



CHALDEAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF ERBIL

CHRISTIAN IDPs IN IRAQ

QUARTERLY REPORT ON AID AND RECOVERY

JANUARY - MARCH 2016



MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP BASHAR M. WARDA, CSsR

On behalf of the Chaldean Catholic Archdiocese of Erbil, and all of our Brother Bishops and Christian religious leaders in Iraq, together with whom we seek to provide comfort and support to the thousands of displaced Christian families under our collective care, I am pleased to provide you with this Quarterly Report on Aid and Recovery.

It is our intention going forward to provide this report on a quarterly basis to all of our donors and supporters in order to provide updates on ongoing efforts to save the remaining Christians of Iraq. Included you will find information on recent project accomplishments, donors and funding, and upcoming calls to action. Additionally, in this first report we will be publishing a summary of the work done on behalf of IDPs dating back to August of 2014.

We hope that these quarterly reports will help keep you informed on both what has been done, and what remains for us to do.

In Christ,

**Bashar M Warda, CSsR
Chaldean Archbishop of Erbil**



A HISTORY TO DATE

In the late summer and fall of 2014, the wave of ISIS terror descended upon the city of Mosul and the towns of the Nineveh Plain. In the face of this horror, the thousands of Christian families, which had worshipped as Christians in the region since the first century, were forced to flee to the relative safety of Erbil and the Kurdistan Region. In nearly all cases, these families arrived in the Kurdistan Region with little more than the clothes they were wearing.

Facing an overwhelming refugee and IDP crisis, the government of the Kurdistan Region handed over care of all Christian refugees to the leadership group of the Christian churches of Northern Iraq. As the largest church within the greater Erbil urban area, the Kurdistan Regional Government placed administrative coordination of these efforts with the Chaldean Archdiocese of Erbil.

At the same time, international governmental aid continued to be funneled through a barely functioning central government in which funding for Northern Iraq failed to effectively reach the threatened Christian population. Thus began an unprecedented effort to save an entire displaced population with nearly non-existent international governmental help. Truly, without the private assistance of the groups recognized in this report, Christianity in Northern Iraq may well have perished in this past year and half.

In the following pages you will find some of the most important efforts and events which have taken place.



I. DESIGNATION OF GENOCIDE

On March 17th, 2016, the US State Department made an official finding of Genocide against the Christians of Iraq. This designation followed on a similar decision weeks earlier by the EU Parliament. Credit for this vital acknowledgement rests with a broad coalition of concerned citizens and organizations around the world. Here in Erbil the Archdiocese and its staff, together with the Catholic University in Erbil, worked closely with the

Knights of Columbus in preparing the groundbreaking legal brief which ultimately swayed the decision in the USA, an effort which involved thousands of hours of interviews and collecting of evidence of the horrors which have been inflicted upon the Christians of Iraq. Much work remains to be done if this designation is to have meaning, however, and we look forward to working with the many supporters of this effort in the years to come as we seek the reconciliation which awaits us still. In this effort many difficult questions remain without clear answers, and the continued support and guidance of the universal church and its friends will be called upon in even greater measure. The Catholic University in Erbil looks to play a central role in this effort and is actively seeking funding to sustain its ongoing research and evidentiary efforts.



II. FOOD AID

Addressing the need to feed the IDP families, a Food Package program was established in which families would receive a monthly supply of food staple items such as cooking oil, rice, grains, meat and vegetables. For many of these families, this food package represented the difference between basic nourishment and real hunger. The cost of this food package has held steady at \$60 per month per family. Over the period a total of over 150,000 food packages have been distributed to Christian IDP families. This program remains ongoing and we are actively seeking support for the remainder of 2016.



III. HOUSING RENTAL PROGRAM

Housing and shelter remain a critical need as we strive to keep hope alive among the IDPs in our care. While the early provision of tents, and then caravans (trailer units) provided minimum shelter, it became clear that the lack of dignity and minimal privacy inherent in such conditions required a solution. In response a Housing Rental Program was developed which allowed families to move into area homes and live in a safe and sanitary communal setting, generally two or three families per house. The program currently assists over 6,500 families in over 3,000 houses throughout the Kurdistan Region. This program remains ongoing and we are actively seeking support for the remainder of 2016.



IV. MEDICAL AID

Responding to the medical and health needs of the IDP population, several new health clinics were opened over the past 16 months. Of important note is the St. Joseph's clinic, which provides chronic care treatment and medicine to over 3,000 IDP patients per month. Managed by the Sisters of the Holy Cross and a dedicated team of volunteer local Doctors, the clinic offers services without charge, dispensing \$40,000 in prescription medicines per month. This program remains ongoing and we are actively seeking support for the remainder of 2016.



IV. OPENING OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN ERBIL

In December of 2015 the Catholic University in Erbil (CUE) held its inaugural opening. Utilizing a generous grant from the Italian Bishop's Conference, CUE developed land and constructed initial classroom buildings which allowed it to open for its first classes in January 2016. Following in the tradition of Catholic higher education, CUE is open to all faith communities.

CUE has moved quickly to join the community of Catholic colleges and universities throughout the world, entering into cooperative agreements with partner institutions in the USA and Europe. Additionally, CUE has taken steps to directly address the IDP crisis by offering full scholarships to IDP students who have had their university studies disrupted. CUE is presently in a major drive to secure appropriate levels of funding for these scholarships. CUE is also actively seeking grants for IT infrastructure and physical plant equipment.



v. OPENING OF SCHOOLS

Seeking to minimize the disruption of education for the IDP children and youths, the Christian leadership cooperated in the building of 13 new schools in the region, all dedicated to IDPs. While the building needs for these IDP schools are being met, an ongoing need exists for supplies and educational materials, including IT infrastructure.



VI. SUMMARY OF AID RECEIVED TO DATE

The efforts of the Chaldean Archdiocese and its local partners have been made possible only through the existence of generous and merciful donors throughout the world. Truly we have been blessed by the gifts from all of them. The summary below lists our major donors from August 2014 through the first quarter of 2016.

DONATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHALDEAN ARCHDIOCESE OF ERBIL ON BEHALF OF CHRISTIAN IDPs, August 2014 through March 2016

DONOR	AMOUNT OF DONATION IN USD
AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED	9,476,863
ITALIAN EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE	1,707,389
OTHER DONATIONS FROM 100-95,000	1,402,423
ST. TOMAS CHALDEAN CATHOLIC CHURCH USA	1,378,912
CARITAS OF ITALY	1,161,546
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS	1,015,390
OEUVRE D'ORIENT	466,367
FONDAZIONE PIME	391,781
DIOCESE OF ROTENBURG-STUTTGART	345,898
MISSIO AACHEN	331,708
CNEWA PONTIFICAL MISSION	272,689
CHALDEAN DIOCESE OF CAIRO	245,570
KATOLISCHE ZENTRALST	241,659
MISEREOR	228,229
IRAQI CHRISTIANS IN NEED	227,337
AUSTRALIAN BISHOPS CONFERENCE	224,575
CUSTODIA DEL SACRO CONVENTO DI ASSISI	164,274
CARITAS OF GERMANY	131,654
MALTESER HILFDIENST	127,771
ST. PETER CHALDEAN CATHOLIC CHURCH USA	109,555
FONDATION RAOUL FOLLEREAU	109,120
TOTAL	19,760,710*

* Detailed financial reports are available upon request to all donors, which cover all receipts and disbursements for the period.

FORWARD NEEDS AND CONCERNS

I. CONTINUATION OF HOUSING RENTAL PROGRAM

An urgent need exists for continued funding of the Housing Rental Program to cover rental assistance costs for the second half of 2016. Details of the existing need are shown in the charts below, which represent two separate sections of the program.

Housing Rental Program Needs Section 1.

Location	Number of houses	Rental per Unit	Monthly Rental Cost	Six month total cost
Ozal City	320	400	128000\$	768000
Canja City	215	500	107500\$	645000
Derwaza City	43	800	34400\$	206400
Erbil/Ankawa	46	650	29900\$	179400
Aqra	17	270	4590\$	27540
TOTAL	641		\$304,390	1,826,340 \$

Housing Rental Program Needs Section 2.

The table below represents additional displaced families of the Nineveh Plain who have benefited from the rental assistance program, and includes all affected denominations (Syriac Orthodox and Syriac Catholic and Chaldean) in the center of Arbil as well as the families located in Aqra, Diana and Shaqlawa. Continuation of this Section of the Program requires a monthly amount of USD 365,000, for a six month total of USD 1,990,000.

Rites	Families	Houses
Syriac Catholic	2490	1271
Syriac Orthodox	1116	750
Chaldean	1000	841
Shaqlawa (all rites)	73	39
Aqra (all rites)	155	95
Total	4834	2996

II. CONTINUATION OF FOOD PACKAGE PROGRAM

A total of \$720,000 per month to support this project, with a total of \$4,320,000 for the entire six month period, is needed urgently to keep this critical program alive. With the continued failure of any meaningful government assistance, the generous help of our donors is essentially all that now stands between these Christian IDPs and the end of any food aid whatsoever for these families, the vast majority of whom are without work or any form of income. As the number of families served may decrease over time, donors can be assured that any decrease in food aid to families over the period will be used to continue the program into future months. Any remainder left at the end of the six-month period will be refunded to the donor or re-allocated as may be agreed upon.

III. CONTINUATION OF MEDICAL CLINIC DISTRIBUTION OF MEDICINES

A total of \$77,000 per month, with a total of \$462,000 for the next six month period is needed to cover the costs of medicines dispensed at the various IDP clinics, including the St. Joseph Clinic.

IV. IDP SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN ERBIL

CUE is presently seeking scholarships to cover the full period of college tuition and expenses for a minimum of 150 IDP students. The cost for the entire 5-year program, including expenses, is USD\$15,000 per student. Each scholarship funded gives hope and brings stability not only to the student, but to the student's entire family.

MAKING DONATIONS

As shown above, the need for funds to continue our care of the Christian IDPs of Iraq remains critical. On behalf of these IDPs we extend to you our deepest thanks, and pray that you continue to remember us and our plight as you make decisions on your charitable donations for the coming year. The continued existence of Christianity in Iraq hangs in the balance of your decisions for truly, there is no-one else that has come to our aid. Those wishing to make donations may do so by wire transfer at any of the accounts listed below. God bless you all.

WIRING INSTRUCTIONS

For Donations in EU*:

Beneficiary: CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN ERBIL
Account Number: 0023010840542015
Bank Name: IBL Bank s.a.l.
Swift Code: INLELBEB
USD IBAN: LB20 0052 0067 0025 7608 0039 2012
Corresponding Bank (USD): The Bank of New York Mellon
Or
Citi Bank - New York

Beneficiary: CHALDEAN ARCHDIOCESE OF ERBIL
Account Number: 0850023010857373015
Bank Name: IBL Bank s.a.l.
Swift Code: INLELBEB
USD IBAN: LB20 0052 0067 0025 7608 0039 2012
Corresponding Bank (USD): Citi Bank - New York

* Please note: Both above accounts are held through the Beirut Office of IBL Bank for forwarding to the Erbil Branch in Iraq. As such both Swift Code and IBAN will show as a Lebanon Account.

For Donations in USA:

Beneficiary: NEAR EAST CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FUND, INCORPORATED
Bank Name: BANK OF AMERICA
Account Number: 004581 0424 02
Routing Number: (PAPER AND ELECTRONIC/ ACH): 011200365
Routing Number: (WIRES): 026009593

The Near East Christian Education Fund is formed as of Feb. 9, 2016, as a registered Domestic Non-Profit Corporation under the laws of the State of Vermont as defined by IRS Code 501 (c) (3) for federal tax exemption. As of that date, the Fund also established a Federal Tax ID with the IRS. Formal 501(c) (3) status recognition by the IRS is pending, and expected no later than August 1, 2016.*

*When the IRS approves a timely filed exemption application, exempt status is recognized back to the date the organization was created. Thus, while an application is pending, the organization can treat itself as exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3). For example, it must file Form 990 (instead of an income tax return) while its application is pending. However, contributors to the organization do not have advance assurance of deductibility because the organization's exemption is pending. If the organization ultimately qualifies for exemption for the period in which the contribution is made, the contribution will be tax-deductible by the donor. Alternatively, if the organization ultimately does not qualify for exemption, then the contribution will not be tax deductible. (Source: <https://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Charitable-Organizations/Contributions-to-Organization-with-IRS-Application-Pending>)

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