

World Vision



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Recovery • Resilience • Hope

Rebuilding a Better Iraq for Its Children



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## **Biruk Kebede Beyene / Country Director**

Fiscal Year 2025 has been defined by resilience, discipline, and strategic focus. Amid funding uncertainty and operational disruption, World Vision Iraq remained committed to serving the most vulnerable children and communities. Rather than expanding, we focused on strengthening programme quality, safeguarding core services, and ensuring continuity in a complex environment. Targeted cost-saving measures, strengthened oversight, and prudent financial management enhanced operational discipline while maintaining our workforce and service delivery. Teams continued rebuilding safe learning environments, restoring water and sanitation systems, strengthening protection and psychosocial support, supporting livelihoods, advancing social cohesion, and promoting climate resilience.

The Resilience and Recovery Pathways for Iraq (RRPI) programme remained central to long-term recovery, with renewed engagement following operational adjustments. Children and youth groups across multiple governorates provided structured platforms for participation, ensuring programming reflects their perspectives. Evidence generation, assessments, and research informed adaptive programming to support sustainable recovery, social cohesion, and resilience. As Iraq navigates economic, climate, and social challenges, World Vision Iraq remains committed to strengthening systems, empowering communities, and protecting children, restoring dignity, and building resilient futures. With appreciation and determination.

**Biruk Kebede Beyene**  
**Country Director**  
**World Vision Iraq**



# 1.3 Million

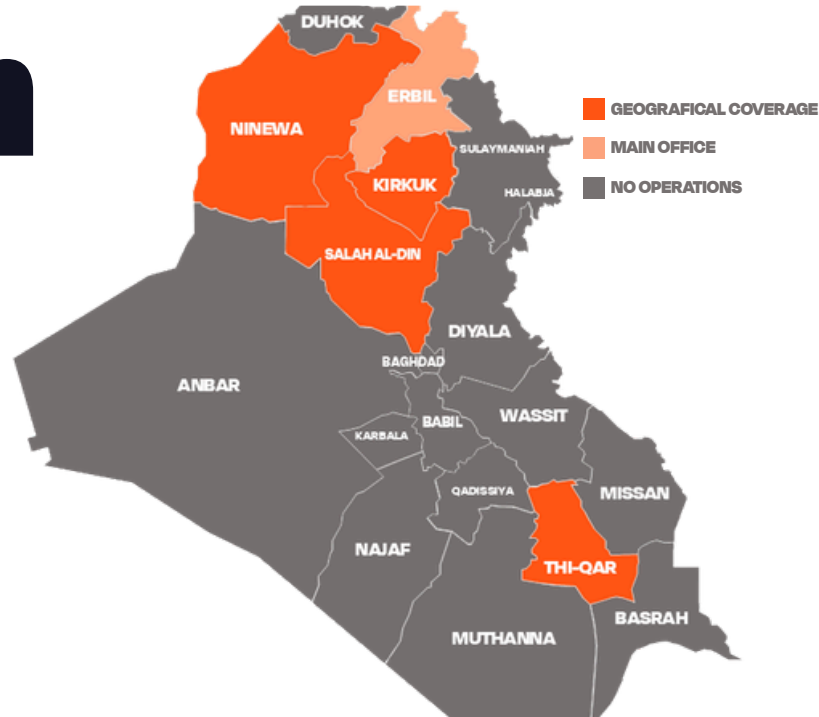
PEOPLE REACHED INCLUDING ADVOCACY

## Direct Beneficiaries



# 426,709

Including (661) persons with disabilities



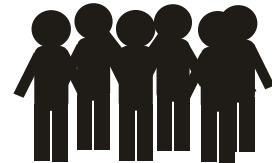
## CHILDREN



# 180,964

including (110) children with disabilities

## ADULTS



# 245,745

including (551) adults with disabilities

## GIRLS



# 92,555

## BOYS



# 88,409

## WOMEN



# 122,768

## MEN



# 122,977



**1.3** million people including **1,134,000** children were reached through World Vision Iraq's advocacy efforts in 2025, reflecting a growing commitment to ensure that children are not only protected, but also heard. During the reporting period, World Vision Iraq established its first Children and Youth Working Group, creating a structured platform for meaningful child participation. The group convened three formal meetings, bringing together children from diverse backgrounds to discuss issues directly affecting their lives, particularly climate change, social cohesion, and peace. These consultations revealed a strong awareness among children of the interconnected challenges facing their communities. Participants consistently linked environmental stress, economic hardship, and instability, highlighting how climate-related pressures influence daily life, education, and community relationships. The Working Group created a safe space for children to articulate concerns, share lived experiences, and propose solutions, an approach that places children at the center of dialogue rather than as passive beneficiaries.



A young girl shares her ideas on climate change, raising children's voices in advocacy initiatives.

## Strengthening Child Participation and Local Dialogue

The Working Group also served as a bridge between children and community stakeholders. Through facilitated discussions and participatory activities, children engaged with local leaders and influencers, contributing perspectives on peaceful coexistence, inclusion, and community wellbeing. These interactions reinforced the principle that children are active social actors whose insights can inform local decision-making processes.

By institutionalizing child participation mechanisms, World Vision Iraq strengthened accountability to children and demonstrated practical pathways for integrating youth voices into broader advocacy and community engagement efforts.

## Advocacy Impact at Systems Level

Notably, World Vision supported the development and adoption of the National Standardized Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Curriculum and Manual by the Ministry of Health. This strengthens the quality and consistency of MHPSS services delivered through primary health care centers nationwide, benefiting an estimated 1.4 million children across Iraq, including those affected by conflict, displacement, poverty, and violence.



## 1- Safe Schools, Strong Futures

Safe, inclusive, and well-equipped schools are essential for children's protection and development. World Vision strengthened education environments by integrating WASH upgrades, child protection mechanisms, and teacher capacity building, reaching **3,513** children and teachers, to ensure they can learn safely and confidently.



### Better Schools & Services

This multi-sectoral initiative rehabilitated school infrastructure, improved water and sanitation systems, trained teachers, and strengthened child protection mechanisms to create a safe and supportive learning environments in Salah Al-Din Governorate, Tooz District.

#### Before

Schools faced deteriorated WASH facilities, overcrowded classrooms, limited teacher training, and weak child protection mechanisms, affecting attendance and learning outcomes.

#### After

Students now access safe sanitation facilities, improved classrooms, trained teachers, and structured child protection support within schools.

### Key Results

- **9,626** community members reached through door-to-door climate awareness.
- **540** households (~**3,240** people) gained safe drinking water.
- WASH upgrades in **6** schools (benefiting ~**1,400** children) finalized.
- **500** households supported through community led child protection actions.
- School greening and renewable energy interventions planned.



Two female students learning in a safe and inclusive classroom environment.

#### Human Impact

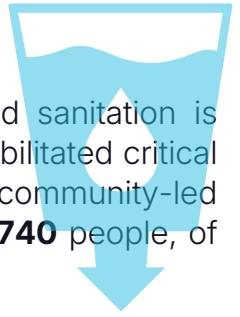
"Now we feel safe using the school bathrooms, and I want to come to school every day." – 12-year-old student, Tooz.

#### What's Next

Scaling safe-school models and strengthening community engagement to ensure long-term sustainability of improved learning environments.

## 2- Water and Dignity for Communities

Strengthening Inclusive and Sustainable WASH Systems Access to safe water and sanitation is fundamental to dignity, health, and protection. In Kirkuk and Rashad, World Vision rehabilitated critical WASH infrastructure while embedding gender equality, disability inclusion, and community-led maintenance systems to ensure sustainable service delivery, reaching a total of **330,740** people, of whom **41.3%** were children.



### Strengthening Gender Equality and Social Inclusion- GESI in WASH

These initiatives upgraded water networks, sanitation facilities, and hygiene systems in schools and vulnerable communities in Kirkuk Governorate, while promoting inclusive design and empowering local actors through micro-grants and capacity building.

#### Before

Communities relied on deteriorated water systems, unsafe sanitation facilities, and limited hygiene awareness. Women, girls, and persons with disabilities faced additional barriers in accessing safe services.

#### After

Rehabilitated water infrastructure and gender responsive sanitation facilities now provide safer, more reliable access to water and hygiene services for vulnerable families and school children.

### Key Results

- **3,000** people gained safely managed drinking water via 4 new networks, 2 restored boreholes, and 5 rehabilitated treatment plants.
- **6** schools (~**1,600** children) and **4** healthcare facilities upgraded with safe water, inclusive sanitation, menstrual hygiene facilities, and disability-accessible infrastructure.
- Faith leaders reached more than **500** households with climate messages and via four awareness campaigns.
- **66** households upgraded to improved sanitation; **10** households with persons with disabilities received fully accessible WASH facilities.
- **20** technical staff and **50** local authority representatives trained on climate-resilient water systems, governance, and adaptation.



Children with disabilities at school on World Disability Day, reflecting World Vision's efforts to strengthen accessible WASH services and infrastructure.

#### Human Impact

"For the first time, our daughters have privacy and clean facilities at school." – Mother, Rashad District.

#### What's Next

Expanding inclusive WASH models and strengthening local systems to ensure long-term sustainability and climate resilience of water services.

## 3- Protecting Women, Girls, and Youth

Protecting Women, Girls, and Vulnerable Youth from Violence Protection and psychosocial wellbeing are essential foundations for recovery and resilience. Through gender equality and social inclusion programming, World Vision strengthened protection systems, expanded safe spaces, and supported survivors of violence to restore dignity, confidence, and hope, reaching **36,342** individuals.

### Empowering Female & Youth through Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

This project enhanced prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Ninewa Governorate through safe spaces, case management, psychosocial support, and community awareness initiatives targeting women, girls, and vulnerable youth.

#### Before

Women and girls faced limited access to protection services, stigma around reporting violence, and weak referral systems. Many survivors lacked psychosocial and legal support.

#### After

Safe spaces were established, case management systems strengthened, and community awareness improved, enabling survivors to access confidential support and protection services.

### Key Results

- Awareness campaigns reached **3,700+** community members.
- **13** IMPACT+ clubs established, engaging **240** adolescents.
- **120** households engaged in structured SGBV and gender equality awareness sessions.
- **77** SGBV survivors received case management support.
- **73** dignity kits distributed to women and girls.
- **60** women (including survivors and women with disabilities) completed vocational training in tailoring, hair salon management, and kitchen gardening.
- **52** survivors accessed targeted cash assistance for urgent safety and basic needs.
- **33** teachers equipped on SGBV identification, response, and referral pathways.



Empowering women, girls, and vulnerable youth through safe spaces, protection services, and psychosocial support.

#### Human Impact

"I learned that I have rights and that I am not alone."– Young woman participating in safe space activities

#### What's Next

Strengthening community-based protection systems and expanding survivor-centered services to ensure long-term safety and resilience

## 4- Livelihoods for Recovery and Stability

### Restoring Economic Stability and Sustainable Income

Economic recovery is central to durable solutions and community resilience. Through market-driven approaches, climate-smart agriculture, and MSME support, World Vision strengthened local economies and helped vulnerable families restore sustainable sources of income, benefiting **5,149** individuals.



### Safe Return & Reintegration

These initiatives supported returnee and vulnerable households in Kirkuk Governorate through business grants, vocational skills development, agricultural value chain strengthening, and private sector engagement to stimulate sustainable employment.

#### Before

Many returnee and vulnerable families faced limited income opportunities, weak market access, and declining agricultural productivity due to climate stress and economic instability.

#### After

Households established or expanded small businesses, farmers adopted improved practices, and local markets became more dynamic through strengthened value chains and private sector partnerships.

### Key Results

- **40** MSMEs supported.
- **15** participants accessed microfinance; **28** savings groups enabled member loans.
- **222** farmers trained on conservation agriculture; **10** farmers adopted practices.
- **320** farmers trained on fodder alternatives; **50** farmers planted bonicam.
- **12** DoA staff completed a 10-day ToT, embedding delivery in public extension.
- **225** farmers trained across value chains, with knowledge gains up to **+40%**.
- **147** grants (avg. USD 3,500) disbursed;  $\geq 80\%$  invested in productive assets; 100% of businesses operational at closure.
- **59** women, **58** youth, and 5 PwD meaningfully reached through inclusive approaches.
- Uptake of clean-energy solutions and improved water/soil management increased efficiency and resilience.



Nesrin from Kirkuk rebuilds her income through training and a grant, generating a sustainable livelihood with her livestock.

#### Human Impact

"With the grant and training, I reopened my workshop and can now support my family again." – Small business owner, Kirkuk

#### What's Next

Expanding market systems approaches and strengthening climate-resilient livelihoods to ensure long-term economic stability.

## 5- Building Peaceful Communities

Strengthening Social Cohesion and Interfaith Dialogue Sustainable development depends on peaceful and inclusive communities. Through faith-based engagement and child-centred peacebuilding initiatives, World Vision strengthened social cohesion, promoted dialogue, and empowered communities to resolve tensions collaboratively, reaching **12,919** people.



### Strengthening Faith and Social Cohesion for Child Well-being

These Child-Centred Peacebuilding Pilots (ECaP) engaged faith leaders, youth, and community actors to promote tolerance, dialogue, and collective action for child well-being and peaceful coexistence.

#### Before

Communities affected by conflict experienced weakened trust, limited dialogue between groups, and reduced collaboration around child protection and community development.

#### After

Faith leaders and youth are visible peace actors, with interfaith platforms supporting dialogue and joint community actions. In several areas, these mechanisms were linked to existing structures to help them continue beyond the project.

### Key Results

- Interfaith cooperation strengthened: Faith leaders from Muslim, Christian, Kakai, Sabian, and Yazidi communities now collaborate in Erbil, Ninewa, Kirkuk, and Tooz.
- **98%** of faith leaders initiated community actions on child protection, education, and social cohesion.
- Families adopting positive parenting practices through the Celebrating Families approach.
- Climate and environmental action integrated into faith messaging in sermons, schools, and community events.



A child-centered approach created meaningful opportunities for children to interact, build bonds, and come together in a safe and supportive environment.

#### Human Impact

“When leaders from different faiths speak together about peace, we feel hopeful about our future.” – Youth participant, interfaith dialogue session

#### What's Next

World Vision will strengthen community peacebuilding platforms, formalize partnerships with local institutions, and integrate child-centred approaches into district planning to support long-term impact.

## 6- Climate Resilience and Nexus Action

### Advancing Climate Resilience through Nexus Programming

Climate change is intensifying vulnerabilities across fragile communities. Through the Nexus Accelerator Fund (NAF), World Vision integrated climate resilience, livelihoods, WASH, and peacebuilding to strengthen communities' capacity to anticipate, adapt, and respond to environmental shocks.



### Nexus Programming

This initiative combines climate-smart agriculture, ecosystem restoration, anticipatory action, and community-based peacebuilding to strengthen resilience in climate-affected areas. By empowering youth, women, and local stakeholders, it enhances adaptation to environmental challenges while promoting social cohesion, inclusive governance, and resilient communities.

#### Before

Communities faced climate shocks, environmental degradation, low social cohesion, limited youth and women's participation, and constrained access to services, reducing their ability to manage risks and influence local solutions.

#### After

Communities adopted climate-smart practices, strengthened resilience systems, improved social cohesion, and actively engaged in environmental challenges and early response to shocks.

### Key Results

- Provided safe water access to **294,000** people affected by climate change in southern part of Iraq.
- Improved WASH practices for **330** students through WASH UP! programming.
- Engaged **280** youth in protection, advocacy, and peacebuilding; youth-led dialogues reached **214** adults.
- Reached **208** participants with climate-smart and drought adaptation dialogues.
- Engaged **149** stakeholders in multi-stakeholder and faith-based dialogues promoting unity and resilience.
- Trained **99** farmers and engaged 85 community members in sustainable agriculture and environmental actions.



A young girl participates in a planting campaign, part of World Vision's climate-smart and ecosystem restoration initiatives.

#### Human Impact

"Now we know how to prepare before drought affects our crops." – Farmer participating in climate-smart agriculture training.

#### What's Next

Scaling nexus programming models and strengthening climate-informed local planning to ensure sustainable environmental recovery.



Haboub milks her cow as part of her daily dairy routine, applying the improved hygiene and handling practices she learned through the project in Kirkuk.

In Al Rashad sub-district, Kirkuk, 23-year-old Haboub has transformed her lifelong dairy skills into a growing and reliable source of income for her family.

After joining the Sustainable Employment Opportunities through Support to Agriculture and Agri Businesses project, implemented by World Vision Iraq in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and KfW Development Bank, Haboub strengthened her skills in cattle husbandry, milk hygiene, dairy processing, and basic business management.

Through practical, hands-on training, she improved her milking workflow, introduced better hygiene practices, and began tracking production and sales. By prioritizing quality and consistency, she built trust with local households and shops, reducing product returns and increasing repeat customers. With a steadier income, Haboub can now plan ahead for feed, veterinary care, and small improvements to her cowshed. Her family supports the business, turning it into a shared effort and a source of pride.

Today, Haboub's success is inspiring other young women in her community. Her journey demonstrates how practical skills, targeted support, and determination can transform local knowledge into sustainable livelihoods—strengthening families and communities across Kirkuk.



## 'EVERY CHALLENGE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND GROW'

"The support I received was the light that illuminated my path," says 29-year-old Alaa Rifqi from Baaj, Ninewa, reflecting on the turning point that reshaped his life.

Before joining the vocational and life-skills training delivered by World Vision through the Nexus Accelerator Fund (NAF) project, Alaa described his days as unstructured and unproductive. He struggled with time management, stress, and effective communication, often feeling frustrated but determined to improve.

Held in February 2025 in partnership with Vocational Training Centers in Ninewa, the five day programme engaged 80 youth, including 45 persons with disabilities or caregivers. Through interactive sessions on emotional intelligence, communication, critical thinking, and decision-making, participants strengthened both practical skills and self-confidence.

For Alaa, the impact was immediate. He now organizes his time, manages stress more effectively, and approaches challenges with clarity and confidence. By applying structured planning and communication skills, he has improved his relationships and daily productivity.

Today, Alaa continues to set goals for personal and professional growth. His journey reflects how targeted life-skills training can empower youth to build resilience, strengthen community connections, and create positive change in Ninewa.



### The Resilience and Recovery Pathways Iraq (RRPI)

A coalition of 8 international and national organizations working together to address humanitarian needs, recovery, and long-term resilience in Iraq through coordinated and complementary action. World Vision, Save the Children, CRS, Tearfund, PAO, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Al Mesalla, AGO.

Worked across at least 17 of 19 Governorates in federal Iraq and the Kurdistan Region, including: Ninewa, Anbar, Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk, Diyala, Baghdad, Basra, Missan, Thi-Qar, Najaf, Kerbala, Babylon, Wassit, Qadissiya, Erbil, Duhok, Sulaymaniyah, and Halabja.

### Impact

Across humanitarian, recovery, and resilience programming, RRPI partners have collectively:

- Reached over **750,000** people across Iraq.
- Worked in **1,000+** communities and locations.
- Supported IDPs, returnees, host communities, women, youth, farmers, and vulnerable households.

## Enhanced Context Monitoring

Under the Nexus Accelerator Fund (NAF), World Vision Iraq has institutionalized a structured Context Monitoring System to anticipate and respond to evolving conflict, climate, economic, and displacement dynamics. Through regular risk tracking, price monitoring, protection trend analysis, climate stress indicators, and community feedback loops, we generate real time evidence to inform adaptive programming.

This system enables proactive decision-making, allowing us to adjust targeting, sequencing, and modality of interventions before risks escalate. By embedding context monitoring within programme management, we move beyond reactive response toward anticipatory, resilience focused action aligned with the Humanitarian Development-Peace Nexus.



Through the WASH UP! programme, children experienced learning through practice on safe water, hygiene, and sanitation.

# Evidence for Resilient Programming

## Systems Evidence: Understanding Vulnerability and Markets



World Vision Iraq generated integrated evidence to support Humanitarian–Development Peace (HDP) Nexus programming and advance Results for Children, ensuring that humanitarian response contributes to long-term well-being, resilience, and protection. Through a Vulnerability and Needs Assessment (VNA), Conflict-Sensitive Market Analysis (CoSMAT), and a Citywide Assessment in Ninewa and Thi-Qar, evidence highlighted persistent household vulnerability affecting children and families, including high food expenditure, water quality challenges, and protection and safety concerns. These findings reinforced the continued need for principled humanitarian assistance alongside pathways to recovery.

At the same time, market analysis showed that while local markets are functioning, they remain fragile, with price volatility and barriers limiting participation for women, persons with disabilities, returnees, and displaced populations. Citywide and area-based analysis further identified spatial pockets of poverty, service delivery gaps, and coordination challenges between communities and local authorities, compounded by climate and environmental pressures. Together, these assessments informed decisions on livelihoods and market support, urban service engagement, and partnerships with government and donors. By linking household-level needs with market systems and urban governance, World Vision Iraq used evidence to strengthen systems, adapt programmes, promote social cohesion, and deliver sustained results for children and communities.

### Pull-Quote

“By addressing root causes and strengthening systems, World Vision Iraq used evidence to connect humanitarian response with lasting results for children, recovery, and peace.”

### Evidence Highlights

Children and families remain highly vulnerable: Many households spend most of their income on food, alongside water quality and protection concerns, underscoring the need for continued humanitarian support that safeguards child well-being. Inclusive markets reduce stress and tension: Fragile market conditions and barriers faced by women, persons with disabilities, and displaced groups highlight the importance of conflict-sensitive and inclusive livelihoods. Systems shape lasting impact: Spatial pockets of poverty, service gaps, and coordination challenges point to the need for area-based, system-level approaches to resilience and social cohesion.



World Vision Iraq generated child-centred evidence to advance Results for Children, specifically Child Well-Being Outcome 1 (CWBO1): Children experience God’s love and hope. Through a Listening to Children research exercise, World Vision Iraq engaged 102 girls and boys aged 10–18 across seven communities in Ninewa, Salah al-Din, Kirkuk, and Hamdania to understand how children experience love, hope, and meaning in their daily lives. Children from diverse religious backgrounds consistently described hope as rooted in faith, family relationships, and resilience, even in contexts marked by conflict, displacement, poverty, and loss. These findings reaffirmed that emotional, spiritual, and relational well-being are central to children’s ability to cope, aspire, and thrive.

The research identified six interlinked signs of hope, spiritual life, resilience, purpose, joy, compassion, and wisdom—with spirituality and faith emerging as the strongest protective factors for children in Iraq. Children frequently linked their sense of hope to prayer, trust in God, encouragement from parents, and restored stability at home. Many also connected World Vision’s support to caregivers—such as livelihoods assistance and skills training—to reduced stress in the household and improved emotional well-being for children. These insights informed decisions to strengthen faith-sensitive programming, positive parenting, child participation, and caregiver livelihoods, ensuring that programmes nurture not only survival and protection, but also meaning, belonging, and hope for the future.

## Pull-Quote

“When children are listened to, faith, family, and hope emerge as powerful foundations for resilience and child well-being.”

## Evidence Highlights

Hope is deeply rooted in faith and relationships: Spiritual life, prayer, and trust in God— alongside parental encouragement—were the strongest sources of hope for children across religious backgrounds.

Resilience grows through family stability: Children linked improved hope to reduced stress at home, particularly where caregivers received livelihoods and economic support.

Listening strengthens child-centred programming: Children’s voices highlighted the importance of safe spaces, positive parenting, participation, and emotional support as core drivers of well-being.



## USD 8.01M Mobilized in FY25

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### Financial Resilience in a Complex Context

In February 2025, operations were affected by a Stop Work Order. In response, management implemented targeted cost-control measures, including staffing adjustments and strengthened operational oversight. These actions ensured financial stability while safeguarding program delivery. Despite local banking challenges and exchange rate fluctuations, liquidity remained stable through alternative banking arrangements and selective contract conversion into Iraqi Dinars, ensuring uninterrupted payments to suppliers and staff.

### Commitment to Accountability

World Vision Iraq remains committed to transparent, accountable, and impact-driven financial management, ensuring resources are stewarded responsibly to maximize impact for vulnerable children and communities.

# OUR DONORS & PARTNERS



Our impact in FY25 was made possible through the trust, collaboration, and shared commitment of a diverse network of donors, government institutions, local organizations, faith leaders, civil society actors, and community partners.

Together, we strengthened systems, restored services, and advanced protection, livelihoods, and social cohesion across Iraq.



**US, Canada, Taiwan, Korea,  
Japan, Australia, and Singapore**

## Government & Institutional Partners

- Ministry of Education & Directorates (Thiqar, Ninewa, Sinjar, Baaj).
- KRG Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf), and Sunni & Shia Waqaf Authorities.
- Directorate of Environment, Water Resources & Electricity (Thiqar & Baaj).
- Kirkuk Directorate of Agriculture.
- General Directorate of NGOs (Baghdad & Ninewa).
- Mayoralties & Provincial Councils.
- Directorate of Labour and Social Affairs Ninewa and Kirkuk.
- University of Mosul, Center for Arid Farming and Conservation Agriculture Research.

## Civil Society, Faith & Community Partners

- Churches: Chaldean, Syriac Orthodox, Syriac Catholic, Assyrian.
- Faith leaders & school teachers.
- Community leaders & protection committee volunteers.
- AIM, Al-Masalla, AGO, and PAO.
- Rozh Society for Persons with Disabilities.
- Women for the World, Beth Al-Nahrain, Assyrian Aid Society, Jesuit Refugee Service



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