From the People of Canada

Stories of Displacement:

Bent over, sobbing quietly, Abdullah hugged the body bag in which his five-year-old granddaughter Sara Alaa lay motionless.

Abdullah, his wife and seven other family members, including two blind relatives, were all making an escape when an ISIL sniper began shooting to stop them from leaving their neighborhood in West Mosul towards the Iraqi Forces-controlled territory.

"I took her into my arms, covering her body to protect her from the shooting," he sobbed. But the ISIL sniper was quicker.

A bullet went through her, entering her back and exiting from her chest by the heart.

Sara and other war victims were brought to the Qatar Red Crescent and IOM's field hospital in Hammam al-Alil. Doctors rushed to help little Sara. But she has already passed away when they arrived, one doctor explained.

The hospital, a ward of 50 beds and an emergency department equipped with 10 beds, is abuzz with displaced Iraqis who often arrive in Hammam al-Alil exhausted, sick, or injured.

Right (©Hassan Almahmoud/IOM Iraq 2017): On 10 March, displaced Iraqis from west Mosul moved into recently installed Kuwait-funded tents with WASH facilities at Qayara and Haj Ali emergency sites. Currently, Qayara Airstrip, with 10,000 plots, is completed and full. At Haj Ali, construction for additional 5,300 plots is ongoing to complete 7,500 plots. The two sites accommodate 63,718 IDPs as of 22 March.

Left (©Hassan Almahmoud/IOM Iraq 2017): A displaced family in Kirkuk, after fleeing ISIL-controlled Hawija, southwest of Kirkuk. Dozens of families continue to flee Hawija every week. IOM transports these families from two checkpoints, Maktab Khaled and Dibis, both west of Kirkuk, to the camps in Kirkuk. IOM also provides them with non-food items.

Above (©Amjad Luhaibi/IOM Iraq 2017): A displaced family in Kirkuk, after fleeing ISIL-controlled Hawija, southwest of Kirkuk. Dozens of families continue to flee Hawija every week. IOM transports these families from two checkpoints, Maktab Khaled and Dibis, both west of Kirkuk, to the camps in Kirkuk. IOM also provides them with non-food items.

Above (©IOM Iraq): Displaced children and young women at Hassan Sham Camp, east of Mosul, play table tennis and engage in other recreational activities at IOM's Psychosocial center—supported by the USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

Right (©Hala Jaber/IOM Iraq 2017): A displaced family in Qayarah Airstrip emergency site use their newly received Saj bread maker with a propane canister. The distribution is funded by the Government of Kuwait.

Right (©Hala Jaber/IOM Iraq 2017): A displaced family in Qayarah Airstrip emergency site use their newly received Saj bread maker with a propane canister. The distribution is funded by the Government of Kuwait.

Above (©Amjad Luhaibi/IOM Iraq 2017): A displaced family in Kirkuk, after fleeing ISIL-controlled Hawija, southwest of Kirkuk. Dozens of families continue to flee Hawija every week. IOM transports these families from two checkpoints, Maktab Khaled and Dibis, both west of Kirkuk, to the camps in Kirkuk. IOM also provides them with non-food items.

Left (©Hassan Almahmoud/IOM Iraq 2017): A displaced family at Qayarah Airstrip emergency site use their newly received Saj bread maker with a propane canister. The distribution is funded by the Government of Kuwait.

For more information please contact us at iraqpublicinfo@iom.int | For more information on the Displacement Tracking Matrix, please visit iraqdtm.iom.int