



Orthodox Initiative

Jordan


الأردن

المبادرة الأرثوذكسية

Summer Service 2019

Orthodox Initiative, Jordan

Amman, Jordan - October 2019



This summer, the Orthodox Initiative (OI) has continued to serve Syrian and Iraqi refugees throughout the Kingdom. The OI has also provided support for Jordanian families in the areas surrounding refugee camps, especially in the vicinity of the *Al-Faisaliya Refugee Camp* at the Northern Badia (Northern Desert) region of the Mafraq Governorate. We also continued to serve Iraqi refugees who remain the country. The OI has provided support for low-income Jordanians, especially in the area of education.

1 Service for Syrian Refugees

Between March and September of 2019, the Orthodox Initiative continued to provide support for Syrian refugees living in the Al-Faisaliya Refugee Camp. We provided four main services throughout this six-month-period: (1) Fresh water supplies; (2) Food and sweets for Ramadan and Eid; (3) Food parcels, hygiene and dignity kits; and (4) Weaving classes and services.

1.1 Fresh Water Supplies

Given the hot, dry summer conditions in Northern Badia (temperatures average around 33°C – 93°F), camp residents continued to have the need for weekly fresh water supplies. The OI has been committed, and still is, to providing weekly fresh water shipments for members of the refugee camp. The OI has been providing monthly clean and potable water shipments for the refugees over the past two years. Additionally, OI personnel have continuously monitored water filters installed in each tent in the camp. This allows the OI to install new filters when the need arises.

1.2 Food and Sweets for Ramadan and Eid

As we have been doing for the past seven years, we have provided food, including sweets and other Eid foods for refugees. In keeping with another tradition, OI personnel have also shared an “iftar,” the meal to break the fast in Ramadan with refugees in the camp.

1.3 Food Parcels, Hygiene and Dignity Kits

This summer, we have continued to provide food parcels to refugees in Al-Faisaliya refugee camp. Additionally, women dignity parcels - including sunscreens and other products important in the summer months - have been distributed to women in the camp.

1.4 Weaving and Other Skill Building Exercises

The OI has continued to provide women in the camp with courses to build their capacities and allow them to be productive both in the camps and within the surrounding areas. One of these courses introduced women to sewing and weaving skills that allow women to produce clothes for themselves and their families. The OI has funded the materials needed for weaving classes, in addition to the classes themselves. Additionally, the OI has paid rewards for each piece produced by women in the camp.

2 Service for Iraqi refugees

Over the past decade, many Iraqi refugees in Jordan are have been resettled. However, a substantial number of Iraqis still live in Jordan. The OI has provided food parcels and grocery coupons so that. The OI has also provided capacity building courses, like weaving classes, for Iraqi women. The OI paid for the materials and training. We also paid rewards for each weaving piece they produce.

3 Services for local communities

3.1 School and University Tuition

The OI provided support for needy students and their families through covering school and university tuition. These payments were made to schools and higher education institutions directly. We have noticed an uptick in the number of requests for educational aid throughout the past six months. The OI has supported 10 school students. We have also paid the tuition for 7 students in Jordanian institutions. The OI has financed a number of West Bank students enrolled in Jordanian higher learning institutions as the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate has determined that they are members of needy families that cannot cope with the education costs in Jordan.

3.2 Food Parcels, Detergents, and Clothes Vouchers

The OI has provided food parcels for needy Jordanian families in different parts of the Kingdom. Additionally, we provided detergents essential for family hygiene. These services have been provided to low-income families throughout the Kingdom.

4 Looking back at this Summer

The Orthodox Initiative has continued providing support for Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Jordan. We have also deepened our support for Jordanians, especially in the area of education, as the need for this assistance has risen throughout the past year. We thank you for your continued support and hope to continue our partnership.

Best regards,
Orthodox Initiative Team
Amman, Jordan
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