

SHELTER-REPORT

Autumn 2021



**Afghanistan:
Hope for peace
destroyed again?**

Shelter Now — *Rebuilding Lives and Restoring Hope*

Dear friends and partners of Shelter Now

Afghanistan

We are all deeply shocked by the developments in the past weeks. How deep is the horror of the people, who are without protection from the extremists? What terrible fear women, girls and their parents are facing!

There is enough finger-pointing going on now. We do not want to be a part of that. We are concerned about the people in the country. We had to close our offices for the time being - at least for a while - until it becomes clearer what course the new administration will take. According to their promises, human rights will also be respected in the future.

Will these words be followed by corresponding deeds?

Many questions, much uncertainty....

SHELTER

Was uns bewegt!

Afghanistan

Was everything in vain?

Up until the closure of our office in Kabul, we distributed baby food, bottles and nipples to hundreds of families. They were internally displaced people who had fled to Kabul in the hope that they would be safe, at least for the time being. This hope has not been fulfilled. Even before the takeover, these people were in a desperate situation. They were stuck in Kabul with nothing but their clothes on, a lot of families with children, babies had already died.

A former Afghan diplomat had heard the cry for help from these people and asked me to care for these babies. The mothers had no more milk, due to the refugee situation, the stress and their own hunger. So we were able to care for these children in the last few days.

The women express their gratitude and a spark of hope: *"At least now we know that our babies will not die because they have no milk. This gives us comfort*

and hope that we will see our children grow up."

But what will happen to them now?

Was it all in vain? All these many years of our commitment?

Absolutely not. Even if most of our projects had to be interrupted - quite a lot continues without our intervention. Examples:

- [the dental clinics](#): "Our" three clinics now belong to the government, two of them are currently running without us, the third can do so in basically the same way, the fourth clinic is still under construction,,
- [the agricultural projects](#):
 - o the cow project has been running for many years without us. Cow offspring are always passed on to new families,



Internally displaced people in Herat - hundreds of thousands are also stranded in Kabul. (Archive photo)

Anniversary on 3rd of August – *Beginning of the genocide against the Esidis*

- o the sheep project is running similarly, 1,500 families now have sheep again,
- o the saffron farmers have been working independently for years,
- [the wells](#) continue to provide clean drinking water and will certainly not be destroyed,
- [the education projects](#): Education, training, hygiene and other training have been learned and will not be unlearned.

These things give us courage in the current situation.

Of course, we hope that we will soon be able to continue the interrupted projects as well.

There is still a lot to do in Afghanistan.

Therefore, we continue to need your support.

Kurdistan

The people of Syria and Iraq experienced similar horrors seven years ago when IS invaded the country. Many thousands of people - especially the Esidis - are still suffering from the consequences of these cruel experiences. We have been working with affected families for years.

3 August marked the seventh anniversary of the start of the genocide against the Esidis. Incidentally, it was the 74th genocide against this ethnic group



Our staff member Tiffany reports:

„We were able to arrange a wonderful memorial service in our in our women's centre, where we wanted to honor the live of people of this ethnic group.

There are simply no words that can bring the comfort that is needed on a day like this. There moments when we could only look into each other's eyes - sometimes for a long time - so that that I began to feel the pain they carried in their hearts. I didn't have to find words. We held hands. We hugged each other. We cried together.

Then the girls told their stories. Each held up a picture of the people they had lost. One young girl who had been taken by ISIS could not tell their story and burst into tears. We all wiped the tears from our eyes as she held up the picture of her of her mother. We took her in our arms.

Not many words were spoken that day, but a lot of love was exchanged. We will never forget these wonderful people.”



Exhibition in the Trauma Therapy Center: "Cartridge cases for images of peace"



Commemorating the victims of the Esidis genocide



Here is a picture of my friend "Beggy" (name changed). I stood next to her most of the day. She just kept saying, „Thank you. Thank you for being with me.“

There was also a memorial service in Düsseldorf on 3 August. The "Central Council of the Yezidis in Germany" had invited us. It was a moving event, where also some high-ranking politicians spoke!

Finding a way back into life

Joy on 26. July at the Therapy Centre

Eight young women have passed the sewing course for beginners. We congratulated them on their

on their success and celebrated with them.

They learned the basic functions of the sewing machine, different cutting techniques and design.

The women were proud of their certificates and expressed deep gratitude: "This is a very practical course and we are very happy that we have completed it" With these new skills, their chances for a better future increase.

Your donation moves us

For all your support we thank you from the bottom of our heart!

Right picture: Children from Sharya Camp – [Shelter Now relief program](#)

Retournees to nineveh

This is the kind of practical support we want to give to the returnees to Nineveh.

After being driven out of their homeland seven years ago, many want to return and build a new life. In Nineveh, we support them with food, school materials and basic medical care.

Many express their gratitude. One woman proudly reported her son's progress in school. A widow who has to care for her children alone was grateful for the food she received.

For all your support we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Warm regards,

Udo Stolte with the shelter team



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