



Supporting Self Reliance among Vulnerable Iraqi Women

Nursery

Concept Paper

Islamic Relief Worldwide

Project Concept Paper

Project Title	Supporting Self Reliance among Vulnerable Iraqi Women
Subtitle	Nursery
Location	Baghdad
Implementing Agency	Islamic Relief - Iraq
Duration	six months
Requested budget	120,000 USD
Beneficiaries	Direct Beneficiaries: 30 (divorcees, widows single women with very low incomes) Indirect Beneficiaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 100 children▪ Employment women and their families▪ Local community

Problem Statement:

An estimated 28% of female-headed households were found to be “extremely poor” compared to 13.4% of male-headed households. Moreover, more than half of adults in extremely poor households are unemployed, more than 80% of these are women, 36 percent of children living in extremely poor households are chronically malnourished*.

Moreover, according to a survey carried out by the Iraqi Ministry of Planning Development, it is estimated that 11% of Iraqi families are supported by women; 73% of these women are widows who lost their husbands during long years of war since the 1980s and for other reasons, which reduced the rate of men to a considerable extent. The survey also revealed that the average age of women who support their family is ten years more than the average age of men. About 28% of these women headed households have less income compared to men. What is even worse is that almost 50% of these women headed households cannot secure 100,000 ID (USD 65) per week compared to 26% of families supported by men.

Islamic Relief – Iraq:

- ❖ Islamic Relief-Iraq (IR-Iraq) through its active presence in the field in Baghdad other central governorates in Iraq since 2003 has directed wide range of

Source: <http://www.womenwarpeace.org/iraq/iraq.htm#humanitarian> *

programs, projects and activities to alleviate the impact of war, sanctions violence consequences on Iraqi community.

- ❖ IR-Iraq has implemented relief, rehabilitation development projects in the fields of health, shelters, education, water sanitation, gender, child rights employment; emergency relief projects; regular distribution of in-kind donations; its regular seasonal projects: Ramadan Qurbani. This is in addition to its orphans support program.
- ❖ In the field of Human Rights, IR had implemented two projects targeted Iraqi women. One of these projects was Promoting Gender Based Violence Prevention Response in Iraq in participation with Norwegian Foreign Ministry and another project was Promoting Self-Help among vulnerable Iraqi women with Forum Syd. It's important to highlight the achievements for these projects as they fulfill GDI.

Project Summary:

Project Idea depends on empowering three groups of women groups to be able to manage their own business. It will focus on building the capacity of the three women groups to run private nurseries.

IR will help them in building their capacity, raising their awareness in nursery related knowledge. Moreover, IR will help them by renting furnishing premises for the first 6 months to give them a push forward on their road to improving their lives and their families' lives.

Goal: To increase opportunities for self-help and self reliance among vulnerable Iraqi women and improving their livelihood and achieving sustainable human development.

Outcome: Improved livelihoods of the thirty participating women and their families.

Objectives:

- ❖ To empower vulnerable women and enhance their livelihoods.
- ❖ To improve access and to maintain meaningful employment for these vulnerable women (approximately 30 women)
- ❖ To develop local women support groups that work on promoting self reliance among women and enhance their self-esteem.
- ❖ To enhance women's active participation in family and community affairs
- ❖ To enhance community awareness of gender issues and women's rights

Outputs:

- ❖ Improved physical and mental wellbeing of the beneficiaries and their families.
- ❖ Three small income-generating activities developed and administered for (and by) women.

- ❖ Three local women support groups fully developed and having clear vision and objectives.
- ❖ Increased participation by women in their families and their local communities.

Project Activities:

1) Developing Local Support Groups

To initiate this project, communications with local NGOs to study the ability to nominate women who have the desire to join and participate this kind of work. The selected women will form group who will be selected according to below selection criteria:

- Unemployed widows and divorcees
 - Women headed households with low incomes
 - Women living within the geographical boundaries of the targeted areas.
- It is anticipated that the project will facilitate the establishment of two women groups

2) Promoting Women's capacity building for Economic Empowerment

Selected women will participate on training workshops and courses that aim to provide them with the necessary skills to manage, run and develop the selected activity.

3) Raising Community Awareness

The third component or activity of this project is emphasis on raising community awareness, especially with regards to gender roles and women issues. This component will include community awareness campaigns and activities promoted by the project staff and the local support groups.

4) Printings

Besides advertizing banners, a newsletter will be published to disseminate information and lessons learnt from the project.