

SHELTER-REPORT

Summer 2021



Shelter Now – strong in hope and corageous in life

Dear friends and partners of Shelter Now

"Zhiyan" is the name of our new trauma therapy center. It means "Life". The facility is in the small town of Baadre in northern Iraq. It offers help to young Yazidi women who had been persecuted and enslaved by the terrorist militia IS. Udo Stolte reports on his trip to Kurdistan.

The latest news from Afghanistan makes us sit up and take notice: NATO troops are already beginning their military withdrawal from the country. Our international director Georg Taubmann comments on this in the current Report.

Warm regards

*Udo Stolte and
the Shelter Team*

SHELTER



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What moves us !

Quo vadis, Afghanistan?

As you have all learned from the media, NATO troops will be leaving Afghanistan in the very near future. Not only we at Shelter Now consider this to be the wrong decision. Our International Director Georg Taubmann describes the current situation:

„We look at these developments with great concern. The sudden and unconditional withdrawal of NATO troops could mean the rapid end of the current government, because the Afghan army and police are not able to defend their country against the Taliban without military support from NATO. Many Afghans fear the worst and are preparing to leave the country. Humanitarian organizations in the country - like us - fear that if the Taliban retake Afghanistan, our longstanding relief work may be disrupted or even halted.

On April 28, the U.S. Embassy announced that it was withdrawing Embassy personnel. On May 25, the Australian government published that it would close its embassy for security reasons. "Associated Press" reports that other embassies also have plans to withdraw embassy personnel, who are not urgently needed.

At Shelter Now, we intend to continue our humanitarian work as long as the security situation allows it. Our international staff will remain in place, but we are very concerned about this development and are preparing accordingly.“

But there are also encouraging things to report:



Images by [Amber Clay](#)/ [Pixabay](#)



„Zhiyan“ means „Live“

Former IS slaves are gaining new self-confidence in the new Zhiyan Trauma Center

Fled, Persecuted, Despised

Flashback: In March 2015, I visited the „Autonomous Region of Kurdistan“ in northern Iraq for the first time. At that time, millions of people had fled here to escape the terrorist militias of the "Islamic State". The horrific reports of the Yazidis, their terrible suffering under the IS terrorists, always move me to tears. Thousands have been murdered, girls enslaved, raped and sold, while boys were forced to kill.*) We want to help as many of them as possible to overcome these traumas in our [therapy center](#) as well.

*) Book recommendation: Nadja Murad: "The Last Girl"

Udo Stolte has returned from the official opening and here presents his impressions from Baadre, a small town in northern Iraq, capital of the Yazidis:

„It was Monday, April 12, 2021, twelve o'clock in the morning.

About 35 girls and young women arrived at the new center, all dressed in their finest clothes and looking beautiful. The red ribbon across the entrance door to the center was cut. Applause! Everyone poured into the building, speeches were made, and prayers were said. Everyone wore masks: Corona was omnipresent.

Celebrate - be happy

From the conference room we went into the large hallway. A cake buffet was set up. The girls and young women had prepared it. A big cake was cut by our international director, hand in hand with a high-ranking Yazidi leader - a beautiful symbol of our warm cooperation. Everyone enjoyed the cake, cookies, and Kurdish delicacies like baklava. I took pictures and shot videos. Suddenly, I heard my name, and was called to another room. It was a smaller room, very comfortably furnished and actually intended for therapeutic individual conversations. In the meantime, however, it was overcrowded with young women, and more and more were streaming in. They wanted photos. Masks and spacing were forgotten. Everyone was just too happy!



Back to life

In another room there were five sewing machines. Some of the young women were being trained as seamstresses. They will later earn their living or provide their families with self-sewn goods. Other vocational training is also planned. But artistic activities such as painting, various small arts, music, sports as well.

Two sentences from the opening speeches have burned themselves into my heart: One of the girls said in English: "Every day when my time at the center is over and I go home, I look forward to the next day here." And the community leader concluded by saying, "We are so grateful to Shelter Now for this center because the young women and girls will find their way back to life here."

With the full rehabilitation program up and running since the opening, project costs have also increased significantly.



Your donation moves us

Support one of our projects

How much money?
Project

Project no.
Whom do I help?

What do I donate for:

115 €

**Therapy Center
Baadre
8013**

Traumatized woman
in Kurdistan

finance the Therapy
Center for one day

35 €

**Montessori
Children's Center
8013**

Yezidi orphans

finance a child
for one month

80 €

**Literacy course
for widows
6220**

Widows in Sharak-e
Mustafa Afghanistan

Literacy course
part II, 5 month



Not ten minutes away by car in a refugee camp I visited our

Montessori Children's Center

On my arrival the orphans were just learning to play the ukulele and drums, singing, painting, learning English, and simply having great fun. Their terrible suffering under IS seemed to have been forgotten. Their joy infects me.

Fruit for Yezidi children

In the meantime we have been able to distribute fruit to Yezidi families for the third winter running. The typical winter contagious diseases that used to be especially common among children have now been almost forgotten.

***All these many projects need your support.
We wish to sincerely thank all donors. Your
donations are greatly appreciated.
Best wishes***

Udo Stolte and the Shelter Team

*Cover photo: Yezidi kids greet us happily
Montessori Children's Center*

Spendenkonto Schweiz

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