

SHELTER-REPORT

June 2023



- Earthquakes in Syria and Turkey - what have we been able to do so far?
- Exciting trip to northern Iraq
- What's going on in Afghanistan?



SHELTER

Shelter Now — Rebuilding Lives and Restoring Hope
40 Years of Humanitarian Work in the Near and Middle East www.shelter.de



The catastrophic earthquake...

... in Turkey and Syria now has hardly any media presence. But those affected continue to suffer for a long time: from the loss of their loved ones, from their own injuries, from impoverishment and last but not least from the loss of their homes.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all of you who have supported our aid projects, in some cases very generously. Through your donations, we were able to help many people, especially in northern Syria: Our teams visited affected people and gave them financial contributions for food, baby food; blankets and necessary hygiene items. A civil

engineer assessed damaged houses. When repairs were possible and useful, we financed them. For the time of repair, we provided rental housing for the families.

Our employees were completely shocked on their first visit to the earthquake zone - not only by the extent of the destruction, but also by the people affected, many of whom were in a kind of state of shock and unable to answer any questions, not even those about what they needed most urgently. So the outreaches of our teams were a great encouragement and a help for them to get back to life.



The Children's Center for Yazidi Kids

Already in March we were in Kurdistan with four employees of Shelter Now Germany - two of them for the first time - to visit our projects. Our employee Johannes did not hesitate and immediately joined the football training in our children's center, to the great joy of the eight to twelve year old players. By the way, they have been trained for months by Marcello, our employee from the Shelter Now Kurdistan team. He says: "In the beginning, the boys just wanted to kick the ball. There were no rules. Now there is more and more team spirit, the children see themselves as a team and support each other. Along the way, aggressive behavior is also reduced."

I myself enjoyed picking up a guitar and teaching simple English songs to kids at the center. Christina, Marcello's wife also works at the center and told me a few days ago that the kids still sing these songs. Music brings healing to the children from the trauma they have experienced from the atrocities of IS.

When the children come to the center, songs are sung as a "warm-up." Everyone enthusiastically joins in the movements that go with them. We put a short clip about this on our website.

When Helen, the director, started the children's center seven years ago, there were 60 kids, but now there are over 200! Because there is not enough space for so many, they now come in turns, always 100 one week and 100 the next. We are looking for ways to expand. It's hard to tear myself away from so many enthusiastic boys and girls every time. But we have to keep going.

Our rehab center for IS-persecuted and enslaved girls and women.

"Zhian" means "life" was a headline in a previous Shelter Report. While we men visited and documented a food distribution in the Yazidi capital Baadre, the two women visited the rehab center. Anke Beneke reports:

At Zhian Rehab Center, one of the uncounted Yazidi holidays is celebrated in advance. The participants of all sewing courses are invited. Soon we are part of an expectant group of beautifully dressed women, who are happy to be taken along by our psychologist Esdehar. There is much laughter and joking, joyful and hilarious celebrations. One of the women proudly shows us her self-sewn dress. Sigi Stolte remembers her first visit to these women five years ago, when the mood was still reserved and depressed. That is completely different now. The women visibly enjoy the time when they can do something for themselves - including the lunch prepared by many volunteers.



The container school in Sulaymaniya,...

... which is also attended by the Yazidi children in our care, was in a desolate condition. With your financial support we were able to renovate it: new floors - the old ones already had big holes - and other measures finally allow an undisturbed school operation again. However, one thing is still missing: a large room for art lessons.

The rooms are used for two purposes: In the morning by the 200 students of the secondary classes and in the afternoon by the 255 elementary school children. By the way, when we visited the school, it was "Teachers Day". All the children were dressed festively and had practiced songs for the teachers, which they performed with great fun.

Turkeys for Yazidi families - a pilot project

Two weeks ago, five Yazidi families received 20 young turkeys each. These will be fed, well cared for and will be sold for profit in late fall. The profits will be reinvested. To purchase the animals, the families have received a loan that will be repaid within three years. After that, the families can continue the program on their own.

The people in Afghanistan suffer

The hardship in the country seems to be getting worse and worse. People are losing their jobs, food is becoming more and more expensive, and more and more people are starving. The WFP (United Nations World Food Program) is also reducing food aid, which will further exacerbate the situation.

Despite everything, we are not giving up. Our teams in the country, with great commitment, continue to maintain most of the projects, among which:

- the deaf center is moving to a better building,
- the elementary school is running with the Montessori program implemented by our highly motivated teachers - to the great joy of the children who are receiving a comprehensive education.

- The mother and child dental clinic in Herat is also moving.

- The rural dental clinic in Shekiban (Herat province) is fully established and has now received official approval; as soon as the contract (MoU) is signed, it can start.

We will not leave the people in Afghanistan alone. Please help us with your support. For all donations we thank you very much.

**Your Udo Stolte
with the Shelter Team.**

Your donation moves us

Support one of our projects

How much money? Project	250 € Earthquake Relief Syria 9002	65 € Montessori Primaryschool Kabul 6200	30 € Pilotproject turkey 8015
Project no.			
Whom do I help?	An earthquake-affected family	A child from Kabul	one yazidi family
What do I donate for:	Rent for three month	Schoolfees for three month	A young turkey, inclusive rearing

Spendenkonto Schweiz

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