



Educated Women Educated Nation

Concept Paper

Islamic Relief Worldwide

Project Concept Paper

Project Title	Educated Women Educated Nation
Location	Baghdad
Implementing Agency	Islamic Relief - Iraq
Duration	One Year
Requested budget	120,000 USD
Beneficiaries	500 Vulnerable Iraqi women in Baghdad

Problem Statement:

- Development in a nation is keyed to “development” among the country’s female population, as correlations between improvements for women, such as higher school enrollment and completion rates, and improvements for the society overall, such as lower birth and infant mortality rates continue to emerge. When development among women education, health, role in society, legal status, etc.) is progressing, it drives a wide variety of other positive developments for the society as a whole
- Education is a critical requirement for sustainable development, and the right to education is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and several core human rights, education is the key to knowledge and the future of young people, as it may be a means to breaking the cycle of poverty by providing them with choices and opportunities. Education can especially help young women break out poverty in part because it often leads to smaller families. The last estimation showed that 73% of –out-of schoolchildren in Arab country are girls, this ratio has negatively affected during occupation and conflict which continue to restrict access to education.
- According to Women for Women organization survey showed that 76.2% of respondents said that girls in their families are not allowed to attend school and 56.7% of respondents said that girls’ ability to attend school has gotten worse over the last four years. According to Women for Women International-Iraq staff, the primary reasons for this are poverty and insecurity. Perhaps most frustrating is that while 49.6% of respondents describe their opportunities for education as poor, and 16.6% say they have no opportunities at all, 65.1% of respondents say it is extremely important to the welfare and development of their communities that women and girls in Iraq be able to access educational opportunities.
- High rates of insecurity, economic hardship and the battered education sector have prevented women from continuity their education, and prevented many children from attending school since 2003. As the security situation improved, boys began returning to schools at greater rates than girls. A large percentage of

women and girls are prohibited by their families from pursuing an education for culture and economic reasons.

- Investment in girls' education is essential in fostering a younger generation who will be able to assume active social, economic, and political roles. Special attention must be given to the needs of girls in rural areas, who have traditionally not had the same opportunities as those in urban centers. Training in basic skills and literacy is also essential for socially excluded women who have not had the advantage of a formal education

Islamic Relief – Iraq:

- ❖ Islamic Relief-Iraq (IR-Iraq) through its active presence in the field in Baghdad and other central governorates in Iraq since 2003 has directed wide range of programs, projects and activities to alleviate the impact of war, sanctions and violence consequences on Iraqi community.
- ❖ IR-Iraq has implemented relief, rehabilitation and development projects in the fields of health, shelters, education, water and sanitation, gender, child rights and employment; emergency relief projects; regular distribution of in-kind donations; and its regular seasonal projects: Ramadan and Qurbani. This is in addition to its orphans support program.
- ❖ In the field of Women Rights, IR realized that lack of investment in women's capacity underlies the prevalence of illiteracy, poverty and gender-based violence (GBV), and requires opening the door to more equal power relations within households as well as in Iraqi society, thus IR had implemented several projects targeted women issues; Economic empowerment, Awareness on Violence and GBV. It's important to highlight the achievements for these projects as they fulfill MDG.

Project Summary:

Curriculum for combating illiteracy would be set in coordination with Ministry of Education (MoE) that will also secure suitable premises for the action.

Together with the local community council, unemployed qualified women would be involved as teachers. Selected teachers will attend special training course that raises their capacity in dealing with illiteracy eradication.

Teachers will provide special teaching courses for girls and women who have become over-aged to be enrolled at formal schools. Besides the dedicated curriculum, some extra activities would be carried out to encourage girls to attend and finish the program.

The project will secure a fair monthly payment for teachers and cash incentives for the attendees for their local transportation.

Goal: Empower vulnerable women and help them overcome the social challenges and enable them to actively participate in building a free and civilized society.

Outcomes: 500 women able to read, write and perform simple mathematical operations.

Objectives:

- To reduce illiteracy among vulnerable Iraqi women
- Create opportunities for the development and enabling women to expand the choices available to them and build their capacities
- To enhance women's active participation in family and community affairs
- To enhance community awareness of gender issues and women's rights

Outputs:

- 500 women can read and write and resolve simple mathematical operations.
- 500 women had known about their rights.
- 24unemployment graduated women had opportunity for work.
- Local community becomes closer for women issues.
- Family health will improved

Project Activities:

❖ **Coordination and Preparation Stage:**

The sub-activities of the coordination stage are as follow:

- a) Obtaining a permit from MoE for the implementation of the project.
- b) Nomination of female teachers by local community.
- c) Securing premises for project activities.
- d) Advocacy campaign at public areas and mosques to encourage girls to enroll for the course.
- e) Selecting teaching staff.
- f) Training teaching staff with teaching methods and other illiteracy eradication related matters.
- g) Agree on the curriculum with MoE.

❖ **Implementation of Illiteracy-eradication Courses :**

- a) Registration of candidates
- b) Teaching staff will be distributed and management scheme fulfilled.

- c) First course on Providing Basic Knowledge will be held in the first four months.
- d) Second Course, with duration of four months, on delivering supplementary knowledge will be carried out.

❖ **Organizing sessions and activities at centers:**

Talks on Gender based violence awareness, child rights awareness and productive health care will be carried out as additional activity.

❖ **Printings:**

To ensure wide and active dissemination of women's rights material and raise awareness of Iraqi community towards this essential issue, posters, banners and leaflets will be designed. The selected designs will be printed and issued to be distributed, posted at different locations inside schools, cities, public places...etc.

❖ **Implementation and Monitoring of Activities:**

IR-Iraq's project coordinator and assistants in Baghdad will monitor the progress of the various activities and assess their impact on women and teachers' assessment. Questionnaires will be designed for this purpose (at beginning, during and at end of project). Narrative and financial reports will be issued regularly and sent to donor according to the schedule.