



Iraqi Al-Amal Association

For the welfare of humanit



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Iraqi Al Amal Association's Work Strategy for 2009-2011

Introduction:

As Iraqis are looking forward towards the stabilization of the security situation and satisfying the basic human needs for livelihood, civil society groups confirm that illiteracy, poverty and unemployment are the major tributaries to violence and terrorism, and that inefficiency and sectarian proportion and administrative and financial corruption, which is ravaging the state institutions, are exacerbating the suffering of Iraqi citizens, and increasing the misery of the marginalized groups in the society, and damaging other larger groups.

Hence the role of NGO's as one of the pillars of the state of rights and institutions, to move so as to participate with the rest of the state executive, legislative, judicial institutions and other sectors to address these problems, and achieve stability through the implementation of humanitarian and development projects, and to emphasize on the respect of human rights and reinforce a state of institutions and the rule of law and justice. Although this goal is a strategic matter in the long term, yet the development of events demonstrate that it is essential to move towards it fast.

Iraqi Al-Amal Association has worked since its establishment , and even now, within the context of achieving this strategic goal in accordance with the slogan " For the welfare of humanity " , according to the objectives set out in its rules of procedure, through the implementation of a series of charitable projects and providing humanitarian and developmental services, as well as assisting and empowering marginalized groups and a wide range of social groups, reinforcing a voluntary approach towards work, and through cooperation and coordination with a number of NGO's, targeting the establishment of a clear mechanism to ensure

human rights and international standards in the Constitution and legislations and in all institutions, with particular attention to ensure the integration of the frameworks of new legislations and institutional mechanisms with the issues of human rights and justice, and in emphasizing the principles of citizenship and national reconciliation and tolerance, women's human rights and equality, combating violence against women and achievement of legal reform, as key elements in the process of building democracy in Iraq.

✓ Objectives

The main goal: "Rehabilitation of human being, and the impact on social consciousness, to establish a modern civil society."

Iraqi Al-Amal Association seeks to accomplish specific goals within the overall objectives. It aims through the sustainability of its programs, to support the directed efforts towards the recovery of the general situation and stability, and support the most basic needs of livelihood. In this sense the Association aims to:

1. Contribute to the promotion of social peace and political stability in Iraq, through the development of the civil society's role and initiatives in support of peace building, the rule of law, citizenship, national unity, legal reform, and confronting financial and administrative corruption.
2. Participate in raising the level of human security for Iraqis living under armed conflict, in order to reduce the level of extreme poverty, to expand health care to villages and rural areas, and to promote social, economic and cultural rights, as well as promoting awareness of the importance of economic and environmental factors and their effect on armed conflict.
3. Assist in the provision and development of a free space for democracy, through peaceful dialogue and communication between cultures and religions within the different sectors of the Iraqi society.

✓ The axes of the programs

1- Constitutional review, which is a constant process :

- Refining the Constitution from sectarian formulations.
- The inclusion of international treaties on human rights in the Constitution as a source of national legislation.
- Pressure to remove or amend Article 41, on the issues of personal status.

- Follow-up developments that may arise from the constitutional interpretations of the laws to be adopted later.

2- The progress of the political process, through:

- Awareness and mobilization on the importance of provincial elections.
- Awareness and mobilization on the importance of the house of representatives elections, and the mobilization of forces to reduce the age of candidacy from 30 to 25 years, to achieve the effective participation of youth in the political process.
- Mobilizing public opinion concerning the referendum on the Constitution or on other issues.
- Highlighting the need of adopting efficiency, experience and integrity as the basis of employment in governmental institutions, without discrimination between citizens.
- National reconciliation on the level of community, and between decision-makers.
- The rule of law as the key to a fundamental solution for the application of justice in Iraq.
- Awareness of the dangers of administrative and financial corruption in state agencies, and provide critical treatments to contain it.

3. Human Security and Peace-Building:

- Conflict resolution program among children and young people, to disseminate the concepts of democracy and human rights among them.
- Civil dialogue among young people: To encourage dialogue and exchange experiences and joint work between young people and to enable them to participate in the process of democratization and development at all levels (political, social, economic and cultural).
- Mobilization against the dangers of the militarization of children, taking into account the phenomenon of recruitment of children into armed groups.
- Advocacy campaign on non-violence among youth and children.
- Suffering of the displaced and refugees as a priority of human security.

4. Criminal Justice (judicial reform)

- Promote a culture of human and gender rights amongst judges and the judiciary staff.

- Training the employees of the Ministry of the Interior on human and gender rights and the reform of the security sector.
- Ensuring access to justice for women victims of violence.
- Reviewing Iraqi legislations in the light of treaties and international conventions of human rights, particularly the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), in order to include gender in its framework, achieving gender justice, and the renunciation of violence against women.

5. Women's Programs

Women form an enormous energy in supporting the process of democracy and development in Iraq, taking into account that the share of women's representation in the House of Representatives is more than 25%, as well as the approval of quota for women in provincial councils, and nearly 11% of Iraqi families are supported by women.

On the other hand, the deterioration of security and the spread of religious and sectarian extremism has burdened women, causing a significant increase in the number of widows, the increase in the phenomenon of violence against women, further deterioration in the situation of women migrant and displaced, the growing number of honor crimes, and marginalization and restriction of the role of women and their movement in public life.

Programs proposed:

- 1- Eradication of illiteracy campaign, and advocacy on compulsory education, and reduction of the phenomenon of children dropping out of schools: Al Amal Association stated in its programs, that the rise in number of illiterate women in Iraq, and the number of girls who dropped out of school, has reached alarming percentage, which calls for the creation of sustainable programs by the Ministry of Education, and civil society organizations as well, to encourage the education of women and girls, particularly in rural and poor areas.
- 2- Women in Technology (Unlimited Potential):
 - Women in Technology program is trying to bridge the gap, through training and capacity building of participants in the program "Unlimited Potential", revealing the underlying power of Iraqi women, aiming to overcome gender discrimination in terms of being able to learn computer

technology and professional skills, the access of information, as well as ensuring freedom of expression to build a socially balanced society.

- WIT Program encourages women on peaceful conflict resolution, and sets foundations for a future without fear, oppression and violence.
- Expanding the program to include young people of both sexes under the slogan, "Unlimited Potential".
- Seeking to transform the program to an institution of self-financing.

3- Women in the labor market and income-generating programs: Within the framework of the "International Compact with Iraq", focusing on the development of women's skills and experience, and securing management of small projects, particularly for women supporting their families.

4- Expansion of the Legal Clinic for women to include a number of provinces to raise awareness of women's rights, and place the government and the community before their responsibility in this matter, along with launching a campaign to break the barrier of silence about violence against women, leading to the enactment of a law in this regard. Activities of the proposed program include: hearings, monitoring, awareness, workshops and training of trainers.

6 Capacities Building of governmental and non-governmental organizations in:

- Management of organizations and projects.
- Conflict resolution, communication and peace-building.
- Human and gender rights and the renunciation of violence against women.
- Training on personal and professional skills.
- Leadership training for youth and women.
- Networking.
- NGO law

7. Health care

- Further expansion of the mobile clinics projects in order to alleviate the suffering of people, especially women and children in rural areas, provide them with treatment services, raise health, environmental and social awareness among them, know their needs and the needs of their regions, and to implement other programs.

- Strengthening relationship between the Association and the health departments in the governorates and the Ministry of Health itself, for the development of primary health care program.
- Opening public clinics based on self-financing, wherever possible.
- Giving special attention to children and women with special needs.
- Installing water purification plants in rural areas.

8. Institutionalization of the Association

The paradigm shift in the work of the Association and the expansion of its activities demands a conversion in the mechanism and system of work, to an institutional system that determines specialization and responsibilities and clearly organizing them according to comprehensive internal rules and regulations, and rehabilitation of the Association's staff, with the assistance of consultants specializing in this regard.

9. Relationship with the Donors

The Association works to promote and develop its partnership with international donors and local communities, within programs of poverty reduction and sustainable development, and democracy-building, according to the axes of such a strategy, through:

- Strengthening the partnership with INGO's.
- Developing the relationship and cooperation with the UN specialized agencies.
- Strengthening partnerships with various governmental institutions in Iraq.
- Building collaborative relationships with international governmental institutions interested in providing assistance to the Iraqi people.

✓ Proposed activities:

Based on the meaningful experience of working in Iraq in disseminating human rights education, networking, and mobilization and advocacy of women's rights, Iraqi Al Amal Association's program will work to develop the above axes, focusing on activating the objectives by:

- Training and capacity-building workshops.
- Seminars, artistic and cultural events, and field researchs.
- Mobilization and advocacy campaigns , locally, regionally and internationally

- Mobile teams (health and legal clinics, literacy campaigns in all governorates)
- Special attention to improve the media aspect of the Association, in material and staff.
- Civil dialogue (through civil dialogue among young people, conflict resolution, and the Iraqi Women Network)
- Developing the Association's web page and Al Amal youth's web page, to become a reference for information on the activities of the Association, and studies and information on topics of interest to the Association.

✓ Targeted Groups:

- 1- Workers in NGO's, and the media.
- 2- Activists in Iraqi Al Amal Association (women and youth.)
- 3- Governmental institutions and the judiciary workers, and members of parliament and parliamentary committees (legal, the committee for amending the constitution, women, civil society, and human rights).
- 4- Local, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, especially in hotbed areas, poor and rural areas and displaced compounds.
- 5- Provincial and municipal councils.

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