

KR-UK-IMPAKT

Annual Trustees' Report for 2023

We made good progress in 2023 and stood on the brink of having the project that we had worked on for so long finally start.

Given the geographical spread of the trustees and busy working lives, the organization met virtually and regularly to coordinate work.

The focus of the organization was:

- To arrange the delivery of training in Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) to 30 Iraqi Kurds a year ideally for five years by:
 - Talking to CBT training providers in UK
 - Talking to training deliverers in KRI
 - Socializing the concept in Kurdish society
 - Finding donors
 - Project management
- Confirming the principles of work and structure of the organization
 - Pro bono principle
 - We maintained a website to consolidate identity and for basic promotional and advocacy purposes and in the latter stages of the year upgraded it.
 - Organizational capability. We assessed continually the membership and capability to carry out agreed tasks.
 - We held an AGM on 24th November. Minutes filed separately. Four trustees were re-elected and an additional trustee was added.
- Searching for CBT delivery partners in UK
 - After extensive discussions and research, the group signed a contract with the Oxford Cognitive Therapy Centre (OCTC), which sits between the University and the Oxford Trust of the National Health Service.
 - One Trustee and an adviser briefed OCTC on Kurdish cultural issues that may surface during training and CBT delivery.

- Discussing potential delivery and cultural obstacles with OCTC and refining and honing the offering.
 - Agreed a reasonable and potentially achievable budget for presentation to donors.
- Finding suitable training partner in KRI
 - After extensive discussions with several stakeholders in KRI and several online and face-to-face meetings, we decided that the European Training and Technology Centre (ETTC) would be our partner of choice.
 - We coordinated the agreement of a budget with ETTC to work with OCTC, and clarified modalities between the two organizations.
- Socializing the concepts of MH and CBT
 - Systematic discussions with stakeholders in KRI through academics, students, practitioners and government officials
 - Discussions while in KRI on other work or family business with leaders within government and society.
- Finding a donor
 - After extensive and ultimately unsuccessful contact with KRG, we found a private, discrete but highly reputable donor who agreed 100% financing for two years (circa \$400,000)
- Project management
 - From an original candidate list of 90 applicants for the course, one Trustee with a lot of professional experience played a major role in sifting the candidates down to 40. OCTC interviewed 40 and selected 30.
 - We had extensive discussions with OCTC, ETTC and the donor's representatives around the administrative arrangements to make the project work.
 - We set up a bank account and signed contracts with the donor and with OCTC in order to channel funds from one to the other.

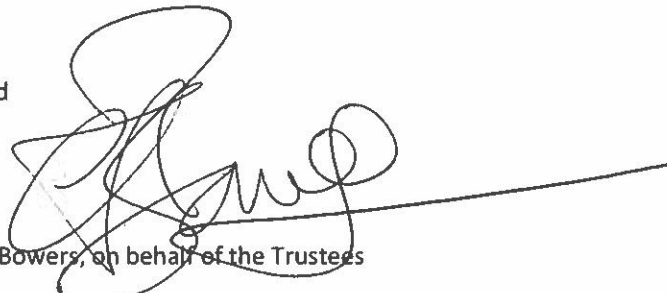
Conclusion

By the end of 2023 we had a strong UK team, strong collaboration with primary partners (OCTC, ETTC and the donor) and a clear, communicable project, with a relatively modest budget and, after a delay caused by administrative complications, a start-date in January 2024 – a significant success.

The goals for 2024 are to:

- Continue project management support to ensure its smooth running.
- Start monitoring/evaluating the project.
- Launch and promote the project to increase social support.
- Continue fund-raising efforts.
- Consider replication in other parts of the Middle East.

Signed



Chris Bowers, on behalf of the Trustees

28th November 2023

