

SHELTER-REPORT

spring 2024



Farewell to Udo Stolt

New director: Matthias Stechert

Celebration on March 23, 2024



SHELTER

Shelter Now — Rebuilding Lives and Restoring Hope

40 Years of Humanitarian Work in the Near and Middle East www.shelter.de



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What moves us!

Farewell to Udo Stolte

New director: Udo Stolte hands over to Matthias Stechert - celebration on March 23, 2024

After more than 30 years, Udo Stolte is handing over the management of Shelter Now Germany e.V.. His successor will be Matthias Stechert. The ceremonial handover will take place on Saturday, 23.03.2024 at 16:00 in the ChristusZentrum Braunschweig (Am alten Bahnhof 15).

A warm invitation to all interested persons and supporters!

In the early 1980s, Udo began to raise support for his friend Georg Taubmann (now international director of Shelter Now), copying and distributing his newsletters. At the time, he was working among Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

In 1993, Udo initiated the founding of Shelter Now Germany e.V. association in order to provide a sustainable foundation for the work of Shelter Now. In the process of the hostage-taking of Shelter Now staff in Afghanistan in 2001, the demands on the work increase massively. Udo quits his teaching job and starts working full-time as the association's managing director.

Now he wants to pass this task on to the next generation and has now found a successor. From April 2024, Matthias Stechert will take over the position of Managing Director and Chairman of the Board. Matthias has been working with the Shelter team in Braunschweig since summer 2023.



Matthias is married and has two small children. He is connected to the work of Shelter through personal contacts and his church - the ChristusZentrum Braunschweig. Before his time in Braunschweig, he spent a voluntary year abroad in Central Asia as a learning assistant.

Udo will be consulting Matthias, especially during the first few months. Together with the Shelter team, Matthias wants to prepare the organization for future generations.



Photo: Matthias Stechert, back left, gets to know the team there on a fieldtrip to Kurdistan with Georg and Marianne Taubmann in spring 2023.

Picture bottom left: Udo and Sieglinde Stolte visit the children's center in Kurdistan.

Children's center in Kurdistan expanded

Already mentioned in the last report - the children's center now provides even more opportunities for playing and learning.

The extension, which cost a total of EUR 80,000, includes new classrooms, a playground (see photo below) and a covered soccer field with artificial turf.

The children at Essian Camp near the city of Baadre had been eagerly awaiting the reopening for a long time. In October, the time had finally come. The dedicated team of educators and teachers has been running the children's center since 2019. "Back then, we started with 60 children," says Helin, the director. The number of children has grown to 330 girls and boys in recent years, making an expansion necessary.

Some of the children were born in the camp, their parents had fled from IS since 2014 and are still unable to return home safely. The families in the camp do not receive support from the World Food Program anymore. Shelter Now is one of a few other organizations working here.

For many children, the children's center is the only opportunity to experience something like a carefree childhood.

We want to give these young people a piece of their childhood. Sharing knowledge and values can make a decisive difference in the lives of these children. The lessons at the children's center are a welcome change from the dull everyday life at the camp. It is particularly important that the children feel noticed and valued here.



The director Helin reports on twelve-year-old Riyadh Qasim:

"At the beginning of his time with us, he was a difficult character. He showed stubborn and aggressive behavior, which made it difficult for him to build good relationships with other children. His temper often manifested itself in swearing and physical aggression towards his peers. He was restless, refused to stay in one place and was constantly looking for new things to do. However, after spending some time at the center and making friends with other children through various activities and stories, Riyadh made a remarkable change. He turned into one of the calmest and most respectful children. Not only did he learn to control his anger, but he also became able to participate in group games and develop compassion for his fellow peers. Riyadh learned the importance of respecting others rather than insulting them, and he was able to develop a new, positive attitude and leave his previous problems behind."



Afghanistan: *Winter Relief*

Well over 7000 people also received urgently needed food packages this winter. Many lives were saved as a result.

The picture shows a distribution in the province of Kandahar. The food supply situation remains critical. Especially for the refugees driven back to Afghanistan by the Pakistani government, it is still a challenge to feed these families.

A big thank you to all supporters.

Udo Stolte and the Shelter Team.

Your donation moves us

Support one of our projects

How much money?
Project

Project no.
Whom do I help?
What do I donate for:

20 €
Dental clinic Herat and Shekiban

6500
one Afghan

checkup and hygiene course

30 €
Montessori Children Center

8011
one jesidy child

one month at the children center

100 €
Winter Relief Afghanistan

6000
one family

a food package

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