

This annual report provides an overview of the work done by World Vision Iraq (WVI) from October 2019 to September 2020.

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A warm thank you to all WVI staff who have contributed to this report.

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# **Contents**

Response Director's Messagel
Who we are/Where we work3
2020 at a glance4
Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs5
Covid-19 Emergency Response6
North East Syria Refugee Response6
Sectors Overview7
Food Security8
Education & Protection10
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
(WASH)12
Health16
Livelihoods18
Faith and Development20
Advocacy21
Financial Summary 202022
Stories of Impact

# Response Director's Message

This year has brought unprecedented challenges for Iraq, as well as the world, with the COVID-19 global pandemic. Over the course of this year, Iraq has gone through political changes with the resignation of the Prime Minister, appointment of a new Prime Minister and establishment of a new government. In addition, tensions spiked in the region, the effects spilling over into Iraq. On top of these existing challenges, the arrival of COVID-19 caused devastating effects on Iraq overwhelming the health systems, disturbing movement between governorates and severely impacting the economy.

The compounded effects of this year have caused many additional families to become vulnerable. While the number of people returning to their areas of origin rose to 4.7 million, over 1.2 million Iraqis still remain displaced and are facing increased vulnerability due to this dynamic year. Iraq still hosts around 250,000 Syrian refugees, a number that fluctuates based on changing circumstances in Syria.

Despite the various obstacles, World Vision has remained steadfast in its commitment to support the most vulnerable children, their families and their communities in Iraq. Through responsive and adaptive programming, World Vision has maintained support through WASH, health, education and protection, food security, and livelihoods, reaching 472,829 beneficiaries.

In this report you will see the diversity and innovation of our work in 2020 as our team has worked tirelessly to reach the people in need of assistance and adapt to a number of challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure service delivery was not impacted. It has only been possible with the support and partnership that we have had with local authorities, numerous partners, committed donors and the global World Vision partnership.

We are thankful for our many internal and external partners that have supported our work and been flexible to adapt to the sudden challenges and spike in needs due to COVID-19. This virus has touched all of our lives, and it has been a true inspiration to see actors band together globally to combat this disease and support those in critical need.

As we look forward to next year, we have learned that there is no way to predict what may come. This year has firmed World Vision's commitment to our work in Iraq. We continue to support children, their families and communities as they overcome challenges and look towards a better, brighter future where they may experience life in all its fullness.



# **Nicole Peter**

Response Director World Vision Iraq



# Who We Are - Where We Work

World Vision has been responding in Iraq since 2014 and works with Syrian refugees, IDPs, host communities and returnees. Working in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Duhok, Kirkuk, Salah al-Din and Ninewa, World Vision Iraq has reached 472,829 people in 2020 with a funding portfolio of 11.75 million USD (in cash) and 39 million USD (in kind).

World Vision Iraq continues to geographically shift and grow its presence to respond to the shifting needs in order to support the most vulnerable boys and girls, their families, and communities with a strong intentionality to further deepen our commitment to the most vulnerable children.

Responding to the needs and the changing context in Iraq, World Vision Iraq provides short-term emergency relief as well as medium and long-term recovery assistance to the most vulnerable children, women and men to help alleviate their suffering and rebuild their lives through interventions in WASH, health, food assistance (through cash-based programming), livelihoods, education and protection.

Integrated into each of these sectors are cross-cutting themes including gender equality, inclusion, disability and social harmony. World Vision Iraq builds on local and global capacity with evidence-based proven approaches to maintain its technical expertise in order to effectively assist children, their families and communities.

Currently 24.8% of the 39.3 million Iraqi population live in poverty including a large number of children. In 2020, the number of children impacted by poverty doubled due to the economic effects of COVID-19 with 2 in 5 children in Iraq now living in poverty.





# Aglance 2020

# **Our Staff**

110 National staff

10 International staff

3 Secondments

**573** Casual staff

4 Consultants

**472,829** Individuals directly benefited from our work

**36** Projects

**II** Donors





# COVID-19

The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Iraq on 24 February 2020 in Najaf. This was immediately followed by a second report of four cases in Kirkuk, within World Vision Iraq 's operational area, on the 25th of February 2020.

World Vision Iraq immediately started to plan its response to the potential effects of the pandemic to existing programming and staff. World Vision Iraq launched a series of staff sensitisation and awareness sessions and prioritized the purchase of PPEs and other hygiene supplies.

A list of prioritized COVID-sensisitive and responsive activities were developed and approved at the cluster level with the guidance of authorities. This resulted in the suspension of some projects, partial implementation of others, and full uninterrupted implementation for those projects and activities which were considered lifesaving.

As of March 2020, when the pandemic was first declared, of the total eighteen (18) WV projects ongoing at the time, 61% were temporarily suspended; 22% partially affected, and 17 % of projects uniterrupted.

However, within just a few months - thanks to the flexibility of our donors - all World Vision projects, ongoing and in the pipeline, had been adapted to integrate COVID-19 measures and revised approaches which are now fully mainstreamed as an integral part of all World Vision Iraq programming and operations.

# Northeast Syria Response

The "Peace Spring" military operation launched on 9 October 2019 in Northeast Syria (NES) resulted in tens-of-thousands of refugees flocking into Iraq.

World Vision Iraq swiftly launched a response to address the needs of the Northeast Syrian refugees hosted in the operational area of Dohuk (West Zone).

As of 17 October 2019, World Vision Iraq started its first response through WFP food assistance distributions in

Bardarash Camp, home to the majority of Syrian refugees in Iraq during the influx period.

Additionally, reprogramming of WASH funding was done to address the additional identified needs and a Start Fund was approved to respond to the Health needs in the camp.

The assistance of the three sectors for NES response was as follows:

**Food** - 2600 families; 329.326 Metric tons of food delivered to Gawilan & Bardarash Camps including Family Food Ration (FFR) and Immediate Response Ration (IRR).

**WASH** - 35,820 bottles of drinking water (53, 730 litres), 400 water tanks installed in Bardarash Camp, 200 garbage bins and 440 packs of trash bags delivered to both camps. Daily garbage collection trips undertaken. Desludging of 10 septic tanks and cleaning side drains, collecting garbage at public places and internal roads in Gawilan Camp.

**Health** - Health promotion (90 individuals), training for Dohuk DoH staff (10) in Bardarash Camp.

# An internally displaced student in one of the schools in Kurdistan Region of Iraq who received psychosocial support services from World Vision Iraq.

# 232,504 Beneficiaries

In 2020, World Vision Iraq remained WFP's preferred partner implementing almost 68% of all WFP grants in country. The WFP relationship was also further strengthened by World Vision's ability to leverage the global partnership with resources, systems and technical expertise especially during the onset of the pandemic where, despite financial systems faltering and challenges relating to staff falling ill, project delivery did not stop.

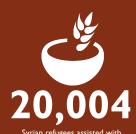
World Vision continued implementing 2 large food security projects in 30 IDP and Refugee camps in Duhok and Erbil with different delivery mechanisms: Money Transfer Agent (MTA), Mobile Money Transfers (MMT) and in-kind distributions for both Iraqi IDPs and Syrian Refugees. WV also implemented a resilience project (cash for training project) called EMPACT providing English and ICT training to host communities, IDPs, returnees and refugees in Duhok, Ninewa and Erbil. As classroom learning was not possible, EMPACT was immediately moved to online platforms.

Throughout 2020, World Vision Iraq provided over 232,504 people (49% of whom are children) with cash/food assistance each month.

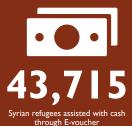




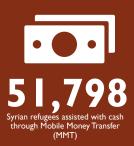
supported with food assistance

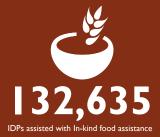


in-kind food assistance



• • • 37,681 Syrian refugees assisted with direct cash through Money Transfer Agent (MTA)









IDPs assisted with cash through Mobile Money Transfer (MMT)

Syrian refugees, IDPs and host community members trained in IT and English through the EMPACT project



# 95,557 Beneficiaries



In 2020, World Vision Iraq has contributed to safe access to quality and inclusive education for the most vulnerable boys and girls in the Northern governorates of Iraq including the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Protection of boys and girls is at the centre of all sector interventions. In addition, specialized child protection services have been provided through case management coupled with psychosocial support programs and positive parenting program.

World Vision Iraq continues to empower children, teachers, parents, caregivers, faith leaders and community leaders by promoting access to quality education and protection of children. This has been done through providing psychosocial support, protection, school rehabilitation including renovation of WASH facilities, capacity development of school personnel and provision of teaching and learning materials.

In addition, World Vision Iraq is also promoting meaningful participation in decisions affecting children and building skills in resilience. In order to support the formal government system, World Vision Iraq has strengthened and supported the informal community structures of Parent and Teacher Associations and Child Protection Committees. Gender sensitive and disability inclusive approaches are mainstreamed within all infrastructural support and capacity building programs.





Children built life skills and resilience through psychosocial support programs in multi-purpose community centers

Community members learned about the importance of education and child protection through the work of the Child Protection Committees and Parent Teacher's Association

3,586

Vulnerable students received back to

school learning materials

266
Caregivers received psychosocial support and positive parenting sessions

3,090

At risk children assisted through specialized case management services

Schools rehabilitated and classrooms

refurbished



# 96,702 Beneficiaries

World Vision Iraq's WASH interventions in 2020 mainly focused on ensuring adequate access to safe, equitable and sustainable clean water, dignified sanitation and education of appropriate hygiene behaviours and practices for children and families living in returnee areas, emergency settings and refugee camps in Ninewa and Salah al-Din.

In 2020, World Vision Iraq rehabilitated 10 municipal water supply systems to increase access to safe water in Ninewa (Telafar and Sinjar districts) and in Salah al-Din (Tooz district). World Vision Iraq also complemented these services with initiatives focusing on increased awareness and action towards safe water handling and water conservation.

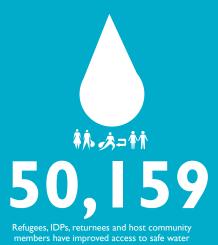
All of World Vision Iraq's WASH interventions have standardized designs which allow for disability inclusiveness in all WASH constructions. In 2020, World Vision Iraq promoted accessible WASH in 23 schools, which contributed to ensuring that children with disabilities stay in school. The programme aimed to remove social and physical barriers affecting children with disabilities and ensuring a positive learning environment through promotion of accessibility in schools and of people with disability friendly WASH facilities such as construction of accessible latrines and accessible ramps that facilitate smooth access to sanitation facilities, classes and play yards.

World Vision Iraq also implemented a child focused hygiene promotion approach called the WASH Up! Programme in 9 schools in Telafar-Zummar to educate children on water, sanitation, and hygiene. The programme focused on improving WASH knowledge as well as attitudes and behaviours among children. In addition, where appropriate, World Vision Iraq led menstrual health management sessions for girls aged twelve and above.

In health facilities, World Vision Iraq has implemented an integrated and accessible WASH approach, which provided patients with access to basic sanitation facilities through the provision of gender specific and disability accessible latrine stalls in 4 health centres.

Finally, in FY20 World Vision Iraq developed a five-year FY21-FY25 business plan, i.e. Road Map to Impact, in alignment with the Global Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Business Plan's overarching goals and commitments. The plan aims to provide access to basic WASH services to 343,500 people, and reaching universal coverage to WASH services in Tooz district — Salah al-Din governorate.











8,654

Persons with access to basic sanitation facilities through provision of gender specific latrines stalls in hospitals and clinics



82

Persons with disability supported through sanitation seats



Persons supported through garbage collection and trash bags

6,994
Persons supported through hygiene/MHM/baby kits

30,857

Families reached with hygiene promotion and awareness





# 37,833 Beneficiaries



World Vision Iraq's main health interventions in 2020 consisted of providing Primary Health Care (PHC) and Mental Health (MH) services, which targeted IDPs, returnees and host communities both in and out of camps. In 2020, WV Iraq provided medical treatment and mental health services to 37,833 people. WV Iraq also provided 8,178 children with polio and measles vaccinations while working with parents to raise awareness of these diseases.

With the onset of COVID-19, the World Vision Iraq Health Technical Lead was invited several times to participate in the development of the national COVID-19 Response Plan as well as take an active part in discussions and awareness raising of COVID-19 on national TV channels in Iraq.

The mental health and psychosocial support project in Ninewa provided people with much needed support and treatment for stress while also working with communities on a variety of psychosocial issues including positive parenting, community awareness and problem management sessions. 3,917 children were assisted through play therapy.

World Vision Iraq also focused on health system strengthening and capacity building of government medical personnel in Erbil, Duhok, and Sulaymaniyah governorates, working closely with the Ministry of Health. A total of 64 doctors, nurses, and midwives were trained.

8,178
Children
reached with
vaccinations



Parents/caregivers reached with polio and measles vaccination awareness



Children assisted through play therapy

3,874
People learned about hygiene and protection, better health in pregnancy and child feeding





2,120

People received information through a campaign on mental health

12,768
Persons reached with

Persons reached with Health Education and Hygiene replenishment kits



# 10,233 Beneficiaries



In 2020, World Vision Iraq took a strategic decision to deepen our commitment to the most vulnerable communities by working to address the underlying drivers of child poverty, food insecurity and vulnerability to disaster through livelihood interventions that are aimed at meeting immediate needs and assisting vulnerable families to recover adapt and create sustainable livelihoods.

A pilot project on women's economic empowerment to determine the effectiveness of such interventions through the Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GESI) lens proved the high level of effectiveness of the approach in achieving livelihood and economic development outcomes for women. The evaluation of the project found that there was a significant improvement in the self-confidence, self-sufficiency and improved consumption of nutritious food by the beneficiaries as a result of the intervention.

World Vision Iraq also undertook activities focused on assisting crisis-affected communities through livelihood recovery and livelihood promotion interventions. These included (i) cash interventions to support consumption and access to basic needs, (ii) livelihood asset transfer and business development support services to provide a foundation for economic growth and (iii) market facilitation interventions that promote sustainable and inclusive growth.

World Vision Iraq's interventions also focused on building market-driven skills development for Syrian refugees, IDPs and host community youth through vocational training, career advice and professional development. Through a holistic and multi-faceted approach, disadvantaged youth (aged 15-25) were supported to develop their skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to start a small business or access decent employment.



1,865

Persons and family members supported with cash for work

626

Persons and families received

cash for land preparation



Vulnerable women headed households assisted with direct multi-purpose cash assistance 8,055
Persons supported with cash for food

52
Youths supported

in apprenticeship

Vulnerable women headed households assisted with saving groups



Persons benefited from Pesticides and Herbicides distribution



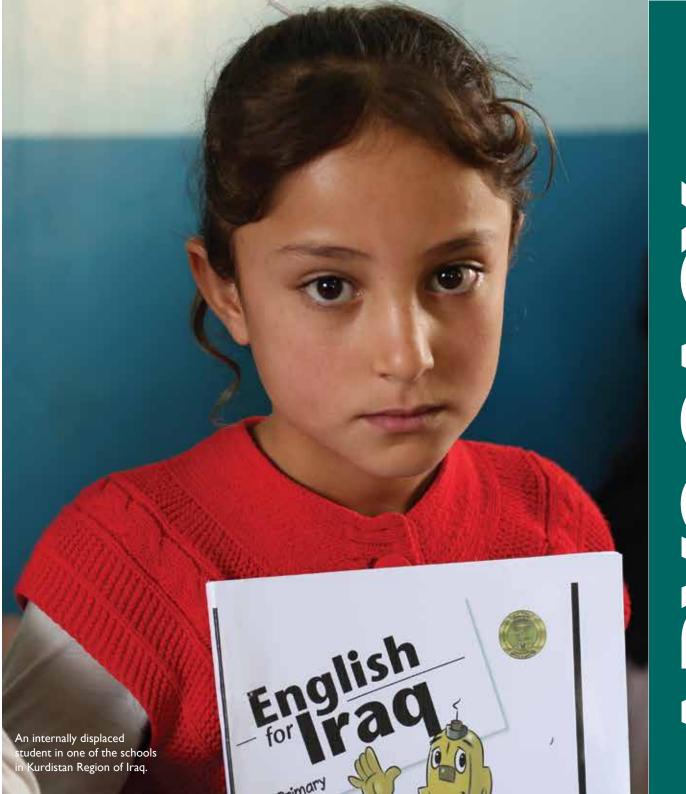
Religious leaders are highly respected and are the backbone of the Iraqi community. They play a role in all levels of society and work together to help World Vision Iraq implement its humanitarian programs to reduce violence against children and promote social cohesion.

In 2020, a faith mapping exercise was completed to assist in contextualizing community-based consultations.

World Vision Iraq also continued to implement livelihoods and social cohesion activities funded by the Church Refugee Engagement Fund (CREF) in support of IDPs, host communities and minorities to develop livelihoods and better social cohesion in the community through community training and dialogue.

World Vision Iraq also worked in consortia with other Faith-Based Organisations in 2020 including International Islamic Relief and Dorcas International, as well as, with four church partners.

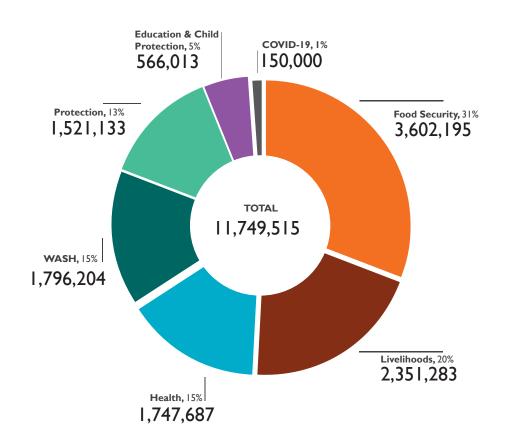




In 2020, World Vision Iraq engaged in a number of humanitarian outreach activities including advocating for access and funding. Some of the initiatives World Vision advocacy efforts contributed to included:

- Establishment of a national level access letter system that grants all humanitarian actors/NGOs access across Iraq to deliver humanitarian assistance through one unified governmentally recognised access system.
- Influencing the content of the national strategy and budget for COVID-19 prevention and response in Iraq to ensure humanitarian actors can maintain access for critical humanitarian response and, protection approaches are integrated in the response strategy and budget.
- Influencing the contents of the addendum to the UN Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Iraq to reflect changing needs and response plan to the pandemic, covering COVID-19 prevention and response, as well as, addressing increases in previously projected humanitarian needs.

World Vision Iraq also engaged in consultations and public foras on COVID-19 including contributing to the COVID-19 National Response Plan, the safe school reopening plan, as well as, working with the government to raise awareness around COVID-19 (see section on health).



- Excludes cash transfer value of WV Iraq WFP-funded projects in the amount of roughly \$39 million
- All amounts are in USD

# World Vision Support Offices

United States of America
Taiwan
Canada
Japan
Germany
New Zealand
Austria
Australia
Hong Kong
Taiwan
Japan

# **Partners**

Voice of Older People & Family (VOP)
Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO)
Al-Ghad League for Women and Child Care
Wchan Organization for Human Rights Violations
Mosul University
WarChild
Dorcas International
Islamic Relief
Terre des Hommes (TDH)
Dary Human Organization

# 2020 DONORS AND PARTNERS

# **Total FY20 Budget: 11,749,515 USD**

- WFP 3,581,013 | 30.48%
- **WV** 2,879,191 | 24.50%
- OCHA 1,994,446 | 16.97%
- UNESCO 974,811 | 8.30%
- **VSG** 862,253 | 7.34%
- **ADH** 442,943 | 3.77%
- **GOG** 363,523 | 3.09%
- **IPF** 180,098 | 1.53%
- UNICEF 167,610 | 1.43%
- **EU** 161,831 | 1.38%

Fresenius Foundation

- UKG Start Fund 114,546 | 0.97%
- Fresenius Foundation 7,250 | 0.23%

Fresenius Foundation

WFP | World Food Programme WV World Vision OCHA United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Private Donor Funding ADH Aktion Deutschland Hilft GOG Government of Germany Japan Platform UNICEF The United Nations Children's Fund European Union UKG Start fund **UKG Start Fund** 

Excludes cash transfer value of WV Iraq WFP-funded projects in the amount of roughly \$39 million

23

# 





"My dream is to build (a house) for myself and my family, to continue my education and that all my siblings continue their education. My dream is to get my family out of the west side (of Mosul). The place where we live is the same neighborhood where my father died. Every time I come out of the house, I don't want to pass by that street. Every time I go out, I remember the scene. I want to continue my education, get a job, succeed and purchase a house next to my grandfather's house in the east side." Ahmed

Ahmed is a young boy of 14 years of age. He was born and raised in the west side of Mosul. He lived a stable and normal life with his parents, three brothers and one sister. He is the second child of the family after his sister. His father was blind and an Imam in the local mosque. Ahmed used to go with his father to the outdoors for dinner. Not overcome by his blindnes, his father taught him many things in life including how to become an Imam. Ahmed often walked his father to the mosque.

During those days, his father was making plans for Ahmed and his family. He was planning to build a house for them in the east side of Mosul, but his plans were destroyed when the ISIL conflict started in Mosul. Ahmed's father valued education greatly but he didn't allow his children to go to school during the ISIL conflict as the materials they had in school encouraged terrorism. In 2017, when the operation to liberate Mosul started, a true tragedy fell over his family's lives. His father and brother were killed during the conflict. Once the conflict ended, and Ahmed returned to school again, he had difficulty in passing the academic year because of failing his math exam. Soon he learned from his friends about World Vision's catch up classes. During the catch up classes, he built a strong bond with one of his teachers that completely changed his outlook and he was finally able to pass the math exam.

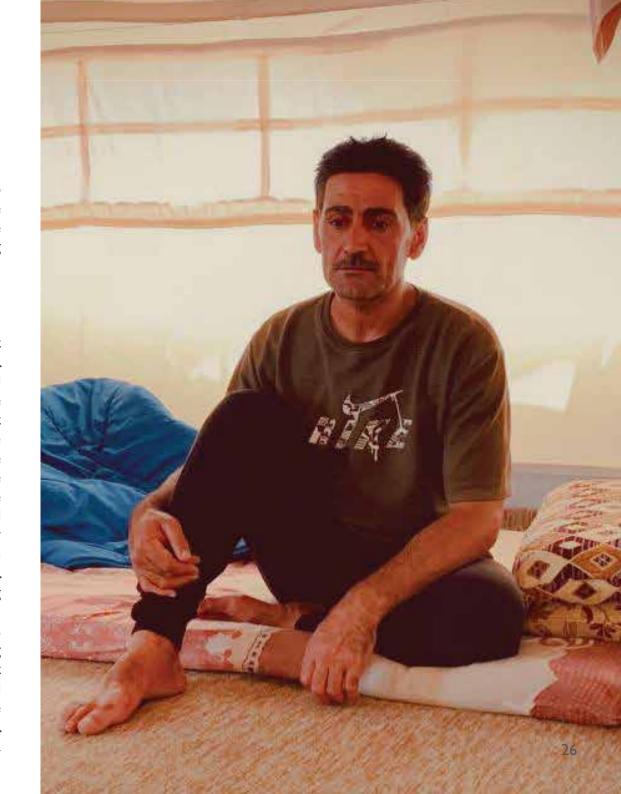
Ahmed's father knew the power of education. Through programming like catch up classes, World Vision works to support children like Ahmed in having a brighter future.

25

"I sit in the tent and I think of my children. I don't know, I spend all the time thinking. (I look at) the way my situation is and I look at my kids my heart breaks. They don't have clothes and they lack a lot of things. We are barely able to buy (basic necessities like) sugar, tea and medicines. If not for the aid from the organization, we would die." Dakheel

Dakheel, a man of 40 years of age, is married and has four children: two girls and two boys. His eldest child has just turned thirteen and the youngest is seven. A Syrian refugee in Iraq from Qamishli, today he dreams of having a house, seeing his children go to school and becoming successful in life.

Despite his relatively young age, Dakheel suffers from several health complications. Four years ago, he underwent a liver operation which made him unable to work like other people of his age, except in jobs that do not require complicated physical movement such as guard services. For the past three years in Syria, he was unable to find a job and relied on aid and assistance from charitable people. His situation was so dire that even the house he was living in was given to him for free, but eventually he was told to move out as the homeowner wanted the house for a relative. Because of the difficult economic situation and the increase of conflict in Northeastern Syria, Dakheel decided to leave the country with his family and seek refuge in Iraq. A lot of people encouraged him in that decision as his situation worsened in Syria and they told him that organizations would be able to help him and his family in Iraq. In October 2019, with the aid of some people who gave him money to pay for his journey to Iraq, he was able to flee with his family. Dakheel and his family had to walk through the desert then move along the valleys and ride on horses to reach Iraq. During the journey, Dakheel fell from the horse, badly injuring his neck. Being confined to the sieges of a refugee camp, being physically too weak to work and being overwhelmed by the prospect of the unknown, Dakheel has been put under a great deal of pressure. World Vision in partnership with World Food Programme (WFP), has been providing assistance to vulnerable families like Dakheel's in 9 refugee camps and 21 IDP camps in Iraq. Assistance includes providing them with a monthly cash income and a food parcel to support their needs.



"The lesson I learned in life is that life is a challenge. It is a difficult challenge but a nice one, and you must not be overwhelmed. Failure is a step for success, if you try. As much as you try, you will achieve success."

Ayham, 20, Syrian refugee and EMPACT graduate in Kurdistan Region of Iraq

"The women became the most important at the house. Through your project she became the caregiver and also the breadwinner. The project developed women. Many (women) are married but have no income. And it's not only widows who have become the family breadwinners. Like Azhar, her husband is there but she became the head of the house and stood by her man and became the responsible one for the house. You made them support each other. You encouraged them and made equality and love between them. When he (the husband) sees that her woman is standing by him, he starts to work and share her the work. Also (he starts to) emotionally support her. You raised their awareness and made one rely on the other. Also my son says it is by the help of god and my mom. The women benefited more. The man and the woman became emotionally more comfortable now there is an

> Rafida, 54, from Mosul, beneficiary of Women Economic Empowerment Project of funded by World Vision Australia

"The optimism in her face makes me very happy. Her face tells it all. In the first visit, she was unwelcoming, but after that, she would open the door and would welcome you and when you talk to her she would start to answer you. Now she is considering me as her family."

Maryam, Case Worker, IHF Project

We are an energy, and everyone one of us is a sun. Let this sun inside you shine and come out. Especially now that we are in a time that needs all the available energy. Don't stand by, and don't get discouraged. Maybe on this day of the year many of us will be in our homes. Let's work or work on ourselves to improve ourselves and become a pillar for our homes. The most important thing is to never stop and be an energy."

Rita, 30, beneficiary of CREF project

Thank you for making it possible.

World Vision is a global relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice.

World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.



www.wvi.org/iraq