

# Newsletter

September, 2023



## The International Charity Day Festival



For the first time in Kurdistan

CDO celebrates International Day of Charity





# Civil Development Organization

## About CDO:

CDO is an independent non-profit organization  
Registered with Federal and  
Kurdistan Regional Government



### Head Office:

Piramagrun 11th St  
Sulaymaniyah  
Kurdistan Region of Iraq

### Kirkuk Office:

Jwan City, Sulaymaniyah Road

## General Director:

**Bakhtyar Ahmed Salih**



### Contact:

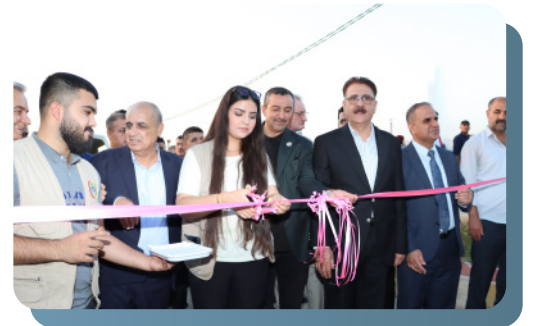
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[director@cdo-iraq.org](mailto:director@cdo-iraq.org)

# The International Charity Day Festival

After coordination and preparation for more than two months, CDO organized a festival to celebrate the International Charity Day. The event took place in Parki Azadi of Sulaymaniyah where 50 organizations, companies, government agencies and groups displayed their work and activities. The governor of Sulaymaniyah, authorities and officials from the government attended the festival with the organizations, CSOs and volunteer groups.

CDO is well renowned for its charitable activity, particularly for giving food and non-food gifts to families in need. CDO is the first agency that comes to mind when we wish to work with groups to help underprivileged people and families.

**Dr. Haval Abubakr**  
The Governor of Sulaymaniyah





CDO is celebrating the International Day of Charity with the purpose of educating and inspiring individuals, NGOs, and other stakeholders to engage in charitable and volunteer work. Through this event, we are opening a line of communication between vulnerable individuals and stakeholders so that they may cooperate and take appropriate action.

**Bakhtyar Ahmad**  
CDO General Director

The date of 5 September was chosen in order to commemorate the anniversary of the passing away of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 "for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitute a threat to peace."



# Promoting Emergency Livelihoods Opportunities for Acutely Vulnerable Displaced and Host Families, Building Climate-Resilient Communities in Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah Governorates

Implemented by CDO in partnership with CESVI Italian Organization and funded by AICS

## CESVI Delegation Visit to CDO Office

On September 17, a CESVI delegation comprised of the Head of Mission, Area Manager, Project Manager, and Sulaymaniyah FSL Coordinator visited the CDO headquarters and met with the CDO General Director, Projects Coordinator, and project team.

The meeting covered the project's progress as well as the obstacles and lessons learnt from the project. Efforts and attempts to mitigate the harmful effects of climate change were highlighted.

The high-level CESVI delegation came to see us to discuss the development of the Goizha Mountain greening project in Sulaymaniyah. We also noted any possible issues and our proposed solutions. The government agencies, CDO, and CESVI all work together extremely effectively to ensure that the project is implemented smoothly.

Bakhtyar Ahmad  
CDO General Director



## CDO and CESVI Delegation Visit to Project Site

The high-level delegation from CESVI on September 18 visited Goizha Mountain to observe the progress and project implementation strategy in Sulaymaniyah governorate.

The delegation wants to keep an eye on how the Cash for Work initiative is progressing and how the project site, which takes up 40 dunams of mountain, is being greened. We are pleased to work with organizations that try to lessen the consequences of climate change in our area.

**Naz Aras**  
CDO Focal Point



Another component of the project is to interview vulnerable cases and refer them to the required service providers. During September, the project team have approached 16 cases and addressed their issues.

## Education

5 cases

6 cases

5 cases



## Child Protection

## Medical Support



# Greening Up 50 Hectares of Goizha Mountain

An environment protection project implemented by CDO and funded by Asiacell Company

## Mountain Fire Protection: Guidelines on Firefighting System

In order to guarantee that the Sulaymaniyah governorate's citizens have enough awareness of the fire prevention system established by CDO, a few videos were produced in September that gave instructions on how to use the system should a fire breaks out. In order to reach a large audience, CDO posted the videos on its social media profiles.



We are working closely with the media department of CDO to raise awareness about the facilities offered by CDO and Asiacell in order to stop future fire breakouts on top of the mountains, where many people visit on a daily basis.



Rozha Gharib  
CDO Projects Coordinator

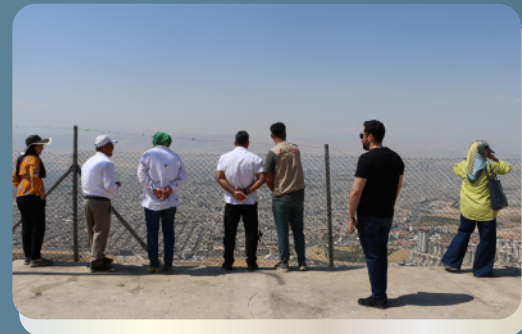
## Asiacell and CDO Site Visit

A delegation from Asiacell and CDO, joined by a special committee from the Sulaymaniyah Directorate of Environment, visited Goizha Mountain in September. The visit covered close observation on growth of the plants, and monitoring the irrigation system. In addition, the firefighting system was tested to ensure its proper functioning.



We are ecstatic to witness the fantastic results of the greening initiative. The extraordinary efforts of CDO and Asiacell have transformed 50 hectares of Goizha Mountain into heaven. As one of the government agencies, we would like to formally state that we are available for any further coordination we can provide to help with this project.

Representative from the  
Directorate of Environment



Youth empowerment and capacity building workshops on a variety of topics were held in September. For the sessions, CDO offered facilitation in location, resources, and qualified trainers.

## Effective Code of Conduct

In collaboration with the Network of Researchers, a training on improving work code of conduct was organized for 30 undergraduates who are studying psychology and social working department at the University of Sulaymaniyah.

The trainees were given a certificate of participation after completing an intense training and presenting several themes connected to behavior and communication improvement.



A code of conduct contains detailed rules and expectations to guide employees about appropriate behavior at work. To guarantee that future social workers and psychologists are equipped to adequately assist vulnerable people, CDO plans to supply such training.

**Arazu Namiq**  
Supervisor of the Training Unit

## Training on Fire Safety Measures

With the theme: "everyone's right to be protected from disasters to the highest level" CDO and Sulaymaniyah Civil Defense Directorate organized a theoretical and practical course for 27 supervisors and employees of oil stations.

The training is a part of the fourth round of raising awareness at the oil stations aimed at containing the fire and reducing its impact. Participants gained knowledge about fire causes and what to do before civil defense personnel arrive at the catastrophe site.



I've been working at an oil station since 2015 but I have never had a chance to attend a training that gives me information on how to react when a fire incident occurs. I do appreciate the efforts of CDO and their role in raising awareness among us.

Trainee



## Supporting Government Agencies in Kirkuk: Capacity Building Training

The Kirkuk office of CDO organized a training on digital security, cyberattacks and protection of information for 30 employees at the Kirkuk's Provincial Council. The course was held in close coordination with the Women Empowerment Department at the council.

Supporting women to improve their performance and guarantee equitable access to services is a part of our efforts. For CDO to continue such training, our strong collaboration with Kirkuk's authorities and government officials is a plus.

Rozha Gharib  
Projects Coordinator



An extensive instruction on the techniques and technologies that reduce false information, the dangers of cyberattack, and digital security was provided by a qualified trainer from the CDO office in Kirkuk. The governor of Kirkuk and CDO have decided to keep up the empowerment training over the next months.

## International Day of Sign Languages

CDO, in collaboration with the Amazha Organization, commemorated the International Day of Sign Languages with a unique event in Azadi Park in Sulaymaniyah. The purpose of this event, which included a number of activities and a sizable number of deaf participants, was to pay attention to the deaf, support their abilities, and introduce them to the community so that everyone could do more to assist them and comprehend their challenges.



The event is a part of the Development Unit's planned strategy to increase the voice of individuals with disabilities so that their voice is heard and supported. We have the opportunity to express our empathy and harmony with those who have special needs.

Gulzar Tariq  
Supervisor of the Development Unit

In certain emergency cases, CDO delivers food and non-food items to vulnerable families and individuals as quickly as possible. In September, the teams of the Emergency Unit delivered packages to 14 families in Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk. The food packages contain staples, like rice, oil, flour, sugar, pasta, and beans.

The uncertain economy in Kurdistan, along with a lack of pay for employees, had resulted in an increase in the number of destitute households. As a result, CDO expanded its need assessment procedure to new areas in September.

Przha Abdulla  
Supervisor of the Emergency Unit



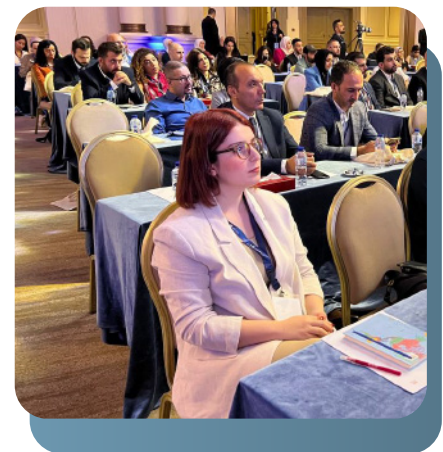
## **CDO in Jordan: Participation in a Symposium on the Future of Media**

A representative from CDO attended a symposium on the future of media and communication. The conference was organized by the Centre for Defending Journalists (CDFJ), which is one of CDO's international partners. The state of the media and communication in the Middle East, as well as the problems and strategies to enhance media, were all examined.

The CDO representatives questioned the role of UNISCO and other UN agencies in downplaying the catastrophic situation and emphasizing the threats threatening the safety of journalists in Iraq, despite the fact that the region is among the riskiest for journalists.



The event provided an opportunity for NGOs, INGOs, and CSOs to share their perspectives on the role of UN agencies and other international players in promoting freedom of speech and the role of the media in the Middle East.



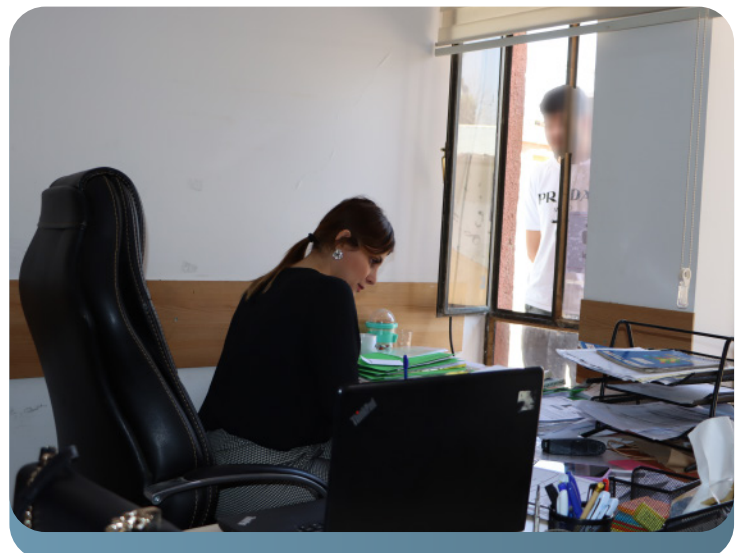
**Tara Aziz**  
CDO Representatives in Jordan

# The Legal Aid Department

The CDO lawyers appeared in court in September on behalf of 45 IDPs and refugees to represent them for legal aid. In accordance with their requirements, 125 cases also received the necessary legal consultation.



CDO is the right place where vulnerable and displaced people will have meaningful access to legal assistance. We are providing free legal support to those who approach us at the main office in Sulaymaniyah.



**Kani Samal**  
Member of Executive Board

## Issuing Residence Card for Refugees in Sulaymaniyah

With facilitation of CDO, 2381 refugee individuals received newly issued or renewed residence cards at the Refugee Center in September. The Refugee Center, which is located at the main office of CDO, belongs to the General Directorate of Residency under direct supervision of the KRG's Ministry of Interior.



CDO and the General Directorate of Residency cooperate to ensure meaningful access to civil documentations and residence cards to refugees and asylum seekers.



# September Photo News

1

A team from Kurdsat Broadcasting Corporation visited CDO and offered an appreciation letter to the General Director.



2

CDO and the Blind Union in Sulaymaniyah announced the conclusion of a two-month knitting course for the blind and people with low vision. The aim of the course is to provide more opportunities for people with special needs to improve their capacity.



3

Students from the University of Sulaymaniyah Law College visited the head office of CDO to learn about the organization's operations.



4

Malik Mahmoud's headquarters are nearly finished being renovated. As a national obligation and custodian of Sulaymaniyah's heritage, Civil Development Organization (CDO) has taken on the mission of rebuilding Malik Mahmoud's headquarters.



5

CDO representative participated in a program on Gali Kurdistan Radio Station to discuss the projects and activities that are dedicated to support people with special needs.



6

The Director of Sulaymaniyah Gardens presented CDO. Mr. Bahroz Salar, Director of Sulaymaniyah Gardens and Parks, and his accompanying group paid a visit to the organization's offices and commended CDO for its programs, efforts, and activities in the fields of environment, biodiversity, and lessening the impact of climate change.



7

CDO and the Directorate of Archaeology and Heritage in Sulaymaniyah discussed a new initiative in the realm of archaeology.



8

For reformed women and children, CDO donated books in different fields to promote the environment of the prison and support empowering individuals. The donation is a continuing initiative of CDO that has been ongoing for the past two years.



9

Another outstanding CDO project is now ongoing. A CDO delegation discussed the project with Sheikh Mahmud Hafid, which focuses on the history of Malik Mahmoud and the Republic of Kurdistan. CDO extends its appreciation for their kind hospitality and warm welcome.





## CDO Partners

