



# INTERSECTIONAL RAPID GENDER AND PROTECTION ANALYSIS

## Koya and Qalat Dizah – Kurdistan Region of Iraq

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- EU** European Union
- ICON** Issue-based Collaborative Networks
- IDP** Internally Displaced Persons
- INGO** International Non-Governmental Organization
- IREX** International Research and Exchanges Board
- IRGPA** Intersectional Rapid Gender and Protection Analysis
- KII** Key Informant Interviews
- KRG** Kurdistan Regional Government
- KRI** Kurdistan Region of Iraq
- MHPSS** Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support
- NRT** Nalia Radio and Television
- PSEA** Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
- PVAW** Preventing Violence Against Women
- SFCG** Search For Common Ground
- SOP** Standard Operating Procedures
- USAID** the United States Agency for International Development
- YE** Youth Excel

# INTRODUCTION

Rural populations in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) face challenging livelihood circumstances. For rural communities in the south east of Kurdistan such as Koya and Qalat Dizah, the lack of job opportunities and increased collective demand for select skills in the workplace, including computer and English language literacy, create obstacles for youth to attain a viable livelihood. The absence of sustainable livelihood opportunities precipitates detrimental trends amongst youth including rising unemployment, drug abuse, and economic migration. Young women face further compounding challenges due to oppressive societal and cultural norms such as gender-based violence (GBV), and restricted access to resources.



In light of this, **the aim of the Intersectional Rapid Gender and Protection Analysis (IRGPA) in Koya and Qalat Dizah is to identify the barriers, needs, and capabilities of young women and men and deepen the understanding of livelihood capacities in both locations.** Accordingly, this analysis acts as a guide on how to work towards more equitable and safe outcomes in both communities. Additionally, it establishes steps for designing and implementing a gender and protection action plan for the Issue-based Collaborative Networks (ICON)<sup>1</sup> activities, which bring together local stakeholders, including youth led and youth serving formal and informal organizations, working to strengthen youth livelihoods in Koya and Qalat Dizah.

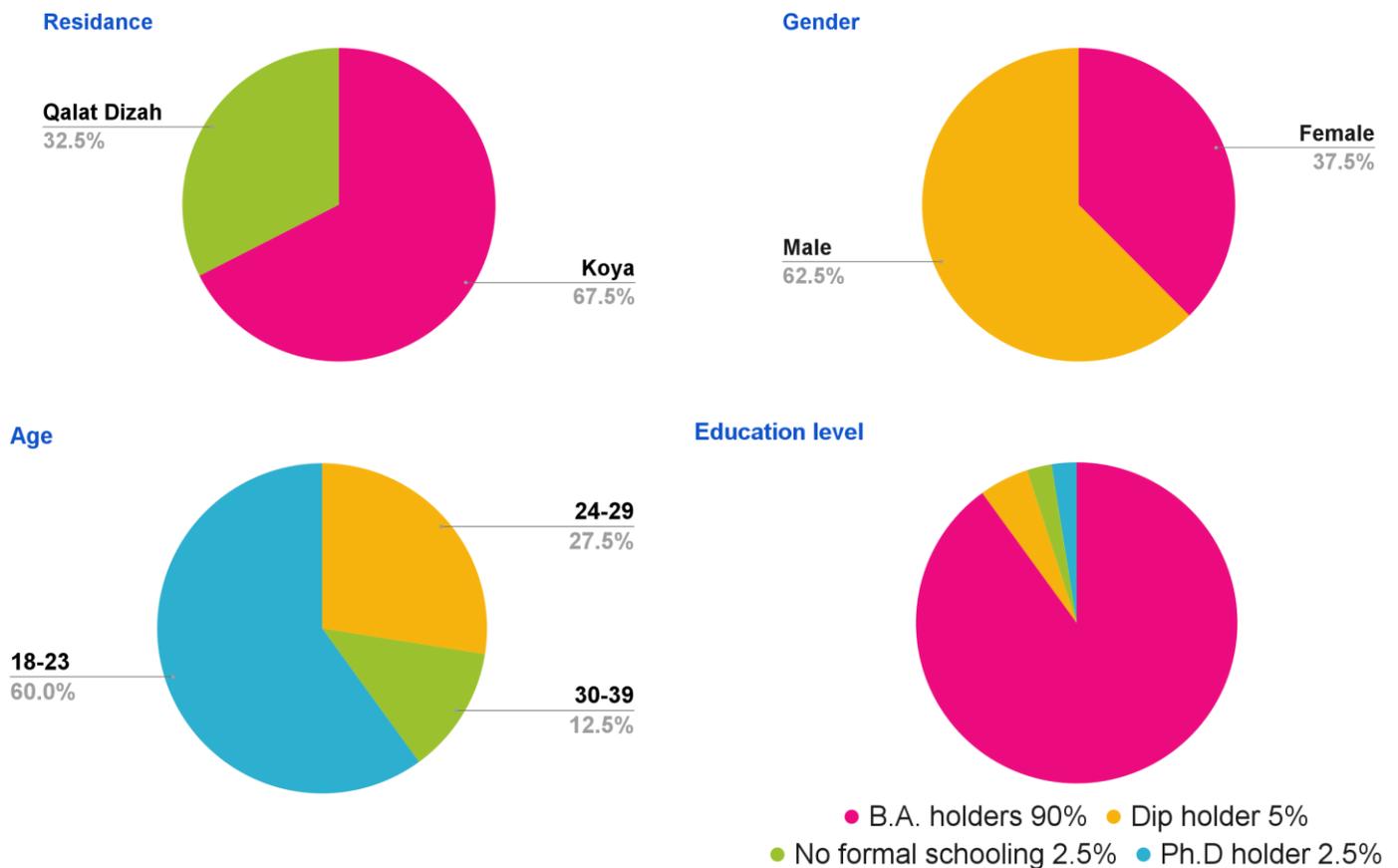
The IRGPA examines the relationship between people of different and shared identities to better understand how environment, agency, and assets influence the needs, capacities, and risks of community members. This analysis will enable ICON participants to address these intersectional needs through the implementation of their research. Additionally, the IRGPA Research Team developed a [Resource Mapping Matrix](#), as well as a [Risk Analysis and Protection Assessment Matrix](#), highlighting risk and protection factors in these two communities to enable ICON participants to engage in research designs which are gender and protection sensitive.

<sup>1</sup> ICONs Iraq is part of the five year global Youth Excel program funded by USAID, which brings together different types of local stakeholders working to strengthen youth livelihoods in Koya and Qalat Dizah, in the KRI. ICON participants work together to share and discuss ongoing issues, transform knowledge into action through research projects, and better address issues facing youth, through an iterative process.

# METHODOLOGY

The IRGPA used a mixed-methods approach. The research team gathered qualitative data through [Key Informant Interviews \(KII\)](#) with local stakeholders from Koya and Qalat Dizah. This included five individuals from Koya and five individuals from Qalat Dizah; six males and four females. Key informant selection was based on the individuals' knowledge and role in the community. Interviewees included businesswomen, religious leaders, academics, journalists, and public figures.

Quantitative data was collected through a 28-question [survey](#),<sup>2</sup> published using an online survey platform, Kobo Toolbox, to engage with individuals from both communities. The survey submission totaled 40 respondents, 27 from Koya and 13 from Qalat Dizah, with 25 of the respondents self-reporting as men and 15 as women<sup>3</sup>. See graph below for additional information on respondents. The engagement of such a diverse group of participants in occupation, age and education level ensured the IRGPA maintained a comprehensive understanding of the communities' perspectives for this analysis.

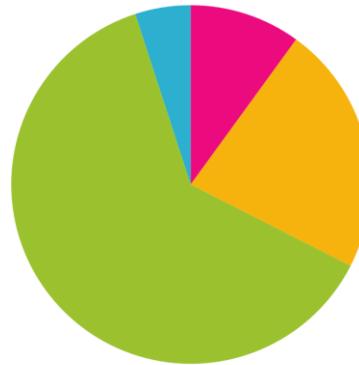


<sup>2</sup> [Intersectional Rapid Gender and Protection Analysis \(IRGPA\) Survey](#)

<sup>3</sup> Since the survey was online, managing the participants' gender was difficult. Even though the survey was circulated in both locations, especially in Koya and Qalat Dizah social networks.

#### Occupation

- Government employee  
10%
- Businessman/women  
22.5%
- Student 62.5%
- Unemployed 5%



## FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Data collection in Koya and Qalat Dizah demonstrated that the lack of livelihood opportunities for young people in the area have detrimental repercussions including increased unemployment and economic migration. According to the IRGPA survey, 95% of respondents from both communities who tried to improve their livelihoods faced tough cultural and political obstacles preventing improvements at the hands of politically affiliated individuals, community members, and, especially for women, family members. Additionally, 75% of youth further expressed that they go to civil society organizations to voice their grievances and solve disputes and problems. Moreover, according to the key informants in both communities, drug addiction is prevalent amongst youth which considerably hinders their ability to secure a sustainable livelihood.

Primary research found that the predominant risks facing youth differ along gendered lines. Based on the data collected, 72.5% of respondents believe there is no gender equality in the labor market. The main risks respondents highlighted for young women in Koya and Qalat Dizah are lack of freedom, unemployment, and discrimination. As female-owned businesses are considered a stereotypically shameful practice, they elicit degrading treatment from villagers who have not internalized more equal and inclusive gender norms around female-owned businesses. One key informant noted a woman's accessory store owned by two women was consistently stoned and vandalized at night due to gender-based discrimination. These incidents generate fear and anxiety for women in the communities in which they live. On the other hand, the respondents underscored the main risks facing young men are rooted in unemployment, economic migration, drug abuse and discrimination. Currently, many young people, mostly young men, have emigrated to European countries due to lack of job opportunities and the growing authoritarianism by decision makers in government, with a goal of building a new life under a stable government system. One key informant explained that with so many young men leaving the district of Qalat Dizah, it is difficult to find many young boys in the community nowadays. There are fewer male students in the Raparin University, as the majority have either dropped out from college or they have emigrated to European countries.

Above all, the IRGPA recommends actions to address political, medical awareness risks, legal, livelihood, psychosocial, gendered, and sociocultural risks to youth as well as the intersection of these risks as they pertain to diverse youth identities. These actions can be utilized by government institutions, civil societies, and ICON participants in Koya and Qalat Dizah. The IRGPA draws the following recommendations:

1. ICONS and civil society organizations facilitate drug prevention campaigns in schools, universities, and among unemployed youth in Koya and Qalat Dizah regarding the health-effects and repercussions of drug abuse.
2. ICONS and civil society organizations raise awareness on gender discrimination, female empowerment advocacy campaigns, and women's rights courses for male participants specifically in the villages around Koya and Qalat Dizah.
3. The government and civil society organizations must include young people and people with disabilities from villages around Koya and Qalat Dizah in future programs and provide equal opportunities to access available livelihood resources.
4. ICONS to conduct precise and specific research in both communities, regarding gender discrimination, livelihood, social and political exclusion. This should culminate in an action plan which addresses the root causes of these challenges.
5. The government and civil society organizations must support females by providing educational resources such as self-development, capacity building, and skill-development courses to ensure women have equal opportunities and expertise that lead to job opportunities.
6. The government and civil society should organize special training programs for women entrepreneurs in Koya and Qalat Dizah to start their own businesses and roll out awareness campaigns focused on inclusive business markets and benefits of young female business owners.

## DESK RESEARCH

Secondary data collection was riddled with challenges; notably there was a lack of previously collected data and, secondly, restricted access to existing research relating to livelihood, job opportunities, and gender dynamics in the workplace in Koya and Qalat Dizah. Nevertheless, some existing resources relevant to our analysis were accessible through open-source research. For instance, media channels such as Nalia Radio and Television (NRT<sup>4</sup>), Rudaw<sup>5</sup>, and Rojnews<sup>6</sup> provided limited data on drug abuse and economic migration in both communities. For example, due to the poor socio-economic circumstances of youth in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, economic emigration soared in 2020, with nearly 14,500 Kurdish youth leaving to enter EU countries according to an article by Anadolu Agency<sup>7</sup>. In addition, one clear statistic by France24 shows that approximately 3,000 Kurds left the region in the past three months looking for a better and more stable livelihood in Europe<sup>8</sup>.

The economic migration flow has engulfed the Pshdar region of Qalat Dizah<sup>9</sup>. Young people are disappointed and frustrated with their governmental system, living conditions, and lack of job opportunities. As one of the young men who was interviewed stated, "If we die, let's not die in Kurdistan; young people escape from the oppression of power, and I am one of those who intend to emigrate out of the country." Gender imbalances in the workplace are also prevalent in Pshdar. For instance, there is only one woman in a managerial role at the governmental level in Pshdar and only one woman (Rezan Khidir), mayor of Zharawa, who works at a higher level in the governmental institution in Pshdar district.

<sup>4</sup> [Ayub Ali, NRT, September 29, 2019](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Chris Johannes, Words are not enough, we need US action, says Kurdish Party after iran attacks, Rudaw, September 12, 2021](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Rojnews, August 27, 2021](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Hawkar Yasin, Anadolu Agency, October 21, 2020](#)

<sup>8</sup> [France24, November 10, 2021](#)

<sup>9</sup> Pshdar district is a district of the Sulaymaniyah Governorate in the Kurdistan Regional Government Region in Iraq. It is located east of the city of Sulaymaniyah, near the Iranian border. The most populous urban centre in the district is Qaladiza, with 220,836 inhabitants.

Other women in different positions at the institutions are working level employees and will be given fewer managerial roles<sup>10</sup>.

While these resources provided some helpful data, other existing data were predominantly concentrated on refugee and internally displaced persons (IDPs) populations rather than larger civic community issues in Koya/Qalat-Dizah. It was therefore determined that the majority of accessible secondary research resources were of limited use to the IRGPA objectives. Considering the lack of data on many crucial topics the IRGPA aims to explore, the research team undertook primary research aimed at filling these gaps to understand and analyze livelihood capacities, assets and resources, gender dynamics, and protection risks in both communities.

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<sup>10</sup> [Qalat Dizah and Ranya Facebook page, July 2, 2019](#)

# RESOURCE MAPPING

## Resource Mapping for Koya

**Purpose of Resource Mapping:** Is to map out the resources available in the area provided by governmental institutions and local/international organizations. That certain services and support may be needed during the ICON activities for data collection.

Type of Service	Description	Access (to the resource)
Physical and Digital Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Center of Preventing Violence Against Women (PVAW)</li> </ul>	Phone number: 119 Email address: N/A Address: Shahidan District, Koya Hours of Operation: 24/7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent Human Rights Commission, Directorate of Human Rights in Koya, for Demanding Individual Basic Rights</li> </ul>	Phone number: 0751 641 04666 Email address: N/A Address: Shahidan district, Koya Hours of Operation: Saturday-Thursday from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm
Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Khalid Hospital (public hospital), for medical and health care to the people of Koya,</li> </ul>	Phone number: 0751 019 2166 Email address: N/A Address: In front of Koya university dormitories, Koya. Hours of Operation: 24/7
Legal Resources and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Koya courthouse for demanding individual rights.</li> </ul>	Phone number: N/A Email address: N/A Address: Haybat Sultan Street in front of the Department of Educational Psychology, Koya. Hours of Operation: Saturday-Thursday from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm
Basic Material Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dasti Hawkari Organization provides basic financial support to disadvantaged families, orphans, and poor children, and support includes money, clothing, office supplies, and household needs.</li> </ul>	Phone number: 0751 171 6886 Email address: N/A Address: Azadi Street, Koya. Hours of Operation: Saturday-Thursday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Protection Learning and Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women's Rehabilitation Organization, to protect women and children from violence, and provide MHPSS support.</li> </ul>	Phone number: 066 253 1484 Email address: media@wroiraq.org Address: the Azadi neighborhood, below Koya University, Koya. Hours of Operation: Saturday-Thursday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

# Resource Mapping for Qalat Dizah

**Purpose of Resource Mapping:** Is to map out the resources available in the area provided by governmental institutions and local/international organizations. That certain services and support may be needed during the ICON activities for data collection.

Type of Service	Description	Access (to the resource)
Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In most clinics, families of martyred Peshmerga soldiers can visit the doctor for free while providing some paper evidence.</li> </ul>	Phone number: 0750 122 3322 Email address: N/A Address: Jomi Qura area - next to my city hall above Raparin University Qalat Dizah branch, Qalat Dizah. Hours of Operation: 24/7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are several free services in local hospitals to monitor pregnant women and check the health of the mother and her womb.</li> </ul>	Phone number: 0750 122 3322 Email address: N/A Address: Jomi Qura area - next to my city hall above Raparin University Qalat Dizah branch, Qalat Dizah. Hours of Operation: 24/7
Legal Resources and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a law in which a person has to raise a court case but he or she is not financially capable of raising the case, he or she will be helped to temporarily forgive all fees, and if he wins the case, he or she will not pay the fees. But if he or she loses the case they have to pay the fees.</li> </ul>	Phone number: N/A Email address: N/A Address: Employees quarter, near Qalat Dizah police station, Qalat Dizah. Hours of Operation: Saturday-Thursday from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm
Basic Material Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Soz) Charity organization helps 10 impoverished families a month and pays them a certain amount of money. Only families with no source of income will be qualified for this service.</li> </ul>	Phone number: 0750 164 4626 Email address: N/A Address: Darashmana road, Qalat Dizah. Hours of Operation: Saturday-Thursday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Protection Learning and Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Different courses such as barbering, hairdressing, and sewing and seminars are being opened at the Qalat Dizah Sports and Youth Center free of charge. It can be accessed by registering your name at Qalat Dizah Sports and Youth Center</li> </ul>	Phone number: 0770 407 3797 Email address: N/A Address: Chom Xrka road, Qalat Dizah. Hours of Operation: Saturday-Thursday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

# RISK ANALYSIS AND PROTECTION ASSESSMENT

## Risk and Protection Assessment for Koya & Qalat Dizah

**Purpose of Risk and Protection assessment:** In order to provide a guidance for the ICON participants to avoid risks, stay safe and secure.

Categories of Risks to Consider	Main Risks Identified	Risk Source	Risk Targets
<b>Risks with certain profiles of participants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICON participants with various political, ethnic, religious, tribal backgrounds, women, and people with disabilities are vulnerable to abuse, such as sexual harassment, discrimination, bullying, threatening, neglect, etc.</li> <li>• The government security forces may put the participants in danger by requesting to share the participants' information. Thus it may lead to participants feeling uncomfortable in program activity participation.</li> <li>• ICON participants with different gender identities are vulnerable to abuse, discrimination, bullying, and threats for openly express their gender identities or beliefs.</li> <li>• During data collection, ICON participants might approach drug abusers who can get violent and physically harm participants.</li> <li>• ICON participants with oppressive and traditional families are most likely to be prevented in actively participating or collecting data during the project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families (especially for women)</li> <li>• Participants</li> <li>• Community leaders</li> <li>• Political parties</li> <li>• Religious leader</li> <li>• Security forces</li> <li>• Drug abusers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICON participants especially women and women with disabilities</li> <li>• Participants with different political, religious backgrounds and gender identities</li> <li>• Organization staff, researchers, volunteers, etc</li> </ul>
<b>Risks in program context</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program interruption due to delay in receiving government access letters.</li> <li>• Program context itself may expose harm to participants due to program location and the absence of security personnel.</li> <li>• Government security forces may request to share the list of participants with them.</li> <li>• Program delay/interruption due to the natural disaster.</li> <li>• Transportation risks while traveling to the program area.</li> <li>• Health risks such as COVID19.</li> <li>• Risk of arrest and detention.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KRG security forces</li> <li>• Earthquake, Fire, Flooding</li> <li>• Government authorities such as mayor and ministry of health</li> <li>• Area infrastructure in terms of road and lighting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICON participants.</li> <li>• Participants with different political and religious backgrounds.</li> <li>• Organization staff, researchers, volunteers, etc</li> </ul>

<p><b>Risks from Youth Excel activities and approaches</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delays/interruptions to the activity due to community barriers, especially with regards to women’s involvement.</li> <li>• Researchers abuse community norms during the community engagement.</li> <li>• During implementation research, the ICON participants or those they engage in research are exposed to vicarious trauma or their data is mishandled.</li> <li>• Advocacy on the findings of the ICON research exposes participants to greater scrutiny, sociocultural stigma, and targeting by government authorities.</li> <li>• ICON participants might not be able to support themselves financially during the project due to lack of assets, resources and income.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community key stakeholders</li> <li>• Religious leaders</li> <li>• Government authorities</li> <li>• ICON participants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICON participants.</li> <li>• Participants with different political and religious backgrounds.</li> <li>• Organization staff, researchers, volunteers, etc</li> <li>• Women wearing inappropriate outfits</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risks from Youth Excel communications and operations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications about the ICON participants reveals identifying information about a marginalized community member (for example youth with different gender identities) and exposes them to sociocultural stigma and psychological distress.</li> <li>• Participants might hesitate in mentioning Rwanga Foundation as they could be seen as having an affiliation to a certain political party during ICON research.</li> <li>• Lack of transparency/clarity on aims of the activity leads to miscommunications between YE program and participants, resulting in a loss of trust fostering further disenfranchisement of youth.</li> <li>• Government authorities prevent activity implementation due to the focus on youth empowerment which they could see as a threat to strengthening protests against the government.</li> <li>• Youth Excel participants share their political parties ideology with the targeted community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government authorities</li> <li>• Political parties</li> <li>• Youth Excel</li> <li>• Community key stakeholders</li> <li>• Religious leaders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICON Participants</li> <li>• Participants with different political, religious backgrounds and gender identities.</li> <li>• Youth Excel staff, Anchor partners</li> <li>• Organization staff, researchers, volunteers, etc</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risks from Youth Excel staff, partners, affiliates</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerability to COVID-19</li> <li>• Sexual harassment</li> <li>• Staff and partners do not follow the Code of Conduct, professionalism is compromised, which could pose physical/mental health risks to participants</li> <li>• YE Staff could have a lack of sensitivity to certain problems or situations youth are in which could exacerbate anxieties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff, partners</li> <li>• Event participants</li> <li>• Participants dress code</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICON participants</li> <li>• Participants with different political, religious backgrounds and gender identities.</li> <li>• Organization staff, researchers, volunteers, etc</li> </ul>

- Ethnic, religious, and political disputes between people with different gender identities, affiliation with opposition political parties, different religious beliefs, etc.

## Risk Analysis for Koya & Qalat Dizah

Risk Identified	Likelihood (Low, Medium, High)	Impact (Low, Medium, High)	Vulnerabilities (factors increasing probability /impact of risk for individuals and groups)	Capacities Existing (individuals, groups, and Youth Excel)
Road Accidents	High	High	Road incidents are one of the more common threats due to poor maintenance of vehicles, drivers training, weather conditions, and speeding.	1) Briefing staff on travel SOPs. 2) Drivers commit to the safe driving guide. 3) Train the staff on first aid in-case of need. 4) Checking vehicles to ensure its capability
Harassment and Abuse	High	Medium	INGO staff, Participants, and Affiliates are victims of harassment or abuse. Sexual harassment and abuse remain key challenges for INGO's as numerous incidents have occurred in the city and due to the conservative communities, it is difficult to obtain information about sexual harassment cases, particularly as this topic is a sensitive one. People refrain from reporting such cases due to the harm that they may face (particularly honor killings).	1) Staff to adhere to the SOPs including traditional and cultural norms. 2) Staff to complete a PSEA induction. 3) Report all Harassment incidents. 4) Staff to consider community acceptance (in-terms of uniform/clothing). 5) Having both male and female together when visiting the area
Natural Hazards	Medium	High	Earthquakes can occur in the Erbil governorate. Since 1992 until now, numerous earthquakes have occurred in the city with no casualties. Earthquakes have increased in recent years. Also, due to lack of building infrastructure in terms of following global electricity regulations, incidents of fire remain a challenge for civil defense and residents.	1) Staff to comply with natural hazard guidelines and SOPs 2) Train all new joiners on fire safety related trainings. 3) Staff to comply with safety procedures within the areas of operations. 4) Staff to re-train every 6 months on first aid and fire extinguisher

Detention/ Arrest	Low	High	There is no report for arresting people in the city due to political, religious or having other different ideologies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Staff to commit to travel SOPs, and regularly brief on checkpoint SOPs.</li> <li>2) Staff to carry personal documents while conducting field visits.</li> <li>3) Ensure that all work permits are carried in vehicles</li> <li>4) Staff to not engage in debate with security personnel.</li> </ul>
Disease	High	High	Disease of many types, currently Covid19 have been spread in the country and worldwide since March 2020.	Lack of health sectors, lack of awareness, lack of economy, etc.

# Annex 1: Key Informant Interview Questions

## Youth Excel: Issue-Based Collaborative Networks (ICONS) in Koya and Qalat Dizah, Iraq

### Protection and Gender Assessment: Key Informant Interview Questions

**Background:** An Issue-Based Collaborative Network (ICON) brings together different types of local stakeholders working to strengthen youth livelihoods in Koya and Qalat Dizah, in the KRI, to collaboratively address the common problems youth face through their ongoing initiatives and existing assets. The purpose of this assessment is to identify, and thus later meet, the differing needs and capacities of women and men as well as the risks, accessibility and vulnerabilities involving their livelihood. By examining these areas, we prepare a gender action plan to help ICON participants work together to share and design research projects, with already some research context and knowledge.

**KII Procedures:** Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you. We are a research team from Search for Common Ground interested in learning more about Gender and Protection dynamics linked to livelihoods in your community. We assure you that all the information that you provide to us will be used exclusively for our research and analysis. We will record the session but no identifiable information will be shared publicly. This is not a test, and there are no right or wrong answers. The most important thing is that you should feel comfortable and contribute as much as you can. You can express opinions and discuss issues freely.

#### Interviewee Details:

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Employer:</b>	
<b>Position Title:</b>	
<b>Community Affiliation:</b> <i>(if they are an influential community member or involved in community/neighbourhood spaces, widely recognized in the community as an active citizen)</i>	
<b>Gender:</b>	
<b>Age:</b>	

<b>Contact Information (phone, email, etc.):</b>	
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**Interview Details:**

<b>Name of Research Fellow:</b>	
<b>Date of Interview:</b>	
<b>Time of Interview:</b>	
<b>Location of Interview:</b>	

**Interview Questions:**

1. What are the obstacles and challenges that prevent youth in Koya/Qalat Dizah from participating in social, political inclusion, and decision-making processes?
  - a. How does that vary if you are a young woman?
  - b. What about if you are a young man?
  - c. What about varying ethnicities? Nationality status? Wealth levels (rich, poor, middle class)? Disability/special needs?
2. What are the typical roles expected of women, men, boys (under 18), girls (under 18) in Koya/Qalat Dizah in the households, workplaces, and the wider community?
3. Do women and men feel empowered to make choices about their career or family structure?
  - a. What barriers or obligations do women and men face when trying to make these decisions?
  - b. How does society or family shape these barriers or obligations?
4. In Koya and Qalat Dze, who is considered the main breadwinner? and are women responsible for earning income for their families?
5. What risks do young people face in Koya and Qalat Dze that prevent safe and productive livelihoods in their communities? Specifically women? Specifically men? (e.g. *gun ownership, drug misuse, GBV, harassment, illegal migration, unemployment etc.*)

6. Who should the youth go to if...
  - a. they have a complaint (i.e. harassment, abuse, unemployment, & social engagement opportunities, etc.),
  - b. they want to advocate for a topic,
  - c. they want to be involved in their communities?
7. How do the decision makers/leaders in Koya/Qalat Dizah work on providing access to the youth regarding career opportunities, political/governance engagement, and self development/skills building?
8. What in the Koya/Qalat Dizah community pulls people apart, or that they disagree on, or that creates a divide between people? And what are the elements that bring people together, that people share, that people agree on?
9. What are the risks and challenges that differ between female and male researchers when conducting research in Koya/Qalat Dizah?
10. What services and resources exist in the community based on the following: physical and digital security, medical and healthcare, legal resources and services, basic material assistance, protection learning and guidance, contacts, operational capacities? (*see resource mapping table for more description*)

# Annex 2: IRGPA Survey Questions

## Youth Excel: Issue-Based Collaborative Networks (ICONS) in Koya and Qalat Dizah, Iraq

### Protection and Gender Assessment: Survey

Dear Participant,

Search for Common Ground is conducting gender and protection assessments in Koya and Qalat Dizah. This survey is a form of data collection aimed at understanding perceptions, barriers, and risks that women and men of all ages face in the two communities. Please answer the following questions in detail and with honesty. Your identity and answers will be kept anonymous throughout the research process.

Do you agree to answer the following questions truthfully and participate in the research?

- I consent
- I do not consent

#### Survey Participate Information:

Name (optional)	
Gender	Male, Female, Other
Age	18-23, 24-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+
Residence	Koya or Qalat Dizah
Education level	Primary School, Middle-School, High School, Diploma, Bachelors, Masters, Ph.D No formal schooling
Occupation	Student Governmental employee Businessmen/women Housewife Unemployed

#### Survey Questions:

1. What are the main problems and challenges preventing **young men** from sustainable and productive livelihoods in the community in which you live? Please select the following from most common to least common.

Skills Mismatch	Mental health	Lack of digital experience	Drug misuse	Lack of job opportunities	Cultural/Social norms	Lack of education or skills	Lack of access to capital	Lack of entrepreneurship	Geographical Unemployment	Other: (please specify)
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2. What are the main problems and challenges preventing **young women** from sustainable and productive livelihoods in the community in which you live? Please select the following from most common to least common.

Skills Mismatch	Mental health	Lack of digital experience	Drug misuse	Lack of job opportunities	Cultural/Social norms	Lack of education or skills	Lack of access to capital	Lack of entrepreneurship	Geographical Unemployment	Other: (please specify)
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3. What do you think **young men** spend their time on? Please select the following from most common to least common.

Community volunteering activities	Full-time job	School/education	Searching for job opportunities	Social media	Family-focused responsibilities	Social activities: spending time with friends, cafeteria, gym, etc.	Self-Development/learning
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4. What do you think **young women** spend their time on? Please select the following from most common to least common.

Community volunteering activities	Full-time job	School/education	Searching for job opportunities	Social media	Family-focused responsibilities	Social activities: spending time with friends, cafeteria, gym, etc.	Self-Development/learning
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5. Do you think **young men** are prevented from active political and social participation in their community?

All the time	Most of the time	Somewhat	Not that much	Not at all
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6. Do you think **young women** are prevented from active political and social participation in their community?

All the time	Most of the time	Somewhat	Not that much	Not at all
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7. To what extent have young women received specific support to ensure they have an active decision-making role in politics, at home, and in the community?

All the time	Most of the time	Somewhat	Not that much	Not at all
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8. Do you think the role and responsibility expected of women, men, boys, girls are equally shared in the labour market in your society?

No	Somewhat	Yes
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9. Who is responsible for constructing these roles in society? Please select the following from most common to least common.

Society/ Social norms	Head of Household	Religion / Religious leader	Government	Tribal Leaders	Other (please specify):
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10. Who do young people go to voice their grievances and solve disputes and problems?

The press/social media	Political Figures	Civil society organizations	Tribal Leaders	The Court	Head of Household	Other (please specify):
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11. What are the common types of **violence men** face in your community?

Cyber abuse/ Bullying	Psychological Violence (neglect, verbal abuse, emotional)	Financial Abuse (lack of resource allocation, not allowed to be employed, salary seizing, etc.)	Physical Violence (domestic fights, gun abuse, forced labor, street gangs, etc.)	Sexual Violence (Early/Forced marriage, Rape, Harassment, etc.)	Other (please specify):
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12. What are the common types of **violence women** face in your community?

Cyber abuse/ Bullying	Psychological Violence (neglect, verbal abuse, emotional)	Financial Abuse (lack of resource allocation, not allowed to be employed, salary seizing, etc.)	Physical Violence (domestic flights, gun abuse, forced labor, street gangs, etc.)	Sexual Violence (Early/Forced marriage, Rape, Harassment, etc.)	Other (please specify):
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13. Does your community allow for men and women to access livelihood resources and services equality?

All the time	Most of the time	Somewhat	Not that much	Not at all
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14. What is the biggest risk in your community that **women face** when trying to build a sustainable livelihood? Please select the following from most common to least common.

Drug misuse	Mental health risks	Early/ Forced marriage	Gun violence	Lack of independence	Unemployment	Discrimination	Violence/ GBV	Lack of trust and Respect	Illegal migration
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15. What is the biggest risk in your community that **men face** when trying to build a sustainable livelihood? Please select the following from most common to least common.

Drug misuse	Mental health risks	Early/ Forced marriage	Gun violence	Lack of independence	Unemployment	Discrimination	Violence/ GBV	Lack of trust and Respect	Illegal migration
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16. Is access to public services available to both men and women and classes without discrimination?

All the time	Most of the time	Somewhat	Not that much	Not at all
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17. Do tribal affiliations and groups affect political decisions made by officials in your community?

All the time	Most of the time	Somewhat	Not that much	Not at all
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18. Who's the main decision-maker in most families in your community?

Father	Mother	Tribal leader	Each member is their own decision-maker	Others (please specify):
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19. What percentage of leadership and senior positions are represented by women in your community?

100%	75%	50%	25%	0%
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20. Do women in leadership positions positively impact gender equality in the community?

All the time	Most of the time	Somewhat	Not that much	Not at all
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21. Have you ever faced barriers or obstacles in achieving your goals?

No	Yes
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22. If yes, what types of barriers?

Cultural barriers	Political barriers	Religious barriers	Occupational barriers	Gender barriers	Health barriers
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23. What causes people hesitation, fear, and anxiety in the society in which they live? Please select the following from most common to least common.

Honor based violence	Unemployment	Gun ownership	Lack of decision making opportunities	High crime rate	High drug addiction rate	Tribal Conflict	Political conflict
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24. Are there events, programs, and activities for you to participate in, in your community?

No	Somewhat	Yes
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25. Are there obstacles that limit your participation in such activities?

No	Somewhat	Yes
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26. What are the obstacles?

Financial obstacles	Gender obstacles	Family obstacles	Religious obstacles	Political obstacles	Social obstacles
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27. What divides people in your community most? Please select the following from most common to least common.

Political affiliations	Ethnic differences	Honor based violence	Unemployment	Gun ownership	Illegal migration	High rate of crime	High rate of drug addiction	Tribal Conflict	Political conflict
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28. What connects people in your community the most? Please select the following from most common to least common.

Local dialect	Religion	Common food and music	Inter-ethnic marriages	Politics	Female Leadership
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