

# DIRECTORY: ORGANIZATIONS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (OPD) IN IRAQ

Persons with disabilities in Iraq have been disproportionately impacted by decades of war, armed conflict, terrorism, violence and economic hardship.<sup>1</sup> In 2019, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities reported that Iraq has one of the largest populations of persons with disabilities in the world.<sup>2</sup> The disability rights movement slogan, ‘nothing about us without us’, urges humanitarian and development agencies to ensure the active participation of persons with disabilities in all steps of programming – from planning, to implementation, to evaluation.

This directory, detailing information on Organizations of persons with disabilities in Iraq (henceforth OPD directory), currently includes the contact details of 60 OPDs in Iraq across 18 governorates. Representatives of these OPDs estimate their collective membership to be approximately 180,000 persons with disabilities across Iraq. The OPD directory is made up of two sections:

## Part A: Directory

### Part B: Supporting information:

- Terminology (including the explanation of an OPD in Iraq).
- Tips on how to consult with persons with disabilities and their representative groups.
- Methodology used to develop this OPD directory.

IOM Iraq will periodically update details in the OPD Directory and will ensure that the most up to date version is hosted on its website: <https://iraq.iom.int/publications/directory-organizations-persons-disabilities-opd-iraq>

Please support IOM Iraq to ensure that this OPD Directory is accurate and up to date by:

- Informing us, of any revisions by emailing [iomiraq@iom.int](mailto:iomiraq@iom.int) using subject “OPD Directory” or calling +964 751 402 2811
- Using the hyperlink <https://iraq.iom.int/publications/directory-organization-persons-disabilities-iraq> to forward/share the directory (rather than send as an attachment/saving in folder).

## PART A: DIRECTORY

Governorate	Name of OPD	Contact Name	Contact Details	Geographic Coverage within Governorate
Anbar	Al-Shahbaa Organization	Hussein Matrood	07824984995	Al-Anbar / Fallujah
Anbar	Iraqi Alliance of Disability Organizations– Anbar Branch	Bassim Mohamed Noori	07711118113	Al-Anbar governorate
Anbar	Al Falluja Association for the Blind	Ahmed Abdulsalam Shihab	07824889192	Al-Anbar / Fallujah
Babel	Friends Association for People with Disabilities and Special Needs in Babylon	Hussein Gara'awey	07822251221	Babel

1. UNAMI/OHCHR, 2016a.

2. Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [media release](#) on the impact of the armed conflict on persons with disabilities in Iraq.

Governorate	Name of OPD	Contact Name	Contact Details	Geographic Coverage within Governorate
Babel	Mizan Center for Law Support	Hazim Al-Safi	07831338017	Babel
Baghdad	Women's Committee for Women with Disabilities	Alaa Haseeb	07835131864	Baghdad
Baghdad	Baghdad Association for the Deaf	Qusay Mohammed Sahi	07709989202	Baghdad
Baghdad	Iraqi Alliance of Disability Organizations	Moaffak Alkhafaji	07702459814	Representatives in all governorates
Baghdad	Iraqi Qasir Association	Mustafa Badir Ali Edan Jabbar	07712368222 07703206005	Baghdad
Baghdad	Braille Organization for the Rehabilitation of the disabled and the Blind	Sadiq Hussain	07707273285 07903392106	Baghdad
Baghdad	Voice of the Iraqi Disabled	Ahmed Mohsen	07706207369	Baghdad
Baghdad	Save the Disabled in Iraq	Zaid Khalaf	07901817900	Baghdad
Baghdad	National Association for Care of the Blind in Iraq	Louy Abdul-Reda Askar	07713448189	Baghdad
Basrah	Deaf and Mute Association – Basrah Branch	Abdul-Ridha	07703258562	Basrah
Basrah	Al-Tahadi Blind Association	Jassim Mahdi Ajeel	07703200670	Basrah
Basrah	Association of the Blind – Basrah Branch	Sroor Yousif	07808174058	Basrah city center and surrounding areas
Dhi Qar	Iraqi Association for Persons with Disabilities – Dhi Qar Branch	Wael Al-jabbiri	07811126703	Dhi Qar
Dhi Qar	Sumer Association	Walid Abd Zwayer	07801171344	Dhi Qar

Governorate	Name of OPD	Contact Name	Contact Details	Geographic Coverage within Governorate
Diwaniya	Diwaniyah Disabled Persons Association	Haidar Rahi	07711040234	Diwaniya
Diwaniya	Human Touch Association	Saad Abbas Muean	07814934513	Diwaniya
Diyala	Khanaqin Organization for Disabled	Sarwa Ahmed Sayakhan	07702336770 07701929634	Mazraa-Khanaqin
Diyala	Short Statured Association - Diyala Branch	Azhar Adghayesh Alwan	07712635866	Baqubah
Diyala	Yaqin Organization for the Blind and Low Vision	Mohammed Anwar Abdulhameed	07707359619	Diyala-Baqubah
Duhok	Ziko Organization	Ziyad Abduhadi Rejab	07505732473	Dohuk Governorate
Duhok	Nimuna Organization for People with Disabilities	Nadir Yousif Tata	07504392501	Dohuk Governorate
Duhok	Deaf and Mute Association – Dohuk Branch	Ariy Qadir Hamid	07504060118	Dohuk
Duhok	Kurdistan Union for the Blind and People with Low Vision – Duhok Branch	Khaboor Muhammed	07514307255	Dohuk
Duhok	Association of the Rights of Intellectual and Mental Disabilities- Duhok Branch	Bahzad Fathil Ali	07504807606	Duhok
Dohuk	Rekkhrawa Khamo	Dilshad Khamo	07504106198 07504054169	Duhok
Duhok	Short Statured Association - Duhok branch	Wahid Saed	07504564184 07504576314	Dohuk

Governorate	Name of OPD	Contact Name	Contact Details	Geographic Coverage within Governorate
Erbil	Kurdistan Union for the Blind and People with Low Vision – Erbil branch	Yadgar Kareem	07504512732	Erbil
Erbil	Zheen Society for Physical Disability	Masood Anwar	07504558763	Erbil
Erbil	Short Statured Association– Erbil Branch	Dilshad Qadir	07510150855	Erbil
Erbil	Association of the Rights of Intellectual and Mental Disabilities - Erbil branch	Aziz	07504636187	Erbil
Erbil	Deaf and Mute Association – Erbil Branch	Ibrahim Abdulrahman	07504494062	Erbil
Karbala	Karbala Disabled Association	Haidar Al-jiborri	07714904564	Karbala Center and Al-Hindiya District (Tuwirij)
Karbala	Al-Sarraj Association for the Blind	Othman Al-Kinani	07801733572	Karbala
Karbala	Karbala Association for the Deaf	Ali Abd Al-Rasool	07707370490	Karbala
Kirkuk	Al- Shams Organization	Khalid Kareem	07702371252	Kirkuk city& Hawija
Kirkuk	Dakok Organization for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Peshtuan Ezzeldin Ahmed for Kirkuk Dakuk org & Mohammed Ahmed al-Jubouri for Kirkuk Hawija org	07700936177 07701334406	Kirkuk Center & Hawija
Kirkuk	Rohz Society Organization – Kirkuk Branch	Hymn 'Abu Bakr Qadir, Rad Jalal Gareeb	07508569008 07501041289 07513484584	Kirkuk

Governorate	Name of OPD	Contact Name	Contact Details	Geographic Coverage within Governorate
Kirkuk	White Hand Organization	Hussein Ali Hafsah Noman Omar	07706695005	Kirkuk
Kirkuk	Short Statured Association- Kirkuk Branch	Ali Khalil Ali, Hawar Latif Hama Gareeb	07701589593 07503931222 07503777090	Kirkuk Center & Hawija
Kirkuk	Kirkuk Disabled Association	Mahmud Hassan Wasmy Mahedin Nameq Ismail	07701356388 07706180319	Kirkuk
Kirkuk	Blind Union of Kurdistan – Kirkuk Branch	Abdul Hadi Hafid Muhammad, Ahamed Ismail Ahmed	07701580937 07507123530	Kirkuk
Missan	Iraqi Alliance of Disability Organizations – Missan Branch	Dr. Aswan Majid	07705552238	Missan
Missan	Aswan Organization for Persons with Disabilities	Saad Abdulrahman	07707818087	Missan
Muthana	Iraqi Alliance of Disability Organizations – Muthana Branch	Ahmed Khalid Ali	07830395007	Muthana
Muthana	Association of children with disabilities in Simawa	Sami Al Jayashi	07801586533	Muthana
Najaf	Al-Ghadeer Organization for the Deaf	Jasim Ali	07804906671	Najaf
Ninawa	Um Rabi'in Foundation for the Blind and Low Vision	Mohammed Modhar Yassir Ammar	07728465170	Mosul
Ninawa	Sinjar Organization for People with Disability	Nazar Barjas	07502116392	Sinjar

Governorate	Name of OPD	Contact Name	Contact Details	Geographic Coverage within Governorate
Salahaldin	Balad Organization for People with Disability	Majida Bakir	07716889036	Tikrit
Salahaldin	Salah Aldin Association for Disabled Rehabilitation	Amjad Al-Jeborri	07703768070	Tikrit
Sulaimanyah	Rohz Society Organization – Sulaimanyah Branch	Hajer Ahmed Yahya Shekh Mohammed	07701915215 533180335, 07701527108	Sulaimanyah Governorate
Sulaimanyah	Disabled Union of Kurdistan	Saman	0533131132 07701572556	Sulaimanyah Governorate
Sulaimanyah	Short Statured Association – Sulaimanyah Branch	Omar Jabbar Salih	07701581831	Sulaimanyah Governorate
Sulaimanyah	Kurdistan Union for Blind and People with Low Vision – Sulaimanyah Branch	Hawbash Niman Owraman Omar Qaladza	07701589611 07701545625	Sulaimanyah Governorate
Sulaimanyah	Halabja Disability Organization	Mariwan Wa'adi Rasheed	07501119202 07501269095	Halabja
Wasit	Sufara'a Alrahma	Jassim Al-Azawi	07733717037	Wasit

## PART B: SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### TERMINOLOGY

This OPD directory uses the following terminology:

#### Persons with disabilities:

Disability is conceptualized using a rights-based approach, guided by the United Nations on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Article 3 of the CRPD states that persons with disabilities include *“those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”*

#### Organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs):

The CRPD General Comment No. 7 describes OPDs as any organizations or associations led, directed, and governed by persons with disabilities that are entrenched, committed to, and fully respect the principles and rights recognized in the CRPD.<sup>3</sup> They are established predominantly with the aim of collectively acting, expressing, promoting, pursuing and/or defending the rights of persons with disabilities and bring a unique perspective to speak on their own behalf.

Organizations of persons with disabilities include umbrella and coalition organizations, impairment-specific organizations, formal organizations or informal groups, organizations including family members and/or relatives of persons with disabilities, self-advocacy groups, organizations of women with disabilities or organizations of children and youth with disabilities, among others.<sup>4</sup> CRPD General Comment No.7 notes OPDs “are not affiliated, in the majority of cases, to any political party and are independent from public authorities and any other non-governmental organizations of which they might be part/ members of”.<sup>5</sup> In Iraq, however, OPDs are often affiliated with political parties and with government departments.

This OPD directory distinguishes between OPDs, which are organizations led, directed, and governed by persons with disabilities, and disability-specific civil society organizations (CSOs) and international organizations, which provide services and/or advocate on behalf of persons with disabilities, but do not have leadership primarily made up of persons with disabilities (and therefore are not viewed as OPDs).

### SIX TIPS ON FACILITATING ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS<sup>6</sup>

This section covers tips for facilitating accessible and inclusive consultations (including key informant interviews, community meetings, town hall meetings, focus group discussions, surveys, accessibility audits, and other participatory processes).

#### Tip 1: Identify and specifically invite persons with disabilities:

Many persons with disabilities are invisible in the community; therefore, organizations should make additional efforts to seek their input and feedback. Ways to identify persons with disabilities include:

- In non-camp settings: liaise with OPDs to identify and invite persons with disabilities to attend consultations. If OPDs do not exist in your area, identify persons with disabilities through community leaders, neighborhood committees, and women/men/youth committees to consult with.
- In camp settings: speak with Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and persons with disabilities you have seen and ask them to share information about consultations with any other persons with disabilities they know of.
- Use a variety of communication methods to distribute invitations to consultations, such as flyers, announcements, videos, social media, and word of mouth.
- Ensure that the invitation clearly shows that persons with disabilities are invited to participate (alongside with persons without disabilities) in consultations, and that you will provide any additional requirements for persons with disabilities to attend by adding to the invitation: **People with disabilities are encouraged to attend.**

#### Tip 2: Ensure diversity within the group of persons with disabilities:

Where possible, ensure representation of persons with diverse disabilities in the consultations:

- In consultations that have both persons with and without disabilities: include at least one woman and one man with a disability, ideally with different types of disabilities.
- In consultation processes only with persons with disabilities: include persons with disabilities of all genders with a variety of disabilities including physical, psychosocial, intellectual, vision impairment and deaf persons.

3. This OPD Directory uses the term “Organizations of persons with disabilities;” other common terms include Disabled Persons Organizations, DPOs, representative groups of persons with disabilities and the disability movement.

4. CRPD General Comment No. 7, 2018a.

5. CRPD General Comment No. 7, 2018a.

6. This tips section is based on IOM Iraq’s Guidance on accessible and inclusive consultations and community engagement, which utilizes CBM Australia’s Disability inclusion: accessible meetings and events document and WFP Cox’s Bazar’s Consulting with people with disabilities documents.

Note: Women with disabilities are often more underrepresented in Iraq than men with disabilities (and are often more invisible in the community). Ways to ensure you hear directly from women with disabilities include: having female team members, specifically telling OPDs and partners that you want to hear from women with disabilities, and avoiding communicating with women with disabilities through a third person (parents, sisters, head of household).

**Tip 3: Find out whether assistance or support is required for persons to actively participate in the consultation:**

- Ensure the consultation organizer asks each person (through written or verbal invitations):
  - Do you require any additional support to enable you to participate in the consultation (for example, a support person or transport)?
  - If yes, please let the organizers know so that we can best meet your needs.
- Then, ensure these reasonable accommodations are organized, paid for and ready for the consultation.
- Provide the option for persons with disabilities to give feedback one on one, rather than attend the group consultation.

**Tip 4: Reduce physical barriers at consultation venue:**

Reducing physical barriers benefits persons with physical disabilities and vision impairments, along with pregnant persons, children, and older persons.

- Ask persons with disabilities about potential barriers they might face in accessing the consultation venue and what assistance they may require to attend. Develop a plan if the venue cannot be made accessible. Examples include temporary ramps, reducing the length of the consultation so that a person can return home to use their own toilet, or providing free transport options for persons with disabilities.
- To ensure accessibility, the venue should be easy to **reach, enter, circulate, and use.**

**Tip 5: Be proactive at the beginning of the consultation:**

- Ask persons with disabilities where they would like to be seated to best access the area and make use of lip-reading, sign interpreters, or language translation.
- Ask persons with disabilities if they would like to be paired with another person who could help in individual or group activities.
- Open the meeting by asking participants to speak slowly and clearly to facilitate translation, interpretation, and understanding for persons with intellectual disabilities, and for those who do not understand the spoken language well.

- If a person with a disability has brought along a support person or family member to assist them to participate, establish ground rules as to whether that support person can contribute their own experiences to the discussion or not and whether any additional ground rules around confidentiality are required.

**Tip 6: Encourage active participation**

- Some persons – with or without disabilities – might feel uncomfortable being in a big group, so make time for smaller group discussions.
- If an individual seems like they are not interested or quiet, encourage them to participate.
- Always treat participants with respect and ask their opinion in discussions.
- Encourage participants, translators, and interpreters to ask questions as the meeting progresses to ensure participants clearly understand discussions and that translations are correct.
- Ensure the venue is quiet to allow persons with vision impairment and those who have difficulty concentrating to participate and take part in the discussion.

**Tip 7: Use inclusive and respectful communication:**

- Present information in both visual and audio formats.
- Repeat key concepts and use practical demonstrations to help understanding.
- Use clear and non-offensive language. Only refer to someone's disability or impairment where it is directly relevant. If in doubt, ask them how they wish to be addressed.
- Talk directly to persons with disabilities rather than to persons who might be assisting them.
- Make sure only one person speaks at a time.
- If you are talking about experiences of persons with disabilities as part of the consultation: use the preferred terminology of the individual or group of people with disabilities. IOM Iraq has consulted with OPDs to confirm the correct general terms to use in English, Kurdish and Arabic:

English	Arabic	Kurdish
People with disabilities	الأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة	كەسانى كەمهەندام
People without disabilities	الأشخاص من غير الإعاقة	كەسانى بىت كەمهەندامى



## METHODOLOGY OF DEVELOPING THE OPD DIRECTORY

1. IOM Iraq identified the need to map OPDs in March 2020, as part of its approach to strengthen collaboration between IOM Iraq field staff and local OPDs. After initial mapping, IOM Iraq realized that up to date information on OPDs was not readily available, and that making a directory available externally would assist OPDs along with humanitarian and development agencies. The following is an overview of the approach IOM Iraq used to develop this OPD directory:
2. IOM Iraq disability inclusion staff identified and reviewed any lists of OPDs available and created a draft OPD mapping spreadsheet as a starting point (Version 1).<sup>7</sup>
3. In April 2020, IOM Iraq Community Stabilization Unit (CSU) field staff in nine governorates contacted select OPDs by phone (rather than in person, due to COVID-19-related movement restrictions) to validate and update the Version 1 mapping spreadsheet to check basic information and to gain consent for contact details to be used in mapping and a later directory. IOM Iraq disability inclusion staff entered collected information into an updated draft mapping spreadsheet, creating Version 2.
4. In June 2020, CSU field staff in nine governorates contacted the remaining OPDs by phone (due to movement restrictions) to validate and update the Version 2 mapping spreadsheet to check basic information and to gain consent for contact details to be used in mapping and a later directory.
  - Information was then entered into updated draft mapping spreadsheet to create Version 3.
4. In July 2020, IOM Iraq started planning to carry out a rapid consultation with representatives of OPDs from 18 Governorates. Version 3 mapping was used to create a list of OPDs to contact for key informant interviews.
  - The Iraqi Alliance of Disability Organizations (IADO) reviewed and endorsed the list (from the mapping) of OPDs for the consultation.
5. In October 2020, IOM Iraq carried out a rapid consultation with 53 OPDs and 15 disability-specific CSOs and government entities. The key informant interview semi-structured questionnaire contained 33 questions, 16 of which served to validate the mapping IOM Iraq carried out and to gather new information for the mapping.
  - In December 2020, relevant responses were entered into the mapping to create Version 4 of the mapping spreadsheet (including an additional seven OPDs that IOM Iraq identified through the rapid consultation).
6. In January 2021, IOM Iraq used Version 4 of the mapping spreadsheet to draft this OPD directory and check contact details again.
7. IADO reviewed the OPD directory prior to publication.

Note: IOM Iraq has carried out more extensive mapping on OPDs than what is listed in this directory, including mapping the following for over 50 OPDs in 18 governorates:

- The theme and core activities of the OPD.
- Estimated numbers members of the OPD.
- If the OPD is registered in Federal Iraq and/or KRG as a CSO.
- If the OPD is a member of IADO.
- If the OPD has funding.
- If the OPD focuses on a specific impairment type or component.

7. IADO list of member OPDs, Handicap International, Iraq, 2020a Service mapping CSO and DPO Ninawa Governorate – Sinjar District and Kirkuk Governorate – Hawija District and Handicap International, Iraq 2017a. Service Directory: Rehabilitation services and social protection of persons with disabilities in Iraqi Kurdistan