



Iraqi Al-Amal Association

For the welfare of humanity



Iraqi Al-Amal Association Third Conference
Baghdad, 18 -19 / 12 / 2008

Achievements Report

For the period between the Second Conference held in November 1999
and the Third Conference held in December 2008

Content of the Achievements Report

First phase: Working within Kurdistan Region

Second phase: Opening Al-Amal head office in Baghdad in 2003 and working all over Iraq.

1. In the Field of Health Services and Humanitarian Aids:

A- In Health Field:

- Arbil Clinic
- Mobile Clinics
- Health Education of Mother's & Child's Health Care in Najaf Province.
- Health, Legal & Social Awareness Project for Women from Rural Areas in Salahadeen Province
- Medical Care Program for Children with Special Needs
- Other Activities

B- Humanitarian Aids:

- Reuniting of a Kurdish Family
- Emergency Aid for the Floods' Victims in Kurdistan

- Emergency Aid for Displaced People in Karbala Governorate
- Ramadan Aid
- Aid to Poor Families
- A Range of Other Aids

2. Education & Training

3. Women in Technology

4. Women & Gender:

- International Women's Day
- Studies on Women's Status
- Al Tadamun Beauty Center
- Violence against Women:
 - Legal and Social Clinic
 - Conferences & Other Activities

5. Conflict Resolution, Human Rights & Civil Dialogue:

- Conflict Resolution Program for Teenager's Students & Young Adults
- Civil Dialogue among Young People
- Dissemination of Human Rights Education

6. Capacity Building:

- Non-Governmental Organisations
- Conflict Resolution, Peace and Gender
- Capacity Building of the Employees in Government Agencies

7. Lobby & Advocacy:

- Development of Community Participation in the Political Process & National Unity
- Non-Governmental Organisations
- Participations in National, Regional & International Forums

8. Partners & Donors:

- Relations & Cooperation with INGO's
- Relations & Cooperation with UN Agencies

The Achievements Report

The work and activities of the Association may be divided, during this period, into two phases:

First Phase: The post-Second Assembly period from November 1999 till the U.S. invasion and the fall of the dictatorial regime.

Second Phase: Starting from the opening of the main center in Baghdad, May 2003 until the third Assembly in December 2008.

Phase I

During this phase, the Association continued its activities in Kurdistan Region through:

1. The Continuation of the Association's clinics work: **Arbil Clinic** (founded in 1993 and continues its work till the present), and the Sulaimaniya clinic (established 1994), and Kalar clinic (established 1999), also the clinic of Perah Megroon (established in 2000 and closed in 2002). These clinics were established to provide health treatment to the underprivileged people. The clinics have carried out medical awareness campaigns, immunisations and minor operations. Due to the Association's internal circumstances, both the General clinics of Sulaimaniya and Kalar were handed over to the People's Aids Organisation in Arbil in 2003.
2. **Cultural Center in Sulaimaniya** continued its activity until 2002, which focused on computer, language, and enhancement courses for students, video club for young people, organising of cultural evenings, in addition to a library containing scientific and modern knowledge sources, and other cultural, artistic and athletic events. Also, a course for qualifying and training the youth, in the field of maintenance and installing electrical equipment was opened in Arbil in 2002. And chess tournaments were organized in the spring of 2002, in which six youth clubs in the region participated.
3. The work in both of the **Women Centers in Arbil and Sulaimaniya** continued till the year 2002. Two courses for the eradication of illiteracy were organized, from which more than 2000 women in the governorates of Arbil, Sulaimaniya and Duhok graduated. In addition to skills courses for women in; hairdressing, sewing, driving, physical fitness and computer. Also, a consulting social, legal unit was established, and the concept of gender was introduced to the civil society movement through the implementation of two training workshops in Arbil and Sulaimaniya on gender and development in 2000. A field study on violence against women was accomplished in Arbil, which studied sample included more than 2650 women; the results were presented in an extensive seminar held in Arbil in February 2001,

attended by a large number of specialists, intellectuals and representatives of NGO's. Recommendations were forwarded to the relevant state departments; another field study was conducted concerning teenagers' schools in Arbil.

4. **Promoting human rights and gender education**, which was implemented in 2002 in Sulaimaniya, where 750 courses were organized targeting 23000 beneficiary students in 107 high schools and Institutes. As well as courses on legal awareness on women's rights in; personal status, penal and labor laws, held in state departments, in the cities and villages of Arbil and Sulaimaniya,.
5. The implementation of two **income generating projects for widows**, in the Arbil province. The Programmes of these two projects also included literacy and health education. The first was a poultry rearing project, completed during 1999 - 2000, benefiting 41 widows living in Baharka village, Arbil Province. The second was a project to control the effects of draught through an income generating programme for a 30 months period from November 2000 to April 2003 for 3,017 widows living in 67 villages and 9 collective villages in Arbil Province through the initiation of the "Small Ruminants Rearing Project", where 14864 sheep and goats were distributed, the project duration was 30 months 2003/2000.
6. The implementation of several **engineering projects** within the UN's "Oil for Food" program in Arbil, as well as water projects in Arbil and Sulaimaniya, and beginning the construction of the Maternity and Gynaecological surgery hospital in Arbil.
7. The Organisation of various **activities for children**, such as establishing a kindergarten for children in the Women's Center in Sulaimaniya, and implementing a project to raise health awareness in the area of Dolumari (in the district of Merke sur) in Arbil Province, in 2002. Also, the celebration of the International Day for Children, and paying special attention to the education on international conventions stipulations on the Rights of children, extensively.

Phase II

In light of the General Administrative Committee's decision, during the full staff meeting in Damascus / September 2002 /, which was based on a thorough analysis of current political events at the time, characterized by the U.S. administration announcement, of its preparations to wage a war against Iraq to change the regime. And in implementation of the resolution of the Association's Second General Assembly, concerning the will to expand its activities to all parts of Iraq, and aiming to form its necessary base, the main head office was opened in Baghdad May 2003. The Association was one of the first NGO's to begin its work in Baghdad, making its activities and services available in all parts of Iraq, targeting the rehabilitation of

individuals, and influencing social awareness, in order to establish a modern civil society, through programs combating all forms of violence and discrimination, and through the promotion of human rights education, human security, gender, social peace and the implementation of income generating programs. In addition, to providing psychological and legal assistance, and launching training courses to various social sectors including women, children and young people, in order unable them to participate more actively in public life. Also, it has worked on legal reform, and the rehabilitation of working people in the field of law enforcement and security, in order to ensure the rule of law, rights and institutions. Below, is a summary on the Association's achievements in various fields.

First: Providing Health Services & Humanitarian Aid:

A - Health

- **Arbil Clinic**

The clinic has continued to work achieving an increasing rate of patients' numbers per month, which in 2007 amounted to about (7000) patients in September. At the end of 2007, the construction of the new clinic building started in Arbil, which is to be opened at the beginning of 2009.

The number of patients in Arbil clinic for the period from 1/1/2005 to 30/06/2008

Year	Gynecology	Pediatrician & Internal Medicine Unit	Lab tests Unit	Sonar Unit	bandages	Physical therapy	Total
2005	26186	7216	9506	10449	1378	-	54735
2006	35504	8901	15657	16747	3416	431	80656
2007	37199	8512	15920	18296	3342	910	84179
2008	41057	9749	16812	19667	3736	346	91367
Total	139946	34378	57895	65159	11872	1687	310937

- **Mobile Clinics**

The collapse of health services during the war period and beyond caused a terrible deterioration in people's health conditions, particularly in rural areas. Based on its long experience in the field of health, the Association implemented a mobile clinic project in order to alleviate the suffering of the people, especially women and children in rural areas, and to offer them health services. These programs, which have been implemented in the provinces of Arbil, Babil, Diyala, Wasit, Diwaniyah, Karbala, Anbar, gave the Association an opportunity to access remote and dangerous areas, as a result of armed conflicts, and also to access closed areas due to tribal customs, and it managed to form a wide range of contacts with people, and to provide urgent medical services to them, and raise health, environmental and the social level amongst them, and it managed to get to know their needs and the needs of their areas, and was also able to implement other programs, such as potable water projects, and classes for the eradication of illiteracy. As well as lobbying for the improvement of health centers' conditions and their development.

Through such programs, the relationship, between the Association and health services offices in the governorate and the Ministry of Health itself was consolidated. The Association was the only NGO which was invited to attend a workshop devoted to formulate the execution plan strategy for the advancement of mother's and child's health and reproductive health in Iraq, which was held in the city of Sulaimaniya in mid-September 2004. The Association Contributed again, in the annual conference of the Ministry of Health, held in Arbil 2005.

In addition to the medical services provided by these clinics, these clinics also, participated in educating pregnant women concerning breastfeeding, and the importance of visiting the health care center, and the necessity of women and children getting vaccines on time, and the organisation of workshops for midwives to develop their skills, and the development of communication between the local people and the health center in their region, and the development and strengthening of cooperation between these teams and the staff working in the health centers. The total number of beneficiaries from the services of these clinics is (54255), according to the details listed in the table below:

No.	Provinces	No. of beneficiaries		Duration		Lab	Total No. of beneficiaries
		Women	Children	till	from		
1.	Arbil	1038	204	April 2003	May 2003	---	1242
2.	Babil	5134	4085	Nov. 2003	March 2004	1291	10510
3.	Diyala	1259	1201	March 2004	June 2004	---	2460
4.	Wasit	4742	6590	Sep. 2004	July 2005	574	11906
5.	Diwaniya	5585	5026	April 2005	Dec. 2005	560	11171
6.	Anbar	6804	7935	Sep. 2005	31 Oct.2006	2227	16966
	Total	24562	25041		approx. 40 months	4652	54255

Also, in the summer of 2005, the Association formed a mobile medical team, which worked for five weeks in the rural areas of the governorate of Karbala, offering treatment services to (544) people.

- **Health Education of Mother's & Child's Health Care in Najaf Province**

The Project was implemented in the area of Al Huriya in Najaf province, in 2004 / 2005, which aimed to develop health services for mothers and children in the region, through the organisation of workshops, training courses, and questionnaires, in collaboration with the Department of Health in Najaf and the Department of Basic Health care, and with the participation of a number of activists in the local community. The program has benefited more than 1000 women from twenty villages.

As an update to its activities, for the advancement of health conditions in Al Huriya, the Association established a water sterilization plant, the capacity of 50 cubic meters / hour, covering approximately 400 houses, for (6) villages in the area of Al-Zaidi and the surrounding areas. The project was completed at the end of April 2005.

- **Health, Legal & Social Awareness Project for Women from Rural Areas in Salahadeen Province**

The implementation of this project started at the end of August 2006, and lasted for three months. The aim of the project was to spread health, social, and legal awareness amongst women from rural areas. The program's topics included; reproductive health, breastfeeding, proper nutrition, general health and psychological health of mothers and children, environmental education, and the dissemination of awareness among women on the importance of law and civil rights, particularly the personal status law, and the importance of education and literacy, and on the

importance of economical security. The project benefited more than (150) women from rural areas, from three villages in the outskirts of Tikrit, which are: Al Dipsah, Al Ali and Al Waee althawri villages.

- Medical Care Program for Children with Special Needs

This program is an ongoing medical program, which provides medicines donated by a number of Italian families to the children suffering from chronic and incurable diseases such as; Thalassemia, Epilepsy, Cancer, Diabetes, Nerves Atrophy, and Hormone Imbalances.

This program was established in 1994 by the Italian Organization (Bridge to ... Un Ponte Per). IAA entered into a partnership with this organisation since 2004. The program benefited 90 patients. The Association conducts periodic checks on the patients, and identifies their needs for medicine, health care and medical equipments. As well as keeping up to date with their families concerning their psychological and other problems. (20) Cases were diagnosed as in need for operations abroad

In the second half of 2006, the program encountered some serious obstacles, such as the inability to receive medicines from abroad, because of the severe restrictions imposed by the Ministry of Health, which forced the Association to purchase the medicines from the local market on its own budget, also, the deterioration of the security situation during this period propelled some families to stop contacting and coming to the Association.

In the year 2007, two batches were distributed instead of three, and the cost of medicines and other expenses were not fully covered by the donating party, therefore IAA accepted the additional costs. An agreement was reached with the mentioned organisation to provide support to 65 beneficiaries during 2008.

- Other Activities

- IAA carried out in 2003 a first-aid program, in which 200 young men and women from Daratoo complex in Arbil participated.
- During June 2003 IAA distributed large quantities of medicines and medical supplies, of various types, to six centers and health institutions in the governorate of Najaf.
- During the months of July and August 2003, the installation of water sanitation devices (R.O) was executed, for a number of health centers in the governorate of

Najaf, where eight devices, the capacity of 250-liter, and one device the capacity 3000 liter, were installed in the maternity hospital in Najaf (the birth and lab wards).

- IAA Completed, with the support of the Secours Populaire Francais and the European Union, the construction of the Maternity Hospital in Arbil, which contains 50 beds, 3 operations rooms, two laboratory and X-ray units, a pharmacy, and an external clinic for women and children. The hospital was handed over to the local government in 2005.
- IAA carried out, during the month of March 2006, the restoration of Al Gaiem clinic in the province of Diwaniyah, which Included changing the sewage, water and electricity fixtures, and, installing the containers, the restoration and painting of the interior and building the fence. Note that the clinic provides services for 700 families in the region.
- In 2006, the staff of IAA organized in cooperation with the Department of Health and the Veterinary Hospital and the health departments of both Najaf and Diwaniyah, an awareness campaign on bird flu; its symptoms and how to prevent it, in eight rural areas in the provinces of Najaf and Diwaniya, including; (Almahnanwia, Shamiya, Abu Nimr, Abu-Gharb ,Taber and Syed Jawad).

B - Humanitarian Aid

1. Reuniting of a Kurdish Family

In December 2006, the Association held an emotional press conference in Baghdad, to cover the reuniting of a Kurdish family from Arbil, who lost one of their women at the early nineties. Her name was Rahma Khudher Ali (born 1949),and was found in the course of one of the Association's activities in the district Shinafiyah in Diwaniyah, and in coordination with Arbil's Office, her family was identified and she was returned to them. After her return to Arbil, a press conference was held, in which the Minister of the Anfal in the region's government, and the representative of the Association participated. The woman Died after suffering from a long fatal illness on the 22nd of May 2008.

2. Emergency Aid for the Floods' Victims in Kurdistan

In November 2006, IAA contributed to the (Relief Project for The Victims of the Floods Families), in the areas and villages of Suran and Chumman in Arbil, to provide aid to (167) harmed families. The aids included food, fuel and clothes, with the support of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

3. Emergency Aid for Displaced People in Karbala Governorate

From May to July 2007, the Association implemented a project to provide emergency aid to (3108) vulnerable internally displaced refugees' families to the governorate of Karbala, including more than 500 poor local families, distributed in 61 areas in the province's center, and some of Karbala's districts. 31 food items and non-food items was distributed, to meet some of their basic needs. This was accomplished through the support from the IOM, and the serious and fruitful cooperation with the Department of Immigration and Displacement in the governorate, Karbala's governorate council, local councils and the mayors in areas covered by the program. This project has given the Association a good reputation and credibility, with Karbala province's officials, local councils, directors, and beneficiaries in particular, since the implementation process was characterized by close cooperation with all parties concerned, and high transparency in the presentation of its budget to the media during a news conference held after the completion of the project.

This project has allowed the Association to conduct a field research on the situation of the displaced in the governorate, as well as preparing a research by the youth group for civil dialogue in Karbala on human security by studying the situation of the displaced.

4. Ramadan Aid

IAA carried out in September 2008 (during the holy month of Ramadan) in cooperation with a number of NGO's, and the support of the Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Charitable establishment and the United Nations Development Program, a project for humanitarian aid, which included providing 110000 Iftar meals for widows, the displaced and disadvantaged families, as well as distributing 30000 school bags with stationery on orphaned students and those in need. The scope of the project included 11 provinces: Baghdad, Anbar, Salahadeen, Kirkuk Sulaimaniya, Diyala, Babil, Karbala, Najaf, Diwaniya and Basra.

The project's aim, in addition to providing the mentioned aid, was to give opportunities to the widows themselves to participate in the distribution, and to support the local market, in addition to the activation of joint action among various civil society organisations and other local groups, for the humanitarian aim of solidarity with the affected groups, disadvantaged and marginalized members of the Iraqi people.

5. Aid to Poor Families

- During the years 2003, 2004, the Association received amounts of in-kind donations, such as medicines, medical supplies and clothes from Greek, Spanish,

Swiss and British INGO's, which has been distributed to disadvantaged and poor families in a number of governorates.

- In July 2006 and March 2008, the Association, with the support of the International Orthodox Christian organisation, distributed food and cleaning supplies to 170 poor Iraqi families in different areas of Baghdad. Also, IAA provided in May 2007, in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, food aid to fifty displaced and poor families.
 - In October 2007 and in September 2008, the Association's Office in Najaf, in cooperation with ICRC, distributed food and medical aid, kitchen utensils, on families including families of 77 widows and divorced women from the center, districts and areas of the province.
 - In April 2008, with the support of the ICRC, the Association along with Itana women's Assembly in the governorate of Nineveh, and Al Hamzah women's charity Assembly for widows and orphans in the governorate of Babil, participated in the distribution of humanitarian relief aid to 500 displaced families in Nineveh plain area, and in the districts and outskirts of Al Hamzah area.
 - At the end of 2007 on the occasion of the holidays, Kirkuk group for civil dialogue among young people initiated a campaign to collect nearly 4000 dollars in donations from the local community, and in coordination with mosques, to purchase clothes, toys and stationary, which was distributed to more than 300 orphans.
6. **A Range of Other Aids**
- IAA, during 2006, provided financial and in-kind support such as devices and medicines to the Association for Educating and Rehabilitating Palestinian children, by establishing a Center for emergency housing for Palestinian refugees in Baladiat District in Baghdad, in the wake of violence against this group, as well as the program of Al Fatat Center in the same area.
 - In September 2006 the Association made donations to the Supporters of Humanity for Cancer Association in Basra, to purchase medicines for twenty cancer afflicted children.
 - In 2006, IAA donated the sums of expenses for several surgeries. The first surgery was during the month of February, for a child, from Al Jihad area in Baghdad, Alaa

Hussein, who underwent surgery, as a result of severe body burns. The second operation was during the month of May, for Mrs. Athraa Mohammed, from Camp Sara district in Baghdad. IAA also made financial donations to Iman Hussein Abdel Jawad, a (33) old years old woman, a residents of Qadisiyah area in Baghdad, to have a kidney transplant operation at Karama hospital. And also the Association provided assistance in cash and in kind for a number of underprivileged families in need for devices and medical equipment and home appliances.

- The endeavors of the Association were successful in April 2008, in cooperation with local and international parties, in sending a student to receive medical treatment in Jordan. She was wounded in a terrorist explosion, in Baghdad in May 2006. She was able to return to resume her studies again.

Second: Education & Training

At the end of 2005, IAA launched a new project, under the name of; the Challenge against Illiteracy, for education. 26 classes were opened to teach reading and writing, and raising the level of culture, health and social education, and vocational training on handicrafts. (747) female beneficiaries and 20 male beneficiaries enrolled, in the rural and poor areas of the province of Najaf, Diwaniyah, Basra and Karbala, as shown in the table below.

Furthermore, with the support of (UNIFEM), (3) classes were opened in Al Alam district in the governorate of Salahadeen on the 1st of December 2005 until September 2006, in order to enable (67) young women, who had dropped out of schools for social and personal reasons, to enter the public examinations, for both the intermediate and secondary stages. 7 of them have passed the examinations for the intermediate stage, and (11) have successfully passed the secondary schools exams, (5) of which were accepted to study at the colleges of; Education / Arabic Language, English, history, and Shariaa (Islamic legislations) Departments at the University of Tikrit, and others were accepted in institutes or they resumed their studies in secondary schools, tow others were employed as school clerks in Al Alam district.

Despite all the demands by people and women to open a new class similar to the previous experience, yet the Association was unable to do so, since it could not obtain the necessary funding.

In order to embody the concept of partnership between NGO's and departments of education, for the development of education and educational programs, and the advancement of social reality, and the reinforcement of the people's participation in the process of democratization and development in Iraq, IAA organized in mid-

February 2007, the first educational forum for literacy and education in the province of Diwaniyah, in collaboration with the General Directorate of education in the province of Diwaniyah, under the motto (To build a progressive educational program for the eradication of illiteracy specifically, and for the educational process generally), which was attended by the General Director of Education in Diwaniyah, and the Education Department Director of Najaf, and (135) staff members and specialists in the field of education. The Forum concluded, with the drafting of a number of important recommendations. Graduation certificates were presented to the graduates in Al Najaf and Diwaniya (239), which will be of use, in the employment of the graduates in governmental service.

A table of the education activities of women during 2006 & 2007

Location/governorate and area	Date of implementation	No.	Age	No. of classes	Accomplished stage
Najaf – Qadisiya Al Abasiya	2006/10/30 - 2/1 -2006/11/1 2007/7/30	67 42	40-10 years	4	Literacy programme – basic phase 9 months Complementary phase
Diwaniya –Mihnawiya Salahiya Al Gaim	2006/10/30 - 2/1 2006/10/30 - 3/1 -2006/11/1 2007/7/30	45 43 22 20 male	40-25 years	6	Literacy programme – basic phase 9 months Complementary phase
Karbala – Badaa Aswad Al Ghdeer district	-2006/5/14 2007/5/30	29 101	45-13 years	1 4	Illiteracy programme – basic phase 9 months
Basra: Hartha in Majidiya, Risala district, Lateefiya district & the Culture Center	2006/12/28 - 7/2	398	45-15 years	11	literacy programme – basic phase 6 months
Salahadeen – Al Alam	Oct. – 05/12/1 2006	67	-15 40 years	3	Qualification for the intermediate stage exams and the secondary phase stage
Total		834		29	

In 2008 on the occasion of the International literacy Day (8 September), IAA organized a variety of activities, in celebration of the occasion, including: holding a seminar in Karbala to discuss the development of solutions and treatments for the effects of illiteracy on society in terms of health, economy, society and security. In Najaf, IAA organized a cultural evening, which was attended by 128 personalities from the members of the governorate's Council, officials from the Directorate of Education and the educational media, a number of professors from the University of Kufa, and representatives of trade unions and NGO's. In Diwaniya, a cultural festival was organized and attended by 50 representatives of the educational and information field. In addition to supporting other events organized by a number of NGO's (The Association of Firdaws in Basra, Hawaa Association for Relief and Development in Diyala, and Al Safa Association for Development and People's Friendship in Al Anbar).

Third: Women in Technology

In April 2004, IAA launched courses to teach students of the secondary stages computers technology, in the residential complexes of (Daratoo - Kasnazan - Benslawwa) in Arbil, for a period of three months; the project benefited 150 students (male and female).

Within Microsoft programs, IAA in 2006 opened courses to teach computer technology in Arbil, in the Cultural Center of Qushtabah, in Benslawwa district. The number of beneficiaries reached 132 young men and women. Also, in Baghdad, within the same program two courses were organized benefiting 19 (males and females).

In 2006, through its partnership with Microsoft and the Institute of International Education, IAA decided to implement the Women in Technology program, which provides women with an advanced curricula, and training opportunities in the area of planning for business, personal skills and information technology. In the light of that, the program manager in the Association participated in the first coordination meeting for WIT regional managers, which was organized by the Institute of International Education in San Francisco at the beginning of January 2007, which opened broad prospects to support the Association within this program.

In March 2007, and for a period of ten days, a training course was held in Baghdad, on the basics of windows, office and the internet for the purpose of developing the capacity of trainers on the program, attended by 12 trainees from the Association in the governorates of Baghdad, Salahadeen, Najaf and Karbala. In July and November 2007, the program team organized two training workshops in Arbil and Karbala for a group of additional trainers, in the Association's centers, attended by 6 in the first and 10 in the second.

During April 2007, IAA implemented a second regional training course, held in Beirut, for WIT managers and experts, in Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon, in partnership with the Institute of International Education, in which 9 trainees participated, including 6 from IAA, aiming to develop their individual skills and work planning for sustainability.

In August 2008, IAA organized a workshop for the preparation of trainers in Arbil, with the participation of 17 trainers from the provinces of: Mosul, Kirkuk, Salahadeen, Sulaimaniya, Arbil and Najaf. It was the largest workshop to prepare trainers to be implemented in Iraq as part of this program.

In May 2007, the first course of WIT (Unlimited potential) started in Baghdad, along with professional skills, and then there were other courses in Arbil, Salahadeen and Karbala. The total number of trainees at the end of 2007 was (160). In 2008 the training courses included training of young men as well as women, and the total number of trainees until 20 October was (284), including (215 women and (69) young men, and the total in 2007 and 2008 reached (444) trainees (male and female) in the four governorates, as shown in the table below. The training is designed to empower women and enhance their participation in the labor force, and to provide them with professional activities, and increase the incomes of the institutions in which they work and insure their sustainability, and to provide them with computer training technical skills on. The training period ranges from 30 to 45 days, with a total of 90 hours, where they are trained on the techniques of (WINDOWS, OFFICE), the Internet and e-mail, and professional skills, including (teamwork, leadership and administrative skills, professional public speaking skills, and entering the job market). After the completion of the training, the trainee is given a certificate of participation licensed by Microsoft and the Institute of International Education and the Association.

As a result of observing the trainees in this program and the conducting of assessments at the end of each session, the majority of these women were able to obtain a job or improved their status in the working place, and they managed to incorporate the technology acquired during the courses into their work, especially the teachers, who used the program Excel to process exam marks. Also, one of the trainees participated as an assistant trainer in the courses, and managed to encourage drop-out students to complete their studies. And there are other success stories recorded in the successful implementation of the program.

In July 2008, IAA Training Center was opened in Najaf, with the attendance of the Deputy Governor of Najaf, and a large gathering (about 150) of social and cultural personalities, and a number of members of the Governorate's Council and representatives of government departments, official and NGO's in the province of

Karbala and Najaf and the media. The Center is active in launching Microsoft courses "Unlimited Potential" with professional skills for women and young men in Najaf.

The number of course and beneficiaries of WIT program from 2006 – 2008

Governorate	Location of course	No. of trainees		Start of Course	Date of graduation	Hours
		women	men			
2006						
Baghdad	IAA office	19	0			
Arbil	Cultural Center in Qushtaba District	15	15	2006/07/10	2006/08/10	40
		30	32	2006/08/20	2006/09/20	40
	Benslawwa High School for Boys	9	31	2006/08/28	2006/10/05	40
The Total for 2006		73	78			
2007						
Baghdad	IAA office	19	0	2007/05/12	2007/07/05	117
		11	0	2007/07/21	2007/09/20	117
	Iraqi Women Network office	7	0	2007/08/04	2007/09/25	117
	Al Sadrain Center – Sadir City	30	0	2007/08/11	2007/09/24	117
Arbil	Ainkawa Youth Center	24	0	2007/08/05	2007/09/16	117
	Hawler High School for Girls	22	0	2007/08/01	2007/09/16	117
Karbala	IAA office	10	0	2007/08/12	2007/09/16	117
		19	0	2007/08/15	2007/09/16	117
Salahadeen	Salahadeen Governorate office	18	0	2007/09/16	2007/11/20	117
The Total for 2007		160	0			
2008						
Baghdad	IAA office	7	3	2008/04/07	2008/05/26	90
		10	2	2008/04/07	2008/05/26	90
		8	4	2008/07/12	2008/09/01	90
		6	5	2008/07/12	2008/09/01	90
		5	2	2008/07/14	2008/09/02	90
		8	2	2008/07/23	2008/09/10	90
		7	8	2008/09/15	Ongoing courses	
		8	5	2008/09/17	Ongoing courses	
		11	1	2008/10/19	Ongoing courses	
Arbil	Ainkawa Youth Center	11	10	2007/11/29	2008/01/08	90
		16	4	2008/04/28	2008/06/15	90

Karbala	Arbil High School for Girls	16	0	2008/06/12	2008/08/05	90
	Teachers Institute	41	0	2007/11/25	2008/01/30	65
	IAA office	8	5	2008/02/17	2008/04/08	90
		9	1	2008/02/17	2008/04/17	100
	Rafeedain Training Center in Hila	5	6	2008/02/10	2008/04/24	90
	IAA office	5	4	2008/05/13	2008/07/03	100
		11	0	2008/06/22	2008/08/10	108
		0	7	2008/06/25	2008/08/10	90
		12	0	2008/09/21	Ongoing courses	
		11	0	2008/10/13	Ongoing courses	
The Total for 2008		215	69			
2006, 2007 , 2008 The Total for		448	147			
The Grand Total		595				

Fourth: Women & Gender Activities

A - International Women's Day

IAA offices Organized in a number of provinces: Najaf, Karbala and Diwaniya, a variety of activities on the occasion of the International Women's Day annual celebration on the 8th of March 2007 and 2008, by holding seminars and festivals in educational institutions and schools, to raise the awareness of the new generation concerning the value of this occasion and its significance in raising awareness on women's rights. In addition to other activities, in which IAA initiated in Baghdad, on behalf of IWN, such as the cultural art festival held in 2007, and the round-table discussion in 2008.

B – Studies on Women Status

In 2005, IAA supervised more than 70 questionnaires, carried out by a number of women's organisations from 16 governorates in Iraq, to assess the current status of women in Iraq, from the legal point of view and in reality. The results were published in a book by the American Bar Association, in both Arabic and English. It was updated in 2006 under the title "Women's Status in Iraq: An update to assess Iraq's legal and realistic compliance with the international legal criteria."

In 2008 the Association carried out a field study in collaboration with Oxfam, on the Impact of Humanitarian Crises on Women. The study included 1600 women in five governorates, in cooperation with a number of women's organisations. It is anticipated that the study will be published later.

C – Al Tadamun Beauty Center

In 2006, a center for training and employing women was opened in the area of Camp Sara in Baghdad, under the name; Al Tadamun Beauty Center. This center specialized in giving courses for training young women on mastering hairdressing and other beauty procedures, and also in conducting a number of seminars with local women on health and social awareness. In mid 2007, the Association liquidated the center's activities due to the misconduct of the center's Director and her incompetence in managing the project.

D - Violence against Women

✓ Legal & Social Clinic

In March 2006, IAA launched, in cooperation with (UNIFEM), a pioneering project; The Legal and Social Clinic in Baghdad, to provide legal support for victims of violence, and to disseminate legal and social awareness amongst women and women's groups.

The project has achieved a solid reputation among various women communities, the media and other communities, for its positive role in the dissemination of constitutional education and legal awareness on the personal status law in particular, and other laws, among various social groups, through channels of civil society organisations and state institutions activities. Despite the fact that the financing for the project stopped at the end of February 2007, the clinic continued to hold several extensive meetings in ministries, governmental institutions and municipal councils, and to effectively participate in conferences and workshops for NGO's in Baghdad and in other governorates, as well as providing individual legal counseling to women victims of domestic violence.

Also, another project was carried out in Najaf in 2006, under the name of: The Mobile Legal and Social Clinic on Violence against Women, with the participation of the Association. 40 inspections were organized to include a number of districts, suburbs and villages as well as the center of the governorate, and some official offices, where many cases of violence against women were monitored and documented, including some of the personal status court cases and others cases. Then a discussion panel was held to discuss the results of the clinic's work, with the attendance of specialists, tribe leaders and representatives of civil society organisations, the discussion was concluded with several recommendations.

Subsequent meetings and visits to a number of governmental institutions and NGO's were held, in order to explain the recommendations of the discussion panel and gain support.

✓ Conferences & Other Activities

- In December of 2004, IAA in cooperation with the IWN organized a national festival in Baghdad, on violence against women, to commemorate two activists: Ms. Amal Mamlchi and Ms. Margaret Hassan, the victims of terrorist acts in Iraq.
- During 2004, IAA Implemented in Arbil a series of activities to raise social and legal awareness among rural women, including awareness on gender and violence, which benefited approximately 720 women in the residential complexes of Daratoo, Kasnazan, Khabat, Baharka and Shaways.
- In November 2006, IAA Participated, with a number of INGO's, in the declaration of the formation of the International Coordination Organisation for Gender Justice in Iraq, based in London. The organisation demands the respect of human life and human dignity in Iraq, and focuses on the subject of violence against women during the former regime. And works on training Iraqi judges on international laws concerning crimes of violence against women. IAA Also supported the efforts of the Women's Coalition for a Democratic Iraq and the International Justice Center, in training Iraqi Supreme Court judges in 2006, concerning crimes of sexual violence in the context of international laws, and the laws of the court itself.
- The Association participated in the General Conference to discuss the draft of the Strategic Plan for Penal Justice in Iraq, which was held in Syracuse / Italy in November 2006. The Association's delegation presented a paper on equality in criminal rulings for women.
- With the support of IAA, the IWN held its conference in November 2007 in Baghdad, under the motto " Pioneering and Continuity for Iraqi Women March" The conference was attended by more than two hundred personalities from the government and the members and advisers in the House of Representatives and the Parliament of Kurdistan, and the leaders of the national police and the law enforcement operation in Baghdad, in addition to representatives of 86 organisations and women's groups and other NGO's from all governorates, as well as many from media. The Conference was devoted to honor both the late Dr. Naziha Dulaimi, and Nazik Al Malaika, as well as to discuss the political and security situations, violations of women's rights, the constitutional amendments and the relationship of NGOs with the government.

- At "The Cry of Women of Iraq: Stop the Humanitarian Crisis" Conference, organized by the Association in Baghdad late January 2008. The work agenda of the conference included six- problematic topics: displacement, violence against women, women trafficking and prostitution, poor public services including health and education, the suffering of juvenile prisoners and street children; victims of drugs and child labor. The conference was attended by a large number of members of the House of Representatives and representatives of ministries and other official bodies, in addition to the international bodies of the UN agencies and the foreign diplomatic corpse, representatives of civil society organisations from different parts of Iraq. During the conference, live testimonies from survivors of violence were heard; also theatrical presentations, films and documentaries were presented.
- IAA Organized in Karbala , in cooperation with the Ministry of Human Rights - Karbala Office , the General Directorate for Education in Karbala and the social welfare office, three workshops on the subject of the negative effects of domestic violence (in October 2007 , then in February 2008 and then in April 2008), which was attended by 76 participants of (7) different educational institutions (institutes, primary and secondary schools), its aim was to warn against the dangers of domestic violence and its contribution to the increasing violence in society.
- In May 2008, the Association participated, in Baghdad, as part of IWN, in organizing a symposium on violence against women, attended by leaders of various women's organisations and specialists in the field of law and judiciary, where they discussed the intellectual premise of violence against women and its recent manifestations in the Iraqi society, and the role of the women's movement in this regard.
- Within the activities of non-violence against women week, held in November 2008, the Association participated, in some events, along with the network of local organisations in Kurdistan, where six lectures were delivered on the (violence against women: the concept, forms and results) in a number of secondary schools for girls in Baharka complex and Ainkawa district, and were attended by approximately 200 students.

Fifth: Conflict Resolution, Human Rights & Civil Dialogue

1. Conflict Resolution Program for Teenager's Students & Young Adults

Since June 2004, IAA began a full-year program on Conflict Resolution, Promotion of Peace and Understanding among Teenaged Students. 90 secondary school students

(male and female) enrolled. The program included training courses on non-violence and peaceful building of society, human rights concepts, character-building, team work and project management. In addition, English lessons and computer training. The participants committed themselves to compose projects in that content, and worked on applying these projects in their schools and their own communities.

In the second year of the project, in 2005, (57) high school students continued benefiting from the program. A number of participants in the conflict resolution project formed Al Amal youth group, and introduced a website titled:

www.shabab-alamal.com

The program has continued for a third year, new material was added, including democracy, gender roles, media and training on public speaking. (48) students from intermediate and high schools graduated in July 2007. This year has been marked for its diversity and the intensity of training received by participants and the number of specialists who contributed to it, in fields of; gender, media, human rights and the method of formulating projects and reports.

The program has achieved significant success in building the characters of the benefiting students, and instilling confidence, a sense of nationality, the concepts of human rights and the culture of non-violence in them, and the promotion of integration between the two sexes, and the consolidation of unity and competition amongst them and a sense of responsibility, as well as developing their skills in solving their conflicts and disputes peacefully, and writing and implementing project , and the use of computers , the Internet , English, and raising their cultural level in general.

The Association Organized in Karbala a Training Workshop at the beginning of December 2006, on the subject of (Conflict Resolution and Democracy), in which 23 young men and women aged from 18 to 23 and a number of teachers participated.

The Association concluded in Arbil, in mid-September 2007, the Conflict Resolution amongst the Youth program, which took two and a half months, and was attended by 50 high school students, including Arabs displaced from the center and south of Iraq. Participants were divided into two groups; each group participated in 12 workshops, for a total time of 48 hours. (5) professional trainers, in the areas of conflict resolution, negotiation and human rights, contributed to the training.

After the Conflict Resolution among Teenaged Students Program ended, it was replaced by a summer course organized for the students of the first and second group of the conflict resolution program, in which an average of 22 young women and men participated, over a period of four months, during which 11 training workshops were held, for a total time of 86 hours of training. The program included a course in conflict

resolution, human rights, gender roles, human security, public speech training, the difference between civilizations and nomad their impact on society, research methods and about the terms literature and culture. With the continuation of the course, a significant development occurred in the young people's level of thinking, their capabilities, and the enhancement in their interest concerning the activities in their environment and their communities.

Among the most outstanding results of the course, was the youth's initiative to celebrate the International Day of Peace on the 21st of September 2007. With the assistance of a specialist in theater, the young people created a theatrical group under the name of Life Theatrical Group. They delivered a presentation on a Ramadan's night, at the site of the explosion, which took place in Karrada neighborhood in Baghdad, in the summer of 2006, and killed dozens of civilians. The presentation and celebration had an emotional impact on those present as well as on the media.

2. Civil Dialogue among Young People

The Work on the Civil Dialogue among Young People program commenced in April 2006, Which aims to disseminate the culture of dialogue and joint action among the youth groups on the issues of non-violence, tolerance, citizenship and the culture of human rights, and problems specific to young people in the area of education, training and employment . The Program was attended by 56 young people, of both sexes, aged 18-28 years, from seven Iraqi provinces. The work initially focused on the development of their intellectual capacities and technical abilities. Then they preformed various activities dealing with specific topics, the results were presented as work papers at the first Conference held in Sulaimaniya in September, for three days, in the presence of (120) young people and a delegation of the Lebanese youth, and a number of experts including academics and intellectuals, and representatives of NGO's and the media, from different governorates, who helped in facilitating the Conference's meetings and the main working groups.

The second phase of the program focused on the concept of human security from the intellectual aspect and its significant manifestations in the reality of Iraq, in health, economy, media and human development aspects and in displacement as well. The papers were submitted by the youth groups at the Second Conference held in Shaqlawah / Arbil in early May 2007, which tackled human security. It was attended by (87) young people from ten governorates, in addition to a number of researchers, specialists and local and INGO's, and a representative of the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Within the program of the Development of the Capacity and skills of young people as trainers, the Association organized two training courses on conflict resolution in Beirut, in November 2006 and in April 2007, in which young people from the two programs of; Civil Dialogue and Conflict Resolution among students, from all governorates participated. In the first 19 young men and women participated, and in the second 16. The program included 2 workshops: Basic principles of conflict resolution and the techniques of negotiation, and how to facilitate the work of groups, techniques of conflict resolution, decision-making, the role of communication in resolving conflict and training techniques for trainers.

Some youth groups achieved in the program continuity and made new initiatives within their environment, as by the group from Kirkuk, who made distinct initiatives in solidarity with victims of the terrorist operations and the celebration of the International Day of Peace, and other activities on conflict resolution. At the beginning of April 2007, Al Amal youth group in Kirkuk, initiated a campaign under the title of (Kirkuk, My Home), which aimed to promote a cleaner city and encourage the spirit of citizenship. The campaign aimed to raise awareness and education in the neighborhoods, schools and kindergartens. It continued for a period of four months and involved about 80 young women and men, in collaboration with 15 NGO's, the Directorate of the Municipality of Kirkuk, where awareness posters and waste bags were distributed to the residents in the area of Rahaimawa. The campaign met a positive response by the residents of the area.

The Association Organized a training course for the development of civic education among the youth in the province of Sulaimaniya, in August 2008, which was attended by 21 young people from the center, the districts and areas of the province. The training program focuses on the concepts of human and gender rights and the violations of rights at home, school and the community, as well as the concept of voluntary work, conflict resolution, communication skills, effective dialogue, conflict resolution techniques, and training techniques for trainers.

The young people from IAA reactivated their web site and turned it to a forum for young people, with more than 5000 members up to October 2008, and the average of guests reached 180 /day, and it featured more than 20000 topics. A group of young people is managing currently the site, and a qualified staff is being currently trained to develop the Forum.

3. The Dissemination of Human Rights Education

- A mobile theater was launched in the governorate of Arbil, in December 2005 and continued until the end of February 2006, with a theatrical presentation that deals

with human rights (women's rights, freedom and equality with men, children's rights and education, bad interaction habits between members of society and how to address them). The presentation was preformed in 15 locations in residential areas, parks and villages; it was attended by (2350) viewers of different age groups.

- With the beginning of the school year in 2006, the Association organized five seminars in two high schools in Baghdad, on "The Protection of Children from Abuse and The Impact of Trauma and Tension". The seminars covered the concepts and the factors causing physical and psychological abuse, trauma and stress, and the social and emotional problems it causes in children. 161 (male and female) students participated in the seminars. Papers of the subjects mentioned were distributed on them, and they carried out a number of exercises and tests.
- Under the motto (Human Rights is Everyone's Responsibility), IAA finished a program for promoting human rights education in schools in Najaf and Diwaniya, which lasted for two consecutive months, starting from 1 April, 2007, to include 21 primary, high and vocational schools, in the centers of the two governorates and beyond, aimed at training 41 people from the teaching staff in these schools about the concepts of human rights. The trainees then trained 1200 students, to deliver the information and concepts to them, in line with their levels of education and their local environment, using the practical aspect of training, such as role-playing, interviews and debates. And the students in turn, provided a variety of activities to reflect the extent of their understanding of the material, and their views on human rights criteria, through the performing of sketches, poems, short stories and drawings, and designing posters in their schools, reflecting the concepts of non-violence, justice, equality, diversity, responsibility, the language of dialogue , situations of rights' conflict and dispute, and how to get human rights out of the classroom and school to home.
- The project worked closely with official bodies in the two provinces, such as the Office of the Ministry of Human Rights and the Directorate of Education as well as the media. Also, everyone agreed on the need to expand such programs and circulate them on schools, to include teaching staff and students, as well as its inclusion in school curriculum, due to its value to the direct advancement of education and educational methods for the construction of a new progressive generation.
- In the governorate of Salahadeen, the Association, took the initiative in the months of October and November of 2007, to promote principles of human rights and conflict resolution in 18 schools and Institutes, to students of various stages, at the center of the city of Tikrit, and in the villages of Ocha and Albu Ajil , where first the

training of 34 teachers from these schools took place , and then school lessons were organized, incorporated with some exercises drawn from the violations of human rights in everyday life, starting with children, women and human beings in general. These activities were implemented under the direct supervision of the Association and the Directorate of Education in the province. The program included (5826) students.

- At the end of the program, an artistic and cultural celebration was organized in Tikrit, on the occasion of the International Day of Human Rights, which was attended by the Deputy Governor and a number of officials, where awards were presented to a few students who excelled in the activity.
- In July 7, 2008, under the motto "A Bright Future for Children" a Carnival for children was organized in Kirkuk, in cooperation with the "Buds of Children's Rights" organisation, on the advent of summer holidays, in which a set of articles of the international treaty of Children's Rights were introduced.
- Over a period of four months, from April until August of 2007, the project of peace-building through training on conflict resolution and democracy, in partnership with The Women of Baghdad Association, during which (25) workshops were organized in Baghdad, Karbala and Kirkuk, aiming to build a civil dialogue and a culture of non-violence among the youth and women, and to educate them on the principles of human rights, conflict resolution , gender , issues of personal status, the Constitution and the Convention on the elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). It was attended by approximately (635) beneficiaries (male and female) of different age groups, who are employees in governmental institutions, as well as in universities and colleges, youth centers and the municipal councils and NGO's. (15) Trainers (male and female), specialized in the field of human rights law and conflict resolution and media, contributed to the training. This project contributed to the consolidation of relations between NGO's and ministries through the establishment of training courses for their staffs, as well as the dissemination of civic education on a large scale.

Sixth: Capacity-Building

A - Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's)

- Together with four INGO's, IAA organized a program for building capacities and enabling local NGO's, taking into account that most of the NGO's, are recently formed, and lacks expertise and infrastructure. 17 organisations participated in the three workshops, held between February and August 2004. The program included

the legal status of organisations, structure, and financial situation, and the formulation of proposals, as well as project management.

- The Organisation of training courses on conducting interviews and writing résumés for the 46 staff members, whose contracts had expired with the World Health Organization, during the months of August and September of 2004.
- The Organisation of a training course in Amman in September 2005, on the management of human resources and projects, in which twenty activists from IAA and non-governmental organisations participated.
- In February 2006, IAA organized a training workshop in Beirut, on advocacy, campaigning and networking among NGO's, in which 18 leaders in various women's organisations participated.
- During August 2006, IAA organized, in Karbala, a Training Workshop on (human resource management and project management of NGO's), which was attended by 25 representatives from a number of NGO's in Karbala, Najaf, Babil, Muthanna , Diwaniya and Wasit.
- In 2006, IAA nominated five human rights and civil society activists in Baghdad, for a course on human rights via the Internet, with the Norwegian University Boscrod, and with the support of the Norwegian People's Aid organisation, which lasted two years. The participants received, in October 2008, a Diploma in Human rights and multiculturalism, and conflict management.
- In September 2007, four IAA interns participated in a workshop for writing and formulation projects, which was held in Amman, and then it was followed by an additional workshop, with the support of (ESCWA). As a result of the workshop a project on non-formal education of human rights in schools was written. The United Nations agencies are to support this project in the future.
- During 2007, 8 activists in the program of civil dialogue among young people, participated in the courses held by the Strategic Studies Institute in Beirut, each course was for a month, aiming to develop the potential of academic research among young participants.
- In March 2007, IAA Organized in Karbala, a course to develop skills in photography and video, in which (26) men and women participated.

B - Conflict Resolution, Peace & Gender

- On the subject of conflict resolution, the Association organized two training courses in Beirut, in October 2006 and in April 2007, to prepare trainers from the young people who participated in the civil dialogue and conflict resolution programs, with the support of the Heinrich Boll Foundation, in cooperation with the Lebanese Network for Conflict Resolution. 21 Participated in the first, and 16 in the second, from various governorates. A number of participants started actual training, and others participated dynamically in the activities.
- In the second week of May 2007, IAA organized in conjunction with the Toledo International Center for Peace in Madrid / Spain, with support from the Spanish Ministry of Education and the Del Pino Fund, a workshop on building management skills and conflict resolution for women leaders in Iraq, and the promotion of gender equality in the framework of peace and security. The delegation was headed by eng. Wijdan Salim, Minister of Human Rights. (10) Women activists in key positions in civil society organisations and government institutions participated in the delegation, including (5) of the activists in the Association. This workshop came as a follow-up to the workshop organized by IAA and the Toledo center in Sulaimaniya, in July 2006, which was aimed at strengthening the role of Iraqi women, as a key figure in the Iraqi civil society. And in which a group of active leaders in civil society organisations and government institutions participated. The program of the workshop included topics related to conflict, its conditions and causes, and approaches of conflict resolution, communication skills, negotiation, mediation etc. The total of the participants in the workshops was 30 activists from different governorates.
- In September 2007, IAA organized in Beirut, and with the support of Heinrich boll Foundation, in cooperation with the Lebanese organisation of Kafa, a training workshop for specialists on gender awareness, in which (15) trainees (male and female) from women's movements leaderships and specialists in the field of media and the law participated.
- In October 2007, three IAA youths participated in a training camp held in Amman under the motto "Peace through Sports", funded by a Princess from the Jordanian royal family and with the support of UNDP.
- Three IAA activists Participated in a training course on consolidating the capacities of women workers in the field of combating violence against women, held in Amman in December 2007, by the Human Rights Office of (UNAMI).

C - Capacity Building of the Employees in Government Agencies

- According to the Association's strategy in training workers of security agencies, the Ministry of Interior was approached, and they welcomed the proposal. The first experience began for three weeks in the month of December 2007, with the training of 59 officers, participating in the training course of the Agency of information and national investigations. The training included training on the concepts of citizenship, the government and the constitution, human rights, the concept of gender and conflict resolution. The training was conducted by three specialists, who volunteered kindly. Positive responses by the trainees with the program were noted, a fact that encourages to repeat the experience.
- The Association's Office in Najaf organized, in coordination with the Ministry of Youth and Sport, in December 2007, a training workshop for workers in the ministry on the skills of communication and dialogue. The number of participants in the workshop was 25 persons, representing five provinces; Baghdad, Najaf, Muthanna, Dhi Qar and Wasit.
- In April 2008, the Directorate of Youth and Sport of Diwaniyah province, organized in cooperation with the Association, a training workshop on (The art of influencing others), in which 20 employees in the mentioned directorate participated. The training included several topics including: human behavior, and the organisational family behavior influencing it, and the basic rules and leadership skills to influence others. The style of work was used within the work group, with an emphasis on practical exercises and tests. Days later another workshop was organized, under the name "Dialogue skills between young people", which was attended by 20 employees in the ministry.
- In July 2008, IAA organized in Beirut, a course on human and gender rights in law, in which the President of the Supreme Judicial Council and the President of the Federal High Court Judge Medhat Al-Mahmoud and ten judges from the Federal Supreme Court and the federal Appeal Court and specialists in personal status participated, in addition to three academics professors specializing in law and human rights. The workshop program focused its discussions on the nature of human rights, and their international and regional mechanisms, and to identify the concept of gender and its association with human rights issues, and to shed light on discrimination against women in the laws, as well as the theme of violence against women, and refining the national legislation from forms of discrimination against women, and the enactment of laws to protect women and their rights, taking into consideration the legal framework of international women's human

rights. Also, the participant in the workshop, were briefed on Lebanese laws and on the Moroccan Code of Personal Status thoroughly, and there was a dialogue concerning the comparison with the Iraqi Personal Status Law No. 188 of 1959, as amended.

Seventh: Lobby & Advocacy

The Association was very keen on joint action, cooperation and networking with NGO's, local, regional and international, for the success of various campaigns and activities, to mobilize public opinion and to influence decision-makers, also, the media was employed; publications and posters were issued for this purpose.

A - Development of Community Participation in the Political Process & National Unity

- During the years 2004 and 2005, the Association called for the establishment of The Iraqi Women Network (IWN), whose membership includes more than 80 organisations and women's groups. It is through cooperation and coordination between these organisations and others, that the success in recognizing the active role of women in the political system was achieved, and the abolition of the resolution 137, which aimed to codify sectarianism in personal status law and to cancel the Personal Status Act No. 188 of 1959.
- IAA played a key role in defending women's movement, focusing on the representation of women in decision-making positions, through adopting a representation of not less than 25 percent (quota) for them in the National Assembly, then in the House of Representatives. The campaign succeeded in confirming the issue of the percentage in the permanent Iraqi constitution.
- During the month of June 2004, IAA organized the National Conference for Women Empowerment in the Democratic Process, which was attended by approximately 350 participants from all parts of the country.
- Two workshops were organized on women empowerment in the electoral process, in August 2004 and January 2005, with the participation of 28 different women's organisations from different governorate.
- Making preparation for a training workshop on the Contribution of Youth in the Electoral Process, held in Amman in December 2004, in which 18 young women and men, aged between 17 to 27 years participated.

- A number of IAA representatives, participated in monitoring the elections in January 2005, in the governorate of Arbil. Many of them also participated in the control of the second elections, which took place in December 2005, in various locations in the governorates of Arbil and Duhok. A number of the Association's representatives monitored the referendum on the constitution, which took place in October 2005 in the governorate of Arbil.
- IAA implemented an extensive project on the dissemination of constitutional education, with the emphasis on rights and freedoms, and on treaties and international conventions on human rights, in particular (CEDAW). For several months during 2005, several workshops were held in Baghdad, Babil, Karbala, Kirkuk and Salahadeen for the activists, and more than 25000 citizens participated, in more than 730 general meetings, in urban and rural areas of 13 governorates. Also, dozens of mobile teams, and a numbers of activists of the media joined the program.
- In collaboration with the (IWN), IAA participated actively in the Conference of Women of the South, which was held in Basra in September 2005, and in the National Women's Conference held in Karbala in October of 2005, which was held under the motto (Future Horizons of Iraq, Women and the Constitution).
- At the beginning of 2006, IAA contributed to the establishment of The National Group, in order to ensure human rights in the Iraqi constitution, which, throughout the year, carried out a range of advocacy activities and campaigns in this regard.
- In February through April 2006, The Association in conjunction with a group of NGO's in Arbil, undertook the implementation of the (People's Awareness Project, on the Role of Members of the House of Representatives in Iraq), through a referendum to determine the citizens demands addressed to the MP's. 40 meetings were held, led by activists in the field of law, and attended by (1420) citizens.
- In June 2006, IAA participated in the Multilateral Dialogue on Human Rights and the Iraqi Constitution, which was organized by UNAMI, in Austria, in cooperation with the UNDP, the UN High Commission for Human Rights, and the Austrian Presidency of the European Union. The dialogues, between the representatives of political parties and civil society organisations and experts, focused on important issues concerning the application and promotion of the Bill of Rights and Freedoms stated in the Constitution, and the possible redrafting of it, in the context of the constitutional revision and implementation process.

- The Association participated in the Iraqi Judicial Independence Group, formed in mid 2006, which made a number of proposals to the Constitutional Amendments Committee, in the spring of 2007, on the judiciary and the Federal Supreme Court.
- In April 2006, IAA launched, with other women's groups, the media campaign of the Iraqi women's movement, under the motto of "Equality Not Discrimination", aimed at mobilizing the public opinion on issues of national unity against terrorism and sectarianism, for peace and stability, the rule of law, as well as to maintain the personal status law in force, and the promotion of international human rights treaties, (CEDAW), and SCR 1325 in particular. The wide spectrum of activities included ; the organisation of symposia, conferences, festivals and workshops, in Baghdad, Najaf, Nasiriya, Basra, Hilla, Saddat Al Hindiya , Arbil, Sulaimaniya and Kirkuk. Also, a number of television and radio programs were prepared.
- At the end of 2006, the Association participated in the delegation of Iraqi women's movement that submitted a memorandum concerning the position of women's organisations on the Constitution amendments to the Constitutional Review Committee in Parliament. Follow-up activities in this regard took place in the first half of 2007, through interviews with decision-makers, political leaders in the head of state and government , the House of Representatives and the Presidency of Kurdistan Region, in addition to discussing the subject with a number of international parties, to win their support on the demands of the women's movement in order to rid the Constitution from the sectarian formulations of article 41, and the recognition of international human rights conventions as a source of national legislation. These activities had an impact, which led the constitutional amendments committee to include article 41 of the constitution as one of the debatable points.
- As a part of its program in the follow-up of constitutional amendments, practically article 41, which was considered one controverter points before the Committee on constitutional amendments, and in order to help the Iraqi legislature to find common grounds when performing amendments on the constitution so as to maintain the unity of Iraq and to lay the foundations for the rule of law, the (IWN), in collaboration with IAA, during March and May of 2008, held four seminars on the comparison of personal status in the Constitution and the law, in different province, including Baghdad, Diwaniyah, Najaf and Karbala. A number of judges and lawyers, specialists and researchers in this area participated in these seminars, as well as representatives of the government and political entities, clergymen, members of governorate's councils, and activists in women's and human rights organisations, and other civil society organisations, the total attendance was 82

persons. The campaign was accompanied by extensive media coverage by satellite channels, daily newspapers and web sites.

- IAA called, with a number of local NGO's, for a Conference on National Unity, parallel to the official conference called for by the League of Arab Nations. The conference was held during the months of July and August 2006, and included three regional conferences (Shaqlawah and Hilla and Nasiriya), which were attended by representatives of more than (260) NGO's, and political, cultural, social and media personalities. The conference forwarded its recommendations to the political parties and the League of Arab States. And IAA delegated a representative on behalf of civil society organisations to attend the preparatory meeting of the League of Arab States Conference, held in Cairo at the end of July 2006. In March 2007, The Civil Conference for National Unity was held in Baghdad, with the presence of more than one hundred participants. The conference took the form of dialogue between representatives of NGO's and civil society organisations with several MP's on issues relating to the rule of law and justice, constitutional amendments, the role of community organizations in the promotion of civil dialogue and social coexistence and the relationship of civil society organizations with the government.
- On the 8th October 2007, the Association held in coordination with a network of civil society organisations, a press conference under the motto ("Yes" to Federal Iraq, "No" to Sectarian Division), in order to declare the position of approximately (100) Iraqi NGO's that reject the "non-binding" decision of the US. Senate, to divide Iraq to three sectarian regions, which was attended by representatives of NGO's and the media.
- At the end of May 2008, and on the sidelines of the annual inspection of the International Convention for Iraq Compact Conference, a delegation on the behalf of IWN, which included a representative from IAA, participated in a seminar held in Stockholm under the title "Iraqi Women Demand to Participate in the Future of Iraq", organized by the Swedish organization; Women for Women, and with the support of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In which Ms. Connella Carson the Minister of Development and Swedish International Cooperation, Mr. Staffan Dmistura the UN Special Representative in Iraq, and Ms. Dina Zorba Head of UNIFEM programs in Iraq participated. A detailed presentation on the situation of Iraqi women was presented, the demands of the women's movement were identified in order to ensure the active participation and partnership of civil society organisations in the implementation of the objectives of the Compact International for Iraq and monitoring its application, and to create a healthy environment to enable women to achieve gender equality, and to give them equal

opportunities in all areas, and expand their participation in decision-making positions, and assign the activities of women's organisations in lobbying and advocacy on violence against women and the constitutional amendments. It was covered by the Swedish and other foreign countries media.

- In June 2008, IAA supported the meeting on behalf of the Iraqi women's movement with 25 representatives of foreign diplomatic missions in Baghdad, as well as representatives of UNAMI and Human Rights Office in Iraq, to gain support for the participation of Iraqi women in the process of democratic transformations, the dialogue was conducted on the political situation in Iraq, the viewpoint of the women's movement on the Law of the Iraqi Provincial Elections was presented, and certainly the importance of women's quota, as well as on the constitutional amendments, and the increase of violence against women, and women's movement activity in this regard, and to urge the international community to give priority to providing financial grants to civil society organizations and women's groups in accordance with SCR. 1325, and to support civil society organizations in Iraq to urge the government to adopt the NGO's law draft.

B - Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's)

- In August 2005, IAA organized, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the NGO's Forum in Baghdad, with the participation of ninety delegations representing international and local NGO's The Forum aimed to strengthen the role of Iraqi non-governmental organizations in human development, and in democratization and social change.
- As of April 2006, IAA, with a number of NGO's formed a group called; "The Initiative for the Freedom of Iraqi NGO's", which held a series of meetings, agreed to issue a work paper summarizing the principles and rules of the new law draft on NGOs. Discussions are still ongoing in-depth, to enrich the new draft. The Association, at the beginning of 2007, translated and printed 2000 copies of the book "Guide to the Laws Affecting Civil Society Organisations."
- In March 2008, a representative of IAA, participated in a round-table discussion, held in Arbil, with the support of the UNOPS, concerning the bases of the NGO's law, in which various relevant official bodies, representatives of NGO's and international experts in this area participated. The participants managed to formulate the bases of the draft of the NGO law, which was later made available for relevant parties.

C - Participations in National, Regional & International Forums

- In October 2005, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of SCR. 1325 "Women, Peace and Security", the delegation of IAA delivered a speech at the closed-door meeting of the Security Council on the current conditions of Iraqi women.
- IAA, along with the representative of the Middle East, participated in the international gender experts meeting, held in London, in September 2006, by UNDP and the London School of Economics (LSE), on the gender planning of the efforts of crisis prevention and relief.
- IAA Delegations participated in many conferences, regional and international forums such as: Social Forum (Porto Alegre) in 2005, and the Madrid Summit on Democracy, Terrorism and Security in 2005. IAA also participate in the seminar on the Inclusive Security Initiative to support the role of women in the peace process, which was held in US/Boston during January 2006. Also IAA, attended the annual session of UN Commission on Women Status, in New York in February / March 2006. In May of the same year, the IAA delegation delivered a lecture on "The Role of Iraqi NGO's in the Democratic Process" in Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University in the US., as well as contributing to the conference held at Wilton Park in UK, in May / June 2006, on the application of SCR. 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. In September 2006, IAA participated in the General Assembly meeting of the Social Watch Network, which was held in Sofia / Bulgaria, to discuss the future strategy of the network 2007-2009, and how to strengthen the relationship between various work levels on the local and national levels with regional and global dimension, concerning the elimination of poverty and its causes and to ensure equitable distribution of wealth, and the realization of human rights. In November 2006, the delegation of the Association participated in Rome's meeting of the Mediterranean region civil society organisations for peace, justice, rights and democracy.
- Since the autumn of 2006, the Association was designated by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, as a member of the National Advisory Commission to write a national report on human development in Iraq, in 2007. And as a part of this process, it submitted a research on human security through the conditions of the displaced.
- In March 2007, the Association was invited to participate in the Arab regional workshop on "Opportunities and Challenges in the Civil Participation in Economic and Social Policies", held in Amman, by UNDESA and UNDP.
- In April 2007 in Beirut, the Society participated in the consultative meeting to discuss the reduction of sectarian and ethnic tensions in Iraq through the non-

formal education Project, with the presence of a select group of experts and economists, upon the invitation of ESCWA, UNESCO and UNICEF.

- The Association participated during April and May of 2007 in the national meetings for the preparation of the Seventh International Forum to Promote Trust in Government, and then in the international forum held in Vienna late June, planned by the Department of the United Nations' Economic and Social Affairs in partnership with the UNDP.

Eighth: Partners & Donors

Al-Amal has established strong relations with local and international organisations many of whom have contributed to Al Amal having achieved its programs by supporting it's projects and by developing the capacities of its staff.

Social Watch: Al-Amal is a member of Social Watch since 2000 and had contributed to its annual reports on human security, poverty, youth and the last on forced immigration and displacement in Iraq, in its annual book of 2002,2003,2004,2007 and 2008 consecutively.

Arab NGOs Network for Development (ANND): Al-Amal participated in the establishment of 'the Network' in Beirut in 1996 and was elected to the Coordinating Committee of the Network.

Arab Women's Court: Iraqi Al-Amal participated in the creation of the Arab Women's Court in Beirut in 1995 and attended the proceedings on "Legal Violence and Equality in the Family" as well as the General Council meetings.

NGO's Coordinating Committee in Iraq (NCCI): Al-Amal was among the founders of the Committee, which was established in April 2003. It was elected to its Board from (2005-2008). The Association supervised the implementation of the committee's campaign (The right to live in peace).

Iraqi Women Network (IWN): At the end of 2003, Al-Amal was one of the instigators into building IWN and has been elected to its Coordinating Committee. Al – Amal facilitates the network's work and supports its office and activities.

International Coordination of Gender Justice in Iraq (ICGJI): Al-Amal is a founding member of the committee which was formed in London in 2006 and is member of its Executive committee.

Secours Populaire Francais (SPF): funded many Al-Amal projects and recently the construction of Training Centre for Women in Najaf. Al-Amal participates regularly in

SPF's national conferences. It also participated in the summer youth camps in Lille in 1996 and Nice in 1999.

Greek Committee for International Democratic Solidarity (EDDA): This relationship has been secured through the annual support given to Al-Amal's projects in Kurdistan region and in the funding of the mobile medical clinic in southern Iraq in 2004.

Oxfam - UK: funded "Al-Amal Teaching & Training Centre in Arbil" for three years (1998-2000). Al-Amal participated in various activities organised by Oxfam. In 2005, in cooperation with Oxfam, a field study was carried out about the impact of humanitarian crises on women

Save the Children – UK: this partnership was developed through a number of projects that have been implemented in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Norwegian Peoples' Aid (NPA): This relationship was developed through several projects which were funded by NPA, amongst them the mobile clinic programme in northern Iraq during the emergency - May 2003. And in 2008, in collaboration with NPA, a field survey of 200 NGO's in Baghdad was carried out.

Associacio Catalana per la Pau (ACP): Apart from the previously funded "Al-Amal Teaching & Training Centre in Arbil", ACP-funded the mobile medical clinics in the southern Iraq-2004/2005.

Farmacéuticos Mundi in Catalana: shared with (ACP) the funding of the mobile clinics in southern Iraq, donated medicine, and some medical material generally and to the Arbil Maternity Hospital - 2004/2005.

One Earth – Greece: in July 2003, a water purification project was implemented in Najaf Governorate with One Earth's support.

Christian Aid (CA): funded the "Health Awareness Project on Mother and Child Care in Najaf Governorate" and the water project in Najaf - 2004/2005. Regular partners meetings are held with CA.

International Rescue Committee (IRC): supported Al-Amal project 'First-Aid Training' benefiting 200 young people in Daratoo Village in Arbil in 2003.

Research Triangle Institute (RTI): supported Al-Amal in organising the National Conference for Empowering Women in Democracy held in Baghdad in June 2004.

Menonite Central Committee (MCC), War Child in Canada, Trocaire in Ireland and the Canadian Catholic Organisation for Development and Peace (CCODP): All have shared the support of Al-Amal's project on Conflict Resolution for Teenage Students - 2004/2007.

Care International, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Menonite Central Committee (MCC), Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace

(CCODP): Supported Al-Amal in organising workshops for capacity building and empowerment of local Iraqi NGO's in 2004.

Menonite Central Committee (MCC): offered two summer school courses on peace building to a number of Al-Amal activists - 2004/2005. MCC also funded a summer school for young people in Sulaimaniya on the building of a civil culture for the youth in 2008

Un ponte per... (UPP-Italy): Supported Al-Amal in implementing the Sponsorship programme on caring for children with chronic diseases - 2004/2008.

Inter-Church Peace Council in Netherlands (IKV- PAX CRISTI): supported Al-Amal campaigns on the election and the constitution processes under the title "Strengthening Women Peace Initiatives in Iraq", also "Enhancing Women's role in the Democratic Process" and the Civil Dialogue among Young People program - 2004-2007. In addition to inviting the Association to a few international activities

American Bar Association (ABA): Al-Amal participated in the Bar's programme for promoting the judiciary system in Iraq and attended in its training sessions and conferences as well as implementing the survey on the status of women in Iraq.

Iraqi Civil Society Programme (ICSP): supported Al-Amal activities in Arbil Governorate during 2005.

Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights (UAFW): supported Al-Amal campaign on constitution process in 2005.

Göteborg Initiative in Sweden: As part of its programme on democracy, Al-Amal has accommodated the representative of this society during 2005.

Canadian Human Rights Foundation: invited three of Al-Amal activists to participate in its annual education courses on the International Human Rights Training Program (IH RTP) – 2004/2005.

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC): supported Al-Amal project (Al Tadamun Hairdressing Institute) in 2005/2006. It also provided emergency aid in 2006 and 2008.

Open Society (OSI) & London School for Economy (LSE): supported Al-Amal to participate in a number of international & regional events. Also (OSI) supported Al-Amal project for National Unity in 2005/2006.

Toledo International Centre for Peace: Participated in organising the two workshops on skill building on Management and Conflict Resolution for Women Leaders in Sulaimaniya July 2006 and in Madrid May 2007.

Heinrich Boll Foundation: Supported two workshops on Conflict Resolution and Facilitating Groups' Work for young persons in Beirut 2006-07. It also supported the Gender and Human Rights Workshop for judges and academics in Beirut 2008, in

addition to inviting the Association to take part in two courses about blogging in Beirut 2008.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM): Funded Al-Amal's emergency programmes in Arbil 2006 and in Karbala 2007.

Microsoft and Institute of International Education (IIE): Supported Woman in Technology programme since 2006 and still is going on.

International Centre for Not-For-Profit Law: supported Al-Amal in the translation and the publication the book: "Guidelines for Laws Affecting Civic Organisations" and inviting IAA delegations to participate in two regional workshops 2006-07.

The Institute for Strategic Studies in Beirut: During the year 2007 the institute provided Al- Amal with grants to qualify young researchers, each course took one month, and benefited 8 young activists.

The International Committee of the Red Cross: provided emergency aid for the displaced and poor families during the years 2007 and 2008.

Shekh Zaid Bin Khalifah Al Hehaian Charitable establishment Association: Supported a Project of Ramadhan Aid for Widows and Displaced in 2008.

Netherlands Ministry for Foreign Affairs: Funding a program for promoting a culture of peace through the principles of human rights and education for conflict resolution during 2008/2009.

The President's of Iraq office: Supporting financially a number of IAA programs, such as; the eradication of Illiteracy, civil dialogue among young people, mobile clinics and the Training Centre in Najaf in 2005/2006 and 2008.

The Presidency of the Council of Ministers in Kurdistan: Allocating a piece of land and a grant for the building of Arbil's clinic.

Cooperation with UN Specialised Agencies

Since mid ninetieth, Al-Amal established fruitful collaboration and cooperation with various UN agencies where a number of its projects in Kurdistan region were supported by them, including UNICEF, World Food Program (WFP), HABITAT and UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS). These projects are included in the above list. The cooperation between Al-Amal and the UN agencies has been enhanced over the last years through:

United Nations Development Program (UNDP): supported (Writing the Iraqi Constitution Together) project in 2005. Al-Amal also participated in the regional conferences during 2006-07, in addition to inviting Al – Amal to many international and regional activities 2006-2008

United Nations Development Funds for Women (UNIFEM): Supported Al-Amal activities in the Iraqi National Constitution Referendum 2005 and Women Media Campaign and the Civil Dialogue among Young People 2006. Also UNIFEM supported The Cry of Iraqi Women Conference, held in Baghdad in January 2008, and lately the “Decreasing Violence against Women” Project in 2008.

United Nations Office on Project Services (UNOPS): supported Iraqi NGOs Forum in 2005 and the National Unity programme 2006-07, also the project of building peace through conflict resolution training and democracy in 2007, the project of electoral awareness – enabling young voters, vision and rights in 2008, and supporting the Association’s activities which was presented in the displaced conference held in Baghdad July 2008.

Participation in the expert’s meeting organized by the Economic and Social Committee in Western Asia (ESCWA), on growth in conditions of crises, held in Beirut, June 2006, followed by the participation in the advisory meeting to discuss a project on controlling sectarian and racial tension in Iraq through non-formal education in April 2007.

The United Nations’ Office for Coordinating Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA): Supported the mobile clinics project in five governorates in 2008.

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) supported the Association’s celebration on the occasion of the International Literacy Day, on 8th of September 2008. Also Al-Amal was invited to participate in an international conference on education in Iraq held in Paris in October 2008.

=====