



IRAQ
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Islamic Relief Worldwide - Iraq



FOREWORD



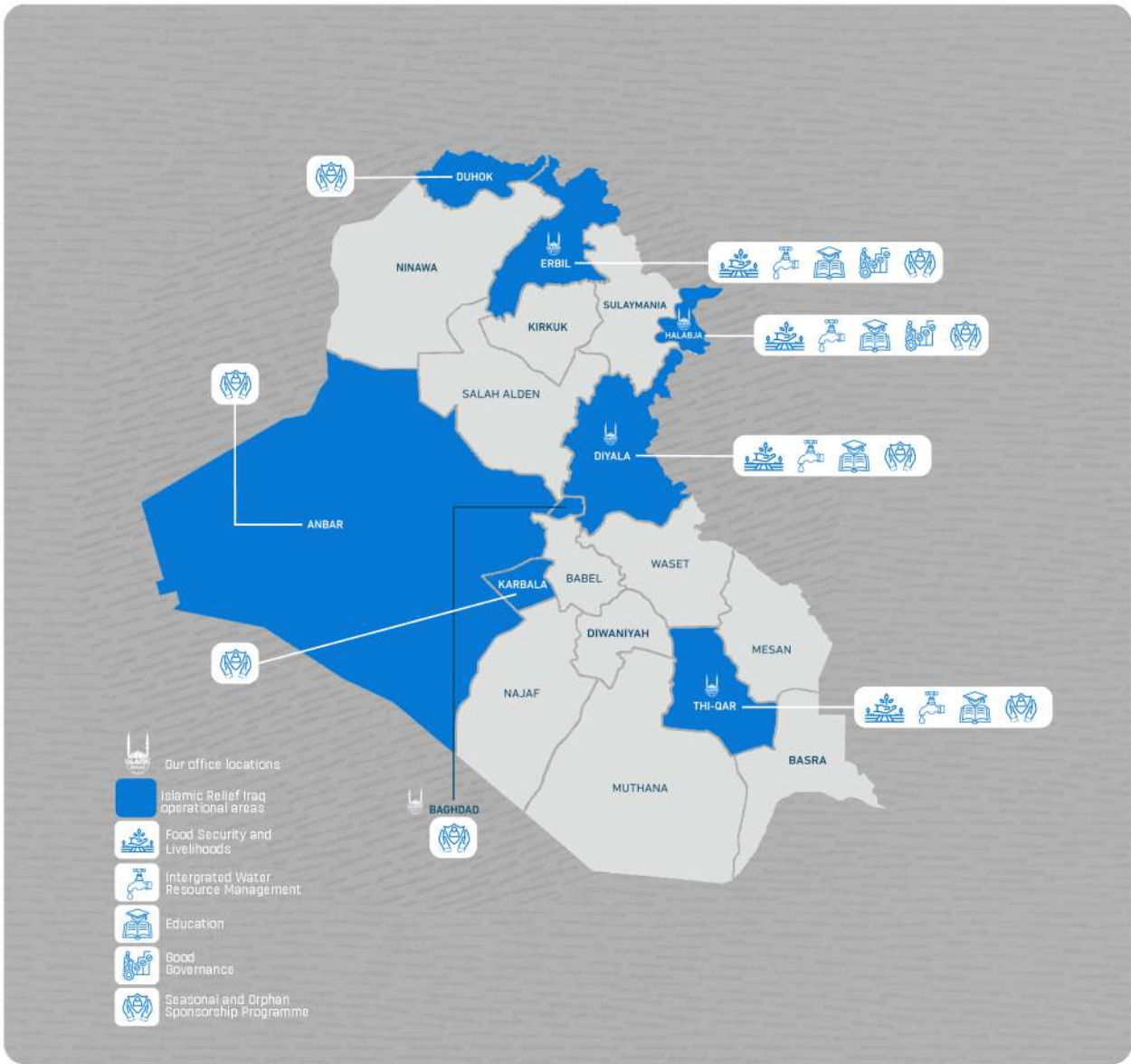
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Country Director - Iraq

Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) has been serving the people of Iraq since 2003, continuing its operations throughout military incursions and conflict, even when many aid agencies were forced to suspend activities. In 2025, Islamic Relief Iraq reached 68,465 women, men, girls, and boys, delivering both lifesaving and transformative interventions and built a financial portfolio of \$4.5 million. These efforts have strengthened communities' resilience and provided support to those most affected by conflict, displacement, droughts, floods, and other humanitarian crises.

Iraq today faces unprecedented challenges. Climate change, water scarcity, and environmental degradation are intensifying vulnerabilities, while high unemployment, economic volatility, and protracted displacement continue to affect millions. Amid these pressures, Islamic Relief Iraq remains committed to reaching underserved communities, building resilience, and providing durable solutions to ensure sustainable livelihoods, education, protection, and social cohesion.

Our work is guided by strong partnerships with the Government of Iraq, civil society organisations, community leaders, and international partners. Together, we implement programmes focused on food security and livelihoods, integrated water resource management, climate change adaptation, good governance and education - as well as our Orphan Sponsorship Programme and seasonal projects. These interventions are implemented through a triple nexus approach, integrating humanitarian response, development work, and peacebuilding efforts to ensure sustainable and inclusive impact. These collaborations are central to our mission of enabling communities to recover, build resilience, thrive, and shape a more sustainable future.

I wanted to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our staff, community members, civil society partners, international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), donors, and government authorities for their continued support and trust. As we look ahead, Islamic Relief Iraq remains dedicated to supporting Iraq in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 as well as the country's Vision for Sustainable Development 2030, ensuring that no vulnerable community is left behind.



OUR REACH IN 2025

In 2025, Islamic Relief Iraq delivered comprehensive, multi-sectoral programming that reached 68,465 individuals across six governorates. This work was supported by a total programmatic investment exceeding 6 billion IQD (\$ 4.58 million).

Our outreach strategically integrated immediate protection for vulnerable families with long-term resilience-building interventions, ensuring inclusive and equitable access to education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), livelihoods, and social protection services. Through coordinated partnerships with local authorities and community stakeholders, Islamic Relief Iraq maintained a strong focus on accountability, quality, and sustainability.

This level of investment and reach reflects our continued commitment to advancing human dignity, strengthening self-reliance, and contributing to durable recovery and development outcomes in Iraq.

Supporting a resilient economic recovery by strengthening Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and creating job opportunities for young graduates in Iraq

The project maintained a strict gender-sensitive approach, ensuring women 'ensuring women gained direct access to livelihood opportunities. Women made up 40 per cent of participants in the project.'

- Financial scope: Funded by Islamic Relief UK's Zakat Fund, the project operated with a total budget of IQD 2,510,506,469 (\$1,914,757)
- Timeline: The implementation cycle ran from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025, successfully transitioning vulnerable populations toward economic independence.

Payam Khalid

"For almost two years, I applied to companies and organisations, but they all rejected me and didn't even invite me for an interview. However, after two months of working through this programme, I received a job offer as I demonstrated my skills and capacities." Apprentice from Halabja

Qasim Kareem

"Before receiving the support and coaching, my business was close to shutting down due to lack of capital and rising costs. After the support, I was able to restart production, attract more customers, and now I can cover my household expenses again." MSME owner, Thi Qar

Islamic Relief Iraq successfully concluded a two-year project implemented in Thi Qar and Halabja Governorates. The initiative addressed structural economic vulnerabilities intensified by climate change, unemployment, and post-conflict recovery challenges. Shifting from short-term humanitarian response toward sustainable livelihood development, the project applied an integrated resilience framework and directly benefited 841 people, contributing to local economic revitalization and youth empowerment.

Project Components

Component I: Apprenticeship Programme

A central pillar of the project focused on improving employability among university graduates through structured apprenticeship opportunities. A total of 308 young people (160 women and 148 men) participated in practical, market-oriented placements designed to enhance their professional skills and workplace readiness.

Component II: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

To address skills gaps and align young people's capacities with labor market demands, 219 young graduates (133 women and 91 men) completed accredited TVET programmes. In addition, 143 individuals (67 men and 76 women) received toolkits to start small businesses and to facilitate their participation in training and certification pathways. The project maintained a strong inclusion approach, ensuring access for people with disabilities, including one woman and five men, thereby promoting equitable economic participation and expanding livelihood opportunities.

Component III: MSME Strengthening

Complementing youth-focused interventions, the project strengthened 314 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) (125 women and 182 men) through coaching, training, and technical support to improve productivity, business expansion, and climate resilience. In addition, 168 MSMEs received cash assistance to sustain operations, restock inputs, and improve business planning. This support helped businesses stabilise, retain or create jobs, and expand their services. The project also promoted inclusion by supporting seven entrepreneurs with disabilities. Close partnerships with the Chamber of Commerce, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and universities ensured alignment with market needs and priorities, supporting sustainable economic recovery.





Restoring and strengthening the agricultural value chain in Iraq



Islamic Relief Iraq, with funding from Islamic Relief Canada, strengthened agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods for vulnerable communities in Diyala Governorate through a 30-month initiative. The project directly benefited 4,199 individuals (838 households), supporting smallholder farmers and landless households to overcome barriers such as limited access to inputs, climate-related challenges, and weak market linkages.



Through specialised technical training, 142 farmers (115 men and 27 women) improved their skills in on-farm water management, climate-smart agriculture and good agricultural practices, enabling them to adopt climate-resilient farming methods, use water efficiently, and increase crop yields. These interventions directly enhanced household food security, productivity, and resilience to climate shocks.



The project also strengthened agriculture-based decision-making and market access. The Ba'quba Soil Laboratory was rehabilitated and equipped with modern testing facilities, providing soil analysis services to 4,000 farmers (2,800 men and 1,200 women). Farmers used these services to improve soil management, plan crops effectively, and increase agricultural efficiency, generating more sustainable income opportunities.

Additionally, participants accessed cash support, technical guidance, and market linkages, allowing them to expand small agricultural enterprises, diversify livelihoods, and reach local markets. Farmers reported higher incomes, greater engagement in value chains, and stronger resilience against economic and climate-related shocks.

With a total budget of IQD 2.96 billion (\$ 2.5 millions), the project has so far reached 4,199 direct rightsholders, representing 838 supported households, through targeted technical support and improved resource management.

Enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability in Halabja Governnorate



Participant feedback

Increased efficiency: Farmers reported a significant rise in production efficiency through modern irrigation and greenhouse usage.

Economic resilience: Increased household incomes and expanded market access have created a buffer against economic and climate-related shocks.

Social inclusivity: The project maintained a strong focus on female participation, contributing to more inclusive rural livelihoods across the region.

Islamic Relief Iraq successfully concluded a 14-month initiative that addressed the growing challenges of climate change, water scarcity, and economic vulnerability affecting rural communities in Halabja Governorate. Moving beyond short-term agricultural assistance toward sustainable rural development, the project strengthened climate-resilient farming systems and improved the productivity of smallholder farmers. A total of 110 men and 42 women participated in the project. were directly supported through technical training, climate-smart agricultural practices, cash assistance, and the provision of modern farming assets, including water-efficient irrigation systems and greenhouse technologies. These interventions enabled farmers to adopt more efficient production methods, reduce resource pressures, and diversify income opportunities. As a result, participants reported increased agricultural productivity, higher household incomes, and stronger resilience to climate and economic shocks, contributing to more sustainable rural livelihoods across Halabja's farming communities.

Multi-component Intervention

The initiative was executed through two complementary strategic pillars to ensure holistic rural development:

Component I: On-farm Productivity and Technical Capacity:

The project strengthened climate-resilient livelihoods for 50 farmers (eight women and 42 men) through specialised training in good agricultural practices and advanced water management. By providing 41 farmers with solar-powered irrigation systems, plastic greenhouses, and high-quality agro-kits, the initiative enabled households to increase crop yields, reduce water use, and improve food security, directly enhancing productivity and resilience.

Component II: Value-chain Development and Entrepreneurship:

Thirty farmers (18 women and 12 men) farmers were awarded cash grants to establish or expand small agricultural businesses. The project provided comprehensive training in micro-enterprise management and business planning, while also facilitating access to local markets and weekly agricultural events to enhance product visibility.

Fishta Baram

"The solar system helped me reduce electricity costs and protect the environment. Before, we depended on gasoline generators that polluted the environment."

A farmer from Halabja,

Niga Hamasharif

A female farmer said, "Due to cold weather, our agricultural seasons were short, which reduced our income during winter. The greenhouse helped us continue production and increase our income."

The General Director of the Department of Agriculture reported that, "Prior to the project, the lack of equipment prevented farmers from benefiting from surplus production, often resulting in crop damage and income loss. With project support, farmers began processing pomegranates into molasses, apples into vinegar, olives into olive oil, and using by-products to develop additional marketable items."



Strengthening Livelihoods through Entrepreneurship Training and Institutional Support (SLETI) in Diyala Governorate

Within the framework of fostering economic stability and enhancing livelihood opportunities in post-conflict regions, the project “Strengthening Livelihoods through Entrepreneurship Training and Institutional Support (SLETI – Diyala)” is currently being implemented in the Diyala Governorate. Funded by the Global Family Development division of Islamic Relief Worldwide, this strategic initiative aims to cultivate an enabling environment for MSMEs. By adopting a dual-track approach that integrates individual empowerment with institutional capacity building, the project is ensuring sustainable income generation for the region’s most vulnerable populations, and is running between 15 August 2025 and 14 August 2026.

The project’s success is rooted in institutional synergy. Through close coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Diyala Chamber of Commerce via the Joint Coordination Committee, the initiative is successfully transitioning from immediate aid to sustainable local development. This collaborative effort ensures that the 1,292 indirect beneficiaries (children and young people) will benefit from a more stable and prosperous local economy.



Human Capital Development:

We have surpassed our initial target of 35 MSMEs, with a total of 40 MSME owners successfully completing a comprehensive entrepreneurship curriculum. This cohort, maintaining a balanced demographic of 60 per cent men and 40 per cent women, received intensive training in:

Business planning, financial management, digital marketing and market expansion strategies.



Tailored Technical and Financial Support:

Following rigorous business assessments, 30 MSMEs are currently receiving specialised support to catalyse their growth. These interventions include the distribution of 20 in-kind equipment kits and 10 direct cash grants, to ensure these businesses can navigate and thrive within the local market.



Institutional Sustainability and Local Ownership:

To ensure a lasting legacy, the project is modernising a Vocational Training Centre (DoLSA) with essential tools and integrating practical entrepreneurship modules into its official curriculum. Central to this sustainability effort is the training of 16 government officials who underwent a Train the Trainers programme. This core group consisted of 10 men, six women, all of whom are now equipped to foster local expertise independently.



Provision of essential non-food items (NFIs), food assistance, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services for vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Erbil Governorate

Islamic Relief Iraq is currently implementing this critical multi-sectoral intervention to address the acute needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Erbil Governorate. This project is specifically designed to deliver life-saving support to families residing in the Dibaga, Hassan Sham U2, Hassan Sham U3, and Khazer M1 camps, where prolonged displacement and deteriorating infrastructure have created a severe humanitarian crisis. Supported by a dedicated budget of IQD 554,056,567 (\$ 421,914) from Islamic Relief Germany, the project is operating from 20 December 2025 through 20 December 2026 to restore health, dignity, and communal resilience.

Phased Operational Strategy and Sectoral Interventions

The project is currently following a strategic two-phase rollout to ensure the most critical needs are met first:

- **Phase I Focus:** Operations are currently prioritising Dibaga Camp, which has been identified as the area with the most urgent requirements for food security, hygiene kit distribution, and safe water access.
- **Phase II Expansion:** In June 2026, the operational scope will expand to encompass the remaining camps (Hassan Sham U2, U3, and Khazer M1).

Across these locations, Islamic Relief is delivering a comprehensive support package for approximately 8,550 individuals focusing on three core sectors:

- **WASH services:** Teams are actively implementing water trucking, rehabilitating storage tanks, and maintaining water treatment units, alongside the desludging and repair of latrines and shower facilities.
- **Essential NFIs:** Critical household items are being distributed to protect families from environmental stressors and improve their daily living conditions.
- **Emergency food assistance:** Essential food aid is being delivered to ensure minimum nutritional requirements are met for households facing severe food insecurity.

This intervention is providing a vital safety net for displaced families in Dibaga Camp. As of February 2025, emergency food assistance has been distributed to all families inside the camp, reaching more than 880 families and ensuring that humanitarian support reaches the most vulnerable members of the displaced community.

The assistance currently benefits approximately 4,500 individuals, including 2,200 men and 2,300 women, demonstrating a balanced and inclusive approach in aid delivery. Through this intervention, the project continues to uphold key humanitarian principles by ensuring that assistance is delivered transparently, equitably, and in a manner that supports the dignity and wellbeing of all camp residents.

To ensure the long-term viability of these efforts, Islamic Relief Iraq is currently establishing and strengthening community WASH committees to manage the rehabilitated facilities beyond the project's lifecycle.

Life-saving support including NFIs and Food Items, access to safe drinking water and hygiene practices for vulnerable IDPs in Erbil Governorate

Islamic Relief Iraq is currently implementing a critical life-saving mission to support vulnerable families residing in three IDP camps - Hassan Sham U2, U3, and Khazer M1 - within the Erbil Governorate. As these families endure prolonged displacement, they are facing increasingly severe challenges due to overcrowded shelters and a significant reduction in broader humanitarian support. To address these growing vulnerabilities, the project is delivering an integrated response that combines vital WASH services with emergency food assistance.

The project is actively transforming the living conditions for approximately 7,000 individuals by restoring essential utility infrastructure and promoting safe hygiene practices:

Securing water access: Teams are currently providing safe drinking water through consistent water trucking, the rehabilitation of water storage tanks, and the ongoing maintenance of water treatment units.

Sanitation and dignity: Technical staff are rehabilitating and enhancing critical sanitation facilities, including toilets and showers, to ensure a hygienic environment for camp residents.

Preventative care: Hygiene promotion sessions are being conducted alongside the distribution of hygiene kits. They specifically target the reduction of health risks for women, children, and people with disabilities.

In parallel with infrastructure works, the project is reinforcing the nutritional stability and economic resilience of the most at-risk households:

Food assistance: Emergency food supplies are being delivered to ensure that the most vulnerable households can meet their immediate nutritional needs.

Sustainable management: Community-led water and hygiene committees are being strengthened and trained to manage these facilities independently, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the interventions.

The initiative is operating with a total strategic investment of IQD 567,685,590 (\$ 432,251), delivering measurable relief across the following demographic sectors:

The project supports all families residing in the camp, ensuring inclusive assistance and improved living conditions for displaced communities. Through integrated WASH and community support activities, the intervention contributes to strengthening public health and environmental conditions within the camp.

Hygiene awareness activities were conducted by hygiene promoters through tent-to-tent visits and small group sessions, helping to promote better hygiene practices and disease prevention among camp residents.

Camp-wide cleaning campaigns were successfully implemented with the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community members, and selected workers, contributing to a cleaner and safer environment inside the camp.

The project team also continues the maintenance of WASH infrastructure, including the water distribution network and communal water storage tanks, ensuring reliable access to essential water services.

In addition, the first round of cash-for-work activities was completed, engaging camp residents in cleaning campaigns, garbage collection, and maintenance of sewer channels, while also providing short-term livelihood support.

The project is being implemented from 10 October 2025 to 9 July 2026, ensuring continuous support and improved living conditions for displaced families throughout the implementation period.



Improved access to education through WASH services in IDP camps in Erbil Governorate

Funded by the International WAQF Fund, this initiative employs a holistic methodology to create a safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment through the following pillars:

Infrastructure & WASH Revitalisation:

Technical teams are conducting comprehensive rehabilitations of school facilities, focusing on the upgrading of gender-sensitive latrines, modern handwashing stations, and safe drinking water points to meet international humanitarian standards.

Minor Structural Repairs:

Targeted maintenance is being carried out on classrooms and school buildings to ensure structural integrity and a safe learning environment. The intervention also includes the rehabilitation of the school garden and green areas, through minor repairs and the provision of trees and basic gardening items to create a healthier and more pleasant environment for students.

Capacity Building and Awareness:

In addition to physical improvements, the project is implementing hygiene promotion sessions and school-wide cleaning campaigns to encourage good hygiene practices and promote a culture of cleanliness and environmental responsibility among students and school staff.

Material Support:

To enhance the learning environment, Islamic Relief Iraq is providing school furniture, hygiene kits, and recreational kits, as well as installing water coolers equipped with filtration systems, ensuring students have access to safe drinking water and improved school facilities.

In the face of protracted displacement, ensuring that a child has access to a clean toilet and safe drinking water is the first step toward restoring their right to a quality education.



This vital intervention is being implemented with a total grant of IQD 107,810,983 (\$ 82,000) from the International WAQF Fund, covering an operational period from 14 July 2025 to 14 March 2026. The project contributes to improving living and learning conditions for the refugee community residing in the two camps, which host approximately 4,400 households.

Within the education sector, the project supports schools serving more than 2,000 students, including over 1,000 girls and more than 1,100 boys. In addition, the initiative provides support to the school academic community, including 55 female teachers and 45 male teachers, strengthening the learning environment and ensuring continuity of quality education.

By integrating infrastructure improvements with educational support, the project contributes to creating safer, healthier, and more dignified learning spaces for Syrian refugee students during the 2025–26 academic year.

The primary objective of this intervention is to enhance student health, hygiene, and overall learning conditions by providing a safe and supportive educational environment. The expected impact includes improved hygiene practices, reduced health risks, and increased student attendance, ultimately fostering a more inclusive and conducive learning environment for children living in the Erbil refugee camps.





The project, funded with IQD 84,051,695 (\$ 63,918) from the International WAQF Fund, was implemented over eight months and successfully supported 252 families, reaching 1,192 direct rightsholders. This funding enabled improvements in school infrastructure, WASH facilities, learning materials, and teacher capacity-building, creating safer, more inclusive, and engaging learning environments across Halabja Governorate.

Rehabilitation of schools, WASH facilities and teachers training sessions in Halabja

Darwn
 “I can’t wait to use the new TVs next year. I think learning will be more fun with videos and pictures!”
 A student

Rebaz Azad
 “I learned about the learning barriers and challenges related to students’ psychological well-being, which was completely new for me,”
 A teacher

Lewall
 “When I saw the classroom walls freshly painted and clean, I felt like I was in a new school. It made me excited to come to class every day”
 A student

Islamic Relief Iraq implemented a multi-sectoral initiative in Halabja Governorate from August 2024 to April 2025 to improve access to safe, inclusive, and quality education. The project rehabilitated school infrastructure and WASH facilities while strengthening teachers’ professional capacities. Teachers received training in modern teaching methodologies and Psychosocial Support (PSS), enabling them to better support students’ learning, wellbeing, and classroom engagement. As a result, schools now provide safer, healthier, and more inclusive learning environments, helping children—including those with physical impairments—access improved educational opportunities and stronger learning outcomes.

Pedagogical Capacity Building:

Beyond physical improvements, the project provided learning materials and teacher training in modern teaching methods and PSS, enabling educators to create more engaging and supportive learning environments for students.



Inclusive Educational Access:

By bridging infrastructure gaps, the project has successfully created a more inclusive environment that accommodates diverse student needs, ensuring that educational quality is accessible to all, including those with physical impairments.



Enhanced access to education through improved WASH services across schools in Thi Qar Governorate

Islamic Relief Iraq is currently implementing this vital project to establish safe, inclusive, and hygienic learning environments for children across three schools in the Al Gharraf district of Thi Qar Governorate. The intervention is specifically designed to address the critical infrastructure and sanitation gaps affecting over 950 students and teachers. By synchronising physical rehabilitation with active hygiene promotion, the initiative is fostering a supportive educational atmosphere that directly enhances student health and academic retention.

Technical teams are currently executing a series of integrated measures to ensure a holistic improvement of the school environment:

- **WASH Infrastructure Upgrades:** Crews are repairing and upgrading latrines and handwashing basins while enhancing drinking water points to provide reliable access to safe water.
- **Structural Maintenance:** Minor rehabilitations of classrooms and general school infrastructure are being carried out to improve overall safety and inclusivity for all students.
- **Health Promotion and Material Support:** The project is delivering structured hygiene promotion sessions and coordinating school-wide cleaning campaigns. Simultaneously, schools are receiving essential hygiene supplies and learning materials.

These operations are being funded by **Islamic Relief Mauritius**, with a total budgetary allocation of IQD **178,241,363.87 (\$ 135,484)** dedicated to meeting the comprehensive needs of the three targeted schools. The project officially commenced on 1 December 2025 and is continuing through 30 August 2026 to ensure the sustainability of the achieved results.

Regarding field outreach, current statistics indicate the project is supporting 138 families, reaching a total of 138 direct rightsholders. The demographic impact reflects a significant focus on the younger generation – currently 1,310 boys and 12 girls are benefiting. Furthermore, the project is strengthening the academic community by supporting 25 men and 35 women within the teaching and administrative staff, thereby enhancing the local educational capacity in Al Gharraf.

The project is currently generating long-term positive shifts in the local educational landscape:

- **Health Risk Mitigation:** Improved hygiene practices and rehabilitated facilities are leading to a direct reduction in school-based health risks.
- **Increased Engagement:** Safer and more inclusive environments are encouraging higher student attendance and more active participation in the learning process.
- **Educational Equity:** By addressing systemic infrastructure gaps, the project is ensuring that children in Thi Qar have access to dignified and supportive learning spaces.





Enhanced Education Access through Improved WASH Services in Three Schools in Thi Qar Governorate

Funded by **Islamic Relief Switzerland**, the project utilised a total budget of IQD 154,085,346 (\$ 117,220) to deliver high-impact results for the community. The intervention successfully supported 138 families, reaching a total of 1,376 direct rightsholders.

Benefiting 1,310 boys and 12 girls within the student population. Furthermore, the project empowered the local academic workforce by supporting 20 men and 34 women among the teaching and administrative staff, ensuring that the 771 students and 54 teachers across the three schools now operate in a dignified and hygienic setting.

This project was successfully completed in the Al Gharraf district of Thi Qar Governorate, addressing critical barriers to safe and inclusive learning. While the three targeted schools were functional, they previously faced systemic challenges, including aging infrastructure, deteriorating sanitation facilities, and a pronounced lack of hygiene awareness and basic educational resources. This intervention was designed to restore dignity and improve the health and academic retention of students by synchronising physical rehabilitation with behavioural change.

Executed between 1 March 2025 and 30 November 2025, the project followed a multi-faceted approach to modernise the school environment:

Infrastructure Revitalisation:

Technical teams completed the repair and upgrading of gender-sensitive latrines, handwashing basins, and drinking water points, ensuring all facilities met international health and safety standards.

Hygiene and Resource Support:

The project delivered structured hygiene promotion sessions alongside the provision of essential hygiene supplies. Additionally, the distribution of learning materials and basic recreational items ensured a more engaging and supportive atmosphere for both pupils and teachers.



Supporting Conflict-affected School Children in Diyala

Funded by Islamic Relief UK, the project operated with a total budget of IQD 535,498,156 (407,351 \$). The implementation cycle ran from 15 June 2024 to 14 August 2025, achieving significant reach across the governorate:

- **Total Direct Rightsholders:** The project reached 7,111 individuals, representing 1,800 supported families.
- **Demographic Breakdown:** Participants included 151 men and 510 women (staff and guardians), as well as 6,373 girls and 14 boys.
- **Inclusion Focus:** Sixty-three people with disabilities received support to ensure an inclusive educational environment.

Islamic Relief Iraq has successfully completed this project a critical educational intervention designed to restore access to safe, conducive, and child-friendly learning environments. Following periods of significant conflict, the educational infrastructure in the Diyala Governorate faced substantial degradation. This initiative targeted 10 primary schools, directly addressing the physical and sanitary barriers that hindered the academic engagement and wellbeing of 2,500 students.

Recognising that adequate sanitation is a fundamental pillar of a healthy learning environment, the project implemented a robust rehabilitation programme for school WASH facilities:

- **Dual-facility Approach:** Each targeted school saw the rehabilitation of two distinct WASH facilities- one dedicated to students and one for teaching staff -.
- **Infrastructure Upgrades:** Rehabilitation works included cement plastering, the installation of ceramic wall and floor tiles, and the full restoration of sewage and plumbing systems.
- **Enhanced Safety and Hygiene:** Interventions provided new hand-wash basins, secured doors and windows, improved ventilation systems, and comprehensive painting.

Beyond sanitation, the project addressed the broader physical needs of the learning space through targeted maintenance:

- **Structural Repairs:** Damaged doors and windows were replaced, including glazing, handle locks, and fresh painting.
- **Functional Improvements:** Maintenance was performed on student desks, and new door locks were installed to ensure classroom security.
- **Electrical and Ventilation Systems:** Full oversight and repair of electrical wiring, lighting systems, and ventilation were completed to create a modern, safe classroom atmosphere.



Enhancing Education and Income Generation Opportunities for Sustainable Livelihoods

The initiative was finalised as a comprehensive multi-sectoral response to the protracted humanitarian and economic challenges in Iraq. Operating with a total budgetary investment of IQD 1,474,926,254 (\$ 1,121,893) funded by Islamic Relief USA, the project spanned from 20 September 2023 through 20 March 2025. By synchronising the restoration of educational infrastructure with market-driven vocational empowerment, the project successfully fostered long-term resilience and social cohesion across the Diyala, Dohuk, and Erbil governorates.

Component I: Educational Infrastructure and Human Capital

This pillar prioritised the stabilisation of the academic sector, ensuring that 8,648 primary school children and 120 teachers could operate within safe and dignified learning environments:

- **Infrastructure Revitalisation:** Technical teams completed the comprehensive rehabilitation of WASH facilities in 10 target schools. The works included modern plumbing, ceramic tiling, and secure ventilation, providing a functional foundation for student health.
- **Institutional Capacity Building:** To address the systemic vulnerabilities caused by the ISIS crisis, the project trained 100 Department of Education staff in PSS, Child Protection, and social cohesion. These trained professionals subsequently led awareness sessions for the broader student body.
- **Material Support:** The project mitigated resource shortages by providing essential teaching furniture and learning kits - containing textbooks, notebooks and bags - to the most vulnerable students.

Component II: Economic Empowerment and MSME Support

The second pillar targeted the economic wellbeing of families experiencing severe financial fragility, with a specific focus on women-headed households and unemployed young people:

- **Vocational Skills Acquisition:** Specialised training was delivered to 209 individuals, emphasising the inclusion of women and five people with disabilities to ensure equitable access to livelihood opportunities.
- **Enterprise Asset Provision:** To facilitate immediate market participation, 125 individuals received in-kind startup toolkits to launch or expand MSMEs, thereby stimulating local economic activity.



The project established a vital safety net for 9,556 families, delivering direct, life-changing services to 3,822 individuals. The demographic reach highlights the project's success in supporting the most marginalised groups, with the beneficiary pool including 462 men and 441 women. Most notably, the intervention secured the future of the younger generation, reaching 251 boys and 2,663 girls, while ensuring that five people with disabilities were fully integrated into the recovery process.



NEXUS Accelerator Fund

Through the NEXUS Accelerator Fund (NAF) initiative, Islamic Relief Iraq successfully enhanced community resilience and regional recovery by implementing timely climate adaptation programmes. To ensure systemic impact, Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan guidelines were developed in close consultation with the Directorate of Agriculture, the Directorate of Water, and the Governor's Office. This collaborative framework ensured that all interventions were fully endorsed and aligned with regional policies for long-term sustainability.

With the critical support of the World Vision NAF project, Islamic Relief Iraq empowered smallholder farmers in Thi Qar Governorate. The project focused on the following pillars:

Technical Training: Farmers were trained in climate-smart agriculture techniques and digital literacy to modernise traditional farming methods.

Resource Efficiency: The initiative introduced efficient water and energy technologies, strengthening natural resource management and water conservation strategies.

Empowerment through Knowledge: By equipping farmers with adaptation strategies, the project significantly fortified local agricultural systems against climate volatility.

Recognising the role of the younger generation in sustainable development, the project invested in high-level vocational training:

Professional Development: University graduates received specialised training in environmental protection and green job creation.

Sustainable Skills: These graduates were equipped with the specific skills needed to contribute to climate resilience and the burgeoning green economy in Iraq.

The project concluded its successful implementation cycle in Thi Qar between 17 March 2025 and 31 August 2025, delivering the following measurable outcomes:

Financial Investment: The initiative was executed with a total budget of IQD 17,626,500 (\$ 13,408)

Direct Beneficiaries: A total of 111 rightsholders successfully completed the capacity-building programmes.

Demographic Reach: The participant group was comprised of 56 men and 55 women, ensuring perfect gender parity in access to climate education.



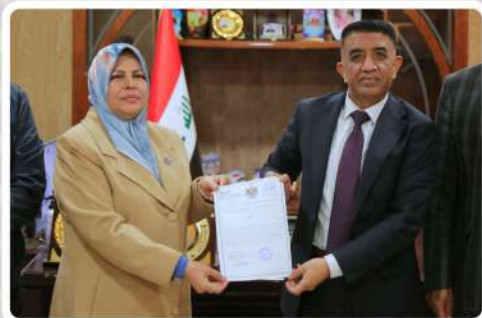


Partnerships

Islamic Relief Iraq strengthened strategic partnerships with government institutions at both Federal Iraq and Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) levels to ensure coordinated, compliant, and sustainable interventions. Memorandums of Understanding were signed and maintained with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Baghdad and KRG, key line departments including the Directorates of Labour and Social Affairs, Agriculture, and Education across Thi Qar, Diyala, Halabja, and Erbil, as well as with the University of Halabja and Sulaimaniyah University Polytechnic (Halabja Technical Institute) Career Development Centres.



In addition to government partnerships, Islamic Relief Iraq collaborated with civil society organisations and community-based groups, leveraging local expertise to ensure programmes were inclusive, context-sensitive, and responsive to community needs. Close coordination was also maintained with the Halabja Governor's Office and the Joint Crisis Coordination Centre, facilitating local buy-in and sustainability.



These partnerships enhanced alignment with national and regional development priorities, improved rightholder targeting and service delivery, and strengthened Islamic Relief Iraq's commitment to locally-led, government-supported, and community-driven development initiatives. By combining efforts with government institutions, academic partners, and civil society organisations, the project achieved greater reach, more effective implementation, and long-term impact across all targeted communities.



Enhancing youth engagement for promoting peacebuilding in Halabja Governorate

The project addressed the critical need for youth participation in promoting peaceful coexistence and social cohesion, repositioning young people from the periphery of community life to the centre of local peace processes. In a region marked by limited livelihood opportunities and constrained social spaces, the initiative directly reached 343 individuals (216 men and 127 women) from 343 families, while its influence extended to over 25,000 community members through outreach and digital campaigns, shifting local narratives toward tolerance, unity, and inclusive civic engagement.

To achieve this, the intervention followed a multi-tiered approach:

- **Capacity building:** Young people received training in leadership, conflict resolution, mediation, and non-violent communication, increasing confidence and practical skills
- **Youth-led action:** Learning was translated into practice through the establishment and mentoring of four youth volunteer groups. These groups spearheaded community initiatives such as dialogue forums, environmental protection projects, cultural exchanges, sports events, and clean-up campaigns.
- **Institutional coordination:** The project strengthened local governance by collaborating with the Prevention of Violent Extremism Committee in Halabja, enhancing its capacity to engage young people in long-term prevention and peacebuilding efforts.

The project significantly strengthened youth leadership and civic engagement, equipping participants with practical skills in conflict resolution, mediation, and non-violent communication, which they applied in real community initiatives. The young participants demonstrated greater confidence, initiative, and a stronger sense of responsibility, actively contributing to dialogue forums, cultural exchanges, environmental projects, and community events. Local stakeholders increasingly recognised young people as positive agents of change, valuing their contributions to local peacebuilding and social cohesion.

By fostering inclusive participation and creating safe spaces for interaction across different social and religious backgrounds, the project enhanced social cohesion, built trust within communities, and promoted collaborative problem-solving. The initiatives implemented by youth volunteer groups created tangible improvements in community life, while the strengthened partnership with the Prevention of Violent Extremism Committee ensured long-term sustainability of youth engagement in peacebuilding. Collectively, these outcomes laid a durable foundation for youth-led initiatives, empowering the next generation to sustain and expand efforts for peace, unity, and resilient communities across Halabja Governorate.



Funded by Islamic Relief Germany, the project was implemented from 1 September 2024 to 28 February 2025 with a total budget of IQD 57,131,996 (\$43,463). Its primary mission was to empower young women and men with practical peacebuilding skills while fostering dialogue and collaboration among diverse groups, including Muslims, Kaka'is, and host communities.

Voices from the Field:

"Before, I had the desire to make a difference but not the tools. Now I feel well equipped to promote peace in my hometown." - Project participant

"Participating in this activity was a new experience for me and gave me the confidence to lead future peacebuilding initiatives. I now believe I have the skills and capacity to resolve conflicts in my community." - Project participant



Empowering orphan families through asset creation and livelihood support in Erbil Governorate

The project was successfully implemented as a targeted socioeconomic intervention to enhance the self-reliance of vulnerable, orphan households in Erbil city and its surrounding districts. By delivering a tailored blend of vocational training and financial capital, the initiative addressed the root causes of economic fragility among families who had lost their primary breadwinners. This project effectively transitioned these households from a state of dependency to active market participation.

To ensure high-impact resource allocation, the project employed a rigorous, evidence-based selection and implementation framework:

- **Comprehensive assessment:** Initial interviews were conducted with the families of 140 sponsored orphans to evaluate their specific socioeconomic standing.
- **Prioritised targeting:** From this assessment pool, 72 of the most vulnerable families were selected for direct assistance.
- **Inter-institutional collaboration:** Operations were spearheaded by Islamic Relief Iraq in close coordination with the Department of Labor and Social Affairs, Department of Non-Governmental Organisations, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and Joint Crisis Coordination Center, ensuring full alignment with regional social protection frameworks.

The initiative prioritised human capital development through specialised educational tracks designed to meet local market demands:

- **Foundational business skills:** All selected participants completed the Know About Business training programme to master essential entrepreneurial competencies.
- **Tailoring and sewing:** Thirty-two women-headed households successfully graduated from a comprehensive vocational course in tailoring.
- **Event design:** Eight orphaned young people received practical training in event design, equipping them with a modern and marketable trade.



Funded by Islamic Relief UK, the project operated with a total budget of IQD 455,605,773 (\$ 346,553). The implementation period, spanning from 15 May 2025 to 28 February 2026, secured long-term stability for 72 individual rightsholders and their respective families.

The demographic reach of the project underscored a strong commitment to gender equity and youth empowerment:

- **Women's empowerment:** The project supported 56 women, primarily heads of households, in establishing sustainable livelihoods.
 - **Youth and male inclusion:** Assistance was provided to nine men and seven orphaned young boys, while a broader reach extended to 59 young people through various project activities.
- **Financial empowerment:** Following the completion of training, beneficiaries received conditional cash grants based on verified business plans to establish or expand economically viable ventures.

By investing in the specific skill sets of orphaned young people and women-headed households, this intervention has transformed vulnerable families into self-sufficient entrepreneurs. The successful approval and funding of these micro-businesses ensure that the 72 families supported in Erbil now contribute actively to the region's broader economic stability.



Complementary fund

This project was implemented as a targeted humanitarian intervention designed to enhance the long-term wellbeing and stability of orphan-headed households across the Anbar and Karbala governorates. Recognising that these families navigate intersecting vulnerabilities, the project adopted a robust multi-sectoral approach focused on health, shelter and education. By delivering critical cash assistance, the initiative successfully bridged immediate gaps in living standards and secured the fundamental rights of at-risk households during the 2025 operational cycle.

To ensure the equitable distribution of aid to the most marginalised populations, the project employed a rigorous, evidence-based selection framework:

- **Comprehensive Needs assessment:** Throughout 2025, technical teams conducted in-depth assessments for 265 families of orphaned children to evaluate their socioeconomic standing and specific requirements regarding health and housing.
- **Standardised scoring system:** Beneficiaries were selected using a vulnerability scoring mechanism that prioritised the most at-risk households.
- **Targeted cash assistance:** Following the assessment phase, 59 families of orphaned children were selected to receive specialised cash grants to address urgent medical expenses and improve housing stability.

The project integrated three essential sectors to foster dignity and self-reliance among recipients:

- **Health support:** Grants ensured that families could cover critical medical costs and access necessary healthcare services that were previously out of reach.
- **Shelter improvement:** The intervention facilitated upgrades to living conditions, securing safe and stable housing for families facing economic hardship or protracted displacement.



Educational Continuity: By easing the financial burden on household heads, the project removed barriers to school enrollment, ensuring orphaned children remained in the education system.

Operating with a total budgetary allocation of IQD 19,895,700 (\$ 15,135), the project achieved measurable socioeconomic benefits between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025. The intervention moved beyond generic aid to provide specific, high-impact support to the following demographics:

- **Direct Household Support:** Out of the 265 families assessed, the project successfully delivered direct assistance to 59 families of orphaned children.
- **Rightsholder Reach:** The project directly impacted 51 individual rightsholders, with a specific focus on the protection of minors, including 24 girls.
- **Disability Inclusion:** In alignment with inclusive humanitarian standards, the project provided targeted support to one person with a disability, ensuring their specific health and accessibility needs were addressed.

This project was strategically designed to scale and complement other large-scale livelihood efforts across Iraq:

- **Empowerment Synergy:** The initiative complemented the IQD 455,605,773 (\$ 346,583). Erbil-based orphan empowerment project, which focused on asset creation and vocational training for 72 families.
- **Institutional Integration:** By aligning with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the project helped integrate marginalised families into local social protection frameworks.

Orphan Sponsorship Programme

The Orphan Sponsorship Programme serves as a strategic cornerstone of Islamic Relief Iraq's social protection framework. Operating across six key governorates - Baghdad, Diyala, Anbar, Karbala, Erbil and Duhok - the programme is designed to mitigate the deep-seated socioeconomic vulnerabilities of children affected by protracted poverty and the loss of primary caregivers. By delivering sustained financial assistance alongside seasonal interventions, the initiative preserves the dignity of orphaned children while building long-term resilience against future systemic challenges.

Throughout the 2025 fiscal year, the programme maintained consistent monthly support for nearly 1,000 vulnerable children. Adopting a gender-inclusive and protection-centred approach, the programme achieved the following specific reach:

- **Total enrolled orphans:** A total of 926 children and their guardians received direct, life-sustaining support.
- **Gender distribution:** The cohort included 251 boys and 232 girls, ensuring equitable access to resources.
- **Disability inclusion:** Targeted assistance was provided to 19 individuals with disabilities, catering to their specialised needs.
- **Institutional scale:** Support extended to the broader household and community structure, involving 209 men and 215 women in the care and administration of these services.

Beyond the primary financial stipend, the programme utilised a multi-layered support system to address the seasonal and educational requirements of orphaned children and their families:

- **Seasonal humanitarian assistance:** Integrated support was provided during critical periods, including the distribution of Ramadan food baskets, Eid gifts, and comprehensive winter assistance (fuel, clothing, and blankets).
- **Educational continuity:** Targeted back-to-school initiatives provided essential learning materials, uniforms, and stationery, directly preventing school dropout rates.
- **Protection and psychosocial wellbeing:** All activities were classified under the "Protection" sector, prioritising the safety and psychosocial health of every child involved.





Ramadan food distribution 2025

Islamic Relief Worldwide began Ramadan food distributions in 1984 — the same year the charity was founded. Since then, this project has benefited over 10,000,000 people worldwide. The Ramadan Programme offers an opportunity for many vulnerable people around the world who face food insecurity and hunger to receive a food parcel, easing their burden during the month of Ramadan.

The 2025 Ramadan distribution reached 18,639 individuals across 3,185 households, providing essential food assistance to vulnerable families during the holy month. Among those supported were 7,013 women and 5,546 men. Distributions ensured that families in displacement camps and conflict-affected communities could observe Ramadan with greater dignity and stability.

Special attention was given to the wellbeing of children, with 3,520 girls and 2,560 boys benefiting from the distribution of Ramadan food parcels and nutritional support. The project helped ease the financial burden on families while bringing the spirit and joy of Ramadan to children and families living in particularly vulnerable conditions.

This massive undertaking was supported by an overall budget of IQD 372,627,211 (\$ 283468), ensuring a broad and inclusive geographic reach.



Contents of a Ramadan basket

Each distributed food pack contains several basic items for an average family to consume.

- 10Kg rice
- 5Kg sugar
- 3Kg lentils
- 3Kg date palm
- 400g tea
- 2.1Kg bulgur
- 2.4Kg chickpeas
- 1.8 Kg beans
- 830g tomato paste
- 5 litres of vegetable oil





Qurbani 2025

The programme reached 4,843 women and 4,332 men. The project placed a significant emphasis on the wellbeing of the younger generation, delivering nutritional support to 1,415 girls and 1,310 boys, bringing the joy of the holiday to children living in displacement camps and conflict-affected areas.



68

sacrifices made



2,380

meat parcels distributed

The Qurbani (Udhiya) Programme stands as one of Islamic Relief Worldwide's most significant seasonal interventions. In Iraq in 2025, active field operations spanned from 1 May to 30 June 2025 to cover the period of Eid al-Adha. The project was strategically designed to bridge the acute nutritional gap of families facing severe food insecurity, particularly as the rising market prices of meat have made animal protein a luxury for many. For these vulnerable households, the programme is often the only opportunity throughout the year to access high-quality meat.

Beyond mere aid delivery, the project prioritised the dignity of rightsholders by selecting livestock that met both Shariah (legal) and veterinary criteria. Each beneficiary family was provided with three kilograms of fresh veal, professionally slaughtered, packaged, and transported in refrigerated trucks. This cold-chain logistics system was essential for maintaining maximum food safety and ensuring the meat reached families' homes in prime condition.

During the implementation cycle, the project successfully reached a total of 11,900 individuals, representing 2,380 of the most vulnerable families. This massive undertaking was supported by an overall budget of IQD 203,145,239 (\$ 154,531), ensuring a broad and inclusive geographic reach.



Eid gifts distribution 2025

The Eid Gift Distribution Programme is a key seasonal humanitarian initiative designed to provide psychosocial support and relief to vulnerable children in Iraq. By providing toys, gifts, and essential school stationery, the project aims to bring joy and happiness to the hearts of children while simultaneously equipping them with the tools needed for academic success throughout the school year.

The programme is divided into two primary phases, aligning with the major Islamic holidays to maximise psychological impact and community engagement:

- **Phase I: Eid al-fitr gifts:** Implemented during the spring season to celebrate the end of Ramadan, focusing on immediate joy and educational preparation.
- **Phase II: Eid al-adha gifts:** Executed mid-year to provide continued support and replenishment of school materials for the latter half of the academic cycle.

The 2025 seasonal cycle utilised a total investment of IQD 80,724,826 (\$ 61,407) to deliver comprehensive support across the targeted regions. The project successfully reached 5,987 children, ensuring a balanced geographic impact between northern and southern Iraq.

The detailed demographic and financial breakdown of the completed cycle is as follows:

Phase I (Erbil & Halabja): With a budget of IQD 52,368,354 (\$ 39,838), this phase supported 3,202 total children, consisting of 2,560 boys and 642 girls.

Phase II (Thi Qar): Utilising IQD 28,356,472 (\$ 21,564), this phase reached 2,785 children, supporting a nearly equal distribution of 1,310 boys and 1,475 girls.



Contents of Eid gifts



- 1 schoolbag
- 2 drawing books
- 2 sets of coloured pencils
- 2 short stories
- 2 footballs or skipping ropes
- 1 toy for boys or girls



Winterisation 2024-25

Utilising a total investment of IQD 245,753,567 (\$ 186,949), the project achieved substantial reach during the 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025 implementation cycle.

- **Household Impact:** The project provided direct support to 599 vulnerable families.
- **Direct Rightsholders:** A total of 599 received support through this distribution.



Each kit included:

- 2 blankets
- 2 mattresses
- 1 kerosene heater

The Winterisation 2024-25 initiative was successfully concluded as a critical seasonal intervention designed to safeguard the health and dignity of highly vulnerable populations across Iraq. Recognising the severe risks posed by the region's harsh winter conditions, Islamic Relief Iraq implemented this targeted distribution programme to provide essential thermal insulation and heating assets to families facing acute economic hardship.

The project was strategically executed across four governorates identified for their significant pockets of poverty and climate-related vulnerability: Erbil, Halabja, Diyala, and Thi Qar. By focusing on these diversified regions, the programme ensured a broad humanitarian safety net covering both the northern and southern provinces of Iraq.

The intervention delivered a standardised package of high-quality NFIs to ensure adequate thermal protection for targeted households:

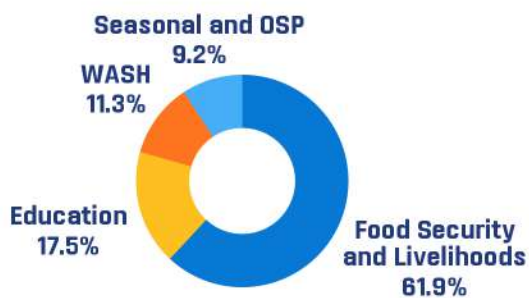
- Families received high-density blankets and mattresses to improve sleeping conditions and prevent cold-related illnesses during the peak of winter.
- The programme distributed kerosene oil heaters to provide a reliable source of indoor warmth as temperatures dropped to sub-zero levels.
- Resources were prioritised for 'poor and needy' families lacking the financial capital to procure these life-saving items independently.

OUR REACH IN 2025

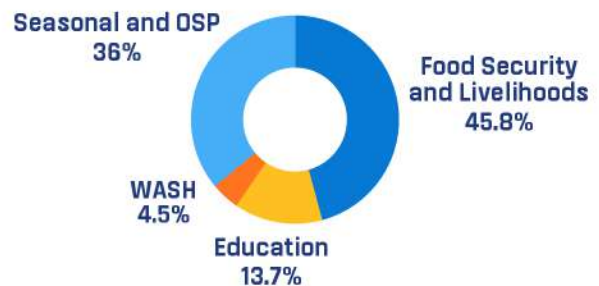
Budget by Donors:



Budget by Sectors:



Rightsolders by Sectors:



68,465
Rightsolders

26,591
Households

16,187
Men

16,254
Women

17,364
Boys

18,495
Girls

165
People with disabilities

Thank you to our supporters

We extend our sincere thanks to our Islamic Relief family members UK, Canada, Germany, South Africa, Switzerland – as well as the Islamic Relief Worldwide Seasonal and Orphan Welfare and Child Protection teams, and the International Waqf Fund—for their continued support and solidarity. Your trust, partnership, and generous contributions have played a vital role in strengthening our programmes and enabling us to reach vulnerable communities with impactful and dignified assistance. This collaboration truly reflects the strength of working together as one Islamic Relief family.

We express our sincere recognition to the Government of Iraq, at both the federal level and in the Kurdistan Region, for their continued cooperation and support throughout the year. We particularly acknowledge the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Governor's Offices in Erbil, Halabja, Diyala, and Thi Qar, and the Directorates of Agriculture, Education, Labour, and Social Affairs across these governorates. Their partnership has been instrumental in enabling us to reach vulnerable communities and deliver impactful assistance, demonstrating our shared commitment to improving the lives and wellbeing of those most in need.





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