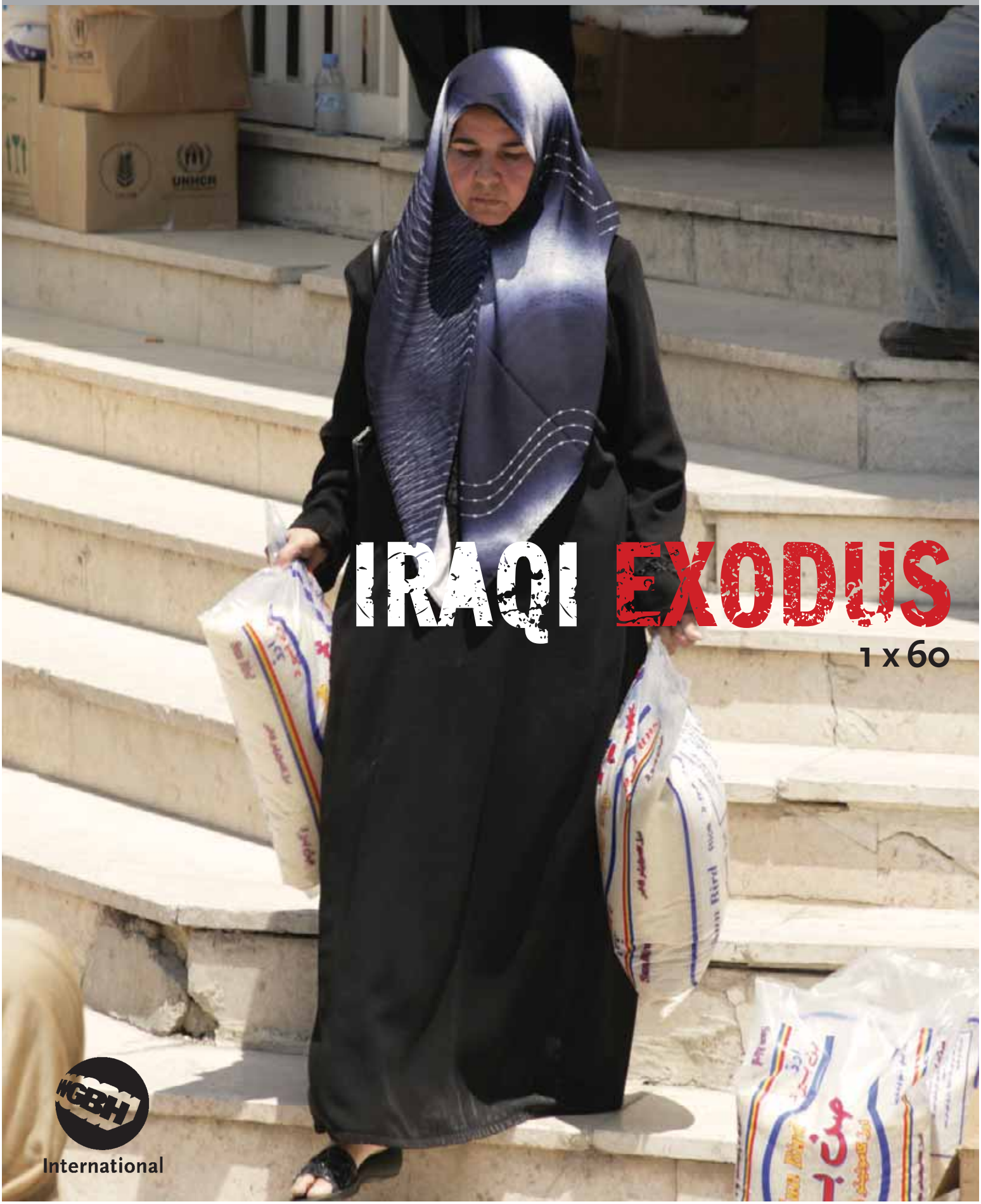
PBS

IRAQI EXODUS

1 x 60



WGBH International

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WIDE ANGLE reports from the front lines of the staggering refugee crisis that is unfolding in the Middle East as Iraqis flee their war-torn country at the rate of up to 50,000 people per month.

Since the war began in 2003, more than four million Iraqi civilians have fled their homes—half of them becoming exiles in neighboring countries and the rest dislocated within Iraq's borders. While headlines are dominated by the deadly sectarian violence engulfing Iraq, the refugee crisis—the biggest in the Middle East since the displacement of the Palestinians in l948—is all but ignored.

WIDE ANGLE goes to the heart of the crisis—to Syria and Jordan, which harbor the vast majority of uprooted Iraqis—and explores the displaced Iraqi community in Syria, from the middle class suburbs where Iraqis have sent housing prices soaring to the cramped Damascus slums where one out of three residents is Iraqi-born. WIDE ANGLE follows aid workers from the Syrian-Iraqi Red Crescent as they help refugees cope with their new surroundings amid government pressure and rising resentment from the local population whose health, education and housing resources are being stretched to the limit.

Anchor Aaron Brown speaks in Jordan with regional leaders about the impact of this catastrophe on the Middle East and what the future holds for Iraq's lost generation.

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CREDITS
Executive Producer: Pamela Hogan
Senior Producer: Nina Chaudry
Producers, Writers: Paul Mitchell, Tania Rakhamanova and Kira Kay

A production of Thirteen/WNET New York

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