

Sustainable Shelters, Camp Infrastructure,
and Livelihoods for Syrian Refugees in
Kurdistan Region of Iraq



peace winds



September 30, 2020 -
September 29, 2022

Final Project Year Report

September 30, 2021 - September 29, 2022

Name of Organization	Peace Winds America (DUNS 831585331), with sub-award to Peace Winds Japan (DUNS 698168205)
Name of Project	Sustainable Shelters, Camp Infrastructure, and Livelihoods for Syrian Refugees in Kurdistan Region of Iraq
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Country	Federal Republic of Iraq
Site(s)/Location(s)	Erbil and Duhok Governorates of Kurdistan Region of Iraq
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Time Period Covered by Report	September 30, 2021 – September 29, 2022

1. Overall Performance

The overall objective of this two-year project, implemented from September 2020 to September 2022, was to improve shelters, infrastructure, and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable refugees in six refugee camps in Kurdistan Region of Iraq ("KRI"). The second year began on September 30, 2021, and ended on September 29, 2022.



BEFORE



AFTER



Objective 1: Improve living conditions of Syrian refugee households in Duhok camps in need of upgraded shelter.

In Year 2, Peace Winds continued to support vulnerable refugee households in need of durable shelters by upgrading 1,320 sub-standard kitchens, latrines, and showers, well beyond the original target of 1,100 units. The upgrades benefitted 770 households living in Domiz-1 and Domiz-2 camp in Duhok governorate.

The project year began with detailed assessments of 830 shelters in the two camps based on the lists provided by camp management. The assessments verified the occupancy data and assessed the conditions of kitchen, latrine, and shower units and surveyed those households for vulnerabilities. After the assessments, Peace Winds identified 770 vulnerable households (717 in Domiz-1 and 53 in Domiz-2 camp) that were eligible and in need of upgrades, and 770 of those households agreed to move forward.

Peace Winds engineers prepared detailed bills of quantity (BoQs) with design and technical specifications for the 1,320 kitchen, latrine, and shower units in close coordination with the 770 households. Peace Winds staff visited all households and conducted two rounds of orientations so that beneficiaries clearly understood the modality of their upgrades, technical aspects, and the roles and responsibilities of all parties before signing the agreement.

A contract with the construction material supplier was executed in February 2022 following a competitive bidding process. Initially, Peace Winds aimed to upgrade 1,100 kitchen, latrine, and shower units in 704 shelters in Domiz-1 and Domiz-2 camps. However, there was a cost-saving because of the competitive bidding process, and Peace Winds was able to upgrade an additional 220 units resulting in a new **total of 1,320 units** (505 kitchens, 423 latrines, and 392 showers) **in 770 shelters** (717 in Domiz-1 and 53 in Domiz-2).

Before implementing shelter upgrade activities, Peace Winds engineers visited the sources of construction materials with the supplier to check the quality and quantity of materials available. In addition, all construction materials were sent for laboratory tests and, upon receiving successful results, construction materials were delivered to the beneficiaries.

By the end of the project year, all 1,320 kitchen/latrine/shower units in 770 shelter upgrades were completed and formally handed over to the shelter owners, including 717 Domiz-1 and 53 in Domiz-2 refugee camp.

Objective 2: Improve shelters and camp infrastructures to make them safe, accessible, and appropriate for persons with disabilities and older persons in four refugee camps in Erbil.

In Year 2, the project continued to improve the safety, protection, quality of life, and inclusion for persons with disabilities (PwD) through upgrades and modifications to 304 individual shelters and 26 camp infrastructure projects in Erbil refugee camps. Peace Winds provided the required construction materials through a contracted supplier and utilized the Peace Winds cash-for-work (CfW) methodology, providing temporary income and employment to beneficiaries for the completion of their own shelter upgrades. All targets were met or exceeded during the project year.

BEFORE



AFTER

At the household level, 304 individual shelters were upgraded and modified based on the specific needs of the household members to facilitate improved mobility and access, including accessible entrances/ramps, handrails, appropriate latrines and showers, modification to doors and windows, and other universal design improvements. In Year 2, the project focused on shelter modifications specifically in Basirma and Qushtapa camps in Erbil governorate. (Needs in Kawergosk and Darashakran camps were addressed in Year 1.)

The project year began with detailed assessments of 562 shelters with persons with disabilities and elderly in the two camps. The assessments verified the occupancy data and assessed the conditions of pathways, latrines, and showers of individual households and surveyed those households for vulnerabilities. After the assessments, Peace Winds identified 304 vulnerable households (74 in Basirma and 230 in Qushtapa camp) that were eligible and in need of upgrades, and all 304 of those households agreed to move ahead.

Peace Winds engineers prepared the detailed bills of quantity (BoQs) with the design and technical specifications for each of the 304 individual shelters in close coordination with shelter owners. Peace Winds visited all individual shelters and conducted two rounds of orientations, both technical and social, so that the beneficiaries clearly understood the modality of their shelter improvement, technical aspects, and roles and responsibilities of all parties before signing the agreements.

A contract with the construction material supplier was executed in February 2022 following a competitive bidding process. Initially, Peace Winds aimed to upgrade 280 shelters, but due to cost savings with the supplier, an additional 24 shelters were able to be upgraded in the two camps.



Peace Winds technical team assessing public facility in Qushtapa Camp, Erbil



Peace Winds technical team assessing individual shelter in Basirma Camp, Erbil

At the camp level, 26 camp infrastructure projects were completed in the camps in Year 2, with the aim of improving access to camp buildings and facilities, including camp offices, health centers, schools and child friendly spaces, WASH facilities, distribution sites, recreational areas, and other public spaces. The projects included improvements to pathways, including crossings over open drainage channels, ramps, handrails, specialized seating, and signage, among others.

The project year began with full assessments of accessibility around the camps to prioritize the upgrades. Detailed designs and BoQs for each upgrade were prepared by Peace Winds engineers, and agreements were finalized with camp management. By the end of the year, 26 upgrades were completed, including 10 in Basirma camp and 16 in Qushtapa.

Before shelter and camp construction activities began, Peace Winds engineers visited different sources of construction materials along with the supplier to check the quality and quantity of materials available. In addition, all construction materials were sent for laboratory tests and, following the successful results, construction materials were delivered to the beneficiaries.



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Erbil, Iraq



Peace Winds is only halfway through year two of our shelter upgrade project for Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and we are already ahead of schedule! ...[read more](#)

May 24, 2022

Peace Winds posts regular project updates like these to our Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter channels. Follow us for more photos.



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Published by Sarah Maraschky · July 20 ·

[#Iraq] Rather than upgrading shelters through local contractors as some NGOs do, Peace Winds utilizes a cash-for-work approach, which involves the targeted households in the process. Beneficiaries are able to make upgrades to their own homes, improve their living conditions, and they earn wages and learn skills to help them find future income-earning opportunities and support their families.

"Cash-for-work was the best project for me," one beneficiary told us. "I have a son with special needs, and his life is difficult. Building a bathroom, stairs for my shelter, and providing my son with a chair made his life easier."

This project is funded by the [U.S. Department of State: Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration](#) and supported by the [U.S. Consulate General Erbil](#).



Objective 3: Enhance economic self-sufficiency through livelihood opportunities for refugees in Erbil and Duhok camps.

3.1 Cash-for-Work (CfW) for beneficiaries performing shelter and infrastructure upgrades:

Cash-for-work (CfW) activities commenced in Q3 and concluded in Q4, in both Duhok and Erbil camps. The shelter and infrastructure upgrades in Objectives 1 and 2 utilized the CfW model successfully implemented by Peace Winds in other projects to provide income opportunities, develop skills, and increase self-reliance. Rather than upgrading the shelters through local contractors, Peace Winds utilized a CfW approach that involves the targeted households, providing them with opportunities to earn income, enhance skills, and take more ownership of their shelter upgrades. Households that could not or chose not to perform the upgrade work themselves were able to choose other skilled or unskilled workers from the community or through the job centers in each camp.

During the project year, a total of 25,892 workdays were completed by beneficiaries and paid by Peace Winds. The number of workdays far exceeded the original Year 2 target of 22,048 due to the increases in shelter upgrades in Objectives 1 and 2, above. The number of workdays for women doubled compared to Year 1. A breakdown of skilled and unskilled labor, disaggregated by gender in all camps, is provided in section 4 - "Affected Persons."



Peace Winds employee distributes cash-for-work payment in Basirma Camp, Erbil



Syrian refugee works on shelter upgrade in Qushtapa Camp, Erbil as part of the cash-for-work program

This year Peace Winds also hired Refugee Field Monitors (RFM) within the refugee camps for a challenging but rewarding role where they had an opportunity to learn new skills such as data collection, assessment, use of various tools, and reporting. One of the RFMs from the Qushtapa refugee camp is Shorsh, a 28-year-old who follows up on the distribution of building materials for families caring for persons with disabilities. Shorsh, who herself has a disability, stated, "I am happy to work with the Peace Winds team, and we hope to do our best to make refugee families happy and secure with what they need. I have learned how to recognize various types of building material."

Shorsh
Field Monitor
(Refugee)



“

I am happy to work with the Peace Winds team, and we hope to do our best to make refugee families happy and secure with what they need. I have learned how to recognize various types of building material.

3.2 Tool service centers and work areas to facilitate access to tools and equipment:

During Year 2, Peace Winds continued supporting the operations and staffing of four Tool Service Centers (TSCs) in Basirma, Darashakran, Kawergosk, and Qushtapa camps in Erbil through a contract with Barzani Charity Foundation (BCF). The TSCs provided refugees with tools, safety equipment, supplies, and basic training on personal safety and tool use. The TSCs were available to all refugees for their own work and projects as well as for the shelter and public infrastructure upgrades under this project. In Year 2, a total of 46,525 tools were borrowed by 14,280 beneficiaries (12,516 males and 1,764 females) in the four centers in Erbil.

Moreover, 40 training courses were conducted for refugees to develop skills that can be used later as a source of income or for maintaining their homes. Since it began in May, Peace Winds has completed 12 training sessions for 70 participants, out of which 22 (31.43%) were female participants.

Training specifically designed for beneficiaries with disabilities was also provided as a pilot. The tool center technicians worked with the Peace Winds disability expert to design the training and focus on using the tools and skills that are most appropriate and safe for particular disabilities. The pilot was a huge success because it contributed to helping persons with disabilities be better equipped to participate in related work, and it also served as a form of occupational therapy.

In Year 2, Peace Winds also installed a prefabricated multi-purpose workshop area including utilities, security measures, and basic equipment in Qushtapa camp. The workshop area is available for refugees to work on projects in a safe and protected space, whether it be constructing, repairing, welding, or assembling personal projects or participating in building activities under this project.

In the two Duhok camps, where formal tool centers did not exist, Peace Winds obtained some basic tools for cash-for-work activities and established informal centers. Camp management provided the spaces to store the tools, and Peace Winds renovated the spaces and hired two persons from the camp to manage the tools. Cumulatively, 2,188 beneficiaries (1,618 males and 570 females) borrowed 2,610 tools from both of the Duhok camps during Year 2.

Refugee woman participates in tool center training course



3.3 Gender Inclusion for Livelihood Opportunities: In Year 2, Peace Winds continued encouraging women's participation in training opportunities and cash-for-work activities.

Of 447 beneficiaries who received training on the use of tools and personal safety, 261 (58.4%) were women. Training sessions were specifically designed to develop women's skills and experience so they could participate in the project's cash-for-work activities rather than hiring others. Women selected for those trainings are among the most disadvantaged groups in the camps, including women from female-headed households or from households with males who are unable to work for various reasons.



Refugee women participate in tool center training courses

As for the cash-for-work activities, the training led to an increase in the number of workdays performed by women, from **1,539** in year 1 to **3,135** in year 2, an increase of 203%.

Peace Winds' 2022 Market and Capacity Assessment found that:

- Female refugees reported that the tool centers enabled them to become self-reliant, renovate their own shelters, and save costs.
- In addition to using tools for work, the centers enabled refugees to renovate and repair their own shelters.
- Having access to free tools on a daily basis has allowed refugees to save both time and money as they do not have to leave the camps to purchase tools or hire someone.

Peace Winds continued to increase its female staff over the two-year project. In Year 2, 47% of Peace Winds' field based staff were female (9 out of 19 staff members, including a female supervising engineer, construction assistants, and field monitors). Female staff were involved during each phase of cash-for-work such as orientations, construction, distribution of cash, and satisfaction surveys. These efforts have helped increase communication with female beneficiaries, encouraged additional participation in the cash-for-work activities, and allowed Peace Winds to tailor project approaches to the needs and preferences of female participants.

2. Changes and Amendments

Objective 1: Shelter upgrades in Domiz-1 and Domiz-2 camps: In Year 2, Peace Winds initially aimed to upgrade 1,100 units of sub-standard kitchens, latrines, and showers in 704 shelters between Domiz-1 and Domiz-2 camps. After completing the detailed BoQs for all shelters and due to cost savings following the competitive bidding process, Peace Winds was able to upgrade an additional 220 units. At the end of the project year, a total of 1,320 kitchens, latrines, and showers were upgraded in 770 households in the two camps.

Objective 2: Shelter and Camp infrastructure improvements in four refugee camps in Erbil to increase accessibility for persons with functional and mobility limitations: Peace Winds initially targeted 280 individual shelters for accessibility improvements in Basirma and Qushtapa camps in Year 2. After completing the detailed BoQs for all shelters and due to cost savings in the supplies contract following the competitive bidding process, Peace Winds was able to improve an additional 24 shelters (six in Basirma and 18 in Qushtapa) between those two camps. Ultimately, Peace Winds managed to improve 304 shelters during the project year.

Peace Winds employees in Duhok, Iraq



3. Progress Objectives and Indicators

Objective #1: Improve living conditions of Syrian refugee households in Duhok camps in need of upgraded shelter

Indicator	Baseline # or %	Target # and/or %	Value # or % this Period	Cumulative # and % Progress
1.1 # of shelter assessments completed in Duhok camps (verifying occupancy data and surveying shelter conditions and household vulnerabilities)	N/A	2,061 Units 810 Shelters	-	2,464 Units (120%) 830 Shelters (102%)
1.2 # of individual shelter BoQs and designs prepared	N/A	704	-	770 (109%)
1.3 # of agreement with Beneficiaries & Camp Management, which clarifies the responsibilities of each party.	N/A	704	-	770 (109%)
1.4 # of refugee households receiving shelter assistance in Duhok camps	N/A	704	340 completed 405 handed over	770 (109%) completed 770 (109%) handed over
1.5 # of refugee households who have adequate living space in and immediately around their shelters to carry out daily activities <u>Year 2:</u> Adequate cooking space and bathing and/or sanitation facilities are in place	N/A	704	340 completed 405 handed over	770 (109%) completed 770 (109%) handed over
1.6 % of targeted households satisfied with the shelter assistance received in Duhok camps	96.6% in Year 1	95%	1,498 surveyed: 574 males 924 females	99.5% 1,896 surveyed: 906 male 990 females
1.7 % of beneficiaries who report an improved sense of safety and well-being at the end of the program, disaggregated by age and gender in Duhok camps	100% in Year 1	85%	1,498 surveyed: 574 males 924 females	99.9% 1,896 surveyed: 906 males (821: 18-59 years old, and 85: 60+) 990 females (905: 18-59 years old, and 85: 60+)

Objective #2: Improve shelters and camp infrastructures to make them safe, accessible, and appropriate for persons with disabilities and older persons in four refugee camps in Erbil

Indicator	Baseline # or %	Target # and/or %	Value # or % this Period	Cumulative # and % Progress
2.1 # of shelter assessments completed in Erbil camps (verifying occupancy data and surveying shelter conditions and household vulnerabilities)	N/A	559	-	562 shelters 101% of target
2.2 # of individual shelter BoQs and designs prepared	N/A	280	-	304 shelters 109% of target
2.3 # of agreement with Beneficiaries & Camp Management, which clarifies the responsibilities of each party.	N/A	280	-	304 shelters 109% of target
2.4 # of refugee households receiving shelter assistance in Erbil camps	N/A	280	95	304 109% of target
2.5 # of shelter beneficiary households using shelter assistance as a means to address accessibility needs	N/A	280	95	304 109% of target
2.6 % of targeted households satisfied with the shelter assistance they receive(d) in Erbil camps	98.3% in Year 1	95%	502 surveyed: 227 males 275 females	98.1% <u>713 surveyed:</u> 328 males 385 females
2.7 # of camp infrastructure upgrades to increase accessibility for persons with mobility barriers	N/A	26	11	26 100% of target
2.8 % of persons with mobility constraints reporting increased accessibility in Erbil camps due to infrastructure upgrades disaggregated by gender	98% in Year 1	80%	1,727 surveyed: 569 males 1,158 females	99.5% <u>1,938 surveyed:</u> 670 males 1,268 females
2.9 % of beneficiaries who report an improved sense of safety and wellbeing at the end of the program, disaggregated by age and gender in Erbil camps	Female: 98% Male: 98.3% in Year 1	85%	502 surveyed: 227 males 275 females	99.7% 713 surveyed: 328 males (24: 18-59 years old, and 80: 60+) 385 females (280: 18-59 years old and 105: 60+)



Tool center training course participants with certificates of completion

Objective #3: Livelihood opportunities for refugees in Erbil and Duhok camps

Indicator	Baseline # or %	Target # and/or %	Value # or % this Period	Cumulative # and % Progress
3.1 # of workdays of remunerated skilled and unskilled labor disaggregated by gender	N/A	22,048	Total: 11,107 Male: 9,713 Female: 1,395	25,892 (117%) Male: 22,757 Female: 3,135
3.2 % of refugees who are satisfied with their work opportunity, disaggregated by gender	99.5% In Year 1	90%	3,289 surveyed: 2,343 males 946 females	99.7% 4,290 surveyed: 3,312 males 978 females
3.3 # of beneficiaries utilizing services of Tool Service Centers disaggregated by gender	Year 1: 9,506 Male: 8,703 Female: 803	Total: 7,000 Male: 6,600 Female: 400	Total: 3,786 Male: 3,279 Female: 507	Total: 14,280 (204%) Male: 12,516 (190%) Female: 1,764 (441%)

4. Affected Persons

Objective 1: Shelter upgrades in Domiz-1 and Domiz-2 camps: In Domiz 1 and Domiz 2 camps, 770 shelters were upgraded and handed over to the respective owners.

Shelter Assessments and Upgrades in Domiz-1 and Domiz-2 Camps
(Unit of Measurement: Households-HHs)

Camp	Households Assessed	Selected for Upgrades	Upgrades in Progress	Upgrades Completed
Domiz 1	775	717	0	717 (100%) handed over
Domiz 2	55	53	0	53 (100%) handed over
Total	830	770	0	770 handed over

Objective 2: Shelter and Camp infrastructure improvements to increase accessibility for persons with functional and mobility limitations in four refugee camps in Erbil: 304 upgrades were completed by the end of the project year.

Shelter Assessments and Upgrades in Erbil Camps
(Unit of Measurement: Households-HHs)

Camp	Households Assessed	Selected for Upgrades	Upgrades in Progress	Upgrades Completed
Basirma	107	74	0	74
Qushtapa	455	230	0	230
Total	562	304	0	304

In the beginning of the project year, Peace Winds assessed 562 shelters in the two camps and documented persons with functional/mobility limitations as follows:

Persons with Functional/Mobility Limitations in Erbil Camps
(Unit of Measurement: Individuals)

Camp	All PWDs	Elderly	Female	Male	Total
Basirma	165	42	79	86	165
Qushtapa	747	263	375	385	760
Total	912	305	454	471	925

Objective 3.1: Cash-for-Work for beneficiaries: The following are the details of skilled and unskilled laborers involved in individual shelters and public infrastructures upgrades:

Cash-for-Work in Year 2
(Unit of Measurement: Days of Work)

Camp	Skilled labor	Unskilled labor	Total Days	Target	Variance
Qushtapa	2,237 (0 female)	2,218 (172 female)	4,455 (172 female)	5,548	+554
Basirma	835 (5 female)	802 (179 female)	1,637 (184 female)		
Domiz-1	9,712 (104 female)	8,498 (2,472 female)	18,210 (2,576 female)	16,500	+3,300
Domiz-2	848 (11 female)	742 (192 female)	1,590 (203 female)		
Total:	13,632 (120 female)	12,260 (3,015 female)	25,892 (3,135 female)	22,048	+3,844

Objective 3.2: Tool Service Centers & Work Areas to facilities access to tools and equipment: The following table shows details of the beneficiaries benefitted from tool services:

Tool Service Centers in Erbil Camps
(Unit of Measurement: individuals)

4th Quarter (July 1 - September 29)				Cumulative		
Camp	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Darashakran	727	137	864	2,536	465	3,001
Kawergosk	737	116	853	2,697	295	2,992
Qushtapa	718	87	805	2,581	286	2,867
Basirma	1,097	167	1,264	4,702	718	5,420
Total	3,279	507	3,786	12,516	1,764	14,280
Planned	1,650	100	1,750	6,600	400	7,000
Variance	+1,629	+407	+2,036	+5,916	+1,364	+7,280

Workshop Areas in Erbil Camps (Unit of Measurement: Individuals)

4th Quarter (July 1 - September 29)				Cumulative		
Camp	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Darashakran	155	5	160	480	35	515
Qushtapa	29	3	32	49	3	52
Total	184	8	192	529	38	567

Trainings in Erbil Camps (Unit of Measurement: Individuals)

4th Quarter (July 1 - September 29)					Cumulative			
Camp	Male	Female	Total	PwD	Male	Female	Total	PwD
Darashakran	36	45	81	7	53	70	123	19
Kawergosk	44	46	90	7	58	63	121	18
Qushtapa	19	43	62	5	50	82	132	15
Basirma	48	34	82	8	73	68	141	18
Total	147	168	315	27	234	283	517	70

Note: The PwDs are already counted in the males, females, and totals section. They are stated separately to highlight how many PwD trainees we have had among our beneficiaries.

Tool Service Centers in Duhok Camps (Unit of Measurement: individuals)

Year 2 Cumulative			
Camp	Male	Female	Total
Domiz-1	919	208	1,127
Domiz22	699	362	1,061
Subtotal	1,618	570	2,188

Refugees practice tool use during training courses



5. Participation and Accountability to the Affected Population

Peace Winds takes a community-centered approach so that our work is the most effective when held accountable by the people in need and other stakeholders. During each stage of project implementation, Peace Winds closely worked with the Mokhtars (local leaders) and beneficiaries, visiting their households in person to explore their unique needs and perspectives. Peace Winds conducted two rounds of orientation sessions providing project details, including goals, processes, timelines, feedback mechanisms, and roles and responsibilities of all parties. Feedback received from the targeted beneficiaries was prioritized and incorporated into the shelter designs and implementation plans. Individual consultations along with group sessions were quite helpful for feedback collection and ensuring transparency.

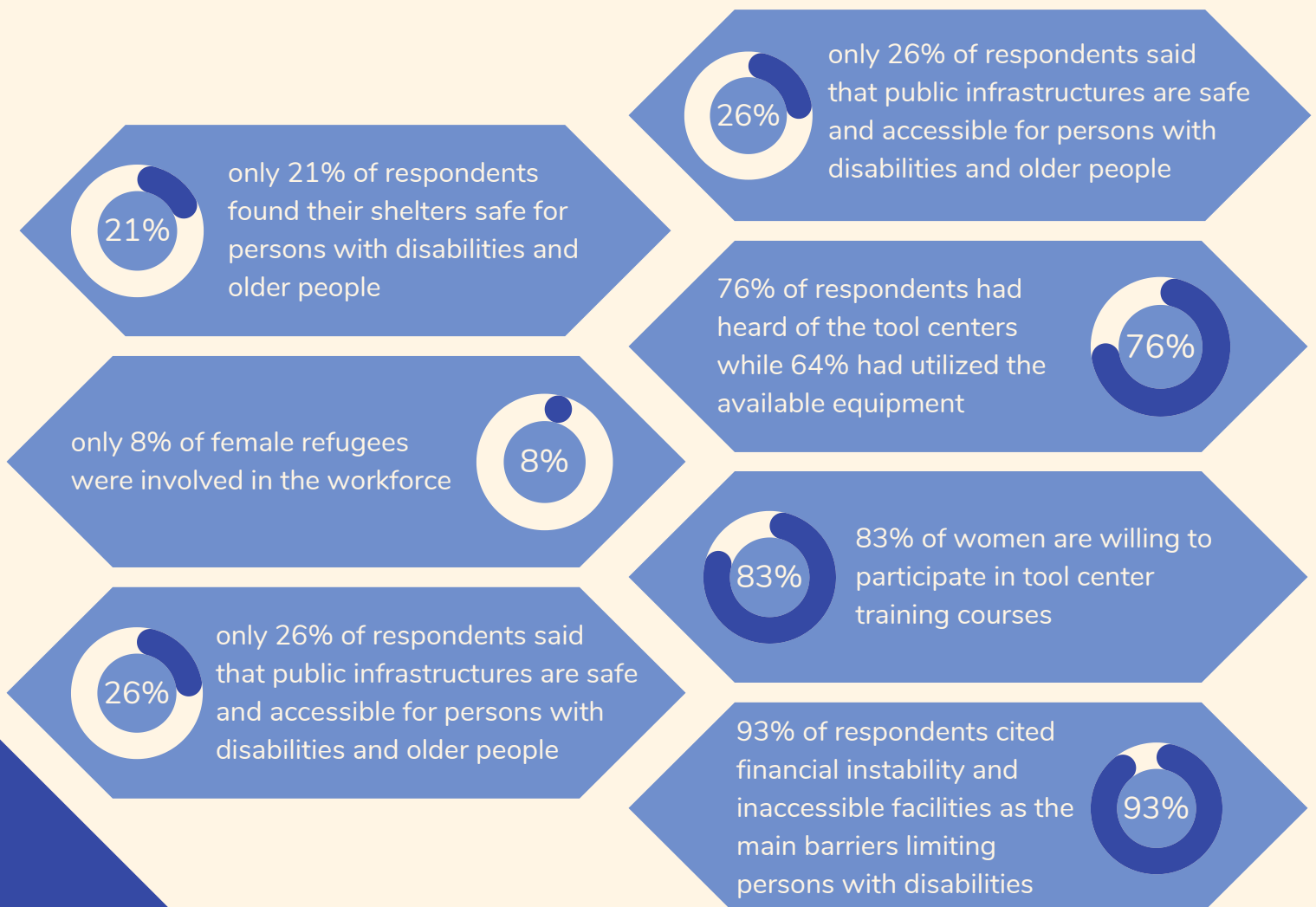
During the implementation of the project, Peace Winds adopted a real-time feedback mechanism through the camp's interagency referrals and established dedicated phone numbers to ensure optimum engagement of the beneficiaries. Peace Winds staff directly worked with the beneficiaries during upgrades and cash for work activities. Post-activity surveys, such as satisfaction surveys, were conducted to measure satisfaction and solicit feedback to improve programming going forward. In addition, Peace Winds displayed the signage at its site offices with contact information and details on how to lodge a complaint or to get more information.

Peace Winds adopted the participatory construction and self-building approach through cash-for-work that increased the self-ownership of the beneficiaries and capabilities of further modifying their shelters according to their own needs (in compliance with the defined specifications). Allowing beneficiaries to build by themselves and hire labor where necessary, they were able to use cash-for-work to invest in their shelters. This allows beneficiaries to actively participate in the design and upgrade of their more durable shelter, promotes a sense of ownership and improved self-sufficiency, and contributes to the project's overall sustainability. Peace Winds engineers and technical staff checked the quality of materials on site with shelter owners, ensuring they received the required quantity and quality. Beneficiaries were involved in verifying materials for their shelters and paying laborers, so the process was transparent and cooperative.

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs): Peace Winds conducted 18 pre-activities focus group discussions (FGDs) and 14 post-activities FGDs in December 2021 and July 2022, respectively. Peace Winds wanted to learn about the impact our services had generated on safety sensitization of persons living with disabilities and the elderly, livelihood opportunities, service availability for PwDs and the elderly, engagement of women in the workforce, and knowledge about TSCs. This was achieved by measuring the variance in the beneficiaries' responses before and after implementing the activities.

The discussions were moderated by Peace Winds' Disability Technical Expert (DTE) and targeted different age groups of different populations, including custodians, caregivers, and guardians. Pre-activities FGDs gathered a total of 135 participants across the four camps: Basirma, Qushtapa in Erbil, Domiz-1 and Domiz-2 in Duhok. Post-activities FGDs gathered 121 participants at the same locations.

During the pre-activities FGDs, 19.26% of respondents who attended were persons living with disabilities, while 18.51% were older people. The key findings of the pre-activity sessions were as follow:





Refugee woman receiving cash-for-work in Basirma Camp, Erbil

After completing the upgrades activities in all four camps, the post-activities FGDs showed that over 98% of participants were satisfied with Peace Wind's services. Moreover, the key findings of the post-activity sessions were as follow:

98%

98% of respondents say they are satisfied overall with Peace Winds' services

98% of respondents say that accessibility accommodations to public infrastructures have had a positive impact on their mobility

98%

82%

82% of respondents say they are utilizing equipment available at the tool service centers

92% of respondents report an increased sense of safety following accessibility upgrades to their latrines and showers

92%

88%

88% of respondents say that the project offered a job opportunity that helped improve their welfare (36% of these were women)

32% of female respondents say they have participated in tool center training courses

32%

6. Risk Management

During the project year, Iraq's overall political and security situation remained volatile, specifically in federal Iraq. After the results of parliamentary elections held on October 10, 2021, political parties have not yet reached a consensus to form a new government. The differences between major political parties and blocs are widening, directly impacting the country's political and security situation, including the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). Political disputes between two major Kurdish parties over the candidate for the Iraqi president are ongoing. The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) supports the Sadrist Movement (an Islamic national movement led by Muqtada al-Sadr with the largest number of seats in the parliament after the election) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) supports the Coordination Framework (a parliamentary faction consisting of pro-Iranian Shia parties).

There have been several Iraqi parliament sessions since the federal elections; none of the sessions reached the quorum to vote for the president of Iraq. Recently, Al-Sadr, the leader of the Sadrist Movement, decided to quit politics which further fueled the war-torn country with uncertainty. There were clashes between the supporters of Al-Sadr and Iran-backed militias in Baghdad and other governorates, and the government imposed a nationwide curfew, except for KRI.

Dissatisfaction among the poor public has risen across the country because of poor public services, frequent power cuts, and political uncertainty in forming the new government. There were incidents of protests, demonstrations, and road closures throughout the reporting period. Such political uncertainty at the federal and regional levels further contributed to the deterioration of the existing fragile security situation of the country. Attacks by terrorist groups and militias are ongoing, especially targeting high-level security officials and civilians.

Threats to U.S. interests and installations in Iraq have been ongoing by armed groups and militias reportedly loyal to Iran. However, there were no major incidents during the reporting period.

Overall, the COVID-19 situation in Iraq, including KRI, has improved towards the end of the reporting year. The health authorities have relaxed the mitigation measures throughout the country. However, Peace Winds maintained high precautionary measures while implementing planned activities by distributing COVID-19 prevention materials to the beneficiaries and its staff. In June 2022, there was an outbreak of cholera in Iraq, especially in Sulaymaniyah governorate, controlled with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO).

To mitigate the high expectations of beneficiaries, Peace Winds maintained a high level of transparency about the beneficiary selection process, selection criteria, project activities, and timeline, informing each household surveyed about the results of the beneficiary assessment. In the meantime, Peace Winds maintained a good professional relationship with the respective camp management, updating the status of the projects from time to time and sharing the issues that arose. Barzani Charity Foundation (BCF), which is the camp management in all six refugee camps where Peace Winds is active, has been very supportive in resolving issues that arise from time to time. In addition, Peace Winds established complaint handling mechanisms in each camp by providing dedicated phone numbers to answer any questions or complaints. Camp management regularly conducted onsite monitoring of the project activities to mitigate issues and challenges as they arise.

On Sunday June 5, 2022 Peace Winds experienced an incident of cash theft in its field office in Duhok by a Peace Winds Japan employee. The employee broke into the office while it was closed and stole approximately \$68,000 in cash from the office safe. Included in the stolen cash were funds intended for cash-for-work payments to beneficiaries performing upgrades in the Duhok camps. The incident was reported to the police, who conducted an investigation. Formal charges were filed against the former employee responsible for the theft. Peace Winds Japan HQ immediately replenished the stolen cash to ensure all PRM project activities continued without disruption and cash disbursement was completed successfully within the planned time. Two representatives from Peace Winds Japan headquarters visited the field offices to review and strengthen cash handling and security protocols. Peace Winds America sent a report to PRM, which included a more detailed account of the incident, a list of actions taken, and protocol changes. This was the first such theft incident for Peace Winds since it began programming in Iraq in 1996.

7. Exit Strategy and Sustainability

Given the protracted insecurity in Syria and the reduced likelihood of repatriation of refugee families in the near future, UNHCR launched the “tent-free camps initiative” in 2015 to ensure more durable, semi-permanent shelters. According to the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), in response to the Syria Crisis, support for more durable shelters in the camps helps transform the camps into settlements where they become peripheral neighborhoods of the cities to which they are attached. The camps will thus benefit from the infrastructure and services available in the adjoining host community. Peace Winds has worked with the national institutions (municipalities, government technical departments, and local NGOs) to seek ways of handing over camp management in the frame of the settlement strategy.

The livelihood programming activities, cash-for-work, tool service centers, workshop spaces, and vocational skills training provided income, skills, and opportunities to improve economic well-being, resilience, and self-sufficiency, benefiting refugees in the long-term, including if they return to Syria.

Since Peace Winds adopted the approach of mobilizing the beneficiaries through CfW to upgrade their own shelters and camp infrastructure, the program has greatly contributed to sustainability in a few ways. By engaging the households in the process of upgrades, Peace Winds witnessed that beneficiaries took a strong sense of ownership in the dwellings with a greater likelihood of maintaining them. In addition, the increased accessibility for households with disabled members in Erbil camps will help them stay for the longer term. Likewise, supporting refugees through tool use and safety training so they can undertake their own shelter upgrades has provided useful skills and a sense of self-reliance. This is useful whether beneficiaries stay in Iraq or return to Syria. The direct cash flow through CfW to refugees contributed to overall economic well-being within the camps.

Upgrades of individual shelters and camp infrastructure to improve and access for people with mobility barriers provided durable solutions to beneficiaries. The upgrades were instrumental in raising awareness of accessibility needs and existing barriers so that the community and camp leaders can continue addressing the gaps in other areas of the camps. Peace Winds closely worked with Barzani Charity Foundation (BCF) staff to assess and implement infrastructure upgrades to build the capacity of BCF to incorporate these solutions into their camp management activities throughout the region and to maintain the upgrades going forward.

8. Collaboration/Coordination

Peace Winds developed and implemented this project in close consultation and coordination with UNHCR, the camp management in all six refugee camps, the Barzani Charity Foundation (BCF), other operational partners in camps, and local authorities. Peace Winds maintained a very good working relationship and contact with all stakeholders during the project duration. Being a long-term partner of UNHCR and working in the refugee camps for multiple decades, beneficiaries also know Peace Winds and its staff.

Peace Winds received strong support from the respective camp managements to mobilize its partners, such as the construction suppliers, to distribute the construction materials to the beneficiaries. Peace Winds shared its weekly plans with the camp management, got endorsements, and mobilized suppliers accordingly. With the support of the camp managements, Peace Winds identified staging areas in all camps where the supplier stored materials and distributed them to beneficiaries.

The Peace Winds senior management team and staff regularly participated in General Coordination Meetings (GCM) and Camp Coordination Meetings (CCM) held in Duhok and Erbil. Project updates were regularly shared with the respective camp management and sector leads. Peace Winds continued all reporting requested by UNHCR, including 3RP and activity info.

To celebrate World Refugee Day on June 20, 2022, Peace Winds teams in Duhok and Erbil participated in activities organized by the respective camp management and UNHCR. Moreover, Peace Winds staff set up tables at these events where residents could learn more about our tool service centers and skills training opportunities. Peace Winds tables were visited by members of UNHCR, the governor's office, SWEDO, and many refugees we serve in Erbil and Duhok.



Peace Winds employees at tool center information table and children's activities for World Refugee Day

The camp management of Qushtapa camp (BCF and UNHCR) announced a camp cleaning campaign to take place on June 6, 2022. Peace Winds participated with 22 of its staff members and helped clean the public areas of the camp by removing trash.



Peace Winds staff participated in the Child Safeguarding training organized by TDH Italy in partnership with UNHCR in Basirma and Qushtapa camps. The main focus was on educating agencies working in the refugee camps on child protection and safeguarding, including how to recognize signs of child abuse and report it through Protection Sector NGOs working in the camp. The training was attended by SWEDO, UPP, BCF, Women Council, and TDH, INTERSOS.

In September, Peace Winds organized a Legacy Event during which the Peace Winds teams from Duhok and Erbil had an opportunity to share Year 2 achievements, success stories, as well as challenges and mitigation measures. The first day of the event, Peace Winds brought together several speakers for two panel discussions offering the audience insights into livelihood challenges and gaps for refugees and engaging discussion from different vantage points. One of the many outcomes of the event was the conclusion that formal credentials are not required for most trades and vocations in order to be employed. Informal technical or vocational training sessions, including for electricians, plumbers, and welders, are sufficient to increase the supply of skilled laborers, which are very in-demand. There is a significant potential workforce of refugees in KRI who can meet the demands in various sectors, including hospitality, construction, technology, and agribusiness, through targeted training. The legacy event was attended by PRM, UNHCR, BCF, JCCC, NRC, SWEDO, Arche Nova, People in Need, UN-HABITAT, Samaritan's Purse, UPP, and other organizations.

Legacy Event panel discussion on livelihood opportunities for displaced communities



9. U.S. Government Recognition

Press releases or other written communications and publications: All written and online publications related to this project, including blogs, incorporated the required language, including the disclaimer for articles. Social media posts mentioned funding from PRM and tag PRM and the U.S. Consulate in Erbil as appropriate.

Acknowledgment at the project site:

- Peace Winds continued displaying billboards installed in Erbil and Duhok camps with the U.S. flag and appropriate language in English, Kurdish, and Arabic languages.
- Upon completion, smaller plaques recognizing the United States Government (in English), along with the US flag logo were displayed in the individual shelters.
- Appropriate signage was installed at the four Tool Service Centers in Erbil and Duhok camps.
- A partial branding waiver for staff visibility materials, including vests and vehicles, was approved in the Year 2 Award documents.
- Public communications and announcements by Peace Winds staff regarding the project in camps referred to PRM's support for the project, including during meetings with beneficiaries, camp leaders, and various partners.

Annual report. Published in September 2022 available at:

[https://peace-winds.org/wp-](https://peace-winds.org/wp-content/themes/peace_winds/user/media/peace_winds/page/PDF/PWJ_AR2021jp.pdf)

[content/themes/peace_winds/user/media/peace_winds/page/PDF/PWJ_AR2021jp.pdf](https://peace-winds.org/wp-content/themes/peace_winds/user/media/peace_winds/page/PDF/PWJ_AR2021jp.pdf)

(English available at <https://peace-winds.org/en/ar.html>)



Signboard and shelter plaque acknowledging PRM

10. Lessons Learned:

After implementing this project, Peace Winds has gathered some lessons that will be useful in the design and implementation of future projects. Some of the issues encountered during the project duration included:

- Beneficiaries changing their minds after signing the agreement to upgrade their shelters
- Occasional gaps in coordination between the field team, contractors, and camp management
- Required skilled workers are not available in the camp at the same time
- Market price of the materials fluctuates due to a variety of factors
- Implementation slows down during the hottest days of the summer, and festivals
- Sometimes the data received from the camp managements are not updated and accurate

To mitigate the above issues for this and future projects, Peace Winds has adopted the following approaches:

- By identifying the language and cultural barriers, orientations will be more focused so that confusion and unclarity will be avoided.
- A waiting list of beneficiaries will be maintained so that drop out could be replaced.
- More attention will be paid to develop the scoring matrix with detailed and targeted questions.
- Market will be closely monitored before developing the projects to avoid market fluctuations and a potential shortage of materials.
- More frequent coordination will be maintained with all relevant stakeholders including the Camp Managements, UNHCR and others.
- More women will be encouraged to participate in the tool centers training prior to the commencement of the construction so that they get prepared to participate in the CfW activities.
- Coordinate with skilled laborers in advance to ensure there are enough skilled workers when needed.

Syrian refugee children pose in front of the family's newly upgraded shelter in Domiz 1 in Duhok



peace winds



September 30, 2020 - September 29, 2022

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