



2017: INTERVENING IN THE LIVES OF ORPHANS & VULNERABLE CHILDREN

ICF intervenes with love and hope in the lives of Iraqi children who are vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and exploitation by criminals, human traffickers, and extremists. Here is what we did about it in 2017:

- HOPE BUS:** ICF launched its first “Hope Bus” in one of Baghdad’s poorest neighborhoods. Pictured above, the Hope Bus provided tutoring, nutritious meals, health care, social services and play for 82 children, including orphans and street children. Among them were two girls who took turns working on the streets selling water and going to class on the Hope Bus.
- LEGAL PROTECTION:** 253 children were represented by the “Baghdad Street Lawyers” for charges ranging from begging, stealing, fighting, and more. Three teenage girls, promised jobs in a beauty salon but trafficked instead for prostitution, were defended in court and released to a shelter to avoid going home where they could face honor killings.
- ACCESS TO SCHOOL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT:** 339 kids received help from the Baghdad Street Lawyers to secure legal documents required for school and for government benefits. In one case, the Baghdad Street Lawyers helped investigate a woman picked up for begging with a 3 year old child without a legal document, leading to the discovery that the child had been bought from kidnappers.
- ENDING CHILD LABOR AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** 250 children received social services such as medical care, mediation with families, intervention in cases of abuse, help in getting government benefits, and ending child labor. During the year, 118 children were able to stop working on the streets.
- PREVENTING EXPLOITATION:** 125 boys and girls were trained by the Baghdad Street Lawyers to be on guard against dangers on the streets, to resist offers of pay from strangers to deliver threatening letters or bags that might include explosives, and to avoid drugs and illegal activities like begging or carrying a knife.
- INCOME PROJECTS:** ICF invested in 11 income projects for desperately poor families with 37 children. In one of the projects, a teenage orphan boy living with an aunt and two younger brothers, got help setting up a small shop at home so he could stop working at the dump.
- MEDICAL CARE FOR KIDS FLEEING ISIS:** ICF and PLC jointly funded 3 months of pediatric care at a tent clinic for kids and families displaced by ISIS. A total of 1,981 kids under 5 received medical care.

