



# LWF Iraq

Annual Report 2023



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

A Communion  
of Churches



For hope  
and a future

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## Credits

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Photos: LWF Iraq staff

The Lutheran World Federation Iraq

# Foreword

Dr. Rebecca Duerst, Country Representative

Although it has been nearly 10 years since IS took control of large parts of Iraq, the impacts of the conflict remain significant, with destruction of basic infrastructure, lack of livelihoods opportunities, human rights violations, continued insecurity and disintegration of the social fabric. Over 1 million people remain displaced. Among those who have returned to their areas of origin, deep inequities persist and the majority of returnees lack access to durable solutions.

Over the last 9 years, LWF Iraq has stood beside IDPs, returnees, refugees, and host communities as they faced unimaginable atrocities and have now begun to rebuild their lives. By engaging in key sectors including WASH, livelihoods, and protection and social cohesion, LWF Iraq has sought to address both the direct impacts of the conflict and root causes of inequities faced by affected communities, especially those who are marginalized and excluded.

In the pages ahead, members of these communities share how rehabilitating WASH infrastructure, supporting recovery of small businesses, providing protection services for women and girls who experienced trauma during IS captivity, and working with members of communities who are most discriminated against, have been able to improve quality of life, reduce economic inequality, increase agency and self-determination as women reclaim their power, and bring about a more just peace.

As the humanitarian architecture has now deactivated in Iraq, and the regional conflict is positioned to escalate, it is all the more important that the international community does not turn away from the lingering effects of IS and the history of conflict in Iraq. As LWF Iraq, we will further strengthen our engagement in a rights-based approach and our work across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. We will continue to walk alongside local partners in support of the localization agenda, and stand in solidarity with those whose lives have been overturned throughout the tumultuous history as they seek justice for themselves and to build a more just society.





## About us

LWF Iraq has been responding to the priorities of IDPs, returnees, refugees, and host communities in Iraq since the conflict with IS started in 2014. Nearly 10 years later, the protracted crisis still remains one of the largest and most volatile in the world. Of the 6M people displaced during the conflict since 2014, 1.2M remain internally displaced.

With the active conflict over, IDPs are gradually moving back to their places of origin. While many have begun to return, the lack of livelihoods opportunities, basic services, and risks to protection and social cohesion remain significant barriers to create socioeconomic conditions that are conducive for return.

LWF Iraq is moving from relief to development programming, and expanding its areas of operation, especially in GoI, in order to support returnees and host communities as they rebuild their lives, while continuing to support IDPs who remain in KRI.

LWF Iraq focuses on addressing socioeconomic consequences of the conflict, with programmatic areas in livelihoods, WASH, and protection and social cohesion. The nexus approach is strengthened by mainstreaming social cohesion across interventions and addressing discrimination and exclusion through a rights-based approach. Gender justice, disability inclusion, and climate justice are also integrated across programming.

08

Projects

32

Staff

14

Partners

# Livelihoods

LWF Iraq accompanies IDPs, refugees, and host communities as they empower themselves economically

LWF in Iraq focuses on building resilience of IDPs, host communities, and returnees by increasing livelihoods opportunities to socioeconomically empower youth, men, and women living in vulnerable situations. Livelihoods form an important determinant in the humanitarian-peace-development nexus, and LWF Iraq implements diversified livelihood strategies such as entrepreneurship, business development, and impact investment opportunities, including in the agricultural sector. We focus on three main intervention modalities: 1) enhancement of capacities through vocational skills trainings and linkages with the local job market; 2) creation and support of small and medium enterprises; and 3) increased capacities of local farmers through capacity building and provision of productive assets.



In 2023, LWF Iraq:

- Increased skills of farmers by conducting Technical and Vocational Training (TVET) on pruning with 18 male farmers and on food processing with 21 female farmers in Amedi District, Duhok governorate.
- Increased financial and business management skills of women and men by completing 127 sessions, comprising 72 Financial Education (FE), 49 Start & Improve Your Business (SIYB), and 6 COOPs in Duhok and Ninewa governorates.
- Increased access to finance to help establish and recover businesses, as well as create new employment opportunities, through providing loans and business development support to 27 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Duhok governorate.

999

Total outreach

79%

Participants who reported a positive change in their income

# Protection & Social Cohesion

LWF Iraq works with diverse communities to claim their own agency to build a more peaceful society, free from all forms of discrimination, abuse, and exploitation

5,615

Total outreach

85%

Participants in PSS who reported a positive change in their psychosocial wellbeing

LWF Iraq supports communities to claim their rights and advocate with duty bearers to fulfil their responsibilities. We do this by adopting community-based approaches to improve local protection mechanisms, preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV), and in fostering peaceful coexistence. The strategy has transformed LWF Iraq from short-term humanitarian response to long-term development organization, rebuilding lives of conflict-affected communities.

Moreover, LWF Iraq raises awareness on human rights and builds capacity of affected populations to address human rights abuses, discrimination, and exclusion, and empowers women and marginalized groups socially and economically as leaders and decision makers in their households and communities. We also prioritize case management and psychosocial support, recognizing that well-being goes beyond physical and biological needs.

In 2023, LWF Iraq:

- Increased awareness on GBV, domestic violence, early/forced marriage, child protection, legal and human rights, and conflict prevention among 1,688 adolescents, men, and women through community centers and Women Friendly Spaces (WFSs) in Duhok and Ninewa governorates.
- Improved the well-being of 689 women and girls by providing protection services (PSS, group recreational activities, case management, etc.) through WFSs in camp (Shekhan IDP camp) and out-of-camp settings.
- Supported advocacy initiatives led by 84 women on protection issues.



# WASH

LWF Iraq supports communities as they increase their access to WASH services and infrastructure

62,221

Total outreach

91%

Participants who reported that rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure increased their access to water

87%

Participants who reported that they improved their hygiene behaviors and practices

Access to WASH is one of LWF Iraq's main focus areas, and includes increasing access to WASH facilities through rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure, provision of WASH services, and hygiene promotion.

In 2023, LWF Iraq:

- Improved sanitation among 976 households (HH) by delivering sanitation services in Dawodiya IDP camp.
- Increased access to water for 167 people through rehabilitation of the water supply network in Bakhtme village.
- Increased access to water for 240 HH by installing household water storage tanks in Baaj district.
- Improved access to WASH facilities for 40 PwD through rehabilitation of household latrines and showers in Baaj district.
- Improved waste water management by constructing new drainage lines to 120 HHs in Baaj district.
- Improved sanitation among 1,114 HH by carrying out solid waste management and dislodging services in Baaj district.
- Improved hygiene practices among 671 people in Kani Spi neighborhood of Summel district.
- Raised awareness on water conservation, disease prevention, and menstrual health and hygiene with 7,657 people in Baaj district.
- Improved technical and management capacity of duty bearers and local partners by providing capacity building training to 40 staff in Baaj, Hatra, and Summel districts.







# Stories & Statistics



## Individual stories of change

Nijyar Yacoub is a 37-year-old skilled and passionate barber. Through his dedication and knack for delivering exceptional haircuts and personalized experiences, he had earned a commendable reputation in his community. Nijyar also understood the significance of financial education and planning, which led him to enthusiastically participate in the financial education (FE) training offered by LWF in collaboration with the International Labor Organization (ILO).

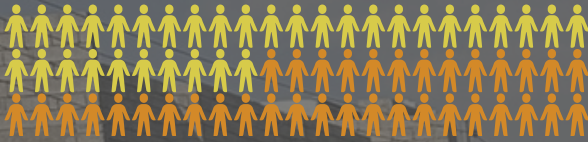
Nijyar stated, after his participation in the training, “during the FE training, I absorbed invaluable financial knowledge, including budgeting techniques, effective saving strategies, loan management, and proper documentation. With this, I gained a deeper understanding of how to manage my finances proficiently and make informed decisions to drive my business growth forward”. After receiving training, he applied for a loan to expand his barbershop and has opened another shop. In August 2022, Nijyar proudly unveiled “Mazi 2” as his second barbershop.

*“This expansion not only allowed me to cater to a larger clientele but also created employment opportunities for other talented barbers within my community.”*

*— Nijyar Yacoub, participant in financial education training*

Nijyar said, “this expansion not only allowed me to cater to a larger clientele but also created employment opportunities for other talented barbers within my community. It also acts as a catalyst for social and economic empowerment, providing livelihoods and contributing to the flourishing atmosphere.”

People reached: 68,835



48% Men & boys 52% Women & girls

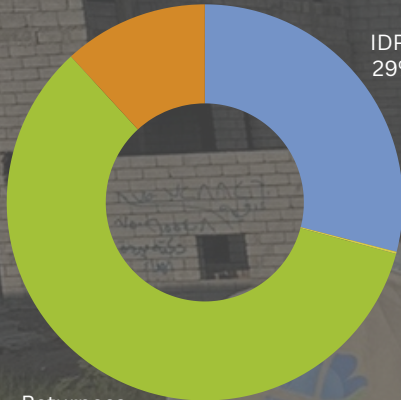
## Populations served

Host Community  
11.8%

IDPs  
29%

Refugees  
0.2%

Returnees  
59%



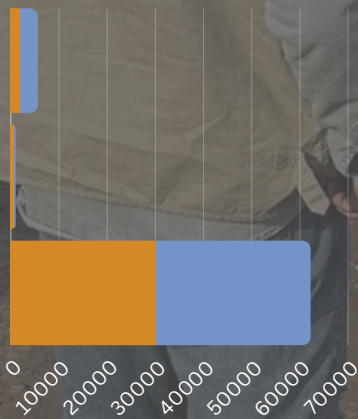
## Participants by sector

Male Female

Protection & Social Cohesion

Livelihoods

WASH



## Participants by geographic area

Federal Iraq

48922

Kurdistan  
Region of Iraq

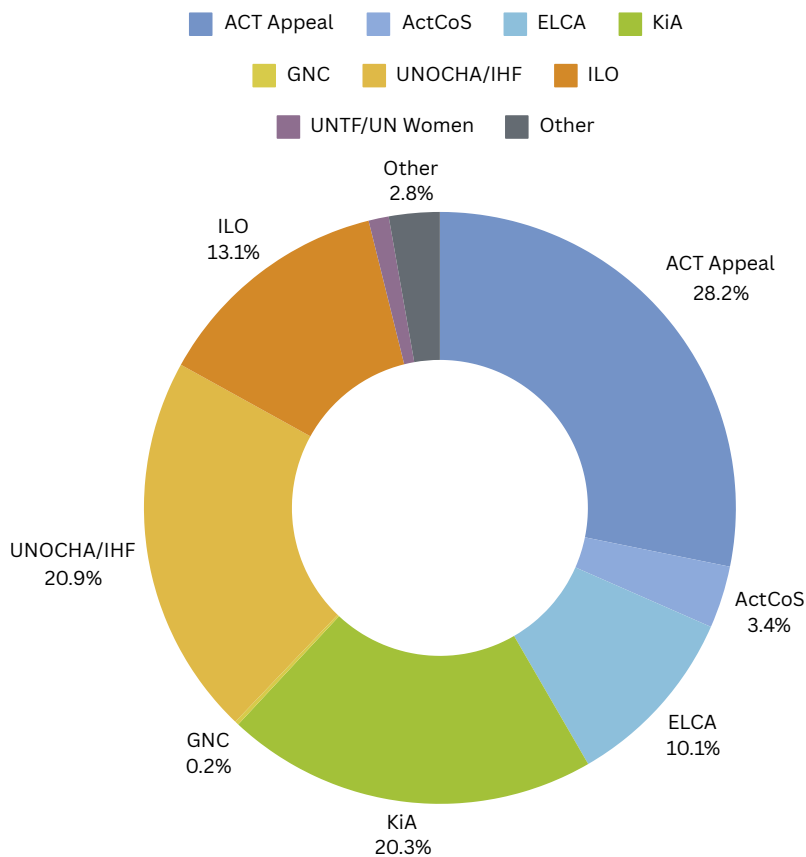
19913



# Finances

## Income

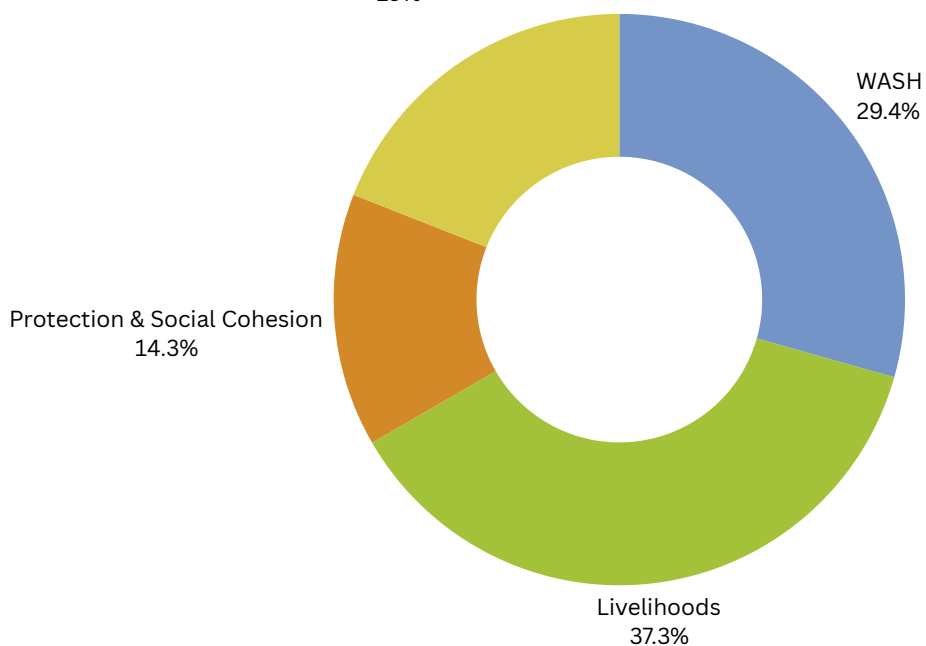
Total income (EUR):  
2,037,733



## Expenditure

Total expenditure (EUR):  
1,981,443

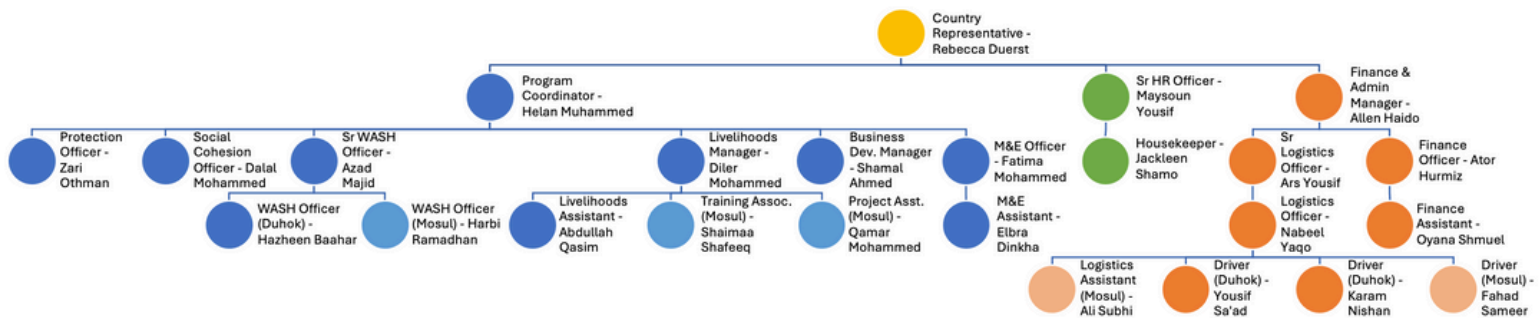
Systems & Practices for Quality Programming  
19%



# Staff

## National & international staff

LWF Iraq has a qualified and dedicated team of 24 national staff and 1 international staff.



## Incentive staff

LWF Iraq works with IDPs and host community members both in and out of camps as key members of our team.

# Partners



LWF Iraq works with local partners as part of our support of the localization agenda.

LWF Iraq is grateful for the consistent support of our funding partners.





LWF actalliance

مجموعات الدعم

خدمات الإجتماعية

تقديم جلسات الدعم النفسي (نشاطات ترفيهية)

تقديم جلسات مهارات للمراهقين مجاناً

جلسات نوعية فنية

Rakuten

USPA  
1841  
Honor

DESTER



# Ways to Give

Your support is key to our mission to empower people around the world. LWF World Service will use your contribution to support our projects, including those in Iraq.



The Lutheran World Federation  
– A Communion of Churches  
Chemin du Pavillon, 2  
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex  
Geneva, Switzerland