



Doctors for Iraq

WORKING FOR BETTER HEALTH



www.doctorsforiraq.org
info@doctorsforiraq.org

Ref. Doctors for Iraq / Reg. No. 1L48181 (Iraq)

Doctors for Iraq (DFI) is a group of doctors who have experienced and witnessed the destruction of the infrastructures of the health system in our country after the invasion in 2003, and who have endeavored in every way possible to relieve the suffering of our fellow Iraqis.

We are mostly junior doctors at the beginning of our careers but when we saw the appalling health situation in our country after the invasion, we individually volunteered to go from hospital to hospital and area to area to provide medical care to those in need. However, we soon realized that we needed to organize ourselves and work in a team. So in October 2003 we held a conference and formed Doctors for Iraq, a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) with 100 doctors volunteering to become established members. We had, and continue to have, many partners in the different governances of Iraq who will work with us when we need them.

What motivates us is our ambition to serve our country, improve the health situation for our fellow citizen and to develop solutions to the problems we face in the field. We also think that it is important that the young people in Iraq can have a role.

Members

There are seven directors on the Iraqi board of Doctors for Iraq:

- a- President of board of directors:
Dr. Wajdi M. Al-Rawi
- b- Deputy of board of directors:
Dr. Eehab S. Al-Rikabee
- c- Secretary General:
Dr. Salam Taha Al-Obaidi
- d- Members of board of directors

- Dr. Ahmed Abdul-Rahman (Killed in the hospital while doing his wor)
- Dr. Hani s'ood
- Dr. Layla Khaleel

Currently, we have 214 members.

How we work ?

We have limited resources so we have to be as effective and efficient as possible. We do this by:

- Using our Local Connections, between the tribal, local leaders, and local small partners.
- Grouping our doctors and volunteers. There is one group responsible for each area and one doctor is responsible for gathering data and information and sending it to the center (the completely volunteer group). At this center we analyze the data, and decide on our priorities and projects design.



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- Using substitution teams. We divide the doctors who want to work in the field into small teams. Each team works in the field for a short time and then we substitute them with another team. This method is more efficient and effective as many of our doctors have governmental work and have security and financial limitations. The work is also stressful.
- Finding the funding for the project and appointing the team which is responsible for it. We use local connections to best use financial resources, and for security reasons.

Note : For each project we name a coordinator who is for responsible supervising, and documenting the progress of the project by photographing and filming the work and keeping receipts.

Organizations that we have worked / are working with:

Helping Hands for the needy , Mercy Malaysia , Cultural House (Norway) ,Saudi Arabia Islamic Charities , Iraqi Tribal donations , Muslim Community in UK , Raed Jarar Blog (Jordan) , Hospitals in the west like Alaska Hospital in US , International Peace Angels , Medical Aid for the Third World Medico International & Individual donations.

Doctors for Iraq is medical, humanitarian and human rights organization

Medical (scientific): The scientific and the educational standards of the Iraqi doctors and the medical school students have declined because of the continued sanctions and the last war. We try to improve standards by providing continuous medical educational programs in our education centers. We held the first training course in December 2003 just after the invasion. We also have projects to provide medical textbooks. For example, thanks to our partner Mercy Malaysia, we held the first 1,000 subsidized medical books fair for Iraqi doctors and medical students after the war.

Humanitarian: We do our humanitarian work by sending medical teams to the areas of conflict as there are few doctors in such areas despite having the most medical need. The teams consist of young surgeons and junior doctors. We collect data in the medical health, humanitarian and the human rights fields and forward this information to the organizations that want to help and cooperate with us.

Human Rights: We noticed during our work in the conflict zones that there were severe breaches of human rights, including the right to health. There were breaches in medical neutrality, medical impartiality and the Geneva conventions. So we document, and participate in monitoring the breaches of these rights especially the rights of vulnerable groups, such as women, children, refugees and prisoners as part of our commitments towards medical ethics and the International humanitarian Law.

Also we recommend solutions to help overcome the challenges, health problems and human rights abuses, that we face during our work and submit these to the government and the related organizations.



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We do all of this work because we love our country. We depend on a small number of doctors who are organized into effective teams and we use the facilities that the Iraqi people and the other organizations give to us, such as stores and the medical supplies.

We depend on donations to cover our logistics and transportation costs of our members to reach remote areas. We worked in Mousel , saladeen , hadeetha , Falluja , Heet , Qiem , Saglawiya , Diala and we have a good network with local people especially in the north and west of Iraq.

Doctors for Iraq have been working on projects relating to the following fields:

Education

- we designed and organized the first training course for junior doctors after the last war. The course "Basic Lab. Requirements for junior Doctors " was taught in the medical city in Baghdad over a period of a month. The course focused on theory and practical clinical experience and 60 doctors from across Iraq participated on the course. Doctors for Iraq delivered the training course free of charge to doctors and received recognition from the Ministry of Health for our work.
- We organized the first books fair for Iraqi medical students and doctors in December 2003. Doctors for Iraq worked closely with one of our partner organizations Mercy Malaysia. We were able to provide students with affordable medical books and journals
- We arranged a campaign with some medical schools in UK to collect books and cd's for Iraqi medical students. The books and other items were donated to the Baghdad medical school.

Doctors for Iraq have been highlighting the problems in the health sector because of political upheaval and conflict in the country.

Medical Teams

- We sent voluntary medical teams of resident and junior doctors to Falluja during the first and the second sieges of the city.
- Many of our members volunteered to work in Basra, Najaf , Diala , saladeen and Al Anbar State in Qiem , Hadeetha , Ramadi , Heet and Talafar.
- We send medical assessment teams to examine groups of families' women and children in areas near Falluja where there was suspicion of radio active substances pollution. Doctors for Iraq worked closely with in cooperation with the Iraqi Ministry of health for 5 successive days
- We went an assessment team to Basra to find out more about the needs of children focusing especially on the children's prostheses clinics in the area and the difficulties that doctors face and the needs of children.



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Convoys

- We arranged two big convoys of aid to Falluja city after the April 2004 siege. The second convoy of aid was also sent to the city of Sagalwia in the west of Iraq.

British charity Helping Hands for the Needy assisted Doctors for Iraq with organising the first convoy of aid consisting of 45 tones of medical aid and food items. The second convoy was organized in conjunction with the Norwegian organisation Norwegian People Culture that assisted us with providing 5 tones of medical aid for Iraq.

- Many smaller charities and hospitals such as Third World Doctors and Alaska Hospital helped provide us with smaller convoys of medical equipments to Falluja hospital, Hadeetha , Qiem , Saglawia and Basra.

We are still sending small teams of doctors to the main conflict areas in the West of Iraq.

Advocacy role

We are working to raise awareness about the health system in Iraq and have shared our findings and concerns with the Iraqi government and International organizations and NGO's.

We lobby influential organizations and NGO's and participate in media work to raise awareness of issues on the ground such as:

- The spoiled food that is allowed into Iraq without supervision.
- The lack of supervision of the medicine that is sold in Iraqi markets.
- The continuous attacks on Iraqi hospitals and medical personal and the breaches of the medical neutrality.

Our strategy in 2006 is to continue working in the following areas:

1. Sending small medical teams to remote areas and areas of military operations targeting especially the internal displaced families and vulnerable groups like women and children.
2. Providing hospitals with urgent medicines and supplies that can't always be met by the Ministry of Health, especially hospitals in conflict and remote areas.
3. concentrating on the needs of limb prosthetic clinics - especially for children
4. Documenting issues and problems in the Iraqi health system in cop oration with NGO s and International organizations such as the World Health Organisation
5. Establishing medical training courses for medical students and junior doctors

Ongoing priority projects for 2006 :

We are working on rehabilitating Hadeetha hospital situated in the west of Iraq that has been damaged because of military action in the area.



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اطباء لاجل العراق
DOCTORS FOR IRAQ

Building water purification units in the remote areas such as in Falluja

Establishing two training courses for trauma management and monitoring right to health

International activities

Doctors for Iraq have been asked to address various international conferences around the world including the following:

The annual meeting of the British Medical Association (BMA) in Wales 2004.

Third Cairo conference in 2005

Doctors union meeting in Greece 2005

International Academy of Human Rights, Cape Town, South Africa 2005

The People s 2nd Health Assembly, Cuenca , Ecuador 2005

Soul Health Forum ,South Korea 2005

7th Humanitarian congress , theory and practice in the humanitarian work .

Most international humanitarian organisations have withdrawn from Iraq because of the level of violence and lack of security. Meanwhile the suffering of people continues to grow day by day. Doctors for Iraq are committed to continue working to assist the people of Iraq.

We need your help to continue our vital work.

Doctors for Iraq

Working for better health

For more information please contact:

Doctors for Iraq (registered as an NGO inside Iraq)

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