence committed against them. KSC took responsibility for following up the phone calls and finding solutions to the problems.

KSC Youth Sector continued its work towards making ‘Youth Activities’ Centers to become their second homes, where they could spend most of their free time.
The centers stay open from 8:30 until midnight. Most members of the center staff are volunteers who assist young people in the choice of the courses to attend. Young people often use the Center and its premises, especially its garden, as a place of rest and reflection.

In 2012, KSC Raniya Youth Activities Center held a three-day Conference on the youth related issues, attended by 120 youth participants coming from different places. Apart from discussions, the Conference hosted the arts and photograph exhibitions, music performances, and a show of a documentary on youth and their problems. At the end of the conference follow-up groups were set up to work on the conference recommendations.

KSC Education Sector continued conducting its long-term and short-term projects. The former included running Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centers of Sara, Sarshaqam, Chwarta, and Bazian; Sara Cultural Center; the Educational training project; and Shahid Jabbar Exemplary School. Among the short term projects were issuing a magazine on Kaziwa’s activities; supporting Mawat Public Library in conducting a summer course for children of the area; providing support for Shangal Charity NGO; renovating and supporting the Aliawa Foundational school; collaborating with the residents of the villages of Qandil area; opening children’s entertainment area at the Radiotherapy Center; running a mobile library of children’s toys; supporting the Zirgwez Camp for displaced families, and supporting poor families and children with special needs.

KSC Sponsorship Sector continued to successfully carry out its program of delivering donations coming from overseas sponsors to the sponsored children. It also continued sending regular and final reports to sponsors. The Sector not only supports the families in-need financially, but also contributes to preserving the rights of the sponsored children and their families to live with dignity and respect.

Papula magazine, printed on a high quality colour paper, continued its monthly appearance throughout the year.

**Dana Hussein Qadir**

Programme Director
In 2012, Kurdistan Save the Children focus on the general lines of child protection; introduction of children’s rights to the public via training teachers and other personnel who has direct contact with children. Also KSC encouraged people to appreciate and respect children with special needs, also a new departments for children with special needs at KSC projects were opened. The youth conference was held for showing youth needs and aspirations;

The handicapped were another focus of KSC in 2012. Conference for the handicapped was held, also we worked for amending the handicap law in a way to realize the rights of them and give them more advantages. KSC signed two agreements with Mahak charity organization and Childfund Korea for better serving children.

Activities;

In order to expand its fundraising activities, KSC conducted some minor fundraising events and then the fund was handed to Radiotherapy centre and Hiwa Hospital. The events were arranged by KSC Education sector. In the event; the handmade stuff of the projects were sold; the aim of this event, beside it’s direct goal which was fundraising, had an indirect goal which was encouraging children to help poor and sick children.

For further helping thalasemic children and cancer stricken children; KSC coordinated with Mahak Charity NGO, Ms. Saba Kamgar from Mahak visited KSC; both KSC and Mahak discussed information exchange, staff training, fundraising and treatment of cancer stricken children, in return KSC will provide medications for Mahak. For putting words into action both sides signed and MOU. And then Ms. Kamgar was officially invited by KSC to give directions and feedback for opening a new department in KSC with similar goals as Mahak.

Similarly; the Korean famous actor “Jung Kwang-ryul” known as “Dr. Hur Jun” for his role in Dr. Hur Jun TV series, visited Kurdistan region, he was accompanied by a delegation of the NGO Green Umbrella. The visiting team agreed on bringing an Acupuncture specialist team to visit KSC and Sulaimania Department of Health.

Additionally, the delegation also discussed mechanisms to help KSC. Then both KSC and Green Umbrella and a partner NGO, Child Fund Korea signed an agreement with KSC. The aim of the agreement was providing fund for KSC. Then an 80 minutes documentary film was prepared by ChildFund Korea about the vulnerable condition of Kurdish children and then was broadcasted in Korea for fundraising purposes. This documentary was filmed in four areas of Kurdistan devastated by war; the areas covered Qandil area that were systematically bombed by Turkish fighter jets; Halabja area that still suffers from Chemical attack; Hiwa hospital in which cancer stricken children are being cured and Kirkuk area where people still suffer from terroristic attacks. This film was first broadcasted from KBS World channel on 22nd December 2012 where people donated for Kurdish children via different ways. The documentary was showed once more on December 25th 2012 in a fundraising concert wherein several actors and Korean VIP attended. It was agreed upon that the fund of the two events to be spent for operating children with heart deformities and for transplanting cochlear for deaf/mute children.
In 2012, after several extensive endeavors, youth conference was held at Raniya youth Activity centre wherein 120 youth, coming from different parts of Kurdistan Attended. The conference in its three days witnessed opening of a photography exhibition, several performance of genuine music pieces and a documentary film about youth condition in Kurdistan was showed and a scientific research about unemployment of youth was submitted to the conference.

At the end of the conference groups were created to follow up the recommendations of the conference concerning youth.

In child protection sector, KSC had a well-planned agenda for introducing the rights of children and to introduce types of abuse. In cooperation with sulaimania department of Education, we planned for conducting courses for social workers of schools in order to give them information about children’s rights and how to deal with children.

For this project, leaflets and posters were prepared and two short films were produced and broadcasted for giving awareness to the general public about rights of children.

Also we were able to push department of Social care and development to open child protection section, this place will become a peaceful place for children who involve in legal issues, this section is run by a group of social workers who help correcting children’s behaviors and manners.

Noaman abdulrahman
Sulaimaniya Programme Manager
Child Protection Sector

In 2012, the focus of the KSC Child Protection Sector was on implementing the **Limiting Child Abuse Program**, aimed at protecting children from physical, psychological, and sexual abuse, and from neglect. The implementation of the program involved **Raising Child Abuse Awareness Campaign** via mass media and other methods, and conducting workshops and training courses on the issues of child abuse, child rights, basics of child protection, and aggression replacement therapy.

In addition to the implementation of the **Limiting Child Abuse Program**, KSC Child Protection Sector continued other projects started earlier as follows:

* Kochar School for Gypsy Children
* Center for Sheltering Homeless Children
* Sulaimany Orphanage
* Child Support.

**Limiting Child Abuse Program**

In 2012, the implementation of the program involved the following activities: 1) conducting **Raising Child Abuse Awareness Campaign** via mass media technologies, and traditional training methods, and 2) offering training courses on the types, indicators, and outcomes of abuse to representatives of governmental institutions, and various social groups.

Project 1: **Using mass media/other methods for Raising Child Abuse Awareness**

The campaign involved using mass media technologies, as well as some traditional methods to alert the general public to the dangers of child abuse. In the course of the project implementation, KSC Child Protection Sector in cooperation with KSC Media Sector designed two kinds of posters: One of them included both graphic and textual elements on child abuse instances, and the other one provided information on the rights of a child. The total of 4500 copies of the posters was printed and distributed in cooperation with KSC Sponsorship Sector in schools in Sulaimany city and outside it. The content of the posters was made into leaflets and distributed in various public places.

The Sector also made two TV commercials about the types of abuse, which were broadcasted on the local and Satellite Channels.

In an attempt to reach out to the general public via traditional Friday religious sermons, the Sector, in cooperation with the Media Department of Sulaimany Directorate of Religious Affairs, organized a **five-day** training course for 42 imams and mullahs working at Sulaimany mosques. The course covered the issues of children’s rights and the basics of child protection.

**Project 2: Conducting workshops and courses on the child abuse-related issues**

In the course of implementing the **Limiting Child Abuse Program**, the Sector organized and conducted a series of workshops and courses related to **Aggression Replacement Training (ART)**, a cognitive behavioural intervention model focusing on adolescents, which helps them acquire the required social skills for coping with aggression and violent behavior via anger control and moral reasoning. The following workshops and courses were conducted:

* A series of workshops introducing the ART Model was delivered respectively to 70 social workers and 15 employees of the Kaziwa Children Cultural Centers run by the KSC Education Sector. Part of the workshop content included briefing on the main issues in the area of child protection and children’s rights
* A **five-day 18-hour** training course on the rights of a child was delivered to 42 school principals in Halabja and in the areas surrounding it
* A **five-day 18-hour** training course on child abuse and the rights of a child was conducted for 28 police officers working at Municipality, Disciplinary Units, and Juvenile Delinquency
* A **ten-day** course on the issues of children’s rights, child abuse, child protection, and ART model was delivered to 13 employees of the newly established Center for Sheltering Homeless Children.
Other Projects

Outside the Limiting Child Abuse Program, the Sector was engaged in carrying out the following projects.

1-Kochar School for Gypsy Children

Started in 2010, this minor project was an outcome of KSC cooperation with the Sulaimany Directorate of Education. Gypsy community lives in a makeshift camp in the outskirts of Sulaimany. Since the income of individual families comes mostly from begging, children usually spent their time with their parents and do not attend school, which violates the right of each child to education. The project was carried out with the following purposes: 1) provide proper education to the gypsy children, and 2) prevent the gypsy children from begging.

In 2012, the Sector provided the following assistance to the school:

* Providing a means of transportation for students from home to school and back home
* Providing a daily school meal for each student
* Providing a salary for a janitor to keeping the school clean.
* Monitoring the students’ educational progress at school.

2-Center for Sheltering Homeless Children

The implementation of this project started when the KSC Child Protection submitted a proposal with a request to open a Center for Sheltering Homeless Children to the Governorate of Sulaimany, General Directorate of Social Affairs, and General Directorate of Sulaimany Police. The proposal was accepted and the Center was established. As a gift to the newly established Centre, the KSC Child Protection Sector donated the following equipment: a refrigerator, a freezer, beds, a cooker, kitchen chairs and tables, and lockers.

3-Sulaimany Orphanage

The main objectives of this project are to monitor the living conditions of the children living in orphanages; assist in improving the quality of their lives; to monitor the way the employees treat the children, and to ensure that the rights of every child at the orphanage are respected. In terms of financial assistance, in addition to the stipends provided by the government, since 2010 the Sector has been providing some pocket money to each child living in the orphanages in accordance with the following payment format:

* Children under 12 years of age received 20,000 ID (twenty thousand Iraqi Dinars) monthly;
* Children above 12 years of age received 30,000 ID (thirty thousand Iraqi Dinars) monthly;
* Children who return to their families or extended families received 50,000 ID (fifty thousand ID) monthly.

In 2012, the following activities were carried out:

* In the outcome of follow-up visits, the Sector team identified 6 cases of child mistreatment at the orphanage. The report on mistreatment was submitted to the relevant governmental departments for required actions.
* The Sector team filed a complaint to Attorney General about a case of child abuse at the orphanage. However, the case was closed because there was no sufficient evidence to prove the instance of abuse.
* The Sector reported the case of child abuse to various concerned governmental departments. In response to this report, the Directorate of Social Affairs set up a Follow-up Committee on Cases of Abuse in the Orphanages.

4-Child Support

This project is the first project started by the Sector in 1995, shortly after the Sector was established. Its main objective is to provide support to the children who need it. Such support might involve the financial assistance, or negotiating on behalf of the child in family disputes and other life situations.

There are different ways of identifying such children. In most cases, their parents come directly to KSC and ask for help. On other occasions, the Sector team learns about the children-in-need-of-help from other sources. Whatever the occasion might be, the incidence of children who need help is ever-present, and, for this reason, the project is still under way.

Presently, the concept of 'child support' has been gradually expanding into including a concern for the quality of a child’s life, including the children living in a family or being in the custody of the Government.

Below is a summary of activities carried out during the implementation of this project. These activities were addressing the following concerns: 1) financial assistance, 2) reintegration of school drop-outs, 3) problem solving negotiations, and 4) cooperation with relevant government institutions.

Financial Assistance

In 2012, the financial assistance was distributed as follows:

* Financial donations from several prosperous families were distributed among 21 needy families.
* Articles of clothing were distributed among 60 children. The fund required for buying the garments was donated by a donor.
* Food basics were distributed among 30 families, with the fund being provided by a donor.
* A monthly financial support allocated by the Family Care Unit was provided to 8 families, in an outcome of negotiations held by the Sector with the Unit upon their behalf.
* Monthly stipends of 155 US$, provided by the Talinan Energy Company, were distributed among 20 college students, residents of Sulaimani, Qaradakh; Mirade, Darbandikan, and Kalar.
* Baby milk, diapers and infant garments were provided for the infants living with their mothers at a Women Shelter run by the Combating Violence against Women NGO.
* An amount of 900,000 ID (nine hundred thousand of Iraqi Dinars) was provided to a low income family for paying a house rent for three months.
* A monthly payment of 250,000 ID (two hundred and fifty thousand ID) monthly provided for a person to take care of a child with special needs.
* A monthly payment for the kindergarten services of 50,000 ID (fifty thousand ID) per child was provided for two children coming from a low income family.
* An amount of 130,000 ID (a hundred and thirty thousand ID) was paid to a police officer, as a reward given to him for taking care of a homeless child in his own family.

Reintegration of School Drop-outs

The Sector team reintegrated 15 school drop-outs into the school system, in the outcome of the Sector team efforts to solve their problems.

Negotiations for Problem Solving

The Sector team participated in negotiations conducted during the follow-up visits to the families of 48 children, having social problems within their families. It also helped 8 juveniles to find solutions for their problems.

Cooperation with Government Institutions

The Sector team paid regular visits to Sulaimany Juvenile Police Department, Observation House, and Social Correction Facility seeking closer cooperation and providing the required assistance whenever possible.

Ali Ibrahim / Senior Officer
The Child Who Was Rejected

This is a story of a six-year old child, found all alone on the street, left by his family, with nobody to claim him. To make things worse, the child was unable either to hear or speak, and, having undergone a colostomy surgery, he wore a colostomy bag.

Left all alone on the street, the child with hearing and speaking disabilities was unable to scream and make his plight known to the passers-by. Neither could he tell anything about his family and the place he came from.

He was found by the Sulaimany Juvenile Police, who got in touch with the KSC Child Protection Sector. The Sector's field officer visited the child, who was at the Children's Hospital at the time of the visit, and made arrangements for the child to be taken care of and looked after. The KSC field officers regularly visited him to be sure that he was treated well.

Although unable to speak, the child was able to get across a message that he did wish he were like a child WITHOUT DISABILITIES, and lived in his family, surrounded by loving parents.

And so it went on until a few months after he was found and given a place at Sulaimany Children's Hospital, a housekeeper from the Department of Social Care saw the helpless child, took to him, and welcomed him into her heart and her family. The child presently lives with this generous woman and her four children, as a member of her family.

As to KSC, it continues to support the child, by providing the foster family with a monthly allowance of US $ 200, and paying regular visits to the child's foster family to be sure that he fares well with his adopted mother and his newly-found siblings.

A sad story with a happy end? – It would have been if there were not so many troublesome questions suggested by it!

Was it the child's fault to be born with disabilities and, for this reason, being abandoned by his natural family? Or was it the child's misfortune to be born to the parents who were totally unprepared for taking responsibilities for their own child? How did it happen that the universal human value of loving one's child could give way to a decision to reject him? Could it be that, by forsaking human values, we get trapped by callous negligence towards ourselves and others? What could one do about this? What could the Government do?
Sponsorship Sector

There is a recent trend in the local mass media to represent Kurdistan as a rich prosperous country, where there is no place for poverty. In some rare cases when poor families do appear on the TV screens, there is usually some hidden agenda underlying such broadcasts, which do not take into consideration the psychological and cultural impact that on-air images of the family members might have on them. Misrepresentation of Kurdistan reality in the media to the audience both inside and outside of Kurdistan does not reflect the real general state of things in the Region: There are hundreds of people in Kurdistan who are in urgent need of financial assistance, but they would rather NOT go public about it. That is where KSC comes in: It provides help, with no far-reaching implications, wherever and whenever such help is needed.

Number of Sponsored Children

According to the final update, there were 1352 sponsored children on the Sector records in 2012. The financial assistance to 1071 of them came from President Talabani’s fund, and the rest were supported by the donations coming from overseas and local sponsors. Donations from overseas were sent by the donors from the following countries: 101 donors from Switzerland, 65 – from Italy, 30 – from the UK, 25 – from Denmark, 17 from Holland, 9 – from Finland, 2 – from Germany, and 2 – from the USA, 251 children in total. The remaining 30 children received funding from the donations of local sponsors.

Inevitably, every year, sponsorship is terminated for some children who do not qualify for the sponsorship criteria any more. This happens when they reach the age of above 18, when there is an improvement in the family financial situation, when the sponsored person becomes married, or complete secondary education, or according to any other criteria. In 2012, sponsorship ended for 195 children, of whom 167 were on President Talabani’s fund, and 28 – on the overseas sponsorship list.

By the same token, in 2012, 65 new cases were admitted to the sponsorship program, of whom 36 were placed on President Talabani’s fund and the rest were sponsored by sponsors from Switzerland. The Sector greatly appreciates the cooperation of sponsors from Switzerland, whose number increased in 2012.

At the same time, the Sector is greatly concerned about the difficulties in finding local sponsors. In 2012, there were only 4 local sponsors. One sponsor from Italy was added to the overseas sponsorship list in 2012. With regard to the overseas sponsorship, the number of sponsors witnessed a dramatic decline in comparison to the previous years. This is at the time, when the number of families that are in need of support steadily increases. There were 120 families on the Sector waiting list in 2012.

Follow-up Visits

In 2012, the total number of 2450 follow-up visits was made to the families on the KSC sponsorship program. This number includes visits made by the field officers from various KSC sponsorship offices, located in following areas of the Kurdistan Region: 397 visits were made in Sulaimania; 321 – in Qaladiza; 450 – in Koya; 231 – in Chamchamal; 226 – in Halabja, and, finally, 293 – in Kalar.

Due to the decline in the number of sponsors, the visits for filling-in new forms also decreased. In 2012, the Sector team visited 167 families who applied for sponsorship. The new forms were filled in for the children of 76 families. The children from the rest 91 families did not qualify for the Sector criteria of admission to the sponsorship programme.

There were 248 occasional visits made to the sponsored families to deliver occasional gifts and charity money coming from inside and outside Kurdistan. Additionally, 117 extra visits for various purposes were made to the families of sponsored children, such as taking a photo, giving a notice for termination/ resumption of the assistance package, delivering the assistance package to the family unable to collect it in due time, among others.
In some cases, KSC field officer had to intervene on behalf of a child whenever some social problems were present in the family. In 2012, there were 8 such cases mainly related to the child's poor performance at school, and inappropriate behavior of the family towards the sponsored child.

The Sector team was also engaged in monitoring the child school attendance and performance by requesting regular school-issued reports on each child sponsored by KSC.

The data collected during these visits was saved and archived on the Sector database. In accordance with the information provided by the data, 98 reports were written and used for updating the list of the sponsored children, for issuing notices on the changes in the dates of delivering financial assistance, among others.

**Staying in touch with the sponsors**

The Sector usual way of staying in touch with the sponsors has been via emails, wherein the Sector sent to the sponsors an ongoing update on the way their donations were being used and on the changes made if any. The Sector also sent letters of gratitude from the sponsored children to their sponsors.

In 2012, the number of outgoing emails was 301. There were 278 letter exchanges between the sponsors and the sponsored children sent via KSC Sponsorship Sector. Furthermore, as confirmation, 24 receipts of money transfer and 37 updating reports were sent to sponsors. Letters of gratitude from children were sent either via e-mail, or post services, or/and by the volunteers who took responsibility of delivering them, with much gratitude from KSC.

**Sponsors' visits**

There were several visits made by some sponsors who came to the Region to see how children sponsored by them were doing.

In 2012, Ms. Maureen McLuckie, KSC- KCF coordinator in the UK, visited 6 families
having children sponsored by KSC to personally give them the gifts sent by their sponsors. Later in the year, Ms. Grazziella Bronzini, together with the members of Ivrea- Qaladiza Twin Town Committee, visited 17 families of the sponsored children and gave them the gifts sent by their sponsors. The Committee was in Kurdistan on a seven-day visit to attend the 20th anniversary of signing a twin-town agreement between Ivrea (Italy) and Qaladiza (Kurdistan). During their visit, started on October 3, the delegation visited KSC, some children who underwent surgical operations in Italy, as well as some children who benefited from the KSC sponsorship programme in the past. The visits were made to the families living in Sulaimany, Qaladiza, Ranya, and Halabja.

Volunteers
In 2012, four students, Kale Mohammed, Nazyan Kamal, Briska Tahir, and Pary Jalal, offered their voluntarily help to the Sector during their summer vacations. Working full time, they translated 147 letters from Kurdish into English, and were always ready to step in whenever their help was required. It was highly encouraging to witness the spirit of cooperation and readiness to help in younger generation.

Other activities
In 2012, the Sector was engaged in renovating a house and providing some articles of furniture and facilities for the family of a sponsored child. The house condition was critical, and KSC had to step in. There was another case where another family of a sponsored child lived a dilapidated, partially ruined house. KSC provided help by doing some repairs and building an extra room for the family use. The families expressed their gratitude to KSC for its support.

In 2012, financial support was given to three families who had faced and lived through a tragic experience of a sudden death in the family. In one case, mother of the sponsored child suddenly died. In another case, a sponsored child was sick and died, and the third case was equally tragic. In each respective case, KSC provided some financial and medical assistance to the involved families helping them to cope with the crisis and survive.

Cooperation with other KSC sectors
In 2012, the Sector was engaged in cooperating with other KSC sectors. It provided help to the KSC Child Protection Sector in distributing posters aimed at raising the general public awareness about the rights of a child and protecting children from being abused.

Problems and issues
One of the serious issues the Sector faced in 2012 was lack of new sponsors. When a sponsor stops supporting a child, no one is there to offer a helping hand. For this reason, in order to increase the amount of assistance given to each child, it was decided to restrict the number of new admissions to the President Talabani’s fund, and, whenever the assistance given to a child on this fund was terminated, to redistribute that amount among other children on this fund.

Another issue is low exchange rates of the currency coming from overseas donors. When exchanged into Iraqi Dinars, the donated amount is usually insufficient to cover the needs of a child. This is especially true in case of donations coming from the UK.

Another problem is related to identifying an improvement in a financial situation of a family, which is a criterion for terminating the sponsorship. The question is to which extent such evidences as “new pieces of furniture, house renovation, and change in the income source” truly reflect the improvement in the financial situation of the family. Do such changes truly indicate that the family is no longer in need of being helped? It is always a hard decision to make for the Sector field officers, especially so because some families would not reveal the source of their income, or they might have an invalid in the family incapable of earning his/her living, or a student, or a child with special needs to take care of.

This notwithstanding, the Sector continues to serve the children-in-need to the best of its team abilities.

Raja Goran / Senior Officer Assistant
Helping Hiwa and his family

Being born with a Down syndrome, the youngest child, and the only brother of his five sisters, Hiwa has always had a special position in his family. Hiwa has always had a loving and affectionate nature, a distinctive quality that makes persons with Down syndrome really special. In his treatment of people, Hiwa is all warmth and kindness. Seeing Hiwa’s sunny disposition, one would have never guessed that he comes from a poverty-stricken family, that his father passed away when Hiwa was 7 years old, and that, after his father’s death, the family was left destitute, with no source of income. To earn living for her family, Hiwa’s mother would make bread and sell it. It was at that time that KSC field officers visited the family and learned about its plight. Hiwa was put on the Sector’s waiting list, and after a month, a decision was made to provide a regular financial assistance to him from President Talabani’s fund.

Since Hiwa was a child with special needs, KSC field officers gave close attention and care to him. They regularly visited him at school and home; they informed his teachers about the financial difficulties the family was facing. They made all they could help him stay healthy and feel happy. In spite of this, when Hiwa started the 4th year of primary school, he got sick and needed a surgery. The Sector referred his case to KSC Health Sector and, in due time, the surgery was made and his health was restored to him.

After surgery, Hiwa was unable to attend school for 2 years. Yet, KSC continued to support him although school attendance was one of the compulsory requirements for receiving financial assistance. As a child with special needs, Hiwa was exempted from this requirement.

As the time went on, two of Hiwa’s sisters got married. Because the family was poor, marriage seemed to be the best possible solution under the circumstances. Both of them now have their own families, and their children love to spend time with their uncle, Hiwa.

Hiwa’s other three sisters continued their education. One of them was a student of the College of Economic Sciences at the time of writing this story; another was at the 11th grade of the secondary school, and the last one was in the final year of secondary school. Since the whole family lived in one room in a building that used to be a military base in the past, it was always difficult for Hiwa’s sisters to stay focused on their studies because of Hiwa’s habit of telling loudly to his mother, who worked outside their home, of everything that he did during the day. In an effort to solve this problem, the KSC Sponsorship Sector built an extra room and a kitchen for the family. Surrounded by the newly-made fence, the family’s living quarters turned into a small semi-detached house. The Sector also helped the family to buy some required pieces of furniture and kitchen facilities for their renovated home.

The addition of two rooms provided much needed studying space for Hiwa’s three elder sisters, and a space for Hiwa where he could play and talk to his mother without disturbing his sisters.

When Hiwa recovered from surgery and was well again, he started to attend school again. However, because of learning difficulties, he was unable to keep the same pace with other students. For this reason, the Sector helped him get transferred to a school for children with Down syndrome in Sulaimany.

Considering the family’s tight financial situation, KSC provided transport for Hiwa to get him to school and back home, in an effort to secure a better present and future for the child. By providing this service free of charge, KSC Sponsorship Sector continues to fulfill its mission of giving support to children-in-need, which started 21 years ago.
Education Sector

KSC Education Sector, one of the active KSC Sectors, runs a number of projects affiliated to the Sector by providing the required budget, logistic support, and the required staff, and carrying out an ongoing monitoring of their activities. The overall number of staff under the Sector management is 112 persons, of whom 68 are females and 44 are males. The Sector also introduces new ideas and applies them in new projects.

The Education Sector has always acted as the people's spokesman by voicing the people's needs and bringing them to the government attention. The Sector has always tried to find proper solutions to the issues brought to the Sector's attention.

The Education sector pays special attention to the needs of children living outside Sulaimany city, where schools might not be within their immediate reach by putting pressure on the government either to build a new school, or provide teachers or means of transportation to the students. The Sector also works towards creating networks with other NGOs working for/with children and welcomes the help of volunteers having children-related skills.

The main objective of Education Sector is to work towards realizing the dreams of each child, making sure that the rights of each child are preserved and respected, and providing opportunities for access to proper education to each child. The Sector works for providing services to every child, including children with special needs; the focus on the latter is a recent development in the scope of the Sector's activities.

The Education Sector Projects

The Education Sector runs a number of long-term and short-term projects. The long-term projects include: (1) the four Kaziwa Children's Cultural Centers of Sara, Sarshaqam, Bazian and Chwarta; (2) providing rehabilitation services to children with special needs; (3) Sara Cultural Center, and (4) Shahid Jabbar
Exemplary School. Being educational in nature, these projects also reflect the Sector's concern for overall wellbeing of children and their families.

The short-termed projects include: (1) issuing an annual magazine by the Sector's Kaziwa; (2) providing support to the Mawat Public Library, as well as to the Shangal charity organization; (3) assisting Allawa school; (4) opening a children entertainment area at the Radiotherapy Center of Hiwa Hospital for Cancer Stricken Children, (5) providing support to the residents of villages in the vicinity of Qandil Mount and surrounding areas, (6) the mobile toy library project, (7) providing support for children with special needs and physical and mental disabilities.

Below is a short summary of each of the above-mentioned projects.

**Long Term Projects**

**Kaziwa Children's Cultural Centres**

The Sector runs four Kaziwa Children's Cultural Centres, attended by children aged between 6-14 years old: two in Sulaimany, one – in Chwarta, and one – in Bazian. The Centres provide various opportunities for children's physical and intellectual development, and help children develop self confidence, self-esteem, self-discipline, creativity, and love for uncovering new knowledge.

Every child who attends Kaziwa is given a unique code and warm welcome to attend all of the Kaziwa departments. Those who exceed the age of 14 are referred to KSC Youth Activities Centres, providing essentially the same opportunities to the older children as Kaziwas do to the younger children. A contact information is held for each child attending Kaziwa, so as to contact their families in case of emergency or whenever necessary.

There are the following departments open to children in Kaziwas: sports, dramatic performance, ceramics, music, drawings, graphics, handicrafts, library, educational services, Kurdish traditional music, children's cinema, video games, language learning, including occasional courses on writing Kurdish in Latin transliteration, and computer sciences, some of which are open during the whole year, whereas others – during summer/ winter / spring holidays.

**Sara Kaziwa Children's Cultural Centre**

The Centre was opened in 1997. Presently, it comprises the departments of ping pong,
educational training, video games, theatre, orchestra of traditional Kurdish music, music, handcrafts, graphic arts, library, drawing, and tabletop football.

The Centre hosts a unique studio run by Salam Hamadi, a professional artist, who records the songs and music pieces performed by the Centre participants. In 2012, 585 children participated in the activities offered by the Centre’s departments, of whom 423 were boys and 162 were girls.

Sarshaqam Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centre

The Centre was opened in 2001. Presently, it comprises the following departments: tabletop football, football, ping pong, handcrafts, traditional music, drawing, music, cinema, ceramics, and dramatic performance.

In 2012, 856 children attended the various departments of the Centre, of whom 175 were girls and 681 were boys.

**Bazian Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centre**

The Centre was opened in 2005. It presently has the departments of music, drawing, handcrafts, library, video games, ping pong, tabletop football and football.

The Centre was frequented by a great number of children in 2012, as compared to the previous years, who were attracted by new departments opened in 2012. Apart from providing educational and recreational services to children in the area, the Centre team members often act as social workers, visiting some families and helping them sort out their problems and difficulties whenever they arise.

For instance, the Centre team has helped a family of 4 children who dropped out of school because of the financial difficulties experienced by the family and the parental neglect of a responsibility to provide education for their children. The case was referred to the KSC Child Protection Sector for taking the required actions.
They provide extracurricular activities for the children, and help them in develop the study strategy, including a focus on an ongoing revision of the previously studied topics.

The overall number of children who visited the Centre in 2012 reached 640 children, of whom 439 were boys and 201 were girls.

**Chwarta Kaziwa Children Cultural Centre**

The Centre, opened in 2006, has the following departments: handicraft, video watching, football, tabletop football, ping pong, library, drawing and electronic games. In 2012, the overall number of 445 children attended the Center, of whom 156 were girls and 289 were girls.

**Sara Cultural Centre**

The Centre, established in 2001, acts as an adult resource centre. It has a reading room and library, with an easy access to books and periodicals. Located in a crowed noisy place in downtown of Sulaimany, the Centre is a little oasis of tranquility and peace. Students often come here to work on their research papers, attracted by both available references and quietude of the place. The Centre offers access to free of charge internet services, as well as free coffee and tea refreshments. Occasionally, the Centre hosts cultural meetings. In 2012, 960 adults visited the Centre, of whom 755 were males and the rest were females.

**Children’s Music Band**

The project was started in 2004 with the main purpose of offering children an opportunity to learn playing various musical instruments, such as violin, flute, clarinet, piano, Kurdish traditional musical instruments, and cello. The Band took part in Newroz celebrations by presenting some music pieces to children and their parents.

Because of the renting difficulties, the project was temporarily terminated and the staff was dismissed on June 30, 2012 until the time when an appropriate building becomes available. The instruments and furniture were transferred to Sara Kaziwa.

**Shahid Jabbar Exemplary School**

Shahid Jabbar Exemplary School is a coed exemplary school providing intermediate and secondary education to students from the 7th to the 12th grade. Every year the school admits 50 new students who obtained high grades at the completion of the primary stage and who successfully passed the school admission test.

The school orientation is scientific, and the language of instruction in scientific subjects is English. Special attention is given to computer science and to learning Kurdish, Arabic, and English languages. Students also attend compulsory classes in arts, music and sports, with the required training facilities offered by the school.

The school has an established set of rules and regulations, with clearly defined obligations and rights of every member of the school community: its management, its staff, and its students, all of whom are bound to respect these rules and to act in accordance with them.

While providing a quality education is the main school objective, another goal is to teach students to be self-reliant and self-dependent via participation in the process of school governance, wherein their voice is heard and their opinions are respected.

In the outcome of the academic year of 2011-2012, out of 50 students who took part in national exams, 43 were successfully admitted by most prestigious colleges.

**Rehabilitation Services for Children with Special Needs**

The project was launched on October 1, 2011 by opening rehabilitation sections in Sara and Sarshaqam Kaziwas, wherein some educational rehabilitation services are provided to children with special needs. The main objective of this project is to help children with special needs succeed in their educational progress.

The rehabilitation services are offered to
children with hearing impairment, with autism, with speech articulation and understanding difficulties. The offered services are monitored by a speech pathologist, who examines each child and sets an individualized rehabilitation training programme for each specific case under a supervision of a trained KSC staff member. In the process of the rehabilitation training, close connections are created between the doctor, the KSC staff trainer and the parents of the child.

In 2012, there were 23 children who benefitted from the individualized rehabilitation training programmes offered by the Sector.

**Short Term Projects**

*The Kaziwa Magazine*

In 2012, the Sector staff came up with an idea to start issuing an annual Kaziwa magazine, wherein the goals and the activities of each Kaziwa would be recorded. Aiming at preserving the unity of form, the Sector staff had worked out a general format for the magazine, to be filled with the content unique to each Kaziwa.

In 2012 issues of the magazine, most of the magazine space was filled in with the description of the newly-launched rehabilitation training project, including the project goals, its capacity, and future plans. The published magazines, designed by Ms. Bana Barzo, who worked at the Sector as a volunteer, were given out to children on various children related events. Due to the magazine success, the Sector plans to start issuing seasonal magazines in the coming year.

**Offering training to children of Mawat area during summer holidays**

On June 20, 2012 a representative of Ministry of Youth and Sports visited KSC with a request to organize and conduct summer training for children of Mawat sub-district. The Sector delivered the courses in music, drawing and handicrafts to the children in the area at the Mawat Public library. The children were eager to learn and, for this reason, the Sector plans to continue the courses next year.

**Assisting Shangal Charity NGO in conducting a summer course for children of the Shangal area**

In June 2012, representatives of Shangal Charity Organization visited KSC with a request to provide financial and logistic support for conducting a course for the children at Shangal area. In accordance with the
submitted proposal, the Sector was to provide the facilities, required for the course delivery, to pay the staff engaged in the course, as well as bear some other relevant expenses.

The Sector was able to assist Shangal Charity Organization in course delivery and to provide this NGO with free of charge internet access for the period of one year.

**Distributing food and clothing for families with low income during Ramadan**

A donor, who wished to stay anonymous, approached KSC with a request to distribute items of clothing for children and some food supplies among the families with low income. The sector gave out both clothing and food items to the poor families kept on records of various KSC Sectors.

**Mobile Toy Library**

The idea of having a mobile toy library was suggested by Ms. Maureen McLuckie, KSC Coordinator in the UK. The project started on August 1st, when Ms. Maureen during her visit to KSC brought boxes of toys for children from the UK. The idea was to lend a toy to a child for two days, and then when the toy was returned to lend the child another toy and keep on lending toys till more and more children were engaged in the process.

The project was first successfully implemented at Bazian Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Center. Next it was implemented at Sulaimany Pediatric Hospital. Seven big boxes, full of toys, were given to the hospital, backed up by a formal request issued by the Hospital. The boxes were later returned to KSC, disinfected, and given to other hospitals for the same purpose.

**Renovating Allawa Foundational School**

The idea of this project was suggested by Ms. Maureen McLuckie and implemented by the KSC Education Sector. The project involved not only the renovation works to be done, but also allocating a specific space for the children who started school for the first time and might have some problems in adjusting to following the school rules, and a resource room for children with special needs.
Opening a child corner at the Radiotherapy Center of Hiwa Hospital

The Radiotherapy Center at Hiwa Hospital is a place where every cancer stricken child undergoes the required treatment. To create a more friendly atmosphere, it was suggested that child friendly corner should be created at the Centre where children could play with toys while waiting for the treatment, where the whole atmosphere would take them away from the hopelessness of the disease to joy and hope, where both children and their parents could feel that they are cared for secure.

In creating such a corner, a number of people were engaged. Ms. Maureen McLuckie, Ms. Emma Bloomfield, and members of the KSC staff took part in painting and decorating the space, and in entertaining the sick children. KSC furnished the corner to become a place of hope for both children and their families.

Supporting devastated villages of Qandil Mountain and surrounded areas

After the Qandil Mountain villages and the surrounding areas were bombarded by the Turkish and Iranian fighter jets, the Sector field officers visited the area to find out how the Sector could help its residents in the aftermath of the bombardment. During their visit, they found that a place called Barda Qisil had a school located in a dilapidated building, not suitable for schooling.

The Sector got in touch with the Engineering Sector of Sulaimany Education Directorate and, in close cooperation with the Engineering team, a request to build a new school for the village and other villages in the area was submitted to Sulaimany Governorate. The follow-up of the request revealed that a project of building a school in that area, to be completed within 200 days, was on the plan of the Governorate actions in 2013. The Education Sector plans to follow-up the project progress.

Providing access to mainstream schools for children with special needs

In 2012, eight families having children with special needs visited the Sector with a request to assist them in admitting their children to mainstream schools. Since the Sector’s officers were aware of an official decree issued by Ministry of Education which stated that children with special needs should be
given an equal access to mainstream education as other children, they contacted the Sulaimany Education Directorate with a request to solve the problem. In the outcome of their negotiations, five children were admitted to mainstream schools, and the remaining three children were denied access because of the severity of their condition. The Sector continues to work on the case to find a solution suitable for all the sides concerned.

Providing assistance to the children living at Zirgwez Camp for internally displaced families

Zirgwez camp hosts the members of political parties banned by Iran and their families. In 2012 several visits were made to the camp to find out about the living conditions of children there. In the outcome of these visits, the Sector provided the required clothing, food, and school necessities for the children. The Sector officers also gave out gifts and presents to children on various occasions, and participated in opening a kindergarten for the younger children living at the camp.

Other Activities

Among other activities carried out by the Sector in 2012, the most notable ones include the following:

In January, gifts, provided by a donor who wished to stay anonymous, were delivered to children living at the Sulaimany Orphanages, on the occasion of New Year.

In February, footwear for children and women, as well as some stationary, were given to children and their families displaced from Wan, Turkey, who were staying in a camp for displaced persons at the Qushtapa area. The gifts, generously provided by Sulaimany Zara Supermarket, were distributed by the KSC Arbil Office team.

Also in February, the Education Sector took part in a seminar on the issue of children with special needs conducted by two visiting consultants from Sweden.

In March, the Sector organized and conducted music and dance parties, as well as art exhibitions, to celebrate Ne’rooz, Kurdish New Year, with KSC Kaziwas and Music band taking part in the events.

In another development, starting in March and continuing throughout the year, the Education Sector assisted the KSC Child Protection Sector in conducting a child protection project in Rania.

In April, the cooperation between the two KSC Sectors on the above-mentioned project continued with more visits to Ranya made by the Sector’s field officers.
In **May**, the Sector was engaged in preparation for conducting a **week-long International Children's Day programme**, started on May 26 and ended on May 30, which involved the following activities:

* **On the first day**, the Sector's team visited the sick children at Sulaimany Pediatric hospital and the children at the hospital's kindergarten to hand some gifts to them, and to present a small show.

* **On the second day**, the Sector's team visited the cancer stricken children at Hiwa hospital, the children at the Autism Center and at the Sulaimany Orphanages to give out some gifts to them. The gift giving ceremony was accompanied with a story narration delightfully performed by Kaziwa children.

* **On the third day**, the Sector's team held celebration parties at Chwarta and Bazian Kaziwas, accompanied with the performance of the story narration and other activities, in which the audience took a major part.

* **On day four**, the KSC Education Sector's staff and other KSC staff members donated blood in support of the donation campaign organized and carried out by the Sulaimany Thalassemia Union.

* **On the last day** of the activity week the Sector's team organized a major event at Tawar Hall and Gallery in Sulaimany. It included a drawing and graphic exhibition, music and singing performance, and other forms of entertainment.

In **June**, the Sector assisted the Shangal Charity organization in organizing month-long summer courses in English, Computer, and fine arts, described above.

In **July**, the Sector participated in a meeting organized by CDO organization to discuss the risks and negative impact of implementing a project of building a dam on the Tigrus River at the Hassan Kif area, undertaken by the Turkish Government. In the outcome of the meeting, it was decided to internationalize the issue by bringing it to the attention of the international community.

Also in **July**, Iraqi Red Crescent conducted a workshop for the staff of KSC Sara and Sarshaqam Kaziwas as well as of Sara Cultural Center on providing first aid in emergency situations.

The Sector also participated in a conference related to the issues of women, youth, and children held on July 4th.
In August, the Sector conducted a workshop for the staff of Autism Center, presented by a volunteer from Holland who shared her experiential knowledge of taking care of children with autism.

In September, the Sector donated to Kirkuk Autism Center children's clothes and footwear, children's toys, and Papule, children's magazine issued by KSC.

On September 19-20, the Sector organized a special programme on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of KSC establishment. It comprised an exhibition of handicrafts and drawings, and a performance of ballet dancing and traditional Kurdish music. All four KSC Kaziwas participated in the event, which culminated in fundraising campaign. The campaign collected donations were given to Hiwa Hospital for Cancer Stricken Children in Sulaimany.

In October, the Children Orchestra of Kurdish Traditional Music in Sara Kaziwa was invited to participate in Rozheki Nwe Kurdsat TV Show.

Also in October, four workshops on Aggression Replacement Therapy (A.R.T. Model) were delivered to the staff of KSC Kaziwas, in cooperation with the KSC Child Protection Sector.

In November, a circus show performed by Ms. Emma Bloomfield was presented to the children at the Sara and Sarshaqam Kaziwas. She also performed to the inmates of Sulaimany Juvenile Observation Houses and Nursing Houses to the great delight of the audience. Ms. Emma also gave performances to the children of Halabja and Kani Panka, both at Halabja Kaziwa and some schools there.

In December, the Sector conducted a workshop, under the name of Changing Disability into Ability, on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disability, in cooperation with several NGOs, representatives of Sulaimany Directorates of Education, Social Affairs, and Health. The main aim of the workshop was to discuss the problems facing persons with disabilities in daily life, and ensure that their rights are preserved and respected. Discussions also evolved around Article 22 of the Kurdistan Regional Government Legislation, stating the rights and privileges of persons with disabilities. The workshop ended with a list of recommendations sent to Kurdistan Parliament for further discussions and actions.

Also in December, 100 gifts were bought and donated to Bakrajo Sports Center on the occasion of New Year and some items were distributed among the children in the area.

Srwa Faizulla / Senior Officer
Kharman’s Story: A Life Changed

Since October 2011, the Education Sector has been engaged in helping children with special needs to overcome problems facing them both at school and in a daily life. For this purpose, the Sector set up two small consulting/training centers at Sara and Sarshaqam Kaziwas, where children with special needs get help. What follows is a story of a girl, whose life dramatically changed after the KSC officers stepped in to help her.

Kharman was born in Shorawa, a remote village outside Sulaimany city. When she was 2 years old, it became clear that the girl had delays in her mental development. However, her mother hoped that her daughter would gradually get better, and when the girl turned six, she took her to school, like any other child in the village.

At school, Kharman was unable to cope with school requirements. She couldn’t keep up with the class. She was unable to develop and sustain friendly relations with her classmates.

Then a great tragedy befell the family. Kharman’s father died in a work-related accident, and her mother had to bear the responsibilities of both mother and father simultaneously. Because of the problems Kharman had at school, her mother finally made arrangements for Kharman to see a doctor. The doctor examined the girl, but gave her no prescriptions.

At school, Ms. Shara, Kharman’s teacher, who lived in Sulaimany, heard about the small Rehabilitation Center, opened by KSC Education Sector at Sarshaqam Kaziwa. She took Kharman and her mother to the Center, where Dr. Nawzad, speech pathologist, who works for KSC and supervises the KSC Rehabilitation Centers run at Sara and Sarshaqam Kaziwas, examined the girl. He recommended taking her to a neurologist. The KSC Sector officers made an appointment with a neurologist, who identified Kharman’s condition as a mental developmental delay. He prescribed some medication and recommended that the girl should undergo a course of speech therapy.

Both the prescribed medication and speech training sessions at Sarshaqam Kaziwa made great changes in Kharman. Her school performance is gradually improving, and she is a changed person at home. She helps her mother around the house. Whenever she has an opportunity, she draws picture, or plays a game of pretending to be a grown-up person. She simply loves to visit her grandmother and listen to the stories her grandmother is always telling her. She brings great joy to her family and is beloved by everybody.
Youth Sector

KSC Youth Sector runs eight Youth Activities Centers located in Sulaimany, Koya, Rania, Derdendikhan, Halabja, Kalar, Khanqeen, and Shorsh. The Center teams work hard to deliver various services to the youth in the area. The Center doors welcome all young people regardless of their political views, religious beliefs, or ethnicity. By providing space and opportunities for young people to identify and develop their potentials and express their innermost aspirations, the centers often become the second home to most of its participants. It might be for this reason that the Sector continually receives requests from the youth living in the areas where there are no such centers to establish a youth center in their respective area.

Below is a summary of the activities held by each KSC Youth Activities Center.

Sulaimany Youth Activities Center

In 2012, the Sulaimany Youth Activities Center continued to offer educational courses in various fields of knowledge and provide space and training services for the youth engaged in different kinds of sports and fitness workout programmes.

The Center has a beautiful garden. It is the Center policy to make the participants volunteer to take care of it and keep it trimmed.

To ascertain the Center community, each youth visiting the center and participating in the Center’s activities is given a unique code. In 2012, 782 codes were given to the Center participants, among whom 652 were males and 130 females.

The services to youth are provided via the Center departments. Below is a summary of the activities conducted by each department.

Computer and Internet Department: In 2012, the Department organized 13 training courses, attended by 218 youths trained in using Microsoft Word, Excel, Windows, 3D Max, Photoshop, Database, Power Point, computer hardware, computer formatting, Networking, and Internet browsing.

Music Department: In 2012, the total number of 338 youths (315 males, and 23 females) visited the Department, where they were taught how to play various musical instruments, including violin, guitar, piano, daff, flute, and tar. In the outcome of training, the participants created a Daff Music Band, which took part in various activities, organized by the Center.

Fine/Graphic Arts Department: In 2012, the department offered 4 courses on drawing and painting to 136 youths. On the occasion of the KSC 21st anniversary, the Department organized an exhibition, wherein the course participants displayed their works.

Language Learning Department: Throughout the year, the department offered 10 courses in English to 237 youths. It also offered an opportunity to learn Arabic and Kurdish to 15 youths.

Vocational Training Department: The Department conducted 11 courses in hairdressing and hair styling for men to 193 participants.

Sports Unit: It is an independent unit, affiliated to the Center, comprised of the following departments: football, volleyball, basketball, bodybuilding, kung-fu, thai-kuan-du, and tennis. All the departments are run by professional trainers, some of whom are volunteers.

The Sports Unit Departments are equipped with modern facilities, which attract the participants to regularly attend the Unit Departments. The athletes trained at the Sports Unit participated in a number of competitions and got medals in most tournaments.

Extra activities: In January 2012, in cooperation with various book publishers, the Center organized a Book Exhibition, wherein more than 2000 book titles were exhibited. Books were sold with a 50% discount.

In July, the Center cooperated with Iraqi Red Cross in organizing a seminar on first aid in emergency situations, presented by the Red Cross team.

On the occasion of KSC 21st anniversary, the
Center organized several activities, including a graphic art exhibition, an exhibition of natural stones in Kurdistan, and conducted various sports activities.

Darbandikhan Youth Activities Center

Since its establishment in 1999, the Darbandikhan Youth Activities Center has been unrivaled in Darbandikhan for the quality of its services offered to the youth in the area. Formerly, a small building situated at a garbage disposal place, it is now surrounded by a beautiful park grown by the Centre participants in the place of former garbage. The Center and the garden became a place of peace and repose not only for youth, but for pigeons as well. The Center, a cafeteria, and the sports unit are opened around the clock, making the Centre a place of refuge for all.

In 2012, 2711 youths attended the Center, of whom 2164 were males and 547 – females.

Below is a summary of the activities carried out by each department in 2012.

Computer and Internet Department: The Department was frequented by 322 youths, who made 4165 visits throughout the year. They were taught how to use Microsoft Word, Excel, and Photoshop programmes.

Music Department: Since there is no Fine Arts Institute in Darbandikhan, this department has been of tremendous importance to the youth of the area, especially since it is a seat of traditional music. The participants are not only taught how to play various musical instruments, but also how to preserve the traditional Kurdish music as well.

In 2012, the Department offered 9 courses, wherein 91 youths were trained in playing daff, drum, sitar, santur, flute, and violin. In the outcome of the training, the Center Daff Group performed on several occasions, such as: The anniversary of Darbandikhan uprising; the 24th commemoration of bombarding Sewasan village with chemical weapons; Sharsagam Theatre Festival in Sulaimany; the 228th anniversary of Sulaimany foundation; the ceremony of the return of 158 Anfal victim remains. Most of these performances were broadcasted by a number of local and satellite channels. Apart from this, for the first time, the Group gave a concert in Kitri town.

Library: The number of youths who visited the library in 2012 exceeded 2400 youths and the number of check outs was 1600 books.

Sports Department: In 2012, the Sulaimany Governorate built a tartan stadium for the department, and renovated the volleyball and basketball stadiums as well. The Department offered 3 courses on chess playing; 4 courses on table tennis, and 1 course on football. Throughout the year, the Chess, Table Tennis
and Bodybuilding Sections of the Department were open day and night for the participants.

**Language Learning Department:** The Department provided courses in teaching English and Arabic languages. The overall number of the course participants was 266 youths. Apart for language courses, vocational training in tailoring and fashion styling was also offered.

**Ranya Youth Activities Center**

In 2012, Ranya Youth Activities Center continued to deliver quality services to the youth of Ranya via its different department. Throughout the year, the Center had 1799 regular visitors; of whom 1329 were males and 380 – females.

Below is a summary of the activities conducted by each department.

**Computer and Internet Department:** In 2012, the Department delivered 13 training courses attended by 145 youths, training them in using MS Word, Excel, Windows, Photoshop, Internet browsing, and creating a webpage. Throughout the year, 515 youths visited the Department and participated in its activities.

**Music Department:** The Department conducted 9 courses, wherein 110 youths were taught how to play violin, lute, clarinet, guitar and other stringed instruments. The participants of the department took part in various events, such as the anniversary of Rania; a live show on Kursat Satellite Channel; the anniversary of establishing the Raparin University in Rania; a music and song event at the cultural café in Ranya on the occasion of the International Music Day.

**Fine/Graphic Arts Department:** In 2012, the overall number of youths who attended the Department was 294. The Department offered 3 courses in graphic and fine arts to 47 youths, and provided space for daily training to 23 youths. It also organized 4 exhibitions wherein the participants’ works were put on display.

**Language Learning Department:** The department offered 8 courses for learning English, Persian, and Arabic languages to 451 youths.

**Vocational Training Department:** Vocational training became part of the Center activities in 2012. The main objective of introducing the training was to help the youth earn their living and be self-dependent in their future life. There were 4 courses offered: 2 courses – in tailoring; 1 course – in hairdressing; and 1 – in installation of air conditioning systems.
The overall number of 189 youths participated in the courses, upon the completion of which most of them were able to start their own businesses.

Library: in 2012, 1417 youths visited the library checking out 1021 books.

Sports Department: In 2012, the Department provided learning/training opportunities in table tennis, football, and thai-kuan-du. It also organized 3 tennis tournaments, 10 friendly football matches, and 1 course in thai-kuan-du. The Department was open for the youth throughout the year.

Among other activities, the Centre organized festivities on the occasion of the 21st anniversary since KSC was founded. An exhibition of drawings and graphic art compositions made by the Center participants was presented, a dance and music party was held, and the activities of the Center were shown on a slideshow.

The Center also held a two-day conference on youth-related topics, wherein 120 youths took part. The conference presentations and discussions evolved around the following topics: Youth and Search for the Future, From Youth to Youth, Youth Unemployment, and Team Work. A video report about the youth status in Ranya was shown to the conference participants. During the conference, an exhibition of photos made by Ari Mustafa was displayed, and a music and dance party was conducted. At the end of the conference, some recommendations were developed to be submitted to the government institutions and organizations working with youth.

Koya Youth Activities Center
In 2012, Koya Youth Activities Center continued to deliver its services to the youth in the area. In 2012, the total number of youths who participated in the Center activities exceeded 2127.

Below is a summary of the activities held by the Center departments in 2012.

Music Department: In 2012, six courses were offered, wherein the participants were taught how to play musical instruments of their choice. In an attempt to encourage the budding musicians, the Department organized a concert to provide them with an opportunity to perform to the wider audience.
Fine/Graphic Arts Department: The department offered 5 courses to 326 youths, whose works were exhibited at 6 exhibitions organized by the Department in Koya, and its suburbs: Khalakan and Ashali.

Computer Department: The Department offered 4 courses (2 – in computer programmes, and 2 – in the Internet browsing) to 134 youths.

Library: The total number of 490 youths visited the library in 2012, checking out 594 books.

Sports Department: The total number of 2371 youths took part in training sessions, offered by the Department, in kung-fu, gymnastics, table tennis, and daily physical fitness workouts. The Department also organized several tournaments and competitions wherein the trainees were given an opportunity to demonstrate their skills.

Language Learning Department: The Department offered 9 courses for learning English language to 406 youths, as well as one course for learning French language – to 34 youths.

Vocational Training Department: The Department offered 4 courses in tailoring to 142 females. It also organized an exhibition of handicrafts, and dresses cut and made by participants interested in fashion design and styling.

Among extra activities, the Center conducted a workshop, a seminar and 2 poem reading events, which attracted attention of the wider audience.

Kalar Youth Activities Center

Providing various services to the youth in the area and encouraging the spirit of volunteering in them were the main objectives of Kalar Youth Activities Centre in 2012. Throughout the year, the Center continued to offer services in the fields of computer and Internet usage, music, fine arts, vocational, and language training, and sports.

In 2012, the overall number of the young people attending the center was 4135 youths, of whom 2942 were males and 1193 were females.
Below is a summary of the activities conducted by the Center departments.

**Computer and Internet Department:** The Department offered 26 courses on various computer-related topics to 312 youths. Additionally, the Department provided Internet access to 628 youths.

**Music Department:** The main achievement of the Department in 2012 was the establishment of a Music and Daff Band, apart from offering 28 courses to 175 youths, wherein they were taught how to play various musical instruments. On the whole, throughout the year, there was an ongoing musical training at the Department, with the Daff Band members being part of a tightly scheduled training process.

In 2012, the Department participants took part in the following events:

*A music and dance party conducted on January 26, 2012*

*National occasions and events, such as celebration of the International Women’s Day; commemoration of the 24th anniversary of Halabja bombardment with chemical weapon; the 5th Gula Hanar Annual Ceremony to commemorate the victims of Anfal Campaigns, and, finally the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.*

*Participating in a live show of the Kurdsat Satellite Channel conducted to commemorate the victims of the chemical bombardment of Kalar and Kifry in the 1980s.*

*Participating in the Rojeki Niwe Programme shown live on Kurdsat Satellite Channel, wherein the Center Daff Group was performing.*

*Participating in the 21st Anniversary of KSC establishment, wherein the Center Music and Daff bands gave a joint performance.*

**Fine and Graphic Arts Department:** The Department offered 32 courses on the basics of artistic representation to 265 youths. It also organized 5 arts exhibitions. Additionally, it conducted an Introductory Course on the Basics of Artistic Representation delivered to 12 youth aspiring to be admitted to the Fine Arts Institute in the future.

**Library:** There were 2557 recurrent visits made to the library in 2012, during which 1372 books were checked out. In an attempt to motivate the youth to study and learn more, the library team organized a monthly competition. A sheet of paper containing 15 questions was distributed among the youths willing to participate in the competition.

The winner would be made among the ones who had most of the correct answers by random draw.

**Language Learning Department:** The Department offered 69 courses on mastering English language to 920 youths, at both elementary and advanced levels using Intro and Interchange teaching English series.

**Vocational Training Department:** The Department offered training courses in tailoring and hairdressing as follows: 9 courses on tailoring were offered for 108 youths, and 8 courses on hairdressing were offered to 116 youths. The overall number of trainees was 224 youths.

**Sports Department:** The department offered training sessions in football, ping-pong, chess, volleyball, basketball, and bicycling. It also organized 2 football tournaments among 8 teams in Kalar. The Department also broadcasted the 2012 UEFA European Football Championship on the cinema screen for youth in the area.

There were also conducted 27 courses on playing ping-pong, and organized 1 tournament, wherein professional players were engaged. A specific course on rules and refereeing in a table tennis match was also conducted. With regard to other kinds of sports, 7 courses on the art of playing chess were offered, and a bicycle racing was organized, wherein 63 youths participated. Finally, a volleyball tournament was carried out with participation of 6 teams.

**Extra activities** conducted by the Center included: 4 poem reading events, wherein the young poets took part; a number of
cultural meetings to discuss the following topics: Suicide, and Its Prevention; Youth and Prevention from Using Addictive Substances, and, finally, How to Preserve the Environment. Also, a seminar, a workshop, and an open talk were conducted on the following topics: The Issues Facing the Youth of Kalar, Building Peace in Families, and Current Needs of Youth.

Khanaqin Youth Activities Center

The Khanaqin Youth Activities Center provides learning opportunities for the youth to acquire skills in computing and Internet usage, music, fine arts, sports, and other fields of knowledge.

In 2012, the Center provided services to 1485 youths, of whom 1229 were males, and 256 were females, who attended the Center various departments.

Below is a summary of the activities conducted by each department.

Computer and internet Department: In 2012, the Department offered 14 courses to 185 youths, wherein they were taught how to use MS Word, Excel, ICS programming, computer maintenance, ICDL programmes and Windows. The Department also provided an access to Internet, used by 897 youths. Finally, 8 courses on internet surfing were offered to 139 youths.

Music Department: The Department offered 13 training courses to 124 youths teaching them how to play various musical instruments. It also established a Music and Daff Band, which participated in a number of occasions and (inter)national events such as, Valentine’s Day; the 34th commemoration of the Haloi Sur martyrs; poetic readings dedicated to famous poets; the anniversary of the KSC foundation, and, finally, the National Flag Day. There were also 2 concerts given at the center.

Fine/Graphic Arts Department: The department offered 14 courses on various aspects of fine/graphic arts to 351 youths. It also organized 4 arts exhibitions held at the Centre.

In addition to this, 5 exhibitions were organized on the occasions of the International Women’s Day, the Kurdish national dress, and the anniversary of the KSC foundation.

Library: In 2012, 270 youths visited the library checking out 155 books. The Center Library also hosted open talk on the issues relevant to the youth of Khanaqin.

Sports Department: The Department offered 66 courses on playing football, and 1 course each on chess, volleyball, and table tennis playing. There were also organized 46 friendly matches, wherein the Center football, basketball, and volleyball teams took part. The Centre basketball, volleyball, ping-pong, and chess teams took part in 6 tournaments. The Department also organized 2 athletic events, starting from July 1 and ending on August 30, 2012, wherein the youth from Kalar and Khanaqeen took part. Among other activities, the Center organized 3 seminars on the topics relevant to the youth of the city. The Center participants also took part in the following events: an art exhibition under the name, From the Young Talents; a chess tournament, and music and song presentations on different occasions.

Halabja Youth Activities Center

Halabja Youth Activity Center offers ongoing services to the youth of Halabja. Although the Center building, rented by KSC, is small, the Center team continues to deliver quality services to the youth in the area, which is provided via the Center different departments. Below is a summary of the activities carried out by the Center.

Music Department: In 2012, the Department offered 20 training courses to 207 youths, wherein they were taught how to play musical instruments such as, daff, sitar, santur, keyboard, and guitar. In the outcome of training, the young musicians set up the Center Music Band. The Band participated in various events and festivals, such as: a celebration of International Women’s Day; the 24th commemoration of Halabja bombardment with chemical weapons; the 5th Gula Hanar annual ceremony to commemorate the reburial of the remains of 158 Anfal victims brought back to Kalar. The Center Music Band also took part in two TV Shows organized and conducted by Kurdsat Satellite Channel.
Additionally, on July 17th, 2012, the Center Music Band and Koya Youth Center conducted a joint music and song concert, which attracted attention of the wider audience.

**Library:** In 2012, the total number of 1700 youths attended the library and checked out 309 books. There were 100 new titles added to the library collection in 2012.

**Sports Department:** Space limitation restricted the choice of activities to be offered by Sports Department as compared to other departments. The only service that the Department could offer to youth was an opportunity to play table tennis and/or chess. This notwithstanding, there were 232 youths who participated in the Department activities in 2012.

**Fine Arts Department:** This is one of the most popular departments at the Center, for it offers an introductory training in the field of Fine Arts, a compulsory requirement for admission to Halabja Fine Arts Institute. In 2012, the Department offered service to 224 youths and organized 3 arts exhibition held in the Center.

**Sewing and Fashion Styling Department:** Attended mostly by young women, the Department offered 15 courses to 79 participants, with the purpose of helping the participants earn their living and depend on themselves in their life, and thus, become economically independent. In a questionnaire, 36 young women who attended the training confirmed that they were able to supplement their own/their family income by using the tailoring skills acquired during the training.

**Learning Language Department:** In 2012, the Department offered 5 courses teaching English and Persian languages to 307 youths.

**Extra activities** carried out by the Center included 5 seminars on the following topics: Self Dependence, Suicide, and, finally, Social Changes and Their Impact on Social Problems.

Also, on the occasion of the KSC anniversary, the Centre conducted an open talk on best practices in learning English language, opened a Graphic Arts Exhibition, and organized a public musical performance.
Shorish Youth Activities Center

Shorish Youth Activities Centre is the only center in Shorish area that offers services to youth free of charge. In 2012, the Centre organized and conducted a number of meetings and seminars on various issues having cultural relevance and educational intent. In 2012, the overall number of youths visiting the Center and taking part in its activities was 1057, of whom 921 were males and 136 – females.

The Center delivers the services via its departments. Below is a summary of activities carried out by each department.

Computer Department: In 2012, the Department taught 418 youths on using Microsoft programmes, such as Word, Excel and computer formatting.

Music Department: Due to the lack of professional instructors, the Department was less active as compared to other departments. Its most outstanding activity was a music party held to celebrate the New Year, which took place at the Center’s hall.

Library: There were 2025 library visits made by the youth of the area in 2012.

Sports Department: The Department provided the youth with a space to play football, volleyball, table tennis, and master in kickboxing. Several friendly matches and tournaments were organized for the Department participants throughout the year.

Graphic Arts and Sculpturing: There were 423 youths who recurrently visited the Department in 2012. As an outcome of their activities, the individual exhibitions of their works were displayed at the Center.

Vocational Training Department: The Department delivered 2 tailoring courses attended by 42 female participants.

Language Learning Department: In 2012, 4 courses (3 courses in English language, and 1 – in Kurdish language) were delivered to 123 youths.

Student Support Services: A special course in chemistry and mathematics was delivered to support students having difficulties with chemistry and mathematics at school. The main objective of the course was to help the students to succeed in their exams. The total number of 127 youths undertook the course.

Among other activities organized by the Center, there were conducted 4 seminars on various youth related topics for the youth of the area.

Khalid A. Qadir/ Senior Officer
Health Sector

In 2012, KSC Health Sector continued to take care of the families seeking treatment for their children both in the Region and outside it. Throughout the year, the Sector was engaged in carrying out the following activities: 1) processing the applications for treatment; 2) making arrangements for treatment delivery; 3) working with visiting medical teams; 4) providing mobile medical services and other related activities.

Below is the summary of the Sector’s activities in 2012.

1- Processing applications for treatment: Placing a patient on a waiting list

The process of processing applications for treatment follows a well-established routine.

Parents bring the child and his/her medical history to the KSC doctor, who considers possible referral options for the child. If the treatment required incurs medical and logistic assistance, the name and address of the child are recorded and given to the Health Sector field officers who later visit the family, and fill in a form containing the detailed information of the child’s medical condition. The data recorded on the form are further entered onto the Sector’s database, and the child is accordingly placed on a waiting list of patients having a similar medical condition.

In 2012, a greater number of new forms were filled in as compared to previous years. All in all, 422 new forms were filled in for sick children living in Sulaimany, Hawler, Khanaqeen, Saidasadiq, Halabja, Halabjai Taza, Kalar, Penjwen, Rania, Churta, Koya, Chamchamal, Kirkuk, Arbat, Qaradaghi, Qaladiza, Soran, and a number of villages scattered over the Region. The requests for treatment and the new forms filled in in accordance with these requests were as follows: 38 in Erbil office; 101 in Duhok office; 7 in Kirkuk office; 4 new forms were filled in by the field officers of the KSC Education Sector; 6 new forms were filled in by the field officers of the KSC Sponsorship Sector, and 93 new forms were filled for the children who visited the KSC Headquarter office in Sulaimany. Referrals to specialists in Sulaimany and other cities of Kurdistan were suggested to the parents of 88 sick children, who did not report back to KSC.

In 2012, Dr. Herish Hama Raaf, the KSC pediatrician, examined 690 children who were
brought by their parents to the KSC Headquarters in Sulaimany from various places of the Region.

2- Making arrangements for treatment delivery

As soon as the name of a child has been recorded on the Sector’s database, arrangements are made for finding a place where the child could be treated, either inside or outside the Region. The arrangements involve negotiating with a hospital for the patient’s admission, processing and getting the required visas, and facilitating the process of treatment delivery both for the patients and their parents. Often, due to various reasons, mostly with regard to the children to be sent for treatment abroad, the number of children for whom the negotiations are held is greater than the number of children that are actually sent abroad. For instance, in 2012, with regard to the children sent to Iran for treatment, the negotiations were held for 49 children; however, only 39 children were actually sent. In 2012, treatment was provided to the sick children on the KSC waiting lists both inside of Kurdistan Region and outside it. The treatment was delivered by both local and international physicians as follows: a) Inside Kurdistan by local physicians; b) inside Kurdistan by medical teams from abroad, and c) outside Kurdistan.

Inside Kurdistan by local physicians

The following number of patients underwent surgery performed by local physicians inside Kurdistan:

* 33 children, suffering from different medical conditions, underwent surgeries performed by local doctors in Sulaimany
* 20 patients suffering from various diseases underwent surgeries performed by local doctors in Arbil
* 9 children with hearing and speaking disabilities underwent the Cochlear implant surgery in Sulaimania, performed by local surgeons
* 3 children underwent cardiac catheterization performed by local surgeons in Sulaimany
* 1 child underwent cardiac catheterization performed by local surgeons in Erbil.

Inside Kurdistan by medical teams from abroad

The following surgeries were performed by surgeons from abroad during their visit to Kurdistan:

* 23 children with cleft lip and palate were operated in Sulaimania by Dr. Brian Sommerlad, a consultant surgeon from the United Kingdom
* 11 children with various spinal diseases were operated on by surgeons from the German medical team at Chami Razan Hospital in Sulaimania
* 29 children, having various congenital heart conditions, were operated on in Sulaimany by the cardiac surgeons from Italy
* 2 children underwent cardiac catheterization performed by surgeons from the Italian team during their visit to Sulaimany.

Outside Kurdistan

* 39 children underwent the required treatment in Iran for various medical conditions, such as (various eye diseases, cancer, conditions requiring neurosurgery, and conditions requiring orthopedic/nephrolithic treatment, as well as problems of diagnosis
* 33 children having congenital heart conditions underwent surgeries performed by cardiac surgeons in Tel-Aviv
* 130 children with congenital heart conditions were sent to India for the required surgery and treatment
* 1 child with heart congenital disease was sent to Turkey for surgery
* 18 children with various heart conditions underwent surgeries performed by cardiac surgeons in Austria
* 4 children with various health problems were sent to Jordan for treatment
* 1 child having a minor congenital abnormality was operated on in Germany
* 1 child with congenital heart condition was sent to Italy on the sixth follow up visit.

1- Working with visiting medical teams

In 2012, KSC Health Sector invited several medical teams to Sulaimany. The members of the team, while performing complicated
surgeries on sick children in the presence of local physicians, gave the local surgeons a unique opportunity to observe their operating skills and techniques in performance.

The following teams visited Sulaimany in 2012:

* A medical team of surgeons from Italy who made three visits to Sulaimany: a 5-day visit in January; a 9-day visit in April, and a two-week visit in September 2012. During their staying in Sulaimany, the team examined a number of children with congenital heart diseases, including an echocardiography examination, and performed surgery on children in critical conditions.

* A medical team of surgeons from Ivrea, Italy, on a follow-up visit of the patients who had previously undergone cardiac surgeries in Ivrea.

* An American medical team of cardiac surgeons who came twice in 2012. The team performed several heart surgeries for children with congenital heart disease.

* A joint visit of medical teams from Lebanon and Jordan, specializing in musculoskeletal system disorders. The members of the teams examined sick children having musculoskeletal disorders and performed surgery on children with scoliosis at the Chami Razan Private Hospital in Sulaimany.

* A visit of two doctors from Lebanon, Dr. Marwan Najjar and Dr. Mohammed Khewa, specializing in epilepsy treatment, who used electrical stimulation methods of anticonvulsant treatment in patients with epilepsy.

* A visit of a Korean team specializing in acupuncture for a number of patients having various medical conditions.

* A visit of Dr. Brian Sommerlad, Consultant Plastic Surgeon in the UK, specializing in cleft lip and palate congenital conditions, who conducted a four-day workshop for the local doctors and plastic surgeons. He also examined children having cleft lip and palate, and operated on several children in critical conditions.

* A follow-up visit of a medical team from Korea to monitor the cases that had previously undergone a cochlear implant surgery. The team brought some required parts of the cochlear implant devices, such as 100 digital hearing aids, 300 cochlear extra wires, 30 cochlear batteries, and 5 cochlear outer units.

* A visit of a medical team from Germany with a purpose of establishing a Rehabilitation and Educational Centre for Children with disabilities and special needs in Sulaimany. The team conducted a 5-day workshop on Voyser therapy for the physiotherapists of the Sulaimany Children Rehabilitation Centre (CRC).

* A visit of a team from MAHAK Charity Hospital for Cancer-Stricken Children in Iran with a purpose of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between MHAK and KSC aimed at launching a MAHAK/KSC joint fund-raising project for helping cancer-stricken children in Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

2. Providing mobile medical services and other activities

In 2012, the Health Sector Mobile team made a number of visits to the villages in various area of Qandil Mountain. The team examined children in the area and provided the required medications to them.

One of the ongoing Sector projects is providing the rehabilitation services to children with Cochlear implant. The services are provided by Dr. Nawzad Chamai, speech pathologist, who conducts regular speech training sessions for children with Cochlear implant. He is also in charge of maintenance of the implant parts and distribution of digital hearing aids. In 2012, digital hearing aids were distributed among 81 children.

Some other services and activities included the following:

* Provision of some basic needs the Sulaimany Children’s Rehabilitation Center (CRC)

* Provision of Protein-free milk for a child with a PKU disability and some medications for some sick children

* Rendering logistic and financial aid to the families of 6 sick children.

Noaman A. Ali / Acting Senior Officer
A Happy End Story of Ahmed

KSC has always been eager to help sick children who visited KSC while seeking medical treatment. This is a story of one of the children who visited KSC in 2012.

Ahmed was born on March 31\textsuperscript{st}, 2012 with cleft lip and palate symptom. Unable to find treatment for Ahmed’s condition, his parents brought the child to KSC in a hope that he will be cured. Dr. Hersh, KSC pediatrician, examined the child and his medical reports and asked the KSC field officer to fill in a form on Ahmed. After the form was filled in for the child, the KSC field officer visited the family to learn more about the child’s condition. Later on, KSC sent Ahmed to Iran for surgery. But since Ahmed’s condition was severe, the doctors in Iran were unable to perform a surgery on the child. The family had to come back home with no immediate prospects of improvement in Ahmed’s condition.

Then, by the end of 2012, Dr. Brian Sommerlad, Consultant Plastic Surgeon in the UK, visited Kurdistan upon the KSC invitation. Specializing in cleft lip and palate congenital conditions, Dr. Brian conducted a four-day workshop for the local doctors and plastic surgeons, and established a board of local physicians including plastic surgeon, ENT and upper jaw specialists, pediatricians, and speech therapists to treat children in critical conditions, similar to Ahmed’s.

Dr. Brian performed a successful operation on Ahmed, who is presently enjoying the life of a typical child without disabilities, to the happiness of his family, relatives, and friends.
Towards equality for children/persons with disabilities

Establishment of rehabilitation services for children with disabilities in Sulaimany and the whole of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq was the main goal of the Research and Training Sector activities in 2012. A focus on the establishment of rehabilitation services was triggered by recent developments, such as: (1) steady rise of children with disabilities/special needs, (2) absence of a Diagnostic Centre for identifying disabilities in Sulaimany and the Region, 3) insufficient number of rehabilitation centres providing rehabilitation services to children with disabilities/special needs, and 4) absence of greatly needed academically trained professional staff to work in those centres.

These observations were made in the course of implementation of three main projects, conducted by the Sector in 2012: 1) Providing individual counselling to parents of children with various kinds of disabilities, 2) Learning about how to use ‘advocacy’ as a method of project implementation, and 2) lobbying for providing funding to 15 physiotherapists to upgrade their degree.

The present report examines the Sector’s activities in the process of implementation of these three projects.

Project 1: Providing individual consultations to parents of children with disabilities

This project has been in progress since 2011. It started on the initiative of Dr. Lana Dawdi, lecturer at the University of Sulaimany, specializing in special education and counselling, who volunteered to conduct counselling sessions for parents of children with disabilities held at KSC. The sessions included examination of children with disabilities, providing counselling to their parents as to how to best cope with daily problems facing them, and referring children to specialists if necessary and if there were any available.

In keeping with Dr. Lana’s tight working schedule, the sessions were conducted once a week, or once in two weeks, or upon parents’ request. In conducting the sessions, Dr. Lana worked in close cooperation with some of the Sulaimany practicing physicians, and some educationalists working in the field of special education.

In 2012, the number of children, whose parents sought consultation, was 27 recorded cases. This number does not include the time-consuming follow-up actions.

The examined children had problems related to the following conditions: various developmental delays and developmental disabilities; speech delays and speech articulation problems; various mental disabilities culminating in mental retardation; Cerebral Palsy (CP), frequently accompanied with epileptic seizures; autism; recurrent nightmares; various behavioural problems, and slow learning. Common questions that parents were raising at the sessions were as follows: 1) Who could give an accurate diagnosis of their child’s condition? and 2) What could they [parents] do now so that their child would have a secure future after his/her parents had passed away?

The near impossibility of giving a clear answer to these questions prompted the Sector to organize its work around a wide-ranging goal of Establishment of rehabilitation services for children with disabilities in Sulaimany and Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Meeting this goal needed close cooperation with the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and its institutions. For this reason, ‘advocacy’ was chosen as the main method of attaining this goal.

Learning more about and understanding ‘advocacy’ was evidently the first step to undertake, which prompted the second project launched by the Sector in 2012.

Project 2: An Action Group for Implementing the Disability Law: Learning how to use ‘advocacy’ as a method of project implementation

Interest in ‘advocacy’ (and ‘lobbying’ as its form) was aroused by budget cuttings that
Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC) faced in 2011. As was described in the Sector’s 2011 Annual Report, an option of using advocacy as a means of project implementation was one of the Sector’s responses to coping with the budget cuttings.

Since advocacy, defined as a process aimed at ‘influencing public policy and resource allocation decisions’, was a method new not only to the Sector’s activities, but to the Region as a whole, it took quite some time to learn how to use it.

The learning process was influenced by the Sector’s preoccupation with various disability issues related to children. Problems facing the parents of children with disabilities and special needs pushed the Sector to put forward an issue of special education to be discussed at a January 2012 meeting of the General Coordination Forum, a monthly meeting of the representatives of local and international NGOs, UN agencies, as well as their Government counterparts, organized and facilitated by UNAMI/ODHIS. During the discussions held at the meeting, it was highlighted that access of children with disabilities/special needs to education and rehabilitation services was a human rights issue, and as such, it could be used as a starting point in negotiating with the government for making required changes in public policy and resource allocation decisions.

It was at that meeting that an idea was proposed to establish an Action Group, a main objective of which would be lobbying the government for making decisions that would meet the needs of children/persons with disabilities and special needs.

Such an advocacy group, called an Action Group for Implementing the Law on the Rights and Privileges of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs, was established on February 13, 2012. It was composed of representatives of different NGOs, including those established by persons with disabilities, representatives of governmental institutions, and representatives of families having children/persons with disabilities. The Group’s main objective was to work towards implementing the Disability Law, adopted by the KRG Government in December 2011.

The Action Group met regularly once a month until June 2012. During these meetings, the Group was mainly preoccupied with organizational issues, such as, identifying a scope of the Group activities and choosing methods of their implementation.

The main theme and the scope of the Group activities was identified as Mainstreaming disability, understood as working towards providing equal access and equal opportunities for children/persons with disabilities and special needs in all spheres of life. The method chosen for implementing the subsequent activities was 'lobbying' the government. The milestones to be achieved were identified as: 1) establishing a diagnostic centre for identifying disability (screening), 2) establishing Early Intervention and Rehabilitation Centres offering rehabilitation services to children/persons with disabilities (referral), and 3) developing highly qualified professional staff for working in rehabilitation centres by providing access to academic training in the fields of rehabilitation services unavailable in the Region, to those willing (nurturing highly professional workforce). To achieve this, it was decided to establish advocacy groups, with each group working on a specific disability issue, in close cooperation with the government, for finding solution to the problems related to that issue.

Most of the Group members were eager for an immediate action. However, lobbying demanded a total commitment, which was rather problematic, for each member of the group had often other equally pressing responsibilities they had to attend to. Amidst the pressure of attending to daily responsibilities and tasks, even organizing and conducting monthly meetings became challenging, and this resulted in postponement of the Group’s meetings for the time being. Nevertheless, the Sector’s third project was, in fact, practical application of lobbying and acting as an advocacy group for realizing the third milestone – nurturing highly professional workforce in the fields of rehabilitation services, unavailable in the Region.
Project 3: Lobbying for providing funding to 15 physiotherapists to upgrade their degree in India

Started in 2011, this project was described in details in the KSC 2011 Annual Report. To sum up, the University of Manipal, India, opened a Bachelor of Physiotherapy Bridge Course for Iraq’s practicing Diploma Holders in Physiotherapy in June 2011. The maximum intake was 15 candidates annually. The course duration was two years and a half: 2 years of course work and 6 months of internship. The total cost for the whole period of study for 15 candidates was estimated as US $ 225,000 (US$ 15,000 for each candidate). The main objective of the project was to find out who would take responsibility for providing funding: Ministry of Health, or Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

In the course of lobbying for allocating the funding, the Sector was working in close cooperation with the candidates, as a team. During 2011, the required documents were obtained from different government institutions involved. Visits were made and negotiations were held with Minister of Health, top officials from Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, members of the Health Committee of the Kurdistan Regional Parliament, and, finally, Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government.

In 2012, after the new Government Cabinet had been formed, the 2011 lobbying process was repeated along almost the same route. Yet, by the end of the year, there was no definite response as to who would be able to take a responsibility for funding. Reasons stated and implied were as follows: 1) Ministry of Higher Education was unable to provide funding for the candidates engaged in undergraduate studies owing to Ministry regulations; 2) Ministry of Higher Education would recognize a Bachelor Degree only if a Diploma holder studied for a period of three years at an institution recognized by the KRG Ministry of Higher Education; 3) Ministry of Health was unable to provide funding, with no reasons stated. 4) Both Ministries claimed that the issue could be solved only at the Council of Ministers level.

By the end of 2012, it became obvious that the next step to make was to put forward this issue for consideration of the Council of Ministers. Consequently, the work over the project would be continued in 2013.

Lessons learned:

1- The success of lobbying process depends on the Government readiness to recognize a problem, and the Government ability, efficiency, and flexibility to make decisions leading to possible solutions to the problem

2- The existing rigid bureaucratic structure, underlying the present Government, effectively stalls any lobbying process, even if the lobbying is undertaken with a goal of meeting the public needs.

Planning for 2013:

1- The work over the first project would be extended to include a collection of data on a number of children with disabilities in Sulaimany and the Sulaimany Province

2- Lobbying, based on a close cooperation with the KRG Government, would remain one of the most important methods of project implementation

3- Data collected in the course of implementation of the first project would be used in the lobbying process

4- Mainstreaming disability, understood as working towards providing equal access and equal opportunities for children/persons with disabilities and special needs in all spheres of life would remain the main theme of the lobbying process

5- Establishment of rehabilitation services for children with disabilities would be considered as a programme undertaken by the Sector

6- The identified milestones could be considered as stepping stones leading towards the programme implementation, with the specific projects/subprojects to be identified later.

Lydia Shaswar / Senior Officer
Since the day it was opened, the KSC Kirkuk Office team has been giving priority to promoting the spirit of co-existence among the children and youth of the multi-ethnic and multi-religious population of Kirkuk. For this reason, in planning the office activities, it was vital to regard the composite structure of the city population as a starting point of any undertaken project. In carrying out its projects, the KSC Kirkuk Office team acquired a considerable experience of working in the culturally diverse social settings and fully relied on this experience in the process of its work.

KSC Kirkuk office offers services to children and youth via its three sectors: Education, Child Protection and Sponsorship. The office is also engaged in filling in special forms for sick children who are in need of medical help, which are then sent them to the KSC Health Sector at the KSC Headquarters in Sulaimany.

Below is a summarized description of the projects implemented by the office in 2012.

Education Sector

Education Sector seeks to provide quality services to children and youth coming from various social groups that compose a diverse fabric of the city population. The Sector runs the Youth Activity Center, as well as two cultural centers for children, wherein training is offered to children and youth in computer, sports, music, drawing, and English by professionals and academically trained instructors. Electronic games are also available for recreation. The centers provide a space for children and youth for their intellectual development and discovery of their capacities and potentials.

During 2012, the total number of children and youth who took part in the centers' activities was 25404, of whom 16973 were males and 8431 – females.

The Sector continued working in close cooperation with some educational institutions, such as Kirkuk Sports College and most of the kindergartens of the city.

Kirkuk Youth Activity Center

The overall number of youth that attended the center in 2012 was 13660 youths, of whom 10155 were males and 3505 – females.
In 2012, the following activities were conducted at this center:

* 12 training courses in drawing were conducted by the Drawing Department, wherein 590 youths participated
* 12 courses were offered by the Computer Department to 469 participants
* 12 training courses for learning English language were conducted for 462 youths
* 13 courses in football, badminton, table tennis, and daily workout for body building were offered to 1126 youths
* 12 training courses on teaching how to play various musical instruments were conducted by Music Department, wherein 403 youths took part.

Other Activities

Apart from carrying out training projects, the Center organized and hosted several musical and dance parties, wherein youth and their guests representing the city’s different ethnicities took part.

Additionally, the Center provided an opportunity for young talents to exhibit their drawings on several occasions, including the KSC 21st anniversary, wherein 130 drawings were displayed. A great number of youths, representatives of other NGO’s and media attended the event.

The Center organized several sports contests and tournaments held at the center. Also, the Center’s Sports team participated in several contests inside and outside Kirkuk. Students of Kirkuk Sports College were regular visitors at the Center.

The Center offered space for other local NGOs to conduct their workshops and other activities. It also offered the Center Library’s space to students and scholars of Kirkuk whenever they needed it.

The Center administration worked in close cooperation with the administration of Kirkuk Sports College. It offered the Center stadiums and space for use by the college students for training.

In cooperation with CSI (Civil Society Initiative), the Center organized and held a workshop dealing with the issues of youth and peaceful coexistence. Another workshop, carried out in cooperation with the Independent Media Center in Kurdistan about photography, attracted full attention of youth.

The Sector also facilitated a visit of the Voice of America Radio team to Kirkuk office during
their 4-day visit to Kirkuk. The team organized several workshops introducing music and fine arts to youth and children of the city, wherein a number of children, youth and students of the Kirkuk Fine Arts Institute took part.

Kirkuk Children’s Cultural Center (Kaziwa)
Kirkuk Children’s Cultural Center (Kaziwa) provides an educational and recreational space to children of the city. It is the only center in the city that welcomes all children, regardless of their race, ethnicity or religion.

In 2012, 5730 visited Kaziwa, of whom 3460 were boys and 2267 were girls.

Throughout the year, this center offered 867 children the following training courses conducted by the Centre different departments:

* 9 courses in computing offered by the Computer Department attended by 200 children
* 10 courses in drawing offered by the Fine Arts Department for 240 children
* 9 courses in various kinds of sports offered to 152 children by the KSC Sports Department
* 9 courses in music offered to 233 children by the Center Music Department
* 3 courses for learning English offered to 55 children

Among other activities, Kirkuk Kaziwa organized several cultural events, including music and dance parties, fine arts exhibition, and participated in exhibition contests, organized by other organizations, carried out inside the city of Kirkuk.

On the occasion of International Children’s Day, Kirkuk Kaziwa organized a series of contests, wherein children from different social groups took part. On the same occasion, Kaziwa children took part in a show, organized and conducted in cooperation with the Kirkuk Peace Theatre Group, under the name The Future of Our Children: Where to? Additionally, a photographic exhibition was organized, displaying 20 photos that captured the instances and conditions of working children in Kirkuk.

In 2012, the Kirkuk Kaziwa continued to work in close cooperation with other NGOs and governmental institutions. It provided assistance to a number of kindergartens in the city by offering them Kaziwa premises for conducting their events. It participated and hosted several seminars and workshops on the topics of the rights of a child and conditions of children of Kirkuk, wherein other local NGOs working with/for children took part.

Hasar Children’s Cultural Center (Kaziwa)
Hasar Children’s Cultural Center (Kaziwa) is another center run by KSC Kirkuk Office for children from Hasar and Goldara villages around Kirkuk. The Centre offers services to them via different departments.

In 2012, the overall number of children who visited this Center was 6883; of which 3174 were boys and the rest were girls. The following training courses were offered to 634 children in 2012:

* 3 courses in computing – to 242 children conducted by the Center Computer Department.
* 4 courses in fine arts – to 240 children conducted by the Fine Arts Department
* 3 training courses in various kinds of Sports – to 152 children conducted by the Sports Department.
Other activities conducted by the Center were as follows:

* organizing music and dance parties on the occasion of Newroz, the Kurdish New Year, festivities
* carrying out a fine arts festival on the occasion of the International Children’s Day, June 1
* visiting the Kurdsat Satellite Channel to take part in the process of a reportage preparation
* conducting 3 workshops for children and their mothers, in cooperation with the Kirkuk Health Department
* offering daily courses in drawing, computing and sports to the children
* offering a special pre-school program to children under the age of 5, with a daily meal provided for each child. Interestingly, the effectiveness of the program encouraged other children to visit the Center. Also, primary teachers noted that the children who attended this program were more capable than their peers who did not.

Child Protection

Juvenile delinquency project is one of the ongoing projects that Kirkuk KSC office has been actively engaged in. The ultimate aim underlying this project is to protect children’s legal rights, carried out in keeping with the following operating procedure: conducting regular follow-up visits to Juvenile Observation Houses, Juvenile Police Department and Juvenile Court in order to negotiate with the authorities the reduction of detention period and release of the child/youth detainees; providing counseling to the juveniles held in custody by discussing with them the offence they had committed and helping them get reintegrated into the society upon their release from custody; conducting follow-up visits after release of the juveniles from custody, aimed at being aware of their psychological condition, their behavior, and the way they are treated; helping them get reintegrated into the society as respected individuals.

As compared to 2011, the number of juveniles held in custody in 2012 increased to 192.
children, 145 of whom were released after Kirkuk KSC office intervened on their behalf; 29 of them, who reached the age of 18, were transferred to Kirkuk detention center.

It is well known by all people of Kirkuk, especially by the Juvenile Police team, that KSC is the only NGO that works for children who committed legal offences, ensuring that the Juvenile Police team treats the juvenile detainees in strict adherence to the standard legal procedures.

In 2012, the Sector organized and conducted two important workshops for the officers of Juvenile Police, Security Forces, and Juvenile Court on the following topics: Juvenile Delinquency, and how to deal with the juvenile detainees.

**Sponsorship Sector**

Sponsorship has been one of the first projects undertaken by the KSC Kirkuk office team. One of the main aims of the project is to provide financial assistance to children coming from the low income families and, by doing this, to give assurance to mothers/guardians of the sponsored children that they are not alone and that there is someone they could lean on in overcoming life difficulties. Another objective of the project is to help mothers/guardians of the sponsored children keep up their morals and ethics, which, in the long run, would help their children in taking right decisions in future, for their future choices are closely related to what children learn from their mothers/guardians at present.

The project also encourages children to continue their education, which consequently reduces a number of school drop-outs due to poverty. Another positive outcome of the project is that it provides help to children in finding solution to various social problems facing them at school and in their families. The solution is often suggested by the KSC field officers during their regular follow-up visits to the families of the sponsored children.

Throughout 2012, regular visits were made to 118 families. Several visits were paid to the families outside Kirkuk. Also, 4 children excluded from the program were replaced by 4 new cases.

Among other activities carried out by the Sector in 2012 were the following:

* a pair of glasses was provided for a sponsored child

* visits were paid to the families of sponsored children at Musala Health Center and medical support was provided for them

* gifts, clothing, and household facilities, donated by a donor, were delivered to the sponsored families.

**Health:**

Although, there is no health sector at the Kirkuk office, yet health support was always given to those who sought it. The KSC team filled in forms for sick children and sent them to the Health Sector at the KSC Headquarter Office in Sulaimany for further action.

In 2012, the forms were filled in for the children having the following conditions: heart disease (24 cases), hearing-speaking disability (24 cases), ophthalmologic problems (17 cases) and 12 cases with other kinds of disease.

Najmadiin Nuri Muhammed
Kirkuk Programme Manager
KSC - Erbil Office

KSC Erbil office works in the sectors of Child Protection, Education, Relations and Social Awareness. Below are programs of this office; each program is presented as summary.

1- Child Protection
Projects conducted for carrying out this program are:
Protecting children from violence and Mobbing
Child protection sector started a program for protecting children from violence via the activities that are mentioned below;
+ a workshop was organized for “Sardar Sofi” who is an expert in Mobbing, the workshop was conducted for the staff active in the fields of child protection, it was carried out at KSC offices. Sardar Sofi conducted a research about mobbing and was accepted as his MA degree in Germany.
+ another workshop was carried out for 50 social workers of basic schools inside Erbil in cooperation with Ministry of Education and the Kurdistan Sociologists Association. The subject of the workshops was: Children’s rights, ART model, abuse and mobbing.
+ Child Protection Sector conducted an evaluation to identify the size of abuse and mobbing in schools. Data for the evaluation were obtained from the social workers of the schools, and later visits were made to social workers in their working places in order to monitor the process of dealing with the cases.
+ A workshop was conducted for 23 headmasters of basic schools for the related matters of child protection and mobbing.
* A Draft Law for Child Protection

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, in cooperation with UNICEF, prepared a draft law about children's rights, which was presented in a number of seminars. It was proposed that children themselves must be part in writing this law. Erbil office and a French NGO "ACTED" created focus groups for conducting research among school children, children in Government's custody, homeless and handicapped children.

+ Focus groups were created for 20 students in Makhmur town, 20 students in Soran town, 20 students at Daratw town, 10 in Girls and Boys correction facility, 6 children with special needs at Hanna institute for children with special needs.

+ This sector participated in a conference where the draft law of child protection was legalized and finalized. This conference was organized by both UNICEF and ACTED organizations. The draft was studied and the outcome of the focus groups were presented.

* Follow up to the Child Helpline

Child Helpline is a toll free line with a Service Center that children who face different types of abuse can call for reporting a case and record a complaint. KSC took the responsibility of taking care of a number of the calls and to follow up their issues;

+ Three cases were reported to KSC that were cases of violence.

+ Two cases out of the three were followed up and proper solutions were found for them; the third one we couldn't offer help as we were unable to spot the address of the caller.

* Participating and introducing children's rights

For conducting this project, several visits were made to Razhan School. This project was carried out for a group of students; teachers and parents. The federation for NGOs, Women High Committee also participated in carrying out this project.

* Juvenile Correctional Penitentiary

During setting the Labour law, KSC officers visited this penitentiary for making contacts; consulting its employees in the related fields; and offering support to the juvenile held in custody. During the visits, KSC officers took up a case a 9 years old child held with her Guardian, as there was no one to take care of the child. Her guardian was in jail for prostitution. Having found the child's brother, Ksc officers gave it to his custody.

* Children with special needs

Article 23 of the Convention on the Rights of the child states: "States Parties recognize that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child’s active participation in the community". According to a questionnaire conducted by the Sociologists Association of Kurdistan, children with special needs attend more than 60 schools. Special toilets, hand rails, ramps were needed for these schools. In a follow-up effort, a list was prepared for visiting schools attended by children with special needs to find out more about their needs, which initiated a Project for facilitating transportation

In the process of conducting this project, schools inside Erbil attended by children with special needs were visited. It was found that some schools were situated in the areas inaccessible to children with special needs. Also, 10 schools needed ramps for their students, which were provided for them.

Children with special needs were interviewed to find out what their needs were and provide whatever they found necessary for them.

Finally, the facilities including 40 ramps,
and 11 special WCs, were provided for 10 schools wherein children with special needs studied.

* Training and developing the abilities of children with hearing/speaking impairments

A special training course was organized for children with hearing/speaking impairments in computer, drawing, sports and children’s rights, aimed at developing the abilities of these children in their future endeavors, and introducing children’s rights to them.

At the end of the training, a party was organized for the participants, and the certificates of the course completion were awarded to them.

2- Health

In 2012, families of 23 sick children visited KSC Arbil office seeking medical care for their children, 10 of whom had hearing impairment; 11 were having heart diseases and 2 suffered from ophthalmic problems. KSC officers visited each family individually and filled in forms for them. Later, the forms were sent to the Health Sector at Sulaimany office for further actions.

KSC Officers visited Raparin Hospital for providing stool bags for a colostomy patient in Sulaimany.

They also visited a patient whose male genitalia was bitten by an adult mental patient, collecting an information about his case, including surgery expenses, which was later sent to Sulaimany office for refunding and further actions.

KSC Officers took two pregnant women, living in a camp for displaced families from Van-Turkey to a maternity hospital for screening and other checkups and paid their hospital fees.

3- Education
* Training courses in English, drama performance, music, under the umbrella title “Child development” were conducted at the Shawais camp, wherein 100 participants took part. It was conducted in cooperation with Ziar Basic School.

* On August 28th, a small dance and music party was organized for the participants who successfully completed the course. The participants were given gifts and awarded the certificates of course completion. Parents and a representative from Erbil Department of Education attended the courses.

* In cooperation with LG agent in Erbil, a child movie was shown to 25 children in TV3D mode. At the end of the show, each child was given a special gift.

* The staff of this office followed up cases for 2 pupils whom had social problems that affected their schooling negatively.

* A course was carried out for teachers and educational monitors of Kindergartens at Shaqlawa camp; as the most important stage in every child’s life starts with kindergarten, teachers and monitors must treat children in this stage healthily and correctly in order to help them put a strong base for their personality.

4- Relations

* A meeting was held with Minister of Education for getting acquaintance with the Ministry and inform them about KSC projects.

* Participation in a ceremony, organized by the Network of Children’s Rights Protection, wherein a group of children’s rights activists received awards, among whom was the manager of KSC Erbil office for his contribution to promoting the children’s rights.

* Participation in meetings with other NGOs who work with or for children to create a federation of NGOs working in this field; to elect a president of the federation and to set up its program and bylaws.

* Visits were made to Juvenile penitentiary for setting up a monitoring mechanism of the living conditions of the juvenile in that facility.
* Participation in the meetings that was held among the KSC offices in Sulaimania office to discussing mobbing and bullying.

Participation in a workshop on writing project proposals organized by USAID in Erbil.

* Meeting with the Divan Assistant Manager of Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and a person in-charge of children issues at the Ministry for discussing the hand over of the child labour project to the ministry by KSC.

* Participation in a meeting on foster family with STEP NGO and manager of Boys orphanage; the meeting was for revising the Child labour program draft.

* Participation in a meeting that was held in Sulaimany Orphanage on how to establish a department of Foster Family. Managers of KSC Offices in Sulaimany, Erbil and Duhok Social Care participated in the meeting.

* Visiting Hiwa center for children with hearing and speaking disabilities and distributed Papula magazine to the children.

* Participation in the declaration of children rights day celebrations at Fakhir Mergasury camp to donate 50 copies of Papula magazine to them.

5- Media and Social Awareness

Media channels is an effective way to broadcast social awareness to people via different medium. To this end, KSC Arbil Office prepared a number of commercials. Interviews were made with people engaged in working with/for children in Kurdistan region. The aim was broadcasting awareness via TV, radio and written media.

6- Support

Five air conditioners were provided for Kawa Camp for displaced families from Wan, Turkey.

An amount of ID 3,200,000 was donated to the displaced persons from Wan-Turkey at Kawa camp, an amount ID 400,000 was provided for each family.

Farhad Othman Khdir
Erbil Programme Manager
KSC - Duhok Office

In 2012, KSC Duhok Office continued to adapt the implementation of its projects, aimed at protecting, nurturing and developing the children’s capabilities, to the budget limitations.

Throughout the year, the KSC Duhok Office team continued working on implementing the Child Protection Programme, focusing on the following activities: 1) Reducing children from working by reintegrating them into the educational system; 2) Reducing violence against children; 3) Providing assistance to the children of refugee families from Syria; 4) Providing treatment and assisting sick children; 5) Providing learning opportunities to children; 6) Strengthening bilateral relations with other NGOs and governmental institutions.

Other activities can be summarized as follows: participating in child-related events; providing educational opportunities for the KSC employees; and providing assistance to for Duhok Juveniles Police Station.

Below is a summarized description of the projects implemented in 2012

Project 1: Preventing Children from Working

One of the major objectives of the project was to help children get back to their schools. In the process of the project implementation, 257 working children under the age of 15, and 9 teenagers above 15 were identified. Follow-up visits were made to 197 families of working children. Out of the total number of the identified working children, 77 were back to their work again. The financial assistance was provided to 78 of working children, which was collected from the donations of philanthropists, to the total amount of US $ 7,800. Follow-up visits were made to 56 families of those children in order to prevent them from going to work again and stay in their schools.

The project was carried out in close cooperation with the General Directorate of Education in Duhok. When the new academic year started in September 2012, we were able to reintegrate 9 children out of 24 into their schools before the end of 2012. A number of visits to the children’s work places was 61, during which 58 forms were filled in by the night-shift KSC team, in close cooperation with the Juveniles Police Station.

Project 2: Reducing Violence against Children

KSC Duhok Office continued working over the project of reducing violence against children by offering educational workshops to the students of high (secondary) schools in Duhok. The project was carried out in close cooperation with the General Directorate of Education in Duhok. Throughout the year, the Duhok Children Protection Sector conducted a series of twelve-day workshops on life skills for 70 children in 4 selected schools.

Apart from conducting workshops, the KSC Duhok team acted as intermediaries with 4 families, reported for using violence in the treatment of their children. In the course of mediation, 29 visits were made to these families, which were of some help to the children.

Project 3: Providing assistance to the children of refugee families from Syria

In 2012, with the arrival of the refugee families from Syria, the scope of the KSC Duhok Office activities was expanded into providing assistance to them and their children. Since the time the refugee families from the western part of Kurdistan started to arrive in Duhok and the areas around it, the KSC Duhok team was paying regular visits to the Domiz Refugee Camp in Duhok. The KSC team was able to provide some articles of clothing and stationary for the children of these families. To assist the refugees, an amount of ID 16,800,000 was collected from various
beneficiaries and donated to the refugees. In the outcome of this activity, the required school provisions were provided for 1500 children and 580 teenagers. Clothes were bought and distributed among 584 children; 1200 packs of diapers were distributed, as well as 600 cans of milk, and 50 packs of basic food supplies, donated by Peeshlar Company.

Project 4: Providing treatment and assisting sick children
In line with the principles of humanitarian concern, KSC Duhok Office provided monthly help to sick children, including paying for the required medication and/or injections, often expensive, or for the required surgery.

In 2012, the number of forms filled in for the children requiring treatment was 144, 93 of them were sent to Sulaimany, and 51 forms were kept in the KSC Duhok office.

The number of children who needed injection was 16, with 31 injections procured for them. The recorded number of children suffering from CP was about 240 children. To assist them, the amount of 35,108,000 ID was allocated.

Project 5: Providing learning opportunities to children
The main aim of this project is to contribute to the ongoing intellectual development of children. The project is carried out in two spheres: 1) Providing learning opportunities for working children, and 2) Distributing books and magazines at kindergartens and schools.

To provide learning opportunities for working children, KSC Duhok Office cooperated with Zewa Save Children Centre in Duhok. The KSC team identified working children and referred them to Zewa Save Children Centre, wherein summer training courses in computing, and basics of artistic, music, and dramatic performance were offered to them. In 2012, 68 working children were referred to Zewa Save the children Center to take part in the training courses there.

At the same time, KSC Duhok team was
engaged in distributing 1800 magazines of Snela, Papola and some other printed materials to schools and kindergartens in the area.

Project 6: Strengthening bilateral relations with other NGOs and governmental institutions

In 2012, KSC Duhok Office continued its efforts in strengthening bilateral relations with other NGOs and governmental institutions working with/for children and their protection. The main aim of this activity was to introduce KSC to other NGOs and governmental institutions and create opportunities for mutual cooperation and information sharing in the field of child protection.

In 2012, KSC participated in 11 meetings of the Organization of Civil Society in Human Development sponsored by Mr. Bahzad A. Adam, Deputy of Duhok Governor.

Furthermore, KSC Duhok Office continued to serve as a consultant on the Child Rights Protection Committee, composed of the representatives of 7 directorates working in the field of child protection. The Committee was established in 2010 by Mr. Tamar Ramadhan, Governor of Duhok, with the purpose of reducing the number of working children in Duhok.

In general, in 2012, Kurdistan Save Children- Duhok Office kept on maintaining close relations with the Relation Department of Duhok Governorate, Juveniles Police Station, General Directorate of Social Development, and General Directorate of Education in Duhok.

Other activities

In 2012, KSC Duhok office participated in the child and human rights related events. Among them was celebration of International Children’s Day on June 1. On November 20, on the occasion of the World Day of adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, KSC selected four fifth grade students to distribute the handouts explaining the main articles of the Convention and its importance.

In 2012, six members of the KSC Duhok staff participated in several raising skills workshops on the following topics: how to help children and adolescents improve their social skills, held in Arbil; working children and their problems, held in Duhok; how to help children reduce stress, held in Sulaimany; and how to rescue children from danger.

Finally, KSC Duhok office provided financial assistance to Duhok Juveniles Police Station by buying the required stationary and paying for the work related phone calls.

Problems and Obstacles

One of the most pressing problems facing KSC Duhok in 2012 was budget cuts. One of the possible solutions to this problem was strengthening relations with governmental and non-governmental organizations and involving them into the process of project implementation.

In keeping with this method, close working relations were created with the Directorate of Social Development, some NGOs, and some generous donors. Their contributions helped the KSC Duhok team to continue protecting children in all aspects of their lives, especially the working children and those coming from the low-income families. Thus, the financial assistance to children-in-need was provided by the Directorate of Social Development in Duhok and allocated in accordance with the regulations developed by both sides.

Abdulla Ibrahim Masiki
Duhok Programme Manager
### 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>37,988</td>
<td>26,520</td>
<td>Switzerland (PiK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26,520</td>
<td></td>
<td>Italy - Ivria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,605,000</td>
<td>13,297</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10,640</td>
<td></td>
<td>Denmark (Dankurd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6,897</td>
<td></td>
<td>Holland (Rosemary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,671,000</td>
<td>5,925</td>
<td>Iraqi Kurdistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,780</td>
<td></td>
<td>Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43,750</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>180</td>
<td></td>
<td>Holland (Steve)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL OF DSP</td>
<td>9,319,750</td>
<td>105,627</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2- All KSC projects in 2012</td>
<td>6,000,000,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kurdistan Regional Goverment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3- Kurdistan Save the Children</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ChildFund Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4- Health Sector</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,216</td>
<td>Italy - Ivria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5- Health Sector</td>
<td></td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>Mrs Shanaz Ibrahim Ahmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6- Health Sector</td>
<td></td>
<td>30,992,500</td>
<td>Mr. Dana Hussein Qadir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7- Health Sector</td>
<td></td>
<td>675</td>
<td>Holland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8- Education Sector</td>
<td></td>
<td>700,000</td>
<td>Democratic Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9- Student’s Support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Talisman Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10- Child Protection Sector</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,520</td>
<td>Talisman Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL FUNDING:</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,041,012,250</strong></td>
<td><strong>200,913</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.1 KSC expenditure on all KSC projects in 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>Iraqi Dinar</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1- Health Sector</td>
<td>1,683,114,700</td>
<td>28.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2- All KSC offices administration</td>
<td>1,104,779,200</td>
<td>18.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3- Education Sector</td>
<td>802,192,450</td>
<td>13.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4- Youth Sector</td>
<td>781,687,100</td>
<td>13.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5- Child Protection Sector</td>
<td>665,647,900</td>
<td>11.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6- Sponsorship Sector</td>
<td>314,770,850</td>
<td>5.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7- Austrian Vocational Institute</td>
<td>239,785,200</td>
<td>4.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8- Papula Children’s Magazine</td>
<td>197,728,500</td>
<td>3.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9- Student’s Support</td>
<td>148,600,000</td>
<td>2.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10- Media Department</td>
<td>54,850,250</td>
<td>0.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11- Aliawa Village</td>
<td>1,080,250</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL Expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,994,236,400</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2.2 illustrates, by percentage, the KSC expenditure on programs in all offices.
Table 1.0 shows KSC sources of funds in 2012. 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 105,627 $U.S. and 9,319,750 Iraqi Dinars. Each child was sponsored with approximatley 30 $U.S. Per month. Together with various funds for other KSC projects, the grand total of funding was 200,913 $U.S. and 6,041,012,250 Iraqi Dinars.

Table 2.1 shows the expenditure of all KSC projects for the total of 5,994,236,400 Iraqi Dinars.

1,683,114,700 Iraqi Dinars was allocated for the Health Sector. The Administration of all KSC offices funding was 1,104,779,200 Iraqi Dinars.

The Education Sector’s spent 802,192,450 Iraqi Dinars.

The Youth Sector spent 781,687,100 Iraqi Dinars, and Child Protection Sector spent 665,647,900 Iraqi Dinars.

Also, 314,770,000 Iraqi Dinars went to Sponsorship Sector, 239,785,200 Iraqi Dinars was allocated for the Austrian Vocational Institute, and 197,728,500 Iraqi Dinars was allocated for Papula monthly magazine.

Among other expenses, 148,600,000 Iraqi Dinars for Student’s Support, 54,850,250 Iraqi Dinars for Media Department, and 1,080,250 Iraqi Dinars for Aliawa Village.

Figure 2.2 illustrates by percentage, the expenditures of KSC on all KSC projects in 2012. most of funds was used for the Health Sector - 28.08%, followed by the administration of all KSC offices - 18.43%, For Education Sector was spent - 13.38%, and for the Youth Sector - 13.04%.

Also, 11.10% of the funds went to the Child Protection Sector, 5.25% - to the Sponsorship Sector, 4.00% - to the Austrian Vocational Institute, 3.30% - to printing of Papula Monthly Magazine, 2.48% - to the student’s support, 0.92% to the Media Department, and 0.02% - to Aliawa Village.
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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.