



Annual Report 2020





Our Vision

Building a healthy society free from violence and protect women's justice and human dignity.

Dak Organization for Ezidi Women Development



Scan this QR code to view the online report.



This Annual Report is also available on our website, www.dakngo.org

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A MESSAGE FROM DAK PRESIDENT

After the Yazidi women were abducted, murdered, displaced, and raped on 3rd August 2014 by ISIL in Sinjar. They have engaged in the most heinous practices against unarmed civilians, mainly women and children. More than 6417 were captivated, exploited as war victims, sold as slaves and traded them for money and weapon. However, thousands of families were displaced to KRI, resided in displacement camps to this today, where women live there under extremely harsh conditions and lack of services.

In the 21st century, Yazidi women have been subjected to the most horrendous injustice, brutality, and crimes humanity condemns. Moreover, in our sense of responsibility towards our society, we decided to set out for work and live with the pain we felt when we heard and saw what women and girls were facing. We tried to translate our suffering into success stories and build ourselves from the pain and wreckage we have been exposed to into challenge, work, and perseverance to rely on ourselves. At this point, we determined to work as a group of Yazidi active women to establish Dak Organization for Yazidi Women Development in 2015. We worked with all love and sincerity for our cases. We did many initiatives at the beginning in camps to support survivors of sexual violence, and we started focusing on the development of women to stand again.

Despite the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic globally, Iraq is no exception as the rate of GBV increased especially domestic violence against women and children. We proceeded with our work as an organization; provided many legal, psychological services and women's empowerment. On top of that, our ambition is that today all women and survivors of SGBV have their legal rights. Also, we work to urge the government by advocacy campaigns to enact resolutions that protect women from all sorts of violence; furthermore, promote their participation and leadership in decision-making in the family and Yazidi community.

I would wholeheartedly thank all of our supporters and donors for their constant generosity and solidarity, including organizations, individuals, government officials, and all those who have stood with us and helped us thrive, along with Dak's diligent staff and volunteers. Your support significantly plays its role in the recovery after the genocide. Please, continue your contributions to Dak in this critical time, and help us for further assistance to the Yazidi community.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Sozan Safar'.

Sozan Safar
President, Dak Organization

WHO WE ARE

Dak Organization for Ezidi Women Development is a humanitarian, developmental, non-profit, non-political, non-governmental, and independent women's organization, working for women's development, empowerment, protection, and peace-building by strengthening women's decision-making. It is also a feminist organization that fights for women's rights by empowering women and building their capacities in different walks of life.



Our Mission

Our mission is to protect women from exploitation, stand by persecuted women and seek to develop their skills in protection, health, education, and economic aspects to build a decent life for them.



Our Vision

Building a healthy society free from violence and protect women's justice and human dignity.



Our Aim

Build a brightened human culture that promotes social justice and sustainable development and enables women to realize their value and discover their potential to enhance their ability to influence and change.



OUR OBJECTIVES

- Organizing and uniting efforts of women to defend the cause of Yazidi women who are survivors of sexual violence and to strive to obtain their material and moral rights.
- Pressing decision-makers to compensate women affected by sexual violence and to try criminals to obtain their fair punishment.
- Emphasizing, enhancing the position and role of women in society. Also, enabling them to practice their rights as citizens, workers and homemakers, based on the principles of equality, justice, equal opportunities, participation, and respect for their dignity.
- Raise women's awareness of their role and rights and enhance their participation in various fields.
- Seek to integrate women in the local community's development and strive to improve their social position, in addition to enable them to invest in their creative and productive capacities better.
- seek to overcome legislative, economic, social, cultural, and other obstacles that prevent the full realization of women's rights as stipulated in international covenants, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the guarantee of their rights under the Iraqi constitution.
- Attempt to enable women to obtain health care and protection in general and in reproductive and sexual health and maternity and childhood care in particular and spread a healthy culture between them.
- Spreading a culture of peace and enhancing the role of women in peace-making and peace-building processes.
- Provide women with the skills, knowledge, experiences, capabilities, and various services enabling them to contribute to building their society.
- Contribute to literacy for women in the alphabet, legal, cultural, and political fields.
- Develop women's leadership capabilities based on the values of ethical leadership.

OUR FUNDAMENTAL VALUES

Our core values are the foundation for our culture, they are our key measures of success and they are the underlying principles of how we work. Dak **release** what no longer serves Well Being, Peace of minds and Goals!

Each letter in the **“Release”** word represents one of our values:

- R** **Responsiveness** We work for all women, whatever their story, background, and profoundly encounter the most complex challenges. We appreciate diversity in every context and are committed to helping women achieve their potential regardless of their background. Each story matters the most as the most complicated one to us as Dak.
- E** **Empowerment** We strive to increase the sense of self-worth and self-confidence of every woman connected in any manner to the Dak. We believe that every woman has the right to have her voice heard, fully respected, and free in making her own choices about how she lives her life.
- L** **Limpidity** Dak believes the key to gaining the trust of employees, beneficiaries, donors, and stakeholders is through the clarity of our work, which has been a critical criterion of our organization from the beginning.
- E** **Equality** Equality and non-discrimination are two significant aspects in a women’s perspective; they’re good for us. Women’s equality ensures a more peaceful and prosperous society for women, men, and children. Inequality in the workplace, policies, organizations, communities, and families gives rise to exclusion and can lead to violence.
- A** **Advocacy** The movement towards a just community requires a social change. Dak movement is committed to identifying barriers to women’s equality through advocating for their health, education, and protection.
- S** **Support** We approve our support with clear, professional policies and procedures to respect the clients and staff confidentiality, safety, and well-being. We are confident that we are conducting a progressive movement to the highest standard of these ethics. We follow up with each client; also maintain and protect all personal information to take a step ahead to obtaining their rights.
- E** **Education** Education leads to empowerment. We provide women with access to a wide variety of information so that they can make educated decisions. A large part of our work educates the community about women’s issues: safety, violence, and respect. Through education, we can get ahead of these problems.

Legal Support Helps Yazidi Women Rebuild After Crisis

“ I cannot believe this is real, I have been waiting for this moment all my life.”

Layla is a wife, mother, grandmother, and part of the Yazidi community from the Sinjar province in northern Iraq. Though she has been married since she was 16 years old, Layla, currently in her mid-60s, held an Iraqi civil ID that identifies her as “single”. Her marriage from half a century ago was never registered and therefore in the eyes of the government, Layla was never married - let alone a mother.

Unregistered marriages can lead to many problems: since the government did not legally recognize Layla as the mother of her children, her children were never legally registered as Iraqi citizens, and therefore not protected under the law.

Layla’s story is not uncommon among Yazidis. Before the arrival of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), Yazidis in Sinjar had limited access to official Iraqi government institutions and would rarely register births or marriages, which would allow them to obtain Iraqi identification documents, attend school or other activities that required an ID.

ISIS’s brutal attacks on Layla’s community six years ago drastically altered the lives of women like her who continue to suffer due to forced displacement, kidnappings, sexual violence, and other horrific abuses committed against their families.

After suffering atrocities recognized as genocide at the hands of ISIS, Layla and other Yazidi women who managed to flee were unable to access essential government and humanitarian services without these identification documents.

Dak Organization for Ezidi Women Development who complete the full picture of what happened to Ezidi women, strive for obtaining women’s rights persistently with its lawyers through Legal Support Center that is supported by MSI/USAID in Shekhan. “The existence of this program is very important for battered women, as we have no one to defend us and our cases in court,” said Sozan, another client of the Dak Organization. With help from the USAID program, Yazidi women like Layla and Sozan are able to get the legal protection and administrative support to fully benefit from their rights as Iraqi citizens. Layla received the legal support she needed to register her marriage, therefore legalizing her guardianship over her children and grandchildren.

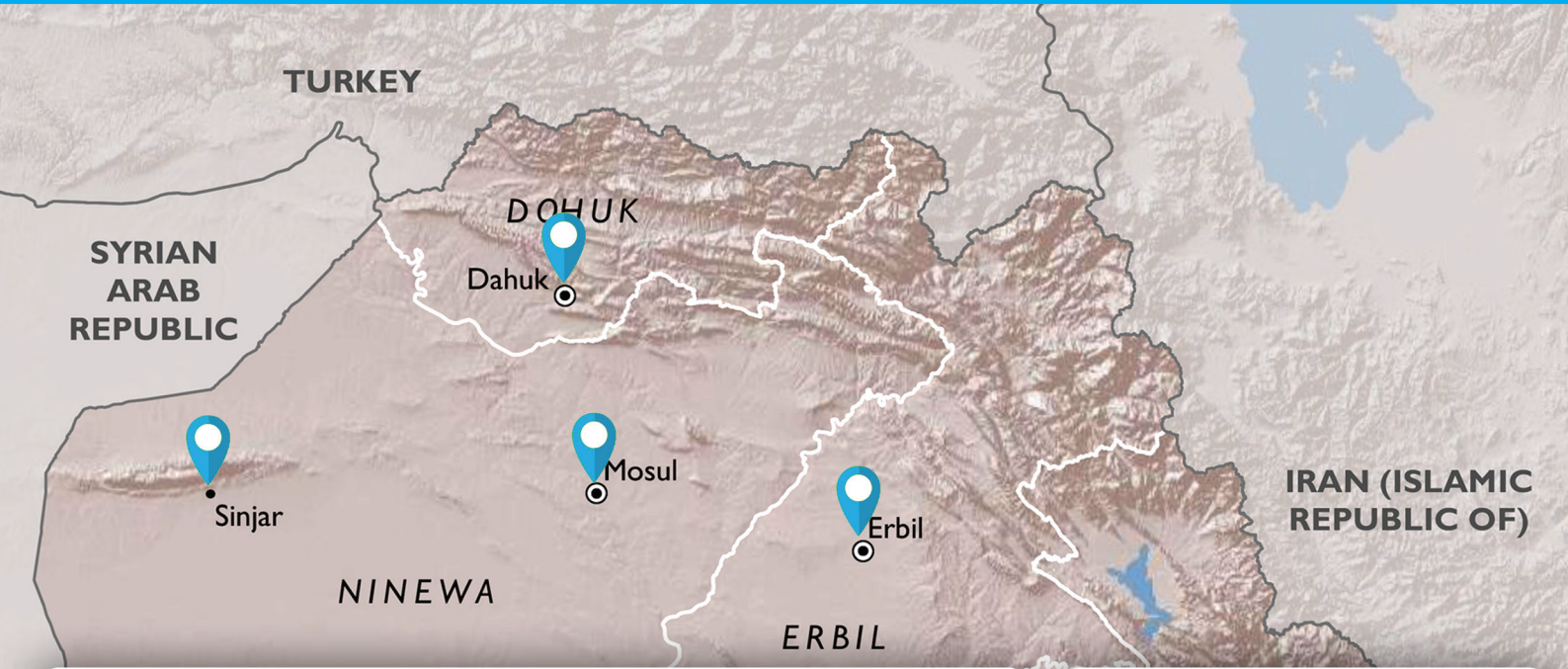
WHAT WE HAVE IMPROVED FROM LAST YEAR

We have improved our employees' and volunteers' capacity through involving them in different trainings and workshops. Their participation in these courses has helped enhance their skills in the fields of psychology, social support, coaching, leadership, psychosocial and recreational. For instance, suicide prevention, PSS, advocacy, the importance of women works, how to deal with people with special needs, remote psychological first aid, leadership, the role of women in decision making, MHPSS, communication skills and self-care, effective communication, time management, HLP and DWHL, and legal advocacy and pilot program.



However, we have updated the three departments and still ongoing, like HR, M&E, and Finance. Finally, throughout our attempts to hit the target in the middle, we have reached more beneficiaries for the Engendering peace project.

OUR WORKING SITES



- Erbil Governorate.
- Duhok Governorate (Sharya, Khanke, Bersive 2 Camp, Qadiya Camp, Duhok City)
- Nineveh Governorate (Hamdaniah, Bartalah, Qaraqosh, Bashiqa, Mosul, Sinjar, sinune, Khanasor, Duhla, Essian, Baadra, Shekhan, Beban, Mahat, Shekhka)



Sectors we shed light on



Protection



Health



Livelihood



Education

PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY OUR ORGANIZATION



163 Females of all ages received spreads legal support services.



56 Females and males of all ages received PSS support services.



1192 Women received support through women's awareness and empowering activities.



1411 Females and males of all ages received social and capacity building support services.



150 Families received Non-food items and food items.



40 Volunteers were trained and given capacity building about volunteering and working in organizations.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC, 2021

As we have started 2020 confronting COVID-19, the global pandemic forcing a worldwide lockdown, family issues entered their new phase, extremely rising in Iraq. Anadolu Agency published statistics that show 5,292 cases of domestic violence in the first half of 2020. Among them were 3,637 cases of abuse by the husband against his wife recorded, while 453 cases of abuse by the wife against her husband. Also, 402 cases of assault between brothers and sisters, 183 attacks by fathers against children, and 617 assaults by children against their fathers. This entire family chaos led women to think the law is no more the guard due to the psychological harassment and physical violence they have been exposed to during this harsh period.

Moreover, the representatives of Iraqi women called, in a joint statement, to accelerate the enactment of the law criminalizing domestic violence in the parliament and government. Dak organization for Ezidi women development, found it necessary to take actions through its projects as a response to it by psychological support sessions, women role in decision making, advocacy, also raise their awareness to get their rights at the right place and in the right way. Unless such law is enacted, those (3540) women ISIS survivors (provided by the office of Yezidi Abductees Affairs) and women in general are expected to encounter these violations in 2021 and the years coming after. We confirmed this fact during implementing our legal support program for GBV and ISIS survivors that is supported by MSI/USAID.



DAK'S MAIN FOCUS AND STRATEGY IN 2021

Dak organization's primary focus and strategy for 2021 is enhancing women's empowerment, livelihood, vocational, business, and capacity building in Ninawa and Sinjar. Expansion of women's role and participation within family and community rebuilding. Protect women legally by providing them legal support. Besides, increasing women's participation and rule through the 1325 resolution. Dak will focus on teenagers' resilience and awareness programs to reduce the rate of suicide in the view of the fact that it's rapidly dramatically increasing since 2020, early Warning Siren Mechanism for dealing with natural disasters such as COVID-19. Endeavoring for the activation of the legal draft of Yezidi survivors in Iraqi law protects all of their rights.



OUR PROJECTS

Increasing women participation in conflict prevention and decisions making inside the family and community from age (18-55 years)

The project aims to support a more peaceful and gender equalized society in northern Iraq through the empowerment and active participation of women in conflict prevention, crisis response, peace-building, and decision-making by conducting seminars, vocational training on small businesses and advocacy.

Project Location

Duhok Governorate, Semel, Sharia.

Nineveh Governorate, Sinjar District



Total number of beneficiaries

+ 1204

Increasing women participation in conflict prevention and decisions making inside the family and community from age (18-55 years) in Sinjar

زيادة اشراك النساء في منع العنف و صنع القرار داخل المجتمع للاعمار ما بين (18 - 55) سنة



IOM/Dak Psychosocial and Recreational Center

The project targets increasing social cohesion among IDPs and the Host community, ameliorating community member's psychological state. Moreover, improving capacity and confidence for community members through a variety of online and face-to-face activities such as sport exercises for women, 16 day of activism, communication skills and self-care, AVP, child residence sessions, life skill development, family visits, FGD, and awareness Sessions and many more...).

Project Location

Duhok Governorate, Semel, Sharia.



Total number of beneficiaries

+ 1112



Engendering peace

The project aims to promote a gender perspective in current peace processes in Iraq and Lebanon to guarantee their sustainability and participate in peace-making entirely and peace-building phases, coherently with UN Resolution 1325.



Total number of beneficiaries

+ 500

Advocacy Campaign (preventing from sexual assault)

Sexual abuse and online threats are among the most common cases in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. The advancement of technology in Kurdish society and increasing communication mechanisms on social media combined with a lack of awareness of the proper use of technology has caused an increase in these threats. Many males and females (particularly young females) under the age of 18 have been exposed to life-threatening problems. Some have lost their lives due to the publication of inappropriate or very innocent images on social media by a fraudster who entered their lives for sexual exploitation. If a victim denies the perpetrators' requests/advances, the victims are threatened and exploited.

In some cases, private photos and conversations were published, and the fraudster took a considerable amount of money from the victim in exchange for taking them down. In other cases, murder or suicide was committed after the incident. Some girls ended their lives because of threats from perpetrators and fear of their families' finding out (some victims chose death over the publication of inappropriate videos or images). Most victims are teenagers and youth who have not got experience on how to get help and counseling. Therefore, this project has been targeting to raise awareness among young girls and boys in schools and host communities on how to protect themselves from sexual abuse and online threats.

Project Location

Duhok Governorate, Semel, Sharia.



Total number of beneficiaries

+ 1000



Dak Center for Legal Support in Shekhan District

This project provides, spreads legal, psychological, psychosocial services and awareness, especially for females of all ages in society. In addition to negotiation service, where we receive cases that need no legal procedures; meanwhile, professionally protecting people's confidentiality.

Project Location

This project operates in Duhok and Nineveh Governorate in certain places as Shekhan district, Baadra, Mahat, Esian, Beban, and Shekhka.



Total number of beneficiaries

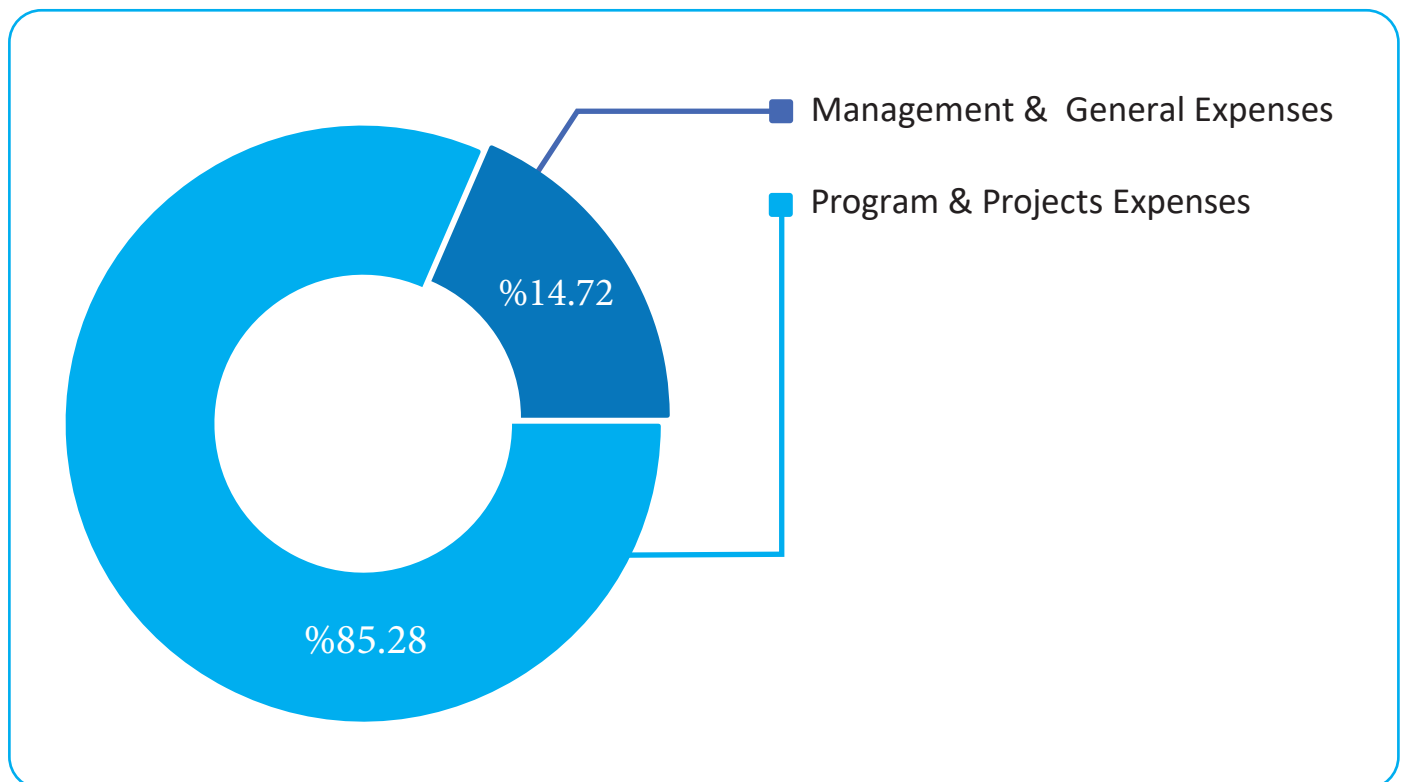
+ 387



FINANCIAL STATISTICS

In 2020, Dak Organization projects were funded by foundations and donors, either directly or through partnerships. Supporters include the USAID, AUSTRALIAN AID, IOM, UN Women, UPP, MSI and other partners and donors.

The total expenses for 2020 were **359456.00 USD**, and it has been spent as follows:



OUR INITIATIVES OUTSIDE THE IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS

Organizing a training course on building a small business with coordination with DAI organization for **25** participants of both genders.

Dak celebrated International Women Day on March 8th, 2020, at the organization's office. This day was celebrated; as well as, all employees' efforts were valued by the director of the organization and distributed roses on them.

Making a video during the coronavirus period with the participation of all employees and volunteers of the organization to encourage people to stay at home for their safety.

Implementing a training workshop in cooperation with Baghdad women Association on the Iraqi national plan for UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Made a short movie on the reality of the Yezidi genocide after six years of pain, waiting, and how a group of volunteers received the Yezidi female survivors in the organization.

Distribution of NFI non-food items such as clothes, bags, stationery, shoes..etc. in coordination with Salam Association for around **150** families for all categories in Khanke, Hawler, and Shekhan

Conducting a workshop about UNSCR Resolutions 1325 (Women, Peace, and Security) and 2250 (Youth, Peace, and Security).



OUR VOLUNTEERS

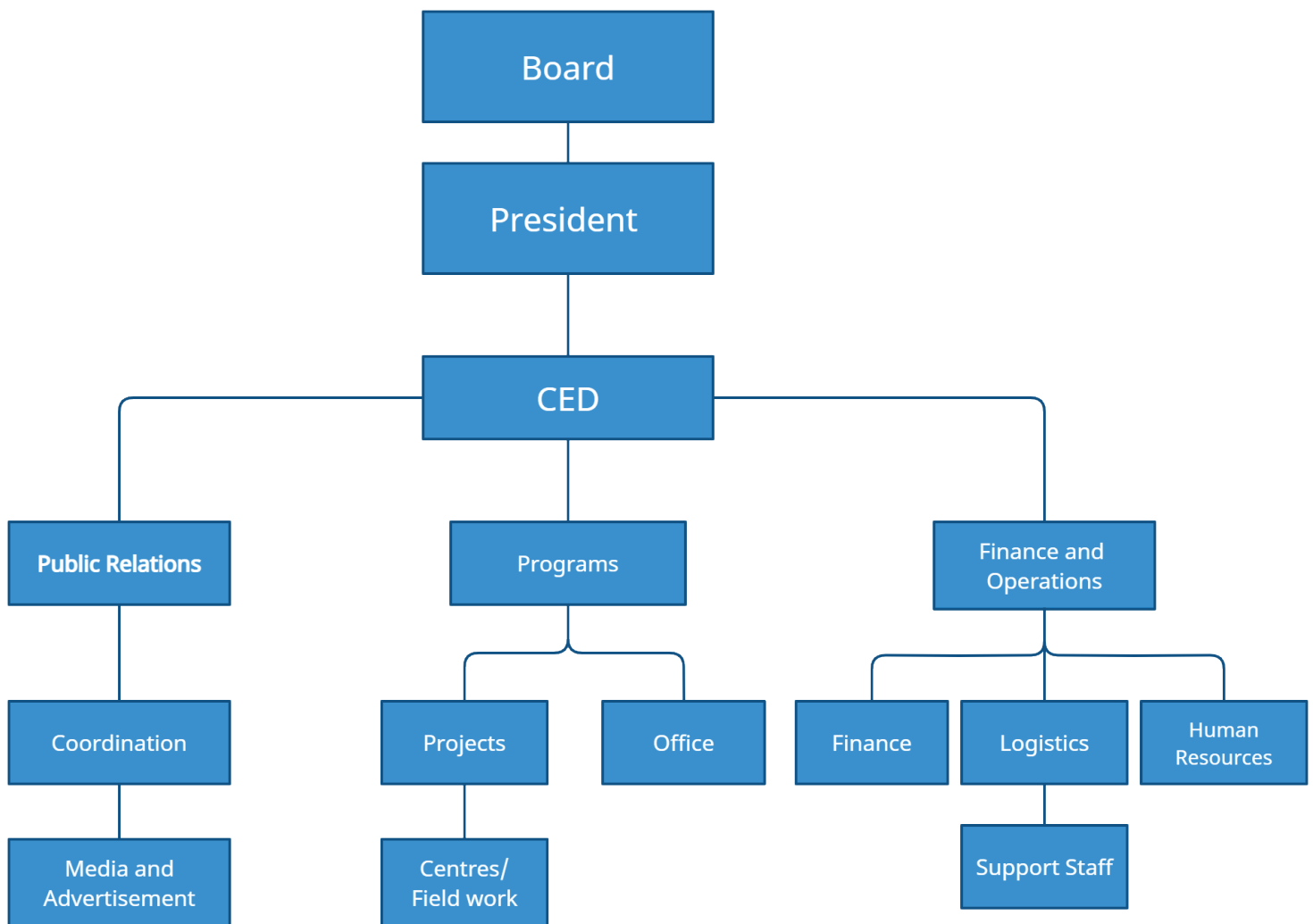
We believe that accepting, embracing, and appreciating volunteers among us would add tremendous value in what we do to support us in accomplishing our mission and speed up implementing our strategy. Therefore, we have involved our volunteers in various training and workshops and gave them a chance to work within the staff and acquire new skills. Giving presentations, awareness and facilitation sessions, psychological training, capacity building, computer skills improvement, and training courses on self-confidence are all instances of the offered workshops and training to our volunteers.

During coronavirus, we were in touch with them as they regularly benefited from our online programs. All in all, on the occasion of International Day of Volunteers on December 5th of each year. Their efforts were highly valued by the organization's director and awarded them with certificates of appreciation.



OUR ORGANOGRAM

The following organogram shows the structure of Dak Organization:



OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund

A United Nations & Civil Society Partnership



Internews
Local voices. Global change.



INFORMATION/CONTACTS/ONLINE

Official name: Dak Organization for Ezidi Women Development

Year of establishment: 2015

Headquarter: Shariya, Semel, Duhok, Iraq.

We are also active online. You can find us on:

Website: www.dakngo.org

LinkedIn: Dak Organization

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dak4women>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DakOrganization>

Instagram: [dak.organization](https://www.instagram.com/dak.organization)

Email: info@dakngo.org

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