



ANNUAL REPORT 2018



REBUILD and RELIEF INTERNATIONAL (RRI) gGmbH
INTERNATIONAL NGO
United Nations Implementing Partner

TABLE OF CONTENT

- 1 EDITORIAL NOTE..... 4
- 2 RRI AT A GLANCE 5
 - 2.1 About RRI 6
 - 2.1.1 Mission and Approach..... 6
 - 2.1.2 Project Partners 7
 - 2.2 Financial Report 8
 - 2.2.1 Sources of funds..... 8
 - 2.2.2 Allocation of funds..... 9
- 3 Humanitarian Context..... 10
- 4 Projects in 2018 12
 - 4.1 Shelter Cluster supplemented with some WASH and NFI..... 12
 - 4.2 WASH Cluster (Water, sanitation and hygiene) 15
 - 4.3 NFI Cluster (Non Food Items) supplemented with Food Security 19
 - 4.4 Education Cluster 25
- 5 Project Planning, Implementation and Monitoring 28
 - 5.1 Project Planning and Preparation 28
 - 5.1.1 Beneficiary Selection Committee..... 28
 - 5.1.2 Tendering Phase 28
 - 5.2 Project Implementation..... 29
 - 5.2.1 Implementation Phase 29
 - 5.2.2 Monitoring Phase..... 29
 - 5.2.3 Gender, Equity and Sustainability..... 30
 - 5.2.4 Completion Phase 30
- 6 Success Stories 31
 - 6.1 “Warmth has finally returned to our family” 31
 - 6.2 Clean drinking Water for Mahmud Yasin Ali and his children 32
 - 6.3 A home for Yusuf and his family 33

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1 EDITORIAL NOTE

20. March 2019

Dear Sir and Madame,

The situation faced by the humanitarian community in Iraq and Syria is very challenging. Especially the conflict in Syria has become the worst humanitarian crisis in modern history.

After seven years of on-going armed conflict in Syria, the crisis continues to have a profound impact on people across the country and led to the displacement of 6.1 million people across the country. In 2017 13.1 million people suffered extreme hardship and were in need of humanitarian assistance, due to the inhuman living conditions most of them were exposed to.

In Iraq the year 2018 was characterized by enormous returnee movements, due to the liberation of all Iraqi territories from ISIL occupation. It was the second year where returnee numbers significantly exceeded the number of IDPs in the country. Especially Mosul City and areas in Al Anbar faced an extremely high number of returnees trying to resettle in their home communities. The majority of those 2.1 million IDPs across Iraq were in urgent need of assistance to be able to rebuild their lives in a dignified manner. However, 1.5 million Iraqis were still struggling with displacement throughout the year. Most of these IDP-families were forced to live in formal or informal Camps, facing huge vulnerabilities and needs.

In both countries the need for assistance was immeasurable since people were facing total destruction of public services, infrastructure, health care and other life essential structures. To assist displaced families in camps and ensure their survival as well as contribute to the relocation of returnee families to dignified homes, where they can meet their basic needs and live in safety RRI cooperated with 6 partners and successfully realized 9 projects in the sectors of shelter, WASH, NFI and education.

We are looking forward to much more successful cooperation in the future to realize humanitarian assistance in Iraq and Syria and help people face emergencies.

Yours sincerely,

2 RRI AT A GLANCE



“All the lives we touch shall no longer need the help we give”- RRI Vision

2.1 About RRI

REBUILD AND RELIEF INTERNATIONAL (RRI) is a German non-profit and non-governmental organization (NGO). We operate in Iraq since early 2004 through RIRP, our local country program for Iraq, and started our country program for Syria, called RSRP, in 2012. Since then we provide humanitarian assistance and support for the conflict affected population and have made huge efforts to relief forcible displaced families and restore a minimum life-standard for those people in need.

RRI is specialized in providing emergency assistance in so-called “hard-to-reach-areas” where other humanitarian partners are hardly able to get to. Our strong and reliable networks in both countries allow us to intervene in recently liberated areas with vast destruction and large numbers of IDPs.

Our core competences are WASH-interventions (water, sanitation and hygiene), shelter-rehabilitation and NFI (Non-Food Items) projects and education-programs.

2.1.1 Mission and Approach

Our Mission is to protect, accompany, advocate and serve for the rights of refugees and forcibly displaced people in Iraq and Syria, regardless of their race, religion, nationality or political convictions. Therefore RRI maintains its autonomy at any time and during every humanitarian intervention and supports the UN agencies in their mission of providing and coordinating aid and protection in both countries.

Loyalty, credibility, thoroughness and accuracy are basic principles we apply during all stages of every operation. Deep knowledge of the local environment and comprehensive experience gained within numerous interventions in diverse and challenging situations in Iraq and Syria, our wide and well-functioning network with local decision makers, community leaders and humanitarian partners and our solid capacities to mobilize our resources in a timely manner guarantee an excellent project delivery at any time and in both countries.

Our strong German independent position, our multicultural team of local and international specialists and our Senior Management based on the ground allows us to invest in the rights of people and successfully complete reconstruction-, emergency relief-, stabilization- and training-projects throughout Iraq in Iraq and Syria.

2.1.2 Project Partners

In the past 5 Years, RRI has implemented 47 projects in partnership with the following agencies and organizations:



In Iraq and Syria UNHCR, UNICEF, UN-Habitat and UN-OCHA have funded mainly Shelter, WASH and NFI projects, while UNICEF and UN-OCHA have further provided funding for educational programs as well.

WFP, UNFPA have mainly funded NFI and Food Security projects in Iraq to provide emergency support in camps and secure the survival of the most vulnerable families.

The funding and support of the German Federal Foreign Office and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) have enabled RRI to realize several WASH related projects in different regions of Iraq and one extensive shelter project in the City of Mosul to enable displaced families to return to their completely demolished home town.

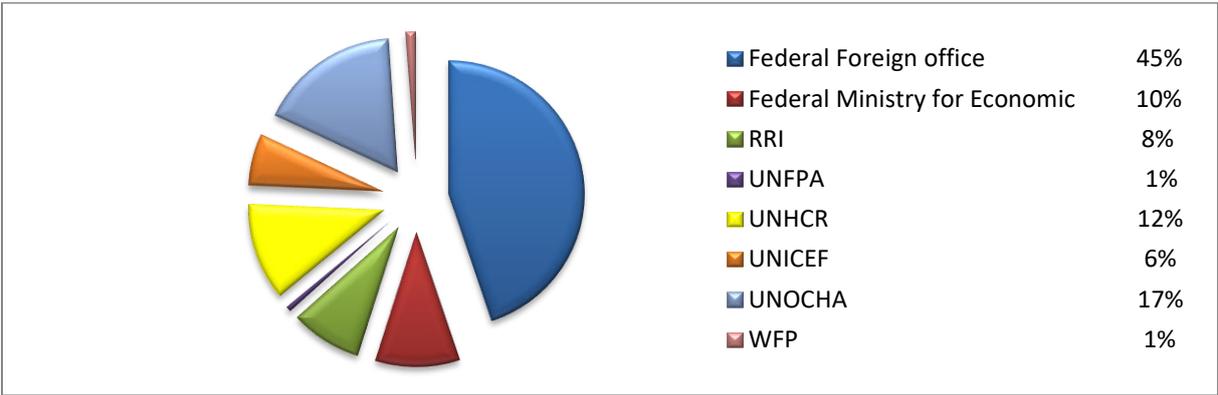
In partnership with the European Union RRI realized a project to promote the rule of law in Iraq, which included training measures for the judiciary, legislative and executive.

All the partnerships have become very solid over the years. Based on our successful implementation and smooth cooperation with all the mentioned partners RRI is looking forward to more partnerships in the future to be able to support the people in most need and create dignified living conditions for displaced families.

2.2 Financial Report

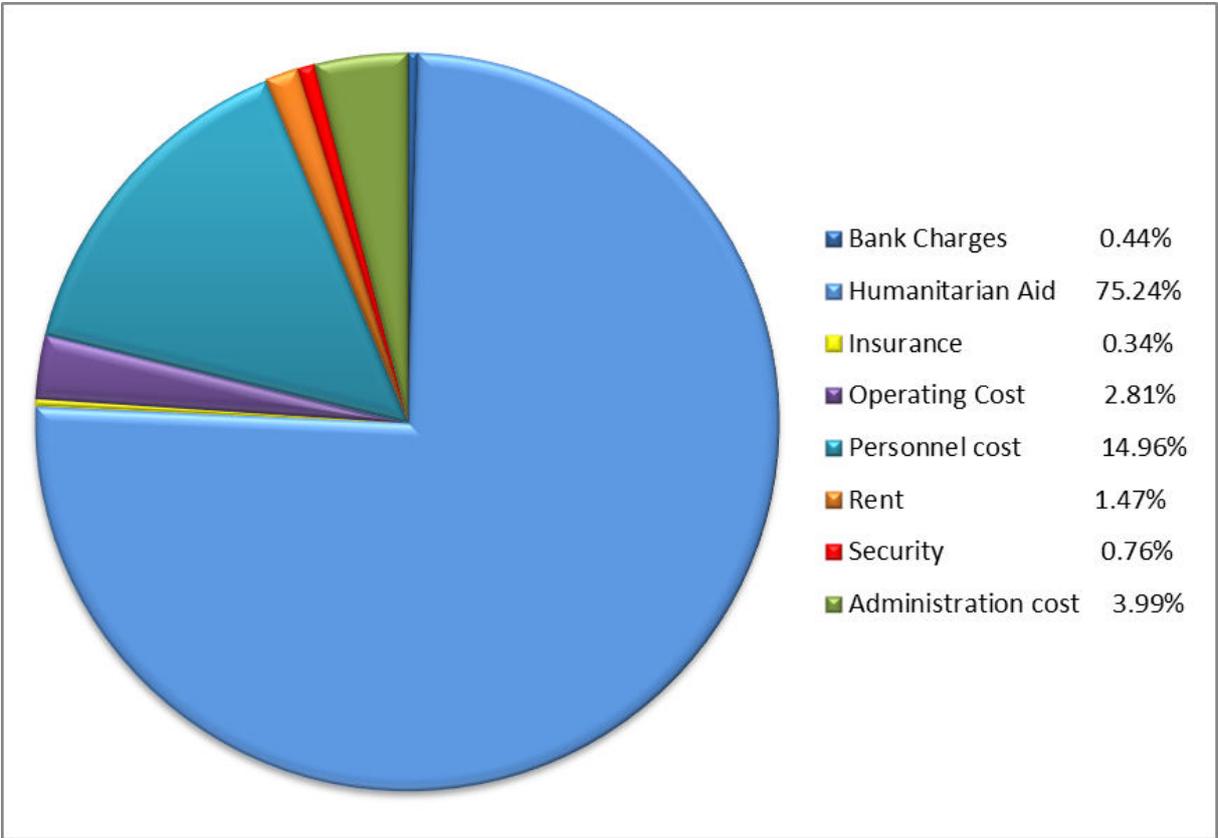
In 2018, RRI received a total funding of 11.204.741,48 USD funding for humanitarian assistance projects. The donors were the German Federal Foreign Office, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, UNICEF, UN-OCHA, UNFPA, WFP. Even though we did not realize a UNHRC funded project in 2018 the agency is mentioned in the following chart, since we had access to UNHCR funding to finish works of a 2017 project in January of 2018. RRI is mentioned as a donor since some projects require a certain percentage of contribution by the implementing organization. RRI pays this contribution out of overhead resources. Please find the detailed description of the projects in the following chapter.

2.2.1 Sources of funds



The second chart shows in detail how the funds were allocated. It illustrates that in 2018 three quarter of the funds were spent directly on humanitarian aid. Only about 20% of the money was used to run the organization, which includes the payment of salaries, lease payment for office premises and security measures. Money allocated in the overhead cash register serves as a reserve fund for emergency actions and covers the NGO's operational management procedures. Moreover this money is used to contribute to certain projects, in which the partner expect an own contribution.

2.2.2 Allocation of funds



The exchange rates that have been used for the calculations are

1 USD = 1200 IQD

1 Euro = 1.14379 USD

1 SYP = 0.0023 USD

We ask for your understanding that the audited financial report for 2018 is not completed yet. Until the completion we present estimated values which will be updated soon.

3 Humanitarian Context

After the Iraqi government officially declared the full liberation of all Iraqi territories from ISIL occupation in Iraq, 2.1 million Iraqis returned to their homes in 2018 and started to restore their lives in their communities of origin. However, ongoing hostilities, the immeasurable destruction and lack of basic services in many liberated areas forced 1.5 million people to remain displaced.

In Syria the year of 2018 was characterized through ongoing and intensive combat between different armed groups, violence and vast displacement of 6.6 million Syrians. Reconquered areas under government or Kurdish control faced large numbers of returnees but due to the instability in the country secondarily displacement was no exception.

In both countries returning families face devastating conditions. Many communities in retaken areas are contaminated by explosive hazards. Public infrastructure and private housing is almost completely demolished, while basic services and livelihood opportunities are practically non-existent. Those conditions complicate the returning and reintegration process of returnee families and impede the stabilization of the liberated areas.

In Iraq 8.7 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance in 2018 and 13.1 million in Syria. In both countries nearly half of the people in need were children. In Iraq most of the most vulnerable families in most urgent need of assistance were located in Ninewa, Kirkuk and Anbar. In Syria the needs were enormous in almost every governorate but especially severe in Deir-ez-Zor, and Eastern-Ghouta.

All in all, the humanitarian crisis in both countries remains one of the largest and most volatile in the world, however returning movements have increased significantly due to the declaration of successful ISIL defeat in Iraq and the constant reconquer of wide territories in Syria by the Government and Kurdish forces.

Anyhow, 4 years of continuous conflict in Iraq and 7 years of violent crisis in Syria have negatively impacted nearly every aspect of the Iraqi and Syrian society, have led to economic stagnation and have put the survival of thousands of families at risk.

To reach the largest possible number of people in need and secure their survival, RRI concentrated its efforts in the governorates of Anbar, Ninewa, Salah al-Din, Baghdad and Diyala (in Iraq) and to Deir-ez-Zor (in Syria).

In order to address the priority needs and to prevent overlapping actions RRI coordinated the humanitarian assistance with the local UN-agencies, the Cluster-Managers, local community and tribe leaders, the local authorities and the beneficiaries.



Displaced woman in Al-Alam Camp/Salah-al-Din Governorate, where RRI realized a Dignity Kits distribution and a female-hygiene campaign

4 Projects in 2018

In 2018 RRI realized 9 Projects in cooperation with the German Government and different UN agencies. The projects are related to different humanitarian clusters and took place in Iraq (Ninewa, Anbar, Salah-al-Din, Diyala) and Syria (Deir-ez-Zor Governorate).

4.1 Shelter Cluster supplemented with some WASH and NFI

After the partial liberation of Mosul City in spring of 2017 RRI was one of the first NGOs who entered Mosul to assess the extent of the destruction and to develop a recovery plan. In the same year RRI started an extensive Shelter rehabilitation project in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office. The main objective of this project is to provide dignified homes to families who return to Mosul after months or years of displacement and find their houses and apartments heavily destroyed. This project is planned to endure 3 years and was one of our most comprehensive projects in 2018. For now the focus has been on the rehabilitation of shelters and homes and on the distribution of urgently needed NFIs. In this second phase of the project that was realized in 2018, 1.187 houses and flats were rehabilitated in Al-Nabi Sheit, Wadi Hajar and Al-Mansour neighborhoods and 200 NFI kits were distributed. The rehabilitation works, including structural rehabilitation works, installation of new doors and windows, internal wall repairs and painting, realized by local unskilled workers from the targeted neighborhoods to create temporary job opportunities and income sources for vulnerable families in Mosul.

For the upcoming years (2019/2020) RRI is currently assessing further activities to restore public infrastructure in the city and support Mosul's inhabitants. We are planning to rehabilitate Water Treatment plants and water networks and to implement some WASH in schools services. The total budgeted provided by the German Government is 10.142.922,89 € for the period of 3 years.



Unskilled workers from Al-Nabi Sheit, Wadi Hajar and Al-Mansour neighborhoods realizing the rehabilitation works



Before and after pictures of a rehabilitated house in Al-Nabi Sheit neighborhood

4.2 WASH Cluster (Water, sanitation and hygiene)

In 2018 four of our interventions were WASH related projects. In cooperation with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and UN-OCHA, we realized three Emergency WASH response projects in formal camps and screening sites of Ninewa (with special focus on Haj Ali Camp), Anbar, Salah-al-Din and Diyala. The objective of those projects is to provide safe drinking water and wash services to the displaced families living in those IDP camps and enable them to execute better hygiene practices to avoid epidemic outbreaks.

The interventions in partnership with UN-OCHA included the provision of operation and maintenance for the Camp WASH-facilities, construction of water networks, Hygiene Awareness Trainings, Distribution of Hygiene Kits, and Garbage Collection Campaigns.

The project in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office comprised the construction of wells and the installation of RO Units, the rehabilitation of water treatment plants and hygiene awareness campaigns.

All the mentioned measures serve to secure the dignified survival of displaced and extremely vulnerable families in areas where public sanitation services are practically non-existent and the access to water is extremely limited and doesn't cover the daily demand of a family. The implemented activities also serve to increase the water quality and reduce the risks of water borne diseases that threaten especially the health of children. The hygiene and the garbage collection campaigns contribute to the protection of the health of the entire camp community and avoid the outbreak of epidemics like cholera, Leishmaniosis, etc.



Water-network construction in Bzebez Camp/AI Anbar



Installation of water-tanks and water points in Bzebez/Al-Anbar to provide safe and potable water for the camp inhabitants



Installation of an RO Unit to purify the water provided by the newly constructed well in Al-Anbar



Rehabilitation of a water treatment plant in Al-Anbar



Rehabilitated water treatment plant in Al-Anbar



Garbage Collection Campaign in Haj Ali Camp/Ninewa

4.3 NFI Cluster (Non Food Items) supplemented with Food Security

The funding and support of UN-OCHA, UNICEF, WFP and UNFPA enabled RRI to realize three NFI projects in 2018.

The UN-OCHA funded project was executed in Deir-ez-Zor and included the emergency provision of 9.915 Winter Clothing Kits to war affected families in the region threatened by the freezing cold during the winter months in Syria. The kits were family sized and comprised warm jackets, gloves, scarves, warm underwear, socks, pants, pullovers and many things more.

In cooperation with UNICEF, WFP and UNFPA we realized a RRM-intervention (Rapid Response Mechanism) for IDPs on the move in Al-Anbar and Salah-al-Din. The project included the provision and timely distribution of food parcels that would nourish an average Iraqi family (with six family members) for one month. We further distributed Hygiene Kits and Dignity Kits with urgently

needed items to support especially women and girls facing menstruation to maintain their dignity and be able to maintain proper hygiene routines for themselves and their children and this way protect their health. Those kits consist of menstrual hygiene products, sanitary napkins, underwear, soap, toothpaste, water packages, shower gel and laundry soap and allow IDPs to meet their very basic personal hygiene-needs, even under difficult living conditions.



Displaced Children in Habbaniyah Tourist City Camp (HTC) in Al-Anbar carrying their new belongings.



As part of a winterization campaign we distributed warm winter clothes, blankets and items for the cold winter months.



These pictures show the distribution of NFI kits, including the distribution of Hygiene- and Dignity Kits in different Camps within Iraq.





Distribution of Food Parcels as part of RRI's RRM-program in IDP Camps in AL-Anbar and Salah-al-Din/Iraq.



In Syria we realized a winterization Campaign in Deir-ez-Zor and provided warm winter clothes for war-affected families in urgent need of support to survive the freezing winter month.



Simple things like a warm jacket, a blanket, or a scarf can relief displaced and affected families in Syria who are unable to meet their most basic needs are exposed to extreme suffering during the cold temperatures.

4.4 Education Cluster

In July 2018 RRI started with an extensive “Education Can’t Wait” schooling-campaign to provide education to 12.000 conflict-affected and displaced children in seven communities in Deir-ez-Zor. As part of this project RRI rehabilitated eight schools, distributed education materials and conducted “Back-to-Learning”-Campaigns. The program included trainings in communication for development, self-learning programs and remedial classes for school aged children. The communication for development recreation activities included collective games, drawing, dancing and street theater to teach children about the importance of education, hygiene, health and nutrition in a playfully manner.

In addition teacher-trainings in psycho-social-support, risk education and interactive learning were conducted as part of this educational intervention. The trainings’ aim was to introduce the teachers to new methods and means of dealing with school children, to support the students in adapting to their current situation and to teach them in risk awareness. The realization of such trainings helps teachers to understand the importance of their role and empowers them to actively advocate for children's rights.

The project was realized in cooperation with UNICEF and included a total funding of 1.066.346,10 US\$.

For displaced children it’s nearly impossible to receive regular schooling services due to the destruction of school buildings, the lack of teachers and schooling materials or due to security risks. However, the participation in educational services is extremely important to provide some normality and stability to the conflict affected and traumatized children, to create opportunities for the future and to provide hope.



Students of the Ayyash Primary School in Deir-ez-Zor with their new school bags



Students in in Ayyash and Masrab in Deir-ez-Zor participating in communication for development recovery trainings.



Communication for development – playful teaching



Teacher-Training

5 Project Planning, Implementation and Monitoring

5.1 Project Planning and Preparation

5.1.1 Beneficiary Selection Committee

To implement the projects, RRI's standard procedure includes the establishment of a Beneficiary Selection Committee (BSC) which consists of a representative of the local authorities, a local community tribe leader, community members, a representative from RRI and a representative of the donor.

In Shelter-related projects the BSC chooses the beneficiary families by visiting them personally and proving their need of assistance. After selecting the project beneficiaries the BSC requests the beneficiary registration papers from the local Community Councils, to ensure the avoidance of any conflict in reference to the ownership of the shelters.

In WASH-related projects the BSC identifies and assesses the existing infrastructure in different camps, informal settlements and returning areas through field visits realized by RRI-WASH-Officers and chooses vulnerable communities with insufficient water supply and lack of WASH-services for project implementation.

5.1.2 Tendering Phase

In the second phase RRI realizes a stakeholder analysis that includes local government departments, small-scale service-providers, private operators and NGO/CBO run entities. In doing so capabilities and capacities of different actors are assessed and the inter-organizational cooperation is promoted. The potential subcontractors are requested to perform site visits. Whenever

possible, RRI invites local companies to submit their offers since experience has proven that working with locals facilitates the project procedure and ensures the availability of contact persons beyond the project implementation. RRI selects the local partners according to their know-how, experience and a realistic cost ratio. After choosing the right subcontractors the decision is submitted to the donor for approval.

5.2 Project Implementation

5.2.1 Implementation Phase

The selection of appropriate technologies and the conduction of project-related preparatory trainings previous to the rehabilitation works serve to assure a smooth and constant project implementation and the reduction of potential risks.

During the project implementation RRI and its co-partners ensure the donors' visibility at all times.

5.2.2 Monitoring Phase

For every project RRI establishes mechanisms for transparent and participatory project monitoring and evaluation. Field monitors on site maintain close communication with the targeted beneficiaries, supervise all phases of the project implementation and submit daily reports to project management. RRI management conducts regular site visits to evaluate the project progress and submits regular (weekly and monthly) monitoring reports to the donor.

The purpose of the monitoring is to ensure works and procedures are executed as planned, delays are avoided, the high-quality of the services is guaranteed and adjustments can be made in a timely manner in case any inconveniences arise.

Evaluation is done periodically to identify potential problems on time, provide fast and adequate reaction when needed, to improve or accelerate activities and to learn lessons for the future.

The beneficiaries are encouraged to provide feedback and proactively use our complaints mechanism on site to report on any shortage in the quality or quantity of the distributed services.

5.2.3 Gender, Equity and Sustainability

RRI ensures, wherever possible, to include female community members into the projects, since experience has proven that women often provide an additional point of view and can help to change the perspective of men towards the role and skills of women within their community.

Female headed households often suffer from much more difficult conditions in providing for their families. To encourage and empower women, RRI ensures that every response incorporates a gender perspective in assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Female workers are hired for implementation, gender specific services are provided when needed and female needs are strongly considered in every intervention.

5.2.4 Completion Phase

On completion the BSC evaluates and verifies the implementation activities and RRI elaborates a final report and submits it to the donor. The services/facilities are handed over to the beneficiaries or responsible local authorities and periodical monitoring checks are realized even after completion to assure the long-term functionality of the facilities/services.



Open and direct communication with beneficiaries

6 Success Stories

6.1 “Warmth has finally returned to our family”

For many families wintertime serves to enjoy the warmth and comfort of their homes and share time with their beloved ones while drinking a hot cup of tea or chocolate. But what happens when war suddenly and brutally strips away this peaceful feeling from you? What if eight years of war leave you displaced and abandoned, struggling to find a shelter for you and your family? What if violence and destruction leave you unable to put together the shattered pieces of what once used to be a dignified life? What if the hardship becomes even bigger during the freezing winter months, where you have nothing to protect yourself from the cold temperatures?

Saeed, a loving father of five children (Mohammed, Mohanad, Oma, Aya and Heba) and his wife were forced to flee their home in Al-Baghouz village/Deir-ez-Zor and face the cruelty of an abrupt displacement.

"We had to walk many kilometers in the dark and under the heavy shooting. We couldn't take anything with us but the clothes we were wearing that day and we couldn't rest until we arrived to Al-Bukamal. There we stayed in an abandoned and unfinished building since it was our only choice", Saeed told RRI in an interview. "I lost my mother throughout this ruthless journey, she couldn't come with us", he added filled with sorrow and agony.

After arriving to Al-Bukamal, Saeed heard about the family registration for the distribution of warm winter clothes and decided to participate in the program. He provided the needed information and received winter clothes for his entire family. They were one of the 9.915 families who have been supported by our winterization campaign. This family and all the other selected beneficiaries of the project truly needed and deserved the support to overcome the hardship and suffering caused by the cold Syrian winter. Warmth has finally been able to find a place in Deir-ez-Zor.



Saeed and his family

6.2 Clean drinking Water for Mahmud Yasin Ali and his children

Mahmoud Yasin Ali, his wife and children Khansaa (11) and Omar (10) lived in Ramadi/Anbar when the military operations took place and forced them to leave their home and flee to Amara/Maysan - in south-east Iraq to escape the violence. After Anbar's liberation the family returned to their village but had to face extreme shortage of potable water since the local water station was heavily damaged. Mahmoud and his children had no other choice but to walk a long distance and take the water directly from the river. Drinking this unfiltered water put the family's health at great risk. All of them, but especially the children, suffered from diarrhea several times.

Now, after RRI rehabilitated the water station and connected the family's home to the water network, Mahmoud and his children have access to sufficient drinking water and don't suffer from water borne diseases anymore.



Saeed and his children collecting water from the river

6.3 A home for Yusuf and his family

After the liberation of Mosul City in 2017 RRI was one of the first organizations entering the city to support families who had to face heavy destruction of their homes. RRI focused on the rehabilitation of homes in various areas of Mosul, but especially in the western part of the city. During our work we have realized, that rebuilding a house does not only mean to reestablish a building but it means to give people a chance to slowly reestablish their lives. In the Wadi Hajar neighborhood RRI met Yusuf Saleh Sultan, a father of four sons who had experienced nothing but terror during the ISIL occupation of Mosul. ISIL executed one of his sons in 2014 and then forced Yusuf and his family to leave their home. The terrorists burned the house, including all the family's belongings. During the evaluation and assessment stage for the shelter rehabilitation project in Mosul City, the RRI team selected Yusuf and his family as beneficiaries of the project and reconstructed their house. Today Yusuf's family began a new life full of hopes and visions for the future.

