



BWOOD

Better World Organization
for Community Development

BETTER WORLD JOURNEY STARTED AND GREW WITH PASSION, SINCERITY, AND CREATIVITY THAT MAKE IT UNIQUE AND DIFFERENT



ABOUT BETTER WORLD ORGANIZATION

Better World organization was founded in 2017 in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, with a strong focus on championing sustainable development. Boasting women's leadership, it has emerged as a trailblazing organization within the sector. Notably, it obtained official registration with the central government of Iraq in 2019, solidifying its commitment to operating within the legal framework. Since its establishment, the organization has made remarkable strides in executing projects across numerous camps and non-camp locations within the Duhok governorate. Furthermore, it has extended its reach to various sub-districts within Ninewa, making a positive impact on these communities. In a span of less than six years, the organization experienced exponential growth, surpassing a notable milestone of employing over 100 individuals and engaging more than 300 dedicated volunteers. Impressively, 80% of these volunteers were young individuals under the age of 30, highlighting the organization's emphasis on youth involvement. Throughout its operations, the organization has consistently upheld the core values of transparency, humanity, excellence, and sincerity, which serve as the bedrock of its work at every level.

Better World Organization for Community Development stands as a prominent sustainable development initiative in Kurdistan-Iraq, dedicated to positively impacting challenging and intricate environments. Our primary objective revolves around the protection and empowerment of women and youth. We strive to create safe spaces where vulnerable women, youth, and adolescents can freely express themselves, explore their capabilities, and ultimately cultivate their potential to become proactive and constructive contributors to their families and communities.

We are implementing a comprehensive strategy to promote sustainability by integrating various sectors into our project activities. We are aligning our initiatives with the UN Security Council resolutions 1325 on women, peace, and security, and 2250 on youth, peace, and security, as well as the sustainable development goals agenda for 2030.

WHAT WE DO !?

• VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS' PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

In numerous regions of Iraq and Kurdistan, girls unfortunately face barriers to education and are often unable to complete their studies. Additionally, child and forced marriages continue to occur, while physical and emotional violence is prevalent, perpetrated by fathers, brothers, and husbands. Our organization is dedicated to preventing violence against women and girls. We strive to create a protective environment where they are shielded from violence, have their rights upheld, and can access necessary services to ensure they live with dignity. We offer a safe space specifically designed for women and girls, where we provide survivor-centered support through case management. Our aim is to ensure that survivors receive the necessary assistance they need. Within our organization's projects, we also connect survivors to other available services, as outlined below. In cases where certain services are not available within our organization's interventions, we additionally provide referrals to ensure survivors can access the support they require.

"I used to be a shy and hesitant girl, always hiding inside my tent, afraid to step out and interact with people. But then, something incredible happened. My neighborhood friends, who were attending these amazing life skill workshops, couldn't stop talking about how transformative the sessions were. Their enthusiasm sparked a curiosity within me, and when I discovered that the workshops had gone online, I made up my mind to join in. And let me tell you, it was the best decision I ever made! These sessions not only helped me break out of my shell, but they also empowered me to embrace my true potential. The knowledge and skills I gained were truly life-changing. In fact, I was so inspired that I even decided to participate in leadership programs as well. Now, I can confidently say that I am a completely different person. I'm no longer afraid to walk through crowded places or engage in meaningful conversations with others. These workshops have opened doors for me that I never even knew existed. So, if you're looking for an opportunity to grow, learn, and unlock your hidden potential, I highly recommend joining these life skill workshops and leadership programs. Trust me, they can make a world of difference in your life, just like they did in mine!"



• MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

The ongoing conflicts, crises, and particularly the impact of the ISIS war and the COVID-19 pandemic in Iraq and Kurdistan have significantly affected the psychological well-being of thousands of IDPs, returnees, refugees, and the host community. We are implementing community-based mental health and psychosocial support programs to address these challenges. Our activities are specifically designed to enhance the psychosocial well-being of the most vulnerable communities we work with, focusing on building resilience and instilling hope for a better future. We offer a range of structured psychosocial support (PSS) programs that have been carefully developed and tailored to the specific context of Iraq.

These programs are designed by various specialized actors and cover areas such as youth resilience, child resilience, little friends, adolescent girl's toolkit, parenting skills, parents without violence, and women's empowerment through speaking out. In addition to these structured activities, we also provide non-structured activities aimed at promoting well-being and enjoyment. These activities encompass sports, art, storytelling, reading clubs, and group gatherings that provide entertainment and fun for the participants.



"When I first walked through the doors of the Better World Center, I was engulfed in sadness and despair. The weight of the world seemed too heavy to bear, and tears flowed uncontrollably from my eyes. The pressure I felt was crushing. But then, something incredible happened. I embarked on a journey of psychological support that would change my life in the most profound way. Gradually, a sense of comfort enveloped me, easing the pain that had once consumed me. In this sanctuary, I felt as if I had found a second home – a place where safety and tranquility coexisted. It was a haven where my body and soul found solace. And that's not all. Through the chi-course, I not only found a sense of relaxation but also discovered a community of like-minded individuals. I forged connections with new people, expanding my social circle and nourishing my spirit. The sense of belonging I experienced was truly extraordinary. The Better World Center became more than just a place for me. It became a beacon of hope, guiding me towards a brighter future and reminding me that healing is possible. The support I received here has transformed my perspective, breathing new life into my world."

The quotation from a 28 years old woman from one of the camps in Duhok governorate

• SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

We firmly believe that acquiring skills plays a pivotal role in empowering individuals within communities to actively participate in various spheres. At Better World, our primary objective is to enhance the level of participation for women and youth, enabling them to contribute to sustainable development. Initially, we focus on equipping women and youth with essential life skills, fostering effective communication, critical thinking, problem-solving, and leadership capabilities to empower them on their respective journeys. Additionally, we recognize the significance of literacy and language courses, which are in high demand among women and youth, addressing their specific needs. Moreover, we offer vocational training programs encompassing areas such as business management and marketing, equipping women and youth with the necessary skills to embark on their path to economic independence by establishing their own enterprises. However, our support does not end there; we provide ongoing guidance through coaching and mentoring to ensure their progress and success. Through these initiatives, we strive to empower women and youth to explore their potential, enabling them to choose their desired field and embark on a positive journey of personal and professional growth.

"Since joining the education course, something amazing happened—I learned to write my full name without a single mistake! Every day, I eagerly embrace the opportunity to discover new letters and expand my knowledge. But you know what's even more incredible? The friendships I've formed along the way. I never had friends with whom I could share my passion for letters before, but now, I have a group of like-minded individuals who share my enthusiasm for education and language. These newfound friendships have brought so much joy into my life. We can engage in discussions about our common interest without ever growing tired of one another. To have friends who understand the importance of education and celebrate our shared progress is truly uplifting. It feels amazing to be surrounded by such supportive and inspiring individuals. This course has not only enhanced my writing skills but has also enriched my life with happiness and a sense of belonging. Every day, I wake up with excitement, knowing that I get to be a part of this incredible learning journey."

The quotation from a 22 years old woman from one of the camps in Duhok governorate



• SOCIAL COHESION AND PEACE BUILDING

Religious and ethnic diversity, when comprehended and appreciated, can be regarded as a valuable asset. However, if individuals become extremist in their ideologies, it can lead to conflicts and even wars, resulting in detrimental consequences. This has been evident throughout the history of Iraq and Kurdistan, where numerous conflicts have occurred. At Better World organization, we are committed to promoting social cohesion and peacebuilding. We firmly believe in harnessing the potential of youth as catalysts for sustainable peace.

Through our interventions, we establish platforms for interaction and dialogue among individuals from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds, fostering a sense of unity and cohesion. Moreover, we actively support and empower youth to spearhead peacebuilding initiatives within their communities, advocating for peace and countering extremism. To further enhance our efforts, we utilize the powerful mediums of sports and arts as effective tools for peace education among adolescents. By engaging youth in these activities, we aim to instill values of tolerance, understanding, and peaceful coexistence, paving the way for a harmonious society.



"It was for first time to closely have the space to talk to Muslims. I learned about the meaning of social cohesion after I participated in the activities of this project. Now I have Muslim friends and we work together, and I have a quite different idea about them"

The quotation from a 21 years old Yazidi man in one of the camps in Duhok governorate

• **CLIMATE CHANGE AND TECHNOLOGY**



Climate change is a pressing concern that exposes us all to unforeseen risks. Simultaneously, technology is rapidly advancing in various domains. Therefore, at Better World, we strive to understand how to effectively address both climate change and technological advancements, and to establish a connection between them to ensure sustainable development. On one hand, we prioritize raising awareness among targeted communities about climate change. We aim to educate and inform individuals about the causes, impacts, and potential solutions related to climate change. By enhancing their understanding, we empower them to actively contribute towards mitigating its effects. On the other hand, we recognize the importance of equipping youth with the necessary technological skills. We focus on enhancing their proficiency in advanced approaches and tools that can be utilized to address climate change,

“I have never taught and worked with a group that is more active and smarter than this group of girls from Better World Organization course, these young girls inspired me to dedicate my time more for promoting women in technology. Women has proved that they can work in all fields it is time that women shine in the field of technology”

The Robotics Club female trainer in Duhok

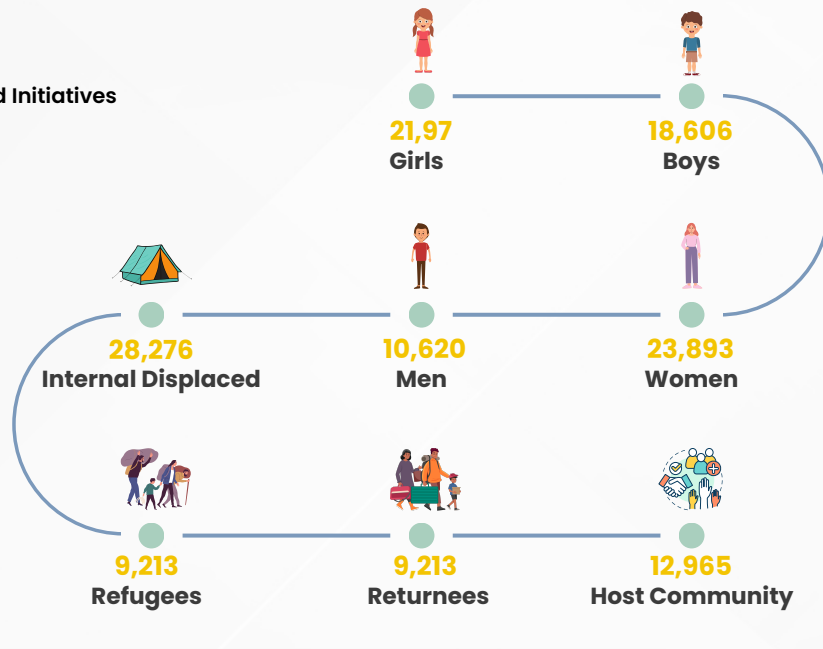
as well as other global and regional issues that are central to our mission. By providing youth with the knowledge and capabilities to leverage technology effectively, we enable them to take meaningful action toward combatting climate change and promoting sustainable development. Through our integrated approach, we aim to bridge the gap between climate change awareness and technological proficiency, fostering a generation of informed individuals who can utilize technological advancements as a means to address environmental challenges and contribute to a sustainable future.

Numbers of People Supported



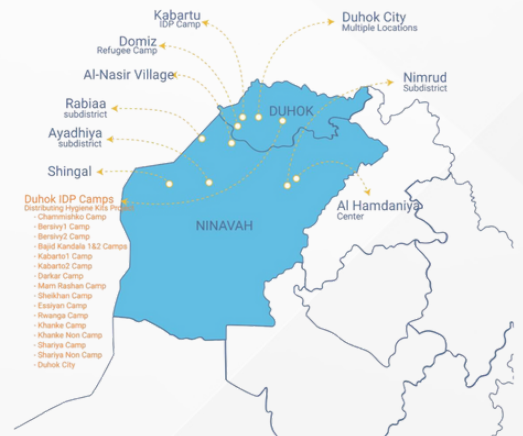
Implemented Projects and Initiatives since the Establishment

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WHERE WE WORK !?

THE ORGANIZATION TARGETED SEVERAL LOCATIONS IN DUHOK AND NINAWA GOVERNORATES AS SHOWN IN THE MAP



- +964751 548 1650
- www.betterworldngo.org
- betterworld@betterworldngo.org
- Nahing Road, Malta, Duhok, Kurdistan, Iraq

