



# INSAN Iraqi Society

September 2009

## Tributes

- Iraq Non-governmental Organization founded in 2004
- 3 offices: Kirkuk, Baghdad and Amman, Jordan
- Official partner with UN and International Organizations

## Areas of work

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## Who are we?

INSAN Iraqi Society is a non-governmental, non for profit and non religious organization working in the field of development, social justice and humanitarian aid. It was established in Baghdad in 2004 by Iraqi members who had been working previously, since 1999, for international humanitarian aid organizations.



INSAN aims at relieving the suffering and empowering Iraqi people, in particular vulnerable persons, victims of conflict, poor people, and under-represented people, especially women and internally displaced persons.

INSAN is dedicated to spread social and cultural awareness in the Iraqi Society, and to promote a culture of Human Rights and Fair Participation. INSAN contributes to build the Iraqi Civil Society by enhancing the efforts of individuals, introducing and promoting the concepts of democratization, tolerance and Peace Building.

INSAN also focuses on providing access to services to the vulnerable people, in the field of health in particular, enhancing the services offered by health structures in poor areas of Iraq.



INSAN has been closely collaborating with various international organizations, acquiring effective work and management tools and methodologies, and adopting international standards of work.

## Foundation & Development

Since 1999, INSAN founding members have worked with well-known international non-governmental organizations including Enfants du Monde – Droits de l'Homme (EMDH) and Médecins du Monde (MDM).

In 2003, all INSAN founding members were then working for Movimiento por la Paz, el Desarme y la Libertad (MPDL). As MPDL evacuated out of Iraq in 2004, the INSAN (Human-being in Arabic) was created..

INSAN currently benefits from the assistance of an expatriate consultant who supports the development of the structure of the organization, the development of programs and the coordination of activities on the field.

## I. Community Development



IDP woman receiving an educational leaflet on women's rights

INSAN is working in carefully selected vulnerable communities where it seeks to empower individuals by providing necessary skills to effect change in their own community.

INSAN seeks at supporting targeted communities in overcoming poverty and disadvantage, and knitting society to establish peaceful co-existence and deepen democracy.

INSAN is using diverse strategies to ensure community development such as:

- Human Rights Education & training of youth and community leaders in community and political participation, conflict management, participatory appraisal
- Income generation benefiting to vulnerable individuals
- Vocational trainings benefiting to youth and women

INSAN receives the support of diverse organizations to implement projects in this field:

- UNOPS
- UNHCR
- UNIFEM
- IOM
- Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (D&P)
- British Council

### A. Human Rights Education & Training of youth and community



Poster promoting peace building in Kirkuk

In order to ensure sustainability of community development mechanisms, it is essential to build a pool of resources within the community who are able to carry development processes forward even after INSAN's intervention.

Human Rights Education aims at empowering individuals, groups and communities through fostering knowledge, skills and attitudes. It is

a fundamental tool guaranteeing respect of rights and democracy. INSAN is particularly interested in promoting women's rights and ensuring their active participation to community development.

Developing community leadership is essential and it is the main reason why INSAN supports the training of community leaders on diverse subjects related to commu-

nity development.

Youth is another segment of the society that is capable to develop energy to support change and ensure sustainability of development processes.

The empowerment of community members strengthen community participation and increase community interest towards projects implemented.

#### Examples of projects:

- *Nationwide (British Council, 2006): Awareness and advocacy campaign led to promote IDP's Rights in Iraq: Awareness media campaign Human Rights for All*

- *Kirkuk, Failaq (UNIFEM, 2006): Media campaign for women's rights*

- *Kirkuk, Rapareen (UNOPS, 2008-2009): Trainings in conflict management, participatory appraisal, political participation of community leaders and youth. Conduction of a participatory rapid appraisal by volunteers leading to design of a community development plan.*

### B. Vocational Trainings for women and youth



Students in computer maintenance

Learning manual and practical skills that are often non academic provides increased opportunities for employment to targeted segments of the population. The provision of toolkits facilitates the creation of job opportunities.

#### Examples of projects:

- *Kirkuk, Rapareen (UNOPS, 2008-2009): Vocational trainings in computer maintenance, computer networking, mobile phone fixing, TV satellite installation, carpet weaving.*

## C. Income generation

Income generation aims at improving living conditions of vulnerable individuals through enabling rapid income creation.

It is conducted in two forms:

- through group activities for which individuals are often provided necessary skills

- through individual activities by providing small grants to most vulnerable individuals.

### Examples of projects:

- *Baghdad, Dora and Baladiyyat (UNHCR/MPDL, 2005): Opening a sewing cooperative for Palestinian and Iraqi vulnerable women, providing sewing and business management skills.*

- *Kirkuk, Failaq and 50Ali; Kut (IOM, D&P, 2007): Opening a fruit and vegetable cooperative where items are sold at door-steps with metallic carts*

- *Kirkuk, Failaq (UNOPS, 2007-2008): Providing 22 small grants to vulnerable individuals along organizing dialogue sessions to manage conflict in the area*

- *Baghdad, Tajhi and Sabaa Al Bor (IOM, 2008): Providing small grants and financial administration skills to 50 vulnerable individuals*

- *Kirkuk, Rapareen (UNOPS, 2008-2009): Providing small grants to 30 vulnerable individuals*



Fruit and vegetable cooperative shop

**“Iraqi NGOs must act as peace promoters through integrating conflict management approaches in their work”**

## II. Peace Building and Conflict Management

Iraq is a country with particular settings, having been historically populated by diverse communities and ethnicities having lived traditionally side by side in peace.

The recent political changes in the context of Iraq has severely endangered the stability of the country as conflict between communities emerged and turned into escalation of violence.

INSAN has recognized the need to spread tolerance and peace building concepts across the society, encouraging conflict resolution and non violent behaviours.

Conflict Management and Peace Building are used as a horizontal approach by INSAN within all activities and programs conducted by the organization. Concepts are introduced on a systematic basis in all projects to ensure that INSAN is positively impacting on targeted communities.

Diverse mechanisms are used such as:

- **dialogue** - inter and intra communities, with local authorities and central government

- **creation of inter-dependant**

**links** - mixing of beneficiaries in income generation and social activities

- **capacity building** of community leaders and members in conflict management and peace building, introduction of tolerance and peace concepts to women, youth and children

INSAN receives the support of diverse organizations to conduct projects in this field:

- UNOPS

- USIP

- D&P

### Examples of projects:

- *Kirkuk & Mosul (UNIFEM, 2008): Promoting the role of women in peace building initiatives through developing a working strategy with women organizations working in these areas.*

- *Nationwide (D&P and USIP, 2008): Building the capacity of Iraqi NGOs to work in a conflict environment through training in conflict management and funding of change projects—Establishment of Salamnet network*

- *Kirkuk, Rapareen (UNOPS, 2008-2009): Building peace in Rapareen through conduction of community development process and implementation of economic, social and educational activities*



Children and peace building



Training in Conflict Management

