



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Waterkeepers Iraq Organization

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# INTRODUCTION

In the face of unprecedented challenges and uncertainties, the year 2021 emerged as a pivotal chapter in our journey towards progress, resilience, and compassion. As we reflect on the events and accomplishments of the past year, we find ourselves inspired by the unwavering determination and dedication of individuals and organizations striving to make a positive impact in our world. Despite the global backdrop of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, remarkable initiatives took shape, transforming adversity into opportunity and fostering hope amidst adversity.

At Waterkeepers Iraq Organization we embarked on a remarkable project called "Human and Environmental Security in Iraq in the times of Covid-19" (HESI). With the generous support of the FAI and the leadership of the UPP, in collaboration with Humat Dijlah we aimed to promote human and environmental security in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq. Recognizing the urgent need to address the interconnected challenges of Covid-19, clean water access, and environmental protection, our dedicated team worked tirelessly to achieve tangible and sustainable results.

Throughout the year, our activities under the HESI project focused on empowering local activists, raising awareness among communities, and implementing essential measures to combat the spread of Covid-19. We successfully trained 60 activists in Sulaymaniyah, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to conduct prevention campaigns, protect clean water sources, and preserve local ecosystems. Additionally, we reached out to over 3,000 individuals, informing them about vital prevention measures, the importance of environment protection, and the right to clean water. By educating 200 students about Covid-19 handling, environmental conservation, and the significance of clean waterways, we nurtured a sense of responsibility and stewardship among the younger generation.

In addition to the HESI project, our organization actively engaged in a range of activities outside its scope. We organized seminars, conferences, and workshops, providing platforms for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and raising environmental awareness. These initiatives brought together experts, activists, and government officials to discuss crucial topics such as water shortage, river pollution, climate change, and the protection of our natural resources.

We also seized opportunities to collaborate with like-minded organizations, fostering partnerships that amplify our collective impact.

As we present this annual report, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the remarkable individuals who dedicated their time, expertise, and resources to our endeavors. We express

our deepest appreciation to our committed volunteers, passionate activists, and enthusiastic participants who formed the backbone of our projects and activities. Moreover, we acknowledge the invaluable support of our partners, including the FAI, UPP, and Humat Dijlah. whose unwavering belief in our mission fueled our success.

Looking forward, we stand committed to building upon the achievements of the past year and embracing new opportunities for growth and collaboration. With a renewed sense of purpose and a shared vision for a better future, we forge ahead, inspired by the potential of collective action and the transformative power of resilience. Together, let us continue to create positive change, foster human and environmental security, and make a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

# MESSAGE FROM THE IRAQ UPPER TIGRIS WATERKEEPER:

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I hope this message finds you well. As the Iraq Upper Tigris Waterkeeper, I am honored to address you and share my thoughts on our collective journey towards protecting and preserving our precious water resources.

The year 2021 has been a remarkable chapter in our mission to safeguard the Upper Tigris River and its surrounding ecosystems. Amidst the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, our resolve and determination have only grown stronger. We have witnessed firsthand the vital role that clean water plays in the health and well-being of our communities, making our work more critical than ever.

Together with our dedicated team and partners, we embarked on the "Human and Environmental Security in Iraq in the times of Covid-19" (HESI) project. This initiative aimed to promote human security, environmental conservation, and the right to clean water in Sulaymaniyah. By training activists, raising awareness, and implementing preventive measures, we have made significant strides towards our goals.

I am proud to report that we successfully trained 60 activists in Sulaymaniyah, equipping them with the knowledge and tools to conduct effective prevention campaigns. These campaigns not only focused on Covid-19 but also emphasized the protection of our local ecosystems and the importance of clean waterways. Through our collective efforts, we reached thousands of individuals, raising awareness about preventive measures, environmental health, and policies aimed at preserving our water sources.

Furthermore, we recognized the need to engage our younger generation in these crucial matters. We conducted informative sessions in schools, empowering 200 students to become ambassadors for change. By nurturing their understanding of Covid-19 prevention, environmental protection, and clean water access, we are fostering a future generation of advocates who will safeguard our precious resources.

Beyond the HESI project, we organized seminars, conferences, and workshops, creating platforms for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and awareness-raising. These endeavors brought together experts, activists, and government officials to address pressing issues such as water shortage, river pollution, climate change, and the protection of biodiversity. Our collective voices resonated, and the impact of our discussions continues to ripple through our communities.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication and commitment of our volunteers, activists, and supporters. I extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you who has contributed time, expertise, and resources to our cause. Your unwavering support has propelled us forward, inspiring us to persevere despite the challenges we face. Looking ahead, we must remain steadfast in our mission. Our work is far from over, and the road ahead may present new obstacles. However, I am confident that our shared passion and commitment will guide us towards success. Let us continue to collaborate, advocate, and take collective action to protect our water resources and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and I look forward to the journey ahead.

Sincerely,  
Nabil Musa



Iraq Upper Tigris Waterkeeper - Waterkeepers Iraq Organization

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The year 2021 has been a year of impactful initiatives and projects aimed at safeguarding our water resources. We are grateful for the generous support of our funding partners, whose contributions have made our efforts possible.

One of the significant projects undertaken in 2021 was the "Human and Environmental Security in Iraq in the times of Covid-19" (HESI) project. This vital endeavor, focused on promoting human and environmental security in Sulaymaniyah, was made possible through the funding provided by FAI (Funding Organization Name). Their support enabled us to implement a range of activities, including training courses, awareness campaigns, and educational programs, reaching a wide audience and making a tangible difference in the community.

Additionally, we were privileged to collaborate with VIM Foundation, who generously funded the "No Water No Future" activity. This initiative allowed us to raise awareness about the pollution of water resources and canals in Kurdistan. Through various activities, such as paddling trips, cleaning campaigns, and the River of Light festival, we engaged the community and highlighted the importance of preserving our waterways for a sustainable future.

We express our sincere gratitude to FAI and VIM Foundation for their financial support and belief in our mission. Their contributions have been instrumental in advancing our work and driving positive change in the communities we serve. We are committed to utilizing these resources effectively and transparently, ensuring that every dollar is maximized to achieve our goals of water conservation, environmental security, and community empowerment.

As we move forward, we remain dedicated to seeking additional funding opportunities and partnerships to support our ongoing efforts. The financial support we receive plays a vital role in our ability to expand our reach, deepen our impact, and create lasting change in the field of water conservation and environmental stewardship.

# PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES REVIEW - YEAR 2020:

The year 2021 was marked by a series of impactful projects and activities undertaken by Iraq Upper Tigris Waterkeepers. These initiatives aimed to address crucial issues related to water conservation, environmental security, and community empowerment. Here is a review of some of the key projects and activities conducted during this period:

## 1. **Human and Environmental Security in Iraq in the times of Covid-19**

**(HESI) Project:** The HESI project, funded by FAI (Funding Organization Name), was a major undertaking focused on promoting human and environmental security in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq. Through this project, our dedicated team worked tirelessly to achieve the following objectives:

- Guarantee the right to clean water in Sulaymaniyah while raising awareness among the population and local authorities about environmental security, health, and human security.
- Protect the lives of Environmental Rights Activists and Human Rights Defenders who are in vulnerable positions due to their nonviolent actions aimed at safeguarding human security.

The project achieved significant results:

- Trained 60 activists in Sulaymaniyah on conducting prevention campaigns against Covid-19, advocating for clean water, and protecting local ecosystems.
- Informed over 3000 people in Sulaymaniyah about prevention measures for Covid-19, the importance of environment protection, and clean waterways.
- Educated 200 students in Sulaymaniyah about Covid-19 prevention, the significance of environmental conservation, and clean waterways.

## 2. **No Water No Future Activity:** Thanks to the generous funding provided by VIM Foundation, we successfully conducted the No Water No Future activity, aimed at raising awareness about water resource pollution and canals in Kurdistan. This initiative included various engaging activities:

- Paddling trips from Sanjean Village to Dukan Lake, promoting the importance of preserving our water resources.
- Cleaning campaigns to remove pollutants from water canals, ensuring their cleanliness and health.



- The River of Light festival, which celebrated the significance of our waterways and their role in shaping our future.
3. **Other Activities:** In addition to the major projects, we also engaged in various activities to further our mission:
- Organized workshops in schools to educate elementary students about the environment, climate change, and Covid-19.
  - Conducted an online training program for environmentalists and activists, focusing on Covid-19 prevention, campaigning strategies, and psychological effects.
  - Participated in conferences such as the Guan Eden Conference, which aimed to increase environmental awareness in Iraq.
  - Collaborated with Nature Organization Kurdistan to host a seminar on the drying of rivers and solutions to water shortage issues.
  - Engaged in media outreach, including interviews with Gali Kurdistan Radio and TV, Aljazeera reports, and publications highlighting the challenges faced by our rivers and the urgent need for action.

These projects and activities in 2021 have made a significant impact on our mission to preserve and protect Iraq's water resources. They have raised awareness, empowered communities, and fostered a sense of responsibility toward the environment. We are grateful for the support of our partners, volunteers, and donors who have made these achievements possible. Together, we will continue striving for a sustainable future and a healthier environment.

# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

## Founding Board Members:

- Shirwan Ali Hamajan (Email: [canshirwan@gmail.com](mailto:canshirwan@gmail.com))
- Renas Hasan (Email: [renas.h@hotmail.com](mailto:renas.h@hotmail.com))
- Karzan Omer (Email: [karzanomer@gmail.com](mailto:karzanomer@gmail.com))

## Advisory Board Members:

- Anna Bachmann (Email: [bachmanna@gmail.com](mailto:bachmanna@gmail.com))
- Sara Eleonora-Maria

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the dedicated volunteers who have generously contributed their time and efforts to support our cause. Your commitment and passion have been invaluable in driving our mission forward. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to protecting our water resources and promoting environmental sustainability.

Bnwar Abdulrahman, Bawan Omer, Tara Abdulla, Shad Azad, Shatoo Kamaran, Rosetta Rebwar, Ranja Ali, Zainab Mirza, Abdullah Salah, Agnes Kullos , Anna Bachmann, Azar Othman, Begard Sherwan, Charlotte Wells, Cris Guajardo, Danyar Abdulla, Dekan Sdiq, Hana Barzinji, Hastyar Mahmood, Hevy Hemn Hevy, Hoshyar Jamal, Karwan Shekhani, Karzan Fazil, Kawan Faraj, Lana Sherzad, Lona Nadhif, Nab Shexany, Nabil Musa, Naz Nishtiman, Nishtiman Arif, Noor Abdul Alstarr, Pommelien de Silva Cosme, Pzho Kamil, Rachel Weishaupt, Ranj Hussen, Rawezh Najmaddin, Raz Hassan, Renas Hassan, Rozhan Faraidun, Rozhgar Muhammad, Safe Muhammad, San Shaduman, Sara Tahir, Shalhar Mohammed, Shamir Salar, Shano Aram, Shirwan Khan, Shkar Awat, and Virginia Tice.

# 2020-2021 BY THE NUMBERS

In 2021-2022, Waterkeepers Iraq made significant strides in protecting Iraq's water resources and promoting environmental sustainability. Let's explore the numbers that reflect the breadth and impact of our activities during this period:

- **Beneficiaries Reached:** Through our various educational programs and initiatives, we successfully educated and raised awareness among over 3,000 individuals about the importance of water resource protection, environmental conservation, and the interconnection between human well-being and the environment. By empowering these individuals with knowledge, we aimed to inspire positive change and foster a sense of responsibility towards our precious waterways.
- **Clean-up Projects:** Our dedicated team of +50 volunteers actively participated in multiple clean-up projects along rivers and reservoirs. Together, we removed an impressive 500 kilograms of waste from these vital water sources, improving the overall health and sustainability of the ecosystems they support. These clean-up efforts signify our commitment to preserving the cleanliness and integrity of Iraq's waterways.
- **Environmental Exhibitions:** Our captivating Activity titled "No Water No Future" attracted hundreds of visitors. Through impactful puppets of the river lights festival , paddle boarding for 15kms, and thought-provoking artworks, we highlighted the intrinsic value of water in our lives and inspired visitors to reconsider their relationship with these vital ecosystems. By engaging the public in this way, we aimed to foster a deeper appreciation for water resources and encourage sustainable practices.
- **Advocacy and Awareness:** Our relentless advocacy efforts included media interviews, articles, and public engagements. Through these platforms, we effectively shared our message and raised awareness about the pressing water-related issues facing Iraq. By amplifying our voice and engaging with diverse audiences, we aimed to mobilize collective action and influence positive change in policies and practices related to water management and conservation.

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