

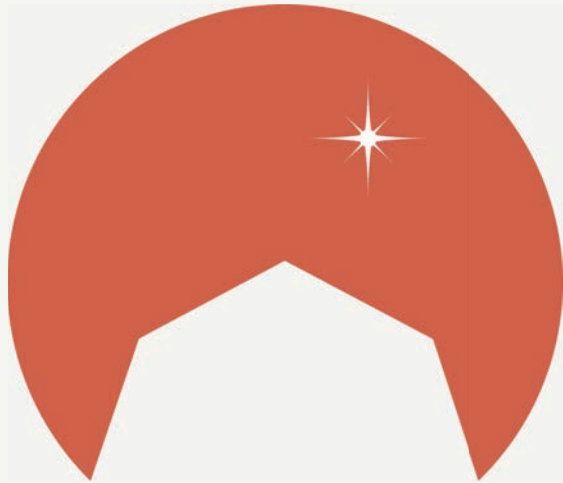
JANUARY 2021



2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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RENEWED VISION AND MISSION



Vision

Our vision is to see transforming communities birthed among the persecuted and displaced in the Middle East.

Mission

Habibi International seeks to transform the lives of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Middle East through humanitarian relief and sustainable development in partnerships with like-minded entities.

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

In 2016, when our first few teams initially entered the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), none of us ever thought we would come this far. Most short-term trips are "one and done", but by the grace of God, we are going on our sixth year. Serving the forcibly displaced is like running a marathon: the runner has to have stamina, perseverance, and a strategy to finish the race. The first few miles are always the easiest and the middle sections are always the hardest.

Unbeknownst to us, the COVID-19 pandemic provided us a hiatus. It allowed us to rest, regroup, and recharge. Last year, during the height of the pandemic, I went to Singapore and Taiwan to connect with individuals and entities who are interested in partnering with us. Even though the pandemic is not yet behind us, I can see how God is preparing us for the next phase of our work among the displaced. This next phase will require us to be focused yet adaptable, steady yet nimble.

As I write this, I have been back in KRI for about 72 hours after having been away for a few months. As I settle in, the biggest change I have noticed is about 20-25% IDPs have returned to their ancestral homeland, Sinjar. Unfortunately, they are going back to a region which is almost completely destroyed and without adequate infrastructure and public amenities. This leads us to believe that we have a role to play in supporting them in their rebuilding effort. So as we enter into the new year, let's move forward with full expectancy that God will lead us one step at a time in the direction that is firmly in His will.



Willy Tan, CEO

2019

In 2019, **160 individuals in 20 short-term teams** joined Habibi International in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) to support our mission of transforming the lives of refugees and IDPs in the Middle East through humanitarian relief and sustainable development. Here are some highlights in our effort to bring about **holistic health** to those we served:

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Medical & Surgical Services

- Provided medical care to **over 5,000 patients** in the Bersive 1, Bersive 2, Chamishku, and Dakar Camps through **mobile medical clinics**
- Served about **340 surgical patients** through **orthopedic surgeries, prosthesis fittings, and physical therapy**; those served had no access to such services otherwise



Dental Services

- Provided dental care to **over 1,500 IDPs and refugees** in Bersive 1, Bersive 2, Chamishku, and Dakar Camps through **mobile dental clinics**
- Established a **permanent dental clinic in Hizawa** run by two of our IDP staff (a dentist and dental assistant) that served **hundreds of IDPs, refugees, and locals**



Community Health

- Screened about **200 babies** for developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH)
- Conducted **informational sessions with mothers/mothers-to-be about DDH** and how to mitigate risk for their infants through different swaddling techniques, thus **preventing the need for corrective surgeries**



MENTAL HEALTH

Programs for Women

- Empowered around 40 IDP and refugee women to learn and practice **crocheting techniques** as a source of income through the products they made and sold, as well as a form of therapy. Conducted **home visitations** to support these women and their families.



SOCIAL HEALTH

Education and Mentorship

- Conducted 3 educational summer programs and 3 youth mentorship camps with around 380 young IDPs
- Continued the **Clean Village Project** (formerly known as the Trash Initiative) to promote the **health and cleanliness of communities** while teaching important life skills to the IDP youth who participate in the project



Capacity Building

- Trained locals/IDPs/refugees as **dental hygienists and administrative staff** to serve their local communities on the ground as part of the Habibi International team



2020

In 2020, we were already expecting and preparing for at least 9 short-term teams to join us in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). Unfortunately, right after we sent out our first team of the year, the COVID-19 pandemic hit. We made the difficult decision to cancel all other short-term trips for 2020 to ensure the safety of those we were planning to serve, as well as our volunteers. However, despite the physical limitations to our work, **we are happy to report that we were still able to provide support through our local initiatives and by way of virtual meetings.** We also took the time to take stock of our programs and prepare for a new season ahead.

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Surgical Services

- Conducted 8 cleft palate surgeries and follow-up through the surgical team we sent right before the shut-down



Dental Services

- Continued to operate and provide dental services through our clinic in Hizawa during the pandemic, except during several lockdowns. In 2020, we saw about 2,700 consultations and 1,200 people served at our dental clinic.



PHYSICAL HEALTH

Community Health

- Conducted informational sessions with 55 mothers/mothers-to-be on developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH) of their babies and how to avoid it through alternative swaddling techniques, thus preventing the need for corrective surgeries later
- Produced a video on DDH that can be more easily circulated by the IDPs



Kurdistan PPE Project

- Raised around \$28,000 that went directly towards the purchase and shipment of much-needed PPE (personal protective equipment) to KRI, allowing us to send around 109,000 pieces of masks, gowns, and face shields for frontline workers and the most vulnerable across the entire governorate of Duhok



Dental Services

ECONOMIC HEALTH

Disaster Relief Fund

- Initiated the Disaster Relief Fund in light of several fires that burnt down many tents in the camps we serve and threatened the livelihoods of many IDPs and refugees living there. We raised \$11,628 that will be reserved to promptly respond to urgent crises that may arise among the IDP and refugee communities that we serve



SOCIAL HEALTH


Digital Programs

- Because schools were cancelled for most of the year and there were several lockdowns, we conducted **online cultural exchange sessions and English lessons with IDPs**

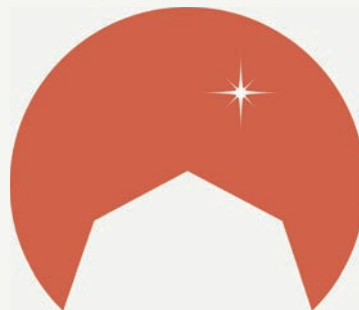
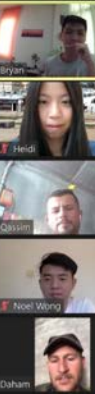
Youth Mentorship

- The **Clean Village Project** continued through the pandemic with **10 IDP youths** who regularly participated and worked towards keeping their villages clean

Breakout Rooms Session #1
Picture Description



1. Where do you think this place is?
2. What do you think the person is doing?
3. How do you think he is feeling?
4. Is there a place in your country that looks like this?



STORIES FROM THE FIELD IN 2020

MAKING A DIFFERENCE, ONE BABY AT A TIME

During one of our visits to an IDP family, we saw that they had a newborn infant who was swaddled in the traditional way, with her legs bound together. We explained to the family how this would raise the risk of developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH), which would require a surgery to correct, and showed them an alternative method of swaddling. When we visited the family again a couple of months later after the lockdowns, we were happy to find the baby nicely swaddled!

Another family we visited had two children who had already developed DDH. When they realized how this could have been caused by how they had swaddled their children, they determined to do things differently for their next child, and also brought their relatives along to attend our community health sessions to learn more.



STORIES FROM THE FIELD IN 2020



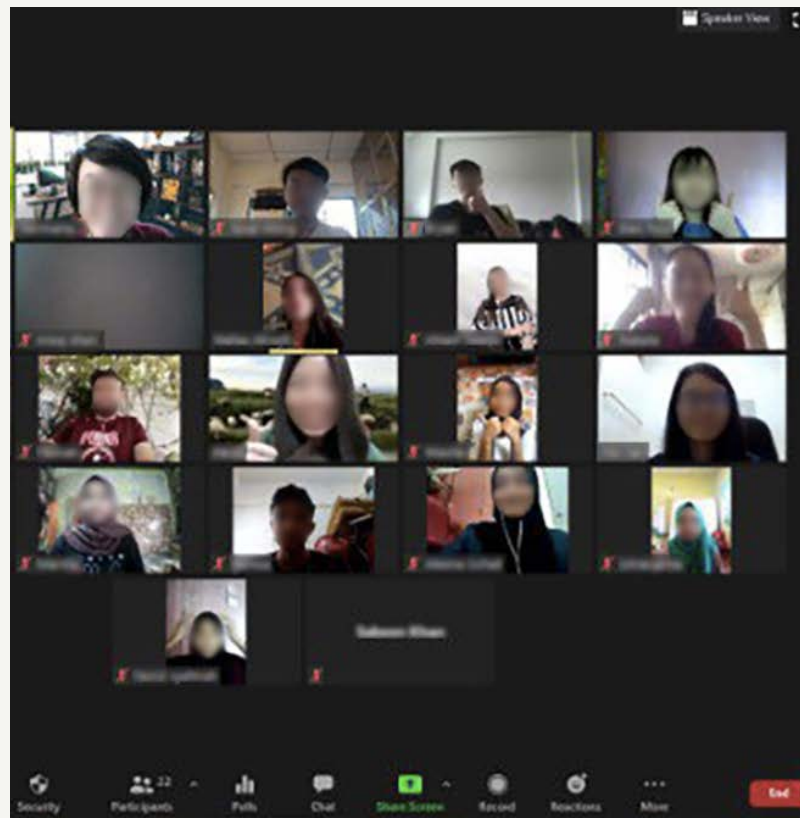
"NOW NO ONE WILL LAUGH AT ME ANYMORE AND I CAN GO TO SCHOOL!"

In February 2020, we partnered with HIS Foundation to provide cleft palate surgeries—a procedure inaccessible to most IDPs and refugees. Although the trip was cut short because of COVID-19, several people were still able to have the operation done. Little Y was one of them. Previously, Y had had four surgeries, three of which had failed, and the family had sold many possessions to finance them. A year on, this one has been a great success. During one of the follow-up visits, Y told the team: “Now no one will laugh at me anymore and I can go to school!”

STORIES FROM THE FIELD IN 2020

“I SHOULD TELL YOU THANK YOU FOR TEACHING. AND THANKS TO ALL THE TEACHERS.” -IDP PARTICIPANT

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq went through multiple lockdowns to varying extents in the first half of 2020. At one point, those living in the camps were not allowed to even leave their tents, except for short periods of time in the day for essential activities. Schools and universities were also shut for most of the year, with little or no home-based learning for students. But while we were unable to physically enter the camps for a while, we realized that we could still connect through technology!

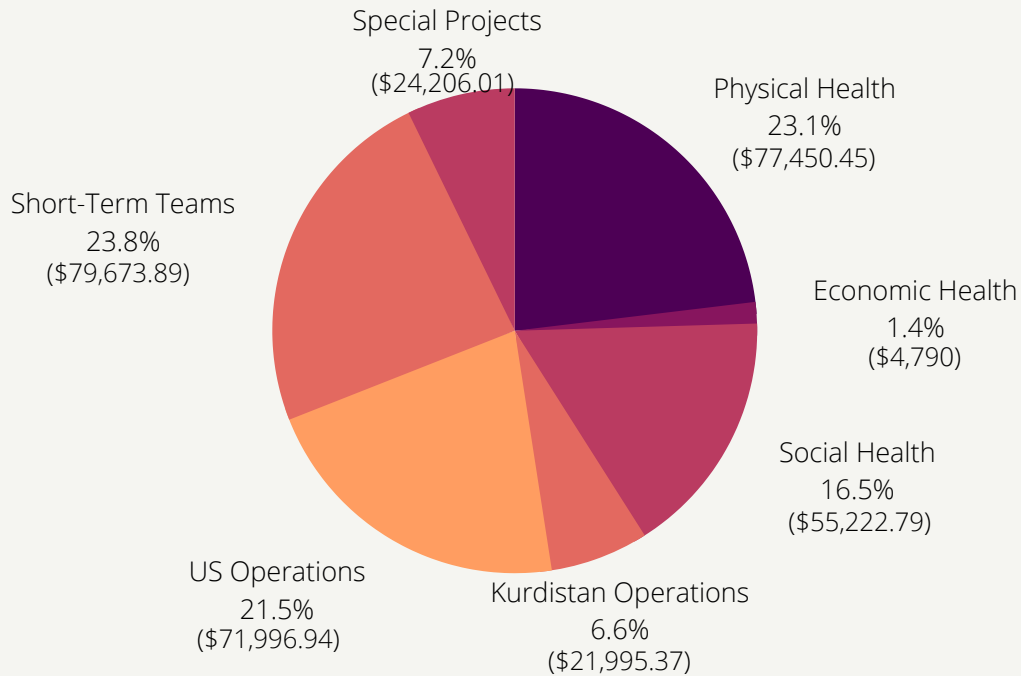


We started out with a few fun sessions of cultural exchange over Zoom between some IDP youths and young people from Singapore, the US and China. At the IDPs' request, we then continued with English classes, and were also joined by a few refugees living in other parts of the world.

We are testing this new modality slowly as we work through various issues - from the technical (e.g. Internet connectivity and bandwidth) to the more philosophical (e.g. how to approach this so that unequal access to the Internet - and hence such programs - do not exacerbate inequity). But given the current constraints, we do see many possibilities and are excited to see where this can go.

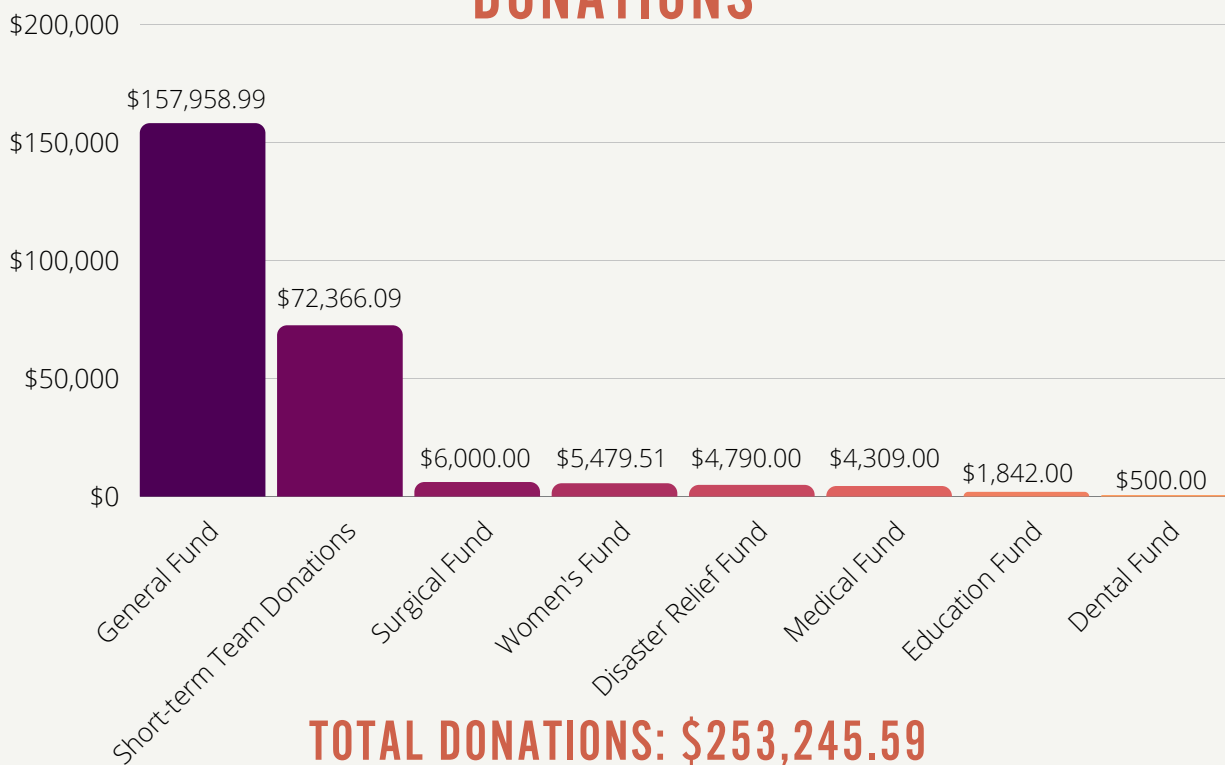
2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY

EXPENDITURES



TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$335,335.45

DONATIONS



TOTAL DONATIONS: \$253,245.59

PLANNED FUTURE INITIATIVES



LONG-TERM INTERNATIONAL FIELD STAFF

We are preparing to deploy **5 individuals and one family** to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq to serve as part of our long-term international field staff team. Among other things, they will help to **oversee and expand the dental program and mental health and psycho-social support program.**

COMMUNITY CENTER

We are planning to build a Community Center in one of the camps to **run regular programs throughout the year that will support and equip the IDPs.** Beyond programs, we also envision the center to act as a **hub for community activities and a safe space for IDPs to gather.**

RESUMPTION OF SHORT-TERM TEAMS

When it is deemed safe and advisable to travel again, we will resume sending in **short-term teams to continue supporting our medical, surgical and rehabilitation, dental, educational, mental health, and women's programs.** In particular, we are looking to bring in a team to do **cataract surgeries**—a new service we hope to provide for the IDP and refugee communities in the area.

DIGITAL PROGRAMS

We are continuing to conduct **online English programs with several young IDPs** who are keen to improve their language skills.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Board Members

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Daniel Chung--Board Treasurer
Samantha Cao--Board Secretary
Michael Chen
Peter Chiu
Danny Chu
Jerry Tzou

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Stephanie Tsang--Education Lead
Jerry Tzou--Dental Lead
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Elizabeth Lee--Controller
Lani Mow--US Operations Director
Michael Mow--Logistics Manager
Hoger Abdulrazzaq Abdullah--Rehabilitation Staff
Hassan Ali--Dental Staff
Maryam Thomas Hanna--KRI Bookkeeper
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