Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC-KCF)
2013 Annual Report
For every child: Health, Education, and Protection
Reg. Charity number in the UK : 1027522

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In 2013, Kurdistan Save the Children was able to:

- Provide medical treatment for 386 sick children inside and outside Kurdistan Region
- Provide digital hearing aids for 28 children with hearing impairments
- Invite several teams of physicians, specializing in the treatment of heart, spinal, hearing, and cleft lip and palate disorders, to Kurdistan Region, including the teams from the USA (two visits), Sweden (two visits), Italy (two visits), Jordan (two visits), the UK (one visit), Iran (one visit), and Germany (one visit)
- Sign an MOU with a Jordanian expert on spinal disorders to perform spine surgeries on 50 children.
- Sign an MOU for implanting Cochlear device for 70 children with hearing loss and oral communication disorders
- Provide a dentistry room for Shahid Baqi Kunjrini Hospital
- Provide 44 TV sets for the Sulaimany Pediatric Hospital
- Provide 13 electric-powered wheelchairs for Rozh Association of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs
- Provide monthly financial support for 1191 children on KSC Distance Sponsorship Programme
- Distribute 2789 clothing sets among the children on KSC Distance Sponsorship Programme and their siblings
- Distribute 1400 children/family basic needs hygienic packages among the Syrian Refugees
- Publish and distribute 500 leaflets, 2000 posters on 116 Child Helpline, 2000 posters on Children’s Rights, and 1050 booklets for Radiology Centre
- Provide educational services to 12092 children in Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centres
- Provide services for 18757 youths in Youth Activity Centres located in various places of Kurdistan Region
- Publish monthly 4000 copies of Papula Magazine, a cultural and educational magazine for children, with 3000 copies being given out to children all over Kurdistan free of charge.
Kurdistan Save the Children Timeline

* Established in 1991
* Registered in the UK under the name Kurdistan Children’s Fund in 1994
* Opened the first Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centre in 1997
* Opened the first Youth Activity Centre in 1998
* Opened an office in Kirkuk in 2003
* Opened an office in Baghdad in 2003
* Opened Health Sector in 2005
* Opened offices in Erbil and Duhok for the second time in 2007
* Held its 22nd anniversary in 2013
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.
Letter from the Director

It happened on October 13th at the time when my official visit to Baghdad was coming to an end. In Baghdad Airport, on my way back to Sulaimany, I met Mr. Haji Sa’ad Kolak, who became my flight companion on a short flight from Baghdad to Sulaimany.

While on board, we started a conversation, and he asked me about Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC) NGO and its activities. I gave him a short summary of the KSC activities, and told him that we support orphans, that we send children with congenital heart diseases abroad for treatment and, by doing this, many a time save their lives, that we provide opportunities for the Cochlear Implant surgery for the children with hearing disabilities and make available post-surgery rehabilitation training to them so that they could attend a mainstream school after the training was over, just like any other children. The flight was short, and, next day, Mr. Haji Sa’ad Kolak invited me to have a cup of coffee with him. I accepted his invitation with pleasure, and we met again. During the conversation that followed, Mr. Haji Sa’ad Kolak expressed his readiness to provide funding for performing surgery on 50 children with hearing disabilities, as well as 50 children with vertebral disorders. He donated an amount of US $ 550,000 for this purpose. The goodwill generosity of this respected donor made me very happy and gave me inner peace.

This, however, was just a beginning. Later on, Mr. Haji Sa’ad Kolak sent 8000 items of high-quality children’s clothing items to the children sponsored by KSC. The number of the clothing items, which he sent, was more than the number of the KSC sponsored children. The extra clothing was distributed among the children living in the villages around Sulaimany, Erbil and Duhok.

On other occasions, Mr. Haji Sa’ad Kolak twice sent to KSC an amount of US $ 135,000 to be distributed among the children, sponsored by KSC, most of whom are orphans, or are raised by a single parent, with almost no source of income. Each child received 100 $ dollars, in addition to their regular sponsorship financial assistance.

The total amount of the funding donated by this respected donor to KSC was US $ 820,000. His initiative made me very happy. On behalf of KSC and myself, I use this opportunity to convey our wholehearted gratitude to him for his compassion and humanism.

A year ago KSC made a decision to launch some major fundraising campaigns, but due to the sensitivity of the issue, it was decided to start initially with small fundraising events, with the purpose of donating raised amounts for treatment of cancer-stricken children. Initially, we thought that the potential lethality of the disease might result in huge donations, but this did not happen. It might have been because there were precedents in the past when the funds raised during such campaigns never reached the beneficiaries.

Be it as it may, the hardships experienced by cancer-stricken children and their families prompted KSC to open a new Sector with a focus on providing support to cancer-stricken children and their families. Opening a new sector was relatively easy for KSC with its more than two decades of working experience. Yet, this needed a clear vision of what would and could be done, a well formulated workable program, and clear objectives. For this reason, KSC invited Ms. Saba Kamkar, who had a great fundraising experience in the field of providing health services to cancer-stricken children, to share her experience with us. The new KSC sector was given a name Ara, meaning ‘a never-ending hope of life’. It is presently active in providing support and psychological counseling to cancer-stricken patients of Sulaimany Hiwa hospital, and their families. Our gratitude goes to Ms. Saba Kamkar, whose ongoing guidance has been essential for the Sector establishment, as well as to the numerous volunteers, who have been playing an important role in helping the Sector function more efficiently.

In 2013, KSC became a member of International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organization (ICCCPO), an international
NGO, representing 171 parent organizations in 88 countries, engaged in sharing information and experiences in order to improve access to the best possible treatment and care for children with cancer everywhere in the world.

Since 2011, KSC Child Protection Sector has been intensively campaigning for introducing children’s rights to the general public. In 2012, KSC introduced another approach to the issue of the rights of the child, viewing it from a related perspective of child maltreatment and child abuse. Several projects were carried out aimed at raising public awareness of the types of violence against children and child maltreatment prevention.

In 2013, KSC Child Protection Sector approached the issue of child maltreatment by working on establishing a mechanism that would enable children to voice their grievances and ask for help. This was how the Child Hotline Project came into existence. In the course of the project implementation, KSC organized and conducted several workshops for the staff engaged in the project. The workshops were presented by international experts having practical experience of running the Child Hotline. Another very important project, related to child maltreatment, was a decision to conduct a survey aimed at identifying the size of child mistreatment in the Region, at school, family, and community levels. In addition to these new projects, the Sector continued its ongoing support to the children-in-immediate and dire-risk.

In 2013, KSC played a prominent role in establishment of the Child Protection Board in Sulaimany, wherein all governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations, working for/with children, were to be brought together to ensure that all decisions related to addressing children’s needs and fulfilling obligations to children were based on a solid foundation of recognition and respect of the right of a child. The Board, officially approved by the Governor, is presently functioning under the Sulaimany Governorate auspices. It is planned to establish similar Boards in Erbil, and Duhok.

Throughout 2013, KSC Health Sector continued to send sick children abroad for treatment to Iran, India, Turkey, Tel Aviv, Austria, Germany, UK, Korea, and Jordan. Whenever possible, medical teams from abroad were invited to Kurdistan to perform surgeries on children in critical conditions.

Thus, in 2013, American and Italian medical teams visited Kurdistan twice to perform heart screening for the children having congenital heart disorders and, later on, the required surgery. A medical team from Sweden, specializing in Cerebral Palsy and Epilepsy, was also invited to Sulaimany. Furthermore, several teams came to provide a required treatment to children having such conditions as microtia, vertebral deformities, and cleft palate and lips.

In total, surgery was performed on 386 children, with 164 surgeries done inside Kurdistan by members of the visiting medical teams.

For children having hearing impairments, KSC was able to procure 70 Cochlear implant devices. Preparations were made to perform Cochlear implant surgery on the previously examined 70 children, in the beginning of 2014.

According to a contract signed by KSC with Chamy Razan Hospital, a team composed of a Jordanian physician and a number of local surgeons jointly performed vertebral correction surgeries for children with vertebral deformities. It is planned to perform surgery on 50 children with vertebral disorders, and on a number of children with microtia next year.

Another focus of KSC activities in 2013 was attending to the problems daily facing children with disabilities/special needs and their families. With the number of children with special needs steadily increasing and virtual absence of centres offering specific rehabilitation services to them, KSC made a decision to launch a new project: to open a rehabilitation centre for the children with disabilities and special needs. In the course of the project implementation, KSC signed an MOU with the Ministry of Social Affairs for lease of a building, wherein the Centre would be stationed. The Centre would be run by KSC
Education Sector for a period of 5 years. At the end of this period, the Centre would be handed over to the Ministry of Social Affairs.

The Center would provide rehabilitation and educational services to the children with disabilities and special needs who are unable to attend a mainstream school. The educational training would be based on programmes suitable for children with a specific type of disability, which would gradually raise the children's cognitive abilities to the levels that would enable them to attend a mainstream school and to study side by side with their peers. Helping children with disabilities and special needs to find their place in the mainstream society is an ultimate aim of the Centre. Other aims include developing the child's self dependence and nurturing the child's ability to become a self-reliant member of the community in the future.

An invaluable help in preparations for the opening of the Centre and development of its programs was given by the staff of a similar centre in Munich, Germany, whose cooperation and guidance have been received with much gratitude and sincere appreciation.

Other longstanding projects run by KSC Education Sector in 2013 included five Kaziwa Children's Centres, and Shahid Jabar's Exemplary School. All of these projects continued to offer their regular services to children. KSC Education Sector staff was also actively engaged in providing help to the refugees from Syria. The influx of refugees, started in February and culminating in August 2013, is still under way. KSC has a field officer stationed at the Arbat Refugee Camp, who is carefully attending to the refugees' most pressing needs, mostly those who are staying at the Camp, but also outside it.

KSC Distance Sponsorship Sector has been one of the first KSC projects since its foundation. It has been greatly beneficial up to 2008. The amounts of money sent by each sponsor at that time were sufficient not only to cover the child's expenses but also those of his/her whole family as well. However, presently, with ever growing inflation, the financial assistance is evidently inadequate, although the amount provided for each child is three times more than it used to be. KSC is aware that the efficiency of this project has dramatically decreased, as compared to the previous years. Nonetheless, there are still numerous children who are desperately waiting for the pay day. Though insufficient, the regular financial assistance provided by the Sector contributes to easing off the burdens of single mothers from low-income families. For this reason, on behalf of the KSC staff, I would like to heartily thank all the sponsors for sending donations on a regular basis. I would also like to thank again Mr. Haji Sa'ad Kolak, who generously donated an amount of US $ 200 to each child on the sponsorship list, in addition to their monthly stipend.

I would like to convey our gratitude to Ms. Betty Straton, a sponsor from the USA, who used to sponsor two children - a girl and a boy. Both of them have grown up and are presently married, having families of their own. Alas, Ms. Straton recently passed away, but in her will, she left an amount of US $ 51,350 to the children sponsored by her. Upon the completion of legal procedures, the amount was transferred to the KCF account in London and it would be given to her sponsored children in the beginning of 2014. This story demonstrates KSC contribution to creating a familial bond between the sponsor and the children he/she sponsors. This bond, created in the process of generous giving and grateful receiving, is founded on gradual nurturing love and understanding between the sponsor and the child.

KSC Youth Activity Centers worked on a more extensive program in 2013. Each center was daily open from early morning till nearly midnight. Most of the youths attending the centre gradually developed familial bonds with it and started to consider it to be their second home. They would often work as volunteers after the office hours were over. For a great number of youth daily visiting the centre, it gradually became a place where they had opportunities to realize their talents and discover their potentialities.

Dana Hussein Qadir
Programme Director
Since 2005, Kurdistan Save the Children has been considering involvement in the projects related to providing assistance to cancer stricken children and children with thalassemia. Since children with blood disorders, often needed bone marrow transplant surgeries, KSC used to send children requiring such surgery to Italy. In 2006, Mrs. Hero Talabani, KSC General Director, and Mr. Dana Qadir, KSC Program Director, visited Italy. There, they signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Tuscany Region that guaranteed access for sending children with heart diseases and cancer to Italy for treatment. Another point stipulated in the MOU was constructing three centres in Sulaimany: one for heart surgery, one for bone marrow transplants, and one for pulmonary diseases. The construction of the centres and training of local staff were conducted in close cooperation with experts from Tuscany Region. By the time of writing this report, the construction of the centres was in their final stage. It is expected that the centres will be opened in the nearest future.

In 2013, KSC was engaged in extensive preparation for the projects aimed at providing better services to cancer-stricken children, including psychological guidance and counselling for child inpatients, undergoing treatment at the Hiwa Hospital, and/or their parents, as well as raising the educational level of Hiwa Hospital staff working with cancer-stricken children, particularly on the issues related to how help the children with cancer cope with the disease.

In the course of preparation, KSC contacted the centres providing services to children with cancer, as well as the physicians specializing in childhood cancer. Additionally, KSC conducted a number of meetings to discuss the project with KSC staff. After several discussions, it was agreed that it was essential to open a new Sector that would provide services to cancer-stricken children and their families.

At the beginning, the new sector was given a name of Hiwa Sector (the word ‘hiwa’ means ‘hope’ in Kurdish). However, later the name was changed to Ara Sector (the word ‘ara’ means ‘a never-ending hope of life’). The change was made in order to avoid confusion between the name of the Sector and that of Hiwa Hospital.

KSC Ara Sector identified the following goals: * Providing psychological and social support to children with cancer and their families;
* Encouraging the volunteer involvement in carrying out the Sector activities;
* Raising professional skills of the Sector staff;
* Organizing and carrying out fundraising campaigns;
* Raising awareness on latest development in cancer treatment.

Initially, the Sector’s main focus was on working with the cancer stricken children, inpatients of Sulaimany Hiwa Hospital. The activities carried out there by the Sector team attracted attention of some volunteers, who expressed their willingness to work together. Both the Sector team and volunteers were able to create friendly relations with children and their parents. Their joint recreational projects were so entertaining that they enabled the Hiwa hospital inpatients to forget their pain, even if for a short period of time. It well might be that this is the first project of its kind not only in Kurdistan region, but in the whole of Iraq.

In the course of their visits to hospital and during the follow-up visits to sick children’s homes, ARA Sector team was able to identify some psychological and social problems faced by children and their families, especially when first confronted with the diagnosis of cancer. The diagnosis was inevitably met with fear and anxiety, anger and guilt, sadness, despair, and depression. Both the cancer-stricken children and, especially, their parents needed help. Raising the parents’ awareness on various cancer issues and counseling them understand that the sooner the treatment started, the better chance their
children would have to overcome the disease, was essential.

Gradually, the Sector activities were expanding. Great importance was attached to the involvement of volunteers, whose participation was initially irregular and occasional, but the great importance that the Sector attached to the role played by volunteers in carrying out its projects had a positive impact on volunteers who gradually became an inherent part of the Sector’s team closely involved in the Sector activities.

Volunteers greatly contributed to introducing the newly established KSC Sector to the general public via leaflets and posters. They also helped in disseminating information on cancer and its management. They participated in organizing and carrying out tours to parks and recreational places in Sulaimany for the child inpatients of the Hiwa Hospital, who were undergoing the chemotherapy treatment. Volunteers also took part in organizing birthday parties at the Hiwa Hospital Cancer-Stricken Child Ward, bringing with them birthday cakes and helping the Sector team distribute gifts to the children. Their participation in stage performances of comic plays and clown shows was greatly appreciated by the young inpatients of the hospital.

In return for their efforts, KSC arranged a small party for the volunteers on the International Volunteer Day held on December 5.

Throughout 2013, the Sector was engaged in increasing the scope of its activities by establishing new relations, and expanding the existing ones. Its partnership with Mahak Charity NGO was getting more intense. In 2013, the Sector became a member of International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organization (ICCCPO), international NGO engaged in sharing information and experiences in order to improve access to the best possible treatment and care for children with cancer. Establishment of these relations opened doors for the Sector staff to participate in seminars and international research activities and, by doing this, to gain knowledge and learn from the experience of others.

The Sector works hard to convince people that, by volunteering to provide support to cancer-stricken children, they help children and their families stand up to this devastating disease and eventually overcome it.

Noaman Abdulrahman  
Sulaimani Programme Manager
Child Protection Sector

In 2013, KSC Child Protection Sector conducted a number of projects as follows: 1) Establishing the Child Helpline; 2) Participating in the establishment of the Child Protection Board; 3) Developing the Child Protection Policy; 4) Making preparations for carrying out a Survey on School and Domestic Child Maltreatment; 5) Developing and printing a Poster on Child’s Rights; 6) Conducting and participating in workshops; 7) Providing support to the refugees from Syria; and 8) Providing support to Kochar School for the children from gypsy families.

Project 1: Establishing the Child Helpline
The project involved an establishment of the Child Helpline in Sulaimany, Erbil, Duhok, and Garmian area of the Kurdistan Region. The project implementation included the following activities:
* Conducting a three-day workshop on Children’s Rights and Child Protection Basics for the staff of the Child Helpline.
* Conducting a ten-day workshop on the experience of working with the Child Helpline for the 19 Child Helpline staff members in Sulaimany, Erbil, Duhok, and Garmian Area. The workshop was conducted by an expert in child protection and helpline services from Palestine, the Helpline focal point in the whole of the Middle East. It ended with an evaluation form distributed among the workshop participants. Most of the participants (85%) stated that the workshop raised their knowledge on the helpline related topics. They also noted that they could apply the acquired knowledge to practice.
* In the course of the project implementation, the KSC Child Protection Sector provided assistance to the Sulaimany Department of Social Affairs in collecting data about various government departments and NGOs, working for or with children with the purpose of creating a unified database of the cases of child abuse.
* The Sector, in cooperation with the KSC Media Department, designed and printed 500 leaflets describing the Child Helpline services offered to the general public.
* In cooperation with the KSC Media Department, 2000 posters on Child Helpline were distributed in the city of Sulaimany.
* For enhancing skills of the project staff, 10 Child Helpline staff members from the Departments of Social Affairs of Sulaimany, Erbil, and Duhok, as well as three KSC field officers were sent to visit Nahr-el-Ardan Foundation in Jordan for learning by watching
the Helpline service in action and getting knowledge about the mechanisms underlying the Helpline service process.

Project 2: The Child Protection Board
KSC Child Protection Sector played an important role in establishing a Child Protection Board, composed of the representatives of the governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations, with the purpose of working for a better protection of children’s rights and provision of their basic needs. Part of the establishment process was taking part in a two-day workshop, hosted by KSC, wherein the following issues were presented and discussed: 1) the importance of child protection, 2) a brief summary of the international conventions addressing the issues of children’s rights, and 3) exchanging experience of the implementation of the Child Protection Legislation in Australia, New Zealand, France, USA, and India. Representatives of the Government Departments of Justice, Social Affairs, Interior, Education, Culture, Health, and General Attorney, as well as representatives of some NGOs and key persons engaged in child protection took part in the workshop.

One of the most important outcomes of the workshop was the participants’ suggestions to develop the Board’s legal jurisdiction, to identify its goals, and delineate its activities. Based on the participants’ suggestions, the Sector, in cooperation with Department of Social Affairs, drafted the Board Program and submitted it to Sulaimany Governorate for the official recognition of the Board. In 2013, the Board was officially proclaimed.

Project 3: The Child Protection Policy
Since the time of its establishment in 1991, KSC has been working hard for preserving the children’s rights. In carrying out its work both in the past and in present, KSC staff is in an ongoing daily direct contact with children. In order to ensure that the staff does not abuse the Children’s rights while discharging their duties, the KSC Child Protection Sector developed a draft of the Child Protection Policy, which was discussed with the KSC officers and employees. The draft was then submitted to the KSC Advisor for further suggestions, and, finally, it was approved by the KSC management. According to the provisions of the Police, KSC staff is presently held to be bound to act in accordance with the Provisions of the Child Protection Policy in discharging their everyday duties.

Project 4: A Survey on Child Mistreatment
The preparation for conducting a Survey on Child Mistreatment started in February 2013. The preliminary work included review of the frameworks and questionnaires used by the international and Iraqi NGOs in similar surveys. On the basis of this information, three questionnaires for interviewing teachers, students, and parents were developed, and submitted to the scrutiny of experts in psychology and sociology at the universities of the Kurdistan Region.

Simultaneously with the work over the questionnaires, the Sector’s staff collected information on the theoretical aspects of abuse against children, including its definition, types, and indications of maltreatment.

In the process of preparation, the project team also contacted the Departments of Statistics and Education of Sulaimany for getting statistical data on families, students, teachers, schools, and population. At the same time, in cooperation with the Sulaimany Department of Statistics, the survey sample was designed to identify the number of students, teachers, and parents to be engaged in the Survey. On November 20th, the survey questionnaires were tested in 6 schools for their viability. The Survey on School and Domestic Child Mistreatment is to be conducted in 2014.

Project 5: Poster on the Rights of the Children
In 2013, the Poster on the Rights of the Children was developed. The size of the poster was 70x100 cm. It presented the Articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Children from 1 to 41 in the language accessible to and understandable by children. KSC Media Department designed the poster and printed 2000 copies for distribution in public places
and at schools. The distribution of the posters was conducted in cooperation with the KSC Education Sector.

**Project 6: Conducting and Participating in Workshops**
* On August 21-22, International Office for Children’s Rights, in cooperation with UNICEF and KRG Ministry of Interior, organized a two-day training workshop on various issues of juvenile delinquency for the Juvenile police officers, held in Sulaimany, Erbil, and Duhok. The workshop was delivered by two expert trainers in juvenile delinquency. One of the main objectives of the workshop was to develop a programme for training the trainers in the field of juvenile delinquency. KSC, invited to attend the workshop, was represented by a KSC Child Protection Sector member of staff. This workshop was followed by another 4-day workshop, held on December 1-4, the main objective of which was to discuss the programme of training the trainers developed at the previous workshop. At the end of this workshop, it was suggested that a KSC representative would become a trainer and implement the developed programme in a workshop, which will be held in spring of 2014 for the staff of the local NGOs.
* A one day workshop on research methods involved in conducting surveys was carried out for 13 social researchers. It also offered training in filling in the forms of the previously mentioned survey.
* The Sector conducted one-day training workshop on children’s rights for the staff of the KSC Education Sector projects.
* The Sector staff participated in a two-day workshop on Juvenile justice and Jurisdiction, which took place in Erbil and was carried out by UNISEF and Heartland NGO staff.

**Project 7: Providing Assistance to the Refugees from Syria**
The Sector’s response to the influx of the refugees from Syria in August 2013 involved the following:
* Participation in all Child Protection Working Group meetings held by the international and local NGOs working with/for children, held with the purpose of the assessment of the children’s basic needs in the refugee camps.
* Provision and distribution of 200 packages of hygienic items, with each package containing the following items: soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, towel, and children’s underwear.
* In cooperation with KSC Health Sector, provision and distribution of the basic need packages, containing milk, soap, shampoo, underwear, toothpaste, and toothbrush, to 700 children in the camp.

**Project 8: Providing Support to the Kochar School for the Children from Gypsy Families**
Providing support to Kochar School for the children from gypsy families, living in the tents in the Kani Goma area, has been one of the Sector’s ongoing projects. In 2013, The Sector’s assistance to the school was as follows:
* Securing the Sulaimany Municipality official approval for allocating a piece of land for two school cabins;
* Leveling off the allocated piece of land and making it ready for setting the cabins on it;
* Negotiating with Sulaimany Department of Education for purchasing the cabins;
* Providing each child with one free meal at school during the academic year;
* Employing a person to cook meals and keep the school clean.

**Ali Ibrahim / Senior Officer**
Roza’s Story: Should a sexual harassment be hushed up?

Roza, a 12-year old girl, was a 6th grade student at the time when this story began. Her father was a labourer, and her mother—a housewife. One day after school, she was jumping in a hopscotch game when she twisted her ankle and collapsed in great pain. Her friends helped her get back home. When her mother saw that Roza was unable to walk, she immediately took her to a local health center, where she was told that Roza needed an X-Ray test to see whether the bone was damaged.

At the X-Ray Unit, the medical staff asked Roza’s mother to stay outside the X-ray room because she was pregnant. Roza’s mother waited for Roza to come out for quite some time, but the girl was still in the room. She gradually became very anxious about her daughter, wondering why it took so long to carry a typical X-ray test.

Finally Roza came out of the X-ray room. She was evidently in a great distress. When her mother asked her what happened in the room, Roza started crying and said nothing. Her mother kept on asking her again and again until Roza finally told her that the person in the X-ray room hugged her and kissed her. In anger, Rosa’s mother went straight to the person in charge of the centre. She yelled at him telling him about what happened to her daughter in the X-ray room.

Both the administration and the X-ray medical staff did their best at covering up the event. They kept on saying that nothing really happened, that the X-ray medical staff was showing his brotherly affection to Roza as if she were his younger sister, but this was utterly unconvincing. There was no any excuse to be made for an evident sexual harassment of a young girl by an adult, taking place in the government-run Health Centre.

Later on, some considerable efforts were made to hush up the event, because of the traditionally-held sensitivity of the issue and possible social and legal consequences should it be made public. On the one hand, there was a traditional belief firmly held by the community that protecting the family honour was far more important than protecting a child. On the other hand, if the case was taken to court, there could be more innocent victims involved, besides Rosa. For these reasons, it is traditionally believed that hushing up such cases might be to the best of all concerned.

KSC, however, gives priority to protecting the child and the child rights. Before taking the case to court KSC officers made an investigation on their own. To find the truth, they talked to several witnesses and people involved in the case. In the end, the case was taken to General Attorney, and it is presently under investigation. In the meanwhile, since sexual abuse is considered to be the worst type of the child abuse, which leaves a great impact on its victim, KSC provided psychological counseling to Rosa, to help her overcome the traumatic experience she was forced to face.
Sponsorship Sector

In 2013, KSC Sponsorship Sector continued offering sponsorship assistance to orphans and children from low-income families. By the end of 2013, there were 1191 children on the KSC sponsorship list. The majority of the children on the list, 924 children, were sponsored by President Jalal Talabani. The rest of 267 children were sponsored mostly by donors from abroad and local sponsors as follows: Switzerland sponsored 96 children, Italy – 65, UK – 27, Denmark – 20, Holland – 15, Finland – 9, Germany – 2, and USA – 2, and 31 children were sponsored by local donors.

The children on the Sector sponsorship programme come from various places of Kurdistan Region. For this reason, KSC Sponsorship Sector, in addition to its main office in Sulaimany, has 5 branch offices in Kalar, Qaladiza, Chamchamal, Koya, Halabja, and KSC Office in Kirkuk. According to the last update in 2013, the number of children according to the places of their residence was as follows: in Sulaimany – 240, in Kalar – 209, in Qaladiza – 188, in Chamchamal – 158, in Koya – 143, in Halabja – 140, and in Kirkuk – 113.

In 2013, only 41 new children were admitted to the sponsorship programme, 27 of whom were placed on President Talabani’s sponsorship list. Presently, only children from Kirkuk are placed on President Talabani’s list because the situation in Kirkuk differs considerably from that of Kurdistan Region. The rest 14 children were sponsored by 8 donors from Switzerland, 4 donors from Italy, and 2 children were sponsored by donors from Kurdistan. At the time of writing this report, there were 170 children on the Sector’s waiting list. In admitting new children, the Sector gives priority to the children from extremely poor families and to those facing sudden adverse situations, which warrant urgent assistance. Admission to the programme is done within the limits of existing budget. We hope that, in future, more funds would be available for sponsorship so that the Sector would be able to admit more new children to the programme.
In 2013, the sponsorship was terminated for 175 children on President Talabani’s list because the financial situation of their families had improved. It was decided not to admit new children on this list in the place of those whose sponsorship was terminated in order to increase the amount of assistance for the remaining children on the programme. The sponsorship was also terminated for 27 children on the overseas sponsor list. The criteria for sponsorship termination used by the Sector are as follows: reaching the age of 18, finishing secondary school, getting married, or passing away of the sponsor.

Apart from the routine visits, the Sector team conducted visits for filling in new forms. In 2013, visiting families for filling in new forms was less than in previous years. All in all, there were 98 families visited in 2013. New forms were filled in for 41 children. The applications of the rest of the families were rejected, for their conditions did not correspond to the terms of sponsorship adopted by the Sector.

The Sector team visited 291 families for delivering gifts from local and overseas sponsors. The gifts included cash, clothes, school related items, and household items. Additionally, 66 follow-up visits were made to the families of children on the sponsorship list to check whether the children were still liable for sponsorship, in accordance with sponsorship terms adopted by the Sector.

During these visits, the Sector officers came across the cases of 4 children having domestic problems, such as maltreatment by
their guardians, not having appropriate care or place of living, or having problems with their IDs. The Sector’s officers did their best to find proper solutions to the problems faced by these children.

Another task of the Sector was monitoring school attendance and school progress of children on sponsorship programme, for the requirement to attend school is one of the main conditions for staying on the programme. Also, the Sector provided financial and psychological support to three families that had to face the tragic consequences of a car accident, passing away of a family member, and other similar adversities.

Visits of Sponsors

In April 2013, a four-strong team from Switzerland, composed of Ms. Trudi Weber, Ms. Marianne, Ms. Anke, and Mr. Frank, visited KSC. Ms Weber has been KSC friend and supporter since the early years of KSC establishment. While in Kurdistan, the team visited 12 sponsored children and their families in Sulaimany, Qaladiza, and Halabja. In Halabja, the youth from KSC Halabja Youth Activity Centre gave the visitors a warm welcome by arranging a small musical party held in their honour, which was greatly appreciated by the guests, who offered some violins to the Centre as a gift, to show their gratitude for the pleasure of listening to the music performed by the group.

The sponsors conducted a number of meetings with the Sector’s administration and representatives. In the outcome of the meetings, sponsors assured the Sector that they would continue their support and will do their best to find more sponsors for the children-in-need waiting list. The sponsor team donated an amount of 2,524,000 IQD to the Sector to spend it for immediate needs of some of the sponsored children’s families, such as: to renovate a house of the family of a sponsored child in Qaladiza, to buy 5 sheep for a family in Kalar, and to provide a financial assistance to the families of 3 children in Sulaimany, Kalar, and Qaladize.
Staying in Touch with the Sponsors outside the Region

The Sector stays in touch with the sponsors outside the Region mostly via emails. Throughout 2013, 241 emails with attachments carrying 290 letters, 20 receipts, 14 new forms, and 38 reports (28 final reports and 10 regular reports) were sent to the sponsors living in various countries all over the world. A number of letters was taken to Italy, Ivrea by a volunteer. The Sector team uses this opportunity to express their heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all the sponsors who continue to send their donations for the children-in-need on KSC sponsorship programme.

Paying Homage to Generous Donors

The Sector special gratitude goes to Mr. Haji Saad Kolak, who donated an amount of US $135,000 to be distributed among 1191 children on KSC Sponsorship Programme. Each child received 100 US $, and what was left was distributed among 159 children on the Sector’s waiting list. Mr. Haji Saad Kolak also donated some sets of children’s clothing, distributed among 2789 children, both the ones on the Sector Sponsorship programme and their siblings, in all of the KSC offices in the Region, on the occasions of Ramazan and Qurban (Eid Al-Adha) Feasts. Mr. Kolak’s kindness and generosity, greatly appreciated and held in high esteem by KSC, gave zest to the Sector’s team to persevere and be more motivated in continuing their support to the children-in-need in the Region.

In implementing the sponsorship programme, the Sector has always taken into consideration the timing of payment, doing their best to pay before the beginning of Muslim holidays and other occasions. The donors were always notified whenever some changes were made in delivering gifts and cash. The changes and new data were continually updated in the Sector’s database.

Sponsorship Sector’s officers, as part of KSC team, were also engaged in providing help to other KSC sectors in implementing their projects, whenever such help was needed. For instance, the Sponsorship Sector participated in distributing basic need packages to Syrian refugee at Arbat Camp, as well as in an assessment survey carried out at Arbat Refugee Camp by KSC Education Sector staff.

Problems and Suggestions:

Throughout 2013, KSC Sponsorship Sector witnessed a decrease in the number of sponsors and an increase in the number of children on the waiting list. Another problem faced by the Sector was currency insufficiency due to inflation and consequent reduction in purchasing power of money. For this reason, the amount of sponsorship paid by the Sector to each child is presently hardly sufficient for providing for the child’s needs.

In line with KSC new strategic decisions to start conducting fundraising campaigns and continue raising the general public awareness campaigns about the problems experienced by single parents and low-income families, the implementation of campaigns might be a source of raising funds to increase sponsorship amount for the children on KSC sponsorship programme. Another suggestion involves making steps towards helping the children’s mothers help themselves by providing training opportunities for them to acquire marketable skills, which will ultimately help them get employed, or open their own business so that they could earn their family’s living and provide better living conditions for their children.

The Sector’s policy is that any sponsor or volunteer is welcome. For the Sector team, a sponsor is not just a number: A sponsor is an opportunity of better life for a vulnerable family.

Raja Goran / Senior Officer Assistant
A Life Story of Enduring Love

Aram and Sazgar came from different families; yet, the common destiny brought them together when sponsored by MS. Betty Stratton, they became brother and sister in a small loving family of three. Here is their story!

Sazgar came from a family of farmers living in Gapla Village near Penjveen District. The family cultivated a plot of fertile land and lived off its produce. Their orderly life, however, came to an abrupt end on the day when Sazgar's father stepped on a landmine, planted all over the countryside of Kurdistan by the former Ba’ath governing regime, and left his family forever. Being very young, Sazgar’s widowed mother had to return to her father’s family where she remarried and left Sazgar and her older brother to the care of their paternal grandparents. Sazgar’s grandfather was old and unable to work on the land. The family did not have any other source of income, and because of this, Sazgar’s grandmother, and her brother continued to till the same plot of land that brought untimely death on their father, to make their living. However, ill fortune and bad luck continued to pursue the family. There was another accident: Sazgar’s older brother stepped on a landmine. He fortunately survived, but he lost one of his legs. After the accident, the family left the village and settled in Barika Camp. In 1997, KSC team came across the family and placed Sazgar on President Talabani’s fund where she stayed until the time when Ms. Betty Stratton, a sponsor from the UK, touched by her story, made a decision to sponsor her.

Being a faithful donor, Ms. Stratton kept on assisting Sazgar’s family for a long time. Although she never met Sazgar, she loved her dearly as if she were her own daughter. There was a regular exchange of letters and photos between Sazgar’s family and Betty. Years passed on, but Betty never let Sazgar and her family down. Having lost her own two children, Betty considered Sazgar as one of her children and lavished her motherly love on her.

Approximately at the same time, Ms. Stratton sponsored another child, whose name was Aram. An orphan from
Halabja, Aram lost his parents when he was a small child. He lived with living with his elder sister and brothers. The family had no regular source of income. KSC team visited the family in 1997 and filled in the form for Aram to find a sponsor for him. Aram's form was sent to Ms. Betty at the same time as Rojgar's form was. Ms Betty sponsored both Rojgar and Aram, and the three of them gradually became members of one family. Strong ties between Betty and Aram, Betty and Rojgar were established. There was a regular photo and letter exchange between them all. In her letters, Betty kept on telling that she considered both of her sponsored children, as if they were her own, as if they were given to her in place of her two late sons. She used to start her letters with the words, “To my children...” In return, both Sazgar and Aram, who were denied the grace of their real mothers’ love, kept on saying that they loved Betty as they would have loved their own mothers.

There was always a smile on Betty’s face on her photos, which she used to send together with the financial assistance. It was as if her smile was encouraging both Aram and Sazgar to face life difficulties by standing strong and tall; as if she was telling them, “I'm your mother. My heart is always with you, my dearest son and my dearest daughter. I'm fine and I hope both of you are also fine!” Through her smile, Betty was trying to express her motherly feelings for both of them. She stayed in touch with her sponsored children until the day she passed away.

Life never gave an opportunity to Sazgar to attend school. Her family didn’t stay long in one place and was moving from one place to another. The calamities that came upon the family didn’t give an opportunity for Sazgar to study. Aram had to drop out of school to earn a living. KSC usually terminates sponsorship when a child has grown up, or drops out of school, or gets married. Although both Sazgar and Aram grew up, married and started their own families, Betty never gave them up although other sponsors terminated sending their donations under the above circumstances. Betty, however, continued sending the financial assistance to them, year after year. When Sazgar's children were born, Betty considered them to be her own grandchildren. She was eager to see Aram’s children as well, but this wouldn’t be. Betty passed away, and with her death Aram and Sazgar lost their dearest mother once again.

Before she died, Betty left a will, in which, like a real mother, she left an equal share of her fortune to both Aram and Sazgar to fulfill their dearest wish – to have their own house. Upon the receipt of their inheritance, both Aram and Sazgar are planning to buy a house, where they would live peacefully with their children, without being forced to move from one place to another, without being denied an opportunity to study, as both of them were forced to do when they were children themselves.

This is a story of Betty, Rojgar, and Aram, but this is also one of the stories that KSC was one of the main characters. In this story, KSC was like a bridge: This unique bridge of opportunity brought together Aram, Sazgar, and Betty. It helped them create an affectionate family of three based on enduring love. It helped them all keep the spark of this love alive in Aram and Sazgar’s respective families. It helped Betty to stay alive in Aram, Rojgar, and their children’s hearts, even after she had passed away.
Education Sector

KSC Education Sector runs and supervises a number of long-term educational projects. The project administration involves hiring the project staff members, providing the budget required for the project management and paying salaries to the project staff. The Sector also generates some different approaches to the way the project activities are implemented and tests the viability of these approaches via their practical application. Besides long-term projects, the Sector implements rapid and short term projects, coordinates the staff participation in various child related workshops, and holds regular meetings with the project staff members to discuss various methods and mechanisms of the activity implementation. In total, there are 120 staff members (54 males and 66 females) working in the Education Sector and its projects.

The main objectives of the Sector and its projects are to empower children via providing access to educational opportunities and to prepare them for being active participants in the process of social development in the future. The Sector also works for providing appropriate educational training to the children with special needs, and creating safe environment for them so that they could be more self-confident and self-dependent in future. The Sector's aim is to provide services to all children, without any exception, especially to those who are in dire need of them.

In 2013, the Sector continued its practice of organizing annual festivals, exhibitions, and special events, wherein each child was given an opportunity to exhibit his/her creative abilities and talents. Another aspect of the Sector activity in 2013 was creating links with the NGOs working with/for children. The Sector also continued its policy of welcoming volunteers, who have always played a noteworthy role in contributing to the Sector's achievements.
KSC Education Sector’s Projects

KSC Education Sector runs a number of long-term and short-term projects. The long term projects include running four Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centres, Sara Cultural Centre, Shahid Jabbar Exemplary School, Educational Training for Children with Disabilities and Special Needs; establishing Educational Training Centre for Children with Disabilities and Special Needs; undertaking the running of two kindergartens as preschool educational institutions, and, finally, providing support to the refugees from Syria in Arbat Camp.

1- Long-Term Projects

What follows is a brief description of the KSC Education Sector long-term projects and their activities.

Project 1: KSC Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centres

There are four KSC Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centres: Sara, Sarshaqam, Baziyah, and Chwarta. The main objectives of these centres are two-fold: 1) to complement knowledge received at school by providing extracurricular educational opportunities to children, and 2) to serve as a link expanding the child’s community from that of home and school to including the children’s centre as well. The centres nurture children to mature into fully fledged individuals by providing the opportunities for developing their physical and intellectual capacities, and encouraging their self-confidence and self-dependence.

Recognizing that playing is critical for the child’s healthy growth and development, the centres provide ample playing opportunities for the children at the centre, which might be unavailable for them at school or at home. Since participating in Kaziwa Centres requires compliance with the internal rules and regulations, adopted by the Centres, the abiding by the rules indirectly teaches children to recognize and respect the rule of law and become law abiding individuals in the future. Participation in ongoing courses and workshops, delivered by capable instructors and volunteers, helps children identify and enhance their artistic and intellectual abilities, creativity, and sense of perception, all of which ultimately contributes to the development of their personalities and potentials.

Access to Kaziwa Centres is open for children aged from 6 to 14 years old. Each newcomer is given an individual badge showing that he/she is a Kaziwa member. The photo, home address, and telephone number of each child attending Kaziwa are recorded in the Kaziwa database. When getting to the age of above 14, a Kaziwa member is asked to give back his/her badge and recommended to become a member of the Youth Activity Centre, offering the services similar to those offered by Kaziwas to the children above 14 and young adults.

In each center, there are departments of sports, drama performance, ceramics, children’s cinema, graphics, traditional music, tabletop football games, video games, educational training, and others. Daily, a considerable number of children visit the centers. The Centers maintain a practice of holding some annual events and festivals to exhibit the accomplishment of the children regularly attending the Centre Departments.

In 2013 the overall number of the centre’s participants exceeded 2632, of whom 1922 were boys and 710 girls.

* KSC Sara Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centre

KSC Sara Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centre was established in 1997 initially as a place of recreation for working children. The Centre runs the following Departments: Table Tennis, Video Games, Drama Performance, traditional Music, Handicrafts, Graphic Arts, Library, Drawing and Painting, and Tabletop Football. There is also a recording studio at the Centre. The Centre also offers educational training to children with disabilities and special needs. The total number of 728 children regularly attended the Centre in 2013.

* KSC Sarshaqam Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centre

KSC Sarshaqam Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centre was established in 2001. The Centre offers opportunities for children to attend the
Departments of Music, Drama Performance, Ceramics, Drawing and Painting, Graphic Arts, Handicrafts, Table Tennis, Computer, English Language, and Library. There were 725 children attending the centre in 2013.

* KSC Bazian Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centre

KSC Bazian Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centre was established in 2005. It is located in Bazian area, in the outskirts of Sulaimany city. There are Departments of Music, Handicrafts, Library, Electronic Games, Tabletop Football, Table Tennis, and Children’s Games at the Centre.

In 2013, the Centre’s activities were expanded to promote the greater involvement into helping the families of children attending Kaziwa find solution to the problems facing them. Whenever there emerged a problem in a Kaziwa child’s family, the Centre staff members were engaged in helping the family settle the problem. They paid as many visits to the child’s home as was required for finding a suitable way out of the seemingly hopeless situation. In another development, the Centre staff was active in helping the school dropouts get reintegrated into educational system. The Centre staff also provided educational guidance by helping school students learn how to study. They organized regular revisions of the content of the lessons taught at school, teaching children the basics of active learning. The Kaziwa staff also provided guidance to the parents of children with health problems by advising them to have their child examined by the KSC Health Sector doctor, who would make a decision about an appropriate treatment for the child’s condition. As a result of the Centre staff activities, the number of visits to the Centre increased, as compared to the previous years. In 2013, the total number of 730 children regularly attended the Centre, of whom 502 were boys and 228 were girls.

* KSC Chwarta Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centre

KSC Chwarta Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centre was established in 2006. The Centre runs the following departments: Video Games, Handicrafts, Tabletop Football, Table Tennis, Library, Drawing and Painting, and others. In 2013, the Kaziwa children were active by participating in various events held inside the Centre and outside it.
The overall number of children attending the Centre in 2013 was 449, of whom 300 were boys and 149 – girls.

**Project 2: KSC Sara Cultural Centre**

KSC Sara Cultural Centre was established in 2001 in a bid to provide a space for individual intellectual growth, cultural nourishment, and repose of mind leading to elevating the level of individual knowledge and public awareness. The Centre is a retreat for every person who needs a quiet place to read, to contemplate, and/or be engaged in exchange of ideas, thoughts, and views. While the Centre serves the general public, it is most popular with students and intellectuals of all ages. By establishing the Center, Kurdistan Save the Children opened yet another door and made another step towards laying the foundations for promotion of intellectual awareness and endorsement of civil society in the Region. The Centre daily offers a wide selection of newspapers and latest periodicals. In this digital age, the Centre's general layout and atmosphere encourage both young and older people to cultivate the culture of reading and learning rather than to waste time in pursue of distracting illusions.

The Centre comprises two halls – a spacious reading hall and a Library. The Centre's Li-

...ary offers a variety of books in different fields of knowledge. There are books on science, history, economy, politics, literature, including prose, and poetry, literary criticism, philosophy, and other fields of knowledge in Kurdish, Arabic, Persian, and English languages. Also facilitation is available for college students, regular visitors of the Centre, on the essentials of report writing and research. The Centre offers free of charge access to internet, as well as free coffee and tea refreshments. Periodically, the Centre hosts exhibitions of paintings, drawings, graphics, and photos, various literary events, including poetry and prose readings both for famous and young authors, and other cultural events. In 2013, the Centre launched the first four issues of *Sara Cultural Magazine*, a quarterly cultural magazine of general interest.

In 2013, 1460 adults visited the centre, of whom 1040 were males and the rest were females.

**Project 3: Shahid Jabbar Exemplary School**

Shahid Jabbar Exemplary School is a mixed-gender school providing intermediate and secondary education from the 7th to 12th grades. Every year, the School admits 50...
new students who got high scores upon the completion of primary school and successfully passed the School's admission exams.

The School is scientifically oriented, with most of the curriculum taught in English. Special attention is given to mastering computer skills, English, Kurdish, and Arabic Languages. Attending arts, sports, and music classes is compulsory, with the School providing the required teaching facilities to enhance the learning process in these disciplines.

The School has developed a set of rules and regulations, including the rights and obligations applicable to students, teachers, and members of the administrative staff alike. These rules regulate various aspects of school life and aim at building the student's personality via the student's involvement in participatory decision-making. Every student has the right to be listened to and is free to express his/her suggestions and views via class representatives and class leaders.

In the end of 2012-2013 academic year, all students got excellent scores in the equivalent of SAT exams held in Iraq. In the outcome of the exams, 49 out of 50 students were admitted to various colleges in the Region as follows: 31 students were admitted to the College of Medicine, 10 students – to the College of Engineering, and 8 students were admitted to the College of Sciences.

In 2013, there were 297 students from 7th to 12th grades attending the school.

**Project 4: Educational training for children with disabilities and special needs**

A Project of providing educational training to children with disabilities and special needs was launched in October 2011 at KSC Sara Kaziwa Children. It was the first, initial step made by the Sector towards opening a centre for providing educational services to children with disabilities and special needs. The training involves helping children with disabilities and special needs overcome their specific conditions by using individualized programmes designed for helping children with a specific disability. The ultimate purpose of training is to help children with disabilities and special needs find their own place in a society, which is their inalienable right as human beings. Presently services are offered to the children having speech/articulation problems, hearing problems, coping with social isolation, slow learning, and other conditions.

The training follows the following routine. Initially, the child is examined by the academically trained rehabilitation therapist, who identifies the child's condition, designs a programme of training for each specific case, and assigns the child to the trainer who works with the child in accordance with the therapist's suggestions and under his supervision. The training brings closely together the child, the trainer, the rehabilitation therapist, and the child's family, who take part in the child's training process.

There were 13 children (7 boys and 6 girls), who underwent training in 2013. The implementation of this project gave way to a more extensive project, described below.

**Project 5: Establishing Educational Training Centre for Children with Disabilities and Special Needs**

Educational Training Centre for Children with Disabilities and Special Needs will provide free of charge services to children with special needs. The main focus of the Centre is to raise the abilities of the children with special needs so that they became to attend mainstream educational institutions. The educational training is based on developing programmes designed to address the specific learning/ behavioural problems experienced by the child. The training will help the child get integrated into the school system, without feeling different and/or out of place, as much as possible. It will help build-up the child's personality, and help the child be integrated both within the family and the community as a whole.

The Project is an outcome of close cooperation between KSC and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The Center is to be located in a spacious building leased to KSC by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) for the period of 5 years. According to the agreement between KSC and MoLSA, KSC
will establish the Centre and run it for the period of 5 years. In running the Centre, KSC will gradually engage the Ministries of Education, Health, and Social Affairs in better understanding of the issues related to the rehabilitation of children with disabilities and special needs, and to their integration in the educational system and life of the community. At the end of 5 year period, KSC will hand over the Centre to the direct management by the related governmental institutions.

It is planned that the Center will admit children with special needs aged from 3 to 9 years old, in particular the children having delays in cognitive development, articulation/speech problems, slow learners with the IQs lower than average, children with developmental delay problems, CP, ADHD disorders, with autism and Asperger Syndrome Disorders, hearing impairments, and utterance problems resulting from congenital deformities.

Presently, there are 130 children recorded, who are waiting for the Centre to be opened. It is planned to open the Centre in 2014.

**Project 6: Kindergartens as Preschool Educational Institutions**

The Project of running kindergartens as preschool educational Institutions has been visualized as a place where free of charge preschool educational services are provided to children aged from 4 to 6 years old, including children with disabilities and special needs. The kindergarten curriculum has been jointly developed between KSC and Sulaimany Genaral Directorate of Education. Its main aim is to provide the learning opportunities for the pre-school children via various activities, which would help their budding talents and abilities come to blossom, their natural self-reliance and self-confidence be further developed, and their readiness for school be well-established. Some other objectives include teaching children what their rights and their duties are, and what responsibilities as students they will face at school. Finally, kindergarten programme is designed to enhance the children’s social, intellectual, cognitive, expressive, and academic skills. The kindergarten is an intermediate stage between the nursery and school. It is a crucially important

transitional stage in every child’s life, during which the child is trained to enter school psychologically, emotionally, intellectually, and physically prepared for the transition to school.

The building that houses the two kindergartens was built by two donors, who entrusted KSC to establish and run the kindergartens, in close cooperation with Sulaimany General Directorate of Education.

**Project 7: Providing Assistance to the Refugees from Syria in Arbat Camp**

Since the influx of refugees from Syria to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, KSC, side by side with other local and international NGOs, took part in offering emergency assistance to the families of refugees and their children, residing at Arbat Refugee Camp in Sulaimany Province. Prior to providing assistance, KSC made a quick assessment of the number of children at the Camp and the immediate needs of their families. For this purpose, KSC hired a staff member of Syrian origin as the KSC representative at the Camp, to be daily present at the Camp, attend the refugee related meetings, and be abreast of all latest developments there.

KSC assistance to the Syrian refugees at the Camp involved providing their needs in the areas of education, health, child protection, and basic needs. In 2013, the following basic needs kits were distributed:

* 700 basic hygiene packages, containing soap bars, shampoo, towels, and dignity kits

![Performing a show at Arbat Basic School of Arbat Camp](image)
distributed among the refugees upon their arrival;
* 72000 liters of drinking water were provided for the refugees upon their arrival to the camp.

Furthermore, KSC actively participated in a joint project of opening a primary and intermediate school for the children of the refugees at the Arbat Camp, launched by UNICEF in cooperation with Sulaimany Directory of Education. In the process of project implementation, UNICEF contributed by providing tents and stationary; Sulaimany Directory of Education developed the curriculum, provided textbooks and teachers; KSC provided school uniforms, jackets, tracksuits, and other requirements. KSC also played an important role in decorating the school, making it a student-friendly space, and organizing various events that stimulated the students’ creative abilities and ingenuity.

KSC organized health examination of school children at Arbat School by a medical team composed of a dentist, an ENT doctor, a dermatologist, and an ophthalmologist. The KSC Education Sector staff conducted regular visits to the families having sick children and children with special needs, filling in a form for each of them. Upon KSC request, a team from the Children’s Rehabilitation Centre (CRC) visited the Camp to examine the children having bone disorders.

Other activities included distribution of underwear; conducting a survey on the number of children and adults of both genders at the Camp; conducting an exhibition of handicrafts made by children under the supervision of volunteers and presenting a stage performance for the Camp audience; making preparations for opening a kindergarten for preschool children in the camp.

2- Short-Term Projects

Project 1: In cooperation with Sulaimany Directorate of Education, Peoples of Kurdistan TV, and Education TV station, the Sector recorded two CDs of children songs and stage performances presented by Kaziwa children, and distributed the CDs among children free of charge.

Project 2: In 2013, the Sector launched the publication and printed four issues of Sara Cultural Magazine, a quarterly cultural magazine of general interest, published by KSC Sara Cultural Centre, with each issue circulated in 1000 copies. The contributors to the Magazine were mostly the Centre visitors, composed of intellectuals, journalists, authors, translators, students, shopkeepers, and retired individuals. The aim of the magazine is to provide an outlet for the intellectual creativity of the Centre’s visitors, and to give more detailed information on the Centre, Kaziwas, and other KSC activities.

Project 3: As a gift to the young patients, the teachers of Sara and Sarshaqam Kaziwas decorated the walls of the children’s ward of Shaikh Aso Hospital and the consultation room of Sulaimany Children’s Hospital with colourful cartoon characters, in an attempt to create a friendlier and more welcoming atmosphere at both hospitals. The Sector also transformed a corner of the waiting room into the child playground so that children, waiting for the doctor to examine them, could have an opportunity to play and feel welcomed, and were unafraid of visits to doctor.

Project 4: KSC Sara Cultural Centre carried out a project of providing periodicals and newspapers for the patients and their attendants waiting for the treatment so that they could spend the time of waiting in a more useful and productive way.

Project 5: The Sector assisted Shangal Charity NGO in conducting training courses for the children living in Shangal area during the period from July to September 2013 by providing the NGO staff salary, procuring various course-related needs, and paying for one year internet connection for the NGO.

Project 6: KSC designed and printed 1050 copies of a cancer awareness leaflet for the Radiotherapy Centre in Sulaimany, containing facts about cancer, coping strategies for dealing with cancer both for the patients and the family, kinds of cancer treatment and side effects, and other related information.
Project 7: On the occasion of Ramadan feast, the Sector distributed 220 sets of clothing for children, procured by a donor, among the Kaziwa children from low-income families in KSC Sara, Sarshaqam, Baziyan, and Chwarta Kaziwas. Mahak Charity NGO experiences in providing help to children with cancer and their families and to use their experience for developing a similar approach to assisting the cancer stricken child patients of Sulaimany Hiwa Hospital.

Project 8: The Sector examined and filled in 130 forms for children with disabilities and special needs. The counseling sessions were held for their parents, wherein the parents were given the instructions on how to deal and cope with their children.

Project 9: Throughout the year, the Sector staff was regularly visiting the children and their families at Zirquez camp for internally displaced persons. During these visits, they provided the required help to the children living there, distributed some clothes, books and stationery, and gave gifts to them on various occasions.

Education Sector in 2013

January – the Sector organized a workshop delivered by a representative of Mahak Charity for the staff of all KSC offices. The purpose of the presentation was to share the

February – on the anniversary of Cancer World Day, the KSC Kaziwa Cultural Children’s Centers conducted a celebrating party for the cancer stricken inpatients of Sulaimany Hiwa Hospital. The party programme included a dramatized story presentation, as well as the singing and traditional music performances for the children undergoing treatment there. At the end of the party, the KSC team distributed gifts to the sick children, looking more animated at the end of the party than at the beginning of it, which was the purpose of the event.

March – the Sector organized several parties to celebrate Newroz – the Kurdish New Year – held at Parki Daiyk, wherein the children from Sara and Sarshaqam Kaziwas presented a stage performance and played pieces of traditional Kurdish music to the delight of a wide and varied audience.
April – on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of KSC Sara Cultural Centre, the Sector organized a special literary event, in which a number of poets and artists took part.

May – The Sector organized and held a prize-awarding ceremony in William Yohanna Hall to acknowledge the literary achievements of 31 young budding story writers.

June – on June 1st, on the occasion of International Children’s Day, the Sector organized a number of activities at Azadi Park, which included a survey held among the children’s parents, who were asked to describe the problems they face while raising their children. There were 60 parents who participated in the survey, expressed their views, and made comments on this issue. At the same time, another survey was held among the children, who were asked to make a drawing of what they really wanted. As soon as the drawing was completed, it was put on a display in a spontaneous exhibition presented to the general attention of those present at the event. The purpose of the surveys was to identify the problems from both the parents and the children’s perspectives as a feedback for possible future projects of the Sector.

July – in July, the Sector, in cooperation with Education TV, organized a recording of the stage performance of a play Kicha Dilkho-shaka (A Happy Girl), presented by KSC Sara Kaziwa Drama Team.

August – on the occasion of Ramadan Feast, KSC Sara and Sarshaqam Kaziwa teams were invited to participate in a live broadcast of a competition, organized by Gali Kurdistan TV Channel.

September – on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of KSC establishment, the Sector opened a two-day sale exhibition of drawings and handicrafts, made by the KSC Kaziwa children. The proceeds from the exhibition were used for assisting the refugees from Syria.

Additionally, the Sector organized a music and dance party in Azadi Park, to celebrate the beginning of the new school year, wherein the children from KSC Sara, Sarshaqam, and Chwarta Kaziwas took part.

October – the Sector’s team distributed school uniforms among the students of Amuda School at the Arbat Refugee Camp. The Sector also helped ACR NGO distribute shoes among the children of the camp.

November – on the 24th anniversary of the adoption of Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Sector distributed posters presenting Child Rights in a colourful and easily accessible way among schools, kindergartens, and in public areas. The posters were an outcome of cooperative efforts of several KSC sectors: Child Protection Sector prepared the textual component of the poster; KSC Media Sector made a design and got the posters printed, and, finally, KSC Education Sector organized and conducted the distribution of the posters. In another related event, a team composed of the members of the Sector staff and a clown organized spontaneous discussions with children on the content of posters at places frequented by children. Later on, the Sector was invited by Kursatsat TV to present the posters and the work done by the Sector in the live broadcast of the Rojeki Niwe programme with the purpose of raising the public awareness on various issues related to the rights of the child.

December – the Sector participated in an exhibition of the NGO activities held at Sulaimani Palace Hotel.

Srwa Faizulla / Senior Officer
How a Former Kaziwa Child Became a Kaziwa Teacher

My name is Shazad. I was born on August 28th, in 1992, in Sulaimany Shahidan Neighbourhood. When I was 10 years old, I came to KSC Sara Children's Cultural centre. Our family lived at Sabun Karan street that time, which was very close to the Centre. My brother and I spent most of our time at the Centre. My brother, who is older than me, was a music teacher there.

Since my early childhood, I have always been passionate about music. So I started attending music lessons at the Centre. Hazhar, my first music teacher, taught me the music basics. Under his instruction, I was able to participate in several music events. I still have a vivid memory of one of the events when I was participating in a concert where Marziyeh Razai, one of the greatest Kurdish singers, performed her songs.

As a member of the Kaziwa Music Team, I participated in several music events. I was singing in a chorus at the performance recorded by the Khak TV. I was part of chorus in several songs like Buka Shushakam (My Doll), Paku khaweni Zhinga (Keeping environment clean).

I also used to attend the Kaziwa Annual Festivals organized by the Centre.

Outside the Centre, I participated in some events. The one that is outstanding in my memory was when my friends and I painted a Kurdish flag on a tank in Kirkuk during a ceremony of commemoration of Iraq Liberation Day.

It was in 2003 when I reached the age of 14, and was unable to continue attending the Kaziwa Centre as its member, as the Centre's policy doesn't allow children above 14 to attend it. However, my passion for music didn't stop there. I was admitted to the Fine Arts Institute and studied music there. After graduating from the Institute, I got a job in Kaziwa as a music teacher. It was my devotion to and love for Kaziwa that brought me back there once again.

My aim in working at the Centre is to help other children fulfill their wishes and dreams the way I did. I am thankful to all the Kaziwa staff who helped me fulfill my dream.
Youth Sector

KSC Youth Activity Sector runs eight Youth Activity Centres in Sulaimany, Darbandikhan, Koya, Rania, Halabja, Kalar, Khanaqin, and Shorish. What follows is a summary of the activities conducted by each centre in 2013.

**Sulaimany Youth Activity Centre**

Sulaimany Youth Activity Centre was founded 15 years ago with the main purpose of providing various educational, intellectual and recreational services to the young people in the city and surrounding areas. In addition to providing the services, the Centre has always been a place, wherein the young people could meet to exchange their opinions on various youth related and other up-to-date issues. In 2013, the overall number of youths attending the Centre exceeded 1805 persons, of whom 1418 were males, and 387 – females.

The Centre offers its services via its various departments. Below is a summary of each department and its activities.

**Computer and Internet Department:** In 2013, the total number of 242 youths (128 males and 104 females) offered the following training courses to youths: mastering such Microsoft Office computer programs as Word, Excel, 3D max, Photoshop, Access, PowerPoint, Java (programming language), and Networking basics.

**Music Department:** In 2013, the overall number of 58 youths attended the courses offered by the Department. In the outcome of training, the Centre Music team participated in a party conducted by KSC on April 4, 2014 for the child inpatients of Sulaimany Hiwa Hospital for Cancer Patients, held with a purpose of helping the cancer-stricken children cope with their disease by creating a positive, free of stress atmosphere propitious for healing.

**Graphic Arts Department:** There were 168 youths attending the training courses offered by the Department. The training focused on enhancing the young artists’ creative skills and preparing them for the admission exams to the Fine Arts Institutes or the Fine Arts College.

**Language Learning Department:** The Department offered 12 courses in English at the beginners and elementary levels to 256 youths. Each participant received a course completion certificate at the end of the course. The Department also offered a Kurdish language course for the youth whose mother tongue is other than Kurdish.

**Vocational Training Department:** In 2013, the Department offered 4 courses on the theory and practice of hair cutting and styling to 123 youths.

*Sulaimani Youth Centre, giving Refugees free of charge Haircut at Arbat Camp*
The certificate of the course completion was awarded to the participants who successfully completed the course to enable them to apply the acquired skills for being employed or opening their own businesses. For practice, as part of the training, the participants visited Arbat Refugee Camp and offered their services to the refugees stationed there.

**Sports Department:** The Department is an independent unit affiliated to the Centre. It offers the training opportunities in the following athletic activities: football, basketball, bodybuilding, Kung-fu, Thai-Kuan-Do, table tennis, and body fitness. The professional trainers, some of them on a voluntary basis, supervise the training process and prepare youth for participation in various competitions. In 2013, the total number of 245 youths underwent training in the Department. Most of them were given opportunities to participate in various sports competitions, with some of them being awarded medals after winning in the game or in the competition.

**Darbandikhan Youth Activity Centre**

Since its foundation, Darbandikhan Youth Activity Centre has played an important role in increasing the scope of opportunities for youth by offering various educational, intellectual, and recreational services to the youth of Darbandikhan and its surrounding areas. The Centre premises, especially its beautiful garden, planted in the place where a garbage spot used to be, its cafeteria, its fitness centre, and the fact that The Centre is opened for almost 24 hours a day and 7 days a week – all of these factors added up made the Centre one of the most youth frequented places in Darbandikhan.

In 2013, the total number of 4902 youths took part in the Centre activities and spent some of their time there.

Below is a brief presentation of each department and its activities.

**Computer and Internet Department:** The total number of 1803 youths used the Internet services offered by the Department. The total number of 823 youths used the Centre computers for personal needs, and school assignments. The Department also initiated a free-of-charge service of formatting computers: In 2013, the total of 185 computers was formatted for youths and Government employees. The Department also provided assistance in opening email accounts and other computer related services to 250 youths.

**Music Department:** The total number of 333 youths (321 males and 12 females) participated in the activities carried out by the Department. Throughout the year, the Department offered 9 training courses, wherein the participants were taught how to play the music instrument of their preference. In proportion with their skill development, the Department provided opportunities for the young musicians to perform in a number of concerts and live TV shows.
Sports Department: The Sports Department was the most popular department in 2013. A considerable number of youths regularly visited the Department, with most of them spending their time at the Tartan playing fields at the Centre Stadium. Some participants were engaged in playing chess, volleyball, basketball, and tennis. The youth was attracted to the Centre because its doors stayed open throughout the day until the late evening. The Department organized and conducted 9 football tournaments for the teams both inside the Centre and outside it. Additionally, 102 friendly matches were carried out and 3 training courses on playing basketball were offered to those interested in mastering the game. The participants of the courses were later given an opportunity to participate in an 18-team basketball championship.

A total number of 291 youths (165 boys and 126 girls) participated in the bodybuilding and fitness classes offered by the Department. Interestingly, as compared to other departments the proportion of girls’ participation in this Department was considerably higher than in other departments. This can be explained by the practical results reflected in a slender and suppler body demonstrated by the participants of fitness classes.

Language Learning Courses: Two English language learning courses were offered to 79 youths (59 males and 20 females).

Vocational Training: One Dress Making course was offered to 22 females.

Other Activities:
* The Center invited Jamal Ghambar, a well-known Kurdish poet, to take part in an open discussion on poetry and other literary genres, held in the Centre Library.
* The Centre opened a Facebook Page as a forum for broadcasting the Centre activities and making them better known by the general public.
* The Center Team actively participated in all the events organized and held in Darbandikhan.
* The Centre received an Honorary Award of the Darbandikhan General Directorate of Youth and Sports Affairs for helping the Directorate establish a stadium for various sports activities.

* The Centre received an Honorary Award of Darbandikhan Mayor for participating in organizing the mayorsport sports tournament.

* The Centre garden has always been a major attraction of the Centre. The Centre members have been industrious in using their innovative ideas in decorating the garden so that it acquired a strikingly attractive atmosphere both for the Centre participants and visitors. It was in the garden that the Centre organized a graphic arts exhibition, wherein 20 talented artists from Kalar Youth Activity Centre exhibited their works.

* On the occasion of KSC anniversary, the Centre organized a photographic exhibition of the photographs made by 3 young photographers, held on September 11th.

Rania Youth Activity Centre

In 2013, Rania Youth Activity Centre continued offering quality services to the youth of Rania via its various departments. It also set up a Mobile Team to offer some of the Centre services to the youth living in different places outside Rania. In 2013, the total number of regular visitors to the Centre was 5811, of whom 4812 were males, and 999 - females.

Below is a summary of the activities conducted by the Centre Departments.

Computer Department: The Department offered 5 training courses to 62 youths on Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, Design, and Adobe Photoshop Programmes, delivered by a well-informed computer professional, who was using an easily accessible method of presenting the information. The Department also offered free computer access to 380 users.

Music Department: The Department offered 8 courses to 122 youths teaching them how to play oud, violin, clarinet, guitar, sitar, and other instruments. It also organized 5 musical parties, wherein the young musicians were given a chance to perform in front of a larger audience. The Department reached its point of culmination when the Centre Music Band was invited to take part in a live TV show,
where they presented several musical pieces and songs.

**Graphic Arts Department:** The Department carried out 4 training courses for 55 youth, tutoring the participants in a broad range of art forms. In 2013, the total of 303 youths (237 young men and 66 young women) attended the Department. The Department also organized and conducted two exhibitions, wherein the young artists put their works on a display.

**Language Learning Department:** The Department offered an opportunity of learning languages to 363 youths (221 males and 142 females). It conducted 5 courses for the learners of English, Persian, and Kurdish languages. The majority of young people attended 3 courses on learning English, with the participants being organized into 6 groups according to their levels. Two other courses were available for those who wanted to study Persian, or Kurdish languages.

**Vocational Training Department:** The Department offered 2 Tailoring and one hair dressing courses for 81 youths.

**Library:** The total of 1280 youths visited the Library, checking out 1283 books.

**Sports Department:** The total number of 1531 youths (1454 males and 77 females) attended the Department in 2013. The Department organized 1) 9 table football tournaments, wherein 239 youths took part; 2) 3 Marathon races, wherein 139 youths participated; and 3) 5 competitions in various athletic activities including tennis, video games, pushups and swimming, wherein 54 youths took part. In 2013, the total of 43 friendly matches was organized.

**Other Activities:**

Among other activities, the Centre organized and conducted the following events:

* 120 youths from Sulaimany and Rania participated in an open discussion on the works in the literary and artistic fields, held on April 16, 2013.

* 22 Centre members participated in a one-month campaign of decorating the Centre walls with paintings, drawing, and graphics, started on July 1 and ended on July 30, 2013.

* On the occasions of the 22nd Anniversary of KSC establishment and the 12th Anniversary of Rania Youth Activity Centre establishment, the Centre held its annual festival to celebrate both occasions.

* 7 cultural and intellectual meetings and workshops on crucial youth related issues were carried out throughout the year.
Mobile Projects: With the aim of reaching out to the youth living in the places outside of Rania City, the Centre set up mobile teams to extend its services to the youth there. During 2013, various activities were offered to the young people living in the following places:

* Zharawa Town: In Zharawa Town, the Mobile Team conducted a series of one-month courses on hair cutting and styling, mastering various computer programs, and learning English and Persian languages, started on June 29 and ended on July 30, 2013, wherein 214 youths took part. The Team also organized a graphic arts exhibition, wherein the artistic works of 5 young gifted artists were put on display.

* Sangasar Town: In Sangasar, starting on July 1, the Mobile Team carried out a series of one-month courses in learning English, acquiring better computer skills, learning the basics of Graphic arts and music, and tailoring, wherein 141 local youths took part.

Koya Youth Activity Centre

Koya Youth Activity Centre continued to deliver its services to the youth of Koya via its departments empowering them to become active members of the community, who would be able to strive for social and personal betterment. In 2013, the total number of Centre participants was 5546 youths (4008 males and 1538 females).

Below is a summary of activities offered by the centre and its departments in 2013.

Music Department: The Department offered 8 courses attended by 271 youths (153 males and 118 females).

Fine Arts Department: The Department offered 4 courses attended by 368 youths, whose works were exhibited in 4 exhibitions.

Computer Department: The Department offered 5 courses to 108 youths, of whom 66 were males and 42 females.

Library: in 2013, 359 youths attended the Centre Library, checking out 318 books.

Sports Department: the total number of 2440 youths (276 males and 1943 females) participated in 497 courses offered by the Department. Among the courses the most popular included Body Building, Body Fitness, coaching Football, Volleyball, Tennis players, among others. Some selective statistics on the number of participants in the courses is as follows:

Kung fu and Gymnastics offered its services to 949 youths, organized 5 friendly matches, participated in a championship and conducted 6 show demonstrations;
Ping Pong Unit: Two courses in ping pong were offered to 515 youths;

Female fitness: the total number of 496 young women participated in the offered fitness training programmes;

Body Building: 480 young men underwent training in this unit.

For football fans, the Sport Department organized public live broadcast of the games played in Spanish El Clasico Cup Championship, broadcasted at the Centre garden, with more than 600 youths watching the show.

Language Learning Department: the Department offered 5 English learning courses for 263 youths.

Vocational Training: The Department offered 6 courses on tailoring to 189 young women. It also organized 2 exhibitions, wherein the garments made by them were displayed. Besides the course in tailoring, the Department offered 3 courses on maintenance and repair of air conditioners, wherein 55 young men participated. The purpose of the vocational training was to enable young men and women to have better employment opportunities and enhance the ability of self-reliance.

Organizing seminars and other cultural activities:

The Centre organized and conducted 4 discussions on various major youth-related issues and a poetry reading event, wherein a number of young poets took part.

Other activities:

* During Nawroz (the Kurdish New Year) festivities, the Centre organized Nawroz Festival including a marathon, wherein 22 young people took part.

* The Centre Music Group participated in a two-day Literary World Festival, held in cooperation with the Union of Kurdish Writers on June 29-30, 2013.

The Group was also invited to participate in Ramadan Nights Programme broadcasted by Koya Branch of the Geli Kurdistan TV.

* On the occasions of the 22nd Anniversary of KSC establishment and the 11th Anniversary of Koya Youth Activity Centre establishment, the Centre organized and conducted the two-day 10th Annual Festival, wherein all the Centre departments demonstrated their achievements, held on September 9-10, 2013.

Kalar Youth Activity Centre

Kalar Youth Activity Centre has been offering educational, social, and cultural services to the youth of Kalar and surrounding areas since its establishment in 2002. In 2013, the total number of 12663 youths of both genders got benefit from the services offered by various Centre departments, delivered by the knowledgeable teaching staff employed by the Centre. Apart from offering learning opportunities, the Centre organized and conducted a number of cultural and educational discussions and seminars, wherein a wide young audience took an active part.

What follows is a summary of the activities carried out by the Centre various departments in 2013.

Computer and Internet Department: the Department offered 24 courses to 569 youths (438 males and 131 females) on various computer related topics.

Library: The overall number of youths attending the Library to check out books and magazines exceeded 4649 youths (3266 males and 1383 females).

Language Learning Department: The overall number of young people attending this department exceeded 2219 youths (1277 males and 947 females). The Course in English was offered to 1628 youths (947 males and 681 females). The participants were divided into the following groups: Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced learners. The instruction to each group was based on the programme Let’s Talk. The total of 59 courses was conducted during the training period.

Learning Support Services: Upon the students’ request, the Centre conducted 14 courses in Math at the Secondary School level, attended by 591 youths (330 males and 261 females). The courses, aimed at helping the students to success in exams, started on June 1 and continued for six months till December 31, 2013.
Vocational Training Department: The Department offered 14 courses in Sewing and Fashion Styling for young women and 9 courses in Hair Dressing and Hair Styling for young men. The total of 281 youths participated in these courses. On September 18, upon the completion of Sewing and Fashion Styling courses, attended by 169 young women, the Department organized an exhibition of the garments made by the course participants. Later on, on November 11, the Department organized a ceremony of awarding the Course Completion Certificates to the Course participants, held at the Centre Hall, with both of the events attracting the attention of wide audience, including the local media.

The Department also offered 9 courses in Hair Dressing and Hair Styling, attended by 112 young men, most of whom were eager to acquire the required skills for earning their living and being more self-reliant in terms of employment. Upon the courses completion, the Department organized a ceremony awarding the Course Completion Certificates to the course participants.

Sports Department: The Department offered its services to 2630 youths as follows:

* 2004 youths took part in 46 courses on basics of playing ping pong organized by the Department, with awards being given to the best participants upon the completion of the courses;

* 16 courses in playing chess, followed by monthly championships, were offered to 228 participants, with the Centre being the only place in Kalar that offers championship opportunities to chess players in the city and outside it;

* 141 youths attending the Centre were able to create local football teams and found a space for their daily training and playing even though the Centre does not have football playing grounds;

* 117 youths participated in a Volleyball Championship, organized by the Department, wherein 13 local teams took part.

* 72 youths, organized into several basketball teams, underwent daily training at the Centre premises; *40 youths took part in a Bike Races organized by the Department.

* The Centre 8-strong Kick Boxing Team participated in a Championship held on April 11-12 in Sulaimany and organized by Kurdistan Olympic Association, where the two members of the team won the second and third places respectively.
On November 21, the Centre organized friendly matches in Chess, Volleyball, and Table Tennis, wherein the Centre teams played with those of the Khanaqin Youth Activity Centre. The purpose of the matches was to introduce the young players from both centers to each other.

Other Activities carried out by the Centre included:

* Two-day Festival held on the occasion of KSC 22nd Anniversary on September 8-9, wherein the paintings and drawings of 24 young artists from the Centre Fine Arts Department were put on a display. Festival programme also included the final games of chess and volleyball Championships, wherein 6 Clubs and 48 sportsmen participated, as well as Table tennis Championship, wherein 84 players took part.

During the Annual Festival on September 9, the Centre Music Department organized a performance of the Centre Daff Group to the large audience of guests, youths and representatives of local media. Under the drumming accompaniment, Kurdish folklore dancing performance was presented.

Seminars and Workshops: The total of 750 youths (485 males and 265 females) took part in the following events:

Poetry Readings: The Centre presented two poetry reading events. One of them was held on the occasion of Commemoration of Anfal Campaign victims, wherein 5 youth poets read their poems. The other one was organized for 4 young poets to encourage them in mastering their poetic arts.

Seminars and Workshops:
In 2013, the Centre conducted several open discussions, seminars, and workshops on such topics as student psychology, democracy and election process, citizenship, rights and obligations, among others.

Other activities conducted by the Center included:

* Organizing a spring trip to some summer resorts in the area on March 15, wherein 54 youths of both gender took part;
* Organizing a team of volunteers to classify and reorganize 20 thousand English titles in Kalar Public Library conducted under the supervision of the Centre English language teacher, upon the request of the Directorate of Cultural Affairs of Garmiyan Area;
* Organizing a celebrating party to praise the activities of volunteers who undertook responsibility of documenting the Centre activities and having them covered in the media;
* Organizing a broadcast of a series of radio talks, delivered by a volunteer, on the following topics: Psychological Problems Faced by Youth, Difference between Friendship and Love, Self-Assurance and Self-Confidence, Depression, Its Causes and Treatment, Impact of Family on Children, and Addictions.

Khanaqin Youth Activity Centre
In 2013, Khanaqin Youth Activity Centre continued to offer services to the youth of Khanaqin city and its surrounding areas. Since the time of its establishment in 2005, the Centre has gradually become a place frequented by youth, where they come to acquire knowledge and skills in the areas of computer and Internet, music, graphic arts, sports and other fields of knowledge. In 2023, the total number of youth attending the Centre was 6175 youths (5095 males, and 1080 females).
* Below is a summary of the services offered by the different Centre departments in 2013.

**Computer and Internet Department:** In 2013, the total number of 660 youths (593 males, and 67 females) took part in the activities offered by the Department such as: using Internet free of charge or attending the courses on enhancing computer skills. There were conducted 19 courses, attended by 243 youths, on basics of Microsoft Word, Excel, Photoshop, Adobe Premiere, and Photography within Media.

**Music Department:** In 2013, there were established three Music bands at the Department: Daff and Rhythmic Instrument Band, Guitar and Western Music Instrument Band, and Eastern Music Band. The members of the bands took an active part in the following activities offered by the Department:
* organizing 17 training courses for 180 youths.
* Actively participating in the events held on various occasions such as, Valentine’s Day Celebration, the 22nd anniversary of KSC foundation, Newroz celebrations, and Commemoration of Anfal Victims Ceremony. The Bands also participated in a broadcasted television show and a radio program.

**Graphic and Fine Arts Department:** The Department has always been playing a vital role in the Centre by providing learning opportunities in basics of graphic and fine arts to the young people who wanted to be admitted to the Institute of Fine Arts. The Department also provided free-of-charge tutoring services to the students of Fine Arts Institute helping them succeed in examinations in different courses of the programme taught at the Institute. In 2013, the Department activities were as follows:
* offered 11 training courses, wherein 346 youths took part;
* organizing three exhibitions of drawings and paintings displayed during such events as the 22nd anniversary of KSC foundation, and Newroz celebrations;
* Organizing an exhibition for 16 young artists, and an exhibition of young photographers.

**Library:** As compared to the previous years, there were noticeably some positive changes

**Seminars and Workshops:**
In 2013, the Centre conducted several open discussions, seminars, and workshops on such topics as student psychology, democracy and election process, citizenship, rights and obligations, among others.

**Other activities** conducted by the Center included:
* Organizing a spring trip to some summer resorts in the area on March 15, wherein 54 youths of both gender took part;
* Organizing a team of volunteers to classify and reorganize 20 thousand English titles in Kalar Public Library conducted under the supervision of the Centre English language teacher, upon the request of the Directorate of Cultural Affairs of Garmian Area;
in the Library activities in 2013. The total number of 190 youths (107 males and 83 females) attended the Library and checked out 120 books. The Library hosted 12 open discussions on the following issues: The Art of Active Reading, Loss of Interest in Reading, Passion for Reading, How to Study, True friendship, Motivating Youth to Act, Psychology of Youth, Advanced Community, Having Different Opinions and Views, Raising Community Awareness, and Enhancing Individual Awareness.

**Sports Department:** In addition to offering training opportunities to the young people in the area, the Department also acted as an educational centre for student-athlete development, attended mostly by the students of Sports Institute and Sports Schools in Khanaqin. The total of 4423 youths attended the Department in 2013.
The Department organized 29 friendly football, volleyball, and basketball matches, and 6 volleyball, football, table tennis and chess championships.

**Seminars:** The Centre organized and conducted a seminar on Youth Psychology, presented by Dr. Mozafar Ali on August 23, 2013.

**Festivals, and Other Activities:** The activities in this category included:
* Organizing a festival on the occasion of the Valentine’s Day, wherein lyrical poetry, songs and music pieces were presented, followed by a discussion in the form of questions and answers, and a gift giving ceremony;

* Organizing Nawroz Festival (Celebration of Spring and the New Kurdish Year), which embraced singing, dancing, and musical performances, graphic arts exhibition, and table tennis championship;

* Holding a ceremony of commemorating Anfal Campaign victims on April 14, 2013, wherein mourning laments were interspersed with poem readings and other activities. The Ceremony was concluded with a solemn procession of paying a symbolic tribute to the victims of Anfal.

* Organizing a celebrating event on KSC 22nd Anniversary of its establishment.

**Halabja Youth Activity Centre**

In 2013, Halabja Youth Activity Centre, established in 2008, continued offering services to the youth of Halabja via its various departments. The total of 5310 youths (4264 – males and 1046 females) attended the Centre in 2013.

Below is a brief presentation of the activities carried out by each department.

**Music Department:** The total number of 285 youths (239 males and 46 females) participated in 35 courses offered by the Department. The young musicians took an active part in a number of events organized by the Centre, such as International Women’s World Day, Anniversary of Halabja Foundation, Nawroz festivities, and Commemorating Halabja Chemical attack and Anfal victims Ceremony. They also took part in a special Ramadan programme presented by Speda Satellite Channel. The Department another achievement was an invitation to participate in a Rozheki New Live Cultural show broadcasted by Kursat Satellite Channel.

**Library:** In 2013, the total of 1079 youths (845 males, and 234 females) visited the Library and checked out 145 books. The Library staff made every effort to provide the readers with an access to the latest periodicals and books and to create a peaceful and encouraging environment for reading, writing, studying, doing research, getting ready for examinations, or just being engaged in a thoughtful contemplation.

**Sports Department:** Space limitations restricted the choice of activities to be offered by Sports Department. Nevertheless, the Department staff did its best to overcome space limitation and offered opportunity to play chess and/or have a game of ping pong to young visitors of the Centre. In 2012, the total of 1985 youths (1734 – males and 251 females) attended the Department.

**Graphic and Fine Arts Department:** The young people who attended this Department demonstrated a remarkable purposeful determination and hard-working dedication to excel and master I acquiring the drawing/painting skills. Anyone who wanted to learn how to draw and paint received warm welcome and was encouraged to persevere. The utmost assistance, however, was offered to the young people who wanted to get admitted to the Institute of Fine Arts. The Department organized intensive summer training courses aimed at helping them pass successfully the admission tests. The total of 30 youths (19 males and 11 females) attended the Department in 2013.

**Sewing and Fashion Design Department:** Mostly young women attended the courses in sewing and fashion design offered by the Department in 2013. The main purpose of the courses was to help the young women acquire the required skills to get employment, earn their own living, and become financially independent. According to the survey conducted by the Department in 2013, 51 young women who attended the offered courses were able to get employed and supplement their family income by using the acquired tailoring skills. In 2013, the Department offered 12 courses, wherein 76 youths took part (25 young men and 51 young women).

**Language Learning Department:** The Department offered 4 courses in English and Persian languages, wherein 172 youths (116 male and 56 female) took part.
Organizing Seminars: The Centre organized 3 seminars on youth-related topics conducted by prominent Halaja young poets and intellectuals.

Other Activities:
* The centre assisted Balambo Jamal, a young musicologist, who regularly attends the Centre Music Department, to publish a book entitled A Tour on the Cultural Music of Iraq.
* Participating in a Ceremony of the 25th Commemoration of the Halabja Chemical Bombardment Victims, held on March 16, 2013, wherein the Centre presented a symbolic activity under the name of A Message of Peace and Freedom, when 25 white pigeons, the symbols of Peace and Freedom, were simultaneously released and sent into the sky to carry the message of Peace across the world.
* Organizing a festival celebrating the 5th Anniversary of the Centre Establishment, held on September 16, wherein each department presented their activities as follows: The students of the Language Learning Department organized an open discussion on various issues related to learning English. The young artists of the Graphic and Fine Arts Department exhibited their works, the young tailors and fashion designers organized an exhibition of the garments made by them, and the Centre Music Band delighted the audience with a lively presentation of the music, singing, and dancing performances that attracted the attention of all those present at the event.

Shorish Youth Activity Centre

Historically, Shorish Compound Town was built to settle the survivors of the Anfal Campaigns carried out by the former Ba’ath Government of Iraq in the rural areas of Iraqi Kurdistan in the 1980s. The people who settled there had to come to terms with and overcome the pain of displacement, the loss of community and belonging to it, the unemployment, and the impact of being uprooted. They had to create a new community, with which they could resonate and to which they could belong. The opening of the Shorish Youth Activity Centre in 2010 was part of this challenging process. The newly opened centre very soon became the youth’s second home, wherein some opportunities for personal growth and development were offered to them.

The Centre gradually expanded its activities from initially offering services to the youth in Shorish town to extending them to the youth living in the surrounding towns and areas, via mobile team projects.
In 2013, the total of 1057 youths (921 male and 136 female) benefitted from the services offered by the Centre.

What follows is a summary of the activities carried out by the Centre in 2013.

Computer Department: The Department offered 5 courses on various aspects of computer usage, providing a quality instruction based on the up-to-date teaching resources. The total of 198 youths benefitted from the courses.

Music Department: Although this department was opened later than others, because of the lack of professional music instructors, it was less active than other departments of the Center. Nevertheless, the Department was able to organize and conduct 2 courses in 2013.

Library: There were 3008 visits to the library in 2013, of whom 2796 were male and the rest were female visitors. Throughout the year, 115 books were checked out from the library.

Sports Department: Initially, it was the first department opened by the Centre. As compared to other departments, more youth frequented the Sports Department, wherein they were trained and offered opportunities to play volleyball, football, tennis, and Kung-Fu. Several friendly matches and tournaments were organized. The Department organized broadcast of Spanish League and English Leagues games in the Centre Hall, very popular with the young audience.

Graphic Arts and Sculpturing Department: In 2013, the total of 114 youths attended the Department. There were conducted 5 exhibitions, wherein the most talented young artists were given an opportunity to put their works on a public display.

Vocational Training Department: The Department conducted 2 tailoring courses for 122 female participants, as well as 5 courses in hairdressing, wherein 207 youths in Shorish and Sangaw sub-district from the low-income families took part.

Language Learning Department: In 2013, the Department offered 14 courses (8 courses in learning English, 3 – in learning Arabic, and 3 intensive courses in Kurdish for the 12th grade students to help them higher marks in their final national exams). The total of 847 youths (640 males and 207 females) took part in these courses.

Organizing Seminars: For encouraging youth to give more time to reading and participating in intellectual discussions, the Centre organized and conducted 13 seminars on the youth related topics.

Other Activities: Other activities conducted by the Centre were as follows:

* On March 27, there was presented a drama, entitled The Future is in Studying;
* On May 6, a drama entitled Could you recognize us now? was presented on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Anfal Campaign;
* A celebrating party on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of KSC foundation and the 3rd anniversary of the Centre a party was conducted, wherein both the Centre staff and its participants took an active part.

Mobile Team Projects

For expanding the centre activities, the Centre conducted the following mobile projects in the sub-districts outside Shorish Compound:

* in Chamchamal, the Centre Mobile Team conducted an Arabic Language Learning course, an English Language learning course; 2 poem reading events; a graphic arts exhibition and a photograph exhibition.

* In Sangaw Area, the Team conducted an English language learning, wherein 40 youths took part; a course in hairdressing for 15 youths and a course in sewing garments, wherein 20 young women took part.

* In Takiy Jabary Sub-district, a seminar was conducted on the topic of Encouraging Youth to Work in Private Sector held in October 2013, as well as a volley ball training course, wherein 12 local teams of the area took part.

* In Goptapa sub-district, a mobile team conducted an English learning course of learning, wherein 55 youths (28 males and 27 females) took part.

Khalid A. Qadir/ Senior Officer
Health Sector

In 2013, KSC Health Sector continued offering assistance to sick children. Throughout the year, 736 new children visited the Sector for the first time. According to the Sector’s regulations, after the initial visit and examination of the child by the Sector’s doctor, the Sector’s field officer pays a visit to the child’s family and fills in a form for the child, the content of which is later entered into the Sector’s database. In 2013, there were 623 visits made to the new families, with the forms filled in and later recorded in the Sector’s database as new cases. By the end of 2013, on the Sector’s waiting list, there were still 113 new families to visit.

In the process of processing requests for treatment, the requests are reviewed by the Sector’s doctor, who determines the urgency of each case and suggests possible places of referral for treatment. In placing a case on waiting list the following criteria are adhered to: the urgency of the case and the family financial situation, both of which determine the case placement on the waiting list. Financial assistance is provided within the limits of KSC assistance criteria.

Below is the report on the Sector’s activities conducted from January 1 to December 22, 2013.

**New Applications** were processed as follows:

- **427** information forms were filled in for the sick children from Sulaimani, Arbat, Qaradagh, Said Sadiq, Halabja, Kalar, Penjwen, Raniya, Chwarta, Chamchamal, Kaldiza, Koya, Erbil, Soran/Kirkuk, and Khanaqeen.
- **43** information forms were filled in at Erbil Office
- **94** at Duhok Office
- **57** at Kirkuk office
- **2** came from the KSC Sponsorship sector

The total number of the forms filled in was 623 (351 males and 272 females). All of them visited KSC Health Sector Office and were examined by the Sector’s doctor. There are still 113 new cases on the Sector’s waiting list.

In 2013 through KSC 184 children in Kurdistan, 89 children in India, 81 children in Iran, 24 children in Tel-Aviv, 12 children in Austria, 9 children in Turkey, 2 children in Jordan, one child in Lebanon, one child in Korea, one child in Italy, one child in UK, and one child in Germany had surgery and treatment.
Processing Treatment Requests
* 28 cases – preparations were made for sending these children to India for treatment
* 12 cases – the children’s medical reports were sent to Austria, and the arrangements were made for them to travel for the treatment in 2014.
* 3 cases – the children’s medical reports, and visa applications for medical treatment were sent to Tel-Aviv, Israel.

Referrals
* 36 children were sent to private hospitals in Kurdistan Region and/or sent to Iran for treatment.
* 82 children were sent to Iran for the treatment of the following conditions: 26 – vision impairments, 4 – renal complications, 2 – ear drum impairments, 5 – vertebral deformities, 4 – heart conditions, 8 – bone diseases, 3 – dermatological problems, 6 – CP diagnosis and treatment, 5 – liver diseases, 12 – other internal medical conditions, 5 – blood tests at Mahak Hospital, and 2 cases of conjoined twins separation surgery.
* 24 children with congenital heart disease underwent surgery in Israel.
* 89 children with the following conditions were sent to India for medical treatment, of whom: 68 had heart diseases, 2 – blood disorders, 1 – esophagus disorders, 3 – vision impairments, 1 – head tumor, 1 – tumor, 1 renal function disorders, 2 bladder function problems, 3 vertebral problems, 1 thigh muscle disorders, 3 foot bone and 3 hand bone problems.
* 131 children received treatment in local hospitals inside Sulaimany prescribed and administered either by local physicians, or the members of medical teams from abroad, as follows: 20 children underwent heart surgery performed by the surgeons from the Italian medical team, who visited Sulaimany in 2013; 33 children underwent heart surgery performed by Dr. Tallal from Jordan, 21 children having vertebral disorders were operated on by Dr. Ziyad from Jordan; 8 children underwent Cochlear Implant surgeries, and 4 children – palate surgeries performed by local physicians; 21 children with cleft lip and palate were operated on by Dr. Brian Sommerlad, Consultant Plastic Surgeon from the UK; for 8 children, eye surgery was performed by local doctors; 2 children with skin problems underwent surgery; 2 children having renal conditions and 2 children having cerebral edema received the required treatment; 2 children with hermaphrodite conditions, 4 children with bone disorders underwent surgery, and 3 children with hearing impairments were given hearing aids by a Swedish team.
* 15 children underwent surgeries by local physicians in Erbil, of whom 5 had various heart conditions, 3 – visual impairments, 1 – joint complications, 2 – renal and 1 bladder disorders, 2 – bone and 1 spinal disorders.
The following children were sent for treatment to the following countries:
* 9 children were sent to Turkey for medical examination and treatment, among whom 3 children had heart conditions, 3 underwent surgery of upper limbs, 1 - internal medical surgery, and 2 children received epilepsy treatment.
* 12 children with heart conditions were sent to Austria for surgery.
* 1 child was sent to Germany to have a tumor removed.
* 1 child was sent to the UK for vertebral correction operation.
* 1 child was sent to Lebanon for a bowel surgery.
* 1 child was sent to Korea for limb prostheses and prosthetic rehabilitation treatment.
* 2 children with ear drum and thigh bone disorders respectively underwent surgery in Amman, Jordan.
* 16 children had heart bypass and catheterization in Sulaimany.
* 2 children had heart catheterization in Erbil.
* 1 child, Sima Faruq, was sent to ltlay- lvrea
for a follow up. It was her 7th follow-up visit to.

* Digital hearing aids were given to 24 children with hearing impairments.

* Milk and medications, as well as logistic and financial assistance, were provided for 5 children from low-income families.

**Visiting Medical Teams**

Additionally, the Sector welcomed and provided the required assistance to visiting medical teams from abroad, who came to Kurdistan upon KSC invitation for conducting surgeries and offering health care services to children of the Region. Below is a summary of the activities of the visiting teams facilitated by KSC Health Sector.

* The **American Medical team** visited KSC in twice in 2913, on February 25th and August 24th. While in Kurdistan, the team conducted echocardiography tests for children with congenital heart diseases. The physicians also visited Chamchamal and Kirkuk for screening and surgery of the critical cases.

* On May 16th, a three-strong **medical team from Sweden** visited Kurdistan for examining children with epilepsy and CP. The team visited Children's Rehabilitation Centre (CRC) and had a meeting with Manager of Sulaimany Pediatric Hospital to plan follow-up treatment for the children patients.

* A joint team comprised of physicians from **Sweden, Germany**, and **Jordan** visited KSC for examining child patients with Microtia and other congenital ear malformation. The team provided special hearing aid for a number of patients.

* **Dr. Ziad**, Jordanian surgeon specializing in vertebral disorders, visited KSC twice. During his stay, he examined most of the children having vertebral disorders and operated on children with most severe conditions.

* A surgeon from **Syria** made weekly visits to KSC and operated on several children having complex heart disorders.

* A joint **German-Iranian** medical team, specializing in vertebral disorders, visited KSC to examine most of child patients having vertebral complications. The members of the team also met with patients' parents to introduce the required surgical procedures to them; however, the project was not carried out because its cost was beyond the funds allocated by KSC for the purpose.

* **Dr. Brian Sommerlad**, Consultant Plastic Surgeon from the **UK**, visited KSC. His visit coincided with that of an **Iranian Team** from Isfahan specializing in cleft lip and palate disorders. Dr. Sommerlad examined most of the

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[Image: Dr. Sommerlad examining child with cleft lip and palate disorders]
children with cleft lip and palate disorders, and with support of local physicians, he performed surgery on the patients with the conditions, incurable in Kurdistan.

* Dr. Nawzad, KSC speech therapist from Iran, continued post operation rehabilitation training for children who underwent Cochlear Implant surgery.

* A delegation of local doctors and a KSC representative visited Iran, Isfahan to attend a workshop on cleft lip and palate disorders, run by Dr. Brian Sommerlad.

* A KSC delegation, including KSC Health Sector officer and KSC Senior Accounting officer, visited India, with the purpose of auditing the treatment process and developing payment mechanisms between KSC and Max SuperSpeciality Hospital, as well as for renewing the contract between KSC and Max Hospital.

**Income Generation**
In 2013, KSC Health Sector was also engaged in an Income Generation Project for the families living in villages in borderline areas, displaced from the place of their residence during the annual Iranian and Turkish summer artillery and air raids and currently settled in the Qandil Mount Area. To provide a source of income for the displaced families, KSC will distribute domesticated livestock among the families-in-need. The funding for buying livestock was provided by a donor from Switzerland.

As an initial step for the project implementation, the Sector did a need-assessment survey among the families residing in the Qandil Mount Area to identify the possible project beneficiaries. The survey was conducted in close cooperation with the Sangasar Sub-District mayor.

In 2013, the total number of the surveyed villages was 19 as follows.

On November 12th, the Sector team visited four villages: Brade, Beresh, Surade, and Ashquinka.

Next day, field visits were made to 10 other villages in the area: Gomtan, Bayawan, Dwele, Sille, Khwebian, Eindze, Lawzha, Pishtashani Saru, Pishtashani Xwarw, and Qirmaqa.

On November 17th, the team visited the villages of Sahrosh, Kaskan and Sinamoka.

On November 18, the team visited two villages: Bolle, and Asterokan.

**Persistent Problems Encountered by the Sector’s Officers**
In general, KSC Health Sector faced some problems that had a negative impact on the project implementation, with most recurrent being the following:

* Inaccuracy and, sometimes, inaccurate information as to the patient’s address and telephone number during their first visit to KSC;

* No notification of the patient’s change of address;

* Failure or unwillingness to bring a required medical report requested by the KSC Sector’s.

* Lack of punctuality in complying with KSC Doctor’s requests to pay a second visit to KSC on the part of some of the patients’ families.

* The Sector’s inability to process all of the patient treatment requests due to the shortage of the Health Sector staff.

* Lack of notification of the change in child’s health condition or in case of the child’s death by the patient’s family.

* Lack of the follow-up initiative on the part of the patient’s family.

* No funding for transportation available for the families of the patients living outside Sulaimany.

Noaman A. Ali / Acting Senior Officer
Hunar’s Deformity Was Corrected

Kurdistan Save the Children strives for providing health services to children coming from poor and low-income families. The following is a story of Hunar, a 15-year-old boy, diagnosed with kyphosis, a hunchback in a popular language, whose greatest desire was to have his spine straightened.

Hunar Kareem Salih, born in 1998 in Bazyan, in the outskirts of Sulaimany, and his father visited KSC some time ago. They were seeking a treatment for having his deformity corrected. Hunar, his 4 sisters and a brother lived in a poorly furnished house, which belongs to Hunar’s uncle. Hunar’s father, a peshmarga (the Kurds who fight to defend their homeland), had very little income; his mother was a housewife. Hunar and his siblings were all students. His family literally lived from hand to mouth.

Due to his deformity, Hunar was unable to continue studying at school, being continually physically and mentally challenged. Because of his deformity, he would rather stay at home than go out and face the challenges of the outside world.

KSC has always been looking for the ways to be of help to all children, whatever their disorders might be, including the children with spinal disorders, for which there was no treatment available in the Region. When such an opportunity came forth, KSC immediately signed an agreement with Chamy Razan Hospital and Dr. Ziad, a specialist in vertebrae disorders, who agreed to perform the required surgery on children having spinal disorders similar to that of Hunar.

In 2013, Dr. Ziad performed surgeries on 21 children, including Hunar, whose operation was a success. Since the time of his birth, Hunar’s family took him to a number of local doctors, all of whom were unanimous that there were no specialists in Iraqi Kurdistan to help Hunar and that the surgery made abroad would cost more than fifty thousand US dollars, which the family could never afford.

KSC feels joyful and pleased that it was possible to help Hunar. KSC staff uses this opportunity to convey their heartfelt gratitude to Chamy Razan hospital and Dr. Ziad for the great service they offered to Hunar and other children like him. 

Dr. Ziad performed surgeries for Hunar
Training Sector

Towards Establishment of Rehabilitation Services for Children/Patients with Disabilities and Special Needs

In 2013, KSC Training and Research Sector continued to work on developing and carrying out a programme of **Establishing Rehabilitation Services for Children/Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs**. The idea of developing such a programme gradually crystallized in the course of the Sector’s activities since the time of its establishment in 2008. During 2008-2010, the Sector conducted 27 courses to 568 participants, who included pediatricians, educators and social workers in Sulaimany, Hawler, Duhok, Halabja, Rania, and Qaladze, on such diverse topics as Speech Therapy, Psychological Counseling and Educational Guidance, Slow Learning and Mental Disabilities, IQ Testing, and Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics.

As an outcome of implementing the training projects, there came an understanding that the problems faced by children with disabilities and special needs and their families were wider than the ones discussed at the training courses held by the Sector. It became clear that these problems could be addressed only if a comprehensive programme of establishing rehabilitation services for children/persons with disabilities and special needs could be developed and gradually brought into being in cooperation with the Government and possibly private sector.

This idea helped to identify a new direction of the Sector activities, namely, working on the realization of the programme of establishing rehabilitation services for children/persons with disabilities and special needs in Sulaimany and throughout the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

The years of 2011-2012 were devoted to developing a programme framework and searching for the best ways of its implementation. In this process, it became clear that providing training at the workshop level was only a preliminary step, and that the Sector should move towards providing opportunities of academic training in fields of special education and health-allied sciences, unavailable in the Region. By 2013, the framework has gradually crystallized and was adopted as a programme for the Sector activities. Rehabilitation services should be based on the following three pillars: **diagnosis** (screening), **referral** (specific centres providing rehabilitation services), and **human capacity** (academic training of specialists to work in those centres).

With regard to diagnosis, the work over establishment of a **Diagnostic Centre for Identifying Disabilities** started in 2008 and has continued consistently up to the present time, realized in the Sector participation in Advisory Committee for Children with Disabilities and Special Needs, to be presented later. Referral, establishment of specific centres providing rehabilitation services to children with disabilities and special needs, became one of the focuses of KSC Education Sector and is described in details in the Education Sector 2013 Annual Report. Advocating for the necessity of developing **human capacity** in the areas of rehabilitation services has been the focus of the KSC Training and Research Sector since 2011, materialized as project of providing opportunities for academic training for practicing physiotherapists, described in details in the 2011 and 2012 Annual Sector Reports.

The work over the implementation of the programme of establishing rehabilitation services for children/persons with disabilities and special needs in 2013 involved engagement in the following projects: (1) Securing Funding for 15 Physiotherapists to Upgrading their Degree; (2) Representing KSC on Advisory Committee for Children with Disabilities and Special Needs; (3) Participation in Seminars, and Conferences.
Project 1: Securing Funding for 15 Physiotherapists to Upgrading their Degree

The work over this project started in 2011 and is described in details in the Sector 2011 and 2012 Annual Reports.

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 problem 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, working in close cooperation with the candidates, conducted a number of visits and negotiations with various Government officials including Minister of Health, top officials from Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, members of the Health Committee of the Kurdistan Regional Parliament, Prime Minister of the ??? Cabinet, Deputy Prime Minister of the ??? Cabinet, and other top officials of the Kurdistan Regional Government.

Since by the middle of 2013 there has been no definite response as to who would be able to take a responsibility for funding, the Sector raised the issue for being presented at the Council of Ministers meeting. However, due to the preparation for elections in September 2013, this never happened, and it seems that the whole process is to be repeated with the new Government Cabinet in 2014.

Project 2: Serving as KSC Representative on Advisory Committee for Children with Disabilities and Special Needs

The Advisory Committee for Children with Disabilities and Special Needs set up in October 2012 by the Sulaimany Governorate upon the requests of parents of children with special needs and specialists working for/with persons with disabilities and special needs.

The main goals of the Committee were to 1) establish a diagnostic centre for diagnosing disabilities; 2) develop educational programmes to meet the needs of children with disabilities; 3) conduct training courses for the teachers at schools and kindergartens, working with children with special needs; 4) conduct training courses for parents of children with disabilities.

The Members of the Committee were representatives of educational, health, and research governmental institutions, chaired by Dr. Karim Qarachatani, Professor at the University of Sulaimany. Under his leadership, the Committee was able to (1) lay foundations for establishing a diagnostic committee for diagnosing disabilities in children; 2) develop educational programmes adapted to the needs of children with disabilities; and 3) conduct a training course for school teachers working with children with special needs.

The final activity of the Advisory Committee was conducting a seminar on December 3, 2013, International Day of Persons with Disability, wherein an announcement was made that the Committee would be dissolved and Board working on behalf of Children with Disabilities and Special needs would be established in its place, with the purpose of setting special education in Sulaimany on the academically recognized standards.

In the view of the approach adopted by the Sector, one of the main achievements of the Committee was to lay foundations for establishing a diagnostic committee in Sulaimany for diagnosing disabilities in preschool and school children, which was possible due to the wholehearted support and cooperation of Sulaimany Governorate. It was agreed that Kurdistan Save the Children would provide space for the Diagnostic Committee at
the Educational Training Centre, to be opened by KSC Education Sector in 2014.
Since the Sector has been working on the establishment of Diagnostic Centre for Persons/Children with Disabilities since 2008, the establishment of a diagnostic committee in Sulaimany for diagnosing disabilities in preschool and school children is definitely a huge step forward, which was achieved with cooperative assistance provided by Kurdistan Save the Children NGO.

Project 3: Participation in Seminars and Conferences
Apart from participation in a training course for school teachers working with children with special needs, conducted by the Advisory Committee in September 2013, the Sector participated in a Seminar on the occasion of International Children’s Day on June 1, organized by Khanai Smora Publishers for Children, who asked the Sector to present on a topic of the role that NGOs working with/for children have in child development. The Sector gave a presentation under the name of Visualizing the child as a source of infinite possibilities.

The main idea of the presentation was to get across the idea that in order to bring out the highest and best in a child, it is necessary to provide opportunities for the child to bring to life the knowledge s/he got at school through participation in drama, drumming, dancing, projects in nature and the community, cooking, being engaged in sports, and other creative activities; in other words, to combine the knowledge received at school with active participation in life tasks and activities.

This is what Kurdistan Save the Children has been doing almost since the time of its establishment. By running child and youth activities centres, KSC provides a space for children to get connected with highest and best in them by offering them opportunities to learn outside the school curriculum. And this is exactly the role that NGOs working with/for children might play to help the children become persons of almost infinite possibilities.

In November 2013, the Sector conducted a presentation on the topic of advocacy and lobbying at the General Coordination Forum monthly meeting of representatives of the local and international NGOs, UN agencies, and Government Counterparts, facilitated by Governorate Relations Department, aimed at information sharing on a specific topic chosen by the members of the Forum, and creating closer relations and coordination between the NGOs, UN agencies, and the KRG Government.

The theme of the meeting was as follows: Using Advocacy and Lobbying in Implementing an NGO Project. The presentation turned into an interesting discussion on how to use advocacy and lobbying in carrying out NGO-run projects, with most of the participants taking part in it. One of the most important suggestions was related to distributing a Project Concept Note among the international NGOs who could play a positive negotiating role with the Kurdistan Regional Government.

In December 2013, the Sector participated in the International Conference on Developmental Pediatrics and Childhood Disability in 21st Century: A New Beginning with Innovative Approaches.

The programme Conference, organized by Kasturba Medical College of the University of Manipal, includes both elements: the recognition of necessity of academic training in rehabilitation related fields of knowledge, and innovative approaches to application of academic knowledge to rehabilitation procedures.

The knowledge received at the Conference would shape the activities of the Sector in 2014.

Lydia Shaswar / Senior Officer
Offering assistance and psychological counseling to cancer-stricken children and their families has been KSC dream for a long time. Throughout the years, KSC worked hard to develop a plan and find some suitable mechanisms to make this dream real.

On the way to achieving this goal, in the beginning of 2013, several meetings were held between KSC and MAHAK Society, dedicated to supporting children suffering from cancer. In these meetings, KSC was represented by KSC Programme Director, and KSC Programme Manager; MAHAK was represented by Ms. Saba Kamkar. The main objective of these meetings was to share information and develop a plan on possible ways of supporting children suffering from cancer. Following these meetings, a chain of internal meetings with various KSC Sectors was held to share the received information and to give chance to other KSC departments to offer their input to the issue. It was in April 2013 that KSC Ara Sector was officially opened. The main goal of the Sector was identified as follows: to offer social and psychological support to cancer-stricken children, their parents, and their caregivers.

The challenges facing the new Sector and its staff were daunting. There was no previous experience, no ready-to-use mechanisms for offering best possible support. The work had to be done mostly at Hiwa Hospital, and not in the office. Under these conditions, the most challenging task was to establish an integrated team, composed both of the Sector’s staff and the hospital staff, who would complement each other in discharging their duties. Since the time of its establishment, KSC has placed a great emphasis on the importance of team work. This conviction provided the basis for developing partnership with Hiwa hospital, aimed at expanding KSC activities there.

One of the most important tasks of the Sector was providing assistance and counseling to the parents of cancer-stricken children, patients of Hiwa Hospital. Besides counseling, the Sector team also regularly carried out some other projects for small patients described below. Although Pediatric ward of Hiwa Hospital did not have enough space for the Sector’s activities, yet, this did not stop the Sector from creating a caring atmosphere for the children there. Started in 2013, these activities paved the way towards bigger and more extensive future projects.

The following projects were conducted by the Sector team in 2013:

1 - Conducting Birthday Parties

This was the very first activity conducted by the Sector. Each month a birthday party was organized for the children having birthdays on some day of that month. All children patients were invited to attend the party, conducted in the atmosphere of laughter, happiness, and joy. The party was usually brought to an end by a gift giving ceremony.

The loving and caring atmosphere of the birthday parties was uplifting and contributed to raising the spirits of the children, and lifting up the sense loneliness and helplessness in their parents, who could see that there were others who cared and gave them a helping hand in the time of their affliction.

2 - Creating Parental Support Group

Creating support groups for parents was another important project carried out by the Sector. In the course of its implementation, the Sector team conducted a number of seminars presented by nurses and other trained hospital staff members aimed at making parents aware of the psychological problems facing their children during the period of intensive anti-cancer treatment.
3 - Organizing Rainbow Trips
In their efforts to help children with cancer cope with physical, emotional, mental health, and developmental problems overwhelming them both in hospital and home settings, the Sector team organized and conducted a number of trips, named Rainbow Trips, to various recreational places and parks in Sulaimany city.

The places visited included Azadi Park, Chavy Land Amusement Park, Newroz Summer Resort, and KSC Head Office. In all of these places, the children were warmly welcomed and invited to use all of the recreational facilities free of charge.

4 - Presenting Music and Stage Performances
The Sector also presented a number of music and stage performances for the patients of the Pediatric Ward of Hiwa Hospital, carried out in cooperation with other groups. The project implementation, held to provide additional psychological support to cancer stricken children, resulted in creating good working relations between the Sector team and their peers from other groups, who expressed their readiness to assist the Sector whenever other similar events were conducted.

5 - Creating Volunteer Groups
Since its establishment, Ara Sector was convinced that volunteers could make a big difference in sick children’s lives. This conviction motivated the Sector to work towards creating volunteer support groups.

A number of enthusiastic young people, working on their own, was engaged in offering help to the children patients of Hiwa Hospital. Brought into contact with Ara Sector team and being aware of its activities, they found out that they could be part of the Sector team and contribute to its work as volunteers. They made a decision to join the Sector. Their first two projects were related to enthusiastic introduction of the Sector and its goals to the general public.
Since that time, they were able to bring a great number of volunteers and change the notion of volunteering.

Volunteers mainly work at the hospital where they play an important role in accomplishing the Sector goals and projects.

When the number of volunteers increased, KSC decided to provide transportation to take them to Hiwa Hospital and back home, taking into account the selfless service offered by them.

On the occasion of International Volunteer Day, held on December 5, KSC arranged a small party for the Sector volunteers at KSC Head Office in Sulaimany.

The party was held to recognize and honour their commitment and make visible their dedicated hard work.

6 - Follow-up Visits

One of the projects undertaken by ARA Sector was conducting follow-up visits to homes of children discharged from hospital. The main objectives of these visits were to monitor the child's condition during the post-treatment period, and provide the required moral support, hope and encouragement both to the children and their families.

7 - Sending Sector Staff for Training Outside Kurdistan Region

For raising professional performance and skills of Ara staff members and nurses working in Hiwa hospital, KSC organized a one-week trip to Mahak Charity Organization in Tehran, wherein 12 nurses of Hiwa Hospital took part. According to evaluation of the trip outcomes by the participants, it contributed greatly to expand their general knowledge on cancer treatment and enhance their professional skills.

8 - Membership in International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organization (ICCCPO)

In 2013, KSC Ara Sector became a member of International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organization (ICCCPO), international NGO engaged in sharing information and experiences in order to improve access to the best possible treatment and care for children with cancer everywhere in the world. ICCCPPO includes 170 members from different countries. KSC membership in ICCCPPO is an important step towards getting access to information on treatment and care for children with cancer, including social and psychological counseling.

9 - Organizing Seminars

In 2013, KSC Ara Sector conducted a number of seminars and workshops for its employees aimed at raising their knowledge on various aspects of treatment and care for children with cancer and enhancing their professional skills. The educational impact of these seminars and workshops were greatly valuable and was appreciated by the participants.

10 - Fundraising

In 2013, the Sector planned to start fundraising by using fundraising boxes; however, upon reflection, it was decided to postpone launching the fundraising campaigns until 2014. The main reason behind this decision was stated as follows: Carrying out fundraising needed more time for developing a well-planned agenda, acquiring relevant skills, and getting professional assistance.

In preparation for launching the fundraising campaigns, Ara Sector sought cooperation with Leo Burnet Company, specializing in professional advertising, who agreed to promote all KSC works free of charge. By the end of the year, the Sector team had prepared everything for launching the campaign; yet, the Sector team felt that they needed more information on the methods of carrying out such campaigns.

Mahdi Abdulla / Senior Officer Assistant
KSC - Kirkuk Office

There has recently been a noticeable change towards prosperity, overall development, and well-being in Kirkuk, the change that the city and its population have never experienced in their living memories. In the midst of this profound change, KSC Kirkuk Office continued offering its ever-inclusive, open-minded, and unprejudiced services to the youth of Kirkuk and areas surrounding it.

Since its establishment, KSC Kirkuk Office has been persistent in planting the seeds of peace, tolerance, and coexistence among the children of the multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-confessional, and multi-sectarian Kirkuk, the city often fraught with violence. Working under such conditions has been both demanding and challenging. Terrorist attacks happened near KSC Kirkuk Office several times; yet, KSC Kirkuk team never stopped offering services to the children and youth of Kirkuk. The ten-year existence of KSC Office in Kirkuk left a visible impact on the majority of the city population.

KSC Kirkuk Office offers services in the fields of education, child protection, distant sponsorship, and health. With regard to education, the Office runs three educational projects, namely: Kirkuk Youth Activity Centre, Kirkuk Children’s Cultural Centre, and Hasar Children’s Cultural Centre. Although each centre has its own specifics, all of them offer their services via the following departments: Computer, Sports, Music, Graphic and Fine Arts, Language Learning, among others. Throughout 2013, a large number of youth and children participated in the courses offered by both centres, learning under the guidance and supervision of the experienced staff employed by them.

With regard to other fields of the Office activities, they were carried out in close cooperation with the corresponding Sectors of KSC Head Office in Sulaimany. In fact, KSC Kirkuk Office acts as a link extending the services available to the child/youth population in Sulaimany to those in Kirkuk. For instance, information forms on sick children filled in by Kirkuk Office staff are then sent to KSC Sulaimany Head Office for further processing and providing treatment.

In 2013, the overall number of the Centre beneficiaries exceeded 24811, of whom 15644 were males and 9167 – females.

Below is a summarized description of KSC Kirkuk Office activities in 2013.
1. Educational Projects
As was mentioned above, KSC Kirkuk Office educational projects include Kirkuk Youth Activity Centre, Kirkuk Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centre, and Hasar Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centre.

1.1. Kirkuk Youth Activities Centre
Throughout 2013, 15351 youths (10724 male and 4623 female participants) attended the Centre various departments, which carried out the following activities:
* 12 courses were offered by Fine Arts Department on the basics of drawing and painting, wherein 624 youth took part;
* 12 courses were offered by Computer Department training young people in using basic Microsoft programmes, wherein 383 youths participated;
* 12 courses on mastering English were offered to 401 youths of both genders by the Language Learning Department;
* 12 training courses in playing football, table tennis, and badminton, as well daily body building and physical fitness training programmes were offered to 12973 youths of both genders by the Centre Sports Department.
* 12 courses on playing various musical instruments were offered to 460 youths of both genders. A number of music, singing, and traditional Kurdish dancing events were organized by the Centre Music Department to give the young musicians an opportunity to display their skills in performance. During these events, an opportunity was given to the participants of the Centre Fine Arts Department to exhibit their drawings, paintings, and artifacts for general display.
* 2 exhibitions were organized on the occasions of KSC 22nd anniversary and Nawroz celebration, wherein 130 pieces of art were put on a public display. Among the exhibition guests, were the representatives of local NGOs and various TV stations.
* The Centre organized a number of sports tournaments and competitions for the participants of the Centre Sports Department. The Centre Sports teams also participated in a number of friendly matches and competitions outside the centre. Participation in these activities attracted the attention of students of Kirkuk Physical Education College, who regularly visited the Centre and used its sports facilities for training and doing their home assignments.
* The Centre played an important role in assisting Kirkuk College of Physical Education by offering the use of its sport facilities to the College students, in accordance with the bilateral agreement between the Centre and College administrations.
* The Centre Library owns a considerable number of books and magazine. Having a spacious reading hall regularly visited by youth, students, and all others interested in reading and learning, the Centre Library has presently become a youth frequented meeting place.
* The Centre was consistently providing space for holding seminars, workshops and cultural events on youth related topics to some NGOs and governmental institutions. In cooperation with Kirkuk Health Department, the Centre conducted a workshop on Drug Addiction, attended by a considerable number of Kirkuk youth.

1.2. KSC Kirkuk Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centre
Kirkuk Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centre
provides educational, intellectual, and recreational services to children. It is the only centre in Kirkuk that continually keeps its door open to the young visitors. The total number of children who participated in the Centre activities in 2013 was 4822 children (2757 boys and 2065 girls).

In 2013, the following courses were offered to 971 children of both genders:

* 11 courses for mastering computer skills were offered to 240 children;
* 11 courses on the basics of drawing and painting were offered by Fine Arts and Graphics Department to 310 children;
* 16 training courses in various kinds of sports were offered by to 242 children by the Centre Sports Department;
* 11 courses on learning how to play musical instruments were offered to 179 children by the Centre Music Department.

Throughout 2013, Kirkuk Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centre organized and conducted a number of musical, singing and dancing events, as well as exhibitions of drawings and paintings, made by the participants of the Fine Arts Department, which were presented to the children of Kirkuk City. It also participated in individual and joint exhibitions, carrying the theme of children’s lives, their hopes, desires and inspirations, which were organized and conducted by various governmental departments and non-governmental organizations of Kirkuk. Furthermore, the Centre prepared a special child related programme, presented on International Children’s Day, wherein the children from the diverse nationalities of Kirkuk City participated.

The Centre organized training of kindergarten teachers in Kirkuk on the methods of developing children’s creative potentials in various areas of Fine Arts. In addition, it also provided a space for various events organized by the kindergartens, which were held at the Centre hall. Furthermore, the Centre provided ongoing support to the NGOs in Kirkuk working with/for children, and assisted them in finding the staff capable of taking proper care of children.

The Centre also organized a stage performance of a story under the name I’m sorry: I Was Wrong performed by Sekan Drama Group at Kaziwa’s Hall. The story, presented in a dramatic form, carried a message of moral and ethical lessons for children.

On the occasion of KSC 22nd Anniversary, the Centre organized and conducted a musical
party, wherein not only the children from Kirkuk City participated, but also the children from Kirkuk and Taklai Jabara Sub-district. The participants of the event were given an opportunity to exhibit their drawings and paintings and to focus the attention of the wider audience on them.

1.3. KSC Hasar Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centre

KSC Hasar Kaziwa Children’s Cultural Centre is located in Hasar Village, in the outskirts of Kirkuk. Similar to other KSC-run Kaziwas, the Centre offers educational services to all children in the area, regardless of their race, religion, and ethnicity.

In 2013, the total number of visits made by children to the Centre exceeded 4822 children.

Throughout the year, the Centre offered the following courses to the children attending the Centre and its Departments:

* 24 children participated in 3 courses on computer basics offered by the Centre Computer Department;

* 46 children attended 4 courses on the basics of drawing and painting offered by the Centre graphics and Fine Arts Department;

* 120 children participated in 3 courses on various kinds of sports offered by the Centre Sports Department.

The total number of children attending the courses was 206 participants.

Additionally, the Centre organized and carried out a number of activities and special events as follows:

* On the occasion of Newroz (the Kurdish New Year), the Centre organized a music and dance party for the children in Kirkuk City;

* On International Children’s Day, usually celebrated on June 1, the Centre organized a festival of artistic workmanship, wherein children were given an opportunity to demonstrate their skills in performance.

* The Centre organized a visit to Kaziwa by the representatives of a number of NGOs, during which the work done by children under the supervision of Hasar Kaziwa staff was demonstrated. The visitors were amazed by the quality of service offered to children by the Centre.

* Al Rafidain Foundation, a Sweden based foundation, visited the Centre and conducted a handcraft workshop for the children at the centre.
Project 7: On the occasion of Ramadan feast, the Sector distributed 220 sets of clothing for children, procured by a donor, among the Kaziwa children from low-income families in KSC Sara, Sarshaqam, Baziyan, and Chwarta Kaziwas.

Project 8: The Sector examined and filled in 130 forms for children with disabilities and special needs. The counseling sessions were held for their parents, wherein the parents were given the instructions on how to deal and cope with their children.

Project 9: Throughout the year, the Sector staff was regularly visiting the children and their families at Zirguez camp for internally displaced persons. During these visits, they provided the required help to the children living there, distributed some clothes, books and stationery, and gave gifts to them on various occasions.

Education Sector in 2013

January – the Sector organized a workshop delivered by a representative of Mahak Charity for the staff of all KSC offices. The purpose of the presentation was to share the Mahak Charity NGO experiences in providing help to children with cancer and their families and to use their experience for developing a similar approach to assisting the cancer stricken child patients of Sulaimany Hiwa Hospital.

February – on the anniversary of Cancer World Day, the KSC Kaziwa Cultural Children’s Centers conducted a celebrating party for the cancer stricken inpatients of Sulaimany Hiwa Hospital. The party programme included a dramatized story presentation, as well as the singing and traditional music performances for the children undergoing treatment there. At the end of the party, the KSC team distributed gifts to the sick children, looking more animated at the end of the party than at the beginning of it, which was the purpose of the event.

March – the Sector organized several parties to celebrate Newroz – the Kurdish New Year – held at Parki Daiyk, wherein the children from Sara and Sarshaqam Kaziwas presented a stage performance and played pieces of traditional Kurdish music to the delight of a wide and varied audience.
The ultimate aim of the project is to help such families overcome life difficulties and prevent single mothers from degrading morally and taking a wrong path for getting a better life for themselves and their children.

The regular financial assistance provided by KSC to such families is carried out within the budget allocated for this project. In the outcome of this project, the sponsorship assistance had a notable impact on reducing school dropouts due to poverty, for one of the conditions of staying on the sponsorship programme is a strict requirement of school attendance. The project field officers regularly visited the families on the sponsorship programme to find out about the change in their living conditions.

In 2013, 211 field visits were made by the project officers to the homes of children on KSC Sponsorship Programme; 17 new forms were filled in, and 17 final reports were prepared. Also 5 forms were filled in for sick children, and the financial assistance was provided to 3 sponsored children who were in need of surgeries.

In 2013, the total number of children who received the financial and other kinds of assistance from the Kirkuk Office Sponsorship programme was as follows:

* Financial assistance was provided to 295 children;
* Clothes were distributed among 332 children;
* Food was provided to 19 families.

The impact that the project had on its beneficiaries was both direct and indirect. Summarized, it can be presented as follows:

1. Financially, the project provided a suitable financial support to the beneficiaries, having a direct impact on their living conditions.
2. Indirectly, the project helped in motivating the children who wanted to attend school but were unable to do so due to poverty to continue their education.

There was also a social and psychological impact of the project. From both the social and psychological points of view, by providing help to the families in dire need, the project was reassuring them that they were taken care of, that there was someone to rely upon at the time of crisis and that they they were not alone.

4. Health

Although there is no health sector in Kirkuk Office, by working in close cooperation with KSC Head Office Health Sector, the Office was able to provide health services to the sick children in the area.

In 2013, the Office filled in a number of health information forms and sent them to KSC Head Office for further action. There were altogether 56 forms sent to KSC Head Office. Among them, there were 14 cases of children having heart disorders, 6 cases of children with hearing impairments, 4 cases with kidney problems, 13 case with eye diseases, 1 Cerebral Palsy (CP) case, 5 cases with neurological problems, 1 case with liver diseases, 1 case with tongue problems, 1 case with bone disease, 1 cancer case, 2 cases with spinal disorders, and 1 case of a child with autism.

Najmadin Nuri Muhammed
Kirkuk Programme Manager
In 2013, KSC Erbil Office put special focus on protection of children against abuse and violence, considering the importance and sensitivity of its issues. Throughout the year, the Office conducted several raising awareness projects on children’s rights and various aspects of child maltreatment. The Office also paid attention to children’s health issues by taking care of sick children and attending to the needs of cancer-stricken children. Child education was not taken for granted: School visits were regularly carried out and a program for reintegrating dropout students into school was implemented.

Strengthening KSC ties with Governmental institutions and civil society organizations and learning from their experience were other aspects of KSC Erbil Office activities. The Office continued to support the families in need using the donations made by charitable persons.

Erbil Office was active in several programs throughout 2013, namely, Child Protection, Education, Health, and General Relations, among others. Below is a brief description of the Office activities in 2013.

1 – Child Protection

1-1 Protection of Children from Mistreatment

The implementation of Child Protection programme started in 2011 and continued in 2013. Its main goals were to raise public awareness about the human rights of the child and to protect the child against maltreatment. For achieving these goals, the Office team carried out the following projects.

In cooperation with Ministry of Education, the Office organized and conducted a course on Child Protection for 30 Social workers. The course presented Convention on the Rights of the Child and its articles to the participants. The Office also carried out a training trainers workshop on an Aggression Replacement Training (ART) for reducing antisocial behavior in children and adolescents and for using the ART model as an intervention programme in child protection.

1-2 Introducing the Rights of Children

One of the General Guidelines that underlay the general direction of the Office activities was to carry out raising awareness projects on various issues of children’s rights for teachers and media anchors, in accordance with Article 17 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child that states, “Every child has the right to reliable information from the media. This should be information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them”.

In accordance with the precepts of this article, the following projects were implemented:

* a 2-day workshop, under the title A Better Media for a Better Childhood was presented to media anchors working in visual, audible, and readable modes of media (re) presentation.

* A seminar on children’s rights was held for staff members of Erbil Department of Social Care. The seminar was a part of a raising awareness program conducted by Legal Consultancy and Rehabilitation NGO.

1-3 Juvenile Correction

As stated in Article 6 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is simultaneously one of the 4 main principles of the whole Convention, “Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential”. Along the lines of this article, KSC Erbil Office carried out the following activities:

* A 13-day computer course was offered to 30 male and female juveniles held in the custody of Erbil Women and Juvenile Penitentiary. Only 21 participants were able to complete the course, as 4 of them were released, and 5 others were not interested in continuing it.

* KSC project officers submitted a report containing a request to separate a child in custody from other inmates, due to certain circumstances. The request was approved.
**KSC project officers submitted a proposal to create a more healthy child environment in detention centres by opening a special unit where children or babies born in a penitentiary are kept with their mothers. However, the proposal was postponed till unspecified time, under the pretext of possible relocation of the Department of Social Care to another building.**

**KSC Project Officers paid regular follow-up visits to Women and Juvenile Penitentiary for getting updates on the conditions of its inmates, creating friendly ties with the inmates, and providing guidance and support to those who were still undergoing the legal procedures. Additionally, KSC Papula Magazine for children was distributed among them on a monthly basis.**

**When an inmate in the Penitentiary compiled a Kurdish-Persian Language dictionary, KSC Erbil Office officers assisted him/her in publishing and printing 500 copies of the dictionary.**

1-4 **Children from the Refugee Camp**

In line with Article 22 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states "state Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure that a child who is seeking refugee status or who is considered a refugee in accordance with applicable international or domestic law and procedures...," KSC Erbil office opened an office in KawrGosk Refugee Camp and conducted a survey to find out the number of children separated from their families, so as to undertake the necessary procedures for reuniting them with their families. Other related activities carried out by KSC Erbil Office Team were as follows:

**KSC Erbil Office staff members participated in a two-day training under the title Child Protection Rapid Assessment. After the training, KSC staff carried out a rapid need assessment under UNICEF supervision.**

**KSC Erbil Office, in cooperation with UNISEF, embarked on establishing Child Friendly Space Centre at Basirma Camp. The work was still in process at the time of writing this report.**

**Additionally, KSC Erbil Office assisted UNICEF in running a 20-day survey on the occurrences of child labour outside the camps by providing office space for the UNICEF officers at the KSC Erbil Office and its premises.**

1-5 **Following up the Individual Cases and the Child Helpline Cases;**

This project included the follow-ups of the following cases:
* 12 cases were referred to KSC by Child Helpline Centre (Call 116) in 2013 and the require actions were taken;

* Follow up visits were made for 6 cases referred to KSC by the Child Helpline Centre; The solution was found for 4 cases categorized as violence against children. Another three cases were also resolved; two cases were school dropouts, who were successfully reintegrated into the school system; and the final case is still in process.

* Follow up actions were taken for 4 other violence against children cases, reported by random people, with each case being acted upon.

* Two other cases were referred to KSC Erbil office: one of them used to live with his/her father and upon KSC intervention, was taken to the custody of Social Care Department. The other case, a female child who lived in a female orphanage, was to be sent to Baghdad, but KSC Erbil officers objected to this decision, for, in their view, it was not to the benefit of the child.

1-6 Child Protection related Meetings
Several meetings on Child Protection issues were held in 2013. A number of visits was made to Erbil Directorate of Social Welfare for assisting their Child Protection Unit in being more active, and for monitoring their activities as well.

KSC Erbil Office prepared and submitted two proposals for the Department of Social Welfare to do away with begging and street child labor in the city.

2- Education
Education is regarded as a means of securing the child’s future and assisting the child to uncover his/her inner potentials. The better education the children get, the brighter future is in store for them when they grow up. The family is responsible for creating an environment enhancing the child’s natural desire for learning and education. Education is considered to be one of the factors that helps reduce the occurrences of child labour and of student dropout from schools.

In 2013, KSC Erbil Office contributed to making education process in schools of Erbil better by taking the following steps:

* A letter was sent to all schools in Erbil province, with a request to facilitate the reintegration process of student dropouts into school.

* 9 children who dropped out of school were reestablished there again; 2 of them were spotted by Child Helpline project, and the other 7 were reported by teachers and other caring people. Out of the 9 cases, clothes and school need requirements were provided for 4 of them, as their families were financially unable to buy them.

* KSC Erbil Office participated in the process of opening a school for the children in the refugee camp, wherein more than 400 children of school age were present. Teachers and school administration were selected from the camp adult residents. UNICEF and Ministry of Education gave their support to this project.

* KSC Erbil Office staff members paid regular visits to schools in Erbil Province to get updates and information about the educational process there.

* KSC Erbil Office staff members participated in a festival organized and conducted by Dilzor School wherein the works of artistically and scientifically gifted students were exhibited.

* KSC Erbil Office staff members participated in a special event entitled Campaign for the Day When School Starts Again. The event was organized by the Governments of Iraq and Kurdistan, UNICEF, UNESCO and UNHCR and targeted the children of the refugees presently staying in Kurdistan region.

* The Office representative participated in the meetings on organizing educational process for the children of the refugees, presently staying in camps, wherein the representatives of Ministry of Education, Department of Planning, and Child Oriented NGOs took part. The subject of the meetings evolved around organizing educational process in refugee camps.

3- Health
In 2013, KSC Erbil Office staff members
visited 35 families having sick children and filled in forms for them. The forms were then referred to Sulaimany Head Office for further actions. The cases included 5 CP cases, 11 children with various heart conditions, 8 children with hearing loss, 4 children with vertebral disorders, 1 child having thalassemia, 2 children with lung diseases, 1 child with constant bleeding, 1 child with dermatologic disease, and 2 children having some physical deformities.

4- Providing Support and Assistance
KSC Erbil Office continued to provide the required support and assistance to the children in need and/or at-risk as follows:

* Distributing clothes to the children from poor and low-income families in various neighbourhoods in Erbil and its outskirts;

* Renovating a house for a poor family, using the funding donated by SING Group, and having it furnished by KSC;

* Organizing a party for the cancer-stricken children at Nanakali Hospital, in cooperation with Nanakali Hospital, Bahramandan NGO, JIM NET NGO, and Aram Association. KSC contributed by buying each child a present and helping children who fought cancer and recovered create a poster composed of their photos and their works of art.

* Providing financial assistance, encouragement, and educational support to a group of final year students at the Department of Social Welfare of the University of Salahaddin, who worked on the topic of child labour, by giving them booklets, a copy of survey on the size of child labour in Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and by conducting a seminar on this topic.

* Distributing clothes among 40 refugee children from Syria, studying at Kasnazan School.

5- Media and Raising Awareness Projects
Media, presently considered as the 4th state power, plays a great role in raising social awareness and shaping public opinions in an interactive way: While the media shapes the society, it is simultaneously shaped by it. From this viewpoint, KSC Erbil Office used various media outlets to introduce children's rights and other related issues to the general public, via TV interviews, radio programs, and press, art media and communication design. The following activities were carried out by KSC Erbil Office in 2013:

* Designing and publishing posters on children's rights, a calendar highlighting children related events, and posters presenting various articles of Convention on the Rights of the Child, and distributing them in schools;
* Distributing Papula Magazine in schools, and Women and Juvenile Penitentiary Centres.
* Preparing a booklet entitled How to raise a Child and distributing it to the general public.

6- Strengthening Relations
This aspect of KSC Erbil Office activities in 2013 involved:
* Participating in the Child Education in Iraq UNESCO Educational Program, conducted in cooperation with the Kurdistan Regional Government and Iraqi Government.
* Participating in MRM workshop conducted by UNICEF for monitoring the types of violence against children.
* Participating in a meeting with American Consulate and representatives of a number of NGOs for creating a bridge among the NGOs.
* Participating in a 2-day workshop, organized by IRC NGO with the purpose to introduce their activities, by taking an active part in the discussions on how to resend dropout students back to school.
* Participating in a Training of Trainers’ (TOT) 6-day course, part of the program entitled Towards Better Human Rights in Kurdistan Region, organized by Bureau of Human Rights and Department of NGOs.
* Participating in a workshop, organized by UNICEF, held with the purpose of reviewing and activating the Recommendations on Monitoring Reports, as well as identifying the challenges facing teams in the course of their work.
* Participating in an open talk entitled Reflection on the Rights and Protection of Sick Persons, organized by Hanna Network of Civil NGOs in cooperation with Kurdistan Parliament Research Centre.
* Assisting the Kurdish Orchestra Group to perform in front of residents of the in Boys and Girls Orphanages.
* Participating in a conference, under motto A Message from Children to Whom It May Concern, organized by Bahramand NGO and held at the Children’s Cultural Hall. The purpose of the Conference was to learn how to communicate the problems facing children and their recommendations in the form of a report to be delivered to concerned parties.

Farhad Othman Khdir
Erbil Programme Manager
In 2013, Kurdistan Save the Children Duhok Office continued working on implementation of its child protection programme, as well as on facilitating access to medical treatment for sick children, within the limits of KSC policy, administrative organization, and budget allocation. In 2013, KSC Duhok Office Child Protection Programme embraced the following projects: 1) Putting limits to child labour; 2) Eradicating child maltreatment in schools; 3) Providing basic need assistance to students of the Domiz Refugee Camp School; 4) Dealing with the cases of child maltreatment in the family; and 5) Providing access to educational opportunities to working children.

Together with the implementation of this programme, KSC Duhok Office continued working on strengthening bilateral relationships with governmental and non-governmental organizations, such as Department of Relations of Duhok Governorate Office, Juveniles Police Center, General Directorate of Care and Social Development, General Directorate of Education, Directorate of Labor and Social vocational Training, and Duhok Directorate of Trade Supervision.

KSC Duhok Office also continued to focus on the staff capacity building in the area of child protection, in particular on such issues as problems faced by children, helping children respond to their problems by winning their trust, hearing to what they are trying to say, and providing guidance and counseling whenever required. To develop such abilities, KSC Duhok Office was continually encouraging its staff to participate in workshops and courses on various child protection issues.

What follows is a brief description of the activities carried out by KSC Duhok Office in 2013.

1- Child Protection Programme

In 2013, KSC Duhok Office continued working on the implementation of the Child Protection Programme that comprised the following projects: 1) Putting limits to child labour; 2) Eradicating child maltreatment in schools; 3) Providing basic need assistance to students of the Domiz Refugee Camp School; 4) Dealing with the cases of child maltreatment in the family; and 5) Providing access to educational opportunities to working children.

* Project 1: Putting Limits to Child Labour

The total number of working children kept on KSC Duhok Office records in 2013, was 206 under the age of 15, including 9 eleven-year old children. In spite of KSC intervention, 56 children of the total number returned to work again. Throughout the year, KSC Duhok team continually visited the families of 76 working children to find out more about their working conditions and encourage them to get back to school. The team also continued visiting the families of 39 working children to encourage them to stay at school and not go back to working.

Reintegrating working children into the educational system was one of the most important objectives of the project, conducted in close cooperation with Directorate of Education in Duhok. By the beginning of the academic year 2013-2014, the KSC Duhok team was able to return 4 children to school.

The number of visits that KSC evening team made to the sites where children worked were 29 visits. In the outcome of these visits, 34 forms were filled in by KSC evening team, working in close cooperation with the Duhok Directorate of Juveniles Police.

* Project 2: Eradication of Child Maltreatment at Schools

In 2013, KSC Duhok Office, in cooperation with Directorate of Education in Duhok, was able to develop a plan for eliminating maltreatment of children in basic schools in Duhok. To educate children on the survival
skills, KSC Duhok Child Protection team organized and conducted a 5-day course on the topic of Life Skills, which was delivered to 50 children in 5 basic schools of Duhok City.

* Project 3: Providing Basic Need Assistance to Students of Domiz Refugee Camp School

In 2013, KSC Duhok Office was engaged in providing assistance to the refugee students from the families stationed at Domiz Refugee Camp. In carrying out this project, KSC Duhok team made several visits to Domiz Refugee Camp, and in particular, to Qamishlo Basic School, to provide basic need assistance on a monthly basis to school and its students, including the required stationary, detergents, drinking water, and sanitary water.

* Project 4: Dealing with the Cases of Child Maltreatment in the Family

In 2013, the number of the registered cases of children suffering maltreatment in their families, was 5 children. KSC Child Protection team made 11 visits to the families of these children, intervening on behalf of them. The team also paid 12 visits to Duhok Orphanage Houses for Girls and Boys, intervening on behalf of 6 maltreated children there.

* Project 5: Providing Access to Educational Opportunities to Working Children

In 2013, KSC Child Protection Team provided access to educational opportunities to 68 working children kept on KSC Duhok Office records. In an attempt to decrease the occurrence of child labour in Duhok, KSC Duhok Office made arrangements with ZEWA Centre for Protecting Children to enroll these children into courses on acquiring computer skills, learning the art of drama and music performance, among others, offered by Zewa Centre. The courses were held during 3 months of summer vacations.

2- Access to Medical Treatment for Sick Children

In a spirit of providing humanitarian services to the children in need, KSC Duhok Office continued its programme of providing access to medical treatment for sick children. The assistance included provision of medicines and injections for children having serious health disorders, buying the required medicaments on a monthly basis, making surgery arrangements for sick children, and sending filled-in medical forms to KSC Head Office Health Sector, whenever the child needed a treatment available outside of Kurdistan Region.

In 2013, the total number of filled-in medical forms was 112 forms, 83 of which were sent to Sulaimany and 52 were kept in a folder.

The following actions were taken with regard to procure the required medicaments and other requirements:
* 2 injection packages, for the total sum of 11,700,000 ID, were provided for two children with a complicated medical conditions;
* The required medication for 261 children with Cerebral Palsy (CP) were monthly provided for them, for a total cost of 50,418,750 ID;
* Purchasing synthetic prostheses for the handicapped children for the total amount of 1,000,000 ID, and buying wheel chairs for handicapped children;
* Purchasing a cleaning water device, in accordance with the medical report recommendations, for Robar Sadoun, a 12-year child, suffering from kidneys malfunction, for the total amount of 450,000 ID;
* Paying for a nasal sinus surgery for two children (Khalid Farsat and Adel Farsat) performed in Duhok Azadi Hospital at a cost of 250,000 ID.

3- Other Activities

Other activities involved mainly a distribution of 1800 issues of children's magazines.
(Papula and other children’s magazines) among the kindergartens and schools in Duhok City.

4- Developing Bilateral Relations with Governmental Departments and NGOs

Since the time of its establishment, KSC Duhok Office has been working towards developing bilateral relations with Governmental Departments and NGOs working with/for children, with the main purpose of establishing close cooperation, coordination, and sharing information on a network basis among all the sides involved.

For this purpose, in 2013, KSC Duhok Office participated in 11 meetings with civil society organizations working in the areas of human development, under supervision of His Excellency Duhok Governor Deputy.

In the course of its activities, KSC Duhok Office was granted a consultant status in the High Level Committee on Limiting and Eradicating Child Labour, established in June 2010 by His Excellence Governor of Duhok. KSC Duhok Office participated in the events held on various internationally recognized child right occasions.

Because of KSC Duhok Office child protection experience, KSC Duhok Office was accepted as a member of Child Protection Working Group (CPWG), established by UNICEF for the purpose of protecting and assisting the children of Domiz refugee Camp.

In 2013, two members of KSC Duhok Office staff participated in 2 capacity building courses and a workshop entitled The Patient’s Rights and Duties, conducted by Duhok General Directorate of Health. KSC Duhok Office team participated in a project on limiting occurrences of child labour in Domiz refugee camp, implemented by Child Protection Sub-Working Group (CPSWG) in cooperation with UNICEF at Domiz Refugee Camp.

KSC Duhok Office continued its monthly financial assistance to Juvenile Police Centre to provide for their needs.

Abdulla Ibrahim Masiki
Duhok Programme Manager
1.0 Kurdistan Save the Children’s total funding income by source

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<th>Project</th>
<th>Iraqi Dinar</th>
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<tr>
<td>5- Health Sector</td>
<td>2,106</td>
<td></td>
<td>Italy - Ivria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6- Health Sector</td>
<td>4,466</td>
<td></td>
<td>Child Fund Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7- Health Sector –Cochler implant</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Child Fund Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8- Health Sector</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Med. Assistance - Ralpherne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9- Student’s Support</td>
<td>1,806,000</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>Donors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10- syrian refugee</td>
<td>17,200</td>
<td></td>
<td>Child Fund Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL FUNDING:</td>
<td>6,006,319,000</td>
<td>1,089,437</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.1 KSC expenditure on all KSC projects in 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>Iraqi Dinar</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1- Health Sector</td>
<td>1,957,192,450</td>
<td>28.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2- All KSC offices administration</td>
<td>1,240,865,500</td>
<td>17.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3- Education Sector</td>
<td>947,506,800</td>
<td>13.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4- Youth Sector</td>
<td>886,487,500</td>
<td>12.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5- Sponsorship Sector</td>
<td>795,115,100</td>
<td>11.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6- Child Protection Sector</td>
<td>498,547,250</td>
<td>7.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7- Student’s Support</td>
<td>198,850,000</td>
<td>2.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8- Ara Sector</td>
<td>193,253,850</td>
<td>2.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9- Papula Children’s Magazine</td>
<td>93,263,500</td>
<td>1.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10- Media Department</td>
<td>78,870,250</td>
<td>1.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11- Syrian Refugee</td>
<td>62,510,000</td>
<td>0.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL Expenditure</td>
<td>6,952,462,200</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The Amounts That Hajj Sa’ad Kolak Donated for Performing Vertebral Correction & Cochlear Implant Surgeries Will be used in 2014

Table 1.0:
Shows KSC sources of funds in 2013. 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 408,865 $U.S. and 4,513,000 Iraqi Dinars. Together with various funds for other KSC projects, the grand total of funding was 1,089,437 $U.S. and 6,006,319,000 Iraqi Dinars.

Table 2.1:
Shows the expenditure of all KSC projects for the total of 6,952,462,200 Iraqi Dinars. 1,957,192,450 Iraqi Dinars was allocated for the Health Sector. The Administration of all KSC offices spent 1,240,865,500 Iraqi Dinars. The Education Sector’s funding was 947,506,800 Iraqi Dinars. The Youth Sector spent 886,487,500 Iraqi Dinars, and the Sponsorship Sector spent 795,115,100 Iraqi Dinars. Also 498,547,250 Iraqi Dinars went to Child Protection Sector, 198,850,000 Iraqi Dinars was allocated for Student’s Support, and 193,253,850 Iraqi Dinars was allocated for Ara Sector. Among other expenses, 93,263,500 Iraqi Dinars for Papula monthly magazine, 78,870,250 Iraqi Dinars for Media Department, and 62,510,000 Iraqi Dinars for Syrian Refugee.
Acknowledgments

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

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

Additionally, we would like to say a very big thank you to all the individuals who have volunteered their time and effort in our sectors and overseas. Their contribution has been crucial in enabling KSC to fulfill its role as the biggest local NGO specializing in monitoring, protecting, and promoting the rights of Iraq and Kurdistan children.
16 / 9 / 2013
Kurdistan Save the Children’s 22nd Anniversary

KURDISTAN SAVE THE CHILDREN (KSC - KCF)

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