



Unlocking Potentials

Annual Report 2003 - 2004

Iraqi Community Association
Palingswick House
241 King Street
London W6 9LP

Charity No. **1101109**
Company No. 4684099

Telephone: 020 8741 5491
Fax: 020 8748 9010
Email: iraqicommunity@btclick.com

المستدرك العراقي



Jabbar Hassan - Director

It is estimated that over 250,000 Iraqis live in Britain. Iraqis have been coming here since late Forties. Britain benefited from this influx, that many of them built household names in this country, such Selim Zilkha the founder of Mothercare store, others like, Satchi and Satchi, one of the most successful advertisement agencies in the world and Alan Yentob, controller of BBC1 with many more names, and they all share this background. The growing Iraqi community in Britain, though it is invisible, but has made enormous contributions to the British society, for example we have more than 5000 Iraqi medical doctors and consultants at the NHS, others include school teachers and university lecturers, the community has a significant numbers of qualified professionals, almost all are exiles and made Britain their new home. ICA, since its inception in 1987, has been working with and for Iraqis. The dedication, and commitments of staff, volunteers and trustees have given us a unique role. The title of this publication, "Unlocking Potentials", is particularly apt, settlement and integration process requires encouragement and understanding, for a growing exiled community, this process has been successful, for example, in the last five years the wave of Iraqi asylum seekers arriving in this country has increased, during that period we have seen many success stories. As they come to see us, we find many individuals with

education and skills that could be utilised in this country, last year, we have helped hundreds of people of different age groups with acquisition of IT skills, and Job finding techniques and guidance. We at the ICA are encouraged by the sheer determination of the majority of our clients, that they would like to make positive contributions to the host society. Our charity provides them with vital tools of information and advice and guidance to ease the settlement process. Equally we find others that are vulnerable and seeks further attention and support. Our role is to empower them to become less dependent, for example at our Children and Youth Special Needs Project, we use a systematic approach style with and for the concern beneficiaries in relation to schooling and further education, coupled with tackling the expected obstacles. Furthermore, the impact of our work with elderly people has produced good results, our regular sessions provides essential tool of information and one-to-one advice, using beneficiaries' languages, that last year hundreds have benefited, as we encourage less dependency culture. My special thanks to all our volunteers who make the Iraqi Community Association the unique and pioneering organisation it is. I am also extremely grateful to all our funders for their valuable support and understanding that has helped thousands of needy people.



Ahmed Khudayir - Chairman

The Iraqi Community Association makes a huge difference to the lives of Iraqis across the UK. In this report, we attempt to demonstrate and quantify this difference and to represent the greater transparency in our reporting practices. 2003 was a roller-coaster ride, with great highs - such as the toppling of the Iraqi dictator and our clients' changing needs. The war in Iraq made our staff, volunteers and clients worried and concerned about their families, friends and relatives, and the discovery of mass graves added more pressure and anxieties. I am pleased to say that despite the financial constraints and circumstances, we have managed to help more than 10,000 cases last year. Our charity is becoming a haven for hundreds of people every week. Even as I reflect with some satisfaction on our impact to date, greater challenges lie ahead. ICA has a crucial role to play in meeting those challenges. It is the only well established Iraqi charity in Britain, with strong community networking here and in Iraq. What difference can the ICA make in this environment? Let me give you some small examples that illustrates the different aspects of our work. As a client-led charity, we offer help and support. We assist people of different profile and age groups. The daily services entails supporting community

members with case preparations, provide appropriate advice, ensure that the needs has been dealt with, and to provide referral as and when required. The services are free and covers health matters, immigration cases, training and employment guidance, assist with ESOL classes, guide and support with family reunion problems, ease homelessness, provide elderly and youth activities, and organise women and single parents' support workshops. In addition to our efforts to help the community with integration passage and settlement needs, ICA has been instrumental in promoting Iraqi culture in Britain, and to familiarise the host society with our colourful arts. Our charity's role in providing quality information has helped hundreds of individuals, this includes clients-led seminars and workshops and distributing a community newsletter, Al-Muntada, that attracts bi-monthly circulation of 10,000 readers. During the year, ICA has received an average of 15 media enquiries every quarter, which resulted in the ICA being mentioned 88 times. We have appeared over 30 different television and radio programmes from around the world. The Guardian newspaper, one of the the UK broadsheets, published a lengthy report on our work. I want to thank all those individuals, organisations and funders who make it possible for us to make a real difference to the lives of thousands of people.



We Help Because We Are Needed

One of our frontline workers, Zikra Mustafa

Every year thousands of people turn to our charity for help. We welcome them, we inform them about their choices, we help them to prepare for the future, to ensure that they can rebuild their own sense of security. Becoming a refugee is not something that anyone plans. You don't wake up one day and decide to be a refugee. It is not a decision that is taken lightly. It is a decision that is forced upon you by the tyranny of others. Suddenly you find yourself in another life, a life that is without all of your previous thoughts. Now you have no home, no friends, no job and you have no idea what fate awaits you. Most of our clients's physical and mental status requires a healing process, traumatised and in exile, many of our clients feel that they face a bleak future. It is our job to help them face that future and rebuild their lives. The legacy of the Iraqi dictator may take years to heal. Most of our clients have made Britain their new home. They are settled here with strong connection with Britain. ICA has now been working with and for Iraqis in Britain for over fifteen years. We have during this period firmly established ourselves as the only Iraqi community group serving Iraqis. The wave of Iraqis seeking sanctuary in this country is still higher than any other refugee group and this has meant that our work has become more challenging as the number of our clients have steadily grown and looked to us for support. Our services is continuing despite tough recent immigration and asylum legislation. Last year we were the frontline charity to provide support and comfort to members of the community during the pre and post war period. During that period, regular unscheduled community meetings were held, we have also provided comfort and outreach work to those who lost their loved ones. The legacy of the Iraqi dictator heaps the suffering of people, as the reality of its tyrannical rule is becoming more apparent, thousands of mass graves were discovered. We shared the community's grief and anger. Meanwhile, our daily service was continuing, for example volunteerism is becoming a pivotal part of the charity's activity, as we provide different schemes, such as Health Volunteers Project, Opportunities for Volunteering Project and Millennium Volunteers Project. Last year eighty people participated and met the required standards. In addition to that, our significant speciality in community-led health service meant that other voluntary groups and agencies sought ICA expertise in this field for advice and consultation services. Last year the ICA health service assisted hundreds of people with information on health issues in clients' languages, held regular health workshops targeting vulnerable members of the community to offer advice and presentation on health needs of the community, particularly tackling issues that is associated with life in exile. The commitments of our volunteers has given us strength and encouragement. It is also vital to stress that political, social and technological changes will have a great on the context within which the ICA seeks to fulfil its mission.

A man in a red shirt is standing and pointing at a computer monitor. In the background, there are other people, a large white fan, and several computer monitors displaying web pages. One monitor shows a website with Arabic text.

Bridging the Gaps - ICA offers training sessions that enables many participants to seek job opportunities - community group training sessions reaches vulnerable effectively with less fear!

A man in a red shirt is standing and pointing at a computer monitor. In the background, there are other people, a large white fan, and several computer monitors displaying web pages. One monitor shows a website with Arabic text.

Regular client-led workshops and seminars that informs beneficiaries with vital information on settlement issues



Making A Difference

We have appeared over 30 different television and radio programmes from around the world, and received an average of 5 media enquiries every month, the Guardian newspaper, one of the UK's broadsheets, published a feature on our work.

We have provided face-to-face sessions to over 1338 people, negotiate and explain clients' needs with more than 350 statutory and voluntary agencies.

We have organised 12 workshops and 4 seminars that led by users, focusing on clients' needs, each activity attracted an average of 70 beneficiaries.

We have improved our feedback system that assisted the policy and service delivery methods, and ensuring accessibility to all our beneficiaries.

We have facilitated over 150 clients' interpreting and translation sessions with the statutory and voluntary agencies.

We have been successful in developing volunteerism with two government schemes that led to recruitment, training and coaching of 80 regular volunteers.

We have serviced 100 elderly sessions that attracted an average of 30 people each session, promoting less dependency and be in control living style.

We have organised more than 80 women health sessions that led by users dealing with topics relevant to their needs.

We have organised 8 social events and 4 cultural activities that attracted an average of 1000 people each.

We have organised 32 sessions of supplementary school classes that caters for children and their parents.

We have produced 6 issues of a community newsletter with a circulation of over 9500 readers each issue.

We have built a dedicated client-led health information service that offers assistance to over 50 people every month.

We have received an average of 50 advice seeking telephone calls and provided 8 personalised clients' letters every week.

Volunteerism is a Pivotal Part of the Charity's Work

Last year we have recruited more than 80 volunteers. We provide training and coaching. They can help with the delivery of the organisation's core services.



**Please tell us
you're with us
because we
cannot do more
without you.**

**Please send your donation to:
Iraqi Community Association
Palingswick House
241 King Street
London W6 9LP**
(Cheques/postal orders made payable to ICA)

**For further Information
call**

020 8741 5491

Email: iraqicomunity@btclick.com



England captain Sven Goran Eriksson meets Iraqi children, Ali Abbas and Ahmed Hamza, survivors of the war, they arrived here for treatment.

How You Can Help

If you are a charitable trust you can:

- Make a donation towards one of our projects.

If you are a company you can:

- Make a tax-effective donation towards our work through the Gift Aid scheme;
- Sponsor one of our publications or events;
- Offer a work placement to one of our volunteers.

If you are an individual, you can:

- Leave a legacy to Iraqi Community Association, enabling us to carry our vital work in the future;
- Make a donation towards our work;
- Organise a fundraising event.

Statement of Financial Activities 2003

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2003

This information is extracted from the latest audited account.

	Total Funds 2003 £	Total Funds 2002 £
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Grants	266,409	364,767
Membership, Donations, Fundraising	31,674	13,528
Bank interest	4,109	823
	-----	-----
Total Incoming Resources	302,192	379,118
	-----	-----
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Direct charitable expenditure		
Activities	180,193	166,055
Support costs	43,650	36,238
Communications	39,905	37,288
Management and Administration	11,680	10,774
	-----	-----
Total Resources Expended	275,428	250,355
	-----	-----
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	26,764	128,763
	-----	-----
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR	26,764	128,763
	-----	-----
FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	231,549	102,786
	-----	-----
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	258,313	231,549
	-----	-----

Registered Office and Operational Address

Pallingswick House
241 Kings Street
Hammersmith
London W6 9LP

Honorary Officers

Mr Ahmed Khydayir	Chairman
Mr Osama Al-Wakil	Secretary
Mr Ala Al-Safar	Treasurer

Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC
Piccadilly Corporate Banking Centre
Pall Mall Corporate Group
P.O. Box 15165
London SW1A 1QF

Auditors

Chapmans
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
3 Coombe Road
London NW10 0EB

Building Up Networks

Last year the charity met more than 100 different organisations, it includes statutory bodies, voluntary groups and other interested groups. We build working relationships and exchange information in order to improve services and ensure better understanding. We are grateful for the co-operation and support of the following organisation:

Interchange Advisory Legal Service, Hammersmith & Fulham Council, Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, Evelyn Oldfield Unit, Hammersmith Law Centre, Ealing Council, Sheffield City Council, Newcastle Social Service, Manchester City Council, Office of Immigration Service Commission, Community Legal Service Commission, Guardian newspaper, Hounslow Council, Law Works, VSRA Hammersmith and Fulham...

Thank

Our grateful thanks to the following organisations and trusts who supported our work:

Comic Relief
Association of London Government
Awards For All
London Borough of Islington
Hammersmith PCT
CEMVO
Community Fund
Kensington & Chelsea PCT
Dr Edward Bishop & Kings
Age Concern
BBC Children In Need
Westminster PCT
Consortium of Volunteering

Help A London Child
Renewal
CSV Millennium Grant
Hilden Charitable Trust
Corporation of London
Carlton TV
Kings Fund
CFBT
London Borough of Ealing
Bridge House Trust
London Supplementary Schools & Support Service
London Borough of Camden
QUIT
Westway Development Trust



IRAQI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2003

	2003	2002
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	11,643	12,632
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors		1,700
Prepayments		2,040
Cash at bank and in hand	251,738	228,504
	-----	-----
	251,738	232,244
CREDITORS - amounts falling due within one year:	(8,288)	(13,327)
	-----	-----
NET CURRENT ASSETS	243,450	218,917
	-----	-----
NET ASSETS	255,093	231,549
	=====	=====
FUNDS		
Restricted funds	214,789	209,178
Unrestricted funds – General Funds	40,304	22,371
	-----	-----
	255,093	231,549
	=====	=====

IRAQI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2003 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and follow the recommendations in the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting by Charities.

(b) Voluntary income is credited the Statement of Financial Activities when received.

(c) Revenue grants are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when received or receivable which ever is earlier, unless they relate to a specific future period, in which case they are deferred.

(d) Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and administrative costs.

(e) Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

(f) Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:
Office and Computer Equipment: 25% Reducing Balance

(b) Staff costs and overhead expenses are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time spent on those activities.

(c) Fundraising and publicity costs comprise the costs actually incurred in producing materials for promotional purposes and of raising funds for the charity.

(d) Management and administrative costs of the charity relate to the costs of running the charity such as the cost of meetings, audit and statutory compliance, and include any costs which cannot be specifically identified to other expenditure classifications.

Trustees' Report

The executive committee presents its report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2003.

Status

The governing instrument for the charity is its constitution. The charity is run by people elected to a management committee which refers to itself as the executive committee.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to create a social and cultural identity in Britain. We aim to promote the physical and psychological well-being of the Iraqi Community, through a process of identifying and developing the strengths of our members, while fully utilising the available resources.

Activities and Review

During the year under review the Association fulfilled its mission by:

- Providing assistance and advocacy on a daily basis on welfare, immigration, housing and education issues.
- Providing advice, assistance on a daily basis through our Health Resource.
- Disseminating information and conducting a need assessment survey on community health.
- Organising a series of activities marking the new millennium
- Holding a series of monthly cultural events.
- Organising the social summer trip for the community and summer camp for the youth.
- Operating and managing four mother tongue schools in Acton and Westminster.
- Organising a varied and well attended social programme.
- Producing six issues of "Al-Muntada" newspaper.
- Managing the Iraqi Elderly day centre.
- Managing the Iraqi Youth and Children club.
- Providing IT and Internet courses.

Responsibilities of the Management Committee

Charity law requires the management committee to prepare financial statements for the financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association and of its incoming resources of the year and the application of resources for the period.

In preparing those financial statements, the executive committee is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue on that basis.

The management committee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with the reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Association and to enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993 and the constitution. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Association and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Members of the Executive Committee During the Year

Members who served on the executive committee during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Appointed

Mr Ahmed Khydayir	(Chair)	July 2001
Mr Osama Al-Wakil	(Secretary)	July 2001
Mr Ibrahim Al-Assam	(Vice Chair)	July 2001 (resigned September 2002)
Mr Zuhair Gezari	(Vice Chair)	July 2001
Mr Ala Al-Safar	(Treasurer)	July 2001
Mrs Sajida Ateei		July 2001
Mr Kais Al-Suhaily		July 2001
Mrs Fayha Abdul Wahab		September 2002

Funds

The Association has a number of funds whose purposes are detailed in note 9 to the financial Statements

Fixed Assets

The movements in tangible fixed assets during the year are shown in note 7 to the financial statements.

Reserves

The management committee have established a policy whereby funds held by the charity should be between 3 and 6 months of resources to be expended. This target has been met.

Trustees' Report

Risk Review

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining reserve at current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

Investment Policy

The constitution authorises the Management Committee to make and hold investments using the general funds of the charity.

Auditors

Chapmans have expressed their willingness to continue as the Association's Auditors.

Approved by the Executive Committee

Mr Osama Al-Wakil
Secretary

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF IRAQI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

We have audited the financial statements on pages 5 to 12.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS

As described on pages 2 and 3, members of the executive committee are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 44 of that Act.

BASIS OF OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

OPINION

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's state of affairs as at 31 March 2003 and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993.

CHAPMANS
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
3 Coombe Road
London
NW10 0EB



ICA
Sponsored Soccer Team
(SOMER) Meets England Captain,
Sven Goran Eriksson

ICA
Summer Youth Activity 2003

المسجد العراقي





ICA Women's Health Section

**Helping Vulnerable ...
Last year we have assisted 645
disabled people and dealt with 869 housing enquiries.**

Empowering the Community

**Iraqi Community Association
Palingswick House
241 King Street
London W6 9LP**

**Telephone: 020 8741 5491
Fax: 020 8748 9010
Email: iraqicommunity@btclick.com
Charity Number: 1101109
Company Number: 4684099**

