

Annual Report

2025



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Cover illustration: "Empowerment and mental wellbeing for women in Duhok and Chamchamal" is Wadi's latest project for disadvantaged communities who were deprived from education and access to work. This project is supported by Women's World Day of Prayer

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Overview 2025

In the past year the social and societal challenges in the Middle East have not become any less. The persistent non-payment of civil servants, coupled with other economic hardships, local political tensions and ongoing regional conflicts has made life hard for many people in Iraq. However, our extended partner network has demonstrated remarkable resilience. Despite the increasingly challenging environment that has led many organizations to shut down or at least face significant financial pressures due to funding cuts from many key international donors, we have managed to navigate these difficulties. Our partners have embraced this challenge with openness and adaptability, actively identifying and addressing the gaps in support.

Our newly established local network is an innovative initiative that empowers partners to tackle long-standing issues in dynamic and engaging ways. Without a prescribed working method, they have seized the opportunity to observe challenges firsthand, collaborate with local communities, and experiment with various strategies to find effective solutions. This newfound freedom has fostered creativity, allowing our partners to develop exciting and impactful approaches to local issues. They truly rose to the occasion, showcasing their commitment to making a difference.

The network is currently focused on enhancing collaboration across multiple sectors to create synergistic effects and complement the efforts of major international aid organizations by fostering local, self-directed assistance and developing community-driven solutions to humanitarian and human rights challenges. This effort is part of a comprehensive program named 'Active Citizenship,' run by Wadi alongside various partner organizations in Northern Iraq. The project is dedicated to empowering local communities by encouraging active involvement and partnership with governmental bodies, NGOs, and individuals. It encompasses issues such as child rights and youth empowerment, environmental conservation, media advocacy, citizenship education, school initiatives, public health, and raising awareness about female genital mutilation (FGM) and gender-based violence.

Amid the ongoing economic crisis, which has persisted for over a decade, many citizens face significant challenges, including delayed salary payments that have sparked widespread frustration. Coupled with environmental issues like climate change, rising temperatures, and dwindling water supplies, attracting participants to seminars has become increasingly difficult. Additionally, maintaining their focus during these sessions remains a persistent challenge. Nevertheless, the resilient structure of our partner network played a crucial role in maintaining morale and sustaining efforts, even during difficult times.

And once again, we've extended our support to local initiatives for refugees on Lesbos, Greece. These efforts, driven by the refugees themselves, tackle a wide range of issues faced by camp residents, including the management of electricity, waste collection, informal educational programs, and various skill-building activities. These activities are essential for uplifting community spirit.

We are grateful to our dedicated individual and institutional donors, whose contributions enable our campaigns for democratization and human rights, as well as our swift response efforts when crises arise.

WADI'S ACTIVITIES IN NUMBERS

Awareness on FGM, Women's and Children's Rights

239 FGM and violence awareness seminars with a total of **3,224** participants: **2,225** children and students, **1,174** women and **95** men

13 TV reports and articles

Playbus Activities

142 villages and towns visited, **4,292** children participated, **124** fathers and **253** mothers benefited

Environment Outreach

Seminars for **2,077** children and students, along with **484** parents, teachers, and farmers

13 TV reports and articles

Citizenship Programme

Citizenship Empowerment

This comprehensive and overarching project focuses on enhancing the capacity and resilience of local stakeholders in the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to foster citizenship and active engagement within their communities, particularly addressing children's rights, youth empowerment, and environmental concerns. Despite facing significant political and economic challenges, the project successfully engaged thousands of children and hundreds of women and young men through various activities, promoting social cohesion and media engagement to strengthen local discourse and cooperation.

Focusing on three key intersectional issues - children's rights, youth empowerment, and environmental concerns, with a specific focus on youth engagement and media resonance in engaging youth - the project sought to use these topics as a springboard for broader conversations, intended to explore citizen engagement, effective cooperation, and youth-based approaches to resolving local issues. Wadi played a crucial role in coordinating activities among all implementing partners, providing technical capacity building and support to stakeholders, and overseeing the monitoring and evaluation of the project's progress.

The first few months of 2025 established the baseline and good practices for project coordination and communication among all 9 partners of the the project. Many partners only were aware of each others work from a distance but had not worked closely before and the first goal was to build meaningful connection through non-hierarchical communication structures. Hand in hand with this goal was the training on effective methods of communication for the partners, as well as peer to peer training by one partner organization sharing their expertise with the network. Additionally monthly meetings for all partners including Wadi and a two WhatsApp groups were established to encourage open communication and partners working together or sharing knowledge or expertise on topics were established. At first these communication structures were not used so frequently but after the first training when partners felt more comfortable and trust had been established, and also after Wadi continued to emphasize the non-hierarchical structures of communication and to encourage expression for all and from all, led to better engagement and more fruitful communication between all partners. Now the channels are very busy and partners are working together regularly to plan and coordinate activities or media pieces. Moreover the current network plans to formalize the structure in 2026, with its own homepage and with goal to build the capacity of all the partners and to continue to cooperate in future projects and to strategize and pool together resources when it comes to donors. This is a strong indication of the strength and positive impact of this new approach.

Child Marriage

The issue of child marriage remains a central concern within the project's broader gender and legal rights framework. The recent amendment to the Personal Status Law in Baghdad, which lowers the legal age of marriage and increases the authority of religious figures over family matters, represents a significant setback for child protection and women's rights. In 2025, project partners worked extensively with a wide network of actors—including



Wadi leaflet on child marriage

mullahs, civil society organizations, and hundreds of local NGOs—to advocate against the amendment. Despite these efforts, the law ultimately passed, creating a challenging new context for advocacy and awareness-raising. The project must now consider the implications of this legal change, particularly how to address the topic publicly without inadvertently normalizing or spreading awareness of harmful practices. The teams aim to continue framing child marriage as both a form of child abuse and a manifestation of gender-based violence (GBV), ensuring that this issue remains visible and meaningfully integrated across multiple project pillars, including legal awareness, public health, and community engagement.



Dec. 2: ADWI invited to a public panel discussion on the new Ja’afari law which might legalize child marriage



On July 2, 2025, Wadi and its partners held a press conference in Erbil titled "Eleven Years After the Genocide" to commemorate the Yazidi genocide and highlight the ongoing challenges faced by the Yazidi community

The Situation of the Yazidis

The focus on Yazidi issues in 2025 offered an important demonstration of cross-sectoral collaboration within the project. The press conference held in July 2025 served as a concrete example of different project pillars working together effectively toward a shared objective. While coordination between partners was at times complex, their collective efforts ultimately led to a

stronger and more cohesive approach. This activity also involved cooperation with external organizations such as VNGi, as well as with the Consulate of the Netherlands, whose support helped expand outreach and credibility, and demonstrated the effective network building of the project. The joint initiative attracted attention from local authorities and the public, contributing to greater visibility for Yazidi-related concerns.

The experience gained through this process has informed the planning of activities for 2026, reinforcing the importance of coordination and collective advocacy in addressing sensitive or marginalized issues.



Following Wadi's report on the worsening conditions in IDP camps, a meeting was held on Sept. 3 with the Deputy Governor, representatives from government agencies and international organizations attended.

Media and Journalism

Media and journalism was also a very impactful pillar of the project with all the media partners really embracing the interconnectivity of the project. In an peer to peer knowledge exchange Kirkuk Now worked to provide training, expertise and know how to a group to the 'Youth Voice Radio' a group under the umbrella of NWE organization interested in building citizens youth radio as part of NWE's radio programming. The group has continued to be active and work through NWE's structures as they gain more knowledge and start to have their own perspectives and highlight the issues that face their generation. This was a really successful activity that built a lot of trust between partners, as well as increasing each of their technical capacities through peer to peer sharing. These types of activities are very low cost but very high impact, and all partners are thinking about how to engage with each other in similar ways. The media pillar of the project really had a large impact in terms of amplifying the messages, realities, actions, and themes of the project and the individual partners while of course remaining independent media organizations with their own point of view.



Nov. 2, seminar: Improving awareness on fake news for media professionals

Environment

Environmental awareness continued to serve as a strong thematic pillar in 2025. Through the project, partners were able to establish mechanisms and structures that enabled them to engage in new areas of work, most notably with farmers and agricultural communities. This represented a significant development, as many partners had long expressed interest in working with farmers but previously lacked the tools, confidence, or institutional capacity to do so. The experience has opened new opportunities for deeper engagement, with partners now seeking to strengthen connections between farmers, local government institutions, and universities to promote sustainable agricultural practices and community-based environmental management.



Enhancing farmers' understanding of the risks associated with plastic in agriculture

Health

Health campaigning emerged as an unexpected success story during the reporting period. This initiative involved a new partner and a new approach for Wadi, which initially presented challenges in coordination and implementation. However, through regular monthly roundtable meetings, targeted trainings, and peer-to-peer exchanges facilitated by *Human Network*, the partner developed a clearer understanding of the project's participatory and collaborative methodology. Over time, their perspective and working methods evolved substantially. They have since become one of the most active and engaged partners, effectively collaborating with others and involving local hospitals, government agencies, medical professionals, and citizens in their health awareness activities. This transformation illustrates the project's broader impact in building institutional capacity and fostering cross-sector collaboration among partners.



The youth group "Citizen Voice", founded with support of our partner NWE Halabja in the Active Citizenship project, has prepared a special feature on first aid training for climbers.



June 24: Our partners HUMAN successfully facilitated the establishment of a new Citizen Health Committee in Chamchamal. These committees are a very important step to include citizens and civil society actors into public health planning and decision making.



Aug. 18: Under supervision of Governor Nukhsha Nasih, the Halabja Governor's Office held a roundtable on the health situation in the province. The event was organized by Human Network For Health and Humanitarian Affairs/HUMAN, Wadi's partner in the Active Citizenship Program, with the participation of the Director General of Health, the Halabja Organizations Network, and health experts.



Dec. 25: Panel discussion with law enforcement in Kalar (Iraqi Kurdistan) about ways beyond legal punishment to address the rapidly growing drug abuse

Children's Rights

To promote children's emotional well-being and mental health, the Playbuses (see [Mobile Playgrounds](#) chapter in this report) are integral to the Active Citizenship project. This initiative aims to foster resilience and provide children with the support they need to navigate their feelings, encouraging a healthy emotional landscape. By engaging in interactive and fun activities, the Playbuses play a vital role in nurturing both the mental health of children and their sense of civic responsibility within the community.

Children's Rights and children's wellbeing are also a recurring topics in the seminars conducted by our partners. In many rural communities, children's needs often remain overlooked. Parents and caregivers may not consistently prioritize their children's well-being or education, seldom engaging in conversations about their desires or aspirations. This lack of attention doesn't stem from a lack

of love; rather, it's often due to a focus on immediate survival and daily responsibilities.

However, fostering awareness and encouraging dialogue about children's rights and needs can have a transformative impact. By promoting understanding and compassion, families can become more attuned to their children's emotional and educational requirements. This proactive approach can help reduce neglect and violence, fostering a kinder environment. Ultimately, when children feel supported and valued, not only do they thrive, but the entire family and community can experience enhanced happiness and well-being.



Oct. 5: Citizenship project, discussion about education for girls

Women's Rights

The No to Violence! Campaign actively promotes awareness and education regarding domestic violence and violence against women and girls, including FGM, aiming to address these pervasive issues within communities. It raises public consciousness about the signs and impacts of such violence, fosters discussions that challenge harmful stereotypes and cultural norms, and provides resources for prevention and support. Through workshops, seminars, and community events, the campaign engages participants in understanding the legal rights of women and girls, the importance of bodily integrity and respectful relationships, and strategies for seeking help. By empowering individuals with knowledge and supportive networks, the campaign seeks to create safer environments and contribute to long-lasting social change that upholds the dignity and rights

of all.

Experiences and Lessons Learned

When this project was first designed, flexibility and a responsive structure were embedded as central principles. These elements were considered essential to ensure that the project could adapt to changing realities on the ground, respond to emerging needs, and strengthen local ownership among stakeholders. As the project has progressed, Wadi's role has naturally evolved in line with these guiding principles. Over time, the partner organizations have demonstrated significant growth in their technical capacity, organizational cooperation, and overall experience. During the first year, Wadi's primary responsibility was to foster this development by creating frameworks and structures that promoted collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and effective coordination among partners. As the project moves on, Wadi envisions continuing to support this collective vision, but with an adjusted role that reflects the growing maturity and self-reliance of the partner organizations. Wadi will focus on providing tailored training sessions and mentorship that directly address the partners' identified needs and knowledge gaps. This will ensure that capacity-building efforts remain relevant and grounded in the real experiences of the participating organizations. At the same time, all activities will continue to contribute to the project's overarching long-term objective of strengthening "Active Citizenship" as a core concept and sustainable practice within the participating communities.

The first phase of implementation has resulted in a remarkable network of meaningful linkages among the various actors involved in the project. One of the most notable achievements has been the improved coordination and cooperation both between the project partners themselves and across the different thematic pillars of the initiative. The introduction of the "roundtable meetings" proved to be a particularly valuable innovation. These monthly gatherings—held in person whenever possible, and online when necessary—created an inclusive and non-hierarchical platform where all partners could engage as equals. The meetings encouraged open dialogue, knowledge exchange, and the sharing of good practices, while also providing a space to collectively address challenges, brainstorm new ideas, and plan upcoming activities. Tested for the first time in 2025, the roundtable meetings have been widely regarded as a success and will continue to serve as a cornerstone of project communication and coordination throughout 2026.

Implementing a dual strategy focused on increasing self-reliance for partner organizations while fostering a collaborative network has proved essential for the project's long-term sustainability. This approach allows for diverse avenues of cooperation, ensuring that structures can thrive beyond the formal funding period.

The project emphasized that effective capacity building transcends traditional technical training. By integrating organizational development practices—specifically, promoting non-hierarchical communication structures—partner organizations can create environments where all voices are valued.

Encouraging contributions from all staff levels enables organizations to harness a wide range of perspectives, leading to greater adaptability and responsiveness. Engaging younger or minority members fosters a sense of belonging and ensures their ideas are considered, enriching the decision-making process. We found that cultivating internal transparency and establishing robust communication frameworks are essential for enhancing organizational resilience. By prioritizing these elements, partner organizations can better navigate challenges and maintain momentum, ensuring ongoing efficacy in their mission.

Some of the other important skills that partner organizations were able to improve or align with

current professional standards included report writing, data collection and analysis, strategic marketing of their organization and activities, and professional engagement with media. All of these are highly useful and necessary technical abilities for any future actions undertaken by the partner organizations. The network building was focused on working together, coordinating events, building momentum on issues and cooperating to produce media segments or publish reports or hold press conferences.

The partners have all been eager to approach the continuation of this work, and the reality is that funding is in shorter supply than in previous years, and working collaboratively to continue find donors for the more funding intensive activities that are part of the Active Citizenship concept is essential.

However, it is important to note that this concept was designed so that at least the campaign and networking elements can continue with minimal external funding. The essential ideas of the Active Citizenship approach are intended to be sustainable without large, continuous grants. Moreover, throughout year one, partners have been working when possible to build organizational structures for activities that can be primarily sustained through self-organized volunteer groups, such as environmental clubs. Once established, these groups require only minimal funding and can either seek their own sources or join the network for support.

Another important pillar of the project that ensures sustainability beyond its funding scope is the cultivation of relationships between the partner organizations and local governmental bodies, as well as other local institutions like schools and universities. These new or improved relationships will prove essential for any project going forward, are a pivotal part of the main citizenship approach concepts, and represent long-lasting institutional impacts that extend far beyond the scope of this project.

This project is supported by the Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands, Jolibelle Foundation and private donors.



Environment

Recycling and Environmental Awareness Activities

As the water crisis deepens, desertification becomes increasingly prevalent, and temperatures continue to rise, public concern is escalating dramatically. It is only now that society is truly beginning to understand the invaluable role that water plays in our lives and the pressing need to conserve this vital resource. One of our primary objectives is to raise awareness about these critical issues.

Many citizens are unaware of the dangers posed by plastic pollution. For instance, children often find enjoyment in burning waste to create smoke, completely oblivious to the serious health risks they are inviting upon themselves and their communities. This lack of information highlights the urgent need for educational initiatives that inform people about the environmental hazards and health implications of improper waste disposal.

We aim to empower our citizens not just to understand these issues, but also to take action. We encourage them to participate in plastic collection drives, emphasizing that this effort is not only beneficial for the environment but can also yield financial rewards. By bringing their collected plastics to the MaliAwa recycling center, residents can contribute to a cleaner, healthier planet while gaining access to a facility that transforms waste into useful everyday products. This initiative fosters community involvement and emphasizes the importance of sustainable practices that can significantly improve local living conditions. Together, we can create a more informed, proactive community that values both water conservation and effective waste management.

The project began in Halabja and has since expanded throughout Kurdistan, particularly focusing on the Garmian area. Initially targeting students and children in village seminars and sessions, this year we have shifted our efforts to engage with higher education students, teachers, and experts in various fields. This strategic pivot has elevated our initiative to a new level of engagement and impact, fostering deeper discussions about sustainability and environmental responsibility.

MaliAwa - Recycling Center and Model Home

MaliAwa is much more than a typical building; it embodies a visionary concept of a model home combined with an innovative recycling center. Located particularly in the Kifri district, MaliAwa stands as a beacon of eco-friendly living, demonstrating practical solutions that promote sustainability, ecological balance, and community empowerment.

A key component of MaliAwa is its recycling center, which transforms plastic waste into functional

tools and essential products. This center does more than just recycle; it actively helps to cleanse the environment of toxic plastics that can take centuries to decompose. By repurposing these materials, we significantly reduce pollution and teach the community about responsible waste management practices.

The name MaliAwa is derived from two Kurdish words: “Mal,” meaning home, and “Awa,” meaning prosperous. Together, they translate to “a prosperous home,” reflecting our vision to create a nurturing and thriving environment for the community.

Established in January 2025, MaliAwa has embraced modern connectivity with active Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok accounts, allowing us to engage a wider audience and share our activities and accomplishments.

The architectural design of the model house features advanced insulation techniques, employing a fiberglass interior layer and Rockwool on the exterior. This construction keeps the home warmer in winter and cooler in summer, significantly enhancing energy efficiency and providing tangible environmental benefits. Not only does this approach lower utility bills, but it also contributes to sound dampening by effectively absorbing noise, creating a more serene living environment.



Created from recycled PET

The roof has been meticulously treated with multiple layers for heightened insulation and protection. Every crack is expertly sealed, and a two-component base layer is installed to ensure durability. The surface is then painted with a specialized product boasting an elasticity strength of up to 600%, safeguarding against future cracks and maintaining the integrity of the structure.



MaliAwa is also a pioneer in renewable energy use, harnessing clean energy from six solar panels, each generating 620 watts. Installed on the rooftop, these panels can produce up to 14 amperes during the day and - in combination with a battery - between 6 to 8 amperes at night, making the model house a self-sustaining entity that exemplifies our commitment to reducing reliance on non-renewable resources.



Through these collective efforts, MaliAwa not only serves as a community hub for learning and engagement but also sets a benchmark for environmentally conscious living in the region.

MaliAwa is equipped with an advanced water filtration system that effectively treats grey water, transforming it into non-potable water suitable for irrigation and cleaning purposes. We have installed two underground tanks, each with a capacity of 175 liters. The first tank collects grey water from the house and uses a filtration mechanism to eliminate debris and heavy particles, ensuring that only clean water is transferred to the second tank.

The second tank is fitted with a booster pump that efficiently delivers

water to an additional set of filters. Once this water undergoes thorough filtration, it is ready for use in irrigating the vegetable garden and for various cleaning tasks around the property. This innovative system not only reduces waste but also significantly conserves water in a region where this resource is increasingly scarce.

Adjacent to the model house, we have constructed a secure fence around the land designated as a vegetable garden and storage area for plastic bales. This garden serves multiple purposes: it acts as a practical demonstration of sustainable agriculture, providing fresh produce for the community while also showcasing eco-friendly farming techniques. The enclosed garden allows us to educate locals about organic farming practices, encouraging a return to natural methods free from synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.

Additionally, the enclosure for plastic bales aids in the organized collection and storage of plastics for recycling. By keeping these materials contained, we not only prevent litter and reduce environmental hazards but also make the recycling process more efficient and effective.

In this way, MaliAwa serves as a model for sustainable living, illustrating how integrated water management, waste recycling, and community farming can work hand in hand. The combination of these elements empowers residents to take an active role in protecting their environment while promoting a healthier, more self-sufficient lifestyle. By fostering awareness and participation in these initiatives, we hope to inspire a broader commitment within the community to prioritize sustainability.

Achievements in 2025

ADWI expanded outreach efforts from villages and schools to universities, aiming to raise awareness among both educators and students about pressing environmental concerns. After establishing trust between ADWI and various communities, university faculty and students were targeted for sessions that included environmental experts.

World Earth Day Panel Discussion

On April 22, ADWI hosted a panel discussion at the Kifri Technical Institute to celebrate World Earth Day. In collaboration with university professors, legal experts, and environmental specialists, the panel focused on crucial topics such as improving agricultural practices, reducing environmental pollution, and fostering plastic recycling initiatives.

Assistant Lecturer Maher Esa Jum'a emphasized the importance of these discussions, highlighting their relevance to the community. Anwar Aziz, head of the environmental organization at the institute, expressed gratitude: *"I appreciate both ADWI and the university for caring about the environment. You've done a great job. These organizations and government authorities should collect and recycle plastic waste; these discussions must lead to real actions."*

Tree Distribution and Planting

On the same day, trees were distributed to local villagers, an effort that was received with enthusiasm. Fikrya Ibrahim, a resident of Say Hussein village, shared her happiness: *"I feel very happy for these trees you brought us today. I truly thank the ADWI team; they gave me four trees and planted them in my yard. I will take care of the trees more than I take care of myself."*

Awareness for Farmers, Students and Children

Local farmers were engaged in discussions about the hazards posed by plastic and nylon to their lands and soil fertility, with ADWI acting as intermediaries between farmers and government officials. Muhammed Shakir, a farmer from the Sarqalla district, remarked: *"I've been practicing*

greenhouse farming for the past seven years. Each year, I purchase several tons of nylon, and once it wears out, I usually burn it. Through your seminar today, I learned that nylon is made from petroleum and other materials and can be harmful to humans."

Additionally, attention was focused on educating students and children, many of whom lacked environmental awareness but found the sessions interesting and beneficial. Hania Muhammed, a 12-year-old from Chalarash village, stated: *"I have participated in all of your seminars in the village. I have learned so much from you. If I hadn't participated in your seminars and listened to your advice, I wouldn't have known anything about water conservation, animal and bird protection, and environmental preservation. I ask you to visit us more often."*

Addressing the Drought Crisis

In 2025, the Kurdistan region faced severe drought and water shortages, particularly affecting citizens in Garmian Administration. Families dealt with significant water scarcity, frequent sandstorms, and extreme summer heat. Khawar Muhammed, a 70-year-old resident of Awlaqut village, shared his distress: *"I have never experienced such extreme heat in my life. I just returned from shepherding and nearly fainted from exhaustion. This drought has lasted three years and continues to worsen each year. Our village is overwhelmed with waste, as people from here and nearby areas keep dumping their garbage around us, making the situation unbearable."*

In response, seminars were initiated in Kifri to improve local awareness and encourage residents to bring plastic waste to the center and actively engage in environmental cleanup efforts.

Participation in the Kifri Bazar Festival

Later in the year, in late December, MaliAwa participated in the third Bazar Festival, supervised by the Kifri Governor's Office. This three-day event allowed the model house and recycling center to be introduced to more citizens and government officials. The initiative not only broadened networking opportunities but also demonstrated to the community how their plastic waste can be transformed into new products.

Annual Outreach and Environmental Impact

Throughout the year, ADWI successfully engaged with over 50 villages and 50 schools, collaborating with government authorities and universities. This outreach effort positively impacted 2,077 children and students, along with 484 parents, teachers, and farmers.

In Kifri, MaliAwa established 19 plastic-collecting cages linked to tuktuk drivers, who transport full cages to the recycling center. The collected plastics are processed into 50-kilogram bales or converted into new products.

In the recycling center, more than 1,500 kilograms of plastic were received in 2025 alone, effectively preventing 1.5 tons of plastic from polluting the environment. This initiative not only supports recycling efforts but also fosters community involvement in environmental stewardship.

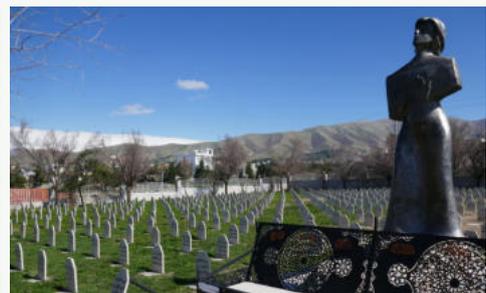
This project is supported by Joliebelle Foundation and BMZ and implemented in cooperation with Unity Works e. V..



Halabja Memory Trail

The Halabja Memorial Trail, a poignant initiative aimed at narrating the historical legacy of Halabja, features 15 distinct boards strategically placed throughout various streets and neighborhoods across the city, each articulating a chapter of Halabja's rich but tragic history. Visitors can engage with these boards to gain insights into the significance of specific locations and the stories they hold, painting a vivid picture of the city's resilience and heritage.

This collaborative endeavor between Wadi, NWE Halabja and the Municipality of Halabja has been inaugurated on March 16th, 2024. This date is particularly significant as it coincides with Halabja Day, commemorating the horrific events of 1988, when the Iraqi Air Force unleashed chemical weapons on the city. This brutal attack claimed the lives of at least 5,000 residents, and left many more grappling with long-term health repercussions. The aftermath saw widespread devastation and forced displacement of the remaining population, leaving scars that the city continues to navigate today.



The Halabja Memorial Trail (→ <https://halabja-trails.com/>) is designed to guide visitors through the heart of the city, ensuring that the stories of those who suffered are not forgotten. The route begins at the Halabja Monument, a solemn tribute to the victims, and meanders into the city center where visitors can immerse themselves in the local culture and significance of the area. The trail then leads to the cemetery, a place of reflection and remembrance, before winding through the historic Jewish Quarter, highlighting the diverse cultural landscape of Halabja.

At each stop along the trail, visitors encounter information boards that offer rich narratives, recounting the experiences of survivors, the broader context of the genocide, and the city's historical evolution. These boards are not merely educational; they serve as a testament to the endurance and spirit of the community, inviting visitors to reflect on the past while recognizing the present.

Through this project, Halabja aims to honor its history, promote healing, and foster understanding among visitors from all walks of life. The Halabja Memorial Trail stands as a vital reminder of resilience, urging us to remember and learn from the horrifying past as we look toward a future of hope and unity.

This project is supported by Hans-Böckler-Stiftung and VVN-BdA Bayern.

For more information about Wadi's project focused on memory and the past, please visit: <https://wadi-online.org/memory/>

No to Violence

No to Violence! Campaign



Children should not have to be brave just to go to school or walk through their own front door. Yet when we listen to them, a clear picture emerges: many are growing up with raised hands, raised voices, and the constant expectation of being hurt or humiliated. What is often called “discipline” feels to them like fear.

The “No to Violence” campaign has evolved in recent years through collaboration with our local partner, ADWI. It is rooted in a fundamental belief that underscores our mission: Every child has the right to learn, play, and grow in safety. Not in a perfect world, not in some distant future, but here and now—at home, in the classroom, in the playground. To make this a reality, we work with the adults who shape children’s everyday lives: teachers, parents, caregivers, and school administrators.



Awareness session on violence against women for 15 women in Khanke Camp, during which they shared their personal experiences and discussed their rights as women.

Instead of blaming or shaming, we open a space for honest reflection and practical change. Many adults were themselves raised with violence and have never been offered other tools to guide children. We meet them at this starting point and ask a different question: “What would it look like to lead without fear?” Together we explore concrete alternatives—non-violent discipline, de-escalation, and respectful ways to set boundaries and resolve conflicts.

The “No to Violence” campaign, launched in 2017 in the Iraqi Kurdistan region, grew out of years of listening to children in our Mobile Playgrounds activities and in schools, as well as to educators, social workers, and parents living with the pressures of crisis and war. Their stories made one thing unmistakable: violence does not stay on the battlefield; it seeps into homes, classrooms, and memories, shaping how the next generation sees power and authority. Our work is to interrupt that transmission.

By equipping adults with new skills and by publicly affirming children’s right to be safe, the campaign aims to transform everyday environments from places of fear into places of trust. Saying

“no to violence” is not only about stopping harm; it is about building a different culture—one where respect, empathy, and dialogue are the foundations of how we teach, protect, and raise children.

Seminars and Educational Outreach

In cooperation with ADWI, we conducted a series of informative seminars focused on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), aiming to empower students and children with knowledge about their personal rights and the issue of social violence. These sessions not only educated teenage girls about their bodies but also emphasized the significance of understanding their menstrual cycle, ensuring they are informed and confident in managing their health. We highlighted the harmful impacts of FGM also in the context of early and forced marriage, encouraging community members to actively avoid these practices. Through compelling presentations and personal testimonies, we sought to challenge societal norms and foster a culture of respect for individual rights and health.

Our teams also organized workshops specifically for women, addressing the most prevalent women's health conditions and related issues. The goal was to enhance their understanding of their bodies and overall health. By demystifying topics such as reproductive health, common illnesses, and preventive care, we aimed to foster a more informed community of women who can advocate for their well-being.

We held specialized sessions addressing the legal dimensions of violence, where our legal experts elaborated on crucial laws pertaining to early marriage, divorce, dowry, inheritance, and women's rights. These discussions were instrumental in educating participants about their legal protections and the avenues available for seeking justice, thereby empowering them to navigate these issues with greater confidence.



July 16, seminar with youth about the dangers of cyber bullying and abuse of social media.

<<I have a TikTok account, but not under my name, I go often live and I give ugly comments and I have many followers. >>

Statement of a nine year old boy.

Our initiatives also targeted the misuse of communication devices, discussing how these tools can perpetuate violence and contribute to severe societal issues. By educating individuals, especially young people, on the risks associated with digital interactions, we aimed to cultivate a safer online environment and equip them with the skills to recognize and report digital abuse.

In an age where technology plays a critical role in daily life, we dedicated efforts to explain digital violence. Our awareness campaigns aimed to teach children how to protect themselves from becoming victims of online harassment, cyberbullying, and other forms of digital exploitation.

We facilitated open discussions with students, addressing the sensitive age of adolescence. By emphasizing the physical and mental changes that occur during this pivotal stage, we aimed to provide a safe space for young individuals to express their challenges and seek guidance.

During the hot summer months, we focused on educating parents and caregivers about the dangers posed by extreme heat and its impact on children and pregnant women. We provided important information on how to mitigate health risks associated with high temperatures, stressing the need for hydration, proper clothing, and awareness of heat-related illnesses.

Through these multifaceted initiatives, we aim to create a well-informed community that is equipped to champion health, rights, and safety, ultimately fostering a more equitable and supportive environment and society for all.

This project is supported by Joliebelle Foundation and Wadi private donations.

Combating FGM

Building on the multi-year project “Combating and Living with FGM,” ADWI has continued its vital efforts to raise awareness about the legal ban and health risks associated with female genital mutilation (FGM), particularly in the Erbil region, where this practice remains prevalent and understanding of its consequences is still limited.



The “Stop FGM Campaign” was initiated in 2004 when Wadi’s mobile health teams first brought to light the widespread occurrence of this practice in the region. Still today, the campaign emphasizes educating communities about the legal ramifications of FGM, underscoring that it is not only a violation of human rights but also poses significant health threats to women and girls, such as severe physical and psychological complications. Through targeted workshops, informational sessions, and community outreach, ADWI is working to dispel myths surrounding FGM and to empower individuals with knowledge about their rights. Additionally, the initiative seeks to engage local leaders and influential figures to advocate against the practice, fostering a community-led movement towards safer and healthier norms. By promoting open dialogue and providing necessary support, ADWI aims to drive meaningful change and ultimately eradicate FGM in the region.



An elderly woman explains: "Many women seek midwives that can help them perform FGM on their children, but they hardly find any because... well, they all passed away"

The teams engaged extensively with local communities through a multifaceted approach that included showing documentaries, disseminating information, and, most importantly, facilitating conversations with both women and men about the profound effects of female genital mutilation (FGM) on their lives.

During these discussions, the teams addressed several critical subjects: the physical, psychological, and social harms associated with FGM; the provisions of Law No. 8 addressing domestic violence; and the Personal Status Law (Law No. 2), which governs aspects such as marriage contracts, legal marriage age, child custody, and the detrimental impacts of practices like early marriage, arranged marriage, forced marriage, and exchange marriage. They also explored the negative repercussions of domestic violence, including suicide attempts, and emphasized the importance of strengthening family relationships, promoting peaceful conflict resolution, and combating gender discrimination.

All these forms of gender-based violence are intricately linked to a persistent culture of violence against women, of

which FGM is „only one“ significant symptom. Our approach remains holistic, aiming to foster genuine societal change by empowering individuals with knowledge and encouraging community engagement in discussions to challenge harmful norms. By addressing the root causes of these issues and advocating for legal and cultural reform, we seek to create a safer and more equitable environment for women and girls.

Observations by the teams

Overall, women in Erbil frequently inquire about ways to address the consequences of FGM or seek solutions for sexual issues stemming from the practice. Many express that FGM has created significant challenges in their relationships. Even unmarried girls who have undergone mutilation are requesting information and awareness to better prepare for marriage in the future.

There is a growing belief among women that men have shifted their perspectives; they now refuse to allow their daughters to undergo FGM. This marks a notable change from the past when an un-mutilated girl often found it difficult to secure a marriage.



On February 6, 2025, in honor of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation the ADWI organized a roundtable discussion in the Ranya area to address the persistence of FGM, despite its decline due to legal prohibitions and awareness campaigns. While FGM is no longer widely practiced in the Ranya area, our team has observed that it continues in secrecy. During our engagements with local women, it became evident that some individuals firmly believed in the practice.

The roundtable brought together 18 participants, including lawyers, medical specialists, teachers, and representatives from the Human Rights Department in Raparin. The event was well attended and had a strong local media presence.

This project is implemented by Wadi's partner ADWI and supported by Joliebelle Foundation and Wadi private donations.



Mobile Playgrounds

Throughout 2025, several mobile playgrounds provided their services across Erbil and its surrounding areas, as well as in Garmyan, Ranya and Duhok. These playgrounds visited numerous remote villages, bringing joy and entertainment to children at both schools and kindergartens. To promote children's emotional well-being and mental health, the Playbuses are integral to the Active Citizenship project, implemented by our partner ADWI.

The program began in 2004 with a single bus and has since expanded to a fleet of four. Each bus or trailer is equipped with toys, climbing frames, writing and coloring pencils and a children's library, music instruments, drawing tools, games, sports equipment and other materials.

The mobile playgrounds are sent to the poor and remote villages in the hot plains of Garmyan, isolated places in the mountains of Ranya, and since 2023 also to neglected villages and quarters in and around the capital Erbil. Villages with high percentage of refugee/IDP populations are preferred visits.

The project aims to support the children through playing and learning, and is assisted by a team of educational supervisors. None of these villages have any existing facilities for children – be it playgrounds or parks or anything similar. For almost all the children in these regions the playbus is the only pure entertainment and fun they have in their hard daily life. Moreover, most of these villages don't have any professionals who have any pedagogical or medical skills.

General Activities of the Mobile Playground

Playbus teams are offering a combination of activities. Some are focusing on play and fun entertainment for the children, while others emphasize education, health or the prevention of domestic violence.

After some exuberant playing, Wadi's team members call them in for a short break time. On this occasion they sometimes ask them about their feelings and the problems they face, such as bullying in school or abuse from teachers or parents. The children know they can trust the teams

and talk openly.

From time to time, the teams also organize group discussions about the environment, insects, trees or even the universe. Children's rights are also always a topic.



The games offered are tailored to the psychology of children of various ages:

- For toddlers (ages 1-3) the playbus has many colorful memory games, like simple puzzles and picture books.
- For preschoolers (ages 3-5) there is a variety of energetic and mobility games that challenge their physical development.
- For school-aged children (ages 5-10) the playbus provides an array of competitive and engaging group games, since in this age group children start to form their personality and traits.
- As for teenagers (ages 11-17), this group is encouraged to participate in creative activities where they are invited to explore various arts and crafts like painting, jewelry making, crafting, and singing.

The activities include a variety of lectures and awareness programmes for the children and their parents. Often parents are not aware of how to prepare healthy food for their children, therefore the teams are confronted with various forms of malnutrition. The teams developed a sustainable method to teach mothers how to prepare a proper diet including vitamins and minerals. In some cases parents lack the skill to see if their children suffer from diseases or sickness.

The playbus teams are raising awareness about

- Healthy Diet
- Dental Hygiene
- Hygiene for body and clothes
- Food Hygiene
- Simple first aid assistance for minor injuries

- Non-violent child-raising

Many times the teams find themselves confronted with severe problems in the families and various forms of violence. Many parents have not yet heard of the idea that you can educate children in a positive and non-violent way. The teams offer advice to parents and make efforts to moderate in family conflicts.

Activities in 2025

In 2025, the Playbus teams engaged in 142 activities, visiting 11 schools, 85 villages, and 5 towns—some of which they visited multiple times.

The Playbus teams provide a diverse array of activities designed to cater to the holistic development of children in Iraqi Kurdistan. This multifaceted approach encompasses not only elements of play and entertainment but also educational and health-related initiatives, fostering a well-rounded experience.



One of the playbuses

Incorporating play into their programs is vital, as it serves as a natural medium for children to engage and enjoy themselves. Activities such as games, art projects, and cultural performances create a lively atmosphere that encourages participation and helps children unwind. These entertaining elements not only keep children occupied but also foster social interaction among peers, enhancing their emotional well-being and sense of community.

Other activities are aimed at addressing critical issues such as education and health. The teams often conduct workshops that cover essential topics, such as hygiene practices, nutrition, and basic health education. Through interactive sessions, children gain valuable knowledge that can positively impact their lives and the lives of their families.

Equally important, the Playbus programs focus on preventing domestic violence. The children receive basic information about healthy relationships, conflict resolution, and how to seek help when needed.

A significant aspect of the Playbus initiatives is the emphasis on children's rights. The teams have observed a crucial shift—children are increasingly aware that they possess rights, yet they also recognize the stark contrast between this awareness and their everyday reality. Many children express a sense of frustration that, despite knowing they should be treated with respect and dignity, they often face neglect or disregard within their local environments.



Sept. 28: Jinda's Playbus at Sharya Camp. Yazidi girls are creating handmade jewelry.

This growing consciousness among children about their rights is inspiring, but it presents an additional challenge. The Playbus teams strive to bridge this gap by providing a platform for discussion and awareness, empowering children to understand not only their rights but also the importance of advocating for themselves and others. They facilitate dialogues that encourage children to share their thoughts and

experiences, fostering a collective understanding of their rights in the context of their lives.

Through a combination of entertainment, education, health awareness, and a focus on rights, the Playbus teams aim to create an enriching environment that nourishes children's growth, empowers them to recognize their worth, and equips them with the tools to advocate for a better future. This comprehensive approach not only addresses immediate needs but also lays the groundwork for a more informed and proactive generation.

Challenges

A major challenge is gathering children in the villages during the summer break. Many children tend to stay up late, either playing games or engaging online, which leads to them sleeping throughout most of the following day. This nocturnal pattern complicates attendance at summer sessions and Playbus activities, as children are often unmotivated to participate in daytime events.

Additionally, the scorching summer temperatures exacerbate the situation, making activities more strenuous for both the teams and participants. The intense heat not only diminishes children's energy levels but also raises safety concerns. Finding shaded and cool locations for activities has become increasingly difficult. In many villages, shaded areas are limited, and available spaces are often uncomfortable due to high temperatures, which can discourage participation and engagement. These factors create a challenging environment that affects the overall success of summer programs and necessitates creative solutions to effectively reach and involve the children.

The Playbus teams face significant limitations in adapting their strategies due to the remote locations of most villages, which often require more than a two-hour drive to access. As a result, rescheduling activities on short notice is generally not feasible, making it challenging to respond dynamically to the needs of the children during extreme heat. However, the teams can take proactive measures to improve attendance and comfort. One effective strategy involves contacting village leaders in advance to coordinate suitable locations for activities. By informing them of the expected attendance and the importance of providing a cool environment, the teams can ensure that shaded areas are prepared or receive guidance on the best places to hold events. This allows the teams to provide a more comfortable and inviting atmosphere for the children.



Pictures from the Playbus project in Erbil/Degala

This project is implemented by Wadi's partner ADWI and supported by Joliebelle Foundation, the Consulate General of Germany and Wadi private donations.



Empowerment and Mental Wellbeing for Women

Wadi's latest initiative, "Empowerment and Mental Wellbeing for Women in Duhok and Chamchamal," is designed to uplift disadvantaged communities, particularly those who have been deprived of education and opportunities for meaningful employment.

This project emerged from a self-organized training session held in Goptepe, a town where local women expressed a strong desire for skill development and employment opportunities.

The suggestion for this training originated directly from the women in Goptepe, highlighting the importance of community input in shaping effective programs. Their feedback led to the expansion of the project, allowing it to benefit various communities across both Chamchamal and Duhok. Through this grassroots approach, the project is not just about skills training; it is also about fostering a sense of agency and belonging among women.

Sewing Training and Skills Development

The project includes sewing training sessions organized in Goptepe, Askar, Chamchamal, and other remote villages in the Duhok and Chamchamal areas. These sessions aim to equip women with valuable skills that can lead to economic independence. The training encourages participants to engage creatively with textiles, using used clothing as materials. This focus on remodeling and upcycling not only fosters creativity but also emphasizes sustainability by conserving resources and reducing waste.

Sustainability and Affordability

A critical aspect of the initiative is its commitment to sustainability and affordability. By working with pre-owned garments, participants learn to create new items, which not only saves money but also promotes environmentally friendly practices. This approach ensures that women can continue their work without the burden of high material costs, thereby making the skills they acquire applicable in their everyday lives.

Impact on Mental Wellbeing

In addition to economic empowerment, this project addresses mental wellbeing. The training sessions and community gatherings provide a supportive environment for women to share their experiences, challenges, and successes. This communal aspect fosters connections and emotional support, contributing to a healthier mental state among participants.



For 10 months, women from Aghjalar County and surrounding villages participated in Hawari Gala's Environment and Health Seminar. Supported by Women's World Day of Prayer.

Through this multifaceted approach, Wadi's project aims not only to enhance the economic status of these women but also to improve their overall quality of life in the Duhok and Chamchamal regions.

This project is supported by Women's World Prayer Day and implemented by Wadi & local partners.



Refugees

Support for Refugees in Lesbos/Greece

Moria White Helmets (MWH) is a self-organized refugee group dedicated to empowering refugees living in the camp on Lesbos, Greece. Their mission is to empower individuals to take an active role in enhancing their living conditions, fostering a sense of normalcy for the thousands of asylum seekers who must endure life in the camp while awaiting decisions on their cases.

Wadi provided support for refugee self-organization in the Moria camp, assisting the community in their efforts to advocate for their needs and rights. This collective initiative ultimately led to the establishment of MWH in 2020, reflecting the determination and resilience of the refugees themselves.

The project model of Moria White Helmets is straightforward:

1. All members of Moria White Helmets must be current or former asylum seekers.
2. All services provided through MWH projects are free and accessible to all asylum seekers.
3. In exchange for their participation, MWH's members receive food vouchers, cash cards and similar services that contribute to meeting basic needs. All donations will be used solely to support MWH in sustaining and advancing their projects.



Summary of MWH's current projects in 2025

Several workshops are still active every day:

A barbershop for men for hair and beards. There are four Barbers (two at morning & two at afternoon) working five days a week

A beauty shop for women for hair, nails etc . There is a friendly and competent women team consistent of two groups. Each group has four members working three days per week.

A tailor shop where skilled seamstresses repair and adjust garments and textiles. The team

comprises female and male members, working four days a week.

A bicycle workshop to adjust and fix bicycles.

A workshop providing tools that are required for construction.

Three members are helping refugees and welcoming them all. MWH provides assistance to newly arrived refugees. This is a collaboration with other organizations, such as the Hope Project, BWC and others, to be able to assist newly arrived refugees in the camp with whatever they need in terms of clothing, advice and guidance.



Distribution of winter clothes MWH received from BWC

Expulsion from the camp

In June, the camp management delivered them a disheartening message: the MWH could no longer operate within the camp's confines because they are not officially registered as an NGO. For MWH, this decision struck a deep chord. As residents of the camp, they had always been able to differentiate themselves from traditional NGOs. They were not outsiders providing aid; they were individuals living the reality of displacement, responding to the immediate needs of their community. Despite their unique position, their arguments fell on deaf ears, and they were given just one month to dismantle their operations and relocate all workshop materials, educational resources, and equipment from the beauty salon. The members of MWH were frustrated. Their work wasn't merely a job; it was a lifeline for many. They had poured their hearts into creating a space where hope and community flourished, and now they were being told to abandon it. But amid this chaos, their spirit remained unbroken.



Moving to the new place



The Moria White Helmets have weathered numerous challenges before, and this one would not be the end. Recognizing their capability to adapt and persevere, they made a collective decision:

rather than succumb to despair, they would forge ahead. So they found a new location, close to the camp, where they could continue their work. While operating outside the camp is a shift, it offers them an opportunity to recreate a nurturing environment for the community they serve.

MWH understands that their new location may lack the familiarity and immediacy of the camp. Still, they are committed to ensuring that their services remain accessible to those who need them most. By relocating nearby, they aim to maintain their connection to the community and continue fostering the spirit of self-empowerment that has been the hallmark of their efforts.



Up and running again at the new place

Moria White Helmets are supported by Solingen Hilft e.V. and Benevety

Counseling and Trainings in Syria

Wadi has also provided logistical support to Zinobia, the umbrella organization of MWH in Lesbos, and conducted a training for them in Damascus in January. The non-profit organization Zinobia is registered in Greece and Idlib and delivers emergency aid such as warm meals and medical assistance to people in need in Idlib, Syria.



Assistance delivered by Zinobia in Idlib

In spring, two Wadi staff members undertook a fact-finding mission. They engaged with various local stakeholders, spoke with human rights activists, and visited Sednaya Prison. Since returning, they have been serving as advisors to several civil society organizations, including the European Center for Kurdish Studies. Additionally, from July 3 to 6, they participated in the workshop "Governance in Transition: Perspectives on Decentralization in Syria" in Loccum, which is part of the "YES for Peace" project, funded by ifa through the zivik Funding Programme.



Workshop "Government in Transition" in Loccum

Support for Yazidi ISIS Survivors

In an effort to illuminate the current humanitarian and health conditions in the camps, Wadi in collaboration with its Kurdish partner Human Network for Health and Humanitarian Action conducted a **field survey** across five IDP camps in Duhok Province: Khanké, Essyan, Sharia, Kabarto I, Kabarto II. Wadi also published a **statement** together with ProAsyl e.V.

The situation in the Yazidi displaced persons camps in Northern Iraq has deteriorated significantly in 2025. In 2024, the Iraqi Ministry of Migration and Displacement announced plans to close the camps, leading to a withdrawal of aid and the exit of many humanitarian organizations. By 2025, the Trump administration systematically dismantled the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), leaving most remaining organizations without funding. This financial shortfall forced many of them to cease their operations as well. Meanwhile, there are many reasons why camp residents do not consider it safe to return to their areas of origin.

Zum Jahrestag des Völkermords an den Ezid*innen: Erklärung von PRO ASYL und Wadi e.V.

04.08.2025



Flüchtlingslager von Ezid*innen in Dohuk. Foto: picture alliance / dpa | Stefanie Järkel



The primary objective of this survey was to identify the most pressing health issues and basic needs faced by the residents of these camps, providing a comprehensive overview of their daily lives. The survey involved meetings with key stakeholders within the camps, as well as discussions with several displaced individuals, to gather first-hand and detailed information. This approach aimed to reflect the current challenges and contribute to the development of practical strategies to enhance the

humanitarian and health conditions in these communities. The survey provided a foundation for our press conference on The Situation of the Yazidis, see p. 7, and subsequent talks with officials and responsables.

We have engaged in various lobbying efforts in Germany to achieve a stop to deportations of Yazidi refugees to Syria and Iraq. On July 2, 2025, Wadi and its partners held a press conference in Erbil titled "Eleven Years After the Genocide" to commemorate the Yazidi genocide and highlight the ongoing challenges faced by the Yazidi community, see also p. 7.

Meanwhile, Wadi's partner in Duhok, Jinda, is constantly supporting Yazidi women and children in the IDP camps. A Playbus regularly visits the camps, offering games and entertainment for the children, whose everyday lives are usually very monotonous.



Oct. 28: Cinema Day in one of the centers in Sharya Camp. We had about thirty kids join us for the event. They enjoyed a fun movie, lunch, refreshments, and received small gifts at the end. It was a lovely day full of smiles and laughter. Implemented by Jinda.

This project is supported by Joliebelle Foundation, Women's World Day of Prayer and Wadi private donations.

Independent Media

Community Radio Dangi Nwe

Radio Dangi NWE is an independent community radio station in Northern Iraq, dedicated to addressing women's and youth issues within a local context. Managed by the local NWE organization and supported by WADI, Dangi NWE stands out in the region for its complete independence, free from any political affiliations.

The station broadcasts 11 hours daily, from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM, transmitting on FM 88.6 MHz to areas including Halabja governorate, Sharazoor, Hawraman, and Arbat.

The morning segments feature broadcasts primarily in Kurmanji dialect and Arabic. These programs tackle pressing local issues, with a special focus on the challenges faced by refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Other topics encompass important health, social, and cultural matters relevant to the community.



In the afternoon, Dangi NWE shifts its focus to news updates, music, and various special programs addressing current issues. This segment routinely includes daily coverage of youth and women's concerns, along with educational segments on topics such as health, human rights, women's rights, female genital mutilation (FGM), children's rights, and environmental protection. Additionally, discussions on infrastructure issues related to electricity and water are aired, utilizing the Sorani and Hawrami dialects.



Daily Program Overview

The station provides eight hours of daily programming.

Breaking News: Ten updates covering both national and international stories are presented each day.

Hanase Nwe: This engaging live program addresses pressing societal issues, explores citizen concerns, and features discussions on health, social, and cultural topics.

Focused Content: Daily readings focus on themes concerning women, youth, and environmental protection.

Awareness Segments: Each day includes informative segments on health, human rights, women's rights, children's rights, environmental changes, and infrastructure issues related to electricity and water.

Community Announcements: The program features daily announcements for local businesses and personal items lost and found to assist owners in reclaiming their possessions.

Kurdish News Rebroadcast: A one-hour program from the VOA Kurdish department is rebroadcast daily in Kurdish.

Weekly Program Overview

Commemoration of Halabja: On March 16, 2025, Radio Dangi NWE aired a special program featuring Albrecht von Wittke, the German Consul, who addressed the significance of honoring the 37th Halabja chemical attack anniversary and highlighted the vital role of civil society organizations.

Special Programs: A series of live broadcasts focusing on urgent local issues includes three to four episodes on various topics, totaling 34 programs produced.

#Qarib Initiative: Under the #Qarib program, the station produced features, videos, news, and photo stories emphasizing environmental issues, women's rights, and youth in Halabja, with support from #CFI. Throughout 2025, the station created 41 radio features, 52 news segments, 13 videos, and 10 photo stories.

International Women's Day: On March 8, a dedicated program was presented to discuss women's issues in Halabja, emphasizing the importance of gender equality.

Active Citizenship Project: 54 video features were produced and aired under the active citizenship initiative which aims to foster connections between civil society, citizenship, and human rights.



April 23: Radio Denge Nwe celebrates its 20th birthday

Programs for Local Organizations

People's Development Organization (PDO): 5 programs centered on peace and coexistence.

Women Empowerment Organization (WEO):

- 8 programs focused on women and peace.

- 3 programs encouraging women to participate in the Iraqi election.

Anniversary Coverage: 3 programs commemorated the 1988 chemical attack in Halabja.

Sport Nwe: This program delivers national and international sports news, featuring a total of 24 broadcasts.

Activism Against Violence: 16 programs were aired during the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence, starting on November 25.

Informative Topics: A total of 48 short segments were presented, covering various subjects like

environmental issues, science, economics, and health.

Other Activities

Qarib Meeting Participation: On February 14-15, 2025, a member of NWE participated in the second Qarib meeting organized by CFI, supported by AFD (Agence Française de Développement), in Amman, Jordan. This gathering included project partners from independent media outlets across Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine.

Training for Women Journalists: On February 26, 2025, a new member attended a training focused on strengthening the capabilities of women journalists. The session aimed to promote equality and enhance women's participation in media management and was organized by UPP in Sulaymaniyah.

Mental Health Training for Journalists: On September 8-9, 2025, a radio member took part in a training course on the impacts of stress on mental health and self-care strategies for journalists. This event was held in Sulaymaniyah, Halabja, and Garman, organized by the Wachan Organization in partnership with International Media Support.

German Unity Day Celebration: On the evening of October 8, 2025, a radio member attended an event celebrating German Unity Day, hosted by the German Consul General in Erbil.

Podcast Training for Journalists: Within the framework of the Qareb Program, supported by the French organization CFI in collaboration with MICT, Radio Dangi NWE launched a five-day academic training session on podcast preparation from October 14-18, 2025. Led by Trainer Ahmad Nateq, participants learned about podcast methodologies and design techniques.

Visit from Korean Consulate: On December 16, 2025, the staff of NWE welcomed Seungcheol LIM, the General Consul of the Republic of Korea in the Kurdistan Region, for a discussion about the organization's activities.

Recognitions and Appreciations

International Women's Day Recognition: Received an appreciation from the Governor's Office of Halabja in honor of International Women's Day.

Tourism Sector Acknowledgment: Recognized by the General Directorate of Tourism of Halabja for the significant contributions to the tourism sector in the region.

Professional Appreciation: Acknowledged by the Nawrul (HD) website and the family of martyr Sirwan Nawrul for the professional dedication and commitment to highlighting the tourist attractions of Halabja.



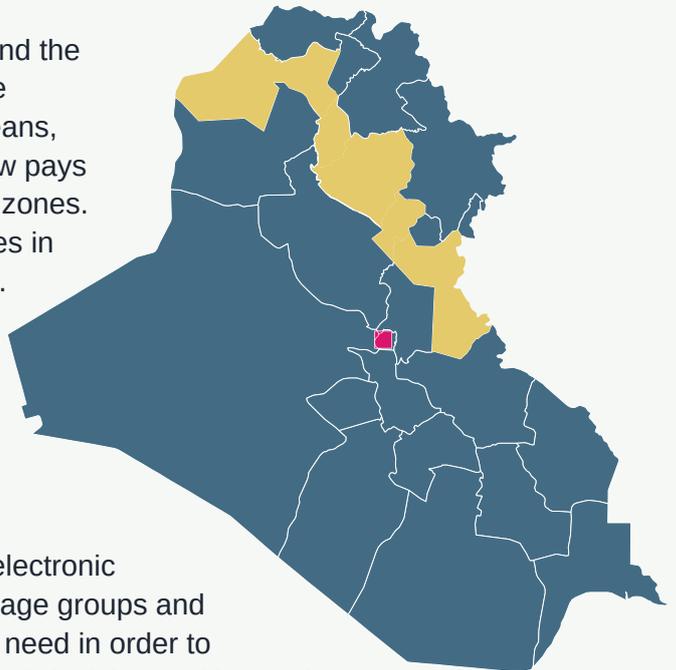
Radio Dangi Nwe is supported by Joliebelle Foundation and private donations.

KirkukNow - Independent News Outlet

KirkukNow is an independent online media foundation dedicated to covering events and issues within the boundaries of the "conflict zone," as well as those related to this area. Its mission is to promote peaceful coexistence and ensure accessible information for the community. Through transparent reporting and inclusive content, KirkukNow aims to foster a better understanding of the socio-economic, cultural and human rights situation within the region.

This region between the Iraqi Federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government is home to a diverse population, including Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, Chaldeans, Assyrians, Sunnis, Shiites, and Christians. KirkukNow pays particular attention to developments in these conflict zones. Due to the diversity of the region, KirkukNow publishes in four languages: Arabic, Kurdish, Turkish and English.

The foundation is committed to influential journalism, public engagement and fact-finding; therefore, during 2025, the platform focused on strengthening journalists' capacities, increasing public participation and addressing social, health and environmental issues. These will be also considered part of the foundation's 2026 strategy, in addition to promoting electronic journalism, launching other platforms for the various age groups and different geographical areas, which are an inevitable need in order to promote public participation in governance and political decision-making and awareness of fundamental rights, in cooperation with local and international partners.



Implemented Projects

Enhancing Capabilities of Media Department Students in Content Producing

The project ran from June 1, 2024, to October 1, 2025, focusing on improving the skills of media students at universities in the Kurdistan Region. It aims to enhance students' content production capabilities and foster coordination between media foundations and educational institutions to provide insights into how media organizations operate.

Key activities include translating subtitles for 25 videos into Kurdish and publishing them on YouTube, as well as translating a journalism booklet into Kurdish. The project hosts two events for students from Jihan University and the Technical College of Salahaddin University, introducing them to the project and distributing the booklets while explaining how to utilize the videos. Approximately 200 students and teachers participated in these events. Additionally, the booklets will be distributed to media channels, syndicates, and organizations.

Implemented in partnership with the France Médias Monde Institute in Baghdad and Erbil, and supported by the French General Consulate in Baghdad, the project's significance lies in familiarizing students with electronic media operations, raising awareness about artificial intelligence (AI) in newsrooms, and establishing connections between media departments and media foundations.



Daily reporting also on various social media channels

Reproductive Health and Rights

The project (February 2025 - July 30, 2025) focuses on introducing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) to journalists and media foundations, aiming to inform communities about their rights to access essential health care and the significance of family planning. It seeks to address the stigma surrounding reproductive health discussions and promotes education on this topic within health institutions. Additionally, it plays a role in monitoring government adherence to the National Strategy for Family Planning and Birth Spacing while raising awareness about how environmental changes can impact reproductive health.

Key activities include training 30 journalists and activists on how to cover SRHR issues, as well as conducting two training courses for organizational teams on organizing related seminars. The project also features five seminars in schools that address topics such as the first menstrual period and the effects of climate change and pollution on reproductive health, attended by 200 students. Additionally, 20 journalists from KirkukNow produced nearly 100 pieces of content on SRHR in various formats across eight northern Iraqi provinces during the project period.

The initiative includes creating and distributing a guide on reporting SRHR issues to media foundations and conducting two desktop reviews on the monitoring and implementation of the National Strategy for Family Planning and Birth Spacing, approved by the Iraqi Federal Government. The project is implemented in partnership with the Dutch RNW organization and funded by Oxfam.

As a result of the initiative, journalists began producing SRHR stories across various formats, including written articles, video reports, and interactive storytelling. This marks a notable shift in their perspectives, with many now recognizing SRHR as vital for public interest reporting rather than as a taboo subject. Such behavioral changes signify a significant advancement in Iraqi

journalism, especially in a region affected by conflict, cultural stereotypes, and misinformation.

Active Citizenship Campaign

KirkukNow plays a pivotal role within the Active Citizenship Network, focusing specifically on journalism and media. Its involvement underscores a commitment to enhancing media practices and fostering responsible journalism in the region.

Online media and radio continue to reshape the media landscape by democratizing the flow of information and encouraging individuals to become active participants and engaged citizens. In Northern Iraq, citizen journalism has emerged as a vital component of the media as the “fourth estate.” Although there is a degree of press freedom, it remains fragile, and citizen journalists play an essential role in offering diverse perspectives, covering underreported issues, and mobilizing public opinion to inspire positive social change.

Women's participation in this sphere is particularly significant, as women are often marginalized or absent from public life. The ability to hear women's voices on the radio and to see them broadcast live through social media has a transformative impact, providing visibility to their experiences and affirming their right to participate fully in public discourse. For many, becoming a woman citizen journalist is a political act—an assertion of women's rights and their rightful place in civic life as citizens, not as a separate interest group. Through their work, these journalists bring local insight and diverse viewpoints into public conversation, enriching understanding and promoting a more inclusive and nuanced narrative around complex social and political issues.

The active citizenship journalism focused in particular on producing and publishing stories that highlight marginalized communities, including youth, women, and minorities. It aimed to raise awareness about underreported issues such as environmental concerns and the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees. To engage young audiences, the project developed multimedia content, including podcasts addressing pressing social issues, as well as videos and infographics tailored for social media outreach.

KirkukNow is supported by Aide Humanitaire & Journalisme (AHJ) and Free Press Unlimited.

Cultural Heritage Preservation

Koya: Preservation of Historical Buildings

The Department of Architectural Engineering at Koya University, in collaboration with Mosul University, the Koya Directorate of Antiquities, and Wadi Organization, hosted a joint workshop on February 25, 2025 titled

"Revitalizing Historic Gypsum Production in Koya: Experiences, Challenges, and Future Vision."



As part of its strategic plan, Koya University is committed to fostering a supportive environment that promotes the development of strong academic and scientific partnerships. The university also prioritizes the organization of workshops and seminars that address pressing societal issues.

The workshop facilitated meaningful dialogue between academic researchers, heritage professionals, and international experts, contributing to the development of actionable strategies for preserving this important aspect of Koya's architectural heritage.

The event was sponsored by the Gerda Henkel Foundation.

Articles and Media Coverage

FGM

Roj News, interview with director of ADWI, Bakhan Jamal, 06-02-2025

Gali Kurdistan, interview with a member of ADWI's Garmyan team, 06-02-2025

Voice of America, Article featuring Bakhan from ADWI and Shokhan from WOLA, 06-02-2025

Ayinde Media, interview with a member of ADWI's Garmyan team, 06-02-2025

BMC TV, interview with a member of ADWI's Garmyan team, 06-02-2025

Dang net, article featuring Layla Ahmed, member of the ADWI Garmyan team, highlighting her 11 years of work in ending FGM, 06-02-2025

Kirkuknow, Podcast featuring Bakhan Jamal, director of ADWI, 06-02-2025



Roundtable conference regarding the Human rights and children's rights violation with focus on FGM in Ranya area, 06-02-2025, reel by ADWI

Radio Dang, Garmyan team member Layla Ahmed joined Rava radio program to talk about the current view on FGM from the community, 06-02-2025

Women's Rights

Roj news, a member of ADWI Garmyan team featuring in an article regarding the Iraqi status law allowing child marriage from age 9, 29-01-2025

Kirkuk Satellite Chanel reporting on the ADWI Garmyan team panel in Kifri Technical College regarding Iraqi personal status law No. 188 and its amendment, 02-12-2025

Aiynda Media reporting on the ADWI Garmyan team panel in Kifri Technical College regarding Iraqi personal status law No. 188 and its amendment, 02-12-2025

PUKMEDIA reporting on the ADWI Garmyan team panel in Kifri Technical College regarding Iraqi personal status law No. 188 and its amendment, 02-12-2025

Human Rights, Democracy, IDPs and Refugees

Within the framework of the Active Citizenship Project, Radio Dang aired an installment about the role of civil society organizations in society, 21-01-2025

Dutch Foreign Ministry chose the #ActiveCitizenship Campaign as one example for a successful program they support in the Middle East. In the "Rapportage Mensenrechten, Democratie en Internationale Rechtsorde 2024", 30-05-2025

KirkukNow: Report about Wadi's conference on the situation of the Yazidis, 05-07-2025

Zum Jahrestag des Völkermords an den Ezid*innen: Erklärung von PRO ASYL und Wadi e.V., 04-08-2025

Demokratischer Salon, "Vom Untertan zum Bürger: Programme und Projekte von Wadi e.V. im Nordirak und benachbarten Ländern", 15-08-2025

Kurdsat News, talk with Wadi Project Coordinator Shokh Muhammad about activities during the "16 Days of Activism against all forms of violence against women and children" and the situation of the Yazidis, 09-12-2025

Rudaw TV: Report about NWE's community radio Dengi Nwe: „Feature - Colorful Hello; Celebrating 20 Years of Independent Service to Halabja“

Drug Use and Drug Dealing in Garmyan

KirkukNow: ADWI panel on drug use and drug dealing in Garmyan area, interview with Bakhan Jamal, 23-12-2025

Kobas: panel on drug use, interview with Bakhan Jamal

Ayinda Media: panel discussion on drug use and drug dealing in Garmyan region interview with Bakhan Jamal

Radio Dang: report on the panel discussion regarding the situation of drug use and drug dealing in Garmyan region, interview with Bakhan Jamal

Garmyan24: post on the panel regarding drug use and drug dealing issue, 23-12-2025

Zoom news: covering the panel discussion on drug issue in Garmyan

Gali Kurdistan: interview with Bakhan Jamal regarding the panel discussion on drug issues

BMC: interview with Bakhan regarding the panel discussion on drug use

Environment

Rudaw TV: Report about our recycling center in Halabja, 25-01-2025

Kirkuknow: "Now I Understand Earth Needs to be Protected" Two Villages to be Greened on Earth Day, article about ADWI activity for international earth day, 24-04-2025

Gali Kurdistan Channel, to celebrate the international earth day ADWI and Kifri

Technical Institute host panel discussion about sustainable agriculture and recycling solutions, 25-04-2025

Kirkuk News: Awareness attempts against using nylon in farming

Ainda: Environmental Seminars for farmers, 22-12-2025

TV report about a seminar for farmers and environmentalists about the impact of plastic materials on the environment and agriculture, provided by ADWI in Kifri, 20-01-2025



Kurdistan TV: about ADWI Garmyan team work with farmers featuring team member Chro

KirkukNow: fb posting on ADWI's environment awareness trainings for children, 24-02-2025

BasNews: Kifri winter festival, interview with the staff of Kifri recycling center, 25-12-2025

BMC: Kifri recycling center participating in a festival, a team member introducing the center and explaining the work

BasNews: interview with team member regarding the centers work, 25-12-2025

BasNews: facebook video

Kobas: interview with a team member, the recycling center participating in a festival, 25-12-2025

Acknowledgements

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For more information, please reach out to us at public@wadi-online.de. You can also refer to our contact details on page 2..