LIFE for Relief & Developments' Activities

Life for Relief & Development
Iraq – Baghdad
E-mail: lifeiraq97@yahoo.com
Phone: 0096415567597
LIFE for Relief & Developments' Activities

Preface

LIFE for Relief & Development is a non profit, non government organization exempted from taxes, both in the US and Canada. The organization was established in 1993 by expatriate Iraqis; its main office is in Michigan, USA and its’ branch is in Alberta, Canada. Life maintains operational branches in all of Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Pakistan, Sirloin and Algeria. The organization’s major work is in Iraq as it owns six offices in different governorates in addition to the independent Canadian branch office in Baghdad. The organization in both its Canadian and American branches is registered with the Ministry of Planning.

LIFE has cooperated with many local and international organizations such as UNICEF, UNDP, Brothers for Brothers Establishment, Veterans for Peace Society, America’s Friends Society for Services, Healing Program Establishment, Americare Establishment, International Aids Establishment and International Care Organization.

Since its establishment, the organization has offered many services to the Iraqis; the following are some of its most important accomplishments since 2004.

Health Care

Life has delivered more than 15 containers of crucial medical supplies (first aid kits) and distributed them to all hospitals in the country; in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. The most recent of this, was the four medical containers that have been transferred to Najaf.

The organization retains three health clinics in Baghdad, Basra, Miqdadiyia, which provide services for economical prices. The organization supervises their maintenance and provides for their needs, there is also a fourth center in the process of rehabilitation in Jurf Al Sakhar in Museiab.

Life hosted the largest medical conference held in Iraq Basra, in coordination with the Iraqi Unified Medical Society backed by the RTI. Nearly 170 doctors’ and specialists in the medical sector attended from all governorates of Iraq. The two day conference came up with important suggestions and addressed them to the concerned Ministries for revision and implementation. The events of this have been published in both Arabic and English.
The organization also distributed the following medical items in 2005:

1- Medical magazines to medical colleges and the main general hospitals in all governorates (29 scientific institutions) from the 2/1/2005 till 15/5/2005.
2- Distributing medical necessities from the (world church council) up to date, medical necessities have been distributed to 23 main hospitals in different governorates.
3- Putting in place the distribution plan of the Americare medical shipment for six beneficiaries; two have been distributed so far.
4- Donating medical necessities to Ibn Al Atheer maternity hospital, Al Khansaa maternity hospital, Mosil general hospital and Jumhoori hospital in Nainawa governorate.
5- Donating medical necessities to Duhook general hospital.
6- Donating medical necessities to the health center in Tholoyia district in Salah Al Deen governorate.
7- Donating medical necessities to the Knowledge for Iraqi women society in Baghdad.
8- Donating four chairs to patients in addition to medical necessities in Jurfi Al Sakher medical center.
9- Donating medical necessities to the health center in Al Khaldiyia.

LIFE is currently working on the expanding the Basra health center in a hospital.

**Education Sector**

The organization has rehabilitated 5 schools in Misan completely from structure to furniture. The organization also held workshops to develop and enhance the abilities of the educational staff of these schools, the workshop which continued for three days gained the appreciation of the attending teachers, which were more than 70 teachers and directors. Life is currently rehabilitating the institute of training teachers in Baghdad till the release of this publication. The institute, which is a part of the Ministry of Education, develops the abilities of the educational committee from teachers, directors and inspectors.

Life brought 6 trucks of books and modern unused medical supplies that are worth 5 million dollars. These books have been distributed to 47 medical colleges and hospitals in all governorates of the country. This unique distribution was done in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

The organizations brought 3 trucks of recent medical books; one truck worth of supplies has been distributed to the universities of the country. Work is still underway to take inventory of
the contents of the two last trucks which will be distributed in coordination with the Ministry of Education.

Life has run a full survey of the schools in Misan and Fallujah; the results were submitted to the Ministry of Education and relief organizations working in the country. These surveys have been divided into two; general & detailed architectural surveys prepared for use in structural rehabilitation. LIFE is currently working in coordination with the Ministry of Education to provision ministry schools with nine libraries divided as follows;

- 3 in the northern governorates
- 3 in the middle governorates
- 3 in the southern governorates

The organization donated 10 cartons of books to the school for the talented and is in the process of rehabilitating the educational training and development workshop in Hay Al Adel/Baghdad/second phase.

---

**Working With the Handicapped Sector**

Life undergoes distinguished work with the handicapped sector from a long time; however this year has been clearly distinctive as the Hamza center for handicaps (previously Ikrima center) was completely rehabilitated in Baghdad by Life Canada, while Life USA equipped them with four training workshops (computers, sewing and ceramics painting) for the center.

Life also distributed more than 2000 wheelchairs to the handicapped; the distribution covered all governorates of the country. Life is anticipating the arrival of more wheelchairs to distribute them among the rest of the injured individuals. In addition to this, hundreds of crutches and walkers were also distributed to other handicaps.

Life USA in coordination with Life Canada organized and supported the International Handicapped Day conference the purpose of this conference was to come up with recommendations and suggestions to the concerned ministries in regard to this large but neglected layer of society.

In coordination with the ministry of health, department of medical operations; the first national symposium about the rehabilitation and caring for handicaps in Iraq.

LIFE has also distributed chairs and crutches in 2005;

1- Distributing a number of electrical wheelchairs among the severe handicaps.
2- Distributing a group of wheelchairs to Ibn Al Qiff hospital for spinal injuries.
3- Donating 200 pairs of crutches in addition to 40 wheelchairs for handicaps in Diyala and Basra governorates.
4- Donating 200 pairs of crutches in addition to 37 wheel chairs in Najaf governorate.
5- Donating 200 crutches in addition to 21 wheel chairs to the handicap in Kirkuk and Thloolyia district in Salah Al Deen.
6- Donating 20 wheel chairs to Roosh organization in Sulaimanyia governorate.
7- Donating 49 wheel chairs to Afkar society for relief and development.
8- Donating medical necessities with 50 crutches and 50 wheel chairs to Aamiriyiat Al Fallujah hospital.

Caring for Iraqi women

Life has assisted many recent Iraqi women’s organizations by supplying them with office supplies and providing for their needs. The organization also held five preparatory and training courses for women activating their role in society. These courses were “Time Management for Mothers” which was two days long, “Activating women socially, politically and economically” three days long and “gender” which was four days long; In addition to civil society training courses in Fallujah and more recently women’s political participation and their role in the elections. Representatives of different women organizations and associations from all governorates of Iraq and Baghdad attended the courses. Life plans to have these workshops in all governorates of Iraq.

In coordination with Human Relief organization, a sewing workshop in Thloolyia district was launched in addition to a similar workshop in Khadraa area in Baghdad/ Karkh which was also launched in cooperation with Human Relief organization. LIFE also donated children's toys to knowledge for Iraqi women organization in Baghdad.
Caring for children & Orphans

Life sponsors more than 400 orphans in Baghdad and Diyala, this number is increasing to cover governorates. Sponsorship includes providing monthly food baskets to orphan families, supplying clothes four times a year in addition to covering health care when needed. Currently, 500 orphans are being processed for sponsorship.

The organization also held Eid Al Fitr and Adhaa celebrations for orphans and poor children in many of Iraq’s provinces and with an attendance of more than 3000 children; the children were given gifts, food and entertainment.

The organization completed a scientific study on street children with a documentary film on the phenomenon. Life along with other organizations and the Ministry of labor & social affairs are setting up a large conference to treat this phenomenon. Representatives from the concerned ministries and NGO’s working in this field will be invited to attend.

LIFE held cultural activities for orphans involving the following;
1- Launching art training courses for sponsored orphans for three weeks.
2- In light of the world orphan day, an art gallery was launched which displayed orphans children’s drawings the gallery also included an art celebration for the sponsored orphans. Gifts were dispersed among the children attendance.

Working with NGO’s

Life has worked in cooperation with NGO’s and new Iraqi associations. This coordination would manifest itself by allowing other organizations distribute medical supplies, books and nutritional items; or through training the members through conferences. Perhaps the workshop that Life had organized along with the NDI to train Fallujah’s NGO’s is the strongest indicator to this interest. As for relief projects, these have included office
necessities such as computers, Xerox machines, digital cameras, mobile phones or by paying office rentals as is the case with the Iraqi handicapped association.

From the list of activities with local NGOs, election awareness courses, the organization now has specialists in election monitors and surveyors.

**Adopting Iraqi Towns**

Life Canada had unique work in this field through adopting damaged Iraqi towns by other Canadian towns or cities. The earliest of this work was adopting Al Mishraq town in Basra by the Canadian city of Edmonton. Through a large fundraiser, funds were collected for the rehabilitation of fifty war damaged homes in addition to the children’s playground that was also constructed in this town. The mayor of Edmonton demonstrated keen interest in this project, and was a pioneer in financially aiding the plan. Canadian delegates visited this town and witnessed for themselves the exceptional work that had been done. Today, another Canadian city; Calgary is doing similar work to build Jurf Al Sakhar town. This adoption will include the construction of a medical facility, a middle school for girls and maybe developing and extending the water plant of this town. There are other towns for which the organization is working to find Canadian city donors. LIFE is currently in pursuit of launching a residential village for the IDPs in Diyala governorate.

**Rehabilitation of Water & Sewage Plants**

The organization has a long standing history in restoration of water treatment plants; it had rehabilitated ten plants in Basra, Diyala and Al Anbar. This year a sewage plant in Hay Al Jawadain in Baghdad was rehabilitated. The work on Al Risala water plant in Fallujah is nearly complete as well. Life plans to carry out more of this work in and is awaiting funds for more than one plant in different governorates.
Life has submitted a precise study on Basra water, in which more than a hundred samples of water have been tested from various parts of the governorate. The tests included samples from water treatment plants and commercial water plants.

The results of this study were presented to the Basra water and sewage directorate, as well as the UNICEF, and NGOs operating in this field.

During the course of 2005, LIFE has inspected and evaluated water in all water plants in Misan governorate in addition to rehabilitating three water plants in Qalat Saleh district/Missan governorate.

Furthermore, the expansion of a water plant project to operate at a quarter of a million gallons of water/day in Ali Alsharqi district/ Missan governorate.

LIFE will also construct a new water plant with a million gallons/day capacity in Missan governorate.

**Caring for the IDPs**

Life has opted from the early beginnings of this phenomenon, to offer assistance to the IDPs. Such as distributing Food, Health items, clothes, blankets and tents. The assistance has focused mostly on Diyala and Nainawa, for they hold the largest amounts of IDPs in them. Last month, more than 4000 bags of household health items were distributed among the poor and IDP families.

Perhaps the most important project that Life intends to have is the low cost village in Al miqdadiyia. The organization has conducted studies on different mud mixtures and discovered a method of enhancing its thickness and stabilizing cement and other ingredients on it. Life has submitted a plan of execution for this village and a piece of land has been allocated for the job. Life anticipates this village will be ideal and will set the standard for similar projects that will resolve the IDPs issue. The organization is waiting the official approval to turn the designated land to a residential area; Life was able to obtain half of the fund for this project and is seriously seeking to receive the rest of the amount.
Seasonal Projects

Life has made a tradition of providing nutritional assistance to poor families during the month of Ramadan and Eid Al adha in the form of Adhiya meat. The assistance has included more than 10000 families last Ramadan; this year were preparing to distribute 10000 food baskets for the holy month of Ramadan. Distributing this basket usually takes place in governorates that house offices of the organization in them; these are Baghdad, Mosil, Diyala, Ramadi, Najaf and Basra.

Emergency Cases

Life has not overlooked harsh crises that the different cities and governorates have gone through, such as Fallujah, Najaf and Karbala. Life had delivered food, medicine and water storages for these cities in the climax of their crises in spite of the dangerous situation. Life was able to obtain licenses for this, especially the recent events of Fallujah. The aid provided, reflected positively on the people of these cities especially the medical staff in hospitals when medicine was scarce.
LIFE has also upgraded two generators; capacity 650 kV and 1MVA; capacity both in the Aamiriyat Al Fallujah residential complex, LIFE also dispersed the following items:

1- Nutritional and household items in addition to heaters and clothes to the Fallujah IDP families.
2- Medicine and medical materials (hygiene kits) to the Fallujah IDP families.
3- Blankets to the Fallujah IDP families.
4- Distributing nutritional items in addition to medical necessities and heaters to the Qaem IDP families.
5- Donating nutritional items including cooking oil, dry milk and blankets to Abrar society.

**Caring for Youth**

Life pays special attention to this significant sector of Iraqi society; for they are the pioneers of the future. The most important project that Life had participated in was sponsoring the sports teams in more than one neighborhood. In addition to this, a truck load of clothes and athletic shoes were presented to the Iraqi Olympic committee. LIFE also oversaw the second soccer championship for youth in Hay Al Jawadian in Baghdad.

**Conclusion**

This was a summary of the organizations work in Iraq during this year, we pray that Allah will accept this exertion from the organization’s employees, and bless this effort bringing it nearer to perfection. After Allah, the tribute goes to the noble donors in the United States and Canada.
Life for Relief & Development
Iraq – Baghdad
E-mail: lifeiraq97@yahoo.com
Phone: 0096415567597