

Caritas's Advent Collection 2014 helps Iraqi refugees

This year the Caritas Finland Advent Collection is in aid of the work the Caritas family does to help the people who have been or are forced to flee persecution in Iraq. The assistance is channelled to those in need through **Caritas Internationalis**.

Education is a key component for Caritas relief efforts: many poor children and refugee children risk falling behind as they are not in any formal schooling either because of their family situation or because places are few. Caritas will help children go to school.

Lebanon is hosting 40 percent of the refugees who have fled **Syria** to neighbouring countries. The substantial increase in population and the decrease in international funding to host refugees has had an impact on public services and the more vulnerable Lebanese people who rely on them. In addition to **Caritas Iraq**, **Caritas Lebanon** is a key part of the efforts to help Iraqi victims of persecution.

*Iraqi Christian refugees
arrive in our offices sobbing
because they need help.*

Najla Chahda, Caritas Lebanon

In September Najla Chahda, director of Caritas Lebanon's Migrant Centre, described the situation in Lebanon to Caritas Internationalis:

“We are trying to help lots of Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese who need food, healthcare, education and many other things. On top of this, we're supporting Iraqi Christian families. The challenge is

huge and requires a massive international commitment in terms of funding and support.”

Funding is needed to help provide accommodation, water, health care, hygiene and sanitation, education, counselling and legal assistance.

“Iraqi Christian refugees arrive in our offices sobbing because they need help, having lost everything after being forced from their homeland,” says Najla Chahda.

Help us to help those who have lost everything.

Caritas's Bank Account **FI73 8000 1270 1545 04.**

The reference number for the Advent Collection is **2231.**

**Ten per cent of the proceeds of the Advent Collection
will be used for Caritas Finland's humanitarian work in Finland.**

 **Advent Collection**
Caritas 2014 Iraq

www.caritas.fi/advent