

The Detail

A partnership formed by the National Scout & Guide Fellowship UK with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, Pitts River Museum, Oxford and Aviation Without Borders.

Project known as 'Toys 4 Smiles' to collect toys for the children in the Za'atari refugee camp, Jordan, home to over 120,000 Syrian refugees, half of whom were children under the age of 18.

The collecting, sorting and packaging of toys was in 4 phases. Scouts, Guides and Members of the International Fellowship collected toys, and took them to the Pitts Rivers Museum for sorting, packing and 2,420 toys dispatched to the Za'atari Refugee camp, Jordan.

Members of the International Fellowship and Scouts and Guides continued to support the project, together with raising funds to assist with costs. A second shipment of 4,938 toys was dispatched in March 2014.

Scouts in Hertfordshire, UK held a Saturday morning collection and as a result of this in July 2014, 3,854 toys were dispatched, this time to the newly opened refugee camp in Azraq, in Jordan. The fourth and final collection of toys was organised, thanks to Berkshire Scout Enterprises Limited who stored 5,725 toys, ready for collection and final despatch December 2014.

Each consignment of toys were dispatched with the aid of the GIST Foundation for the collection and delivery to Heathrow Airport. Additional logistical assistance was given by Aviation Without Borders and financial support from the ISTAT Foundation.

The toys travelled more than 2,300 miles to reach their destination in Jordan. UNHCR personnel in Jordan arranged for the passage of the boxes through custom and delivery.

The first consignment arrived at the Za'atari Refugee Camp on Christmas Eve 2013. The next arrived at the Za'atari Refugee Camp in May 2014. More arrived at the Azraq Refugee Camp in March 2015. Final deliveries were made in May and June 2015.

The Toys for Smiles project concluded having collected 16,937 toys, packed in 518 boxes and weighing 5,092 Kg, occupying a volume of 43.34 cubic metres.

UNHCR staff stated that donations such as these make a big impact on the lives of children who have often been traumatised by the horrors of conflict.

Thanks go to Aviation Without Borders and the generous support of the ISTAT Foundation, for arranging and funding the air freight costs and to UNHCR staff in the camps for distributing the toys.

A successful conclusion to the participation in the 60th Anniversary of the International Fellowship.

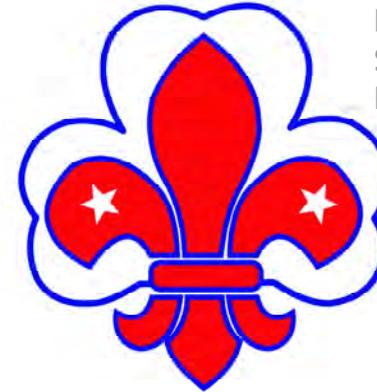
For further information

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Toys for Smiles



the ISTAT Foundation



National
Scout & Guide
Fellowship UK

Making an idea work

Someone had the simple idea to make the lives of war torn refugee children around the world a little more tolerable by giving them toys.

This may sound like a simple idea, but there were many hurdles to overcome before this could become a reality.

The **Fellowship Toy** project was launched in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the formation of the International Scout & Guide Fellowship on 24 October 2013.

This is the story...



Step 1

Forming a partnership for the project

A partnership was formed by the National Scout and Guide Fellowship UK with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Pitts River Museum Oxford and Aviation Without Borders.



Step 2

Collecting, sorting and packaging toys

Scouts, Guides and Members of the International Fellowship collected toys and took them to the Pitts Rivers Museum in Oxford for sorting and packing. The International Fellowship, Scouts and Guides continued to support the project by raising funds to assist with costs, while other Scout groups were also collecting toys, increasing the profile of this project.



Step 3

Dispatching of toys

Arrangements were made for the dispatch of each consignment of toys via Heathrow Airport with the logistical assistance of Aviation Without Borders and financial support from the ISTAT Foundation.



Step 4

Distribution for the refugees

UNHCR personnel in Jordan, arranged for the passage of the boxes of toys through Customs for delivery to the Za'atari and Azraq Refugee camps in Jordan.



Step 5

The Reward

Screams of laughter and happiness soon broke out as the toys were distributed by UNHCR personnel to the younger children, with art supplies and sports equipment for the older children.

Excitement filled the air as toys, board games, crayons, puzzles, balls and building blocks etc. made their way into the hands of the younger children in the makeshift school, kindergartens and play spaces.



Step 6

Conclusion and Thanks

The project concluded having collected 16,937 toys, packed in 518 boxes and weighing 5,092 Kg, occupying a volume of 43.34 cubic metres. A successful conclusion to the participation of all parties in the 60th Anniversary of the International Fellowship. UNHCR staff stated that donations such as these make a big impact on the lives of children who have often been traumatised by the horrors of conflict.

It takes organisation, commitment, and a belief in humanity to make projects like this work.



You too can make ideas work

