

AID PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE 2021 NIGHT OF THE REFUGEE

In the weekend of 11 and 12 September 2021, Night of the Refugee participants raised over **965,000 euros**. An amazing amount for which we are incredibly grateful to all our walkers and sponsors! This year we decided to dedicate the money raised during the Night of the Refugee to projects in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Venezuela and Iraq. Overall, these projects help over **70,000 refugees**.

AFGHANISTAN

Around 5,600 displaced persons in Kabul received monthly cash assistance. They were able to use this money to buy food and medicine, and to find shelter.

The images from Afghanistan are still fresh in our minds. When it was decided to withdraw foreign troops from Afghanistan in May 2021, the fighting between the Afghan army and the Taliban increased. Since early May, over 550,000 Afghans have become refugees in their own country. Over 15,000 displaced families have sought refuge in the capital Kabul. They slept outdoors in public parks and desperately needed humanitarian aid.

How is the Refugee Foundation helping?

Together with our local partner International Rescue Committee (IRC), we have been able to jump into action quickly. We have helped over 5,600 displaced persons (800 households) in Kabul by providing cash assistance. Households have received a sum each month to spend on what they consider most important and to buy what they need most. That money has gone towards food, medicine and to organise shelter.



BURKINA FASO

In Burkina Faso we are working on reducing the mortality rate by providing free access to medical aid and food for displaced persons and the local population.

Burkina Faso is home to one of the fastest growing humanitarian crises in the world. While conflict and displacement were once unknown, attacks by armed groups have transformed the country in the last four years. Violence has increased, especially since February 2021. Over 1.2 million people are on the move inside the country.

The eastern region is also dealing with a huge food crisis caused by climate change. Millions of people are facing acute food insecurity. Covid has made the situation even worse. A lack of healthcare access has resulted in growing disease and mortality rates, especially among children, for example from diarrhoea, malaria and malnutrition.

How is the Refugee Foundation helping?

Together with our partner INTERSOS we offer displaced people and local populations exposed to conflict free access to healthcare and food supplies. In the last years, we have set up eight health centres in the eastern region and we support the local Fada hospital.

We provide medical equipment and train medical staff in these centres to prevent diseases such as malaria and Covid. We also enable better screening for malnourishment and provide therapies for malnourished children. Seriously undernourished children are sent to Fada hospital, which we supply with food rations.



VENEZUELA

In the Venezuelan state of Táchira, we are improving healthcare capacity in rural areas impacted by the crisis on the Colombian border.

Venezuela's worsening economic crisis has left over 5.6 million people seeking refuge. There is a major food shortage in the country and medical care has become unaffordable. The crisis has prompted one of the biggest population movements in South American history.

Although the borders with Venezuela's neighbours are officially closed, thousands of people continue to head towards the Colombian border. On the way they are exposed to violence, exploitation and health problems, including serious dehydration, malnourishment, injury and/or aggravated disease. One place these refugees try to cross to Colombia is in Táchira state, which has exacerbated the pressure on the already depleted healthcare system here.



How is the Refugee Foundation helping?

In Táchira we have set up an emergency aid project to increase the capacity of the healthcare system. This is important, since refugees often arrive in the frontier region in a seriously weakened state after a long and dangerous journey.

The Dutch Refugee Foundation supports two clinics at strategic points on the refugee routes, which can also reach people in remote locations. This enables us to offer refugees the healthcare they need. To alleviate the shortage of healthcare staff we are investing in training workshops. We are also undertaking preventive action by providing information in the frontier areas about malnourishment, hygiene and disease prevention.

IRAQ

In Iraq's Sinjar mountains the Dutch Refugee Foundation operates a mobile clinic to provide medical aid.

The population of Iraq has been suffering for decades. Although the Islamic State has been largely defeated inside Iraq, the humanitarian crisis continues. Millions of people are still displaced and dependant on aid.

The Yezidi community in northern Iraq's Sinjar mountains have suffered enormously. In 2014, IS attacked the Yezidis. The Yezidis did not share their beliefs, so IS killed, raped and held huge numbers of this group captive. The 450,000 people who lived in the Sinjar area began to flee. At present, 18% of all displaced people in Iraq are from this area.

The need for aid in Sinjar is huge. There are landmines everywhere and people lack even the most basic amenities. Above all, they require education and healthcare.



How does the Refugee Foundation help?

In 2016, our local partner Yazda set up a mobile clinic with support from the Dutch Refugee Foundation north of the Sinjar mountains. The mobile clinic reaches fourteen villages, giving over 9,000 people access to healthcare. The clinic provides free medical and psychological care and medicines to all villagers who would otherwise have no access to healthcare.

Special care is provided for the chronically ill: those suffering from high blood pressure or diabetes, for example. Chronic disease is one of leading causes of death in Iraq. Investments to train medical personnel are also part of this programme.