

OVERVIEW

For decades, Iraq has experienced devastation and displacement on a vast, heartbreaking scale. Since 2014 at least three million people in the country's northern province of Nineveh have been displaced by the relentless and violent onslaught of ISIS. Many fled to Iraqi Kurdistan, particularly the cities of Dohuk, Erbil and Zakho. While the country is fighting to regain some sense of stability and order, the human toll has been enormous — and many fear it may only worsen.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The economic problems are enormous. The number of people living in poverty has quadrupled since 2013. Once home to as many as 1.5 million Iraqis — including Christians and many other communities — parts of Mosul are devastated. ISIS has been driven from the area, giving hope to the hundreds of thousands of families eager to return home. But huge support is needed, since homes, institutions and livelihoods were heavily damaged or destroyed.

IMPACT ON CHRISTIANS

The future looks especially bleak for Christians. Once totaling more than 1.5 million, or 10 percent of the population, fewer than 250,000 Christians remain.

CNEWA'S PRESENCE

CNEWA has been a consistent beacon of hope to the people of Iraq for decades — and that presence continues through this present crisis. Working always in partnership with the local churches, we have provided critical support to the various humanitarian needs that have emerged in the displacement centers in Dohuk, Erbil, Zakho and the surrounding villages, supporting schools, dispensaries, mobile clinics and other works that assist the most vulnerable.

In addition to providing assistance for the formation of priests, sisters and catechists, CNEWA provides the means necessary for the psychological support and spiritual accompaniment for the internally displaced, especially the children — insuring the continued availability of the sacraments, of counseling and of prayerful companionship among those who need it most.



CNEWA works closely with the leadership of the Assyrian, Chaldean and Syriac Catholic and Orthodox churches, including religious communities such as the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, in supporting their ministries to care for those most in need throughout Iraq. Among the many projects, we support:

- **Health care for the most vulnerable at St. Raphael and Al Hayat hospitals in Baghdad and at clinics and mobile dispensaries in Iraqi Kurdistan**
- **Programs to assist in the formation of lay leaders, catechists and university students of the Chaldean and Syriac churches in Kirkuk**
- **Blankets, heaters and winter coats for those most in need in winter, and water and small refrigerators for families suffering in the blinding heat of summer in Iraqi Kurdistan's displacement camps**
- **Nursing formula, diapers and clothing for infants and toddlers and their mothers**
- **Computer literacy and foreign language courses to help youths develop new skills**