

# CHF INTERNATIONAL

## MARLA RUZICKA IRAQI WAR VICTIMS FUND

IN THE ANBAR, HILLA, KARBALA, NAJAF, WASSIT, AND QADISSIYAH PROVINCES



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



*War widow and Fund beneficiary meets with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton*

CHF International is one of four NGO partners that implements USAID's Marla Ruzicka Iraqi War Victims Fund. The Marla Fund exists to support and assist Iraqi families who have had members accidentally injured, disabled, or killed as a result of military operations against insurgents by US Forces in Iraq. Through the USAID-funded Iraq Community Action Program (CAP), CHF International uses the Marla Fund to create sustainable solutions by focusing on forms of assistance that generate long-term income for affected families for an average cost of \$1,700 per project.

Since 2008 through CHF and the Marla Fund:

**\$7.136 million** has gone to specific, family-oriented interventions

More than **546 families** have been able to establish long-term, sustainable sources of income through rebuilt stores, vendor carts, and animal herds

As a part of these families, **3,966 people** have been directly impacted by the interventions

### NASIR ALI HAREETH'S STORY

In 2005 in the Husaiba al Sharqiyah community of Ramadi, Mr. Nasir Ali Hareeth was driving his wife home from the hospital where she had just given birth to their fifth child. While on the road, a US tank ran over the family car, crushing it and immediately killing the mother and severely injuring the father. After the father was rushed to the hospital, witnesses of the accident found the newborn wedged between the back seats of the car, amazingly unharmed. Due to his injuries, Mr. Ali Hareeth became paralyzed from the waist down. Recovering from his injuries and adjusting to life in a wheelchair, Mr. Ali Hareeth could no longer work as a blacksmith. With no income and facing large medical bills, the family sold their house and all their possessions to survive and moved into an unfurnished room.



Neighbors of the family who had heard of the Marla Fund brought their situation to the attention of CHF staff. After learning of his previous work experience the Marla Fund provided assistance for Mr. Ali Hareeth to open a blacksmith shop to run with the assistance of his cousin who would learn the trade. After a short time, the shop began to generate enough income to sustain the family and partially build a new home. When the neighbors saw the house being built, they pooled together community resources to help finish the house. Additionally, they brought the situation to the attention the Ramadi Local Council who helped Mr. Ali Hareeth pay his medical bills. According to Mr. Ali Hareeth, "The CHF Marla Fund served as a catalyst to motivate the neighborhood and Local Council to help me."



### JASSIM HAMMADI'S STORY

On March 24, 2005 the family home of Mrs. Jassim Hammadi, wife and mother of three sons and two daughters, was caught in the crossfire of heavy fighting between US and insurgents. As a result of the fighting, Mrs. Jassim Hammadi lost her husband and two of her sons. Her remaining son survived but lost the use of his left hand due to injuries he sustained. The father and sons had been the sole income-earners in the family, raising cows and selling their milk to the local community. After their deaths, Mrs. Jassim Hammadi was forced to sell the cows to survive and pay for her remaining son's medical expenses and no longer had a way to generate income.

CHF International learned of the family's situation and immediately encouraged them to apply for assistance through the Marla Fund. Their application was approved, and Mrs. Jassim Hammadi, her two daughters, and her recovering son received assistance to begin a livestock project in order to rebuild their dairy production business. The business now generates a steady income which has enabled the son to receive better medical attention. With the proper treatment and physical therapy, he has been able to help run the business that now sustains his family.

CHF International's mission is to be a catalyst for long-lasting positive change in low- and moderate-income communities around the world, helping them improve their social, economic and environmental conditions.

For more information, please visit our website at:  
[www.chfinternational.org](http://www.chfinternational.org)

### EID ABD'S STORY

On June 19, 2006, Mr. Eid Abd was on the roof of his family's home in Hadba'a village, Anbar province, when an explosion from a mortar shell damaged his home and severely injured his legs. After being taken to the hospital, the husband and father of four had both legs amputated above the knee. Unable to return to his former job in a factory, meeting the needs of his family became impossible.

His eldest son made plans to leave school to find work, but Mr. Abd refused and began requesting charity from his relatives. Unable to provide for his family, being confined to a wheelchair, and dependent on others to meet his physical and financial needs, Mr. Abd became severely depressed.

In 2010, the family learned about the possibility of assistance from the Marla fund and visited CHF's offices to apply for funding to open a grocery store. After visiting the family home and witnessing the devastating circumstances in which they were living, the application was approved. Today, the grocery store generates enough income to sustain the entire family. Mr. Abd has resumed a productive life and enjoys the confidence and freedom that comes with being able to support his family.

