



MADE IN

IRAQ

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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

IRAQ MISSION - 2019

# Foreword

Among many other priorities in the recovery of post-conflict Iraq, access to employment for the population in conflict-affected regions remains paramount. Indeed, the ability of the population to earn a living wage impacts not only on the recovery process, but also has a direct bearing on future stability.



As part of the international community's efforts to support economic recovery, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) created the Enterprise Development Fund (EDF). The creation of EDF was a direct response to our experiences living and working in conflict-affected communities. In Mosul, Anbar, Baghdad, Kirkuk and many other places, we encountered countless businesses whose buildings needed to be rebuilt or rehabilitated, who needed to replace lost or stolen equipment or who needed to hire workers.

We began the EDF as a modest experiment seeking to provide financial assistance to a few of these small businesses. Due to the success of the EDF experiment, we expanded it dramatically over the course of 2019, responding to needs across the country and in a wide variety of economic sectors. In the process, we had the opportunity to meet and engage with the men and women of Iraq's private sector, entrepreneurs who suffered unspeakable loss but who will also serve as the engine for the country's recovery.

This book is, above all, dedicated to them, Iraq's entrepreneurs who work tirelessly every day to rebuild and grow. It is also a token of our gratitude to all of those who made our work possible. This includes the people and Government of Iraq, our UN and NGO partners and EDF's numerous donor partners. Finally, it is one of the symbols of IOM's commitment to Iraq as it recovers from conflict and emerges as a better, more stable country for its people.

Gerard Waite  
Chief of Mission, IOM Iraq

# Key accomplishments for EDF\*

IOM's Enterprise Development Fund (EDF) is a financing mechanism that provides support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to assist them in their recovery, and in the process contribute to the creation of gainful employment for conflict-affected populations.



\*As of 1 December 2019



“ During the Mosul offensive our house was destroyed, and we lost everything we had. Then my father passed away, and life became so hard with no one to support us.

I'm happy that I got this job, I have been working here since May 2019, supporting my mother and younger siblings, paying rent and providing for our daily needs.

*Marwan, factory worker*

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“ We used to export our products to all Iraqi governorates. We lost everything during the ISIL conflict and had to start from scratch. When we restarted the factory, production was minimal because we weren't able to buy the machinery we needed, but once we got the grant, we were able to purchase the right equipment and increase our output by 50 percent.

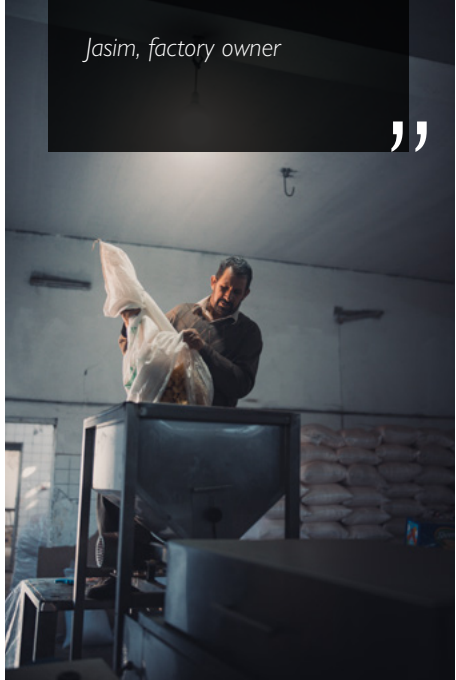
*Jasim, factory owner*

”



“  
The increase in  
production allowed us  
to create 10 more jobs.”

*Jasim, factory owner*  
”





“ I’ll never forget the moment I found my factory completely destroyed. I was devastated and thought I would never get it back, but I didn’t surrender. I started removing the rubble with my bare hands; it took me months to clear the factory and rebuild some of it. ”

*Saeed, business owner*



“ This job helps me finance my studies. Without it, I couldn’t carry on in school. ”

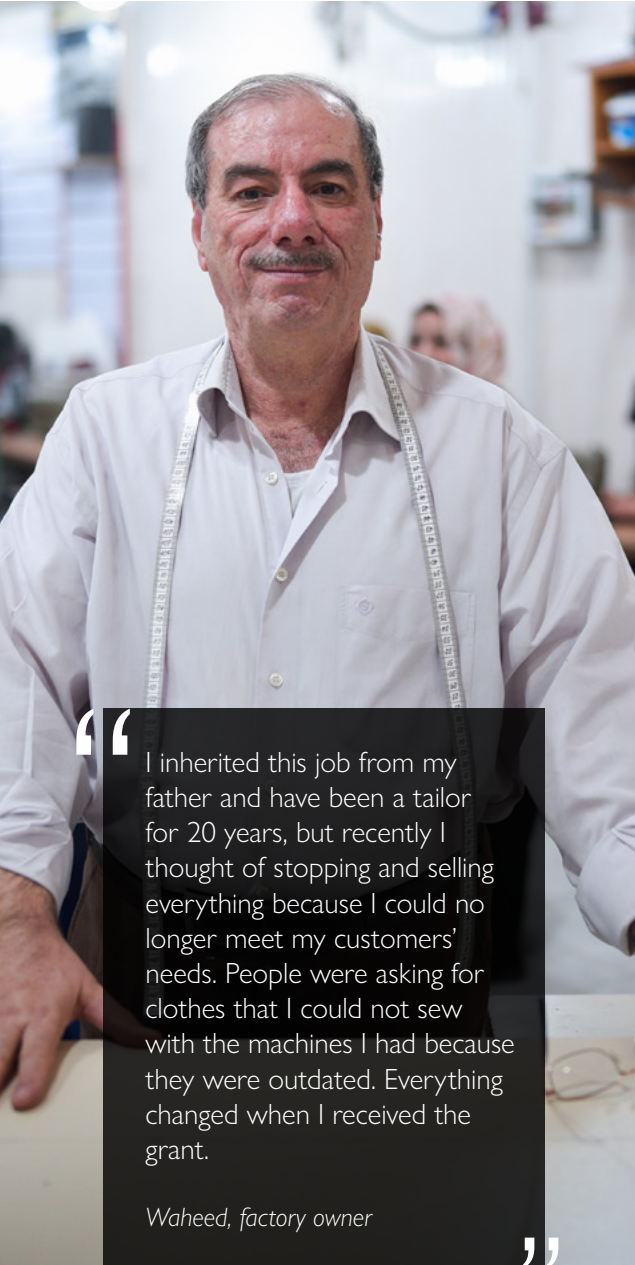
*Dakhil, factory worker*





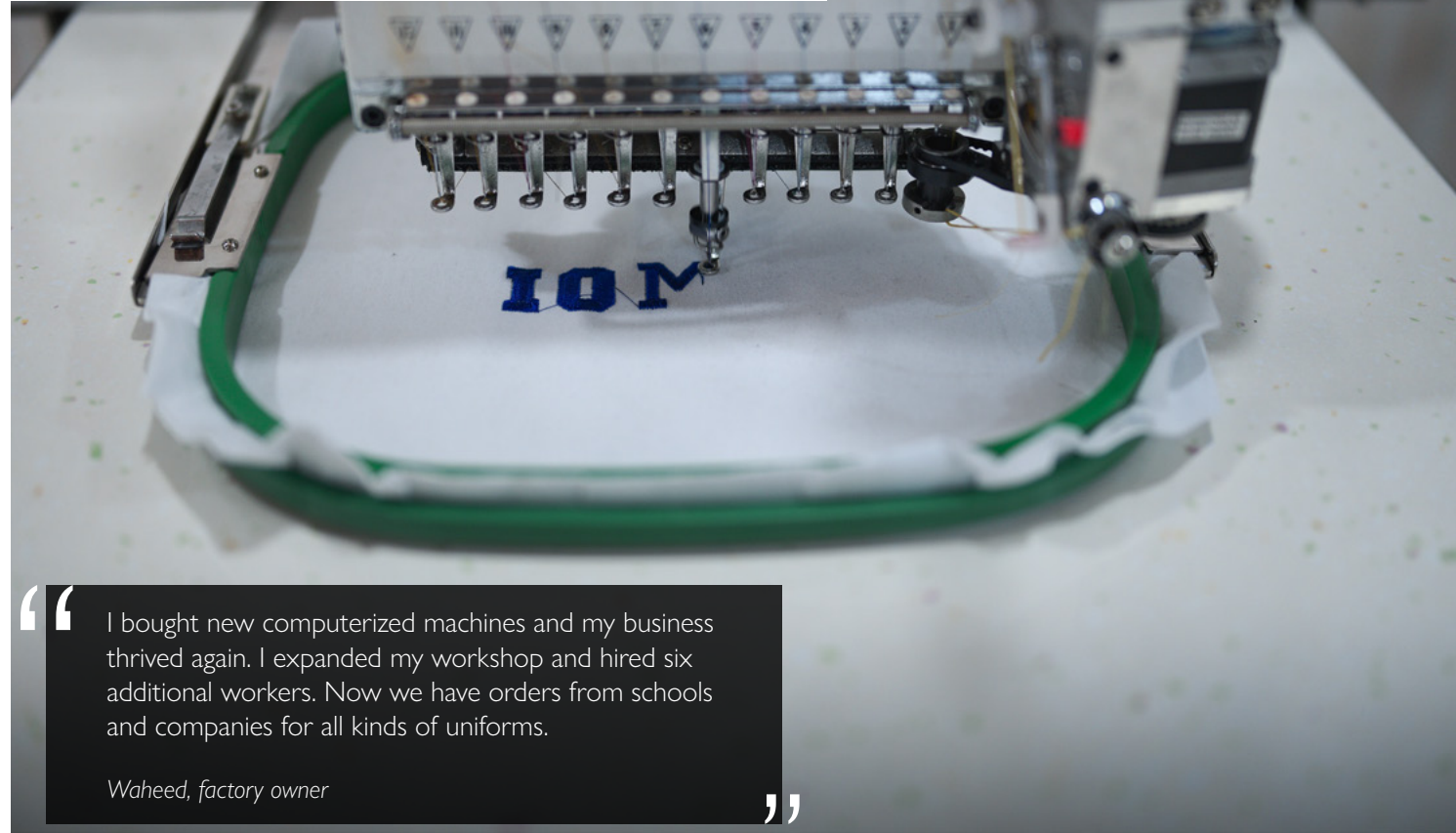
“ The EDF breathed life back into the factory and three more people have jobs now, thanks to the grant. ”

*Saeed, business owner*



“ I inherited this job from my father and have been a tailor for 20 years, but recently I thought of stopping and selling everything because I could no longer meet my customers' needs. People were asking for clothes that I could not sew with the machines I had because they were outdated. Everything changed when I received the grant. ”

*Waheed, factory owner*



“ I bought new computerized machines and my business thrived again. I expanded my workshop and hired six additional workers. Now we have orders from schools and companies for all kinds of uniforms. ”

*Waheed, factory owner*







“  
When ISIL took control of Anbar, we fled to Kirkuk. Life was hard and I had to drop out of school, but now I'm planning to go back, get my degree and achieve my dreams. I work here every day to support my family and eventually finance my studies.  
”

*Mustafa, a worker at the factory*



“

It's not the biggest factory, but our goal is to become one of the best *turshi* (pickles) procedures in town. We know we have to work hard to do that. I have hired two new workers and with the expansion I am planning, I will be able to hire another five.

*Nazem, factory owner*

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“

Because of our beliefs, my family and I had to flee to Duhok for our lives when ISIL took over Bashiqa.

*Sawsan, a new worker in the factory*

”



“

The situation is improving now; I have a full-time job, I can support my husband, and secure a better future for our daughter.

*Sawsan, a new worker in the factory*

”



“

When you come to Bashiqa, you have to taste the turshi.

*Aziz, a new worker in the factory*

”



“ I would like to set a successful example so that other Iraqi women can follow in my footsteps.  
*Zahra, business owner* ”



“ The only way women can exercise more of their rights is by becoming financially independent. This is what empowerment is all about.  
*Zahra, business owner* ”



“ I am proud of myself and my employees. Thanks to this grant I hired five additional employees, all women. I hope to see more and more Iraqi women in the workforce.  
*Zahra, business owner* ”





“

I always aspired to expand my business and show what local businesses in Basra are capable of.

*Jamal, business owner*



“

Thanks to my business plan and the EDF grant, I hired five additional employees.

*Jamal, business owner*







“

Before receiving the grant, I used to make furniture for three bedrooms per month. Now I'm able to make enough for 10 bedrooms.

*Thamer, business owner*

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“

I was unemployed when I returned to Mosul. Despite my limited experience in this field, Mr. Thamer believed in me and supported me. I can now confidently say that I have the required skills to excel in this job.

*Najeeb, carpenter*

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This is my first full-time job. With this salary, I'm now able to provide for my family.

*Waheed, factory worker*

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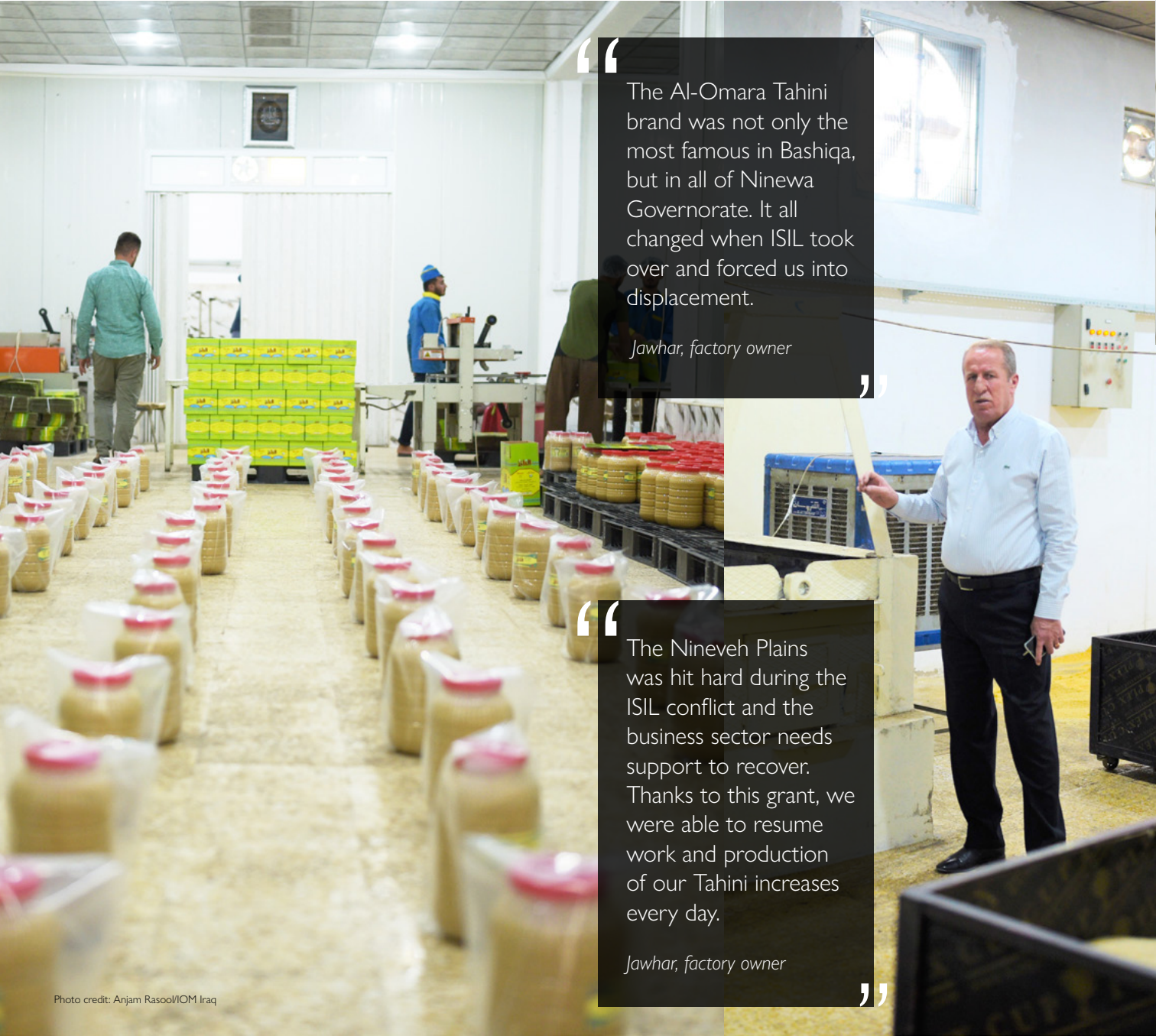
Our product is in high demand and many businesses depend on our nylon bags.

*Nazmi, business owner*

”







“ The Al-Omara Tahini brand was not only the most famous in Bashiqa, but in all of Ninewa Governorate. It all changed when ISIL took over and forced us into displacement.  
*Jawhar, factory owner* ”

“ The Nineveh Plains was hit hard during the ISIL conflict and the business sector needs support to recover. Thanks to this grant, we were able to resume work and production of our Tahini increases every day.  
*Jawhar, factory owner* ”



“ The process of making Tahini is meticulous; it's all about using the right amount of ingredients and sourcing the sesame seeds from the right place.  
*Jawad, a worker at the factory* ”

“ Taste our Tahini and you will definitely come back for more.  
*Marvin, a newly hired worker* ”



“ I was unemployed for over a year after I returned to Bashiqa. Thank God that's no longer the case! This factory has given me and six other young men chances at a new life.  
*Fawzi, a newly hired worker* ”



“ I returned to Mosul after securing a job at the factory. I can now pay my father's bills; he is sick and cannot work.

*Ziad, a newly hired worker* ”



“

Thanks to the EDF grant I was able to replace the machines that were damaged during the ISIL conflict, and resume work providing goods and services to mechanical and agricultural factories in Mosul. I also employ more workers now. This grant gave me much needed hope and motivation.

*Hamdi, business owner* ”

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“

Hamdi and I have been doing this work for nearly 30 years. I cannot see myself doing anything else.

*Farooq, business partner*

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Reuniting with Hamdi and Farooq was all I wished for after returning to Mosul. I didn't expect our business to go back to its pre-war status, but now we're aiming to exceed it and expand the business further.

*Samad, a worker at the factory*

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# M A D E I N I R A Q

EDF is supported by:



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**KFW**



Kingdom of the Netherlands



From  
the People of Japan

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