

# ***SHELTER-REPORT***

March 2025

A garden for the trauma  
center in Kurdistan

Launch of the Pave  
educational center a success



***SHELTER***

**Shelter Now** — Rebuilding Lives and Restoring Hope

41 Years of Humanitarian Work in the Near and Middle East [www.shelter.de](http://www.shelter.de)





# Trauma center in Kurdistan: sewing course completed, garden inaugurated

*Since the start of the center four years ago, we have heard many encouraging stories. Women and girls who have been enslaved by Isis receive psychological help to deal with their trauma. There are also training initiatives in which the women develop new skills that they can use to earn some extra money.*

One of these initiatives, a sewing course, was completed a few days ago. Congratulations to the 12 graduates! They can keep the sewing machine they learned on and continue to use it. One participant reported that she was looking forward to "sewing clothes for my family and myself". The newly acquired skills enable the graduates to contribute to their family's livelihood. In 2024, we ran a total of five sewing courses.

The building itself is also developing. A small courtyard next to the building was cleared and planted with a garden project. This spring, a small oasis will blossom here, where the women can also experience a place of peace and beauty outside. A room for pastoral care and confidential one-to-one conversations has also been set up.

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# Pave Center

Meanwhile, the Pave Center in Sheikhan Camp, about 10 kilometers from Baadre, has started operations (we reported on this in the September Report 2024). Although the children and young people are already registered at other schools, many are unable to read or write. Specific support approaches, such as Montessori education, are used to compensate for learning difficulties and teach practical skills.

Many of the students' families are still living in tent camps with no real prospect of improvement since fleeing the Isis terror group in 2014. The center was launched last year to give these children a perspective. In addition to knowledge, values and appreciation are taught here. The creative and practical teaching methods are supplemented by training opportunities such as hairdressing, phone repair and sewing for the older children.

Classes are held in groups three days a week. In addition to reading, writing, math and English lessons, psychological support is also provided. Sports activities such as soccer and volleyball are also part of the program. Sport promotes teamwork and self-confidence among the children and also helps them to deal with traumatic experiences.

A daily hot lunch is also provided and home visits support the families if necessary.

***»The Pave Center offers the children and young people in Sheikhan Camp a valuable opportunity for a self-determined future with better prospects.«***

The Pave Center offers children and young people a valuable opportunity for a self-determined future with better prospects. The children and young people at Sheikhan Camp show a high willingness to learn and make positive changes to their behavior. They discover their talents through creative activities and benefit from psychological support. Here are two short reports from children at the center:

## ***Azad, 12 years old***

Azad initially showed aggressive behavior towards other children and resisted the teachers. During a home visit, the teachers learned about the problems in his family, especially the harsh treatment by his father. This contributed to Azad's difficulties at school, particularly in reading, writing and arithmetic. After three difficult years at school, Azad changed within two months at the new center. He made friends, became more polite and was able to concentrate for longer. His school performance improved and he successfully passed his exams. Azad is very grateful and sees his positive changes.

## ***Salim***

Salim considered himself above others because of his religious background and insulted his classmates and their families. After patient support from the

teachers, Salim began to respect others more and was no longer so arrogant. After initially refusing, Salim apologized to his classmates and has since been a positive influence by encouraging other students to behave kindly.

Another piece of good news from Kurdistan reached us recently: After a long preparation period, our new employee Zoe was finally able to join the team on site. We are happy to welcome her to Shelter Now.

## Health center in Afrin/Syria

In spring 2023, we called for donations for the earthquake region around northern Syria. For a long time, it was difficult to provide effective support, especially in Syria. With our project partner, we are now able to help build a health center in Afrin, northern Syria. The aim of this project is to give people in this rural area access to medical care and to strengthen the region long-term by creating infrastructure. The shell of the building was completed last year. Now the finishing work is continuing

**»The aim of this project is to give people in this rural area access to medical care and to strengthen the region long-term by creating infrastructure.«**

Thank you for your support.

Yours, Matthias Stechert with 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:

**30 €**  
Children Center  
Baadre  
8011  
A child

Support for  
one month

**300 €**  
Pave Educational  
Center  
8016  
A teacher

Salary for  
one month

**100 €**  
Trauma-Centre  
in Baadre  
8013  
A yezidi woman

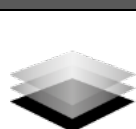
Support for  
one month

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Transparente  
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Shelter Now Germany e.V.  
Waisenhausdamm 4  
38100 Braunschweig

phone: 0531/88 53 957  
mail: [info@shelter.de](mailto:info@shelter.de)  
web: [www.shelter.de](http://www.shelter.de)