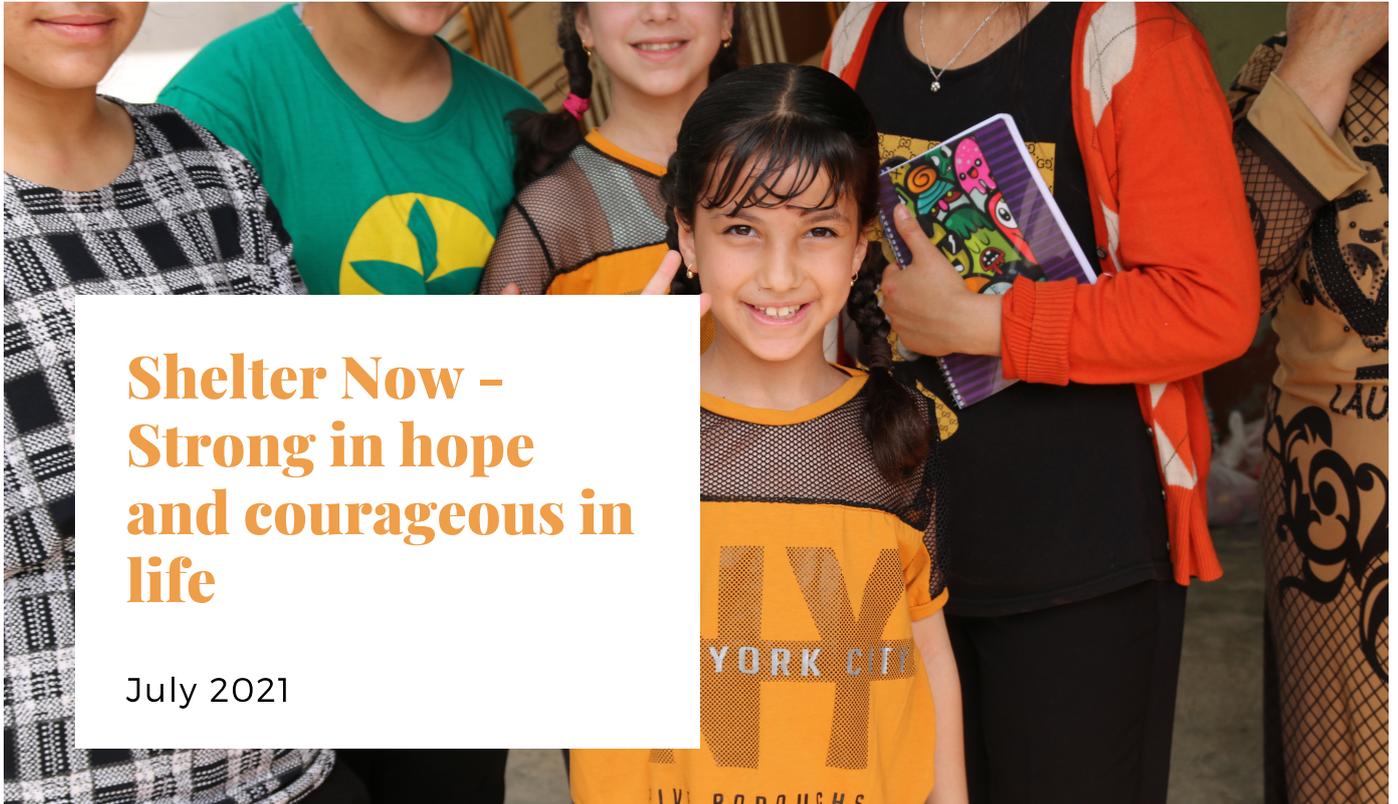


# SHELTER NEWSLETTER

[www.shelternow.org.au](http://www.shelternow.org.au)



**Shelter Now -  
Strong in hope  
and courageous in  
life**

July 2021

**Dear  
friends and  
partners of  
Shelter Now**

"Zhiyan" is the name of our new trauma therapy center. It means "Life". The facility is in the small town of Baadre in Northern Iraq. It offers help to young Yazidi women who had been persecuted and enslaved by the terrorist militia IS. Udo Stolte reports on his trip to Kurdistan.

The latest news from Afghanistan makes us sit up and take notice: NATO troops are already beginning their military withdrawal from the country. Our international director Georg Taubmann comments on this in the current Report.

Warm regards  
Udo Stolte and  
The Shelter Team



# Quo vadis, Afghanistan?

As you have all learned from the media, NATO troops will be leaving Afghanistan in the very near future. Not only do we at Shelter Now consider this to be a wrong decision, Our International Director Georg Taubmann describes the current situation:



## *"Zhiyan" means "Live"*

**Former IS slaves are gaining self-confidence in the new Zhiyan Trauma Center**



We look at these developments with great concern. The sudden and unconditional withdrawal of NATO troops could mean the rapid end of the current government because the Afghan army and police are not able to defend their country against the Taliban without military support from NATO. Many Afghans fear the worst and are preparing to leave the country.

Humanitarian organizations in the country - like us - fear that if the Taliban retake Afghanistan, our longstanding relief work may be disrupted or even halted.

On April 28, the U.S. Embassy announced that it was withdrawing Embassy personnel. On May 25, the Australian government published that it would close its embassy for security reasons. "Associated Press" reports that other embassies also have plans to withdraw embassy personnel who are not urgently needed. At Shelter Now, we intend to continue our humanitarian work as long as the security situation allows it. Our international staff will remain in place, but we are very concerned about this development and are preparing accordingly."

But there are also encouraging things to report:

**Udo Stolte has returned from the official opening and here presents his impressions from Baadre, a small town in northern Iraq, capital of the Yazidis:**

**It was Monday, April 12, 2021, at twelve o'clock in the morning...**

About 35 girls and young women arrived at the new center, All dressed in their finest clothes and looking beautiful. The red ribbon across the entrance door to the center was cut. Applause! Everyone poured into the building, speeches were made, and prayers were said. Everyone wore masks: Corona was omnipresent.



## Fled, Persecuted, Despised

Flashback: In March 2015, I visited the "Autonomous Region of Kurdistan" in Northern Iraq for the first time. At that time, millions of people had fled here to escape the terrorist militias of the "Islamic State". The horrific reports of the Yazidis, their terrible suffering under the IS terrorists, always move me to tears. Thousands have been murdered, girls enslaved, raped, and sold, while boys were forced to kill. (We want to help as many of them as possible to overcome these traumas in our therapy center as well)

Book recommendation: Nadja Murad: "The Last Girl"



## Celebrate - be happy

From the conference room we went into the large hallway. A cake buffet was set up. The girls and young women had prepared it. A big cake was cut by our international director, hand in hand with a high-ranking Yazidi leader - a beautiful symbol of our warm cooperation. Everyone enjoyed the cake, cookies, and Kurdish delicacies like baklava. I took pictures and shot videos. Suddenly, I heard my name, and was called to another room. It was a smaller room, very comfortably furnished and actually intended for therapeutic individual conversations. In the meantime, however, it was overcrowded with young women, and more and more were streaming in. They wanted photos. Masks and spacing were forgotten. Everyone was just too happy



## Back To Life

In another room there were five sewing machines. Some of the young women were being trained as seamstresses. They will later earn their living or provide their families with self-sewn goods. Other vocational training is also planned. But artistic activities such as painting, various small arts, music, sports as well. Two sentences from the opening speeches have burned themselves into my heart: One of the girls said in English: "Every day when my time at the center is over and I go home, I look forward to the next day here." And the community leader concluded by saying, "We are so grateful to Shelter Now for this center because the young women and girls will find their way back to life here". With the full rehabilitation program up and running since the opening, project costs have also increased significantly.



All these many projects need your support. We wish to sincerely thank all donors. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Best wishes  
Udo Stolte and The Shelter Team



**Cover photo: Yezidi kids greet us happily  
Montessori Children's Center**



Not ten minutes away by car in a refugee camp I visited our

## Montessori Children's Center

On my arrival the orphans were just learning to play the ukulele and drums, singing, painting, learning English, and simply having great fun. Their terrible suffering under IS seemed to have been forgotten. Their joy infects me.

## Fruit For Yezidi Children

In the meantime we have been able to distribute fruit to Yezidi families for the third winter running. The typical winter contagious diseases that used to be especially common among children have now been almost forgotten.

# Your Donation Moves Us

## Support One Of Our Projects

<b>How much money?</b>	<b>\$183</b>	<b>\$56</b>	<b>\$127</b>
<b>Project</b>	Therapy Center Badre	Montessori Children's Centre	Literacy Course For Widows
<b>Project No.</b>	<b>8013</b>	<b>8013</b>	<b>6220</b>
<b>Whom do I help?</b>	Traumatized Women in Kurdistan	Yezidi Orphans	Widows in Sharak-e-Mustafa Afghanistan
<b>What do I donate for:</b>	<b>Finance the Therapy Centre for one day</b>	<b>Finance a child for One Month</b>	<b>Literacy Course Part II 5 Months</b>



**Suite 16, 476 Canterbury Road  
Forest Hill 3131, VIC  
Mail: - admin@shelternow.org.au  
Web: www.shelternow.org.au**

**Shelter Australia Ltd  
Bendigo Bank  
BSB 633 000  
A/C 1509 31376**

