

LIFE for Relief & Development
Conducted the “Fourth Children’s Festival”
The Campaign to Cheer Iraqi Children In Eid Al-Adha



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Preface:

The political situation in Iraq played a great role in the thought and orientation of Iraqi children influencing their psychological state, therefore having direct impact on their lives. For orphans, the neglected layer of society, there is no outlet for the violent acts which they watch and hear in the media. Based on statistics, great numbers of Iraqi children suffer cases of incontrollable fear, compulsive thinking and difficulties in speech among other psychological phenomenon enforced by the difficult day-to-day circumstances. For these reasons, Life for Relief and Development attempted, to do what it can, to remove orphan children from the cycle of violence by providing them with the attention and assistance they need in order to function normally, possess a more positive outlook on life, the future and society by means of organizing complete and comprehensive programs designed to lift those children out of the cruel reality imposed by wars. In doing so; LIFE hopes to accomplish its' duty in alleviating the pain of these unfortunate children and give them hope in a better future. This year, efforts were combined between LIFE office in Baghdad and the governmental branches; Diyala, Anbar and Najaf in the effort of cheering Iraqi children in this precious time of year.

Objectives:

1. The main aim is to entertain the children and give them some relieve from the tense atmosphere of scenes of murder and bloodshed in an attempt to put back the smile on their innocent faces in the Eid holidays.
2. This project displays the importance of social solidarity and support in the struggle to help those in need among orphan children.
Most importantly, LIFE's aim is to sponsor these children and care for them in the comfort of their homes in the midst of their families and relatives.

Participating Governorates:

This festivity was not limited to Baghdad but covered other governorates such as; Diyala, Najaf and Anbar via LIFE's branch offices in those governorates.

A table was distributed containing the fundamental elements of the project. The chart containing the main components of the project was distributed to specialized committees in all the governorates of Iraq taking part in the project. The Baghdad committee carried out the selection of gifts given to visitors. The selection included; type of gift, quantity of gift and gift preparation.

Project Stages

First: Project Preparation

Preparation began on the 01/12/2005 and specialized committees were formed as follows:

1. Registration Committee:

This committee's mission was to register orphans based on references such as Mosques, schools, orphanages, and local municipalities and then distributing invitation cards to the orphans. This committee also assumed the task of transporting orphans from their homes to the festival location and vice versa. In addition to nominating a supervisor for every 25 children who supervise them in cars and during the celebration as well as delivering food items and presents to them.



2. Preparation Committee:

Many participated in planning the programs presentations and different activities. Credit is due to Al-Kawthar anasheed Band, AlRisafi band and the Happy Family Group. Program pamphlets were distributed to all governorates taking part in the celebration; allowing some flexibility to governorates wishing to improvise and change some parts deemed necessary in their situation with the condition of keeping the main program structure intact.

3. Location Committee:

This committee's task was to find a suitable place for the celebration examining things such as space, location and artistic touches (lighting and stage...etc.) a celebration hall containing a 1000-seat capacity in Al-Mustansyria University was booked. As for the rest of the governorates, a youth center hall was booked in Diyala, a hotel hall



in Najaf and a social club hall in Basra.

4. Food Committee:

An agreement was made with a catering company to provide and distribute a meal to all the attendees in the celebration. The meal included Kuba, Boorug, kabab sandwich, chocolate bar and a beverage. 300 extra meals were set aside in the Baghdad celebration and 100 meals in each governorate for any increase in attendants' number beyond original calculations in order to avoid possible confusion.



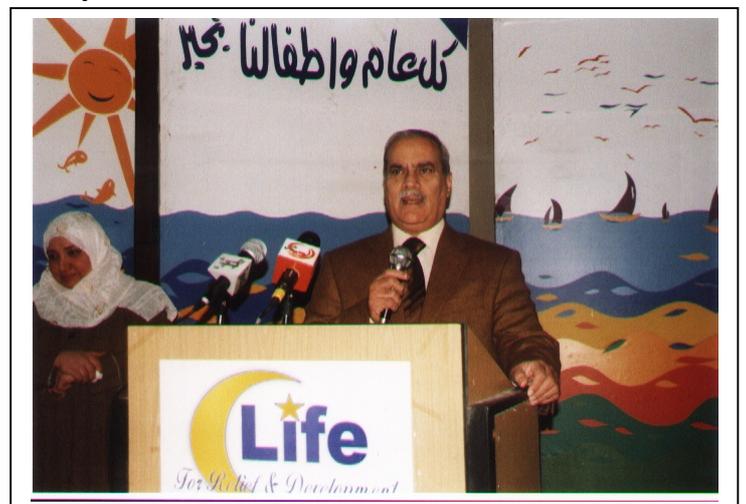
Second: Project Implementation

The project was executed on the third day of Eid-Al Ahdha in Baghdad, Diyala, Anbar, Basra and Najaf on the 01/12/2006 at 10.30-a.m. The festival was documented by video and photographic cameras.

Attendance

The deputy of the Minister of Culture Mr. Farooq Aldulaimi, the representative of the childhood nourishment bureau in the Ministry of Labor & Social Affairs, Rajaa Abdulhamid and the representative of UAE charity work bureau. More than 50 heads of local civil society organizations also attended the festivity.

The Governorate Director of Diyala along with the representative of the IIP in Diyala attended the celebration, a representative of Aldawaa party and a representative of Aladala party. In Najaf, governorate heads in addition to the governorate council members; Nasir Almosawi & Nathim Alesawi attended the celebration. The president of



The deputy of the Minister of Culture

the NGO unions in Najaf, Mohammed Jassem Imosawi and Abdelamir Alkabee the Director of the General Commission of Civil Society Organizations also attended. All of whom displayed their gratitude to Life for relief & development for fostering orphan children in the governorate. Most of the representatives of civil society organizations



especially feminist groups also attended the festival. In Basra, the director of the Nafot sports club and staff from the handicaps society in Basra and a delegate of the hearing and visual impaired society in addition to the president of youth society in Basra.

Media Coverage

The festivity was covered in the media by several TV and radio stations; the Iraqi Media Network, Huriyia TV and radio stations, Sumeria Satellite channel, Sharqiyia satellite channel, Faihaa satellite channel and Ghadeer channel. In addition to Sabah newspaper, Manar newspaper and Alwatan newspaper. The media attendance highlighted the fact that LIFE is the first organization to sponsor orphans while in the comfort of their homes and families.

Pros and Cons

1. Pros:

- The attendance was very large and this alone is an indication of success as it shows the trust people have in LIFE.
- A major advantage was that no accident occurred during or after the celebration and all attendants expressed satisfaction and pleasure.
- The great control on attendants despite the fact that they were children ranging from 600 to 1200.
- The celebration was very well covered by the media, which highlighted the role of LIFE as a leader in the field of orphan sponsorship.
- Highlighting and encouraging the concept of caring for orphans while keeping them in their homes within their families.

2. Cons:

- A preliminary agreement was set a donor to fund a large portion of the festival. However, two days prior to the celebration, they informed Life of their retreat from the project due to their financial situation and the timing of the project near the end of a financial budget which cannot be altered or modified.
- Children's lack of natural participation.

Evaluation

Evaluation forms were distributed to the attendants, supervisors and children present in Baghdad and other governorates. The results are as illustrated in the evaluation chart.



Diala



Basra



Najaf



Baghdad

The Fourth Children's Eid Festival Evaluation/January 2006

Activities suitability with children's ages	Lunch	Gifts	Play	Contests	Anasheed	Description of Festival	Festival Location	Festival Duration	Variety in festival programs	Evaluation	Governorate and evaluators
38	37	25	12	23	52	56	51	38	30	1	Baghdad (61)
21	16	28	38	2	8	0	10	22	29	2	
2	7	8	9	36	1	5	0	1	2	3	
0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
47	43	26	-	29	42	50	36	41	28	1	Basra (50)
3	7	13	-	0	8	0	14	9	17	2	
0	0	11	-	21	0	0	0	0	5	3	
0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
38	31	22	31	49	60	48	80	31	33	1	Diyala (60)
22	18	28	29	11	0	12	20	19	27	2	
0	11	10	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	3	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
80	4	52	0	0	72	100	100	92	40	1	Najaf (25)
20	36	40	0	0	28	0	0	8	60	2	
0	0	8	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	3	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	

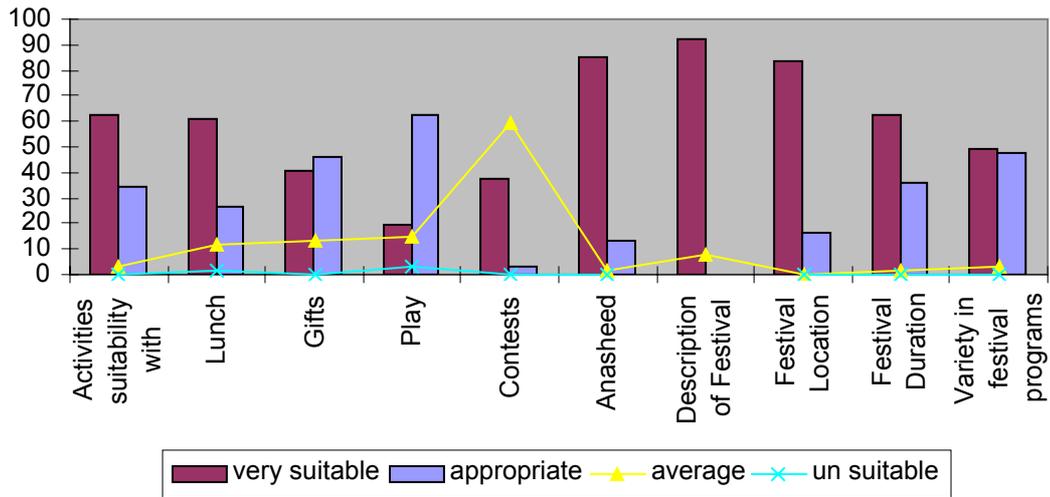
1) Very suitable

2) appropriate

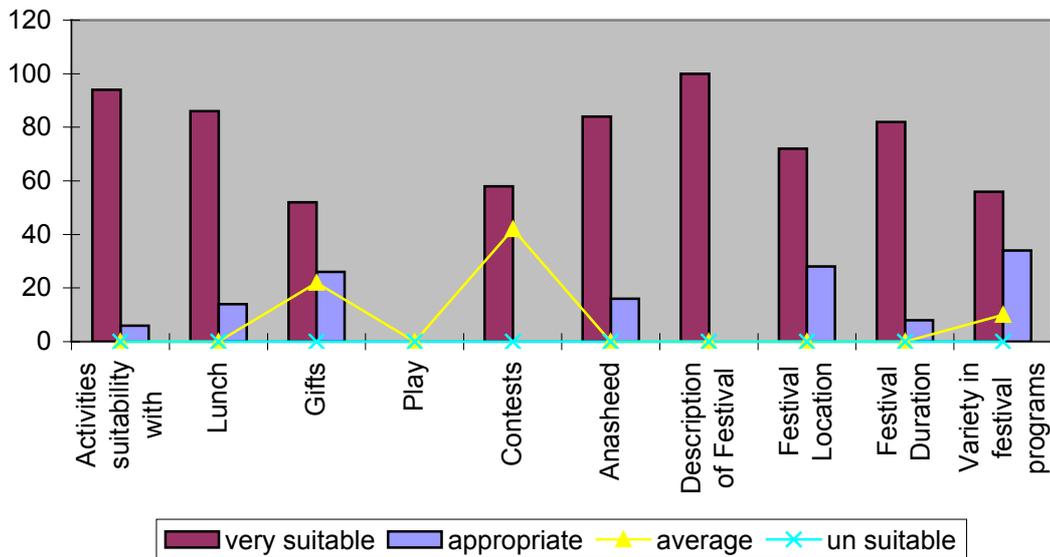
3) average

4) unsuitable

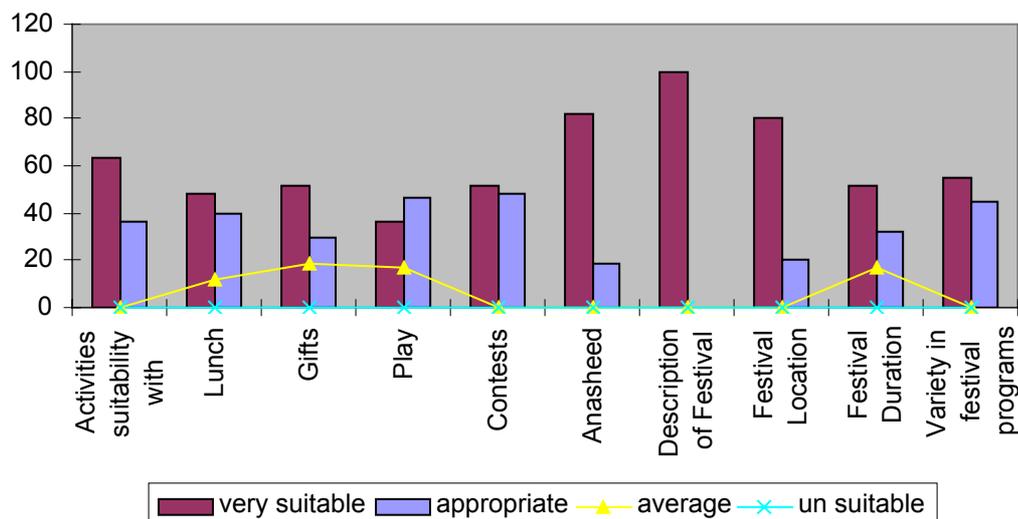
Fourth Childrens Festival Evaluation \ Baghdad

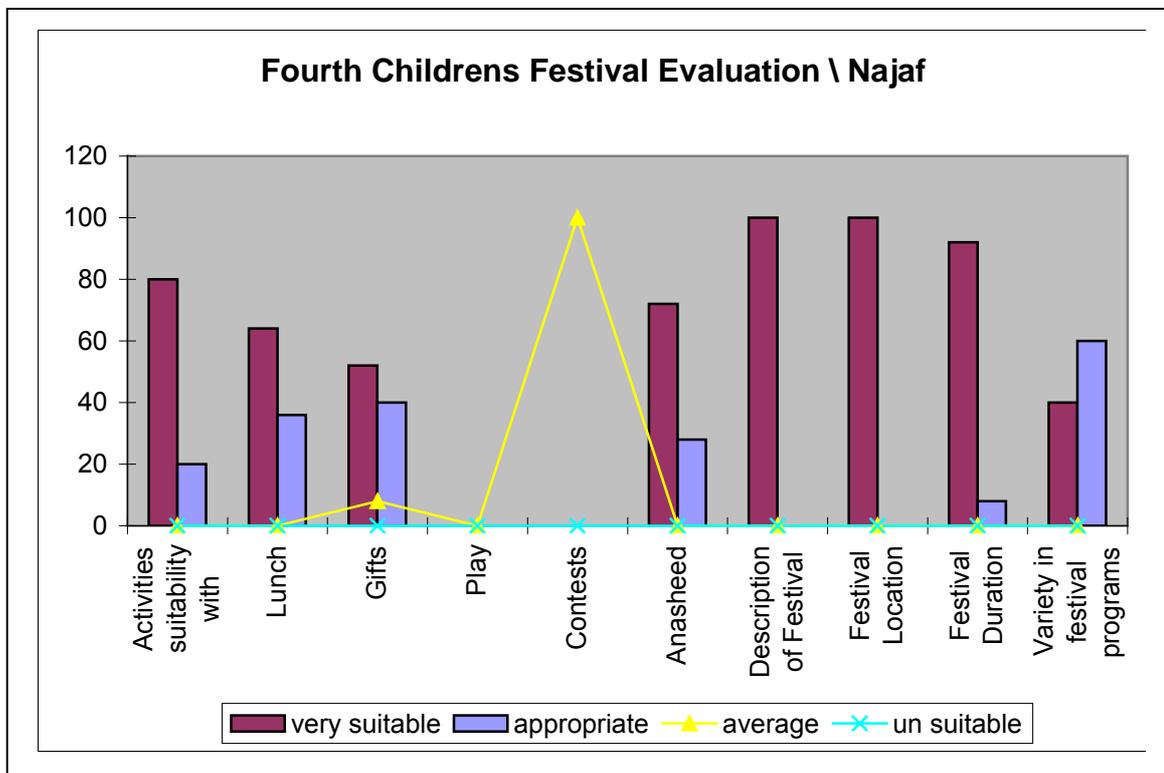


Fourth Childrens Festival Evaluation \ Basra



Fourth Childrens Festival Evaluation \ Diyala





Initial evaluation results were as follows; Baghdad came in first place, then Diyala, then Basra, Najaf and Anbar came in last place.

Recommendations

- The main office must approve the program at least one month ahead of time.
- Defining a deadline for project donations in Iraq that should be two weeks ahead of execution.
- The program should include a wider range of activities and contests in cultural, intellectual and artistic fields
- Concentrating on training for participants in different activities.
- Concentrating on creating plays from the stories of the Quran or from Arab Islamic history.

Feasibility Study

The program should be continued for the following reasons:

1. It helped build bridges between LIFE and other organizations both internally and externally.
2. Co-coordinated the relationship between orphan supervisors and orphan families, which helped in raising the level of mutual trust.
3. Introduced the LIFE's activities to the attendance.
4. Interest shown by many satellite TV stations, radio stations and newspapers in covering LIFE's activities.

5. Created sympathy in the public to donate and support the orphans financially.
6. Observing the orphan condition closely and considering the celebration as a field survey evaluating orphan numbers, living conditions and their aspirations in Iraq. (This was evident in the report made by satellite TV stations about the condition of orphans through direct dialogue and questions with some of the orphans).
7. These celebrations can be considered as an important link between LIFE organization and the orphan donors outside Iraq through the orphan sponsorship program. CD copies of the celebration that took place in Baghdad, Basrah, Basra, Najaf, Anbar and Diyala can be utilized in marketing the orphan sponsorship program abroad.

The festival left smiles and happy memories in children's minds of the joyful time they spent in Eid Al-Adha. Much appreciation and gratitude was shown to LIFE for Relief & Development and all those who participated in making this enormous effort a success.

