



2024 Impact Report



Christian families continue to persevere through another year of challenges and hardships

Our mission is to offer friendship and financial assistance to Iraqi Christians and their communities as they work to restore peace, rebuild society, and secure a future for their children.



2024 was another challenging year for the Christian communities in Iraq. An increase in ISIS activity, regional conflicts stemming from the Israel-Hamas War, water scarcity due to an historic 4-year drought, and economic instability continue to be the key issues for those Christian families determined to remain.

True to their history, the Iraqi Christians continue to persevere despite these difficulties. These are 1st century Christians who still speak Aramaic, the native tongue of Jesus. Despite all of the hardships they've experienced, they love their ancestral homes in Iraq. They want to be heard; they desire a better future for themselves and their children. They want to live peacefully, and not only to survive, but to thrive in a land they've called home for thousands of years.

Stand With Iraqi Christians (SWIC) remains steadfast in its commitment to support the Iraqi Christians in their time of dire need. **This is SWIC's mission.**



The year in review



2024 marked the 10-year anniversary of the ISIS invasion of Northern Iraq, and the ensuing displacement and genocide of the Christian and minority communities living on the Nineveh Plains.

In addition to living with the aftermath of the displacement and genocide, the United Nations ranks Iraq as the 5th most vulnerable country to global warming. These climate change concerns have socio-economic impacts that have greatly affected the minority Christians' ability to maintain their livelihoods.

SWIC primarily addresses this through our sustainable economic development programs, and in 2024 we scaled up our activities in several ways.

Recognizing that these needs are growing, urgent, and can change based on social, economic, political and environmental factors, we sprang into action.

We commissioned a Needs Assessment Survey in May 2024 with the help of a local partner, and traveled to Iraq to participate directly in the process. We interviewed community leaders, elected officials, business owners, students, and other impacted stakeholders.

Equipped with the survey results and input from our on-the-ground partners, SWIC launched the Nineveh Restoration Initiative (NRI) in 2024 to better serve the needs of the Christian communities in Iraq. We are excited to show you in detail what we have accomplished this year!

SWIC Visit to Iraq

SWIC members traveled to Iraq to participate in a Needs Assessment Survey, meet with existing on-the-ground partners and create new partnerships to increase our capacity and expand our love mission.

Increased Localization

In 2024, SWIC more than doubled our number of partners based in Iraq for the 2nd consecutive year. We have recognized that more partners increases collaboration and our capacity to serve. Through these partnerships, SWIC is able to provide the support that Iraqi Christians themselves are requesting, allowing for improved utilization of resources.

Activated Volunteer Network

SWIC's volunteer network has again grown significantly in 2024, and we are always looking for more. If interested, please send us an email and we would love to welcome you into our community!

Launched the Nineveh Restoration Initiative (NRI)

SWIC launched the NRI to expand its efforts and better serve the needs of the Christian communities in the ever-changing socio-economic, environmental, political, and cultural climate. The NRI focuses on larger projects that provide more employment opportunities, as well as more women and youth empowerment projects. SWIC will also fund more educational projects through scholarships and other initiatives, all while continuing to focus on our core economic development programs.

"I thank you from the bottom of my heart... I am deeply grateful because now I can plant crops in less time, with better quality... surely, production will increase. As you know, agriculture is essential in Qaraqosh, where most people are farmers... You've given me a reason to stay in Iraq and tend to my orchard, instead of leaving."

-Saad, a participant in SWIC's livelihood program



\$400,000

in funding through 2024

81

Livelihoods supported

165,000

People remain in need

Projects

Details

Outcomes

Family Farms

These projects provide farmers returning from displacement livestock to relaunch their farms. The success of these farms often depends on the involvement of the entire community. Each farm costs approximately \$13,000 to launch.

"This boost enabled us to host a larger number of chickens for this coming round. And guess what? If we succeed again, we will be able to run the farm at its full capacity,"

Small Businesses

These projects restore the destroyed small businesses of previously displaced owners, and provides expansion as needed to widows and other vulnerable demographics. Each small business costs about \$2,500 – \$5,000 to support.

"I will improve my work. I will support my husband in life and cover the expenses for my daughter's (epilepsy) treatment. I will always pray for you."

Nineveh Restoration Initiative (NRI)

In 2003, there were 1.6 million Christians living in Iraq. Today, due to decades of conflict, there are only 165,000 remaining. Most experienced internal displacement, and are only just beginning to restart their lives from scratch. According to the United Nations, the needs of the internally displaced have only increased in recent years with those living in Iraq's Nineveh Plains (home to the largest Christian population) facing the highest severity of need. The top areas of need are:

- **Livelihood development**

- The UN confirms this remains one of the most acute needs in Nineveh. SWIC is already heavily engaged in livelihood programming, with ambitious plans to scale up our response to meet this growing need.

- **Education**

- SWIC conducted a Needs Assessment Survey in 2024 which confirmed that one of the most crucial concerns to Christian families is the future of their children. Thus, SWIC is looking to provide support for educational programs through scholarships and other initiatives beginning in 2025. These initiatives will help ensure the next generation of Iraqi Christians, and keep Christianity thriving in these ancient Christian communities.

- **Women and Youth Empowerment Projects**

- Over 63% of the Christian population are women and children. Women have become the Head of Household for many families on the Nineveh Plains. Many of the children who were forced to flee their homes with their families following the ISIS invasion in 2014 are now young adults, many of whom have graduated with degrees but are still seeking employment. They want to remain in their ancestral communities, but don't see a future for themselves. Launched in 2024, the NRI addresses the needs of Christian women and youth in a deeper, more effective way through supporting businesses owned and operated by females and young adults.



2025 Financial Targets

\$150,000
Livelihood Programs

\$75,000
Education

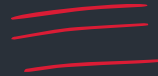


We'd like to thank all our donors and volunteers for their generous support



Your financial and/or volunteer contributions puts tools in the hands and hope in the hearts of Iraq's displaced Christians as they work to reconstruct their communities. SWIC stands in partnership with them and with you.

The NRI goals for 2025 are ambitious but vital to the survival of the Christian communities of Iraq.



Would you consider helping us make an impact for 2025 through either the donation of your time or treasure?

