



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Partnership

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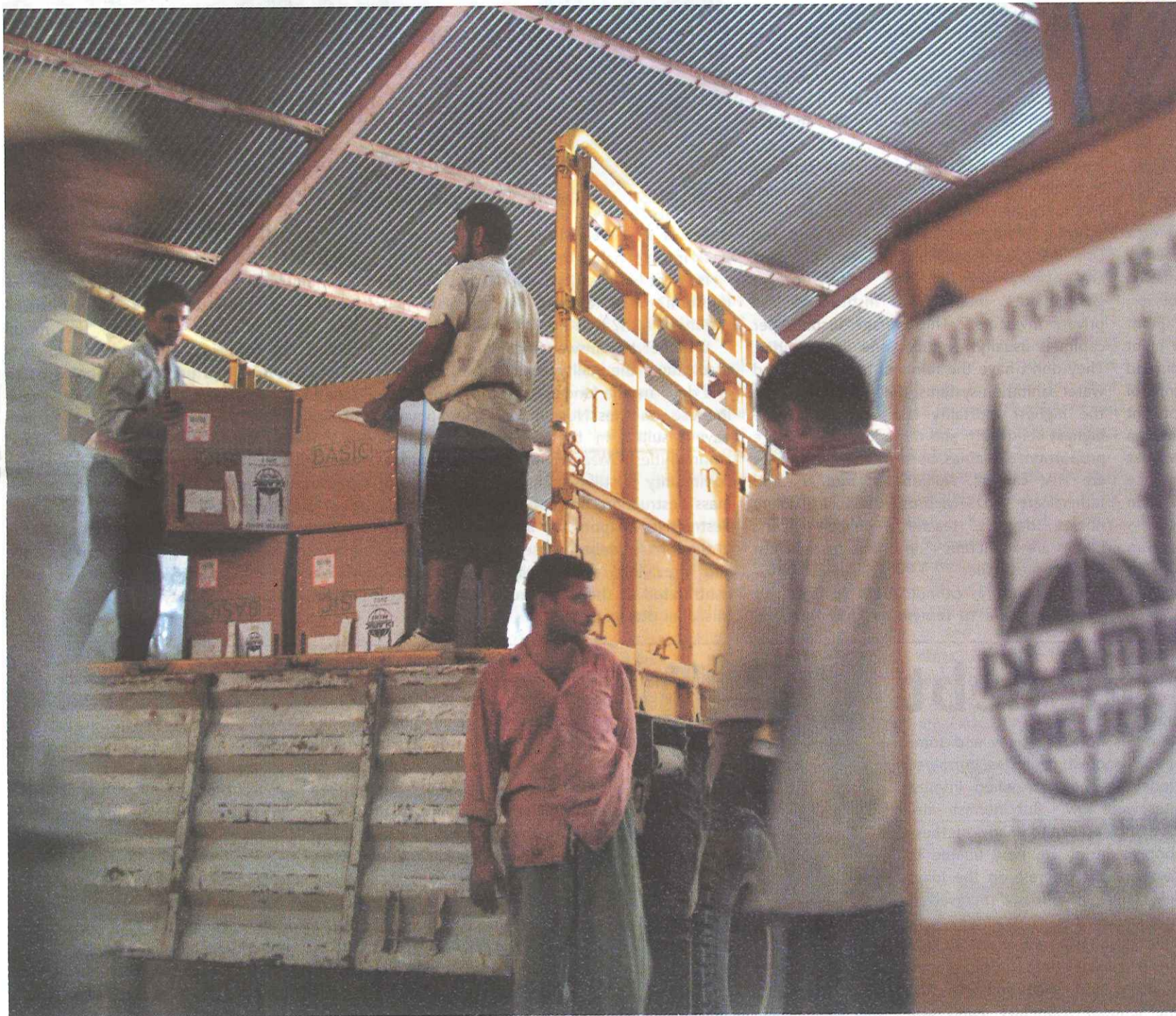
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PLUS – Special Feature on the importance of Islamic Will making



IR IN IRAQ



STOP PRESS

The news on our most recent operations in Iraq

- With the bomb attacks in Najaf and against the United Nations, as well as rises in crime and the lack of an effective police force, Iraq's security situation is in a desperate state. This has led several Non-Government Organisations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations itself to scale down their operations or even withdraw completely. Despite the difficult circumstances, Islamic Relief has currently neither withdrawn its staff nor drastically reduced its operations in Iraq.
- Following the great success of the initial 'Cleaning up Baghdad' project, Islamic Relief obtained \$15,000 from the British Embassy for a second phase. The removal of rubble and decomposing waste from the streets of Baghdad was again very successful and urgently needed. Islamic Relief is currently engaging in a third and final phase of the project with financial support from Mercy Malaysia.
- Islamic Relief has already managed to physically rehabilitate several primary schools. These include Ramz Al-Uma and Al-Sedeq schools in Baghdad and Al-Sajad girls' school in Karbala. More will follow with Islamic Relief contracting out rehabilitation work to provide employment locally. In addition, 10 containers consisting mostly of school furniture departed Jordan for Baghdad on the 13th of September. At least 13 followed soon after.
- On the health front, Islamic Relief's rehabilitation of 20 Primary Health Care Centres through the provision of Emergency Health Kits is nearing completion. Additionally, following needs assessments, Islamic Relief has already distributed over 6,500 bed sheets. The major recipients were hospitals along with needy families in Baghdad and Diyala. Most recently, much-needed medical equipment has left Jordan for Baghdad in the convoy of 10 containers that departed on the 13th of September, and more followed soon after.

Humanitarian aid arriving in Baghdad.

Islamic Relief started its operation in Iraq in April 1996, when a mission visited the country for the first time to assess the humanitarian situation and implement a food distribution programme. It went on to implement three major relief projects, the Leukaemia Treatment Project, the Hospital Hygiene Project, and the Food Aid Programme, which has, over the years, supplied food to over 200,000.

In 1998 Islamic Relief began studying other possible options of intervention such as rehabilitation of schools, hospitals and water treatment plants. However, the momentum of the process was

disrupted in 1998, when the Iraqi government announced the banning of aid carried out by international aid agencies.

With the build up to war at the end of 2002, Islamic Relief initiated an emergency response to support 20,000 war affected people. It pre-positioned supplies of food, shelter, hygiene kits and clothes in both Iraq and neighbouring countries in order to meet the needs of those affected.

In the immediate aftermath of the conflict, Islamic Relief was well placed, with offices in both Amman and Baghdad, to transport supplies into the heart of Iraq where a desperate population needed them

most. A 17-truck convoy drove the dangerous route from Amman to Baghdad and delivered much needed supplies to beneficiaries in the capital and Karbala.

In the confused and often dangerous weeks after the war, Islamic Relief staff remained on the ground in Baghdad, assessing the immediate needs of the population. A mission came from UK, France and Belgium offices to see for themselves the terrible damage to Iraq's infrastructure and to take a clear, simple message back to their donors: Help, Iraq needs you.

Another project, which was instigated rapidly, was called 'Cleaning up Baghdad'. Aiming to

help Iraqis return to some kind of normality, Emergency Projects head - Mustafa Osman - came up with the novel idea of cleaning up central Baghdad. The project opened up access for traffic and helped reduce the public health hazards from abandoned rubbish.

In the health field, Islamic Relief has distributed emergency health kits to primary health care centres, as well as over 3,980 food kits to deserving families. It is now beginning its development programme which intends to rehabilitate 20 primary schools, 6-10 small and medium sized water treatment plants and 20 primary health centres.