



“Helping Refugees in Jordan” Project



“Helping Refugees in Jordan” Project:

The “Helping Refugees in Jordan” project is a sustainable project that both grade 11 and 12 have been involved in since January 2016 to support Syrian, Iraqi and Yemeni refugees living in Al Azraq town, Jordan. During the last three years, FIS students have conducted four trips to Jordan and volunteered to support refugee children in a sustainable CAS project in Jordan’s Al-Azraq. Our ongoing CAS project aims to make the quality of life better for the refugee families and to assist refugee children at the Azraq Refugee School by improving the quality of education. FIS students launched donation campaigns to collect winter clothes, conducted bake sales to fund the project, and worked tirelessly to support education in Al-Azraq by teaching through art and entertainment.

Some of the project’s contributions over the three years:

- painting three murals on the walls of three classrooms leaving memories of hope, peace and love to the refugees
- providing school supplies for more than 150 student
- providing healthy meals for the children during the periods of our stay
- distribution of clothing and food for refugee families who lack access to necessities
- teaching and entertaining children using a variety of different activities, subjects and lessons including art classes, games and sports, soap making and face painting
- eye testing for 150 kids in refugee schools which changed the whole course of their lives by increasing their chances of educational success.
- renovating houses and purchasing of a brand new, fully fitted, bathroom cabinet for children to use.
- building a library at Al Azraq School and donating 300 children’s books and stories



Helping Refugee in Jordan Project (March – April 2019)

In April, 2019, a team of 5 students completed the fifth service trip to The Azraq Refugee School in Azraq Eastern Jordan. The visit this year aims to continue “ Helping Refugee Project” goals which have contribute to” global goal #1 “No poverty”, global goal # 4 “Quality Education” and Global Goal #2 “Zero Hunger”

Project Goals:

1. Improving the Quality of Education at Al Azraq School:

Among the 8,000 refugees living in al Azraq, about 50% are children aged 1-17. It is estimated that 3 out of 5 are out of school because of the lack of capacity in the pre-existing 8 schools in town. Children at Al Azraq have limited, or no access, to reading material due to the difficult living conditions. During the week of our visit, we donated 400 children Arabic book to the library that was built last year at Al Azraq School to promote the culture of reading between children. We conducted reading classes to alleviate the suffering of the children by providing them with sources of knowledge and entertainment that can help them overcome the tough conditions they face each day. Kids in all grades were also provided with essential school supplies. Our contribution to improve the quality of education targeted also teachers. The training session we conducted with teachers to use technology in classes was inspiring and helpful. Teachers were encouraged to use the two laptops and projector which we donated to make their lessons more interactive and





entertaining. Thanks to Care organization that provided us with information about the needs of the school and the community at Al Azraq.

2. No Poverty and Zero Hunger

Further objectives we sought to achieve, was to end poverty by providing job opportunities. We supervised and renovated a bakery and supplied it with all necessary machines and equipment. The bakery will provide four refugee women with jobs and benefit the community around. The happiness and gratefulness we saw in the women's eyes when we met them was

indescribable. Aisha, one of the four women said "the job at the bakery will allow me to pay for my rented room and buy medicine for my sick husband, I can't thank you enough". Since our target has been helping the maximum number of people at Al Azraq, we distributed food parcels to 25 families in need. While distributing food parcels, we visited some families and



had the chance to hear their stories and share with them their dreams and hopes. For ethical reasons, we could not take pictures of the families in their houses nor could we enter without permission.

Collaboration and Planning at Al Faris School:

It was impossible to execute this project without planning and collaboration between the project team and Al- Faris community. Months before our trip, we conducted a campaign to collect clothes, supplies and funds. With the cooperation of grade 5 students and through conducting multiple bake sales and activities at the school, we could raise **3,674.34 GBP** that helped us to proceed with the bakery project and fund other expenses of the project. Grade 10 students, on the other hand, announced a book donation campaign to collect Arabic reading materials for different ages. The camping was successful as 300 books were collected in addition to other school supplies.



The Experience and Impact



Our engagement in the "Helping Refugees in Jordan" project has strengthened our sense of empathy, compassion and respect. The challenging nature of the project taught us to commit wholeheartedly to community service. Our exposure to the refugees of Al-Azraq allowed us to develop a deeper understanding of problems that refugees continue to



face around the world. We as well as other students gained knowledge that goes beyond the borders of Al-Azraq, knowledge that could be applied in our ongoing CAS commitment to the world as global citizens. A student at Al Faris School,

Jude Salah, described this as a trip that "opened [her] eyes to a part of the world we all tend to overlook. Sometimes when we get too caught up with our lives we forget that there are some people less fortunate than us suffering from war and poverty." She continued to say that it "showed [her] that [she] should always give back to the world." Mariam Al Tayeb, another student said in her reflection "As soon as I walked through the gates, my heart flooded with emotion. Hope, happiness, passion and joy." She also said "And the one thought that will echo is one which a student of mine had told me no one has ever cared for them as much as we have. We are the predecessors of an infinite revolution; one in their hearts..... I have learnt to open my heart to so many amazing individuals; to make them smile. That is more than I have ever hoped to achieve in a lifetime." Through such words, we as the group of 2019 feel that we made really close bonds with those children and we still talk to them after we have gone back to Saudi Arabia. The impact we did and felt was visible as those refugees wait for us annually with more hope every time.