



2018 IN PROGRESS: ICF TAKES ACTION FOR IRAQI ORPHANS, STREET KIDS, & DISPLACED CHILDREN



- **HOPE BUS 1.** In October, Hope Bus 1 held its first graduation with 50 children graduating, many to successfully go on to public school. Government officials from the Ministries of Education, Health, Culture, and Labor & Social Affairs attended the special event. Now, a new group of 48 children has registered and started classes. The children who attend the bus are boys and girls, like Laila* (11) who once worked on the street cleaning windshields. Laila got a chance to leave the streets to go to the Hope Bus and then shared her joy by helping identify 10 more children who also needed the help of the Hope Bus.
- **HOPE BUS 2.** A new “Hope Bus 2” has registered 50 children in a second desperately poor neighborhood and started classes on November 11. Like Hope Bus 1, this second bus is an ordinary, used bus that has been transformed into a colorful, child-friendly classroom offering tutoring, nutrition, and social services.
- **LEGAL PROTECTION.** The team of Baghdad Street Lawyers has been busy, providing legal protection and aid to Iraq’s vulnerable children and youth. So far in 2018, they have helped 235 boys and girls. In one case, the Street Lawyers helped rescue young teenage girls who were victims of sex trafficking at a local massage business.
- **LEGAL DOCUMENTS:** The Baghdad Street Lawyers also help children obtain missing legal documents that are required to enroll in school and to access government benefits. So far in 2018, lawyers have helped 297 children obtain these critical documents, opening the door to education and support. In one special case, the lawyers helped reunite a widowed mother from Mosul with her four special needs children after they were lost in the chaos of that city’s liberation from ISIS. Because documents were missing, they worked with the court and also got a DNA test to reunite the family.
- **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Social workers, cooperating with the Street Lawyers, help end child labor, get children off the streets, and stop domestic abuse. They also provide access to medical care and psychosocial services for children with trauma or mental health issues. Already in 2018, they have helped 235 children.



Updated 11/2018