



HISG Pulse Report

Connecting Resources to Needs

December 28, 2007 Volume 1, Issue 4

Humanitarian International Services Group

373 Inverness Parkway Suite 201

Englewood, CO 80112

Community Development

BAM, IRAN- HISG is connecting with workers in Bam, Iran, to offer computer and technical training classes for handicapped people. These classes give people with disabilities the chance to learn valuable job skills and look for better paying jobs. Many other institutions in the city are not handicapped-accessible, so most of these people have never had an opportunity such as this one.

The computer classes are underway now as teachers and a classroom are in place. HISG has provided eight new computers, three refurbished computers, a printer and 11 computer tables for the classes.

Part of HISG's mission is to help the most neglected portions of the population. In Bam, a city with 2,000 years of cultural heritage, disabled people are not given the same educational opportunities as everyone else. These computer and technical classes will make certain that handicapped people have a chance to learn the job skills they could not learn anywhere else.

Disaster Relief

HISG Director for Relief and Development Norm Brinkley recently visited Damascus, Syria to assess the situation of the Iraqi refugees there. The United Nations estimates that over 3 million Iraqis have been displaced since 2003, and 1.4 million of them have fled to Syria.

Five visits to families from Iraq yielded basically the same thing in each case. They were poor, with little or no means to take care of themselves. They had no way to prepare food and no adequate mattresses or blankets. Instead, they slept on cement floors in concrete buildings that did little to keep out the winter chill. Without any heat, the elderly and children, especially under the age of six, are most vulnerable to the cold.

Most of the refugees had no jobs, and found it very difficult to find work of any kind. In addition, loneliness, isolation from family, and culture shock are leaving many of these Iraqis discouraged and desperate. Churches from Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon are providing some help but they can only assist a very small number due to the limitations of their resources and personnel.

HISG is now collecting the necessary participants and partners to give these refugees meaningful help in the near future. To connect with HISG on this project, please contact Norm Brinkley (nbrinkley@hisg.org).

HISG Operations

GENEVA- HISG's Executive Director Kay Hiramine and Vice-President Michael Mastrodonato attended the 23rd General Assembly of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. This conference of NGOs (non-governmental organizations), is an association of 3,500 NGOs from around the world who are working with the United Nations. There were over 500 of these NGOs in attendance from all over the world: Asia, Cambodia, South America, Brazil, Africa, Sudan, and so many other places that HISG works to help the poor. HISG staff met a number of influential NGO leaders addressing different components of relief and development; ranging from gender equality issues to water, global warming to alternative energy, security to food, and a number of other key issues.

Humanitarian International Services Group is in the process of applying for NGO status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Department of Public Information (UNDPI), and Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO). This will enable HISG to work closely with the UN and other like-minded NGOs all over the world. Kay and Michael made new connections and also learned a great deal of vital information at this assembly. Thank you for your continued support of HISG as we all do our part to "serve the underserved" globally!

Department Focus: Orphan Care

Through humanitarian efforts around the globe, HISG has witnessed firsthand the horrifying reality of 143 million orphans and millions more children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS, conflict, poverty, socio-political conditions, and disease. Recognizing the unique needs of this population, HISG Director for Orphan Care Brad Davidson is working on programs and partnering with organizations to respond specifically to the distinct situations faced by these children.

HISG's Orphan and Vulnerable Children initiative is a multi-faceted project addressing specific issues involved with orphan care. These issues include preventing children from being abandoned, protecting orphans and vulnerable children from child trafficking, programs to prepare children for life outside of an orphanage, and promotion of adoption and foster care.

With so many orphans around the world, the need is clearly defined and there are many ways to help. HISG is connecting orphanages and adoption agencies with people who care, so that these children will get the help they need. To read more about this project or to partner alongside of HISG, please visit www.hisg.org/orphanare.php.