

Hope and Help for Iraqi Refugees

Catholic Relief Services' programs in the Middle East

Where CRS helps Iraqis:

Lebanon | Jordan | Syria | Egypt

How CRS helps Iraqi refugees:

Food: CRS funds food coupons and boxes of staple foods for Iraqi refugees.

Shelter: Many Iraqis live in apartments in poor urban areas of the Middle East; CRS helps them with rent payments.

Non-food items: CRS distributes blankets, mattresses, heaters, and cookware.

Medical care: Many Iraqi refugees are not permitted access to public health care in their host countries. CRS funds mobile clinics, treatments such as kidney dialysis, prescriptions for chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, and surgeries.

Education: For Iraqi children not permitted to attend public school in their host countries, CRS funds tuition payments, school fees and bus fare to alternate schools. It also runs non-formal education programs so Iraqi children who have missed school can catch up to their host country peers, and adult vocational training programs in fields like computers.

Mental health: CRS funds group counseling for Iraqis who have been traumatized by murders, kidnappings, and rape in Iraq.



Two Iraqi refugee boys outside a social services center in Beirut, Lebanon. Photo: David Snyder/CRS

A Growing Crisis

The UN estimates that at least two million Iraqis have fled their homeland, and another two million have been displaced within Iraq. Often, Iraqi refugees are:

- Not permitted to work or to access social services in their host countries
- Running out of their savings
- Coping with the trauma of violence and, for minority groups, persecution
- Reluctant to return to Iraq due to lack of jobs and continuing reports of violence
- In their host countries illegally and afraid of arrest and deportation

Catholic Relief Services is the international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. The agency provides assistance to people in more than 100 countries and territories based on need, regardless of race, nationality or creed. For more information about CRS' work with Iraqi refugees, contact Laura Sheahen in Cairo: LSheahen@eme.crs.org | +011.20.16.553.1643