



SHELTER-NEWS

Summer 2018

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Dear Friends and Partners of Shelter Now

The new EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) obliges us to undertake various measures. We have always handled private data carefully and now data protection has been further tightened. With regard to our Shelter-Report we are required to write to all recipients asking you to inform us if you no longer wish to have these circulars sent. Thank you.

Now back to our passion – serving the needy:

- A very successful trip to Kurdistan in connection with an interesting project which provides refugees with live chickens and geese*
- The opening of a new office in Erbil gives our organisation a more permanent and effective presence in Kurdistan*
- By means of your support we have already been able to build more than 130 wells in Afghanistan*

Enjoy reading our eventful reports on the these topics!

*Warm regards,
Udo Stolte and the Shelter Team*



Shelter Now – Rebuilding lives - Restoring hope

SHELTER-Report

Chickens and geese for Kurdish refugees

A report by Udo Stolte on his April trip to Kurdistan in North Iraq:

I returned to Kurdistan in April in a state of apprehension, not knowing whether I would be allowed entry or not. Last September I was unable to enter due to the closure of all international airports following the independence referendum.

The referendum on the the independence of the Kurdish part of N. Iraq took place on the 25th of September 2017. The alleged turnout was more than 70%, of which around 92% voted for independence. The Iraqi Supreme Court declared the vote unconstitutional and the results null and void. The Iraqi parliament reacted by calling on the president to send troops to the disputed region. There were massive political irritations; a destabilisation of the security situation; the Turkish government threatened to close important oil pipelines; the USA, Europe and many other governments opposed the referendum whereas Israel endorsed it. The airports in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah were closed for air traffic.

Towards the end of April Erbil airport was reopened and I immediately made travel plans. Our trainee Anthony joined me for the trip to Erbil. We had great excitement and expectation as we flew to see friends, partners and the refugees we had been working with for more than three years.

Poultry Project

I had prepared the project in advance. The aim was to distribute live poultry to refugees. This would enable them to become more self sufficient and one day be no longer dependent on food distribution. Of course, there were a number of matters to be clarified:

- Do the refugees have any experience in keeping animals?
- Are there any religious concerns?
- What form should the participation of the beneficiaries take?
- How will we finance this project?

The following answers emerged from the discussions: The refugees do have previous experience; they would like to take care of housing and feed; they have no religious reservations related to the poultry project. Concerning finance - half of the required funding suddenly arrived from Shelter Now UK and we were in a position to transfer 20,000 euros for the project. Our partners on site, Ari and Aram,



The refugees are overjoyed....



... with the newly arrived chickens...



... and geese.



Children having fun with our presents.

now have their hands full. Each family is to receive six chickens and the same number of geese (in each case made up of one male and five females). Chickens are available at the local market but geese must be purchased directly from the breeders.

Our two partners somehow managed to acquire the necessary live poultry before we reached Sulaymaniyah. On arrival they took us straight to one of the camps where the birds were waiting. It was a hot day so we did not want to keep them in cages on the loading area of the pick-up truck any longer. The refugees were eagerly awaiting us. The men had already prepared housing for the chickens and geese so we could quickly distribute them to their new homes. The one hour operation was accompanied by loud protest from the chickens and even louder cries of protest from the geese. This was only the first camp. We then hastily drove to the next camp and the same procedure: chickens, geese and refugees; women, men, children, our partners, ourselves – all of us caught up together in an indescribably happy chaos!

We had brought balloons and rubber bands for the children that our trainee had coloured beforehand. We taught them how to play a game resembling hopscotch and jumping rope (Chinese ropes), which was very popular in school playgrounds decades ago. The children in the camp thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Some of the refugees told us that they had already built the chicken houses before they even knew about our project, because some of the children had dreamt of someone who would buy them geese and chickens for breeding purposes.

In the meantime several new families have arrived in the camps and have asked if they too could have some live poultry.

A new office

Ever since we began working in Kurdistan we have been planning to open an office there. The difficulty though was finding suitable staff members who would be willing to live and work in such a country. As we all know Kurdistan is not exactly a safe region. In a short space of time a young family contacted us. Six months ago we rented a house in a pleasant area of the capital, Erbil, for a very reasonable price. The family recently moved in.

Everything is new for them; the language; a different culture; friends and family far away. The children cannot simply play outside on the street and they also need to find a kindergarten. They have to get used to power cuts as well tap water that is not safe to drink. At present the family is working their way through

all the many challenges. We hope that they will soon be joined by other team members. Many things will be much easier once a team has been established. We are wondering how everything will develop.

Refugee children at school



The Ezidi kids can return to school at last.

You may remember that we financed a year of schooling for 48 children from Ezidi refugee families. We had the opportunity to visit them and were delighted to experience their enthusiasm to learn. The teachers, themselves refugees, were also highly committed. The parents urgently asked us to fund a further school year as well. We agreed.

Wells in Afghanistan – it began with Salome, Esperanza and Nathanael

I often share this fascinating story. In 2012 parents phoned me: *“We have two children and a third is on the way. We want each of them to have a well. Can we sponsor three wells in Afghanistan which each bear the name of one of our children? We would then give the photo of each child’s well to them on their birthday”.*

It was doable! So now the children each have their own well and an idea was born.

We have now been able to build 133 wells in the same manner. Thousands of Afghans now have direct access to clean drinking water long term. They no longer need to carry water many kilometres, nor do they have to drink water from rivers that are often contaminated. The locals are extremely grateful. One mother told me, *“Every time I climbed up the mountain with my children to fetch water in the winter I was very afraid. This new well is a great relief. We want to sincerely thank you and the donors that you are so concerned about us, particularly our children. We pray that God will bless you all the more.”*

These days a well costs upwards of 2000 euros because we have to bore deeper. It provides on average clean drinking water for 35 families (250 persons) long term. If we receive a donation of 950 euros or more for a well we will contribute the rest. The donor can decide what he/she wants to write as an inscription on the well and each one receives a personal certificate and some photos.

Long term drinking water for a family:	57 euros
Donating a well:	950 euros and upwards
6 breeding-chickens for Kurdish refugees:	90 euros
6 breeding-geese:	115 euros
School materials and transport for 1 refugee child	
One school year:	400 euros
One month:	44 euros

We are only able to present a few projects here. You will find more on our website.

We maintain a total of 30 projects in Afghanistan at present.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of you. Your support has made this work possible.

Udo Stolte
and the Shelter Team



One of our first wells...



... and one of the most recent.

Spendenkonto Schweiz Shelter Now Germany e.V. Postfinance Bank Kto. 60-798660-9
BIC (SWIFT): POFICHBEXXX IBAN: CH61 0900 0000 6079 8660 9

European account details Shelter Now Germany e.V. NORD / LB Hannover Kto. 25 23 058
SWIFT: NOLADE2H IBAN: DE65 2505 0000 0002 5230 58

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IBAN

06

Datum

Unterschrift(en)

IBAN des Auftraggebers

Beleg/Quittung für den Auftraggeber

Begünstigter:

SHELTER NOW GERMANY E.V.

IBAN des Begünstigten:

DE65 250500000002523058

Kreditinstitut des Begünstigten:

Euro

Auftraggeber/Einzahler:

Verwendungszweck:

Abzugsfähige Spende

Bestätigung zur Vorlage beim Finanzamt

Bei Bareinzahlung Empfängerbestätigung des annehmenden Kreditinstituts

SPENDE