

WADI Suleimaniyah Sub-Office

Report to ROSELO FOUNDATION

2014

Long-term projects to assist women, children and youth in the Iraqi Kurdish Region



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1. SUMMARY

In 2014, all the planned activities relating to the long-term projects to improve the medical and social infrastructure in the rural regions of Kurdish Northern Iraq, which have suffered severely under the long-term impact of poison gas attacks and the so-called “Anfal” campaign, were implemented successfully. After many years of experience with the support of Roselo, WADI-Iraq has become prominent in the villages and areas where its projects and campaigns are being implemented. Generally there is large support for these projects from different sides, from the population as well as authorities and officials. Of course it takes time to establish solid relationships within the targeted village communities. Trust cannot be gained quickly but must be nurtured and developed carefully during a period of time.

Some of the projects that are mentioned in this report are connected to each other, which give ample opportunity for much cooperation and relationships between the different projects; the different WADI teams (e.g. the Mobile Teams and Mobile Playground Teams; the Community Radio, Nwe and the Women’s center) exchange their information regarding specific villages and their needs with each other. At the same time both activities help to build mutual trust and therefore prepare the ground for future projects.

Through this programme we have been successful in building trust and improve the level of coordination among other groups that are active in these areas; this is one of the reasons why most of the organisations that have been approached for partnership involvement, agreed to take part in the setting-up and implementation of a network.

The total number of beneficiaries of the programme: **7,213** people.

There are approximately about **32,000** indirect beneficiaries, which includes families that live in towns and villages, who have been receiving Wadi services, also student families and families whose children benefitted from the play-bus programme and women who visited the cafeteria of the centre.

List of direct beneficiaries:

No	Description of Activity	Total number of direct beneficiaries
1	Mobile Playground and children's health care activities	3432 Children in 86 Towns and Villages
2	Halabja and Byara Women Centre	1.581 Women participated in 49 courses and 10 seminars and 6 literacy classes; also through the Coffee shop and through the lending services of the library.
3	Dangi Nwe Radio	1683 programs have been launched. 607 people dialed to contribute on the live programs, where 416 of them were females and 189 were males.

2. ACTIVITIES

2.1. MOBILE PLAYGROUND AND WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE ACTIVITIES

The Play-Bus working hours are from 8.30 in the morning until two in the afternoon. The two female and one male staff is visiting selected villages four days per week, and is spending one day every week in the office for preparations, evaluations, reporting and other administrative duties.

The bus is equipped with toys, climbing frames, writing and colouring pencils and a children's library, music instruments, drawing tools, games, sports equipment and other materials.

The bus is being sent as a Mobile Playground to poor and remote villages, in which the population suffered from both the chemical attacks and the Anfalisation. The project aims to support the children through playing and learning, and is assisted by a team of



educational supervisors. In none of these villages any facility for children is existing: no playgrounds or anything similar. For almost all children in this region the Play Bus is the only alternation they have in their difficult daily life. Additionally most of these villages don't have any professionals, who have any pedagogical or medical skills.

Activities of the Mobile Playground:



The Play-Bus team offered a mixture of activities, some focusing on entertainment of the children others on education, health or prevention of violence:

These activities included a variety of lectures and awareness programmes for the children and their parents. Often parents are not aware how to prepare healthy food for their children, therefore the teams are confronted with various forms of malnutrition. So in 2013 the teams developed forms of intervention to teach mothers how to prepare a proper diet including vitamins and minerals. Several times a doctor joined the team and assisted in basic health care services. In some cases parents lack the skill to see if their children suffer from diseases or sickness.

The team is raising awareness about:

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

Often the team is also confronted with severe problems within families and various forms of violence. Many poor parents don't have concepts how to educate their children in a positive and non-violent way. The team offers advice to parents and tries to moderate in family conflicts.

Since all villagers suffered from traumatic poison gas attacks in the 1980s, were deported and later resettled, the majority is affected psychologically. Although the children the bus takes care of, were all born after these events they suffer in second generation and it is of crucial importance for their well being to deal with the traumatic experiences of their parents and grandparents. The team, even if they are not skilled psychologists, is trying to tackle with some of these problems.

Approximately **2291** children benefited from the various activities offered in this project.

Mobile Playground Activities

Name of village		Total number of children who participated	Number of visits
1	Shashky khwaro	17	2
2	Sargat	45	4
3	Hasanawa	108	4
4	Ababily	23	2
5	Bamok	43	3
6	Bakrawa	25	2
7	Eimamyzamn	35	3
8	Jalilla	51	3
9	Darashish	37	3
10	Tapysafa	39	2
11	Sheramar	41	3
12	Banyshar	89	4
13	Basharaty khwaro	71	3
14	Prisysarwo	32	2
15	Tapysafa	24	2
16	Gulamy	26	2
17	Dekon	24	2

18	Kagrdal	38	4
19	Anab	30	3
20	Dwanza eimam	58	3
21	Kolknyfaqekaram	19	2
22	Zardahal	29	2
23	Gomalar	21	2
24	Kharkelan	30	2
25	Shashik	24	2
26	Awayrostambag	75	3
27	Tapagolaway	27	2
28	Prisykhwaro	41	3
29	Khakokhol	53	3
30	Gorgachiya	62	3
31	Zamaqykhwaro	152	4
32	Tapakora	42	3
33	Basharatysarow	31	2
34	Grdygo	48	3
35	Tazade	25	2
36	Hanahalaz	35	2
37	Kolknyhamasour	68	3
38	Takiya	51	2
39	Ahmadawa	32	2

40	Narinjla	30	3
41	Lamarkazy	71	3
42	Biyara	38	2
43	Shakrally	104	3
44	Khelyhama	81	3
45	Kolknyfaqexasraw	22	2
46	Dagashexan	23	2
47	Tapysafaykhwaro	26	2
48	Tawela	45	2
49	Sosakan	19	2
50	Balkha	31	2
51	Saraw	33	2
52	Kharpany	26	2
53	Hanasoura	21	2
		2291	135

2.2. THE COMMUNITY RADIO DENG NWE

The free & non-partisan women & youth radio *Denge Nwe* is one of the successful organizations from the Wadi partnership programme which started as a Wadi project and, over a transition period of several years, ended up as a completely independent local organization. This outsourcing concept has proved to be highly effective and sustainable. It is strengthening citizen commitment, encouraging women's participation and fostering local structures.



Sustainability derives especially from the fact that the new organizations become a model for active citizenship and encourage others to follow. Last year some people close to the radio founded "Nwe Organization for protecting environment and women's rights"¹ which is now running its own projects.

Denge Nwe is still a very active and committed radio. It has a special focus on women, youth and health. Just recently, it participated in the AMARC campaign "16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence" with a report on gender-based violence.²



Several activities were held on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of April – the 9th anniversary of Radio Dange Nwe:



- Party in Radio Dange Nwe cafeteria.
- Questionnaire about Radio Dange Nwe.
- Picnic for members and friends of Radio Dange Nwe.
- Planting 9 trees as a symbol of the 9th anniversary of the radio.
- Interview with journalists about program of Radio Dange New.

The radio has many special programmes, for example an interview and discussion with (Omar Hajy Anayat) an MP from the Kurdistan Region's Change Movement (Gorran), about more than four months after legislative elections, delay making the Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) new cabinet still.

¹ <http://new-breath.info/>

² <http://www2.amarc.org/?q=16days2013>

On 6th of March 2014 the radio had a special program, an interview and discussion with Runak Faraj, independent businesswoman, about financial project for women in our society and economy.

Together with the local Wadi women's center they form an effective local network. For example for the summer break, Nwe Organization, Women's Center, and Radio Dange Nwe cooperated to offer different activities: English classes for children, sewing and handicraft course, and there is also a cafeteria where people can meet, see their friends, drink tea, coffee, and listen to the radio program.

In August the radio offered a course for journalists of Halabja, under the title "Journalists treat with terrorist groups and war on reporters", by Aheer Saady, journalist and deputy of the leading journalists' syndicate of Egypt.

The radio is linked to different NGO networks on the national and international level. For example, on 27th of March 2014 two members of the radio Dange New and New Organization, Rangen Salam and Sakar Salam, participated in a meeting about creating the network among the journalists working for different organizations and protecting the members of this network. The meeting was managed by DHRD and IMS.



Journalist training course

The radio also participated in the Audio campaign on Nutrition, Food and Agriculture³ with a programme to encourage the domestic agricultural production in the region and also provide guidance to farmers and peasants. The programme was edited by Qayssar R. Ahmed and presented by Rangeen Salam Mahmmud. Guest in the studio was Shaima Hassan, an agricultural engineer at the Directorate Agricultural of Halabja.

In April the radio team established a new website called "New Breath", <http://www.new-breath.info/>

'New Breath' is designed to provide better media service. In this way the radio celebrated the Kurdish Media Day. Listeners of the radio are encouraged to support the radio team in providing the best service by constructive criticism and suggestions.

³ <http://www2.amarc.org/?q=node%2F1955>

Radio Denge Nwe is offering its building for various kinds of seminars concerning women, health, rights, environment protection, etc. For example on 19th of April 2014 the radio hosted a seminar titled "Water pollution and its impact" held by Awaz Sherif. Seminar was managed by NWE organisation for protecting womens' rights and environment and Arami Halabja for protecting humans and environment. On 01 February, the (Aramy Halabja) Organization for protecting human and environment, with the support of the (New) Organization for protecting environment and women rights, has seminar under the title: "Yoga, health of body and patience of psyche" in the Radio, Dangi Nwe hall.



Water pollution and its impact on health, seminar held in Radio Denge Nwe



On 03th of July 2014 the radio had a special program, an interview with Arkan Hasan Xafur, the mayor of Halabja province, about new projects and services for Halabja, and he answered some citizen's questions.



On the 14th of Oct 2014 the radio was awarded for its commitment by the governor of Halabja province

Together with Nwe organization and the women's center, radio Denge Nwe offered a number of activities during the summer holidays.



On the 10th of Sep 2014, Nwe Organization, Women's Center, and Radio Denge Nwe hold now some activities: sweet make course, sewing and handicraft course, there is also a cafeteria where people can meet, see their friends, drink tea, coffee, and listen to the radio program.



In 2014 , the Radio received 200 m² land as community participation from Halabja Municipality and they started constructing their own building. This is an important indicator of sustainability for this project.

Daily programs

- Live program at 9:00 am
- Local and international news/ eight times in a day.
- Daily “HanasayNwe” program, which is a live program about the daily issues of people. It emphasizes on the woes of the society.
- Daily reading of novels.
- Daily reading about women and youth topics.
- Daily awareness about health, human rights, women rights, children rights, environment, electricity, water, transportation, and FGM.
- Daily reading about public and governmental consciousness.



Weekly programs

-Specific “Taibat” program: is a live program about various topics in the society, where they interview liable people. Sometimes the program broadcast three to four times. 132 programs have been broadcasted until now.

- Sport Nwe program: is covering the local and international sport news. 77 programs have been broadcasted.
- Weekly dissemination: is mainly for reading newspapers. 47 programs had been broadcasted.
- NweRunakbery: is a program about Kurdish attesters and actors’ latest news and their video clips and movie releases. 46 programs have been out.
- Having 7 programs about the 16 days of anti violence against women in 25th of November.
- Health awareness: a live program that interviews doctors and health experts. 28 programs have been broadcasted.
- Audioshtakan: reading Mariwan Warya Qaniaa. 43 programs have been broadcasted.
- “Zhorek la Awena” a room of mirrors: reading Bakhtyar Ali’s work. 39 times have been broadcasted.
- Reading Rebin Hardy and Aras Fatah’s works. 31 topics of them have been released.
- Hawarylshk: a cultural program about Hawraman. 27 programs have been broadcasted.
- Nwe science: a high-tech program about the latest technologies in the market.
- “Sima Parezgay Nwe” is a two weeks once program about the latest posts in Halbja’s province.
- Daily general information about science, economic, and health passes between time to time during the day.



Other activities inside the radio

- 16.12.2014 interviewing FazilBsharaty, who is in charge of the 12th branch of KDP. The talk was about the distribution of Halabja's posts.
- 11.12.2014, interviewing Soran Hasan, who is in charge of Halabja's democratic socialist party in Kurdistan. The talk was about the distribution of Halabja's posts.
- 7.12.2014, interviewing Nwkhsha Nasih, who is the directorate of Byara district. The talk was about the reasons of having less violence again women in Hawraman borders.
- 4.12.2014, interviewing Mariwan Wahby, the head of disabled people's organization of Halabja, the discussion was about disabled people's needs in their international day.
- 25.11.2014, a series of programs about 25th of November, the international day of the elimination of violence against women.
- 28.11.2014, distributing two programs about the international day of the elimination of violence against women at Amark's official website.
- 30.11.2014, interviewing Saaid Saed Qader, general directorate of Sharazwr's electricity, the talk was about the agenda of distributing electricity and people's impugning to the matter.
- 6.11.2014, distributing two programs of Dangenwe's radio at Amark's official website on agriculture.
- 17.9.2014, interviewing Aram Jamal, member at non-governmental federation's committee, to talk about Halabja as a province and the role of the organizations.
- 3.7.2014, interviewing Arkan Hasan Jamal, who is Halabja's mayor, to talk about the recent projects, the shortages, and people's requirements.
- 30.6.2014, at Hanasaynwe's program, interviewing Gwlstan Ahmad, who is in charge of human rights center of Sharazur. The discussion was about the obscures of the refugees that heading to Halabja and the neighbor distracts with having a shortage of provided camps.
- 12.6.2014, interviewing Kwestan Akram, municipality's vice president, to discuss the obstacles that the municipality face and the increase of having override houses.
- 29.5.2014, in a special and live program, interviewing Nawzad Haji Baba, directorate of water department of Halabja. The talk was about Sirwan's water project and the reasons of the reduction of water in summer times. Meantime, the program provided some advices for how important it's to save water.
- 19.3.2014, in a special and live program, interviewing Saman Karim, directorate of Halabja's tourism, and Sarwat Mohammed, a member of Halabja's supervision committee. The talk was about Nawroz ceremonies and the new steps and Halbja became a province.
- 15.3.2014 launching a specific and live program about the 26th anniversary of the chemical attack of Halabja with interviewing Shaho Hama Faraj, who is accountable on the 26th anniversary.
- 23.2.2014 interviewing Omar Haji Aanayat, who is a member in the parliament. The interview was about the late forming of the government and its causes.
- 5.2.2014, interviewing Star Khafur, who is in charge of the higher independent election commission. The talk was about how to get an electronic card.
- 4.2.2014, having a program in the international day of cancer with interviewing Twana Mohammed, who is the directorate of Halabja's emergency hospital.

- 4.2.2014, interviewing QasmHawramy, who is a young singer. The talk was about his latest work and album.
- 1.2.2014, intervening BakhanHusin, who is the head of the youth center of Halabja. The talk was about their activities of the previous year.
- 26.12.2014, intervening Luqmanabdu-Alqadir, who is in charge of the victims of Halabja's chemical attack. The talk was about documenting all the victims and finding solutions for those who could not finish education because of the brutal massacre.
- 16.1.2014, interviewing Barzan Osman Mohammed, who is in charge of Byara's police station. The discussion was about the activities of Byara's police directors and the data of last year's accidents.
- 1.1.2014, intervening RenasAli, the talk was about the posts of Halabja's province. The talk was about the new efforts for Halabja's province.

Activities outside the radio:

- 19.12.2014, two members of Nwe radio have participated in a project of DHRD about violence against women. The conference was at ChwarChra hotel.
- 14.10.2014, receiving honor prize from Halabja's mayor for all the effort the radio accomplished as an independent radio station.
- 27,28,29.9.2014, two members of the radio attended a training session from WADI organization and KIE organization. The training was about TOT, democracy, and the 1325 decision of the United Nations. The training was at hotel Mam w Zen in Sulaimniah.
- 28.8.2014, opening a training session for Halabja's journalists from Aabir Said, who is a journalist and Egypt newspaper's vice president.
- 22.4.2014, DangeNwe's radio and Nwe organization created a website under the name New Breath.
- 7.4.2014, launching the first festival for natural and organic food from Nwe organization and Aram organization, which was at Nwe organization's cafeteria. The festival was under the name "for a healthier life choose natural and organic food".

Number of programs and number of people dialing in:

- **1683** programs have been launched.
- **607** people dialed to contribute on the live programs, where 416 of them were females and 189 were males.

2.3. HALABJA WOMEN'S CENTER

Halabja Women's Center is still extremely popular among local women. The center is offering a whole range of interesting activities which draw a lot of participants.

In 2014 again a remarkable number of women participated in different courses and appreciated to be given the chance to learn new skills. Each course continued for one month with in between several lectures and seminars by professionals about different topics concerning women's and human rights.

During the last year **1581** women benefitted from the various courses and seminars which were offered in the Halabja and Byara Women Centres and around **920** women visited the cafeteria of the centre.



Halabja Women's Center appeared in many major media channels of the Iraqi Kurdish Region

All the women who participated in the courses also participated in the seminars. In the Halabja Women Centre, women have a place to meet, learn about their basic rights, improve their skills or just enjoy themselves and friendships. The centre is run by locally recruited female social workers and is regularly visited by WADI's Mobile Teams. Victims of domestic violence get socio-psychological assistance and are supervised. The Halabja Women Centre offers an extended programme of literacy courses, vocational training, health care and other awareness courses. Women can borrow books, newspapers and magazines from the library. Social events such as parties or picnics are regularly organised by the women.

Some women come to the centre in order to meet other women, cook together and discuss their problems or issues of daily life. The Mobile Team spreads awareness about FGM and discusses this dangerous practice with women and girls.



Big Exhibition in Halabja Women Center in 2014 which was covered by 7 Media Channels



Hand Craft product of Halabja women center 2014

This year the center celebrated its 10th birthday:



July 3: Healthcare seminar



Activities for children



On the 2th of Sep 2014 Halabja Women Center started the new course for women on how to make sweets.

All women in the centre were (and are) directly or indirectly affected by the chemical attacks of 1988. Many were refugees in Iran; others continue to suffer from medical problems. It is also on these issues that specific information and help is provided by WADI Mobile Teams.

In cooperation with the local NGO Nwe the Women's Center offered English courses to Halabjan youth.



On 31th of Aug 2014 in the small party of Radio Dange New hall, after three months intensive English course for Halabja kids, today they received certificate by Halabja women's center.

Courses and daily activities in Halabja and Byara

NO	Activity Description	Number of courses	Total beneficiaries
1.	Handcraft course	4	109
2.	Computer course	4	85
3.	Sewing	10	189
4.	Hair dressing course	3	65
5.	First aid courses	2	50
6.	Health Care courses	4	160
7.	Courses about hygiene and child care	4	161
8.	Literacy course	6 classes for 6 months	86
9.	English course	3	108
10.	Seminars about women rights and workshops	10	469
12.	Internet Courses	3	45

13.	Fitness classes	2	54
		Total	1 581

2.4. EMERGENCY AID FOR YAZIDI IDP'S

After the Northern Iraq offense by IS (Islamic State) against the Iraqi government, hundreds of thousands Iraqi Kurds and other minorities fled their areas under attack to find a safe haven somewhere else in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRG). The largest group moved into Dohuk governorate. They are currently residing in organised UN camps, or stay with relatives/rent an apartment. However, there is a huge group who don't have these opportunities yet, and who stay in open fields, collective shelters or in unfinished buildings. This group is much more vulnerable because they are less visible and are not embedded in a network, and have therefore less access to assistance. The winter is starting very soon and the IDPs in these type of settlement are not protected from the cold and wind.



104 Yazidi IDP families in Dohuk governorate live in several big unfinished buildings without walls, windows and doors, situated about 15 km west of Duhok, 2 km south of Samil and Mansuria, near the road to Qasr e Yazdin. The IDPs are therefore not protected from wind and cold and have limited sanitation facilities.



Wadi is visiting these families regularly, assisting them with winterization NFIs (mattresses, blankets), cooking items and food packages, makeshift insulation of the shelters and fall protections for the staircases.

Individual needs of these families are addressed with focus on the children and health.

3. SUCCESS AND PROBLEMS

In disputed areas and areas close to the ISIS frontline, the playbus team was confronted with feelings of insecurity and a widespread imminent fear of being overrun. Many women lacked concentration, and occasionally the women complained that this topic does not have priority for them now. Especially in the months of July – October Wadi's activities were affected negatively, and the teams had to expand the focus of their work.

This conflict with all its implications is a challenge for our mission. Even though most people are not directly affected by the hostilities, in situations like these some people tend to emphasize tradition and deny the priority of children and women's rights issues. They say we have got bigger problems now, and it is not the time. In situations of imminent threat people do not like to question themselves and their cultural habits because it makes them feel weak and vulnerable.

The teams' argument is that our children and also women's rights makes us stronger. It is a big advantage we have especially over this particular enemy. They only show contempt for women – we honor them and strive for their rights. This is our identity, we are proud of it and we will defend it.

It has to be emphasized that despite this exceptional situation all the staff kept on with their daily work and continued with almost all their scheduled tasks.

4. PERSPECTIVES

Wadi's women's center and the play bus team provide a unique service to those suffering from the late effects of the poison gas attacks, and to women in general who are the weakest in society and at the same time crucial stakeholders when it comes to nutrition, health and hygiene issues.

All parts of Wadi's service are still very much needed. Wadi's approach is based on long-term engagement and sustainability through trust, confidence and reliability. Therefore, Wadi is determined to continue its work in the affected areas and expand the existing local NGO network step by step.

Local authorities will be involved as much as possible, especially for the radio this is an important point to increase relevance and impact of the program. Thanks to the good relations to the community administration, the radio received some land as a community participation from Halabja Municipality and they were able to start constructing their own building. Wadi's projects help many people here and now, and they are an investment to the future.

The logo for Wadi, featuring the word "wadi" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. A thick, black, horizontal brushstroke underline is positioned beneath the letters "di".

For any further information please refer to wadisul@yahoo.com