



*Never Forgotten:
Iraq's Most Vulnerable,
Voiceless Children*

Our 2014 Story



Lovingly Dedicated to Children like these...

Four siblings - three brothers and one sister – were living in extreme poverty in a community for internally displaced people. Because their father was disabled, the children worked on the streets selling sweets and tissues to help support the family. One day, one of the brothers started coming to a center ICF supports that provides tutoring, healthy meals, and lots of loving care. A month later, another brother began coming to the center too. Soon all four of them wanted to come to the center, but that would mean they couldn't earn money for food, family necessities, and medicine for their father. So the four children decided to divide up their time: two would go to work and two would go to the center. Every two days, they would exchange places. Each of the four could not enjoy a full childhood, but working together, they were able to share a childhood. For these children and so many others who deserve the joys and experiences of normal childhood, we dedicate this report and all our efforts.



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Investing in the Lives of Vulnerable Orphans and Street Children

Thousands of orphans and street children, many displaced by years of war, now live in destitute neighborhoods with inadequate shelter, lack of sanitation, and other necessities. Too many have also experienced trauma from witnessing death of a parent or been exposed to physical and sexual abuse. Too many children work on the streets or in dangerous workplaces to support a widowed mother or relatives.



For the third year, ICF provided support for children like these at a safe haven run by a respected Iraqi NGO, Human Rights Defenders. During the year:

- 107 children (regular/part-time) were tutored and cared for
- 31,450 nutritious meals were served
- 82 children received medical care
- 15 kids stopped working/begging, others reduced their work
- 28 cases of domestic violence were addressed
- 18 children received legal help with family court or documents

Children were also taught important life lessons like feeling empathy for others, learning to share, working together despite differences, staying safe from accidents when on the streets, avoiding drugs, and learning to love others in the community and the world.



Food Baskets Show Love to Families of Orphans and Street Children at Ramadan

ICF, in partnership with two highly respected Iraqi NGOs (IHAO and HRD), provided 180 special food packages during Ramadan. The food was provided to homes of destitute children who are cared for at the center for orphans and street children in Baghdad as well as the families of more than 100 widows. Some of the widows are receiving training through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to start income generating projects to care for their children.

Not only is the gift of food a demonstration of love and compassion for these desperately poor children and widowed mothers, it also addresses malnutrition which has been identified by UNICEF and other experts as a serious risk for many children in Iraq today.



Emergency Aid to Children and Families Fleeing ISIS

ICF and the Preemptive Love Coalition (PLC) jointly partnered with the Iraq Health Aid Organization (IHAO) to provide more than \$20,000 of emergency humanitarian aid to children and families who fled from violence to Baghdad. IHAO's director and staff moved quickly to deliver milk to babies and toddlers, food to children and families, blankets, heaters, and more. More than 800 got desperately needed help.

IHAO also engaged young Iraqi doctors to accompany them and provide health care. In the process, they discovered a young boy who needed heart surgery. IHAO and PLC took action to get the boy to pediatric cardiac surgeons visiting Iraq and he sailed through surgery with flying colors.





They called them “Angels of Mercy” – US students fund Christmas gift of warm winter clothes for Iraqi kids

In one of the largest gifts ever received by the Iraqi Children Foundation, \$19,518.44 was received from the K-8 students at Lighthouse Christian School in Gig Harbor, Washington. Ann Webb, a teacher at LCS, challenged the students not to simply ask for donations but to earn them by doing chores or giving up a gift themselves.



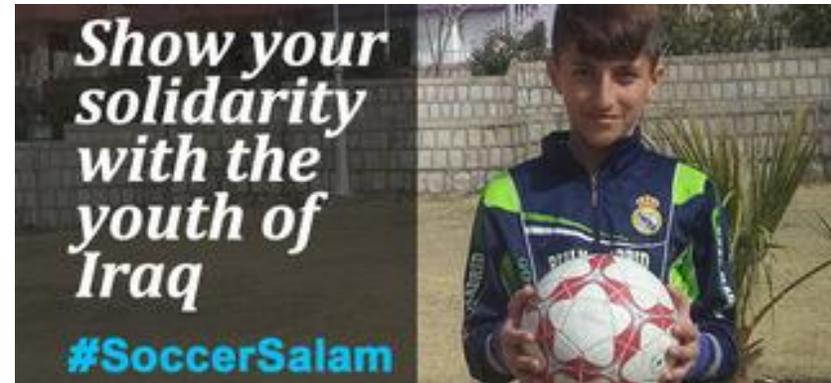
The funds raised provided 160 desperately poor orphans and street kids with winter outfits. Outfits included items like jackets, pants, sweaters, and new shoes. More than 400 others – including children who fled with their families from ISIS - got brand new winter jackets, putting a smile on their faces.



Soccer Salam: ICF Partners with 3 Charities to Mobilize Emergency Airlift for Children and Families Fleeing ISIS in Iraq

In December, ICF and 3 other US-based charities, founded by veterans of Desert Storm and the Iraq War, launched an initiative to mobilize emergency aid for Iraqi families fleeing ISIS and to deliver soccer balls to children who deserve a chance to play. “Soccer Salam” kicked off with a social media “Thunderclap” on Facebook, Twitter, and Tumblr that reached over 330,000 people online.

The social media campaign encouraged Americans to send messages of support to the youth of Iraq who face extraordinary hardships in the wake of ISIS’ advance.



The mobilization of humanitarian aid led to the December 19th airlift of 5 tons of warm winter supplies and soccer balls. Emirates Airlines provided transport to Dubai at no cost, and Iraqi Airways ferried the supplies the last leg of the trip to Baghdad.

ICF was honored to partner in this venture with the Education for Peace in Iraq Center (EPIC), Karadah Project International, and Goals and Dreams. ICF expresses deep appreciation to the MBC Heritage of Islam Trust, the Khudairi Group, Lake Oswego Rotary, and DynCorp International for their generous financial donations to support this airlift, and to Boeing, Emirates Airlines, Iraqi Airways, and Another Joy Foundation for all the flight and logistical support.





How do we love Iraqi Children? Count these ways!

A 5K, A Wedding Party, A High School Homecoming, and an Art Gallery Show

In May, ICF hosted its second annual “IN THEIR SHOES” 5K, a springtime run/walk to benefit Iraqi orphans and street children. ICF was honored to have His Excellency Lukman Faily, Ambassador of Iraq to the United States, as a special distinguished runner. The event raised more than \$32,000 and brought together Americans who served in Iraq, Gold Star Mothers and family of fallen soldiers, distinguished members of the Iraqi-American community, and others.

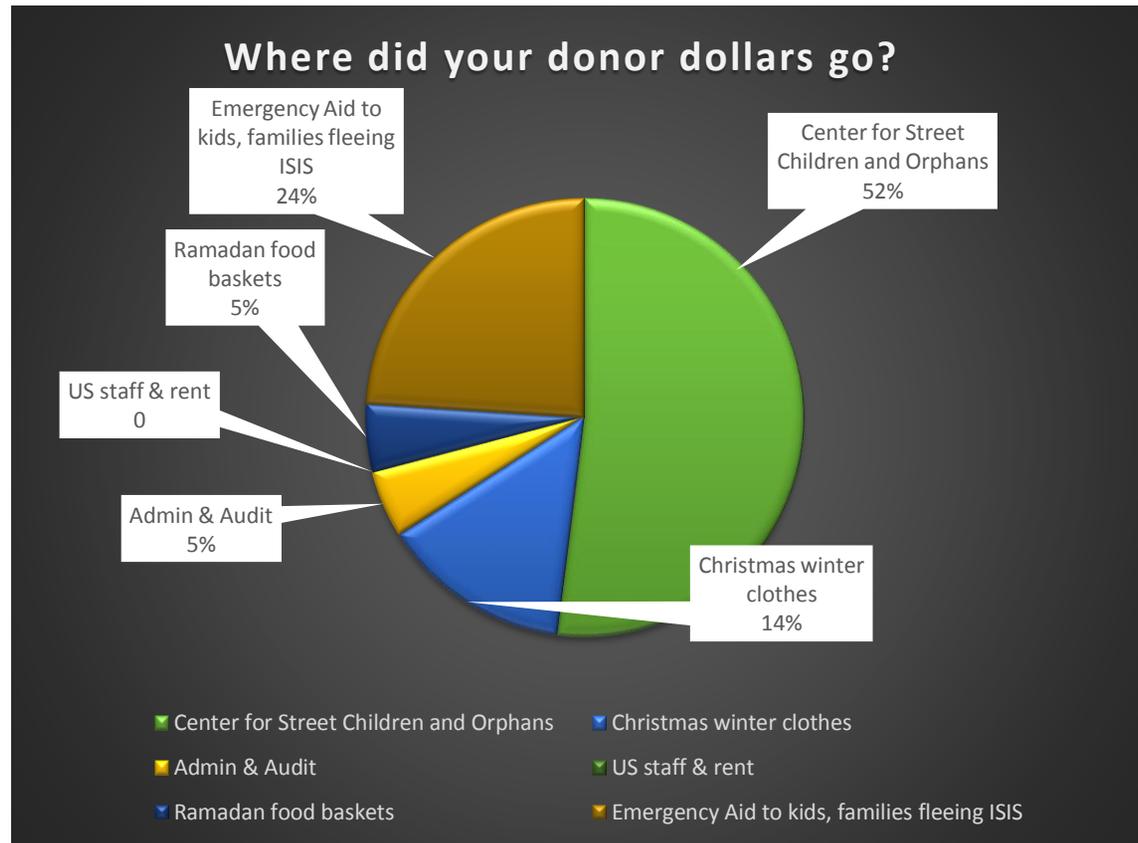


Later in the year, students at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, VA (bottom left) raised \$2,274 for Iraqi children. And in honor of the guests at their wedding, Ali Allawi and his wife Shirin donated \$2,000 to the children of Iraq (bottom right). Nawara Omary, owner of Dara Global Arts Gallery in Vienna, VA, hosted a weekend art show that raised more than \$800 (below center).



Financial Accountability

In 2014, ICF raised \$138,689, an 18% increase over 2013. ICF's 2014 spending was allocated as shown in the chart below:



ICF also gratefully recognizes thousands of dollars of “in-kind” services including advertising in *Iraq Business News*, conference room space, website, and other services. In 2014, ICF received the Gold Guidestar Exchange Seal (at right), the top ranking for transparency and accountability under Guidestar USA, Inc. (www.guidestar.org). Guidestar USA, Inc. is a premier source of nonprofit information. In addition to Guidestar, please visit our website www.sicfiraq.org for more information on our work with orphans and other vulnerable children in Iraq.



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The Iraqi Children Foundation gratefully recognizes the many donors and partners who have given generously of their funds and time to help the orphans, street children, and those 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. We wish to thank:

Khudairi Group
BH Defense
The Children's Village
MBC Heritage of Islam Trust
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Education for Peace in Iraq Center
Karadah Project
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Iraq Business News

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