





Fresh fruit for Yazidi kids till the summer. It works!



The Yazidi poultry project: the geese have offspring.



This girl survived a serious illness thanks to Shelter Now.



Sigi Stolte with a Yazidi girl

## SHELTER-Report

# Udo and Sigi Stolte paid a visit to Kurdistan in North Iraq. They experienced both pleasant and shocking encounters.

First the pleasant encounters: Despite months of bad weather with flooding the Yazidi refugees in "our" camps were in good spirits. The reason: We have been able to provide them with fresh fruit and other urgent food supplies. In addition, the geese and chickens they had received for the purpose of breeding a year ago now have offspring.

We were able to visit the town of Ba'adra, considered the political capital of the Yazidis, and distribute food generally and fresh fruit to the children in particular. The recipients responded with much joy and thanksgiving.

Now to the horrifying encounters.

Increasing numbers of sex-slaves held by ISIS terrorists are now free and arriving in Ba'adra and the nearby Ba'adra camp. They are deeply traumatised as a result of the terrible abuse they suffered at the hands of "Islamic State" henchmen. A recently freed teenage girl simply lay on a sofa following medical treatment in a state of total apathy, unable to talk. Another young girl had to watch what the terrorists did to her family. The shock caused her to lose all her hair. Two years have gone by and still her hair has not grown again.

Other girls and young women spoke of matters I do not wish to disclose here. This also applies to photos of the girls and young women concerned.

A small team from a local church have adopted the freed ISIS sex slaves. The team is training local-women in dealing with trauma and providing them with materials to help the girls and women overcome their traumata. We are planning to participate in this project and would welcome your donations.

We also came across traumatised men and boys. One eight year old boy, full of hatred, was acting extremely aggressively. He didn't want to stay in the camp but had in mind to get hold of weapons and take revenge.

One man was told that he could now return home because his town was now free from ISIS. His response: "Why should I return home? When the ISISterrorists attacked us they took 46 of us men captive. They killed 45 and I am the sole survivor."

Such stories leave us speechless. Now and again people ask me whether we don't want to give up in situations where everything is getting worse. But it is precisely these shocking stories full of unimaginable human suffering that motivate us to continue with this work. In this way we want to show these people that there is another way besides revenge, more violence or resignation. We want to give them new hope. Please help us in this endeavour.

### Kabul, Afghanistan: In the Chalou Refugee Camp

Two reasons to be happy. Firstly, the deep well has been built. It has a depth of 170 metres. 850 families in the Chaman Babrak Camp, almost 6,000 persons, finally have clean drinking water free of charge. In the past they had to drink contaminated water from the old well or buy water from the water tanker, which was often not clean. The water from the new well is excellent.

Constructing the well in winter was not at all easy. Heavy rainfall turned the whole camp into a sea of mud. Eventually, the work was completed. The well also has a pipe system so that water can be taken from seven different tap points.

Those living in the camp are overjoyed. One family father, Sabar, thanked the Shelter Now donors for solving their water problem: "For many years we have tried to get clean water. On many days my family had to choose between bread and water. We didn't have enough money for both. Now we have both. Thank you for removing this burden from our lives."

There is a second reason to be happy. At the end of January all those living in the camp received warm blankets and foodstuffs. A generous donor provided the funds to enable 850 families in the camp to get through the winter. Everyone is relieved and grateful.

Gul Nara, a young widow and mother of 4 children – her husband had died a year before – told us this story: " After my husband became sick and died life became pure misery. Although I went out begging on the streets every day all I managed to bring home was two flat breads. Then for a short while I had to experience sexual offers from men who wanted to take advantage of our desperate situation. I always told them that I would never sell my body for food. Most of the time I just cried, feeling helpless and without hope. Now I have tears of joy because this food for me and my family has rescued me from such evil minded men. I want to thank the donor from the bottom of my heart that he has prolonged our lives and helped me to keep my dignity."

#### 10 Years of Dental Care in Herat

When the German-Iranian dentist Dr. Azar Eyni opened the first modern dental clinic in the provincial



#### The school dentist in action

hospital of Herat in September 2009 it was unforeseeable that Shelter Now International would still be working in this field ten years later.

The SNI – Clinic was, as planned, handed over to the government in May 2014. More than 20,000 patients had been treated over this period of five years. In the meantime the rooms and installations of the former SN- Clinic are being used primarily for complicated extractions and oral surgery. After ten years many of the installations and equipment purchased then no longer function and urgently need replacing. The donation in kind from a Dutch dental supplier could alleviate the direst needs but the present need for new equipment requires further effort on our part. The government is only able to finance the salaries and the facility.

#### Thanks to SNI the Dentist Visits the School

After three years and the examination of over 10,000 children we are fully aware that the dentalhealth of children in Herat is poor. Over 85% of children need urgent treatment, including many children and young people requiring root canal treatment on their remaining teeth. The school dentist project seeks to counter the problem by means of teaching and preventive measures, and this with some success: 76% of the children claim that even two years after receiving teaching on dental hygiene they continue to regularly brush their teeth. As a result, SNI has found a wide open door to the school authorities. Now the classes are not only taught by their own staff members but also by teachers who have been trained in oral hygiene by our specialists. Our ambitious target is to reach all school children in Herat, a city of more than a million, with our programme by the end of 2021. Our past project funding is no longer sufficient to provide enough, teeth cleaning sets'. SNI seeks to hand out free teeth cleaning sets, in particular to kids in poorer districts of the city.

Our other projects continue to operate. For example:

The Center for the Deaf

The Women's Center

The Primary School continues to be reshaped into a kind of Montessori School

Well number 173 has now been sponsored

130,000 refugees fleeing drought in Herat supplied with food (joint project with the UN World Food Programme)

Vocational training for young orphans in Faizabad Bees and fruit trees

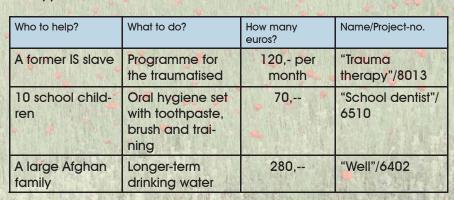
BLISS courses (prenatal training programme for low-risk birth)

and more ....

All these projects require wide-ranging support; motivated and competent workers, finances, consultation, and as a Christian organisation we are grateful for prayer for our work.

Our heartfelt thanks for all your interest and support

Udo Stolte and the Shelter Team



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