



## IRAQI AL-AMAL ASSOCIATION

To: Un Ponte Per...

Annual Report 2006

### **Sponsorship Program for Supporting the Chronically Disease Children**

**Sponsorship Program** is a medical program which started in 1993, providing medicines which are not available in the local market to children who are affected by chronic diseases such as (Cancer, Epilepsy, Diabetes Millets, Thelassemia and Cerebral Palsy ... etc.). The number of children enrolled in the program depends on the number of Italian families which are supporting the program with funding.

Its joint program between Un Ponte Per (UPP) and Iraqi Al-Amal Association (IAA). After the collapse of the last regime, the program is still in the process of providing medicine to the patients although there are many difficulties such as the security situation, communication issues and shortage of fuel.

The number of the patients in the program during 2004 was 93 children and this number has been decreased to 89 for the following reasons:

- 1-Two of the patients passed away (Zainab Kadem and Haider Ra'ad Joury)
- 2-Two of the patients did not come for the medical check up because they traveled to Italy for a bone marrow transfusion.

The number of the patients during 2005 is 87 because of the following reason:

- 1-One of the patients passed away (Mariam Kadem)
- 2-One of the patients has had a bone marrow transfusion in Italy (Ghaith Jewad).

The total number of the children in Sponsorship Program is ninety after adding three new patients.

#### **New beneficiaries in the program are:**

- 1-Haider Wathiq Naema – 2 years / Baghdad governorate
- 2-Ali Jewad -10 years / Wassit governorate
- 3-Hassan Flaeh Aziz – 9 years / Al-Qadsiya governorate

In 2006 the number falls to 89 again because of the death of the child Hassan Faleh Aziz.

### **Medicine Distribution:**

During 2006, there were 3 time medical distribution and one medical check up. The 1<sup>st</sup> distribution process has been carried out in January, the 2<sup>nd</sup> was in July and the 3<sup>rd</sup> one in the mid of December. The medical check up was done through July.

### **Medical Check Up:**

During the meeting with the patients' families, they requested for a complete checking up for their children. As a result of their requests, Iraqi Al-Amal Association organized through its relations a treatment for the patients in the National Center for Diabetic and Child hospital in Al-Eskan district in Baghdad.. Today all the patients' laboratory tests X – rays and medical check up take place in these hospitals, all the patients came to the medical check up except 9 who could not attend due to security conditions in Baghdad, and we've notified them that the medical check up is essential to stay in the sponsorship program.

The doctors have increased the doses of medicines for most of chronic conditions and have advised for surgical treatment for about 11 of them.

The patients received the medicine according to the prescription advised by doctors.

### **Activities**

AL-AMAL had make contacts to different governmental and nongovernmental apparatuses to help in surgical treatment for some of the patients (example child Myes Waleid needed eye surgical treatment), and still working on this possibility.

The program also donate a walking stick to one of the patients old relatives (Ali Jwad) who was hurt in explosion and could not afford to buy one.

The program had donated wheel chairs to 12 of children in the program during the period from 2005 and 2006.

### **Relations between Iraqi and Italian Families:**

The Iraqi families are continuing to send their gratitude and regards by sending letters and cards in different occasions in which they express their feelings towards the Italian families who support their children with medicine.

**Medicine from Italy:**

We face problems in getting medicine sent from Italy through Iraqi airport, the Iraqi customs refused to release them before they pass into quality control test which required a great portion of them to be used as sample in tests. We've sent a letter to ministry of health through our friend the president of Iraqi pharmacist bar, and we've sent representatives to meet with Iraq medicine and medical supplies governmental company but till now we did not get any results with them. We are making last effort to try to convince the airport customs to release the cargo and if we get it out we will use it for future distribution. We'll inform you about our efforts

The last distribution depended totally on buying the medicine from the local market without any medicine sent from Italy.

**Evaluation:**

The program is doing -well ; the families are satisfied with it and there is increase in the requests from other families, but because of the increase of violence in Iraq especially in Baghdad we had lost contact in the last 2 months with 30 families. We've succeeded in getting in touch with 19 of them. In the last distribution we had 12 families could not come to get there medicine, some of them had changed their houses and others are afraid to cross to our side or the river. One of the families were forced to leave there house in al huria district and move to Sunni area and when they went to get their belongings from their house they found it burnt. Others had escaped outside Baghdad and we were force to wait till their father come for 1 day to get the medicine and leave at once. Others were forced to hide in north Iraq and sent their uncle to get the medicine because they are in very tight financial situation and can not afford to buy medicine to their girls

The program had more importance in the last months because a number of patients families were forced to change there house or to been thrown outside their house under the threat of guns because of the violence in Baghdad, which effect them economically and morally, and the program became their only source for treatment to their children.

## **Financial evaluation:**

The project cost for the second half of 2006 (from 1/7 to 31/12/2006) was reached to (77846.68) \$. The increase in the expenses is due to the following reasons:

- 1- In the last medical check up the doctors have increased the doses for most of the patients in the program, which lead to increase in the quantity for them.
- 2- The last distribution depended totally on buying the medicine from the local market..
- 3- In December the dollar exchange rate has been decreased towards Iraqi dinar due to Iraqi government new policy to support Iraqi dinar which had a miner effect on the prices of last purchases.
- 4- The above mentioned cost has covered two distribution processes, in which we have purchased medicine for each one of them, while the budget from 1/1 to 30/6/2006 had covered only one time distribution.

## **Finance**

The last payment that IAA received in 14/8/2006 from UPP for period from 1/1 to 13/6/2006 was (26933) \$ from total amount of (37430) \$. This means that the total amount should be paid by UPP for the last year is:

**10497 + 77262.85 = 87759.85 US dollar.**

**Dr.wamith k. al-kassab  
Coordinator of the program  
Baghdad, January 2007**