



PROTECT | NURTURE | EMPOWER

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Iraqi Children Foundation intervenes with love and hope in the lives of children who are vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and exploitation by criminals, traffickers, and extremists.

January 2023



Contents

1. Our Mission and Vision	3
2. Our Impact: Highlights of 2022	5
• Celebrating Hope Bus 3	6
• The Hope Buses	7
• Social Services	10
• The Baghdad Street Lawyers	11
• Anti-Trafficking	12
• Center for Adolescent Girls	13
• Children with Disabilities	14
• My Life Book	15
3. Saluting ICF's Donors & Supporters	16
4. Financials and Leadership	20
• Financial Accountability	21
• Board of Directors and Advisors	22





Our Mission

To intervene with love and hope in the lives of Iraqi children who are vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and exploitation by extremists, criminals, and human traffickers.

Our Vision

To ensure all children in Iraq have a voice, and are empowered to reach their full potential.

Our Mission Approach

OUR PHILOSOPHY

We focus on **sustainability and empowerment** through local capacity building.

HOW WE IMPLEMENT

Our **'hand-up not hand-out'** approach prioritizes partnering with local Iraqi organizations for service delivery. We respect local leadership, build lasting relationships, and invest in training and capacity building.

WHAT THIS ACHIEVES

We **work with our partners** to mobilize resources for education, health, protection and trauma care, and to **give children a voice**.



Our Impact: Highlights of 2022

We are very pleased to report that 2022 was our biggest year ever for programs at ICF. We opened a third Hope Bus, completed a full year of our new “School Transitions” program, refurbished our girls center in Mosul, and expanded the reach of our Street Lawyers and Anti-Trafficking teams. We are looking forward to an even bigger year in 2023, building on the success of our programs in 2022, and serving more vulnerable children in Iraq.

*Please note, names of all children referenced in this report have been changed for their privacy and protection.



WORK IN PROGRESS – INSIDE THE BUS



WORK IN PROGRESS



FIRST DAYS INSIDE THE BUS!

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF HOPE BUS 3!

Thanks to your support, we were so excited to be able to open a third Hope Bus in 2022. This new bus has increased our program capacity by 50%, and we are pleased to now be able to provide critical support to 50 more children each year. The impact of the Hope Bus program cannot be overstated. Our Manager of the program explains:

“Did you know that most Hope Bus children when they first come to us have negative thoughts about themselves like they are stupid, unable to learn. They do not have dreams about the future and feel inferior and that they are not like other children in schools. But when they carry school bags, books and pens, and when they start learning to write the first letter, the change begins. The change is the most important goal that ICF is giving to the children. I always tell you that ICF offers a dream to these children, and when a person has a dream, he will be very powerful and will change. Change is the result that will remain with the child throughout his life.”



ICF REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND THE OFFICIAL OPENING PARTY FOR HOPE BUS 3



PARTY TIME!

OUR 2022 IMPACT: THE HOPE BUSES

Our eye-catching "Hope Buses" are ordinary, used buses that are converted into colorful, child-friendly classrooms. Each bus has two teachers and a social worker, and serves approximately 50 orphans and street kids with tutoring, nutrition, health care, social services, practical life lessons, community, and fun.

OUR 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Hope Bus 3 officially opened, increasing our program capacity by 50%.
- 173 children attended Hope Bus 1, 2, and 3 in either a full- or part-time capacity (630 since program start in 2017).
- More than 27,000 nutritious meals were provided to students on the buses.
- 80% of children on the bus now have their legal documents (supported by our Street Lawyers team), & 85% of children regularly attending the Hope Bus programs are no longer working.

In 2022, ICF released a new video showcasing the Hope Bus program. You can watch the video here:

["Voices from the Hope Buses"](#)



MOHAMMED'S HOPE BUS STORY

“Mohammed is 10 years old. The team at Hope Bus 3 noticed that he would come almost every day and stand at the outer fence of the bus, where he would look at the children and the bus silently, then go home at the end of the day. When the bus team tried to talk to him, he was running away. The team visited his home, which is close to the bus, to inquire about his condition, as it seemed abnormal. Mohammed’s mother explained that he could not hear without the help of a hearing aid, which he had lost, and they did not have the money to buy a new one for him. The team took Mohammed to see a specialist doctor, who prescribed him the appropriate hearing aid, and the team purchased it for him. After that, he was registered at Hope Bus 3. The bus team were surprised that Mohammed has a high ability to learn, and is a smart child. He is very happy to be learning with the other children at Hope Bus 3.”



OUR 2022 IMPACT: SCHOOL TRANSITIONS

In 2022, ICF completed the first full year of a “School Transitions” program. This program was designed to help sustain the critical gains made in educating, protecting, and nurturing our Hope Bus program graduates, now more than 600 children.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS IN 2022:

- Daily minibus transportation to public school, currently being utilized by 50 children.
- School enrollment support.
- “Starting School!” pack, with stationery, hygiene supplies, school clothes, and shoes.
- A small, mobile Transitions team to monitor Hope Bus graduates for a minimum of three years.
- An emergency / special needs fund, to meet needs including medical and psychosocial support, clothing, nutrition, and shelter.
- Hope Bus Family annual celebration and check-in.



OUR 2022 IMPACT: SOCIAL SERVICES

Social workers on our Street Lawyers team strive to end child labor and get children off the streets. They also work to stop domestic abuse, provide medical care, and help get access to psychosocial services for children with mental health issues.

Case study: *Abdullah is 18 years old, and was one of our beneficiaries who served a six month sentence for committing simple theft two years ago. Upon his release, the social workers persuaded him to go back to school. Through the field follow-up of the beneficiaries, we learned that Abdullah passed his high school final exam, and was accepted into the College of Education. He is now a student in his first year, and after four years of study, will qualify as a teacher.*

OUR 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Social workers served 133 children with clothing medical attention, family mediation, and abuse prevention. Since this program began in 2017, 1459 children have been served.
- Social workers assisted young people with finding employment after incarceration, or to support family.
- Social workers assisted children and families in obtaining government benefits.



OUR 2022 IMPACT: BAGHDAD STREET LAWYERS

Our lawyers provide legal protection for children who are targeted by criminals and traffickers, abused by employers, or are facing other risks. They also help children obtain critical legal documents so that they can access benefits and attend school.

OUR 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **Legal protection:** 243 legal representation cases have been completed (and an additional 10 are ongoing), for cases including stealing, vagrancy, prostitution, fighting, drugs etc. (1900 cases since the program started).
- **Legal documents:** Street Lawyers helped 256 children obtain legal documents required to enroll in school and access government benefits (1905 cases since the program started).
- **Total completed legal cases in 2022:** 499

Case study: *Twin girls, Sara and Zena, are six years old. Their mother died a year ago, and since that time, their father (who is addicted to drugs and alcohol), has been exploiting his daughters by forcing them to beg in the streets or renting them to beggary groups. The girls' aunt called the team to inform them about the abuse and asked for help to save them. The best and fastest legal solution was to file a legal case to award custody of the girls to their aunt. The case was filed and evidence and witnesses were presented to the judge. After three sessions, our lawyer was successful in the case, with the aunt receiving custody of the girls. The girls will now be enrolled in school and receive the care they deserve.*



In July and August 2022, the team held awareness sessions for vulnerable communities targeted by human trafficking gangs. Six workshops were held, which included 150 men and women. These sessions focused on raising awareness of the methods used by human trafficking gangs to exploit victims, the legal consequences of involvement in human trafficking, forms of trafficking, legal protection for victims, and how to prevent involvement in trafficking. The sessions also explained the services provided by the team to assist and protect victims of human trafficking, and encouraged attendees to contact the team to report cases of human trafficking.

OUR 2022 IMPACT: ADDRESSING CHILD ORGAN, SEX, AND LABOR TRAFFICKING IN IRAQ

Our Anti-Trafficking of Children program (a division of the Baghdad Street Lawyers team) has now completed its second full year of operations. The program has been extremely effective, and we are pleased to announce the continuation of this project into 2023. We have been very pleased with the increased capacity of team during its second year of operations; the team handled 93 cases compared with 63 cases in our pilot year.

As was the case during our pilot year, we published a specific Annual Report for this program in 2022. Some high level findings from the report include:

- The need for this program remains critical, with a significant increase in the prevalence of child sex trafficking crimes this past year. According to our findings, there have been recent changes and developments in the factors that contribute to the spread of trafficking crimes. Some of the factors noted include: 1) a second wave of displacement due to IDP camp closures, 2) the weakness of law enforcement and the rise of organized crime, exacerbated by ongoing and increased political instability, 3) economic factors and a significant increase in the number of Iraqis living below the poverty line. Due to a combination of these factors, Iraq is currently experiencing high rates of domestic violence, divorce, a prevalence of drugs, and poverty. Together, these factors create an environment where children are more vulnerable to human trafficking than ever before.
- The long term and indirect benefits of this program cannot be overstated: the team are seeing positive changes in the attitudes of judges and law enforcement, evidenced by the increased correct application of anti-trafficking laws in local courts. The team are also working hard to raise awareness within communities through direct engagement and activities.
- One point of good news reported is that the Government of Iraq cracked down on organ trafficking in 2022 – we hope they succeed in ending this practice.

The following case study illustrates the complexity and serious nature of trafficking crimes, as well as the efforts to provide holistic support to victims:

“Khaled is 17 years old and is a high school student. He lives with his family in extreme poverty. Due to his poor living conditions, he decided to drop out of school and look for work, but was unable to find a well-paying job. One day, his friend offered to help him sell his kidney. Khaled agreed and an appointment was arranged with a trafficker. During Khaled’s meeting with the trafficker, they were arrested by National Security and both charged with trafficking in human organs. Since the sale did not take place, Khaled did not receive money or surgery. Our lawyer refuted all evidence presented by the public prosecution, the charge was dropped due to a lack of evidence, and Khaled was released. Our team of social workers followed up with Khaled, and helped find him a job as a night guard, which provided a good wage and also allowed him time to study. Khaled plans to return to his high school studies this coming school year.”

OUR 2022 IMPACT: MOSUL “SAFE SPACE” FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS

In 2022, ICF continued funding the operating costs for a “Safe Space” for adolescent girls in Mosul. This center provides social and psychosocial support for vulnerable girls, as well as educational support and a sense of belonging. Many girls in this area have previously been displaced and are only now returning to Mosul. There is an increased need for support for girls experiencing negative coping mechanisms, trauma, psychological distress, and gender-based violence. Girls at the center have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities, including sports, sewing and crafts, reading, and computer literacy. They also have access to social workers, a library, medical care, and computers. Group and individual therapy is provided. In 2022, sewing machines were also provided for the center, and refurbishment activities were undertaken. Approximately 50 girls are served at the center each day, and ICF plans to expand to open a second center in 2023.

Case study: *Zahraa* has a physical disability and used to never leave her house, fearing that other kids would make fun of her. She had no confidence and no friends. When the center opened, she was encouraged to attend, and now joins daily. With the support of social workers, she has made friends, gained confidence, and learned crochet. The team are helping her to start her own business to sell her handicrafts. The center not only provided Zahraa with skills, but critical psychosocial support and a sense of belonging.*



MEDITATION & YOGA



COMPUTER LITERACY



GROUP THERAPY



SPORTS



ZAHRAA*



GIRL WITH SHRAPNEL INJURY



DOWNTOWN MOSUL

SPOTLIGHT ON: SUPPORTING VULNERABLE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

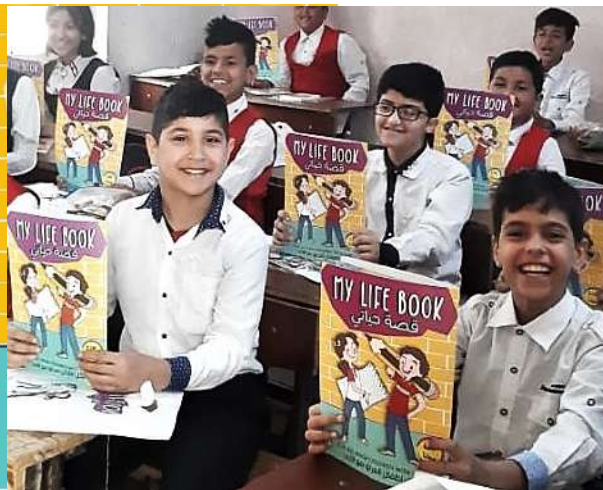
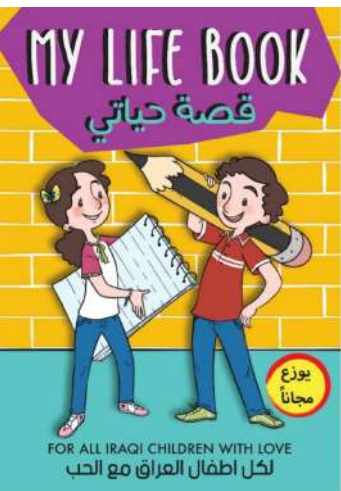
In celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, our partners at Iraq Health Access Organization (IHAO) held an event to support people with disabilities at a clinic in Fallujah. ICF were pleased to be able to provide new wheelchairs to children with disabilities, as part of this event. ICF is committed to protecting, nurturing, and empowering vulnerable children; part of this mission is supporting the rights and dignity of children with disabilities.



OUR 2022 IMPACT: “MY LIFE BOOK”

In 2021, ICF and its U.S. partner, The Children’s Village, released “My Life Book”, a free gift for Iraqi orphans and vulnerable children. Originally an initiative of child welfare experts at the renown Children’s Village in New York, the activity book is designed with a simple therapeutic goal for children who have experienced trauma and loss: addressing the critical, heart-felt need to belong. By filling out the book and drawing pictures of family and friends, each child is reminded of their identity, history, and roots. They also have an opportunity to dream about the future. The activity book is most meaningfully done in collaboration with family members, social workers, teachers, or others who can help build a child’s self-esteem and nurture healing. This new edition is bilingual and features colorful new illustrations created by staff or Iraq’s Asdikae Magazine for children.

In 2022, "My Life Book" was offered in a series of workshops at 3 primary schools and during Eid to approximately 500 children in Baghdad. The workshops, led by Fawaz AlSaffar of Asdikae children’s magazine, followed a pilot project at the Hope Bus and debut of the book at the Baghdad Book Festival at a booth geared toward children (December 2021). The schools where workshops were offered are in disadvantaged areas, where many children are orphans, living below the poverty line, and / or living with some form of special needs. The children thrived on the special attention and opportunity for creativity.





Saluting ICF's Donors & Supporters

ICF recognizes with gratitude the individuals, foundations, and corporates who stepped up to support vulnerable Iraqi kids in 2022. It is your support that allows us to continue serving this important cause.

“In Their Shoes” 5K: Celebrating 10 Years!

After two years of virtual-only events, ICF returned to an in-person “In Their Shoes” 5K in 2022. The event was held in Washington D.C., at the National Park Services beautiful Hains Point park, along the scenic Potomac River. In addition to the in-person run/walk, a global virtual option allowed participants from other U.S. cities, and around the world, to join the celebration in support of Iraq’s children. We are so grateful to the corporate sponsors of this 5K for their generous support of projects for Iraqi children in Baghdad and Mosul, including Khudairi Group, L3Harris, Numerus Group, Objective Area Solutions, and Crescent Petroleum. ICF also applauds its long time partners who join the annual event: Enabling Peace in Iraq Center (EPIC), Karadah Project, Team Red, White, and Blue (RWB), Iraqi-American Young Professionals (IAYP), and Veterans for American Ideals (VFAI).

Distinguished Honorary Co-Chairs for the 2022 5K included:

- Bob Woodruff, ABC News Correspondent
- Mohammed H. Al Fityan, Charge d’Affaires a.i., Embassy of the Republic of Iraq, Washington D.C.
- Col. Dean L. Winslow, M.D. (Ret.), former Medical Squadron Commander
- Mr. Aziz Khudairi, CEO and Chairman, Khudairi Group
- Kelly Swanson and Cynthia Ozbat, Gold Star Mothers
- Dr. Assil Saleh
- Steve Lutes, Vice President, Middle East Affairs, US Chamber of Commerce

Two long standing supporters returned in 2022 as Honorary Co-Chairs Emeritus: Former US Ambassador to Iraq and Medal of Freedom Recipient Ryan Crocker (Ret.), and Former Ambassador of Iraq to the United States Fareed Yasseen (Ret.)



Our 2022 ICF Corporate Mentors

ICF recognizes with gratitude the Corporate Mentors who stepped up in 2022 to support Iraq's most vulnerable children. Corporate Mentors provide significant resources to support ICF initiatives for children in Iraq. ICF gratefully recognizes the generosity of one unnamed company, along with the following businesses:



A Special Trip to Iraq

In October 2022, an ICF delegation traveled to Iraq to visit current and potential partners and programs. Some highlights of the trip included:

- The official opening of Hope Bus 3, and meeting current and past graduates of the program.
- A Q&A meeting with the Street Lawyers & Anti-Trafficking teams, to hear more from the team directly about the challenges they face, and about their successes.
- Visiting a disability clinic in Fallujah, to discuss needs with staff and patients.
- Meetings with government and NGO representatives in both Baghdad and Mosul.
- Visiting the “Safe Space” for girls in Mosul, as well as the site of a prospective new center.



FALLUJAH CLINIC



STREET LAWYERS Q&A



GOVERNMENT & NGO MEETING



DONATED SEWING MACHINES IN MOSUL



GIRL IN MOSUL



SITE OF PROPOSED NEW GIRLS CENTER



HOPE BUS GRADUATES

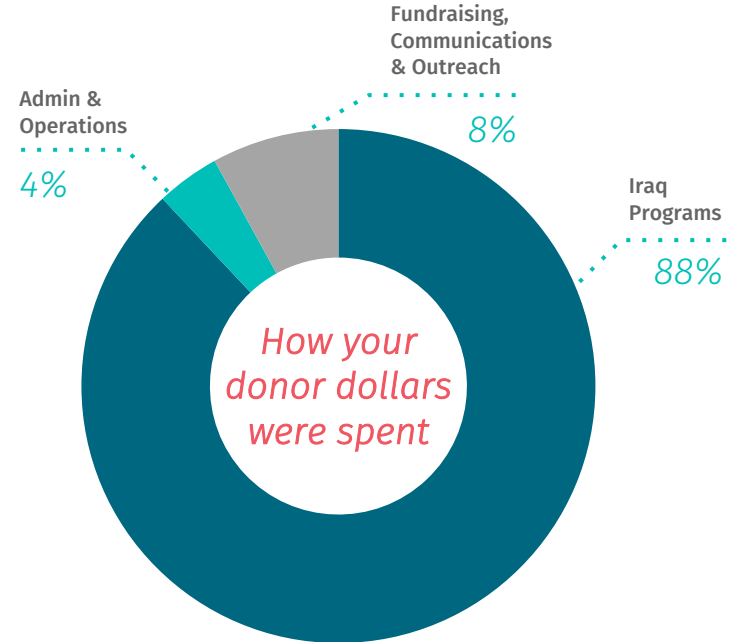


Financials & Leadership

In 2022, Iraqi Children Foundation had its biggest year ever for program spending. Our direct investments in on-the-ground programs in Iraq represented 88% of our total donor dollar spending for the year, up from 85.6% in 2021. We are pleased to enter 2023 with significant funds in reserve. Most importantly, we are proud that we were able to spend more than ever on our core mission: meaningful interventions in the lives of Iraq's most vulnerable children. The ICF Board of Directors remains committed to responsible stewardship of funds donated, as well as overall leadership of the organization.

Financial Accountability 2022

Iraqi Children Foundation is a registered US-based tax exempt 501(c)(3) charity (EIN 26-1394773). Our audit and full financial statements are available upon request.



Our Leadership - Board of Directors



Grant Felgenhauer

CHAIRMAN

Managing Partner,
Euphrates Advisors



Barbara A. Marlowe

PRESIDENT

Director, Marketing & PR,
Dworken & Bernstein Co., LPA



Ward E. Scott II, Esq.

SECRETARY & GENERAL COUNSEL

Retired US Marine Corps Colonel,
Founder, Scott Advocates, PLLC



David Collins

TREASURER

VP, Programs & Policy,
The Children's Village



Dr. Rafid Aziz

DIRECTOR

Medical Doctor & President,
United Iraqi Medical Association in the
UK & Ireland (UIMA)



Layla Safwat Fattah

DIRECTOR

Founder, White Bird Marketing,
Communications Consultant



Mike Jason

DIRECTOR

Retired US Army Colonel,
Defense Consultant



Ali Halabi

DIRECTOR

Program Manager, International
Recruitment Specialist



Mohammed Khudairi

DIRECTOR

Managing Partner,
Khudairi Group



Luma Jaffar

DIRECTOR

Managing Principal
Lawrence Group



Kenneth Fox

DIRECTOR

SVP Operations
Amentum

Our Leadership - Advisors



Samir Sumaida'ie

AMBASSADOR (RET.)

Ambassador of Iraq
to the US 2006 - 2011



Ryan Crocker

AMBASSADOR (RET.)

US Ambassador to Iraq
2007 - 2009



Jeremy Kohomban, Ph.D.

PRESIDENT & CEO

The Children's Village
The Center for Child Welfare Research



Maxwell Quqa

ICF FOUNDER

Former American bi-cultural
advisor to US diplomatic and
military personnel



Shameem Rassam

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



Raymond Lahoud, Esq.

CHAIR

Immigration Law Practice
Norris McLaughlin, P.A.



Ryan K. Bell, CPP

IRAQ & AFGHANISTAN VETERAN

Director of Operations
Jard Inventory & Loss Prevention



May Yang Ying
(Sumaida'ie)

BUSINESSWOMAN



ICF IS CREDIBLE & TRUSTWORTHY

- ✔ We are a registered US-based tax exempt 501(c)(3) charity (EIN 26-1394773).
- ✔ Our audit and financial statements are available upon request.
- ✔ Our partners in Iraq are well-vetted and have worked with US and international organizations, including the UN.
- ✔ ICF has earned top Platinum rank from GuideStar for commitment to transparency, and is a “Top Ranked” partner on Global Giving.
- ✔ ICF is registered with the US government’s Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #95191), the world’s largest workplace giving program.
- ✔ In 2018, ICF received an Arab League award for its work with children and youth.
- ✔ Our Board and Advisors include former US and Iraq Ambassadors, Iraqi-Americans, legal experts and veterans.

Thank you for your support!

Iraqi Children Foundation gratefully recognizes the many donors and partners who have given generously of their resources and time to help Iraq's most vulnerable children – the orphans, street kids, and children displaced by violence. You are changing the lives of desperately poor and vulnerable children who have suffered so much. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts on behalf of these children.

Contact us:

Liz McRae
Executive Director
liz@iraqichildren.org

Cindy Fogleman
Staff Advisor
cindy@iraqichildren.org

