

CHILD PROTECTION MOSUL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Khazer Camp, KR-I - February 19th 2017.

Imad, 14 years old, used to live in the Mosul area with his family when the armed-conflict forced him to flee the fighting. He was displaced in Khazer Camp where TGH team met him for the first time on 10 November 2016. Depressed and separated from his family, TGH staff strove to allow him to be reunified with his family.

Imad's family is composed of 11 people. Imad is the fifth child of his father Shaker. In Gogjali, he used to attend school in grade sixth before ISIS took control of Mosul area. At that time, for Imad Mosul looked like a "Paradise".

“Mosul was Paradise for me before ISIS. I was very happy and I liked my friends at school.” tells Imad.

However, right after the arrival of ISIS, everything changed. Imad couldn't play anymore with his friends in the neighborhood and he had to give up school as he did not want to follow ISIS curriculum. He stayed home for two years.

“Under ISIS, the children were learning at school that 1bullet + 1bullet = 2 bullets. I didn't want to learn these things”, he explains.

In October 2016, when the Mosul Operation started, Imad was with his family. To run away from the bombings around, they were forced to move to Hay-Alqodis, near Gogjali, to join his uncle's family. Then, as the conflict escalated, the family had no choice but to move again, and Imad was separated from his parents at that time.

A few weeks later, Imad relates his displacement, remembering that: **“It was a very difficult time for me, bombings everywhere, people were running to survive ... I saw some Iraqi soldiers ... I was looking for my family but I couldn't find them. After four hours walking and checking by the security forces, I arrived at Khazer Camp at midnight on November 9th 2016. For the first time I was alone, without my family.”**



Sherwan, TGH Social Worker, TGH CFS – Khazer camp / 2017

As soon as Imad arrived at the camp, TGH social workers team identified him as unaccompanied child through door-to-door Psychological First Aid activity.

“It is very nice to meet someone who cares about you in this place where everyone needs help” said Iman when he met Sherwan, TGH social worker, for the first time.

In the following days, Sherwan met him on a daily basis, providing him with psychosocial support and making sure he was able to access water, food, and necessary items for the tent. Imad also participated in the recreational activities organized at TGH Child Friendly Space in the Camp.

“I've started to get new friends in the camp through the Child Friendly Space and to like people in the Camp. I met Sherwan regularly, which was very nice. I know he tried to help me to contact my family and to get support from the Camp Manager to look for an opportunity to go back to my family”, tells Imad.

TGH Team gathered all the information on the situation of Imad, determined his Best Interest, and in collaboration with the Camp Management (BCF) they got in contact with his parents. Finally, one month after his arrival, and once the security situation got safer, Imad left the camp to go back to Gogjali with his family.

“It was difficult for me to leave my new friends in the camp but I was very happy to see my family again thanks to the support of Sherwan. I told my family everything about the camp, the Child Friendly Space and TGH team and their efforts to make this reunification happen. I asked my father to call Sherwan to thank him. Today, I am still in touch with TGH Staff. Soon the school will reopen in Gogjali and I will pursue my studies. Be sure that Gogjali will be a paradise again! One day I will invite TGH Staff to have lunch together.” Imad



Imad with his family in Gogjali, Mosul, after the reunification - February 16th 2017



Since the beginning of TGH intervention in Khazer Camp, TGH team identified **22 Unaccompanied Children**. So far, 15 of them have been reunified with their family in several locations and for 7 of them reunification in ongoing, thanks to a close collaboration between TGH, BCF and EJCCC.



Since the beginning of TGH intervention in Khazer Camp, TGH team identified **107 Separated Children**. So far, 73 of them have been reunified with their family in several locations and for 34 of them reunification in ongoing, thanks to a close collaboration between TGH, BCF and EJCCC.