

NEWS LETTER



A 9-Day Camping on Coexistence and Social Cohesion Conducted in Erbil



**May
2022**



CDO Celebrates the International Workers' Day with 200 Kurdish, Iraqi and Foreign Workers



Civil Development Organization

About CDO:

CDO is an independent non-profit organization

Registered with Federal and
Kurdistan Regional Government



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Launch of New Project in Kirkuk: Strengthening Relationships Between Local Authorities and Community

In the past, when election results were released and the government was not established within the constitutional deadlines, Kirkuk's youth, like those from all other areas, felt disappointed. On the other side, one of the city's major issues is a lack of services, as well as current and historical gaps and barriers between authority and society. For this reason, CDO in Kirkuk, through its #I will participate campaign, announced a project to strengthen the capabilities of young people from all different communities, nations, and religions in Kirkuk and its surrounding areas in determining and bringing to power the needs of their communities.

Training Youth Volunteers in Kirkuk

Within the context of Rabe Campaign, a four-week training was conducted in May by four trainers to build the capacity of 25 volunteers and improve their abilities on various issues related to the current political situation in the city.



Tara Aziz, the project manager at CDO, in a statement to the media team said

the aim of the project in Kirkuk is to build the ability of **25** youths (male and female, from various ethnic and religious backgrounds) in the field of advocacy, including conducting needs assessments, speaking with the government, and advocating on behalf of the local community. The youth groups will assess the needs of their area, which is divided into three electoral districts: the first constituency, which has five parliamentary seats (including one for Christian quota) and covers the east and north of Kirkuk, the second constituency, which has four parliamentary seats and covers the city center, and the third constituency, which has three parliamentary seats and covers the rest of Kirkuk. They will lobby for a response from the MPs. They will advocate for MPs and the government to respond to those needs by holding direct debates with them. The project will also establish a route for the administration to communicate its accomplishments, difficulties, and objectives to the media and people in Kirkuk

The **25** potential trainees will be well-trained on the below topics:

- 1 A comprehensive introduction of the political system in Iraq
- 2 Democracy and youth participation in the government
- 3 Peacebuilding, negotiations, and dialogue skills
- 4 Identifying conflicts in the community and conflict resolution strategies
- 5 Decision making, advocacy, and how to do advocacy campaigns in Kirkuk
- 6 Leadership skills and personality
- 7 Body language and how to deal with the political figures
- 8 Sustainable development goals

One of the main objectives of our project in Kirkuk is to increase the accountability of MPs and Government public service sectors toward their community through conducting dialogue sessions between the community, the Iraqi MPs and Government departments

Bakhtyar Ahmad
CDO General Director

Establishment and Capacity Building for Young Media Professionals forums to Promote Social Cohesion II

Supported by UNDP, funded by the German Development Cooperation, implemented by CDO in partnership with the Center For Defending Freedom of Journalists (CDFJ) and Metro Center

Fifth Roundtable Discussion on Journalism Status & Influence of Media on Social Cohesion

Another roundtable discussion, on media status and its role in promoting peace and coexistence, was held in Sulaymaniyah. The meeting took place in presence of academic media professionals, representative of Iraqi media agencies, minority representatives and journalists.

The members shared their considerations around current media status in Iraq by and large and in Kurdistan more particularly centering on fundamental challenges, crevices and proposals for making strides utilization and impact of media in such a way that guarantees diversity and coexistence.

This is one of twelve round tables and discussion sessions arranged for media outlets, academics, relevant officials, and activists to debate media in Iraq, prospective prospects, and the influence of media on social cohesion and reconciliation in Iraq. These roundtables will be used to generate a final report that will outline the issues and suggestions raised

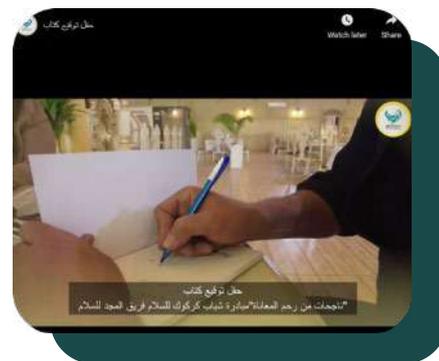
Ayad Hamid
Project Coordinator



Tanoua: A Social Media Platform to Support Social Cohesion and Peace Promotion

In May, the Tanoua Social Media Platform published 100 media items; 60 reports, 35 videos and 5 essays, from participants in Duhok, Nainawa, Sulaimanyah, Kirkuk, Salahadin, Diyala, Thi qar, Baghdad, Najaf, and Basra. The website's overall goal is to strengthen Iraq's enabling environment for peace and social cohesion by addressing institutional frameworks, local procedures and activities, institutional and individual capacities, inter-group and state-citizen connections, and conflict-sensitive responses.

This Social Media Platform was created by the United Nations Development Program in Iraq as a platform for citizen journalists to promote peace and social cohesion. The opinions expressed on this platform are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the United Nations Development Programme. The current partners of UNDP, that are developing the website, are CDO, METRO CENTER and CDFJ.



تعزيز في بعقوبة يحدد الإحساس بقيمة التنوع



Coexistence and Social Cohesion Camp in Erbil

During the recent years, local efforts to strengthen mechanisms that support promotion of social cohesion and coexistence, widely increased in Iraq. Within this context CDO, as a local NGO supporting diverse communities in Iraq, in partnership with Barzani Charity Foundation and the French Center for Research on Iraq, organized social cohesion camping for **60** youths from the four corners of Iraq including ethnic backgrounds and denominations.

The **9**-day camping, which was held in Avdalan (Soran district, Erbil province), included sessions on first aid, religious and national coexistence, conflict management, gender equality, women role in decision making, the situation of youth and their role in the community.

The French ambassador to Iraq, Eric Chevallier, delivered a speech to the **60** young participants of the "coexistence and social cohesion camp" from the Rotana hotel in Erbil on 14 May 2022 extending their appreciation to the role of the camp organizers and encouraging youths to enhance their role in promoting peace and coexistence in Iraq.

CDO's General Director in a statement to the Media Team during his visit to the camp

Ethnic minorities in Iraq including Kurds, Arabs, Turkmen, Assyrians, Chaldeans and others have participated in this camp. Our vision is to establish new mechanisms to enable youth combat social differences, discrimination and engage them in our goals through promoting togetherness in Iraq

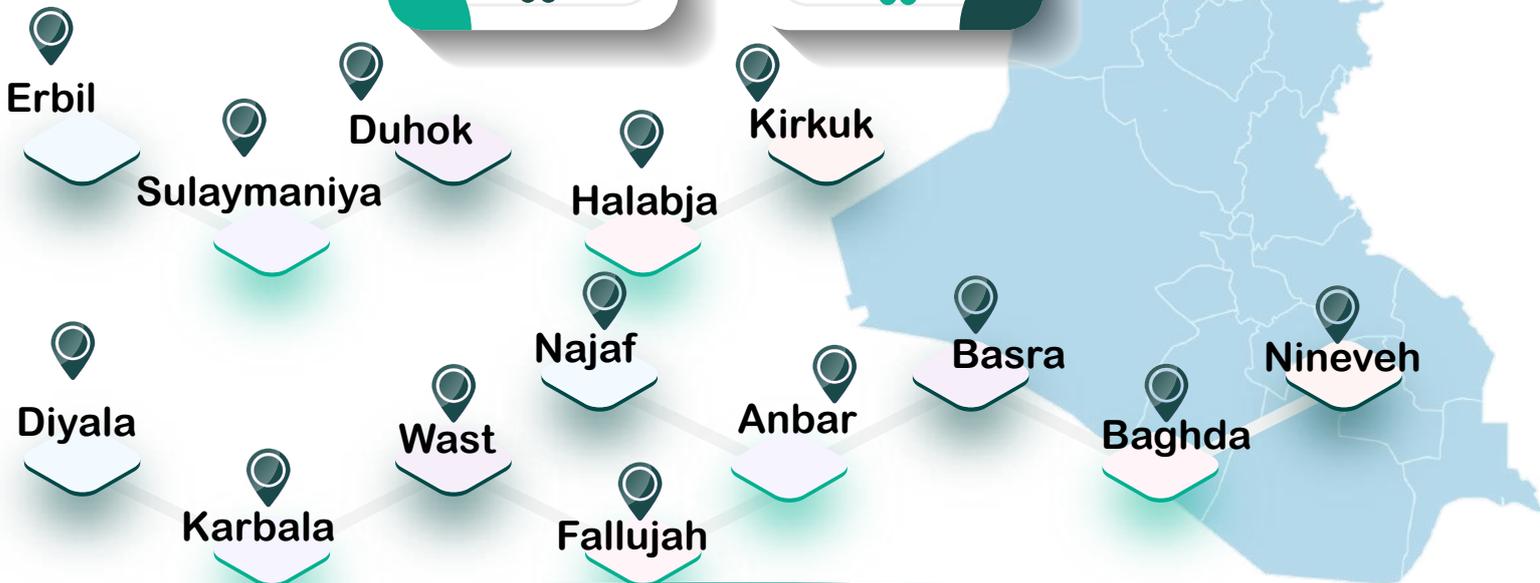


60 youths
representing
40 NGOs

30



30





Participants were willing to work on concrete solutions to the pressing issues through presenting projects on promoting coexistence in Iraq. The next step will be selecting 20 participants for the next phase of the camping which will take place in France.

The director of the French Center for Research on Iraq in a statement mentioned that they will be supporting the selected participants, considering gender equality, and will provide required facilitation for the next stage in France.

The camping is like an Intra-Youth Dialogue on Social Cohesion aimed at fostering social cohesion, overcoming stereotypes, preventing isolation by strengthening bonds and exploring the similarities in dialogues between young people from diverse backgrounds

Gulzar Tariq
Participant from CDO

Celebrating International Workers' Day



On the occasion of International Workers' Day, CDO and Foreign Workers Culture and Defense Organization (FWCDO) organized a trip for more than 200 workers from the Kurdish, Iraqi and foreign communities, at Dukan Resort. Several Kurdish and Iraqi media agencies covered the event.



The History of the International Workers' Day



In the late 1800s, workers in parts of the US began campaigning against harsh working conditions. Huge strikes took place across the city of Chicago in May 1886, where thousands of workers took to the streets to demand an -8-hour working day. Protests were suppressed by police in what became known as the Haymarket Affair. Seven union leaders were convicted of conspiracy and four were executed.

The Haymarket Affair marked the start of a shift in labour relations in the US. The -8-hour day was adopted in the printing, construction and railway industries in the early 1900s and became law across the US in 1937.

1 May is now a public holiday in around 66 countries. In Iraq and many other countries there are marches and rallies on International Workers' Day, to remember the struggles for rights for working people in the past and that the fight to improve those conditions continues today.

Rabe Campaign: Project Closure Conference for Iraqi Provincial Election Activities



In order to announce closure of the project Iraqi Provincial Election Activities, CDO in cooperation with the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) organized a seminar in Sulaymaniyah. 119 people were present at the conference where more than 90 of them were from youths.

Dr. Haval Abubakr, the Governor of Sulaymaniyah gave an encouraging speech calling for youth political participation and decision making. he added that political parties could do more to encourage youth to run for office, and could consider nominating younger candidates for provincial/state elections and municipal elections. He also appreciated the role of CDO for successfully implementing the one-year project and wishes to guarantee sustainability of the project objectives.



Panel Discussion to Outline the Project Outcomes: Towards a New Stage in the Process of Encouraging Youths' Political Participation



In order to further discuss the project outcomes, discuss the next steps for maintaining sustainability of the project goals and encouraging more youth political participation, a panel discussion was held for three young successful professionals who have academic positions such as university lecturers, director of NGO and human right activist. The debate was on how to establish stronger communication mechanism between decision makers and community and the importance of participation in the Iraqi elections as civil steps to make changes towards better conditions.

Rozha Gharib
CDO Projects Coordinator

It's worth mentioning that in May 2021, CDO started a new project in Sulaymaniyah Governorate named "Iraqi Provincial Election Activities" to encourage young people are engaged in formal political processes and have a say in formulating today's and tomorrow's politics. The project was to enhance efforts to promote democracy, engage youth participation in political process and encourage people especially youth to vote in the Iraqi election

Non-Formal Education Project: Rural Development



Despite the end of school year for 2021-2022, the teams of the project Non-Formal Education at CDO continue conducting their activities at the schools located in the rural areas and Sulaymaniyah's surrounding districts. Three activities were conducted for 75 children aged between 7 to 11 from a school located in Sharbazher district, which is referred to as the lands north of Sulaymaniyah or behind Goizha Mountain. The main topics were techniques to promote relaxation for kids, story reading, stories on honesty, subject-specific learning such as health and hygiene education including some energizer activities.

Non-Formal education is considered to be an important precondition for social change and for alleviating poverty in rural societies in developing countries. In other words, nonformal education is a necessary and indispensable component of the rural development programs of recent times

Kozheen Othman-Supervisor

NFE is a project implemented by CDO and Public Aid Organization (PAO) in partnership with France-libertés Fondation Danielle Mitterrand and the Ministry of Youth and Culture.



The Emergency Unit: Ensuring Food Supply Program

Provision of food packages is a program funded by CDO to support families severely affected by economic effects or the unstable economic condition of KRI. The teams of the Emergency Unit in May have successfully approached 120 vulnerable families, residing in Sulaymaniyah and its surrounding districts, to deliver food packages.

During our visits, apart from delivering assistance of CDO, we ensure conducting regular assessment for potential households, to be included in our database managed by CDO

Koraw Aziz
Supervisor of the Emergency Unit

The Legal Service Department

Provision of Legal Aid in Humanitarian Setting

CDO provides legal representation, legal consultation, advocacy and follow up for refugees, internally displaced persons and the host community.

In May, the lawyers of CDO, have provided legal assistance to **31** clients from the communities of Syrian, Iranian, Turkish refugees and Iraqi displaced persons. In addition, **53** beneficiaries have been provided with necessary legal consultation based on their needs. **3** urgent cases were also referred to UNHCR for quick response.



The majority of the cases during May were provision of assistance to refugees and asylum seekers to obtain civil documents such as birth certificates, death certificates, marriage certificates, residency permission and other documents

Kani Samal
Lawyer

The Cultural Events Unit

CDO and Rachlaken News Agency organized a worthy event to honor Mass Graves Day in Iraq. Writers, researchers, and activists took part in the event. The occasion included the launch of the book "Iraq, the Country of Mass graves," in presence of the writer.



The poetry book "The World of Silence" was published at a ceremony at CDO's main office in front of more than 225 people, including poets, writers, intellectuals, and literary fans. The evening included some lovely music as well as the author reciting poems from the book. At the conclusion of the event, the attendees were given a signed book.



Mixed with Kurdish music, in a special ceremony, in presence of the author, the book a comprehensive reading on the history of Kurdish Maqam, as a form of precious-cultural song, was presented.



During a ceremony at CDO, the artist and university lecturer Wahbi Rasul presents an analysis of European art from mannerism to modernism. His book, which was introduced in a launching event, is composed of 536 pages relying on 111 scientific resources.



Greening Up 50 Hectares of Goizha Mountain

An environmental project implemented by CDO and funded by Asiacell Company

Steps Toward Maintaining Sustainability: Regular Plant Irrigation

Irrigation was done twice in May, once in the first week and once in the last week. 600,000 liters of water were consumed in total. Each plant was treated with more than 20 liters of water for roughly 60 minutes. The project team has devised a strategy to boost the quantity of water available to the plants in order to protect them from drought. The project monitors have been visiting the project site on a daily basis to check plant growth and handle any problems that may arise.



Covering Plants in High Winds

As is widely known, Goizha is noted for its powerful winds, which were one of the reasons for past initiatives to green the mountain failing. The project crew constructed 500 stands to protect the plants from the wind, and this work will continue in the coming months.



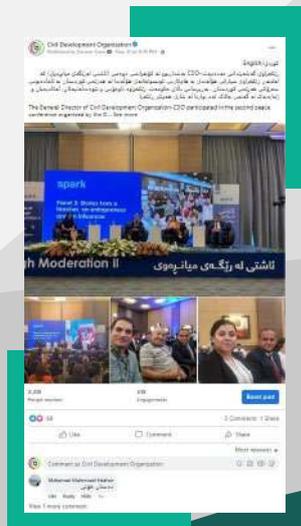
Short News

As the only NGO in Sulaymaniyah governorate, CDO participated in the fourth conference of the Provincial Committee for prevention of violence, organized by UNDP and the Iraqi National Security Council. The main theme of the conference was to discuss strategies to prevent extremism violence. The CDO representatives discussed CDO's experience in the field of rehabilitation and its role in combating extremism and violence.

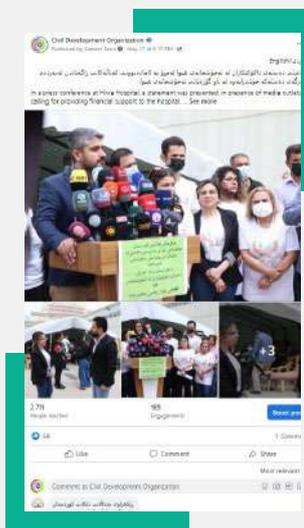
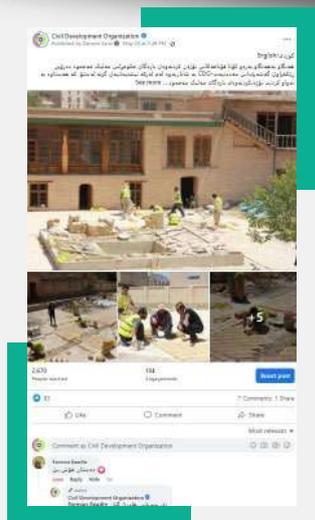


In a meeting with Ms. Michael Kimanzi, the head of the women's rights case at UNAMI Office in Erbil, CDO's efforts to prevent violence and killing women in Kurdistan in addition to other projects to combat hate speech in Iraq were discussed. In the previous years, Ms. Michael supported CDO in developing the idea of an activity aimed at combating violence against women.

The General Director of Civil Development Organization-CDO participated in the second peace conference organized by the Dutch Spark Organization in cooperation with the Dutch Consulate in the Kurdistan Region. The event took place in the presence of the President of Kurdistan Region, senior government officials, local and international organizations, academics and a number of young activists in Erbil.



Step by step towards the final stages of renovating Malik Mahmud's governing headquarters. Civil Development Organization (CDO) has proudly taken on this national duty to complete the renovation of Malik Mahmud's headquarters.



CDO is participating in a campaign aiming to provide financial support to Hiwa Hospital in Sulaymaniyah. Hiwa Hospital, located in Sulaymaniyah, provides medical care to cancer and blood diseases. Patients from all over Iraq, as well as Kurds from Syria, Turkey and Iran visit the hospital. The hospital receives eight to ten new patients per day.

Representative of CDO participated in a multicultural event organized by the KRG's Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs. It is worth mentioning that CDO has several special programs for diverse communities in KRI and Iraq.



Thank You Staff

A lunch together to express appreciation to the CDO staffs who participated in delivering food packages to vulnerable families in a few days of April. Special thanks to the Sulaimaniyah Chamber of Commerce and Industry for funding the food assistance campaign.



We are constantly impressed by your performance. Thank you for your hard work!

Rozha Gharib
Projects Coordinator



CDO PARTNERS

