COVID-19: FOOD AND HYGIENE DISTRIBUTION TO 3,190 FAMILIES

GREENING UP 60 HECTARES OF GOIZHA MOUNTAIN FUNDED BY ASIACELL COMPANY

MR. STEVEN FAGIN THE CONSUL GENERAL IN ERBIL APPRECIATES CDO ACTIVITIES DURING SPREAD OF COVID-19

April & May 2020
About CDO:
CDO is an independent non-profit organization registered with KRG and Federal Government

General Director:
Bakhtyar Ahmed Salih

Head Office:
Piramagrun 11th St
Sulaymaniyah
Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Contact:
cdo.headoffice@yahoo.com
director@cdo-iraq.org
788 National NGOs including CDO contributed in a national campaign for supporting vulnerable families that had lost income due to the government-imposed curfews to prevent spread of COVOID-19. 3,227,637 people were beneficiary of the services of national NGOs in 3 months. The source of most of the funds were from local companies. This remarkable participation of national NGOs compared to the weak participation of INGO shows the power and impact of national NGOs in Iraq and leads to raise many questions that might be difficult to find their answers.

The first question comes to one’s mind is why most of the funds in Iraq goes to INGOs while the Iraqi communities didn’t witness their services during the current crisis! Dose UN underrate capacity of NGOs or it has been used as a justification for receiving fund by INGOs? How much budget have been spent for the staffs who stayed at home or were out of Iraq waiting for instructions to start working again? How much fund was allocated to direct activities if it’s compared with the admin and indirect budget of the projects.

I believe it is time now for Iraqi federal and Kurdistan regional government to ask UN agencies and the major donors in Iraq, for how long will they neglect the national NGOs and support INGOs. Also, it is time for national NGOs to ask the UN agencies about their commitment to raise their national partners up to %20 in 2020, so what’s the actual budget that has been given to national NGOs in comparison to the total budget allocated for Iraq!
As a part of initiatives from Asiakell Telecommunication Company towards serving Sulaymaniyah city, a significant project for afforestation of a huge area of Goizha Mountain has been proposed and CDO has been assigned as the implementing party and facilitator of the project.

The start of the project was delayed from March to May due to government imposed COVID-19 curfews which directly affected the plans which were set by both CDO and Asiakell.

The project has many important outcomes including:

- Increasing green area ratio.
- Preserving Goizha Mountain’s soil from erosion.
- Increasing groundwater ration.
- Providing/ creating job opportunities.
The first step in May was coordination and meetings with the related governmental departments including Sulaymaniyyah Governor, Mayor, Municipality, Directorate of Forest and Gardens, Chamber of Commerce, environment directorate and some private sector representatives. All of the departments, especially Sulaymaniyyah Mr. Governor (Dr. Haval Abu Bakir) and Mayor (Mr. Awat Mohammad) ensured their interest and support to the project and appreciated Asiacell initiative.

The first phase of the project is ongoing; an area of 60 Hectares has been specified by Sulaymaniyyah Municipality to be greened as the project site. Types of trees have been discussed and selected based on agriculture department recommendation and later cleaning the site and fertilizer preparations will be conducted.
Youth Leadership Initiative Project is one of CDO’s latest projects which focuses on youth and building their capacity in order to improve the community in many important ways. The project is held in three main districts: Halabja, Ranya and Chamchamal. The aim of the project is to establish youth councils that concentrate on modern dialogue among youth through emphasizing on peace building, gender equality and civil participation via training. These councils would motivate youths to engage in a healthier environment that will make room for creativity and self-development.

Another important aspect this project is to find influential ways to alter the mind set of these young people and create opportunities for them to understand the importance of decision making and respect each other’s opinion through the importance of “change theory” which will be explained to them through town hall meetings. By the end of the training sessions, participants will propose ideas for a useful project in their districts and the best proposal that is most persuasive in regards of youth development will receive an award to execute the project proposal of their own.
**YLC Supports Future Youth Group**

The first activity of YLC was supporting a campaign, which was conducted by a group of volunteers named Future Youth Group, in order to provide clothing for 1,000 children and food packages to 250 vulnerable families in Sulaymaniyah. The data of the campaign was declared in a press conference on May 11 at CDO main building. The objectives of the new project of CDO was also explained to the media channels.

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**Call for application:**

Call for application form has been launched on CDO Facebook page and BMC page. The aim of the call for application form is to gather youths for Youth Leadership Councils from the targeted areas. The call application form contains several questions and animation videos which encourage youths to become members at the youth councils. You can apply through the below link:

https://ee.humanitarianresponse.info/x/UF9gdIk6
The project is implemented by CDO in partnership with Internews which aims to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in Kurdish media channels and seeks to encourage the media channels to have a special policy as a code of conduct to prohibit human right violation and strengthen gender equality.

CDO has established a network of 20 organizations in 4 governorates (Sulaymaniyah, Halabja, Duhok and Erbil) to make advocacy and prepare a draft of codes of conduct that contains ethical principles for the media channels to have a clear mechanism of how to deal with the issues of women and girls and protect gender equality.
In April CDO implementation team established a draft of codes of conduct that includes signified media ethical principles. In the beginning of May kick off meetings with the network members started to discuss the draft. Due to COVID-19 curfews and to follow the instructions, CDO preferred to conduct virtual meetings.

The network organizations in Sulaymaniyah, Halabja, Duhok and Erbil presented their opinion and discussed many critical issues related to women in Kurdistan in order to improve the condition of women and girls in Kurdish media. By the end of the meetings, the draft was shared with 20 organizations to be reviewed and developed. CDO will go through their comments and will present the final version in a near future.
Despite the challenging time for CDO teams and government-imposed curfews due to COVID-19, Bread for Everyone project continues provision of bread and food assistance to vulnerable families in Sulaymaniyah following the instructions and regulations published by the Ministry of Health. The registered families in the project data system receive bread every day and food packages at the end of each month.
During May 303 families have been approached by the team:

- Individuals: 1412
- Bread: 26,650 packages
- Food: 166 packages

Assessment and revision for the life condition of 26 families have been conducted. CDO project management team based on a certain criterion will take proper action to add the families on the beneficiary list.
CDO through this project aims to reduce incidents of gender-based violence which is violation of an individual’s rights, and experiences with GBV can have significant impact on survivors’ safety, health, and quality of life.

April & May Activities

- Tent to tent visit: 100
- Psychosocial support provide to GBV cases: 3
- Psychosocial support provided to Non-GBV cases: 15
- GBV cases referred to specialized service providers: 5
- Follow up made for GBV survivors: 10
The Legal Department is one of the most important units of CDO that provides free legal representation and consultation for internally displaced persons, refugees and the host community.

The cases are recorded by the lawyers through mobile visit and at the main office.

Legal representation: 20 cases
- 19 Syrian refugees
- 1 Turkish Refugee

Legal consultation: 71 Syrian and IDP cases
In order to discuss the latest updates about CDO activities and the distribution program of CDO during the spread of COVID-19, both CDO general director Mr. Bakhtyar Ahmad and Mr. Steven Fagin, the Consul General in Erbil, had a virtual meeting in May. Mr. Fagin mentioned his appreciation for the effort of CDO teams for providing assistance during the spread of COVID-19. He also declared the impact of internal fund of national NGOs in supporting the community at such a critical condition. The general director also provided some updates about the Minority Journalist Training Program and the future plans of CDO as one of the implementing parties of the project.

Civil Development Organization (CDO) and Metro Center with financial support from U.S. Department of State are implementing minority journalist training program in Kurdistan Region.
Dignity Kits Distribution to Improve Wellbeing and Meet Hygiene Needs of Women and Girls

During emergency situations like COVID-19 and when people are experiencing the results of the pandemic on their life condition, the essential needs of woman and girls are often easily neglected. In order to prevent this phenomenon and as part of the regular distributions, CDO with support of PDO distributed 1,929 dignity kit packages, provided by UNFPA, over vulnerable women and girls in Ashti IDP Camp and some location in Sulaymaniyah center.
COVID-19: FOOD AND HYGIENE DISTRIBUTION TO VULNERABLE FAMILIES CONTINUES

Due to the poor financial state established in Kurdistan, it is very difficult for vulnerable families living in extreme poverty reach food items. After March and reaching more than 13,000 families, CDO continues in April and May provision of more assistance to poor families with essential food and hygiene items to increase their resilience during the spread of COVID-19.
In April and May CDO successfully distributed 2,000 food and hygiene items over more than 2,000 families in Penjwen Kalar and Qaradakh:

1750 packages in cooperation with Anzo Enterprise Company
250 packages in cooperation with Genel Enegry Company

Distribution of items will continue in the upcoming months as CDO is planning to reach more vulnerable families in different locations.
In a press conference in April CDO and Faruk Investment Group Company announced the successful end of provision of food and non-food items campaign in Sulaymaniyah governorate. The campaign was fully funded by Mr. Faruk Mustafa Rasool, Chairman of Faruk Investment Group Company.

During March within 15 days through 6 professional teams CDO delivered food and non-food items to 10,000 vulnerable families.

CDO general director during his speech declares CDO’s appreciation to Mr. Faruk Mustafa Rasool for being chosen as their partner to implement such a humanitarian task at a risky condition of Kurdistan and wishes to continue cooperation to approach more vulnerable people in the region.
CDO delivered 114 food and non-food packages to 114 Syrian families located in Sulaymaniyah. The packages were fully funded by Mr. Faruk Mustafa Rasool, Chairman of Faruk Investment Group Company. The assistance was part of the campaign that started in March in partnership with Faruk Investment Group Company.
**CDO Continues Provision of Assistance to Soz Mental Hospital**

In April the Emergency Unit of Civil Development Organization (CDO) gave away a large number of health protection products, nutritious products and sanitizer to Soz Mental Hospital for Mental illnesses. The products included (masks, gloves, Tide, soaps, towels, women hygiene products, brushes, tooth pastes, instant soap and cookies).

In May a team from CDO conducted a second visit to Soz Mental Hospital and had a meeting with the board of the hospital. CDO showed appreciation to the hospital teams who continuously worked and provided medical services to the patients during COVID-19 curfews. The strategies to continue CDO’s support to the hospital were also discussed.

The Emergency Unit of Civil Development Organization is considered one of those branches that was able to give help under all circumstances to the needed places.
Kirkuk has always been one of CDO’s priorities

In May the CDO teams delivered food items to 400 vulnerable families. More assistance will be delivered to a larger number of families in the future.
In April, CDO participated in a campaign conducted to deliver assistance to families who have been financially affected due to COVID-19 lockdown and delivered 100 food packages.

CDO will continue delivering more assistance to Erbil vulnerable families in the upcoming months.
CDO distribution teams reached 255 families in Rzgari district in Kalar to deliver the food and non-food packages to those who have lost income due to COVID-19 curfews.

CDO’s Emergency Unit is planning to continue provision of assistance to Kalar vulnerable residents in the upcoming months.
Labour Day is an annual holiday to celebrate the achievements of workers, it is synonymous with, or linked with, International Workers' Day, which occurs on 1 May. CDO celebrated the day with 250 Kurdish, Arab and foreigner workers in Sulaymaniyah and distributed 250 packages over them. Those workers due to their low income and the spread of Corona virus are living in difficult financial condition.

Civil Development Organization (CDO) in a press conference requests the parliament and the Kurdistan Region’s Government to implement through developed laws projects and practical steps to enhance the financial status of thousands of workers in the Kurdistan Region.
The Emergency Unit of CDO brings joy to vulnerable children in Sulaymaniyah. Eid clothing were distributed over 70 children to celebrate the upcoming Eid.

In addition, hundreds of gifts were distributed over a large number of vulnerable families in Sulaymaniyah center.
The pure innocence and happiness of a child is one of the most beautiful things in the world!

A small girl feeling happy after receiving Ramadhan Eid gift from CDO
Training Opportunities

Participate in an Online Course During Your Stay at Home

- Interactive Online Training in Negotiation Skills for Humanitarian Aid Workers - Clingendael Institute
  https://reliefweb.int/training/3642031/interactive-online-training-negotiation-skills-humanitarian-aid-workers-clingendael

- Communication for Development and Humanitarian Action
  https://reliefweb.int/training/3641260/communication-development-and-humanitarian-action

- Conflict Management and Conflict Transformation - ONLINE SLE TRAINING
  https://reliefweb.int/training/3640797/conflict-management-and-conflict-transformation-online-sle-training

NOTE: CDO is only announcer of these opportunities and is not part of the course organizers.