

IRAQ PROGRAMS

Relief . Recovery . Resilience

Providing Assistance to Refugees and Disaster Victims Worldwide

OVERVIEW

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"Peace Winds" is a Trans-Pacific alliance consisting of Peace Winds Japan (PWJ) and Peace Winds America (PWA). PWA, a U.S. organization, manages awards, administration, monitoring, and financial reporting. PWJ is a leading Japanese humanitarian NGO, offering disaster relief and development aid in various regions globally. Since 1996 in Iraq, Peace Winds has garnered a wealth of experience in several Governorates of the Kurdistan Region and Federal Iraq, such as Ninewa, Baghdad, Kirkuk, and the Diyala. Our teams provide recovery and assistance for refugees and displaced persons.

Peace Winds' humanitarian programs extend to over twenty countries in Africa, the Middle East, the Americas, Oceania, Europe and Asia. We are grateful for the funding support we receive from various private, UN, and governmental donors, including Japan's MOFA and the U.S. State Department's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration. We currently maintain a cooperative agreement with the U.S. State Department, through which they've provided \$8 million for the enhancement of shelters for Syrian refugees in Northern Iraq. Additionally, we have received \$100,000 from UN-HABITAT for the "Recovery Support to Returnees in Iraq" initiative, aimed at bolstering socio-economic stabilization and improving food security in Sinjar.

APPROACH

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At Peace Winds, we employ a human-centered approach to our humanitarian programming. By prioritizing the needs of the people we serve, we tailor solutions that best suit their requirements. We work in close collaboration with local partners to build resilience, strengthening community and household capacity to withstand future stresses and shocks. Our projects are designed to be context-specific, based on local risks and capacities, while emphasizing emergency preparedness at all levels and capacity-building of local actors. We believe in taking early and effective action in response to deteriorating situations and supporting early recovery approaches to enhance livelihoods, emergency safety nets, access to basic services, shelter, and security.

OUR ASSISTANCE

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Emergency Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief: Our priority is to safeguard lives and address the basic needs of individuals affected by natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

Reconstruction and Development Assistance: We aim to empower communities by supporting the regeneration of self-sustaining livelihoods, fostering resilience in the face of challenges

OUR MISSION

At Peace Winds, we provide timely humanitarian relief in emergencies to help people whose lives have been threatened by conflicts and natural disasters. We assist communities whose social foundations have been destroyed by providing rehabilitation and development cooperation for self-sustainability. We pursue conflict prevention and resolution through our field activities. We raise public awareness by disseminating information on assistance needs. We put forward proposals for creating more effective relief efforts.

OUR VISION

A world where people can live without the threat of conflict and poverty, full of hope and respect for one another. We envision a world where the threats posed by natural disasters, climate change, and man-made crises are minimized, ensuring the safety, security, and livelihood of people worldwide. Our core belief is that disaster response begins with preparedness, and we strive to integrate the efforts of governments, military branches, NGOs, and the private sector in both disaster preparedness and response.



Shelter



Peace Winds has been a pioneering force in providing and enhancing shelters for displaced communities since 1996. Collaborating with partners such as the Japan Platform (JPF), MOFA and various UN agencies, we have played a crucial role in improving the living conditions of IDPs and refugees. In recent years, Peace Winds has placed a larger focus on upgrading shelters for Syrian refugees in northern Iraq through programs funded by the U.S. State Department's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM).



Providing more accessible and dignified living conditions for vulnerable individuals, such as the elderly and those with mobility constraints is Peace Winds' main focus. By employing a participatory construction and self-building approach, we encourage beneficiaries to actively participate in the design and upgrading of their shelters. This model promotes a sense of ownership and self-sufficiency, contributing to the overall sustainability of the projects and fostering a stronger sense of community.

Infrastructure



Since our inception, Peace Winds has been committed to improving public infrastructure in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. We began by renovating orphanages and schools in Sulaymaniyah governorate and expanded our efforts to all areas where displaced communities were located. Additionally, we have undertaken the installation of water and drainage systems in resettlement areas and camps to ensure access to essential services. In recent years, our focus has extended to building accessible public infrastructures in Syrian refugee camps in the Kurdistan Region. These efforts aim to facilitate the movement and safety of individuals with mobility constraints and the elderly, providing them with the means to move around freely and independently.



Livelihood



In 1997, Peace Winds developed a unique income generation model. Through our Cash for Work (CfW) program, beneficiaries engaged in infrastructure and shelter upgrade work can earn an income while contributing to the improvement of their communities.

Peace Winds has also built Tool Service Centers (TSC) in seven camps and Workshop Spaces in six camps. These work hand-in-hand to support tens of thousands of beneficiaries by lending them tools for their construction work and providing training courses on tool use and safety. Participants acquire skills that ultimately lead them to higher-paying jobs as skilled workers.



The ecosystem of skills training, tool rental, project construction, and CfW have synergized to substantially enhance the living conditions of our beneficiaries. This comprehensive approach empowers individuals to become self-sufficient and contributes to the sustainable development of their livelihoods.

Education



Education is a fundamental aspect of Peace Winds' assistance programs. We are dedicated to providing safe and sustainable access to education for children and communities. Our efforts involve the construction of new schools and the renovation and extension of existing educational facilities.

In times of emergency and conflict, which often result in an influx of refugees and IDPs, we engage in Education in Emergency activities. These interventions are carefully selected based on needs and feasibility, and we work in coordination with the Ministry of Education (MoE) through relevant departments and humanitarian actors. Our education initiatives benefit refugees, IDPs, and affected host communities, both within and outside of camps.



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WASH



Peace Winds has a long-standing history of collaborating with partners to construct and maintain water sanitation systems. We have been actively involved in drilling wells and extending water sources in areas where displaced communities are located. Additionally, we distribute hygiene products and necessities to ensure the well-being of those we assist. Over the years, our water projects in the Kurdistan Region and Ninewa have supported hundreds of thousands of displaced communities, making a significant impact on their living conditions and health.



From
the People of Japan



NFI

Since 1996, Peace Winds has been providing non-food items to orphanages in all governorates of the Kurdistan Region. Our initiatives include renovating spaces to meet the specific needs of the beneficiaries. We also engage in projects such as distributing fuel and winter necessities to camp and non-camp residents, ensuring they are warm and comfortable during harsh winters.



Health



Health is one of the key areas of work for Peace Winds. We started working in the health sector early on by building hospitals like the Halabja Maternity and Children's Hospital, as well as mobile clinic. Our medical assistance to displaced communities takes various forms, including individual procedures and rehabilitation. We also contribute to building clinics in camps and provide essential equipment and medical necessities to hospitals and clinics.



From
the People of Japan

Inclusion



Inclusion lies at the heart of our organization's values and practices. We are committed to inclusivity and provide specific training for beneficiaries with disabilities, tailoring our programs to their needs and ensuring their safety.

At Peace Winds, our comprehensive and inclusive approach across these key sectors ensures that we address the diverse and critical needs of refugees and disaster victims. By fostering a culture of inclusion, we empower our team members to contribute their best work, collaborate effectively, and reach their full potential. Through our dedicated partnerships and commitment to local ownership, we strive to create lasting positive change in the lives of those we serve.



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Join us in our mission to create a world where relief, recovery, and resilience are extended to all in need. Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of those affected by disasters and crises worldwide.



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