



ISLAMIC RELIEF WORLDWIDE IRAQ

Annual Report 2024

CONTENTS

2	Foreword
3	Our reach in 2024
4	Our impact in 2024
6	Strengthening Community Resilience in Southern Iraq
7	Enhancing Education and Income Generation Opportunities for Sustainable Livelihoods
9	Supporting a Resilient Economic Recovery by Strengthening Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Creating Job Opportunities for Young Graduates
12	Improved Access to Safe Drinking Water and hygiene Practices for Vulnerable IDPs in Erbil Governorate
15	Rehabilitation of Schools and WASH Facilities with Teacher Trainings in Halabja
17	Enhancing youth Engagement for Peacebuilding in Halabja Governorate
18	Orphan Sponsorship Programme
17	Ramadan food distribution
18	Qurbani meat distribution
19	Eid gifts project
20	Winterisation
21	Our portfolio
22	Our projects in coordination with official authorities

FOREWORD



Zahid Hussain Jalbani

Country Director - Iraq

Iraq has been named the fifth-most vulnerable country to climate breakdown is affected by soaring temperatures, insufficient and diminishing rainfall, intensified droughts and water scarcity, frequent sand and dust storms, and flooding. Compounding this, water policies in neighboring countries have shrunk vital water sources, while rapid population growth, urbanisation, and inefficient water use by the agricultural and industrial sectors is propelling a demand for more water. Without preparation and planning, the scale of environmental change is likely to be devastating and may force Iraqis to relocate to survive. Climate migration is already a reality in Iraq.

The last five years were very challenging for Iraq, financial support being decreased every year from donors and humanitarian actors are phasing out and recovery efforts have been hampered by climate change, record water shortages, Covid-19, high unemployment and a volatile security situation. 1.19 million Iraqis remain internally displaced, with many in protracted or secondary displacement due to barriers to return or reintegration. Displacement-affected communities continue to face issues related to documentation, shelter, livelihoods, education, security, and access to basic services. In addition, 250,000 Syrian refugees reside in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and face specific barriers to accessing decent work and education opportunities.

Islamic Relief has been working in Iraq since 2003, was on the ground throughout the military incursions, and is one of the few aid agencies that continued working during and after the 2003 war. During the year 2024 Islamic Relief Iraq has supported to 50,600 women and men, girls and boys across its life-saving and life-changing activities in Iraq, and has a financial portfolio of \$20.5 million.

Islamic Relief Iraq is committed to serving vulnerable people in hard-to-reach areas affected by humanitarian crises, especially conflict, droughts and floods, and to build communities' resilience through durable solutions. We are committed to establishing and strengthening partnerships with the government of Iraq, civil society organisations and community organisations through the Good Governance programme, climate change and resilience, women and young people's empowerment and education.

Islamic Relief Iraq is thankful to staff, the communities, civil society organisations, International Non-government Organisations (INGOs), donors and the Government of Iraq for their support and we are committed to supporting the government of Iraq to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and The Iraq Vision for Sustainable Development 2030.

OUR REACH IN 2024



More than two decades of humanitarian impact in Iraq

Since 1997, Islamic Relief has been at the forefront of humanitarian efforts in Iraq, remaining one of the few aid organisations to sustain operations during the 2003 conflict. Amid escalating humanitarian needs, the organisation established its first offices and rehabilitation centers in Baghdad (2003) and Erbil (2007), providing critical support to war-affected communities.

Over the past 21 years, Islamic Relief has successfully assisted 1.4 million individuals—women, men, girls, and boys—through life-saving and transformative interventions across multiple sectors. Our commitment to resilience and sustainable development continues to shape a better future for vulnerable populations across Iraq.



OUR IMPACT IN 2024



Proudly transforming lives
across **13** governorates



Over **99,000** people
reached through our
projects



10,951,007,548 IQD
total donations received



1,482 young people
received vocational training,
which increased their
employability and expanded
their access to livelihood
opportunities



Over **10,000**
individuals gained access
to improved water,
sanitation, and hygiene
(WASH) services



10,895 farmers
supported to build
resilience and adapt to
climate change



58,463 individuals
received Ramadan
food baskets and fresh
qurbani meat



1,878 orphaned
children supported through
our Orphan Sponsorship
Programme, bringing hope
and transforming the lives
of the children and their
families



9,556 male and female
students able to learn
in improved school
environments

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN SOUTHERN IRAQ



In response to the growing climate challenges in Thi Qar, the Strengthening Community Resilience project was implemented to address the adverse effects of rising temperatures, water scarcity, and declining agricultural productivity—factors that have severely impacted food security and livelihoods in the region.

Implemented across 10 villages, the project directly supported 1,250 households, benefiting a total of 7,500 individuals. The project ensured gender inclusivity, with 40% of participants being women, another 40% young people and 20% men. Additionally, 1,250 individuals with disabilities were included, ensuring a holistic and inclusive approach to climate adaptation.

Funded by Islamic Relief Canada, the project was executed with a total budget of IQD 538,648,172. It commenced on July 2023, and was successfully completed by June 2024. Through its knowledge-sharing approach, the project laid the groundwork for long-term climate adaptation strategies and created a model that can be replicated in other vulnerable areas, fostering sustainable community resilience in the face of climate change.



The project consisted of two main components:

1- ENHANCING CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS

The first component focused on strengthening community resilience by introducing climate-smart agricultural practices and diversifying livelihoods. Key interventions included:

- distributing stress-tolerant seeds to improve crop resilience
- promoting efficient irrigation technologies, such as drip and sprinkler systems, to optimise water usage
- supporting income-generating activities, including tunnel and mushroom farming, to enhance economic stability for vulnerable households



2- CAPACITY BUILDING AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

The second component aimed to empower community organisations, women-led civil society organisations, and local government officials by enhancing their institutional and technical capacities. The project also worked on integrating climate risks into local planning and promoting climate-resilient agricultural development.



ENHANCING EDUCATION AND INCOME GENERATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS



In response to the pressing challenges faced by vulnerable communities in Diyala and Duhok governorates, the Enhancing Education and Income Generation Opportunities for Sustainable Livelihoods project was launched to improve learning environments and foster economic resilience. Funded by Islamic Relief USA, this initiative integrates education support and livelihood development, ensuring long-term sustainability for children, young people, and women-headed households.

The project improved learning conditions for 9,556 primary school children and 120 teachers through:

- WASH facility rehabilitation, including cement plastering, ceramic tiling, plumbing, and replacing doors/windows, in 10 schools.
- minor maintenance of damaged furniture and electrical systems
- provision of teaching materials and furniture to address shortages following the ISIS crisis
- training for 100 Department of Education staff in psychosocial support, child protection, and social cohesion to enable them to lead student awareness sessions
- Distribution of learning kits (textbooks, notebooks, and bags) to vulnerable children.



Strengthening Economic Resilience

The second component of the project is focusing on enhancing income generation opportunities, particularly for women-headed households and young people, through:

Vocational training for 209 individuals, including women and people with disabilities, equipping them with skills for employment and entrepreneurship.

Provision of in-kind startup toolkits to 125 individuals, enabling them to establish small and medium-sized enterprises and contribute to local economic growth.

The vocational training covers various skills, including:

- air conditioning and refrigeration maintenance and repair
- electrical installation
- mobile phone maintenance and repair
- homemade food production
- sewing

With a total budget of IQD 1,415,929,204, the project directly benefits 9,556 individuals, distributed as follows:

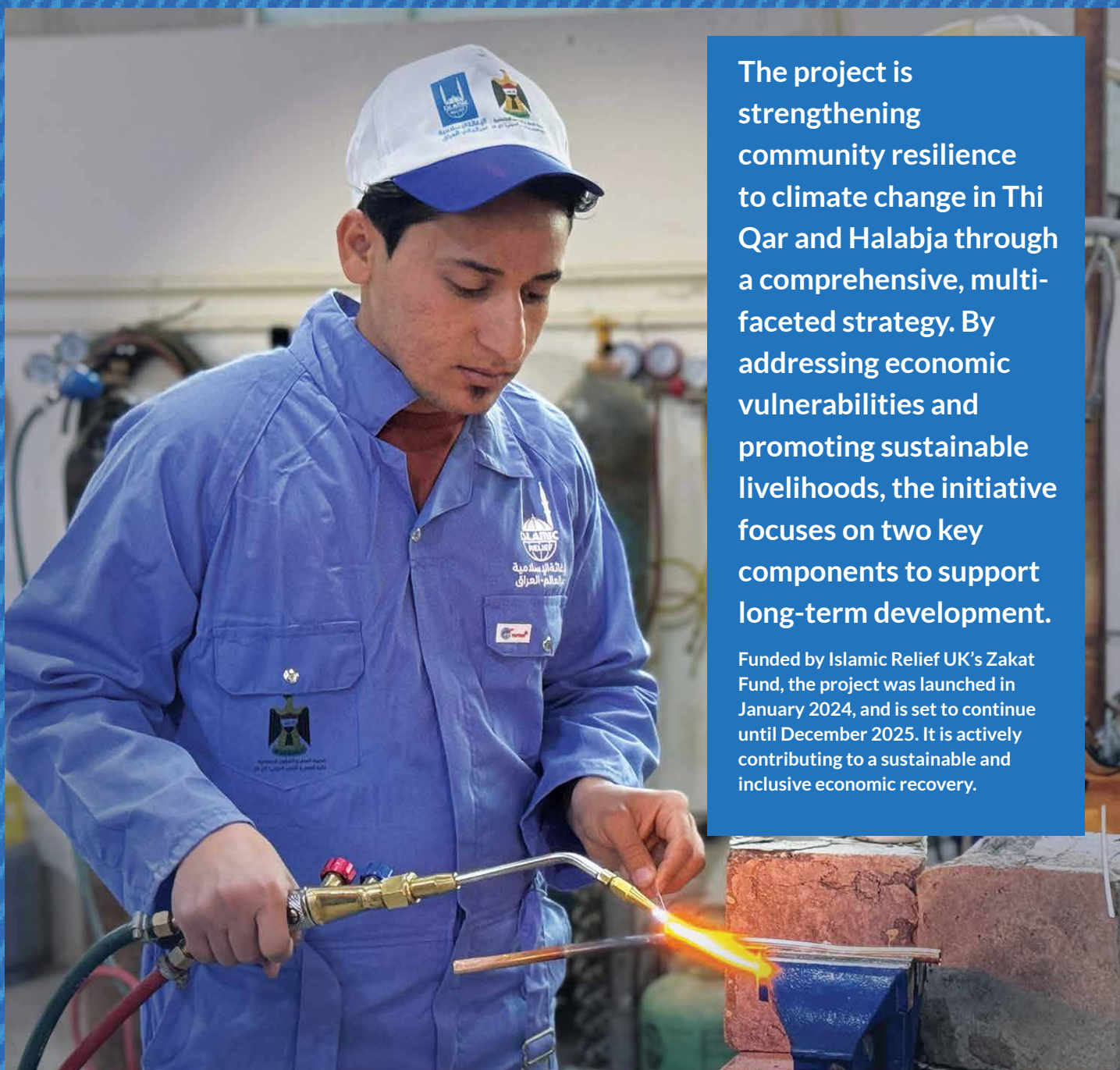
5,986 boys (62.6%) and 2,660 girls (27.8%), ensuring access to quality education. Four hundred and sixty-three men (4.8%) and four hundred and forty-three women (4.6%), strengthening their economic opportunities. Four individuals with disabilities, ensuring inclusivity in both education and livelihoods.

Launched on 20 September 2023, the project is scheduled to run until 20 March 2025.

Through a comprehensive and integrated approach, this initiative not only enhances education and livelihoods opportunities but also strengthens community resilience, paving the way for a more sustainable and self-reliant future.



SUPPORTING A RESILIENT ECONOMIC RECOVERY BY STRENGTHENING SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMES) AND CREATING JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG GRADUATES



The project is strengthening community resilience to climate change in Thi Qar and Halabja through a comprehensive, multi-faceted strategy. By addressing economic vulnerabilities and promoting sustainable livelihoods, the initiative focuses on two key components to support long-term development.

Funded by Islamic Relief UK's Zakat Fund, the project was launched in January 2024, and is set to continue until December 2025. It is actively contributing to a sustainable and inclusive economic recovery.

HALABJA



Enhancing Youth Employability and Economic Participation

The first component is improving the employability of university graduates by implementing apprenticeship programmes and distributing business toolkits to 250 young people. By equipping young people with essential skills and resources, the project is fostering youth employment and stimulating local economic development.

With a total budget of IQD 2,334,771,017 the project is directly supporting 4,440 individuals and indirectly benefiting 26,880 people (60% of whom are men and 40% are women). Through micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) and entrepreneurship programmes, the initiative is empowering individuals with the necessary tools to navigate economic uncertainties.

THI-QAR



Strengthening Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

Simultaneously, the project is supporting the growth of MSMEs by providing skills development training and business toolkits to help entrepreneurs expand their businesses. This intervention is reinforcing economic stability and enhancing climate resilience by promoting sustainable business practices.

The project is adopting a participatory and gender-sensitive approach, ensuring

that young women make up 40% of those gaining access to skills development and livelihoods opportunities through the programme. Collaboration with key stakeholders, including community leaders, organisations, the Chamber of Commerce, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), universities, and the private sector, is strengthening a unified response to climate-related economic challenges.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER AND HYGIENE PRACTICES FOR VULNERABLE IDPS IN ERBIL GOVERNORATE

In response to the critical needs of displaced populations, the Improved Access to Safe Drinking Water and Hygiene Practices for Vulnerable IDPs in Erbil Governorate project was successfully implemented, benefiting 9,967 individuals residing in Khazer Camp, Hassan Sham U2, and U3. The initiative, funded by Islamic Relief Canada, focused on expanding access to safe drinking water and improving hygiene conditions through a comprehensive WASH response, with a total budget of IQD 582,420,137.

Grounded in a rigorous needs assessment, including the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO, OCHA, 2023) and inter-cluster analyses, the project prioritised the most vulnerable 1,940 families, with the make up of participants being 21.1% men, 27.9% women, 22.9% boys, 28% girls, and 0.4% people with disabilities.

The project's first component focused on enhancing water access and quality. Through pump maintenance, efficient water distribution, and regular biological and chemical testing, the initiative ensured a consistent and safe water supply for displaced families.

The second component centered on sanitation and hygiene improvements to mitigate public health risks.

Key interventions included:

- daily waste collection using dedicated garbage trucks to prevent environmental hazards
- sewage system maintenance and sanitation facility upgrades to improve hygiene conditions
- educational hygiene campaigns promoting best practices among displaced populations
- distribution of hygiene kits, ensuring access to essential personal hygiene materials.

By addressing urgent WASH gaps, the project significantly improved the health and dignity of displaced families, reducing the risk of waterborne diseases and enhancing overall wellbeing. The initiative, which began in December 2023, and concluded in December 2024, played a pivotal role in safeguarding vulnerable communities.



REHABILITATION OF SCHOOLS AND WASH FACILITIES WITH TEACHER TRAININGS IN HALABJA



The project is to enhancing learning conditions in Halabja Governorate, addressing critical gaps in school infrastructure, resources, and capacity building. Funded by the International WAQF Fund Project, the initiative is creating a healthier, safer, and more inclusive educational environment for 1,300 students and 20 teachers. With a total budget of IQD 84,051,695, it is running from August 2024 to April 2025.

Key interventions include:

REHABILITATION OF SCHOOL AND WASH FACILITIES:

Schools are undergoing essential repairs and upgrades, with 100 % of targeted institutions receiving infrastructure improvements, such as cement plastering, ceramic tiling, sewage rehabilitation, plumbing, and ventilation system enhancements.

Additionally, maintenance of electrical wiring, lighting, furniture, and secure doors and windows is ensuring a safer and more conducive learning space.

PROVISION OF TEACHING MATERIALS & CLASSROOM FURNITURE:

Schools in vulnerable areas are benefitting from educational tools, including maps, globes, whiteboards, and other learning aids, improving the quality of education for all students. Furthermore, new desks, chairs, office tables, and cabinets are being provided to enhance staff and student comfort.

CAPACITY BUILDING & HYGIENE AWARENESS:

Twenty teachers from the Department of Education (DoE) are being trained in psychosocial support, child protection, and social cohesion, with 100% of them taking on mentoring roles to educate students. Additionally, hygiene awareness campaigns are promoting water conservation and sanitation best practices, ensuring long-term health and wellbeing for students.



ENHANCING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FOR PEACEBUILDING IN HALABJA GOVERNORATE



The Enhancing Youth Engagement for Peacebuilding project is currently empowering young individuals in Halabja Governorate to take active roles in fostering peace, social cohesion, and community resilience. Implemented by Islamic Relief Iraq and funded by Islamic Relief Germany, the initiative is designed to equip young people with leadership, conflict resolution, and advocacy skills to contribute meaningfully to peacebuilding efforts in their communities.

The project is engaging 1,885 young people, of whom 68.7% (1,295 individuals) are male, while 31.3% (590 individuals) are female, ensuring an inclusive approach to youth empowerment. Through awareness sessions, training workshops, and recreational activities, young people are developing the capacity to lead community-based peace initiatives.

With a total budget of IQD 53,132,757, the project, which commenced on September 2024, and will run until February 2025, is making significant strides in building a more peaceful, inclusive, and stable society. By providing young people with knowledge, skills, and opportunities, the initiative is ensuring that they are not just beneficiaries of aid but key drivers of peace and positive change in Halabja Governorate.

Key activities include:



Training of Trainers (ToT)

Sessions on conflict resolution, leadership, and advocacy, are preparing young people to train and inspire their peers



Youth-led initiatives

Such as community clean-up drives, cultural exchanges, and dialogue sessions, foster mutual respect and cooperation



Establishment of youth-led peace clubs

Serving as platforms for dialogue, engagement, and collaboration among diverse community members



Formation of peacebuilding task forces

Involving community leaders and faith groups to strengthen social cohesion and long-term resilience

ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

Since it began in Iraq in 2004, the Orphan Sponsorship Programme (OSP) has been a cornerstone in providing critical support to vulnerable children across six governorates in Iraq: Baghdad, Diyala, Anbar, Karbala, Erbil, and Duhok. Funded by Islamic Relief, the programme has significantly contributed to improving the socioeconomic wellbeing and resilience of orphaned children and their families.

ORPHANS DIRECT SERVICE (ODS)

In 2024, with a total budget of IQD 241,165,913 the programme continues to deliver monthly financial assistance to 1,091 orphans. This support not only enhances their quality of life, but also safeguards their dignity by addressing the challenges posed by poverty. In addition to monthly stipends, sponsored orphans benefit from seasonal programmes, including Ramadan food baskets, qurbani meat distributions, Eid gifts and Winterisation. These initiatives provide essential relief during religious and cultural occasions, further alleviating the financial burden on vulnerable families and fostering a sense of joy and inclusion.



The Orphan Sponsorship Programme's impact on children and families

Among the 1,091 families supported by the OSP in Iraq, 38.5% (420 families) include sponsored boys, while 56.6% (617 families) include sponsored girls.

Furthermore, 4.9% (54 families) have children with disabilities, demonstrating the programme's commitment to inclusivity and support for the most vulnerable groups.

In terms of indirect beneficiaries, the programme reached 6,354 individuals, comprising 33.1% men (2,105 individuals) and 49.7% women (3,158 individuals).

Among children indirectly benefitted, 6.6% (420 individuals) are boys, and 9.7% (617 individuals) are girls. These statistics highlight the programme's wide-reaching impact across diverse demographic groups, ensuring equitable support for orphans and their families while contributing to broader community development.

COMPLEMENTARY FUND

Funded by Islamic Relief USA, The Orphan Complementary Fund Project is a five-year initiative (2022–2026) aimed at improving the wellbeing of orphan families by providing essential support in three key sectors: health, shelter, and education. Participants are selected based on a vulnerability assessment scoring system, ensuring that assistance is directed to the most at-risk families.

In 2024, the project conducted detailed needs assessments for 265 orphan families in Anbar and Karbala, identifying their most pressing challenges. Based on the findings, 59 families were provided with cash assistance to improve access to healthcare, enhance living conditions, and secure stable housing. This intervention benefited 650 individuals, including 25 boys and 31 girls. The project also prioritised inclusivity by supporting three individuals with disabilities (0.5%), ensuring tailored care for their specific needs.

With a total budget of IQD 42,904,952 the project operated in Baghdad, Anbar, and Karbala. Launched on January 2024, it remains ongoing, demonstrating a sustained commitment to delivering transformative support to vulnerable families and orphaned children.



Funded by Islamic Relief Mauritius, this short-term initiative focused on equipping orphaned school children with educational kits, including stationery and other learning materials, to ease their financial burdens and enhance their learning experience.

The project successfully supported 728 orphaned students, with 408 boys (56.0%) and 320 girls (44.0%) benefiting from the initiative. By ensuring that these children had the necessary resources, the project played a crucial role in motivating them to continue their education and strengthen their commitment to learning.

With a total budget of IQD 39,243,752, the project was implemented between October 2023, and January 2024, and has now been completed. While the initiative was short-term, its impact remains significant as it has empowered hundreds of orphaned children to pursue their education with dignity and hope for a better future.



RAMADAN FOOD DISTRIBUTION 2024



As part of our seasonal programmes, and with funding from Islamic Relief, Islamic Relief Iraq successfully implemented the Ramadan food distribution 2024, delivering 4,143 food baskets to vulnerable families across Anbar, Erbil, Diwaniyah, Sulaymaniyah, Dohuk, Diyala, Halabja, Basrah, and Thi Qar governorates. This critical intervention targeted host community members, internally displaced persons (IDPs) in camps, and children enrolled on the OSP, ensuring that those most

in need received essential food assistance during the holy month.

For many who received this assistance, it was a lifeline amid economic hardship. Among the 20,677 individuals who benefited from the initiative, 42 % were women (8,659), 38% were men (7,882), 13% were girls (2,745), and 7% were boys (1,388), while three individuals with disabilities also received support.



Each food basket was carefully assembled to address nutritional needs. They contained rice, sugar, lentils, dates, tea, bulgur, chickpeas, beans, tomato paste, and vegetable oil. These staple items were selected to promote dietary diversity and sustain families throughout Ramadan.



"It is indeed a wonderful and complete meal, and it contains everything we aspire to in a Ramadan meal. Indeed, it will suffice me until the day of Eid," says Um Khalid, 45, a displaced woman living in an IDP camp.

QURBANI MEAT DISTRIBUTION 2024



As part of our seasonal humanitarian programmes, Islamic Relief Iraq successfully implemented the 2024 Qurbani Meat Distribution Programme, ensuring that vulnerable families received fresh, high-quality meat in accordance with Islamic principles during Eid al-Adha. This initiative provided critical food assistance to 4,354

families in Erbil, Diyala, Anbar, and Halabja, benefiting a total of 21,249 individuals.

This project directly supported 3,677 women (17%), 2,372 men (11%), 7,233 boys (34%), and 7,967 girls (38%), reflecting a strong focus on families, children, and displaced individuals facing economic hardship.



"We have not bought meat for a while. We are waiting for a wedding or funeral feast near the camp to attend and eat meat," says Um Rashid, 38, who lives with her children in an IDP camp.



570
BULLS



4,354
MEAT PACKS



21,249
INDIVIDUALS

EID GIFTS PROJECT

SPREADING JOY AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT



Eid al-Fitr gifts

Implementation period: March – April 2024

Target locations: Erbil and Thi Qar

Number of people reached:

1,048 children

473 boys (45.1%)

575 girls (54.9%)

Total budget: IQD 43,733,108

Eid al-Adha gifts

Implementation period: May – July 2024

Target location: Erbil (IDP camps)

Number of people reached:

520 children

252 boys (48.5%)

268 girls (51.5%)

Total budget: IQD 23,108,516

As part of its commitment to children's wellbeing and education, Islamic Relief implements the Eid Gifts Project, a seasonal initiative aimed at providing joy and essential learning materials to vulnerable children. The project reached 1,568 children across Erbil and Thi Qar, ensuring both academic support and emotional wellbeing through carefully curated gift packages.

Each child received a comprehensive set of educational and recreational items, including a school bag filled with essential study materials, two drawing books and two sets of coloured pencils to encourage creativity, and two short stories to promote literacy and a love for reading. To support physical activity and social interaction, the package also included a football, a skipping rope, and a toy.

WINTERISATION 2023-24 AND 2024-25

As part of our commitment to supporting vulnerable communities during extreme weather conditions, Islamic Relief Iraq launched the Winterisation Project - a seasonal initiative to assist vulnerable families. Funded by Islamic Relief, the initiative aimed to provide winter essentials to ensure warmth and protection during the harsh winter months.

The project focused on distributing critical winter supplies, including, including blankets and mattresses - ensuring adequate bedding to withstand cold temperatures - and oil heaters, offering families a reliable source of warmth.

By addressing the immediate needs of affected families, the initiative played a crucial role in mitigating the impact of winter hardships, particularly for families lacking access to adequate heating and insulation.

2023-2024

WINTER SEASON



In the 2023-2024 winter season, with a total budget of IQD 643,095,521, the project successfully supported 1,944 families, benefiting 9,819 individuals, in Anbar, Erbil, Ninawa, Kirkuk, Dohuk, and Diyala. The support reached:

3,438 men (35%) and **3,568** women (36.3%), ensuring adult family members had access to winter essentials.

1,156 boys (11.8%) and **1,636** girls (16.7%), safeguarding the wellbeing of children.

21 individuals with disabilities (0.2%), ensuring inclusivity in the assistance provided.

2024-2025

WINTER SEASON



During the 2024-2025 winter season, with a total budget of IQD 228,550,817, the project successfully supported 1,030 families, benefiting 5,150 individuals, in Erbil, Halabja, Diyala and Thiqr goverorates. The support reached:

1,559 men (30.3%) and **2,091** women (40.6%), ensuring that adult family members receive essential winter support.

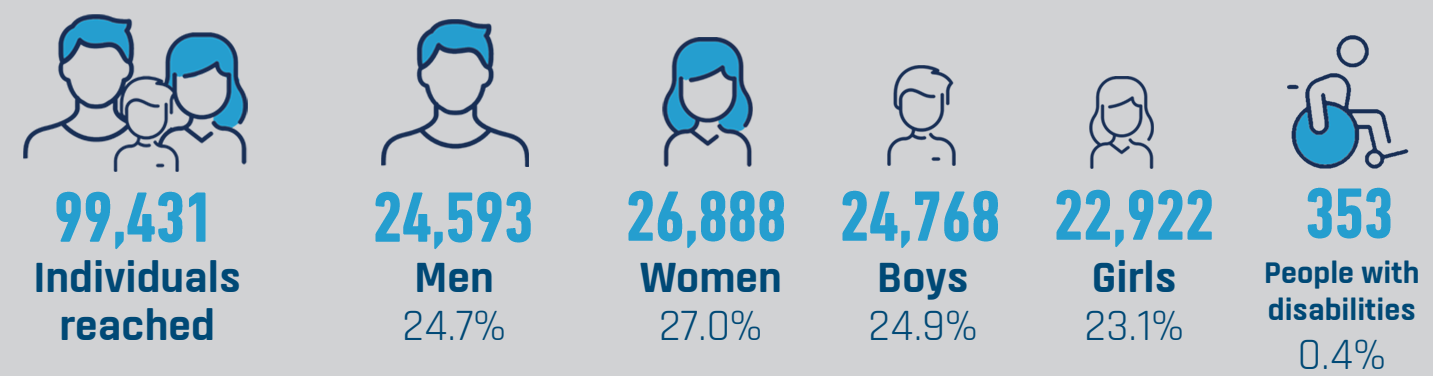
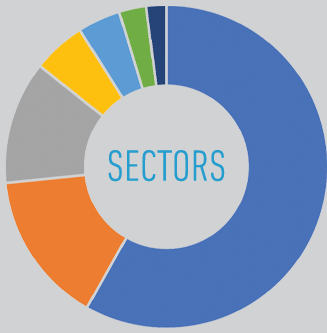
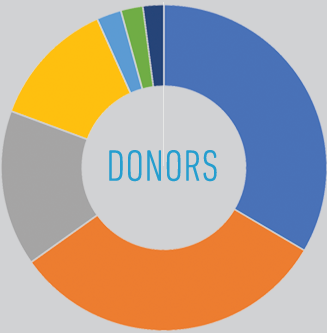
550 boys (10.7%) and **950** girls (18.4%), prioritising the safety and wellbeing of children during harsh weather conditions.



OUR PORTFOLIO

TOTAL OPERATING INCOME
10,951,007,548 IQD

IRCanada	3,865,870,936 IQD	Livelihoods	5,945,104,343 IQD	54.3%
IRUK	3,659,071,250 IQD	Education	1,913,942,490 IQD	17.5%
IRW	1,790,803,001 IQD	Seasonal programmes (qurbani, Ramadan, Eid gifts and winterisation)	1,549,637,088 IQD	14.2%
IRUSA	1,458,8341,56 IQD	WASH	666,471,833 IQD	6.1 %
WAQF	84,051,696 IQD	Climate change	538,648,172 IQD	4.9 %
IRGermany	53,132,757 IQD	Child protection	284,070,865 IQD	2.6 %
IR Mauritius	39,243,752 IQD	Peacebuilding	53,132,757 IQD	



OUR PROJECTS IN COORDINATION WITH OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES

SUPPORTING CONFLICT-AFFECTED SCHOOL CHILDREN IN DIYALA IRAQ

Funded by Islamic Relief UK, this project aims to improve the learning environment for 2,500 primary school children across 10 schools in Diyala Governorate. By addressing the impact of conflict on education, the initiative focuses on rehabilitating WASH facilities and upgrading school infrastructure to create a safe and child-friendly environment. These efforts are part of a broader commitment to ensuring quality education and fostering a resilient learning atmosphere for children in conflict-affected areas.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN HALABJA GOVERNORATE

Funded by Islamic Relief UK, this project aims to improve agricultural productivity in Halabja Governorate by introducing advanced farming techniques, providing high-quality seeds, and offering climate-smart agriculture kits. The initiative supports smallholder farmers and landless rural households by diversifying income sources, adding value to agricultural products, and improving market access.

Collaboration with the Directorate of Agriculture, Agriculture Extension Department, Food and Agriculture Organisation, INGOs, and private sector partners will enhance the project's impact. Targeting Halabja city, Khormal, and Biyare, the initiative focuses on priority agriculture value chains, empowering participants with improved resource management and income opportunities in rural areas.

RESTORING AND STRENGTHENING AGRI VALUE CHAIN IN IRAQ

Funded by Islamic Relief Canada, The project is benefiting two key groups: smallholder farmers and landless families in rural areas with limited resources and income opportunities.

Currently being implemented in Diyala Governorate across four districts and 40 villages, the initiative is supporting 17,300 farmers. By focusing on priority agricultural value chains, the project is enhancing agricultural productivity, income generation, and resource management.



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