

Annual Report 2020



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Cover illustration: Northern Iraq - Garmyan, public health center, October 4, staff applying floor stickers, distributing info leaflets

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1. INTRODUCTION

It goes without saying that all of WADI's projects have been deeply affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic which also in Iraq has cost thousands of lives and created immense economic and social damage. WADI's strength is in the longterm face-to-face communication with people, an approach that would have been deeply irresponsible at the onset of the pandemic and at some times was not legally possible due to the strict lockdown.

However, we noticed from the beginning that people doubted the existence or the danger of the virus. A large portion of the population depends on government salaries and even before the pandemic, the government had been in financial difficulties and salaries had not been paid for months, people have a profound mistrust of the government. Calls by the authorities to keep distance, wear masks and follow the hygiene rules were willfully ignored because there was a widespread belief that the government was 'making this up' to oppress the people and prevent protest.

Many of WADI's previous activities had come to a halt. During the lockdown from mid-March to end of April, the staff received reduced salary. One of the few things they were able to do was produce short Corona awareness videos from home. They also did some Arabic translations of awareness materials for Arabic-speaking refugees in Greece. At that time, Wadi's main focus was on Moria refugee camp on the island of Lesbos. There, Wadi together with its local partner "Stand by me Lesvos" developed best practice on how to support refugees in camps during the Corona crisis. Wadi helped and counseled several refugee self-help groups, among them the "Moria White Helmets" and the "Moria Corona Awareness Teams".

During that time, it became more and more apparent that the crisis would not be over soon. Hence, our Kurdish staff figured out new strategies on how to become active as soon as the strict lockdown would be over. They developed a new campaign with new forms of activity, focusing mainly on raising awareness about the virus, countering fake news and calling on everybody's personal responsibility to protect their fellow citizens, without mentioning any reference to the government. The idea was to support a stronger sense of community solidarity and self-protection. This has been quite a unique approach in the region, but for us, under the given circum-

stances, it appeared to be just the right way to continue our "No to violence" and "Citizenship, Participation and Peaceful Coexistence" programmes. Even the "Green City Halabja" campaign fitted neatly in, since it is much about personal responsibility towards the community as well.

Thanks to core funding and many private donations, Wadi was able to respond swiftly to this challenge and do what is necessary.

Citizen to Citizen Corona Campaign

Activities in **108** places in Erbil, Garman and Ranya regions

14,295 face masks distributed

4,000 posters, **10,000** flyers distributed, **1,800** floor stickers applied

73 awareness seminars with a total of **610** participants

21 online counselings

26 video clips produced

Combating and Living with FGM

52 trainings with **356** participants

Keep Kurdistan Green

Preparatory meetings at **9** schools with **38** directors and staff

12 seminars with **78** participants (**20** students, **58** parents)

Direct beneficiaries Mobile Playgrounds

770

2. ACTIVITIES

2.1. CORONAVIRUS AWARENESS ACTIVITIES - NO TO VIOLENCE! CAMPAIGN

Like under a burning glass, one could often hear, Corona reinforces already existing grievances and inequalities. This is certainly true in Kurdish northern Iraq and the Moria camp on Lesbos - places where Wadi has (co-)organized and run education and prevention programs.

Kurdistan

In February, even before the first lockdown, our staff in Kurdistan thought about possible ways to reach out to the public to inform them about the dangers of the virus. People also lacked information about hygiene and protection measures, as official pronouncements were largely limited to generalities, and state information is widely distrusted anyway.

The precarious relationship with the state had contributed to the fact that ordered measures were hardly followed, and in the summer street pressure had become so powerful that the government did not dare to order a second lockdown, although the numbers would have required it.



Hajiawa: Distribution of awareness materials



Ranya health center, distribution of masks



(لەڕێ ئارام) تەمەن ٤ سال ڕێ نەمايە تەندروستیەکان ...

In April and May, when nothing else was possible, Wadi staff produced small awareness clips and put them online

People's anger is comprehensible: the country is in a deep economic crisis. Even before the pandemic, government employees were paid only irregularly, and other employees were not compensated for loss of earnings during the lockdown. Thus, the measures were not supported and the virus was ignored as much as possible. Wadi was quite alone in trying to explain to people that the virus was real, and that it was in everyone's interest to do everything possible to contain its spread.

With that in mind - and expanding on the *No To Violence* campaign that has been running for years - Wadi began the "4C" campaign in August 2020: *Citizen for Citizen Corona Campaign*. The name sends a message: this is not about our relationship

with the state, but about self-organization as empowered citizens. It is a call for people to take responsibility as members of the community and to stick to some simple rules of behavior such as keeping distance, wearing masks and washing hands. The staff first went to places where many people gathered - bazaars, stores, bus stations, health clinics and refugee camps. There they put up posters, distributed information leaflets and face masks. At that time, people did not yet take the situation seriously. Many reacted with astonishment or ridicule. Some suspected a political intrigue. But the Wadi employees were not deterred and patiently explained their concerns again and again.



Distribution of awareness materials, Rzgary General hospital, Garmyan

Soon they were giving the first seminars for women. They took place in an exemplary manner: in a small group and with lots of distance. During these seminars an enormous lack of information became apparent, sometimes combined with conspiracy narratives and false news. In addition to Corona, they also spoke about domestic violence, mental health problems and depression, which had continued to rise in connection with the pandemic.

The crisis worsened; soon everyone knew someone who was affected. Word had spread that Wadi offered reliable Corona information in addition to psychosocial support for women. So the teams were increasingly asked to give seminars in more places.

Staff members continued to go to central public places that posed an increased risk of infection. They put up posters, placed floor stickers in the checkout areas of stores and at government counters, and distributed reusable reusable cotton masks handmade by internally displaced women in one of our partner projects in Halabja. Through flyers, social media and local community radio, they repeatedly urged people to protect themselves and others - emphasizing that they are a citizen voice. Because that's the only way to convincingly appeal to individual responsibility.



Seminar for firefighters in Halabja Province



Erbil, Family health center, application of floor stickers

Lesbos

It was clear that it would only be a matter of time before the pandemic also reached the overcrowded Moria refugee camp and the surrounding tent settlements. It was feared that there would be many fatalities among the people, who were already weakened by the disastrous living conditions in the tents. There was no information or education about the virus, neither from the government nor from the numerous NGOs.

Wadi has already been supporting the local aid organization *Stand by me Lesbos (SBML)* since 2019, which, among other things, organized provisional school lessons for the children in the camp. Together with refugee committees, we decided in February 2020 to address these two main issues: 1) lack of reliable information and 2) lack of hygiene infrastructure such as toilets, washing facilities and showers. In addition, there was the increasingly pressing garbage problem, as literally nothing was functioning properly in this camp, despite the more than 70 international aid organizations and countless volunteers active in the camp. The refugees demanded to be involved in decision-making and practical work. They stressed that they could very well help themselves with just a little outside support.

As a result, some committed refugees formed the *Moria Corona Awareness Teams (MCAT)*, a Wadi-supported group dedicated to education and prevention and focused on self-help. They put up multilingual posters and used megaphones and Facebook to call on people to keep their distance and hygiene as best they could. However, the required measures were almost impossible to comply with under the prevailing conditions. Therefore, *MCAT* set up temporary hand-washing stations and distributed soap and disinfectant.

The entire area was cleared of garbage in an enormous joint effort, central garbage dumps were set up and the removal to the dump was organized. Supported by *Diakonie* and *Kindernothilfe*, an exchange system for disposable water bottles was set up. The huge number of empty bottles had previously contributed significantly to the garbage problem. Now the rule was: whoever brought 10 empty bottles got a chilled full one. The system was extremely well received. The bottles were recycled, the camp remained clean and people received additional water - which was urgently needed, especially in the summer months.

To address the information deficit and curb the spread of fake news, Wadi began working with doctors and other organizations to run the *Refugee Corona Information Resource*, a Facebook info page in English, Arabic, Persian and French. Here, people could find verified information and practical tips to best protect themselves and others.

Then events came thick and fast. In early September, there was the first Corona case in the camp. A week later, the entire camp burned down. *SBML*'s school also fell victim to the flames. In October, people gradually moved into the new *Kara Tepe* camp. Here again, practically everything one would expect in a reasonably organized refugee camp was lacking.

The recycling project and Corona education continued with the help of *SBML* and *MCAT*. In addition, donations continued to be distributed by the pallet: Clothing donations, food donations, tents, sleeping bags. The refugee teams worked tirelessly, with organizational support from *SBML*.

2.2. COMBATING AND LIVING WITH FGM

This 2-year project started in December. It was set up to target 300 villages with continuing high rates of FGM (Erbil, Ranya, Garmiyan) through women led mobile teams.

The teams work with local communities through dialogue, education, and engagement. The goal is to lower/end the practice of FGM. The project includes a second part which is about working with women (and men) living with FGM. A specialized psychologist will train local social workers, health workers, local actors and multipliers on dealing with the physical/emotional effects of FGM on women's health and wellbeing.

Media, radio, TV, social media and leaflets are used to increase the visibility of FGM, push the debate and encourage social change.

The first goal of this project for year one, was to continue the long-term approach of Wadi's 'Stop FGM Kurdistan' campaign by expanding into areas that continue to see high rates of FGM being practiced. The second goal was to launch the new Pilot project working with women (and men) living with FGM by working with a specialized psychologist to train local social workers, health workers, local actors and Multipliers on dealing with the physical/emotional effects of FGM on women's health and wellbeing. This project was only designed to be used in places that have collectively ended the practice of FGM, also known as Wadi's 'FGM Free Villages'. Finally the third goal was to continue using media both traditional(Radio, TV) and social (Facebook) and in person (pamphlets), to increase visibility of FGM, push debate and encourage social change. While these were the clear goals that the Wadi teams had laid out at the start of 2020, the Coronavirus pandemic changed much of that when Iraq went into full lockdown in the third week of February 2020. However while this affected much of the in person seminars, as much of the project that could be continued through online or computer based means was, and by mid April many activities resumed. By August 2020, the seminars were able to start again but only by strictly following Covid-19 safety protocols, limiting numbers of participants, holding seminars outside, wearing masks and respecting social distance. This was certainly a very challenging year, but even with these challenges our teams worked very hard to continue fighting FGM and carry out the planned activities as much as possible.

Combating FGM:

Although the rates of FGM in Iraqi Kurdistan have been significantly decreasing, as reported by Heartland Alliance in-depth research in 2017 there remain enclaves

where the practice continues. Wadi focused on working with the communities where people remain unconvinced of the harm caused by genital mutilation. Simply informing people that FGM is bad and against law due to the 2011 Act of Combating Domestic Violence (commonly known as Law No 8) has not been found to be an effective way to stop the practice. Wadi's dedicated STOP FGM Mobile Teams staffed with women social workers visited villages in the areas of Erbil and Ranya where FGM is taking place, they engaged at length with the communities by showing documentaries, providing information and most importantly talking with women (and men) about the effects that FGM has had on their lives.

The plan was to hold 12 seminars per month, and rotate through the villages so they are all seen regularly over the course of the first year. After the initial Covid-19 shutdown that plan was revised to include 8 seminars per month, this was a more realistic goal given the current restrictions and was a way to allow proper implementation of Covid safety precautions.

The subjects that the teams talked about were: physical, psychological and social harms of FGM, the articles of the law no.8 of combating domestic violence and the law no.2 of personal status law focusing on marriage contract, legal age for marriage, child custody, early marriage, arranged and forced marriage, exchange marriage, the negative effects of domestic violence, suicide attempts, strengthening family relation, peaceful conflict resolution, and ending gender discrimination. All of these gender based violences are intricately related to the continued culture of violence against women, of which FGM is one symptom. Our approach continues to be a holistic one, in order to push for real fundamental societal change.

The seminars held at the beginning of the project also included surveys to find out the baseline knowledge, attitudes and opinions of participants, these surveys are also conducted at the end of the project to measure the impact of the seminars, and find ways of improving. At the start of the year the participants surveyed mostly supported the practice of FGM with most stating tradition and religion (Islam) as their motivation. This was an expected outcome as these areas were specifically chosen, because they continue to practice FGM.

Living with FGM

The plan for this pilot project was to have an initial training for Wadi staff and team members by a specialist, then to begin the project with participants, collect data, and parallelly to continue training Wadi staff and team members as well as activists and any other interested actors. Wadi anticipated some 'on the project' tweaks and changes to this plan as it is a completely new concept, however what we could not anticipate was the global pandemic, and the accompanying travel restrictions, which made in person training impossible. The project kicked off January 30th 2020, with an online meeting where the project was presented to all Wadi Teams and the first introductory training began. This was a chance for our teams to familiarize themselves with the new project, ask questions, share their experiences, and immerse

themselves in new approaches and techniques as presented by specialist Dr. Osman Mahohmoudi.



In the third week of February 2020 Wadi teams stopped all field work due to the nationwide lockdown. Teams paused to reorganize and make a plan on how to continue projects through online means if possible, access to the internet can be unreliable and not always a realistic option in many areas of Kurdistan. In May 2020 the project continued and two questionnaires were sent to the teams, one to be filled by victims of FGM and the other one to be filled by professionals working in the field. The questionnaires were designed to assess girls', women's, and their husbands' needs "living with FGM assessment needs" from specialist point of view while the second set was meant to be filled from victims point of view. Some of the questionnaires were filled out online and some were brought to villages and filled out by participants with assistance by the teams. 300 questionnaires were completed.

June 2020, the new schedule was launched with a plan for the teams to receive 20 recorded video classes from June through December, each class was 2 hours long. The video classes were the replacement for the training that was planned, but could not be done in person because of Covid-19.

The team's assessment came from watching and learning through the educational videos that Dr. Osman provided online in. The teams described learning new techniques on how to deal with the victims of FGM, evaluation of their mental state and how to detect and solve the emotional/mental distress in relation to FGM and said that this was a really insightful and important training for them "we used not know what is a solution for those mutilated".

The teams also learned tool to address depression for women who are living with FGM, as well women who are currently pregnant and living with FGM, to detect if the depression is caused by being cut or the pregnancy and its effect after birth to see if it develops to postpartum depression.

Through the online training the teams also gained new insights and techniques on how to conduct frequent checkups and asking how the victims feel, their sleeping conditions, and eating habits and how to spot cases where possibilities of self-harm could be high.

Lessons learned and best practices going forward:

- How to best evaluate those who need mental health support through specific sets of questions.
- Confidence from training empowering team members to better help guide victims to appropriate help and intervention from the team or another specialist.
- Tools learned to do properly and professionally provide primary and emergency psychological support for anxiety.
- Tools for recognizing and supporting women with symptoms of stress, depression and anxiety and specifically how to spot and talk about with older women.
- Deeper knowledge of the effects of FGM helps allowed teams to expand their ability to address FGM in details with the victims to help work towards overcoming the issues.

The project is supported by the Netherlands' Consulate General in Erbil.

2.3. ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION - KEEP KURDISTAN GREEN



"Keep Kurdistan Green" - a two-year Wadi project supported by BMZ promotes environmental education in schools in Kurdish northern Iraq. Wadi has already been promoting environmental protection and environmental education for some time, for example the Green City Halabja campaign or tree planting campaigns with the participation of the local population.

In this project, children are specifically introduced to various environmental issues. It is also discussed whether local people can possibly contribute to solving or defusing the problem by changing their behavior. Small school projects are designed to stimulate interest and highlight opportunities for action. The formation of environmental groups at schools is encouraged; the appointment of environmental officers among the teaching staff is also planned. The focus is on community-based, self-organized action.



The project is taking place at 34 selected schools in the Kurdish region. Specially trained environmental teams from the local organizations NWE and ADWI visit these schools again and again in order to build up a relationship of trust with the students and the teachers and parents, and thus ultimately to ensure a lasting commitment

on the part of all those involved. Continuity and reliability have proven time and again to be key to the success and sustainability of Wadi projects.

The project will have an impact beyond the immediate circle of participants through social media and press coverage. It is a message of individual responsibility and collective action that is being conveyed: Each individual bears responsibility. Conscious behavior in everyday life helps to improve nature and our immediate environment. And if we organize ourselves, we can multiply our forces and achieve amazing things.

It's an everyday life that hardly anyone in the richer parts of the world can imagine. In Iraqi cities, electricity for households is generated for hours every day by so-called neighborhood generators - large noisy marine diesels that blow their clouds of black exhaust directly into neighborhoods and the lungs of residents*. Household



First preparatory meeting



Seminar for students, Aran Center, Rizgari

and commercial waste is collected indiscriminately and ends up in the incinerator or landfill, where piles of garbage smolder in the open air. Depending on the wind direction, the toxic smoke then also passes through inhabited areas.

Cities resemble concrete deserts; in the summer heat, they become baking ovens. Roaring generators power thousands of air conditioners, without which there would be no survival here.

Not that Western industrialized countries are doing enough to protect the environment. But virtually all the environmental protection measures that have been gradually introduced and developed here over the last 50 years are still non-existent in countries like Iraq. There is no waste separation, no measures for waste avoidance or energy saving, no exhaust gas purification, no regenerative energies and no approaches to organic farming. Measures for renaturation, for the protection of species or for the development of "soft" tourism will also be looked for in vain.

For a long time, there was hardly any awareness of the problem among the population. Much was accepted without questioning it. But this is changing among young people. They come into contact with current global debates via the Internet and

would like to learn more and be part of it themselves. The desire for change is growing - the desire to contribute locally to a healthier and more livable environment.

Of course, there is no tradition of civic engagement in Iraq. On the contrary, impulses could only come from above, in the form of orders and decrees. Any association was suspect. Today, this is no longer the case to the same extent, and yet the existing delicate "grassroots" approaches deserve our full support.

2.4. MOBILE PLAYGROUNDS

This year, the playgrounds have only been active until the lockdown in mid-March. They offered their services at remote schools and kindergartens in the Garmyan and Ranya regions.



Feb. 18: Garmyan, Duanza village, Kurdish and Arab children

The busses are 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 Garman and the isolated places in the mountains of Ranya. Villages with high percentage of refugee/IDP populations are also visited often.

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 Play Bus 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.

Activities of the Mobile Playground

The Play Bus teams offer a combination of activities. Some of them are focusing on play and fun entertainment for the children, while others emphasize education, health or the prevention of domestic violence.

These 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 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 been exposed to 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. In 2020, the Mobile Playgrounds have visited 33 villages, some of them multiple times. Approximately 770 children benefited.



This project is supported by the German Consulate in Erbil, Roselo Foundation and Wadi private donations.

2.5. PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR REFUGEES AND IDPs



WADI, in partnership with the local organizations Jinda and Qubahan, continued implementing the project “Access to inclusive quality primary and secondary education for Syrian Refugees in KRI” for the 3rd year in row under UNESCO supervision and EU funding.

The COVID-19 lockdown included closing the schools and education system. Wadi decided to develop a plan to continue supporting Syrian Refugees in KRI. Therefore, the education team developed Facebook pages and groups for 15 primary and secondary schools located in the camp. All students were linked to their schools’ pages. In addition, the project team created an online group for *Parents and Teachers Association* members (PTA) to link them all in one place and give them a chance to discuss their children's problems and work to find solutions. Since January 2020, Wadi completed the following activities:

- Re-enrolled 79 dropped out students.
- Hiring 116 teachers to deliver online catch-up classes through Facebook and Zoom App. In conclusion, 1604 students participated in these online catch classes.
- Monthly providing sanitization and cleaning materials
- Distributing gloves and masks to teachers and students during their attendance to schools.
- Providing daily transportation support to 334 students.
- Providing stationery kits for 2210 secondary schools students.
- Providing psychosocial support (PSS) to 2350 students.
- Expanding and providing furniture for **six** secondary schools.
- Distributing teacher/classrooms kits for 777 teachers.
- Hiring and providing incentives for 180 secondary schools teachers

- Hiring and providing incentives for 16 guards/ service workers who are working in the secondary schools.
- Conducting Teachers online training for 410 teachers.
- Observe and mentoring teachers.
- Conducting online workshops for 27 of Parents and Teachers Association members (PTAs).
- Conducting Safely Back to School campaign.



The project is supported by UNESCO, funded by EU and Wadi private donations.

3. LOCAL PARTNERS, SUPPORTED BY WADI

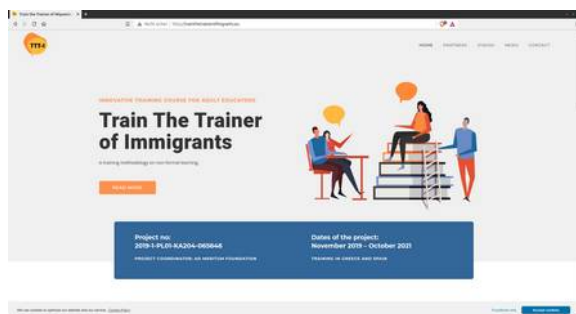
3.1. SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES IN LESBOS/GREECE

In 2020, Wadi helped implementing Erasmus programs to develop new tools for effective volunteer management in refugee crisis situations.

Since we witnessed many examples of poor management concerning refugees on the Greek islands, we were eager to share our observations on the ground and develop guidelines for better services and more effective handling of shelter, accommodation and supply issues. The first program is titled *Volunteering for Refugees: best practices for ethical volunteering programs and management*. Other partners were Stand by me Lesbos (SBML), Northern Lights Aid and Indigo Volunteers. A handbook and toolbox for innovating refugees management with self-organised refugee teams has been jointly developed and presented.



June 19: Toolkit online video meeting with all partners



Train the Trainers of Immigrants (<http://trainthetrainerofmigrants.eu>) is the second program. This project aims to develop and implement a training methodology on non-formal learning of languages for immigrants. It was implemented together with various partners from Greece, Poland and Spain. Together we are about to set up a range of tools for refugee trainers. Special focus for

the trainers is on possible traumatic experiences of the trainees and how to recognize and deal with it.

The third program is titled *Migration in Europe: creating an inclusive society*. This is a series of seminars about migration and its implications for refugees and host society. Partners are SBML, a Polish NGO and adult schools on Lesbos, Chios, Samos.

3.2. COMMUNITY RADIO DENG NWE

Radio Denge NWE, the independent community radio, is dedicated to women's and youth issues in a community and local context.

Denge NWE is a community radio station managed by the local NWE organization and supported by WADI. Very exceptional in this region, the station is completely independent and not affiliated to any party. It is broadcasting 11 hours daily, from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm, on FM 88.6 MHz in Halabja governorate, Sharazoor, Hawraman and Arbat.



The morning programs are broadcasted in Kurmanji dialect and Arabic language. They are dealing with hot topics of local society, focusing especially on refugees and IDPs, but also including other health, social or cultural issues.

The afternoon programs present news, music time and various special programs on current issues. The programme includes daily coverage of youth and women's issues, as well as daily awareness on health, human rights, women's rights, FGM, children's rights, refugees in Iraq and Syria, environment protection, electricity and water infrastructure. It is aired in Sorani and Hawrami dialect.

Daily Program

- Women and youth topics
- awareness about health, human rights, women's rights, FGM, children's rights, refugees in Iraq and Syria, environment transformation, electricity and water
- private announcements, "lost & found"

Weekly program

- Special program: live program about the hot topics and hosting the responsible people inside the area, sometimes three to four episodes are presented, 29 programs were broadcasted.

- Special programs about refugees and IDPs: live program focusing on the situation of refugees and IDPs in Halabja province and Arbat. The refugees and IDPs were invited to the studio to discuss their problems and needs, or the presenter visited their camps or their houses. During the year there were 43 programs and reports.



- A series of special programs about an environment awareness raising project which was realized in Halabja by NWE organization in collaboration with the German Consulate in Erbil. 12 programs have been broadcasted.

- A series of special programs on health about coronavirus protection in 3 languages, Sorani, Kermanji and Arabic, was presented by hosting the doctors and experts in this field. 46 Programs have been broadcasted.

- A series of special programs about the Takamul project, "public awareness for water conservation " which was implemented by NWE organization by the cooperation with USAID in Halabja province, 12 programs have been presented.



- 6 radio spots about water conservation have been produced in Arabic language and Kurdish (Sorani and Kurmanji)

- A series of coronavirus special programs, dealing with protection, how to quarantine at home and how to treat infected persons. This project was implemented by NWE in cooperation with the German Consulate in Erbil. 12 programs have been broadcasted.

- 12 radio spots about coronavirus awareness have been produced. Implemented by NWE and in cooperation with the German Consulate in Erbil.



- A series of special programs about the protection and response for the sexual violence and violence based on gender inside the refugees and IDPs in Sulaymanyah and Garmian, this project was implemented by the development center for democracy and human rights in cooperation with UNHCR. 6 programs have been broadcasted.

- A series of special programs about the "16 days of activism against violence on women" was broadcasted under the slogan of "Orange the world". The aim was to prevent violence and honour killings. 16 Programs have been broadcasted.

- A series of special programs about the no-to-violence project and gender equality. Implemented by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in cooperation with UNFPA. 3 programs have been presented.

- Kili komalga: it is a live program about women's problems and how to solve them in a legal way. The program is hosted by a legal assistance organization. 13 programs were presented.

- A program about monitoring the general directorates of Halabja province: it is a live program about the problems of the general directorates of Halabja province. The program is hosting experts. It is part of a project which was supported by Hal-west and NED. 24 programs were presented.

- Sport NWE : this program focuses on the national and international sports news, 32 programs were presented.

- Zhingakaman : weekly live program which includes hosting environment experts to discuss environment topics and provide awareness. 12 programs were presented.

- Simay parezga is a live program. 12 programs were presented. Simay parezga is reporting news about Halabja governorate.

- Sayai partuk is a live program about literature. Authors are always invited. 8 programs were presented.

- Short topics: environment information, science, economy and health

3.3. JINDA CENTER

Jinda Center has been established after members of WADI in Summer 2014 witnessed the unbearable situation of Ezidi girls and young women who had fled or were liberated from Daesh captivity.



Many of these girls found shelter in the camps around Duhok City in Duhok Governorate: “Khanke”, “Shariya”, “Kabarto I and II”, or in unfinished buildings. They had been captured and then enslaved by Daesh jihadists who would turn the girls – often no older than 10 years – into forced laborers and sex slaves. They endured constant fear and torture for months or even years, some had witnessed family members being slaughtered. Now that their horrific ordeal is over, they have difficulties to adapt to “normal life” and find interest in life again. Almost everything their former life was made of is gone – property, house and home, source of income, family. Now they live in a tent with no hope to ever return to their land. Is life still worth living?

While they are usually in an unstable mental state, there is often a lack of understanding of what they have gone through among family members and community. Instead of getting support, some even become a target of insult and harassment. The precarious and monotonous conditions in the camps are not contributing to the women’s mental and physical recovery. Many suffer from depression and strong feelings of guilt, and some show suicidal tendencies.

A few months later WADI established “*Jinda*”, a women’s activity center for Ezidi women and girls, especially for those who fled and/or were rescued from Daesh captivity. Jinda Center became an independent local NGO in November 2015. The new organization is supported and counceled by WADI.

The idea of Jinda Center is to give these women and girls a break from this miserable and counterproductive atmosphere which only adds sadness to their suffering.

Through vocational training, seminars and the possibility to talk in a stress-free atmosphere about their experiences, the girls and women shall be helped to regain hope and strength to start a new chapter in their lives. At the same time, vocational trainings will prepare them for a successful new start, either in the local area or after returning to their home district.

The center offers referral for first psychological aid, health aid and guidance, legal and social aid, recreational aid. The girls receive awareness training on women’s rights, women’s health and strategies to cope on a very basic and practical level with traumatic experiences. However, the main purpose of the center is to give these girls a pleasant place where they can meet, chat, relax and have a good time after all the traumatic events they experienced and considering the sad and precarious everyday life in the camps.



Everything is focused on the wellbeing of the girls. The concept is based completely on free choice. The girls decide if and when they participate and which activities they prefer to join. Hence, the schedule is kept flexible, activities are discussed with the girls and new ideas may be realized. In general, a group of around 25 girls from one of the camps is visiting the center on 5 days/week for 2-3 weeks.

Sweets production course for girls from Kabartoo1&2 camps, Feb. 2020

They are free to choose among various kinds of workshops and vocational courses, i.e. sewing, art, beauty salon, jewelry making, computer, English, etc.

Women and girls who have stabilized and regained some level of self-esteem and self-consciousness are ready to participate in the vocational and farming courses offered through this project. The programme includes economic empowerment and increasing opportunities. Women are for example trained to produce traditional necklaces and other jewelry for the market. The center supports the women in finding distribution channels. The producers receive 100% of the profit. The same concept is applied to gardening: Instructed by a professional gardener the girls may grow crops in a nearby greenhouse and then sell the products on the market.

Jinda Center plays an important role as a coordination hub between the target group and the community. It is recognized and valued by all parties, for instance the KRG Director-General of Yazidi Affairs said Jinda is one of the best examples for sustainable service in Duhok area. The center is maintaining excellent relations to the High Council of Women's Affairs (HCWA), the local hospital and all camp administrations. The female center staff is mixed, part of them is Yazidi.

In 2020, 154 affected women and girls have been guests of the center. Jinda also provided emergency relief and offered a number of courses in the camps.



Activities implemented in 2020

154 women and girls benefitted from the courses offered in Jinda Center. The subjects of the courses were: English, sweets baking, art, and sociology (women's role in society).

15 women from Kabarto 1 and 2, Sharya and Khanki camps have received sewing machines to sew facemasks so that people can protect from Covid-19 and prevent the spreading of infections. The project provided small business for women who have no breadwinner and lack of financial income. The women have been trained on sewing masks with medical materials.

24,650 handmade facemasks have been distributed to the IDPs camps and places around Duhok area.

190 youth have participated in the face-to-face and online debate sessions of *Tahawer* program. *Tahawer* program focused on the ethnic and religious minorities in Duhok governorate. Participants were from both genders, different areas, cul-

tures, habits and traditions. Through *Tahawer* program, Jinda focused on different religions and minorities including the Yazidi minority located in Kabarto 1, 2 and Eryan camps, Christian and Muslims from Zakho and Shikhan districts.

75 orphans received new clothes and gifts on the occasion of New Year. The kids have lost their parents in the 2014 ISIS terrorist attack and live now in orphanages located in Sharya, Eryan and Duhok.



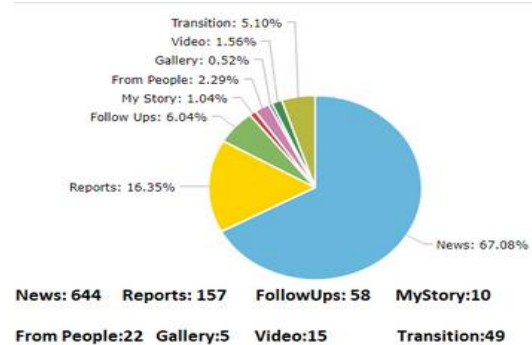
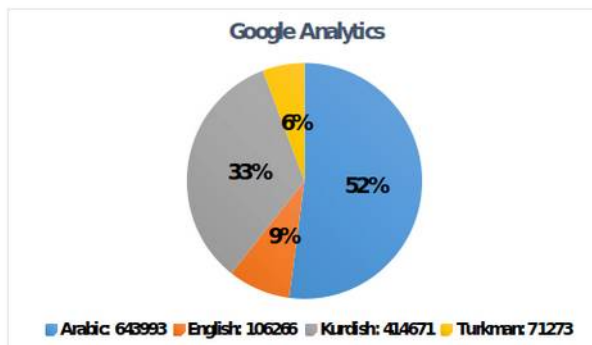
Supported by Crosspoint Europe, British Council and SEZ (Baden-Württemberg).

3.4. KIRKUKNOW - INDEPENDENT NEWS OUTLET

KirkukNow is an independent electronic news website. It publishes stories and events taking place within or relevant to Iraq's disputed territories, as defined in the Iraqi constitution, with the aim of promoting coexistence in those areas and providing easy access to information.



960 original stories were produced until November 30, 2020 for the Kurdish and Arabic sections of the website. All in all, in 2020, with translation to Turkmen and English Sections as well as Social media posts, KirkukNow wrote more than 1920 pieces from all genres. According to statistics which depend on Google analytics and Facebook Insight, in 2020, KirkukNow reached around 10,119,501 audiences on all their media and social media platforms which include their website, Facebook pages and twitter accounts. This is a considerable increase compared to the previous years.



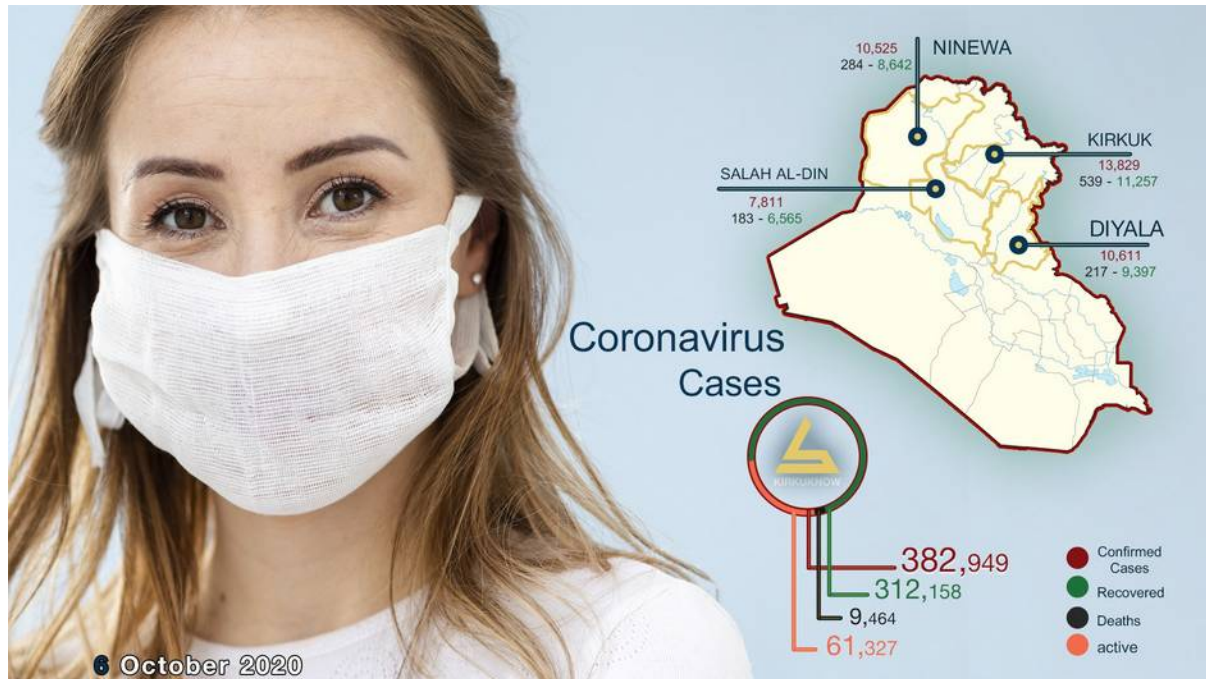
In 2020, KirkukNow was chosen by Internews as the most progressive media outlet concerning gender issues in Iraq. KirkukNow and namely their journalist Layla Ahmed have been awarded for the best human rights reporting in 2020.

Coronavirus:

Under curfew conditions the work of journalists has become more difficult as they face more questioning by the security forces and restrictions of the transportation. This is in addition to other problems, as authorities in many areas favor those media outlets who are closer to them and give them more access and information than other organizations. Despite of that, in many areas security, police and health officials were supportive and coordinated with the media to help fight the pandemic. Despite of that, violence against journalists continue.

KirkukNow reported extensively about the Covid-19 situation in the disputed territories. They published awareness information to encourage people protect themselves and their beloved ones. Meanwhile, they produced very good content about the ef-

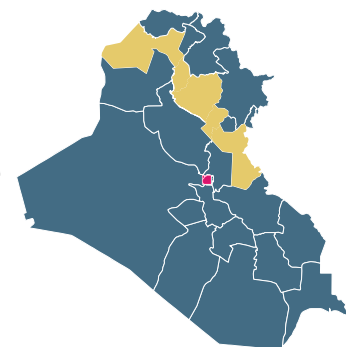
fects of the pandemic on the local communities - especially the minorities such as Kaka'is and others religious minorities. Another focus was how the health sector responded to the challenges of the pandemic and what problems people face while seeking treatment in the disputed areas in particular. Many stories brought about impact, changed the course of actions by local officials and boosted solidarity of the people with the minorities.



kirkuknow.com was launched in 2011 as an online news agency: the only independent media outlet that covers developments throughout the disputed territories in Iraq in the three main languages of these areas - Arabic, Kurdish and Turkmen- as well as in English. The goal of the website was to publish news for all the people in Kirkuk and for everyone who is interested in unbiased news and information about the disputed territories which are home for Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, Chaldean Assyrians, Sunni, Shia, Christians and other minorities. Any event in these areas will either positively or negatively affect the rest of the country, so an independent, unbiased media will support the process of nation building, stability and coexistence among the different ethnic groups in these areas.

KirkukNow's vision: To become the leading media outlet in the disputed territories of Iraq.

KirkukNow's mission: To inform and engage communities of the disputed territories in Iraq.



Territories covered by KirkukNow

Supported by Roselo Foundation and Sterling Escrow

4. ARTICLES & MEDIA

This is a selection of the media coverage WADI projects and initiatives received. Many TV and radio reports could not be listed here since they are not documented online.

Report on Wadi's work on FGM in Garmyan by kirkuknow website 7-2-2020.

- <http://kirkuknow.com/en/news/61418?fbclid=IwAR1fq9ZhyXXdewQMrssml0muBeueFveTRxbvsYCGbP3UVF-bA6cZ5fyuu8fg>

Report on FGM and Wadi's work from K24 website. 7-2-2020

- https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/71cd1185-e64e-47ee-8c3c-48db9dd126a3?fbclid=IwAR2FpADQhfp-p4jC2y10GzUzB2dcilyfbU8aK4dBU_Ds5eN407S-doBTIX9U



Report on FGM and Wadi in Kurdistan by Rudaw TV 6-2-2020

- https://www.facebook.com/watch/?comment_id=2943526812409769&v=609449253226060¬if_id=1581024309336789¬if_t=comment_mention

Report on Wadi event for day of zero tolerance on FGM in Garmyan. By Xandan website 6-2-2020

- http://www.xendan.org/detailnews.aspx?jicare=87786&babet=1&relat=1024&fbclid=IwAR39MN0-pGm-DusyA68iyom2kyIde79i6j09PfyDT99zobd_Ac_QBz5OgyEA

Report and interview with Shokh Mohammed on wadi's work to eradicate FGM. By Rudaw, 6-2-2020

- <https://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/06022020?fbclid=IwAR1RfWlxxWSd4XZx2l4ZU25lv4B3dR7jir-wmgLQXCoj6rc1QpBkqZKrTrb8>

Report on Wadi event for day of zero tolerance on FGM by Roj news. 6-2-2020

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfs-7LfjRJg&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3qsexMn48gmz0Ckw3Gujl-mO4DYO83rqJtTilwOF3ik06KNhPPf1WKMvQs>

Report on Playbus in Ranya by K24 Feb. 2020

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4axtj7bAk4&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3RZkt_hNBaipmhcjX9M-cr3BY410DR-oj7NNimpZYUp6a-p6nAyFMx-hpA

Interview on increase of violence in the Kurdish society, with Shokh Mohammed. 15-9-2020

- <http://sterktv.net/bernama-taybet-bace-ebdurehman-u-sox-mihemed-13-09-2020/>

Report on Corona campiagn in Halabja, 26-9-2020 from Voice of America (VOA) Kurdish media.

- <https://www.facebook.com/VOAKudish/posts/10157265544310876>

Report on corona campaign in Garmyan. 25-9-2020 from Basnews website

- <https://www.basnews.com/so/babat/636524>



Report on Kawben village, one of the violence-free villages, 16-12-2020. Esta web-site

- <https://www.facebook.com/estamedia.krd/posts/411714393610000>

Articles and radio programs from Garmyan team member Layla Ahmed:

The story of helping a 9-year-old child to get his ID to register for school despite many difficulties. It was not successful

- <https://www.kirkuknow.com/ku/news/60905?fbclid=IwAR1LloAddhxisWpbfdb9x2aev9ra6Vla-jCRhbAHsSvrGXgrqxYetjeaMPxA>

Komal program hosts Layla Ahmed from Garmyan team to talk about FGM 12-2-2020. Dang Radio

- http://www.radiodang.org/detail.aspx?kod4it=3216&fbclid=IwAR1YB90pbyOpOBVB8RpNFaAqPp7MX-8XRQfcl8oyx14y5uOnbrgLNf_D0k

Sako program hosts Layla Ahmed to talk about violence during corona time. 21-7-2020. Dang radio

- http://radiodang.org/detail.aspx?kod4it=3617&fbclid=IwAR036s_in_4laBl5Q1SSTRgyQeXcLS-DQYIn5nkvX2j5426T1WQd6rqTQqdM

Sako program hosts Layla Ahmed to talk about effects of social media. 7-7-2020. Dang radio

- <http://radiodang.org/detail.aspx?kod4it=3551&fbclid=IwAR24HrUuC2jD3DfwONzylaEV6dbN6bLimuleP6J-zOV0LaClmqwnfRyInvYY>

Sako program hosts Layla Ahmed to talk about Awareness on Corona. Dang radio 28-6-2020

- <http://radiodang.org/detail.aspx?kod4it=3507&fbclid=IwAR0479ynS5pUgXkld9eyR9kHxxYdVy8QH8X-Hy6NBFMCUxvhsNzHm0ImmA5E>

Article on corona virus and the increase of social and mental issues, by Layla Ahmed in Nawzhen Magazine

For further information please contact wadisul@yahoo.com or see contact details on page 2.

