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Relief International's Microfinance Program in Iraq Partners with Kiva
Partnership Connects Iraqi Entrepreneurs with Global Lenders

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 2, 2012) -- Relief International (RI), a humanitarian aid and international development non-profit organization with microfinance operations throughout the Middle East and South Asia, has officially partnered with Kiva, the world's first personal micro-lending website that unites global lenders with Iraqi entrepreneurs.

The partnership supports RI's ability to scale lending to entrepreneurs who are rebuilding the Iraqi economy with trade, service and agribusiness enterprises, in addition to utilizing loans for reconstruction and/or the improvement of homes. RI's Microfinance Program in Iraq (RI-Microfinance-Iraq) began in July 2006 and has over a \$10 million USD in microfinance loans serving over 10,000 clients through a 10-branch network.

RI-Microfinance-Iraq provides access to best quality, most responsive and sustainable financial services to various segments of the Iraqi population including micro, small and medium enterprises, agribusiness, youth and women in both urban and rural areas. Its primary objective is to contribute to socio-economic development by supporting the growth of existing businesses, the development of youth and the upgrading of housing. The program sustainably reaches low-income sections of Iraqi society through smaller-than-average microfinance loans and is one of the largest group loan programs in Iraq, further distinguished by one of the highest proportions of female clients.

Kiva is partnering with RI-Microfinance-Iraq due to its strong social focus and proven ability to target areas of great economic need. Kiva values RI-Microfinance-Iraq as a leader in social impact performance in Iraq and its commitment to target lending in geographic areas that have the highest incidence of poverty. RI-Microfinance-Iraq intentionally seeks to go where other MFIs do not. Kiva's goal with this investment is to help push the frontier of access to micro-loans in a country with a microfinance penetration rate of less than one percent.

About Relief International

Relief International is a Los Angeles-based global humanitarian organization that transforms adversity into renewal for the world's most vulnerable populations. Relief International's team of 2,000 relief and development professionals works to bridge the gap between immediate emergency relief and long-term community development through innovative and holistic programming that is grassroots-based. Since its establishment in 1990, Relief International has provided emergency relief and development assistance in more than 50 countries. For more information, visit www.ri.org.

About Kiva

Kiva is the world's first and largest micro-lending website. Kiva connects people around the world through the power of micro-lending to alleviate poverty. Leveraging the internet and a worldwide network of microfinance institutions, Kiva allows individuals to lend as little as \$25 to borrowers seeking to build a better future for themselves and their families. Since their founding in 2005, Kiva has facilitated over \$250,000,000 in loans. Through the power of the internet, and a network of 144 microfinance institutions, Kiva has connected over 650,000 lenders in 216 countries, to more than 700,000 borrowers in 60 countries. Kiva is headquartered in San Francisco, California. For more information visit www.kiva.org.

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