

# So where does the money go?

In the last edition of the RGBB News we carried details of the funds from ICING which have contributed to the building of one school and the equipping of another with text-books, computers, stationery and other school equipment.

This effort has already made a significant impact on the humanitarian drive for children in need in Iraq, particularly in the Maysan area of Basra and our aim in supporting these projects is that they will ultimately assist the Iraqi communities to get back on their feet again.

The latest area where ICING have been able to lend a hand is DSCA, the Down Syndrome Charity Association. DSCA is a non profit organization that aims to serve individuals with Down syndrome and their families across Saudi Arabia. DSCA was established by and is run by Saudi females led by HRH Princess Sara bint Talal Al Saud who is the patron and the primary founder. ICING have already contributed to DSCA by financing a training course for staff led by a specialist flown in from the UK.

To organise the "train the trainers" event, ICING sponsored the visit of Mrs Gillian Trafford, an occupational therapist working with children having the condition, who was able to run a month long training course.

Down syndrome is a genetic condition caused by the presence of an extra chromosome. What we don't

know is what causes the presence of the extra chromosome. What we do know is that no one is to blame. Nothing done before or during pregnancy can cause Down syndrome. It occurs in all races, social classes and in all countries throughout the world. It can happen to anyone. About 1 in a 1000 children will be born with the condition.

The name "Down" comes from the English doctor John Langdon Down, who first described the syndrome in 1866. Down syndrome is associated with a number of developmental difficulties:

- Delayed motor skills (such as sitting, crawling and walking in infancy)
- Delayed cognitive skills (such as speech and language acquisition and short-term memory abilities)

In the past it was believed that there were many things that people with Down syndrome could not do when in fact they had never been given the opportunity to try. Today these opportunities have never been greater with many people with Down syndrome leading rich and varied lives. There are limits to what children with Down syndrome can achieve. However, they:

- Have potential and an ability to achieve, which should not be underestimated.
- Respond well to encouragement, knowledge and stimulation.
- Can join the workforce and become productive members of the community.
- Like all children, those with Down syndrome demonstrate a wide range of capabilities and potential.

