



Iraqi Children
Foundation

2016 Annual Report



*Intervening With Love and Hope in the
Lives of Orphans and At Risk Iraqi Children*

Lovingly dedicated to children like these...

Noor, a 13-year old Iraqi orphan girl living in Baghdad, narrowly escaped early marriage. After her parents died in a terrorist bombing, she and 3 brothers went to live with a desperately poor aunt. While begging on the street with her brothers, Noor was arrested for vagrancy and spent 3 months in a reformatory. Her aunt, desperate for financial support, decided to marry young Noor off to an older man for the financial resources that would come with a dowry. ICF-supported street lawyers and social workers were alerted to the plans for the 13-year old's marriage and intervened. They bargained with the aunt to stop the marriage by offering to help Noor and the family set up a small clothing shop to generate income. Outcome? Noor remains free as a child, and no longer has to beg on the streets with her brothers.*

**Name changed for privacy*

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016

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FINANCIALS AND LEADERSHIP

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The Street Lawyers of Baghdad....

In 2016, ICF launched its first “street lawyers” project. The project focuses on three key interventions to give hope and love to the most vulnerable Iraqi children:

- 1) **Securing missing legal documents:** Street lawyers help children get important legal documents required to enroll in school and receive government financial benefits. In 2016, street lawyers helped 181 children – from babies to teens – get missing legal documents. Of those children, 41 of school age started school.
- 2) **Legal protection and defense:** Children begging on the streets or arrested on suspicion of a crime need competent representation. Timely representation can secure a child’s release to his/her family, a clearing of charges for the innocent, and representation at court of those caught in the juvenile justice system. In 2016, 121 children were represented by street lawyers for such charges as begging, vagrancy, drugs, and theft.
- 3) **Preventing Exploitation:** Preventing children from being exploited and recruited by criminals, traffickers, and extremists is critical. In 2016, the street lawyers held special awareness sessions to



Street Lawyers to the Rescue:

- *A teenage boy, who lost his father to a suicide bombing, was arrested for stealing a motorcycle he used to deliver food to support his widowed mother and brothers. The street lawyers defended him, produced evidence the bike was stolen by someone else, and got the boy released to return home.*
- *Two orphan boys (6 and 7), who were being exploited by a relative to beg on the street, were picked up by police. Our team came to the rescue and arranged for them to live with another relative in safety.*

The Street Lawyers of Baghdad (continued)

teach 325 boys and girls to recognize these dangers (e.g. offers of pay from strangers to deliver threatening letters or bags that might include explosives) and to avoid illegal activity, such as drugs, begging, carrying a knife, or working at a nightclub. Street lawyers also recruited and trained 25 local neighborhood leaders to serve as “Child Protection Units” and set up a “hotline.”



Social Services for Vulnerable Children

Delivering legal services is not ICF's only intervention on behalf of vulnerable children. The team also intervenes with love and hope to help vulnerable children - orphans, street kids, and children displaced by violence - get life changing social services. In 2016:

- 161 children received social services, such as medical care, family mediation to curb domestic abuse, help to stop working, and other services. One girl – 13 years old – who worked collecting cans from the trash was sick with typhoid so the team got her medical care. A boy (10), who sold water bottles on the street, suffered from domestic violence by his father so the team intervened to seek an end to the abuse.
- 52 boys and girls received gifts of winter clothes.



- 7 small grants to fund home-based income projects – supporting 32 children – were launched to help end child labor by providing an alternative source of income. Most involved setting up a small shop.

Meals, Medical Care, and Dolls for Children and Families Fleeing ISIS

Since 2014, more than 3 million Iraqis – children and families – were displaced from their homes. An estimated 1.3 million of them are children who lost their homes and schools and, for some, lost parents or family members. In 2016, ICF continued to provide humanitarian aid for children and families in 2016, working with partners to meet needs.



In November, ICF joined the Iraq Health Access Organization and the U.S.-based charity Preemptive Love Coalition to open a tent clinic in Tikrit with pediatric care for children in families displaced by ISIS. By year's end, the clinic had already cared for an estimated 1,000 children.



As children and families fled violence in the Mosul corridor, ICF also funded 1,000 meal packages.

Beyond food and medical care, ICF provided Fulla dolls to bring smiles to little girls who have suffered so much. Fulla dolls went to Fallujah after it was recaptured from ISIS and to other towns.



Saluting ICF's Corporate Mentors

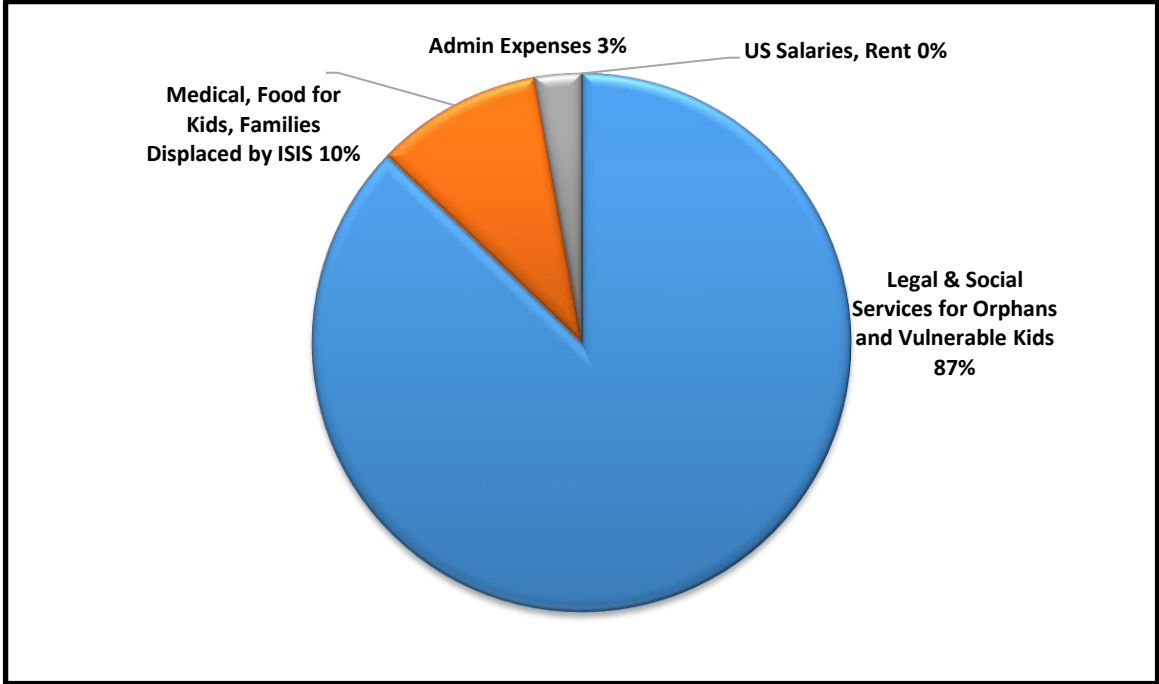
ICF recognizes with gratitude the “Corporate Mentors” who stepped up in 2016 to support Iraq’s most vulnerable children. Corporate Mentors provide significant resources to support ICF initiatives for children in Iraq. Many served as sponsors of ICF’s annual IN THEIR SHOES 5K in the Washington DC area. One hundred percent of Corporate Mentor gifts go directly to projects in Iraq, not US-based overhead. ICF gratefully recognizes the generosity of one generous unnamed company along with the following businesses:



Financial Accountability

ICF expenditures in 2016: \$126,500

Where did your donor dollars go?



In 2016, ICF was ranked “Gold” (right) for commitment to transparency and accountability. Guidestar USA, Inc. (www.guidestar.org) is a widely used source of nonprofit information.



IRAQI CHILDREN FOUNDATION

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The Iraqi Children Foundation gratefully recognizes the many donors and partners who have given generously of their resources and time to help Iraq's most vulnerable children – the orphans, street kids, and children displaced by violence. You are changing the lives of desperately poor and vulnerable children who have suffered so much. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts on behalf of these children.

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The Iraqi Children Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN 26-1394773). All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. A financial statement is available upon written request from the Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs.