From our Hearts to the Children of Iraq

Mobilizing a Surge of Love for Iraqi Orphans and Street Children

2012 Annual Report
OUR MISSION

To assist the families and communities of Iraq by mobilizing a life-changing Surge of Love for children orphaned by violence in Iraq.

We are committed to doing this under the leadership of the Iraqi people by—

- Serving as a catalyst to mobilize US and international partners
- Investing in training and capacity building of Iraq’s non-governmental and community organizations
- Emphasizing direct assistance for hand up, not hand out, projects

THE URGENT NEEDS OF ORPHANS AND STREET CHILDREN IN IRAQ

According to a December 2012 UNICEF report, there are approximately 800,000 orphans in Iraq today. Thousands more desperately poor children are on the streets, many of them orphans who sell water or other items to help widowed mothers and extended family with whom they live. These orphaned and street children are dangerously vulnerable to recruitment and exploitation by criminals or terrorists, physical abuse, human trafficking, and arrest.

This serious humanitarian crisis poses a threat to the future security and stability of Iraq. Unless effective action is taken in the next five to ten years, many orphans and street children will reach adulthood without help for the trauma and suffering they have experienced.

SICF co-founders, who were living and working in Iraq in 2007, recognized this emerging crisis and launched a people-to-people response with food, clothing, blankets, medical supplies, and other necessities for these children.

Today, SICF is a US-based, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charity (tax ID 26-1394773) with a strong commitment to helping Iraqi families and communities care for Iraq’s next generation. The compassionate giving of hundreds of donors makes possible this “surge of love” for the extremely vulnerable orphans and street children of Iraq. Read more of our story at www.sicfiraq.org
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012

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A Safe Haven for Street Children and Orphans
*Keeping the doors open for 93 extremely vulnerable orphans and other street children*

In November 2012, SICF completed its first year of support for a center for orphans and street children in Iraq. During the year, the center increased regular attendance from 40 children to 60, with a total of 93 children being served over the year. The children were tutored in math, reading, writing, and science, and taught valuable lessons in life skills like first aid, personal hygiene, teamwork, honesty, and democracy. They were able to play and enjoy music, art, and theater. Social workers visited the desperately poor homes where they lived and addressed emotional needs as well as issues of violence and abuse.

Over the course of the year, approximately 24,000 healthy meals were served, 58 children received medical services, 23 children were able to stop working and of those who continued to work they were able to reduce working by 50 percent. At the end of 2012, SICF renewed its funding commitment to the center for another year and began to explore options for increasing these kinds of services for children who are at great risk.
Caring for Children with Trauma

Equipping Iraqis in government and NGOs with creative skills to care for children with trauma

What does a nation do when it has so many traumatized orphans and street children after years of terrorism and violence and not enough trained social workers to lend a helping hand? Far too many children have not only lost a parent in bombings or other acts of violence, but have had the horrific experience of seeing a parent or relative killed in front of their eyes.

To address this pressing need, SICF led a team of experts from the award-winning Children’s Village (CV) of New York to Baghdad to deliver a 5-day workshop for leaders of facilities and community groups that help orphans and street children. The curriculum emphasized the phases of child development, the needs of children at each stage, and how trauma affects them. It also focused on building the skills of Iraqi social workers and caregivers in addressing the needs of traumatized children, concluding with a the delivery of a “toolkit” to address trauma – a Lifebook for orphans to restore their sense of belonging by writing their own stories, a “New Day, New Friends” storybook for discussing 7 strengths that build resilience in the face of trauma (e.g. hope and belonging), a “care bear” to encourage adult caregivers to listen to children, and exercises for families.

Trainees included key staff of Iraq’s Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) and several NGOs working with orphanages, institutions for special needs, and other facilities to help orphaned and street children. Deputy Minister of MOLSA Dara Hassan Reshid (right) delivered opening remarks the first day and returned to award graduation certificates on the final day. Director of MOLSA’s Child Welfare Commission Dr. Abeer Chalaby and the Director of Training at MOLSA Nadira Fathi also participated. A UNICEF representative also attended one day as an observer.
Raising Awareness and Mobilizing Resources
*Telling Americans the story of Iraq’s children after years of war*

In furtherance of SICF’s mission to serve as a catalyst to mobilize US and international partners, SICF Chairman Jonathan Webb penned an op-ed for the January 4, 2012, issue of *Seattle Times* to tell the story of Iraq’s orphans and mobilize action. Among those responding was a junior high school student from the Seattle Girls School who organized a 5K fun run to raise funds for Iraqi orphans. The event raised approximately $2,000 for kids in Iraq.

In the Washington, DC area, SICF hosted a reception and silent auction which included framed drawings and beaded jewelry made by children at the center for street children and orphans in Iraq. All funds raised went to support loving care for these desperately poor and vulnerable children.
2012 Financial Summary

Total SICF revenue in 2012 was $77,233, a 34 percent increase in revenue over 2011. Total expenditures were $86,583, allocated as outlined in the table below. SICF finished 2012 with $10,262 in assets, reserved primarily for supporting the safe haven for street children and orphans.

Where do our donor dollars go?

- Center for Street Children and Orphans: 75%
- Training Iraqis in care for children with trauma: 23%
- Admin: 2%
- US staff & rent: 0%

In 2012, SICF received the Guidestar Exchange Seal (at right), a leading symbol of transparency and accountability provided by 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 street children in Iraq. A financial statement is available upon written request from the Office of Consumer Affairs of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
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The Sponsor Iraqi Children Foundation gratefully recognizes the many donors who have given generously to help the orphans and street children of Iraq. 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.

To donate, scan the QR code above.

Sponsor Iraqi Children Foundation
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The Sponsor 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.