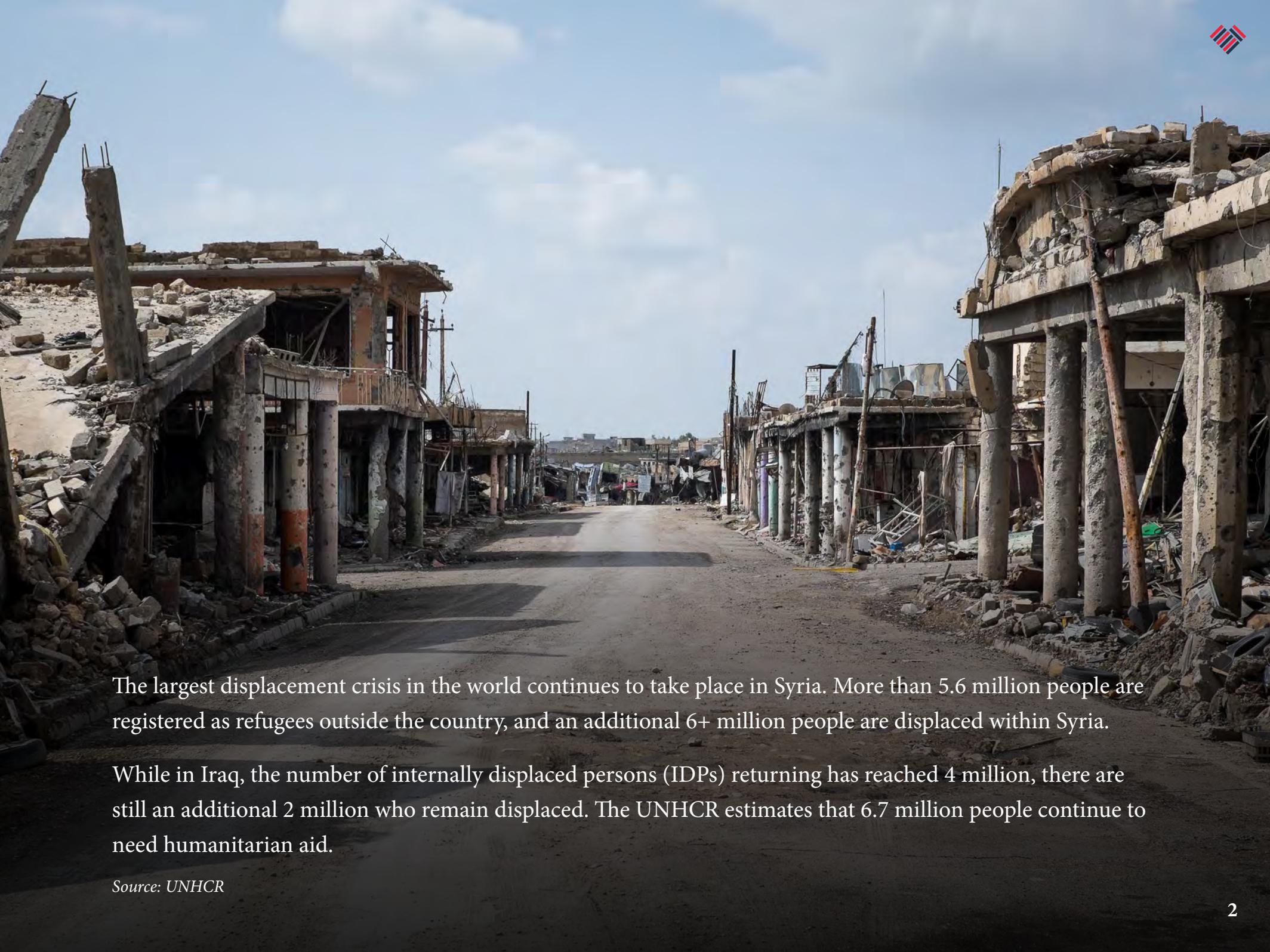


A photograph of a woman wearing a black hijab and a green long-sleeved shirt, smiling warmly. She is in the foreground, with her hand near her chin. Behind her are two children, a boy and a girl, also smiling. They are inside a structure that looks like a tent or a temporary shelter, with wooden poles and fabric walls. The lighting is warm and focused on the subjects.

IMPACT REPORT

January-June 2019



The largest displacement crisis in the world continues to take place in Syria. More than 5.6 million people are registered as refugees outside the country, and an additional 6+ million people are displaced within Syria.

While in Iraq, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) returning has reached 4 million, there are still an additional 2 million who remain displaced. The UNHCR estimates that 6.7 million people continue to need humanitarian aid.

Source: UNHCR



This is what your love and compassion have accomplished during the first half of 2019:

IRAQ

-  53,313 medical consultations
-  18,502 medical consultations for children under five
-  1,173 liters of water delivered to 272 people
-  10,035 visits to the children's center
-  1,526 total children served at the children's center
-  61 new businesses started
-  46 people enrolled in English language classes
-  2,048 children provided with access to education
-  169 workers graduated from tech training programs

ISRAEL

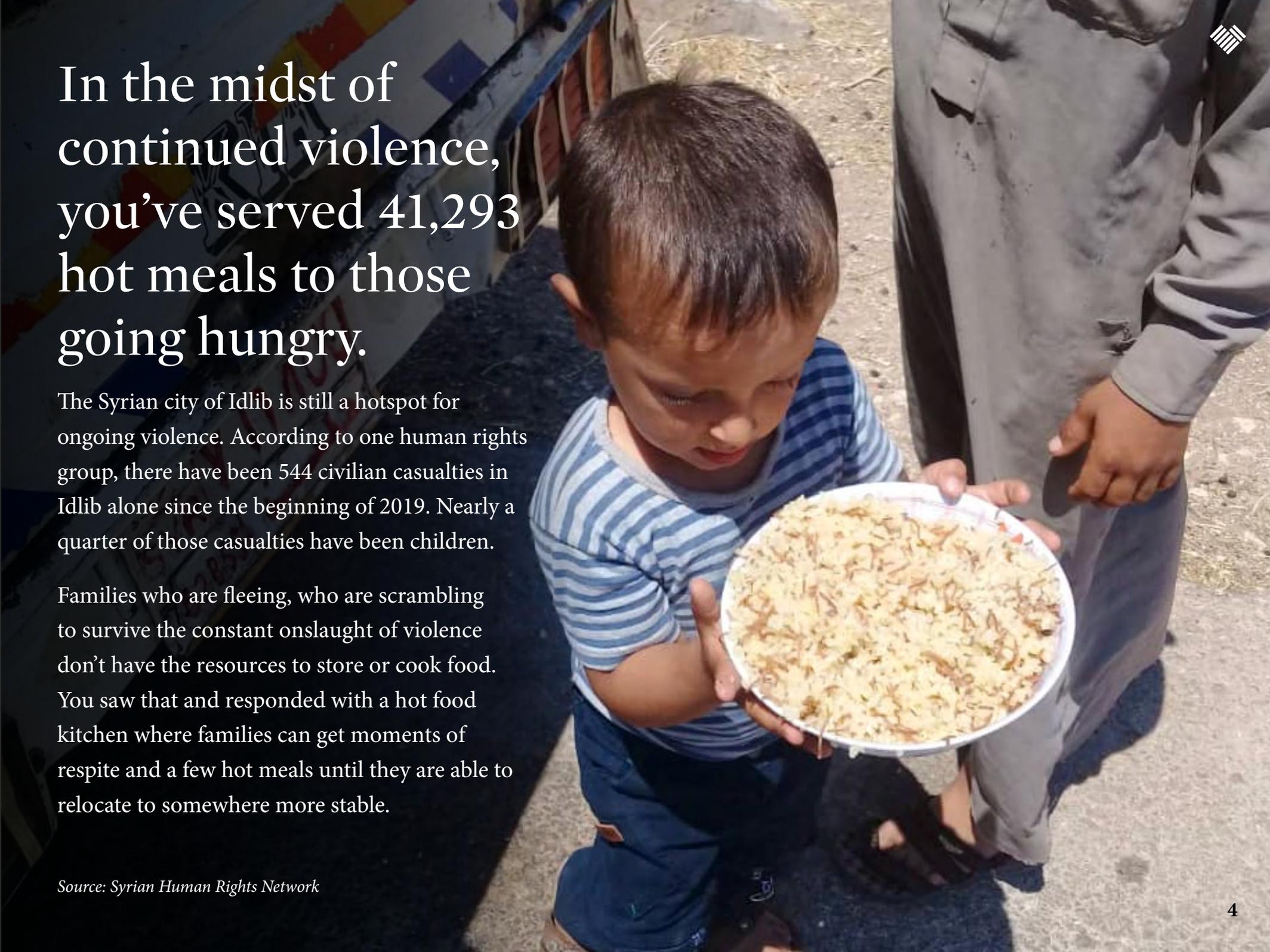
-  29 women enrolled in job education program

SYRIA

-  23,255 medical consultations
-  2,952 medical consultations for children under five
-  45 homes renovated
-  200 month-long food packs (serving 1,200 people)
-  41,293 hot meals served
-  250 mushroom farm livelihoods created
-  250 traditional farm livelihoods created

UNITED STATES BORDER RESPONSE

-  1,517 legal asylum seekers supplied with emergency essentials



In the midst of continued violence, you've served 41,293 hot meals to those going hungry.

The Syrian city of Idlib is still a hotspot for ongoing violence. According to one human rights group, there have been 544 civilian casualties in Idlib alone since the beginning of 2019. Nearly a quarter of those casualties have been children.

Families who are fleeing, who are scrambling to survive the constant onslaught of violence don't have the resources to store or cook food. You saw that and responded with a hot food kitchen where families can get moments of respite and a few hot meals until they are able to relocate to somewhere more stable.

Source: Syrian Human Rights Network



Meet Fawaz

Since 2017, Fawaz and his family have been moving from city to city trying to find shelter from the terror and hunger caused by war. He and his wife, Diana, have three small children. Every day Fawaz leaves home to harvest hay in the blazing Syria sun. After the long, unforgiving hours he makes barely enough to cover his transportation between home and work. Sometimes dinner is a few potatoes or a little bit of bread. His family dreams of electricity and schools. They know the value of education and what that means for the future of their children and their country.

Your support of the hot meal program in Syria means that three beautiful children have full bellies for the night, and Fawaz and Diana can rest easy knowing that no matter what tomorrow brings, at least there will be hot food.



You delivered 200 month-long food packs to 1,200 hungry and vulnerable people in Syria.

While providing medical care to the Harasta community in Syria, we found many people still lack access to adequate food supplies. With your help, our teams on the ground were able to get food packs to the families in greatest need. Your love is providing people with the nutrition they need to restore health and stability.



You've helped provide 1,173 liters of water to 272 people in camps where resources are scarce.

In Iraq, there are a few areas where IDPs still do not have access to water. These camps are remote or unsuitable for well-drilling. You are delivering water to these families until they are able to return to their communities. Thanks for standing with our Iraqi friends as they wait for the conflict to cease so they can make their way home.

You provided 1,517 legal asylum seekers with life-saving essentials.

We asked you to help provide basic necessities for those who have extreme violence or economic devastation in countries like Honduras, Columbia, Uganda, and Haiti. Asylum applicants leave the processing center with nothing to get them through their earliest days in the United States. You filled that gap.



Listen to the podcast episode about our team's time at the border in El Paso, Texas...



You've helped provide 76,568 medical consultations in Iraq and Syria.

Out of those, 21,454 were provided to children under the age of 5. Our friends fleeing from conflict or living in crowded camps are at high risk of injury and disease and are staying in places where no medical care is available.

Thank you for helping provide much-needed medical services in areas where some doctors simply will not go or where there is no infrastructure to support the ones willing to put their bodies on the frontlines.

In the past we have told you about doctors who risked bombs and bullets or who clung to rickety boats in order to cross bloated, rain-swollen rivers. This season we have a new story to tell.



[Read more...](#)



Mobile clinic doctor with his supplies sees patients where needed, even under the hot summer sun.



Your love is offering 1,266 new babies born in Iraq a healthy start to life.

Your support enables us to focus on reproductive health in clinics throughout Iraq and Syria and ensures that women have safe spaces for childbirth. We could not do this without you!



[Read about the miracle of quadruplets born in Syria...](#)



You've established a new mushroom production industry for 250 families in Syria.

Mushrooms were not typically grown in Syria, or even in popular use here. But sanctions drive up prices for meat and locally-sourced food is scarce due to years of war. Oyster mushrooms now serve not only as a protein replacement but also as a viable source of income for families who have lost all means of employment.

Thank you for providing nutrition and expanding livelihood opportunities for these families and their communities. You've helped turn their hopes into reality and restored the sense of security they once knew.



You provided tools, seeds, and machinery to start 250 traditional farms.

Syrians know how to farm. It's in their blood, passed down through the generations. They live the land, work the land. It is part of their identity. But war ripped so much away. Not only did farmers have to flee their family lands, but they also lost their tools needed to reclaim the land once they returned.

You have helped farmers in rural villages get the tools, seeds, and machinery necessary to replant large tracts of land. Bountiful harvests enable them to feed their families, but also sell the surplus in their communities. When you help one family restore their livelihood, you're really standing with entire villages as they achieve stability and certainty.

One bean and barley farmer told our staff, "You are the only people who looked at us, and it is only because of you that we are able to come back to our village."

Thank you for seeing our friends in Syria. Thank you for investing in them.





You have helped restore 45 homes ruined by war.

As the dust of war begins to settle in parts of Syria, you've been there to stand with those whose lives have been flipped upside down by conflict. In some areas you are restarting farms. In some areas you are helping residents to grow mushrooms. And in other places, like Jalila's neighborhood, you are renovating homes damaged by war so families can move back and start to rebuild their lives.



[Read more about Jalila and her family home...](#)





You've stood by 61 women and men starting new businesses.

With your support, those who have fled their homes due to war and violence have the chance to start again. They can begin to focus on lives that see beyond the moment... lives that include ways to earn income so they can support their families, send their children to school and maybe, one day, return home. Your compassion lifts them up, helping them become the heroes of their own stories. Your kindness becomes a backdrop for their courage and resolve.





This is what “empowerment” looks like...

J is only 17 years old. In her short life, she has been married twice and abused horrifically in both marriages. She has lost her home and is now living in a refugee camp.

But today she is redefining herself, remaking her life. Thanks to your investment in her, J is now a successful clothing store owner. She is making and saving money. She has confidence. She has choices and freedom.

Kawakep has a smile that lights up a room. This was not always the case. When we first met her, she was hesitant and reserved. A widow living with her late husband’s family, she was overshadowed by a dominant mother-in-law and many strict rules.

With the opportunity to have her own fabric shop, Kawakep shines. She was looking for the chance to be her own boss, to define her own future. Now she is well-practiced in the art of confidence and charts her own course.



[Read more about J...](#)



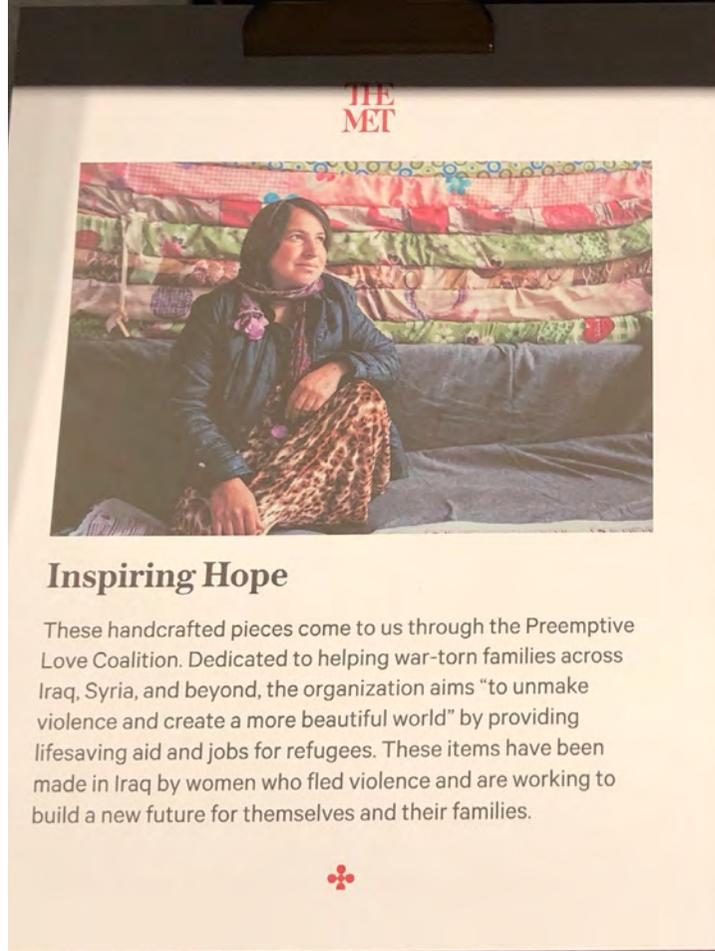
[Read more about Kawakep...](#)

Your love showed up in The Met!

We frequently tell the story of Marwa, the soapmaker whose soap launched The Sisterhood Collection. During the summer, The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City had an exhibit about art and identity in the Middle East. The Sisterhood Collection of candles, soap, and tea towels was featured in their gift shop during this time. Thank you for your support that allows the stories of Marwa and other makers to be told to the world.



Read more...



Inspiring Hope

These handcrafted pieces come to us through the Preemptive Love Coalition. Dedicated to helping war-torn families across Iraq, Syria, and beyond, the organization aims "to unmake violence and create a more beautiful world" by providing lifesaving aid and jobs for refugees. These items have been made in Iraq by women who fled violence and are working to build a new future for themselves and their families.



Hand-Ha
6-inch Ca
Handmade
war in Iraq

3-inches
6-inches



Tech training programs you helped build have put 169 people into the workforce.

You have helped create an education space for women and men to learn new, high-demand skills. But it's also a place for them to collaborate together, receive coaching, and gain access to the global digital marketplace. War stole years of education from youth in Iraq and Syria who now struggle to find work as young adults, but because of your generosity and compassion, they are not dependent on the limited economy of a refugee camp or the goodwill of big aid organizations. They have the skills and access necessary to join the global digital marketplace.



Watch this video of Noura and hear, in her own words, what tech job training means for her...

You've helped provide the following educational opportunities:

 46 people enrolled in English language classes (Iraq)

 2,048 children provided with access to education (Iraq)

 29 women enrolled in job education program (Israel)

Children in high-conflict countries are 30 percent less likely to complete primary school. That number increases to approximately half when they move up to more advanced grades.

Only 50 percent of refugee children have access to primary education, and only 1 percent attend a university.

Thank you for investing in the future of Iraq and Israel by making education available to our friends here.

Sources: *The International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity*
UNHCR





1,526 children have been served at the therapeutic play center.

You understand the trauma that war delivers to all members of a family in conflict zones. Some of the children who are recipients of the love you've shown have never known a time without war. They have never had the chance to play unfettered from the risk of falling bombs and flying bullets. Their playgrounds are airstrike zones.

Thanks to you, there have been more than 10,000 visits to the Friendly Center where kids have the chance to just be kids.



“I want grow up to be useful and give to the world. I want to help rebuild Syria and especially to help Syria’s children.”

ISMAIL, AGE 11

“I want to be educated and learn more in order to become a teacher in schools so that I can help other children.”

REEM, AGE 10

“I want to be an artist so I can show people what the war is like in Syria and then after the war, I will draw beautiful pictures of what Syria is like.”

LAILA, AGE 8



The Faces of Syria’s Future

Ismail, Reem, and Laila were temporarily separated from their parents. During this time of transition, the children were cared for by the child protection unit which is part of The Friendly Center you fund.

Recently the children were able to reunite with their parents. Thank you for ensuring the resources were in place for these and other high-risk children to be safe and sound. The family is looking forward to the time when they can return home. The children have strong ideas about how they want their lives to turn out. This is the next generation of Syria.



You've helped established 7 Love Anyway Gatherings across the eastern half of the United States.

Gatherings are co-hosted by two individuals pursuing friendship and deeper understanding with one another across some cultural, political, ethnic, or religious divide. Gatherings meet monthly to cultivate meaningful diversity, learn from each other, and pursue peace through action—so that members of various ideologies, ethnicities, religions, and identities are interacting and sharing power.

This is how we remake our world: creating an environment where everyone has a voice, has a place to be heard, known, valued, and loved. These connections foster empathy and compassion so that when we face the fears of the world or disagree with our neighbors, our first choice will always be to love anyway.

We love hearing from you!

Do you have any questions? Do you have ideas for more ways we can work together to wage peace and #loveanyway?

We want you to fully understand your impact—your essential role in waging peace in the world's most polarizing conflicts—so you can share your work with friends and family, colleagues and constituents.

Please let us know how we can serve you better.

