

# Iraq Response



## What is the current crisis in Iraq about?

Northern Iraq has been besieged by violent conflict as a result of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) force. ISIS was formed in April 2013, growing out of Al Qaeda in Iraq. Their aim is to establish an Islamic “caliphate” or state in Iraq and Syria.

ISIS has been advancing across Iraq, forcing minority groups to convert to its extreme brand of Sunni Islam or face death. Those being attacked include Christians, Yazidis, Turkmen, Shabak Muslims, Shia Muslims as well as some Sunni Muslims. ISIS is now in control of much of north-western Iraq and north-eastern Syria.



Most minority groups in Iraq faced with the option of conversion or death have fled their ancestral lands to the autonomous Kurdish region, where they are now living as refugees (called Internally Displaced Persons or IDPs). Tragically, many have also been tortured and killed for their religious beliefs.

The UNHCR estimates that there will be over 1.6 million displaced people in Iraq, by December 2014.

## What is World Renew doing in response to the crisis in Iraq?

World Renew and HPJ (Hope, Peace, Joy) are responding to the urgent needs of internally displaced people who have fled their homes due to the advances of ISIS to the city of Erbil in the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

World Renew and HPJ are providing winter items, including kerosene heaters, winter clothes, blankets, food packages and rental assistance. 50 families or 250 individuals will be assisted from October until the end of December. Trained medical staff of HPJ have determined which of the families are most vulnerable and in need of safe and secure shelter.



## How can I help?

As winter approaches, nearly 1 million Iraqi refugees are in desperate need of assistance in order to survive freezing temperatures. World Renew is seeking an outpouring of generosity from its supporters in order to expand its response in Iraq, and support these vulnerable families past the month of December.

Please consider blessing the displaced people being reached by World Renew and HPJ in northern Iraq. Donations can be made at [www.worldrenew.net/topics/iraq-conflict](http://www.worldrenew.net/topics/iraq-conflict) and will be used to support the shelter needs of displaced people.

Another way to help is to encourage your government to support a humanitarian response to help meet the emergency needs of those displaced from their homes.

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters that have experienced and witnessed unspeakable acts of violence, and are now displaced from their ancestral homes. Please pray for peace to prevail again.

**To find out more and read the latest on World Renew’s Iraq response, visit [www.worldrenew.net/iraqconflict](http://www.worldrenew.net/iraqconflict)**