Supporting Returning Families and Children in Iraq

AVSI began working alongside the people of Qaraqosh, Iraq, in 2013. When the city was invaded by ISIS and people fled to Iraqi Kurdistan, AVSI set up a temporary kindergarten for 150 children from Qaraqosh in Ozal City, Erbil. In early 2017, when families started returning to their homes in Qaraqosh, AVSI decided to accompany them by offering support and assistance to the Church Supreme Board for Reconstruction of Baghdeda (BfCB), under the guidance of Fr. George Jahola. BfCB launched a comprehensive program to restore and develop the physical, educational, social and economic fabric of the city and its surroundings. One of the first accomplishments was the reopening of the “Baby Jesus Kindergarten”, destroyed by ISIS in 2013 and reopened at the end of 2017.

Background

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Ongoing Crisis

Carrying out humanitarian and development activities in Iraq today is extremely difficult at a time when the needs are enormous. In this context, the efforts of civil society organizations, and religious groups are key to encouraging the restarting of livelihoods and local economic activities, thereby allowing recovery to take hold and further bolster the rebuilding of the social fabric.
January - February 2019

Devastating storms have hit Lebanon this winter, causing major damage... even deaths, all throughout this developing country - unprepared yet for hard winter seasons.

In response, AVSI's staff...

- **"Baby Jesus House" Kindergarten (2017 - 2019)**
  - **Donor:** private funds
  - **Partner:** The Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena
  - **Activities:** refurbishment and procurement of equipment (2017); logistic and financial contributions to the Dominican Sisters to manage the kindergarten and offer accompaniment and support to parents and families (2017-2019); refreshment, school supplies, teacher salaries, consumables, teacher training, and running costs (electricity, water, etc).
  - **Beneficiaries:** 450 children (2017/18); 530 children (2018/19)

- **‘The Holy Family’ Kindergarten (Aug 2018)**
  - **Donor:** private funds
  - **Partner:** Afremed Nuns Association
  - **Activities:** procurement of school supplies and equipment, such as chairs, cribs, rugs, notebooks and other consumables.
  - **Beneficiaries:** 50 children

- **A Virtuous Production Cycle to Relaunch a City and its Economic Fabric for Internally Displaced Populations (IDPs) and Returnees to the Nineveh Plains (2018 - 2020)**
  - **Donor:** U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM)
  - **Partner:** Board for Construction of Baghdada (BCfB) and the Women’s Production Association of Qaraqosh (WPAQ)
  - **Activities:** Provide livelihood opportunities that contribute to economic recovery and development, and the full return of Internally Displaced Populations (IDPs) to their original homes through the reconstruction of farming businesses
  - **Beneficiaries:** more than 6,000 farmers and family members in Qaraqosh, Al-Hamdaniya district