This project, funded by Nadia’s Initiative, financially supported by the Government of Taiwan, and implemented by Dorcas Aid International (Dorcas), aimed at enabling farmers to grow food and sustain their livelihoods, by providing them with the necessary assets and knowledge. A second component of the project ensured access to water for irrigation for several households and agricultural businesses in four villages. In addition, electricity was provided for several households and a school. The ultimate aim is to ensure access to food and water and to restore livelihoods of the targeted beneficiaries.
Dorcas is a humanitarian aid organization working in Iraq since 2014, addressing emergency situations and enabling relief. In this project, Dorcas aimed at growing individual and community resilience by facilitating the restoration of livelihoods lost during the war against ISIL. All beneficiaries of this project are displaced people who had the courage to return home.

Nadia’s Initiative works to support the 400,000 Yazidis displaced during the 2014-2017 war against ISIL. Nadia’s Initiative aims to rebuild lives in the Yazidis’ ancestral homeland of Sinjar through the provision of basic services and resources.

This project set up a holistic chain including the following aspects: (1) selection of beneficiaries according to predetermined standards, decided upon with great involvement of the community and other stakeholders, (2) the preparation of the land, (3) fixing the boreholes and preparing the irrigation systems, (4) the distribution of agricultural inputs for both irrigated and rain-fed farms, and (5) training on irrigated farming and rain-fed farming.
The ultimate aim of the project was to rebuild livelihoods and enable returns to the Sinjar district. This support was provided in four ways: (1) planting a new electricity transformer and fixing broken boreholes/wells used for irrigation, (2) provision of rain-fed agricultural inputs, mainly for wheat and barley crops (this include seeds, fertilizers, and cash for land preparation), (3) the provision of irrigated agricultural inputs, mainly vegetable seeds, fertilizers, cash for land preparation, and necessary tools, such as an Irrigation system for 2 donums (5000)m\(^2\) and three 5000L water tanks per farm, and (4) tailored training to enhance efficient production and marketing of produced goods.

30 farmers were supported with agricultural inputs, and trained on efficient farming in a training tailored to their needs. 30 farmers were supported through the rehabilitation of damaged water irrigation systems.

People in Zarafki village were provided with electricity by renewing the village electricity transformer. This resulted in a number of households having renewed access to electricity, farms using the electricity to operate water boreholes and the village school being able to provide increased comfort and safety to its 400 students.
Sustainability & Accountability:

In all programs, Dorcas attempts to ensure sustainability of the intervention and accountability towards the target population. In this project, Dorcas engaged with the community at a very early stage, involving community representatives and stakeholders in the selection of beneficiaries and design of project steps. This does not only grant ownership of the development to the community itself; it also guarantees project results that are supported by the greater part of the affected community, resulting in impact that is more likely to last.

Dorcas, throughout the project, has held good contacts with various stakeholders, such as the donors, the government, the cluster and other NGOs. This to ensure the utility of the intervention and avoid duplication. It further supports the cycle of information and continuous learning for Dorcas and all partners.

Word of thanks:

Dorcas would like to express its gratitude towards our partner Nadia’s Initiative for supporting Dorcas’ work and values and for the sincere cooperation. Dorcas would like to thank the Government and people of Taiwan for facilitating this change. Last, we thank our partners for working, thinking and engaging with us.