



International Organization for Migration IOM Treats Child with Cleft Palate in Babylon

June 9, 2011 – In mid April 2011, IOM staff conducting an assessment of a village in Babylon met with a family whose seven-year-old son was born with a disfigured cleft palate. As the reparative surgery for this condition is almost always successful in young children, IOM immediately began the process of seeking treatment for this small boy.

Dawoud Salim Hatim, the eager young patient, experienced problems with speech development, breathing and of course, the psychosocial difficulties among peers that come with any physical deformity.

While IOM does not provide direct medical treatment in Iraq, the organization's reliable network of medical partners in Iraq referred the staff in Babylon to Dr. Ahmed Nawres, a talented surgeon at a nearby hospital.

After a consultation meeting with field staff, Dr. Nawres enthusiastically and generously agreed to not only perform the surgery on this little boy free of charge, but also expressed his willingness to partner with IOM on any future similar cases they came across.

Dr. Nawres immediately assembled a team of plastic surgeons to review the case, who all agreed that the surgery could be completed successfully. They scheduled the repair for the first available day the boy could be brought to the hospital.

Dawoud underwent the repair procedure on May 9th, and was released from the hospital that same day to return home with his family for recovery. IOM staff organized all transportation for Dawoud and his family to and from the hospital, and remained with them for the duration.

The procedure was completed with only one minor complication- during surgery, Dawoud needed blood. Luckily, one of the IOM staff had a matching blood type, and was able to donate blood to him immediately.

Dawoud's parents were amazed by the success, and now, one month later, he enjoys a full recovery. Dr. Nawres has expressed his interest in a continued partnership with IOM, and field staff remains dedicated to continuing to refer similar cases to those who can best help them.



Dawoud at home with his sister



Dawoud at home with the IOM staff member who donated blood



Back at home and all smiles

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