

Shelter For Life International

Seeking to demonstrate God's love by enabling people affected by conflict and disaster to restore their lives and rebuild their communities.



Shelter is more than a roof and four walls . . .

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends of Shelter For Life,

As we approach the Holiday Season we would like to highlight a few reasons we have to be thankful:

- We are thankful for the successful completion of a three-year project in Afghanistan, allowing thousands of farmers to improve their livelihoods.
- We are grateful for the launch of our new microfinance organization in Afghanistan. This initiative will provide the poor a means to establish credit worthiness and generate income.
- We are grateful for the opportunity to assist those forced out of their homes due to war in Syria.
- Finally, we are thankful for you! It is your continued prayers and support that make it possible for us to respond with compassion.

We wish you a blessed Holiday Season.



Sincerely,

Syrian Refugees in Need

When we hear news of the conflict in Syria, or see pictures of innocent people fleeing war zones, we may not realize the extent of the suffering this conflict has caused. Many lives have been lost and millions of people have had to flee their homes and leave behind property, jobs, education, and community.

It's estimated that 4.5 million or more people are displaced within Syria. The latest figures from UNHCR show that more than 2.2 million people have crossed into neighboring countries, able to carry little more than the clothes they're wearing. About three-quarters of these refugees are women and children.

A small SFL assessment team went to northern Iraq earlier this fall, and found not only great need but opportunities to provide assistance in an area where very few aid agencies are working. SFL has a strong history of working in northern Iraq after the two Gulf Wars, and we are designing programs to help needy Syrians both in northeastern Syria and northern Iraq.

SFL is raising funds to send a project manager, Ryan, to northern Iraq as soon as possible, as we complete proposals for US Government-funded assistance projects. When the US Government funding is granted, SFL will be well-positioned to begin implementation of this work. Would you consider making a financial donation to help SFL establish a viable presence in the region—and, by extension, assist Syrians who desperately need our help? For tax-deductible donation instructions, please visit the Syrian Refugees page on our website.

Connect With Us!



- Like us on [Facebook](#) & follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Google+](#).
- Check out our [website](#), where you can look for periodic [volunteer opportunities](#) and consider becoming a [monthly sponsor](#).
- Call, email or mail us anytime. We look forward to hearing from you!



World Food Programme (WFP) Projects

Two projects funded by the UN World Food Programme (WFP) are well underway in two provinces of northern Afghanistan. In one project a trench, walls, and terraces are being built to offer flood protection for nearly a thousand families in two villages.



In addition, 9,000 pistachio trees are being planted that will help prevent land erosion and also eventually provide edible seeds.

The second project is a school feeding program in which more than 35,000 school children are provided with nutritious high energy biscuits (HEBs) to supplement their diet.

The WFP would like SFL to implement another program in northern Afghanistan, and we are about to submit the proposal for this project. This proposal includes a food-for-work program and also another HEB school feeding program for five districts of Takhar Province.

Introducing SEMA

In the past several years some of SFL's projects in northern Afghanistan have included a microfinance component which provided loans to a few thousand recipients (about a third of these recipients have been women). Using some of the interest earned from these loans, SFL is now starting a new independent microfinance organization called Sustainable Economic Microfinance for Afghanistan (SEMA).

The new entity has been registered with the government, proprietary software purchased, and training given to the staff who will run the program. In addition to microloans, medium size loans will also be furnished to some applicants. SFL is very pleased to carry forward the good work of providing Afghan men and women with the means to develop income-generating small enterprises to improve the lives of their families and communities.



Cars for Life Program



Do you have a car you would like to retire? Rather than selling or trading your used car, consider donating the vehicle to SFL. Our Cars for Life donation program is an easy way to help support our mission. Plus, you get a great tax break in the process! We accept almost all cars, even "junkers." If you are interested in donating a car, or know a dealership where we might advertise, please contact us by phone or email. We look forward to hearing from you! And if you have donated a vehicle in the past, thank you so much for your great contribution to Shelter for Life in this way.