



# YAZDA

## A GLOBAL YAZIDI ORGANISATION

[WWW.YAZDA.ORG](http://WWW.YAZDA.ORG)    [INFO@YAZDA.ORG](mailto:INFO@YAZDA.ORG)

## STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT

- Beginning on August 3, 2014, ISIS launched a genocidal attack on Yazidi communities in the Mount Sinjar area.
- The largest known massacre took place in Kocho, where nearly every male over the age of 12 was killed, approximately 400 murders.
- To date:
  - > 5,000 Yazidis murdered
  - > 7,000 Yazidis abducted
  - > 400,000 Yazidis displaced
- 2,576 women and children have escaped or been rescued from ISIS enslavement.
- Approximately 1,600 former ISIS enslaved victims remain in Iraq, while the rest are receiving treatment in Germany under Baden-Württemberg's Projekt Sonderkontingent Nordirak (Special Quota Project).
- According to female survivors of ISIS enslavement, hundreds of young Yazidi women and girls have committed suicide to avoid further rape and extreme violence by Islamic State militants.

# YAZDA



## A GLOBAL YAZIDI ORGANISATION

**YAZDA** was established in 2014 by Yazidi Americans following the campaign of ethnic cleansing and sexual enslavement that was conducted by the self-declared 'Islamic State'(IS). This campaign was part of a project of attempted genocide that sought to eradicate the Yazidi community from the region.

Yazda was formed to respond to the various needs of the displaced and traumatised Yazidi community as well as other ethnic-religious minorities in Iraq. Its mission is to support the surviving victims of the genocide and to ensure the future safety of Yazidis and other ethnic-religious minorities in Iraq and Syria.

Yazda was designated one of the Top 10 Most Innovative Companies in Social Good by Fast Food Company magazine for 2017.

Yazda is made up of roughly 90 staff and over 300 volunteers around the globe have been involved in activities since the opening in 2014.



## YAZDA'S PROJECTS SINE 2014

### ADVOCACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

- Sponsoring and supporting the campaign of Ms Nadia Murad, Yazidi survivor of IS captivity and UNODC Goodwill Ambassador, as well as her initiative which aims to provide humanitarian support to victims of genocide
- Genocide Documentation Centre
- Forensic architecture project with Luis Ocampo and Goldsmiths, University of University
- Campaign with Amal Clooney for prosecution of IS leaders and activists for genocide before a competent international tribunal
- Targeted worldwide advocacy campaign to promote the rights and humanitarian needs of Yazidis and other ethnic-religious minorities in Iraq and Syria

### PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL SUPPORT OF SURVIVORS

- IT platform for database storage and analysis of all survivor cases.
- Psychosocial Treatment and Trauma Support Centre for female survivors of ISI enslavement
- Children Program for children survivors of captivity, brainwashing, child soldiering
- Case management of severe trauma cases
- Expatriation Program - administrative support
- Legal support to receive life-long pension, replacement of lost documents (IDs, Marriage and birth certificates)

### MEDICAL SERVICES

- Mobile medical service (ambulance) on Mount Sinjar for displaced people and returnees.
- Essyan Camp for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Primary Health Care Centre - (Completed in December 2016)

### DIRECT ASSISTANCE

- Advancement of reconstruction in areas devastated by IS - School building, distributing direct assistance (goats, chicken, bee hives) and winterising materials (tarpaulins, heaters, kerosene, blankets)

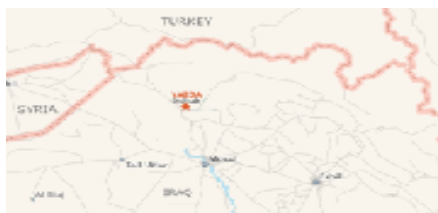
### EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- Religious, Identity and good living practices program in 4 IDP Camps
- University students advancement workshops (Completed in June 2016)

Jun 2015 - ongoing



# WOMEN'S PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT



**NEEDS AND GOALS:** Yazda opened the Women's Centre to support the vast number of women who suffered imprisonment, abuse, physical and psychological trauma, and find themselves unable to cope, isolated, and without means for a dignified life. Following the 2014 assault on yazidi villages in Sinjar, many found shelter in refugee/IDP camps around Dohuk while many others, after falling captive, have gradually escaped reaching Dohuk in desperate conditions.

## IN NUMBERS:

**240,000:** POPULATION IN REFUGEE / IDP CAMPS AROUND DOHUK

**116,000:** WOMEN POPULATION IN CAMPS ARONUD DOHUK

**100,000:** YAZIDI WOMEN IN CAMPS ARONUD DOHUK

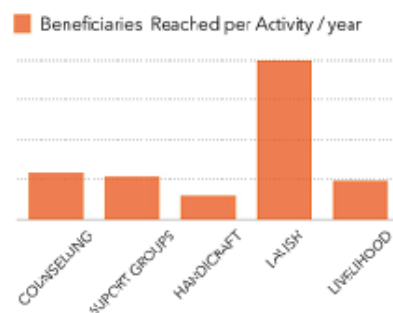


**PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:** The opening of the Women's centre in June 2015 attracted quickly vast numbers of women from the IDP camps. As survivors found freedom and reached Dohuk, they came to know about Yazda's activities and also joined in. Yazda, through its Women's Centre, offers a range of activities aimed at the psychological support of victims and vulnerable women and their children, as well as activities to recreate community bonds and promote support groups. Pilgrimages to the sacred site of Lalish are included as a journey of reintegration in the community. Here, religious and spiritual leaders, offering their welcome to the victims, allow the healing of guilt and shame. Practical support is also given through the distribution of blankets, clothes, food, and livelihood (goats, chicken, sewing machines..) to survivors that reach Yazda

Yazada staff engaged in this project includes 1 project manager, 4 case managers and drivers with minivan and cars.

## THE ACTIVITIES IN 2016 REACHED A TOTAL OF 1500 WOMEN:

1. **COUNSELLING** and one-to-one psychological support is offered to approx 20 women/month over several sessions according to need. Referral to specialised services when necessary.
2. **SUPPORT GROUPS** to address psychologically challenging issues: groups of 35 women meet in cycles of 8 weekly sessions.
3. **HANDICRAFTS** as a therapeutic and social space, and baking classes as part of the socialising and empowering process. Groups of 35 women meet in cycles of 8 weekly sessions for these activities. Children are welcome at Yazda's Children Program.
4. **PILGRIMAGES** to Lalish for women and children twice weekly for approx 12 people.
5. **SELF RELIANCE PROGRAM:** Distribution of livelihood items to 16 families with average size of 12 people each.



## OUR DONORS FOR THIS PROJECT



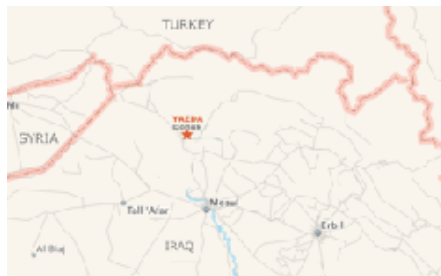
## OUR BUDGET FOR THIS PROJECT

### BUDGET OVERVIEW



2016 - ongoing

# CHILDREN PROGRAM



**NEEDS AND GOALS:** Yazda's Women's Centre runs activities for vast numbers of survivors of imprisonment, abuse, physical and psychological trauma, offering in our Dohuk centre a number of support services. The Children Program was developed for children of survivors who participate in Yazda's activities. Many cases include children with severe trauma, anger issues, lack of socialising skills as a result of imprisonment, and brainwashing by IS captors.

## IN NUMBERS:

**240,000:** POPULATION IN REFUGEE / IDP CAMPS AROUND DOHUK

**140,000:** CHILDREN POPULATION IN CAMPS AROUND DOHUK

**115,000:** YAZIDI CHILDREN IN CAMPS AROUND DOHUK



**PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:** The implementation of the Children's project is in the hands of experienced volunteers who build their experience when working informally in Refugee Camps. Started in December 2016 it organised in the first few months a variety of activities: Anger management, behaviour within the group, relaxation, basic English (alphabet) personal hygiene. Groups were organised according to age: 4 to 7, 8 to 12 and a special group for children displaying severe trauma symptoms. Groups run for 1 session every week for one month. Yazda is looking at increasing the scale of this much needed project in the near future.

GROUPS OF 15 - 20 CHILDREN

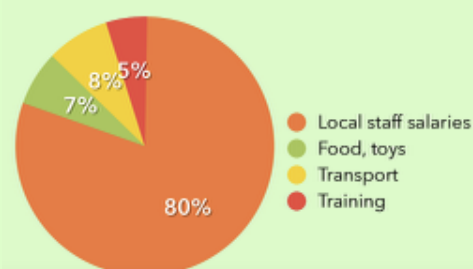
CHILDREN WITH SEVERE TRAUMA SYMPTOMS RECEIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION

## OUR DONORS FOR THIS PROJECT



## OUR BUDGET FOR THIS PROJECT

### BUDGET OVERVIEW



Jun 2015 - ongoing

# BATAQA CARDS



**NEEDS AND GOALS:** Shortly after the greatest IS attack on the Iraqi population, the central Government in Baghdad agreed to compensate the women survivors of IS atrocities through a life lasting small pension called Baraka. Since 2015 Yazda's goal was to provide Yazidi women with the necessary legal and administrative support to go through the process of obtaining the Bataqa card that entitles to this small but often life saving monthly income.

**IN NUMBERS:**

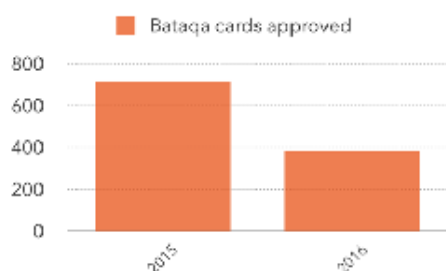
**240,000:** POPULATION IN REFUGEE / IDP CAMPS AROUND DOHUK

**116,000:** WOMEN POPULATION IN CAMPS AROUND DOHUK

**100,000:** YAZIDI WOMEN IN CAMPS AROUND DOHUK



**PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:** Applying for a Bataqa Card is a process of many steps, most of them overwhelming for the survivors. After an extensive interview with Yazda's case managers, the most vulnerable women are selected for application. Paperwork containing the individual story is then sent to Baghdad Central offices where each case is screened and evaluated. Yazda is informed of the successful candidates in a time between 3 to 6 months. During this time, Yazda staff keeps in touch with each individual person to update on the process. Some candidates manage to migrate, many in Germany, and once the Bataqa is approved, they start receiving their small pension in the new country of residence. A secondary aspect of the project is aimed at facilitating resettlement in host countries. Yazda helped resettle worldwide 86 families of Syrian born Yazidi refugees in Iraq (over 360 people), 200 survivors in Australia. A further 20 families in early 2017 were vetted for Canada.



**141 CARDS TO UNDER AGE GIRLS / 956 TO ADULT WOMEN**

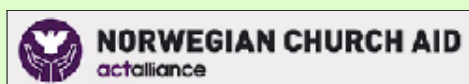
**400 WOMEN EMIGRATED OUT OF 1097 SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS**

**100 YEARS OLD IS YAZDA'S OLDEST SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT**

**100 LIVE APPLICATIONS AT ANY ONE TIME**

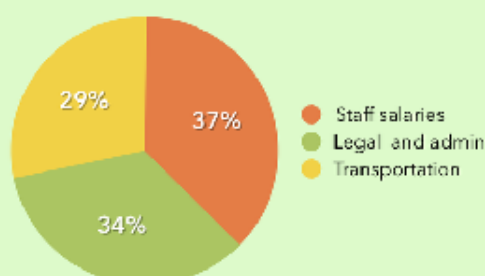
**100% OF YAZDA'S APPLICATIONS FOR BATAQA WERE SUCCESSFUL**

## OUR DONORS FOR THIS PROJECT



## OUR BUDGET FOR THIS PROJECT

### BUDGET OVERVIEW





Jun 2015 - ongoing



# GENOCIDE DOCUMENTATION



**NEEDS AND GOALS:** The brutality of the attack on the Yazidi communities in North Iraq has been under the world's eyes, causing horror and condemnation. Nadia Murad, with Yazda's support, made public the story of her personal and her people's suffering at the UN National Assembly. International Human Rights Lawyer Amal Clooney is helping Yazda to have the crimes recognised as Genocide, and to have perpetrators brought to justice within the Iraqi judicial system. Part of the advocacy effort is also to take the Iraqi Government to recognise the concept of Genocide within its legislation.

**IN NUMBERS:**

**600,000:** YAZIDI LIVING IN KURDISTAN IN 2014; **240,000:** YAZIDI NOW IN REFUGEE CAMPS  
**3,000+:** YAZIDI MEN KILLED **5,000+:** WOMEN AND CHILDREN TAKEN INTO SLAVERY



**PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:**

The legal process requires the gathering of vast amounts of supporting evidence on crimes committed, which include ethnic cleansing, forced conversion, and enslavement, sexual assault, location of mass graves and killing sites, systematic destruction of homes and infrastructures. Through the documentation centre, Yazda's goal is to organise the database where victim's interviews are gathered together with clues on perpetrators, dates, numbers, and facts. All data is collected according to international legal standards. Survivors are interviewed, recorded and filmed while telling of their traumatic experiences. Mobile phones photos and other evidence of their captivity is collected as evidence

This body of evidence is kept extremely confidential, and in the hands of international human rights lawyers such as Amal Clooney, will hopefully help bring justice and the official recognition of the yazidi suffering as "Genocide".

**THE ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED:**

1. INTERVIEWING survivors; filming, recording, translating from Kurdish into english the interview, psychologically supporting victims in remembering their sufferings.
2. PRESERVING the memory of Yazidi culture, by recording stories of life before the genocide.
3. REPORTING on mass graves currently unearthed in the Sinjar area.
4. TRAINING on how to document and on how to organise database. Trainers are experts in the field, and worked to record the Rwanda genocide of 1994.

**1,300 TESTIMONIES COLLECTED IN 2015/16**

**INTERVIEWS UP TO 6 HOURS LONG**

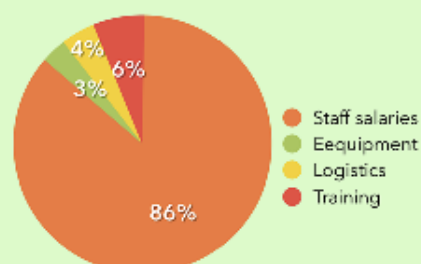
**35 MASS GRAVES UNEARTHED**

## OUR DONORS FOR THIS PROJECT

PRIVATE DONORS

## OUR BUDGET FOR THIS PROJECT

### BUDGET OVERVIEW



Jun 2015 - Dec 2016



# ESSYAN CAMP PHC



**NEEDS AND GOALS:** Yazda took responsibility of the Primary Health Care unit to provide access to basic health to the Essyan Camp population of 15,000 refugees and IDPs. Amongst the Camp residents were Yazidi, Christians, and some Muslims, all groups equally in need for basic health treatments. Yazda's goal was therefore to provide assistance as well as medicines, vaccinations, prevention treatments and information campaigns. Residents of nearby villages were also made welcome.

**IN NUMBERS:**

**18,000:** REFUGEES, IDPs AND VILLAGERS IN AND AROUND ESSYAN CAMP

**7,200:** ADULT POPULATION:

**10,800:** CHILDREN POPULATION



**PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:** The opening of the PHC was in June 2015 with the support of the local government, who regularly delivered part of the medicines needed. Yazada provided 3 doctors, several nurses, a pharmacist, a physician's assistants, and 2 lab assistants, to cover the several areas of health. Soon after the opening, an ultrasound scan was bought and used.

In 2016 the project was expanded to include 1 dentist and 1 gynaecologist from the Ministry of Health team.

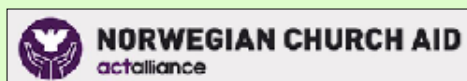
Yazda's involvement in the project terminated in December 2016.

**5,500 PATIENT VISITS / MONTH**

**700 FEMALE AND 600 MALE PATIENT VISITS / MONTH**

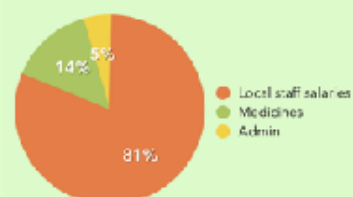
**OVER 760 CHILDREN VISITS / MONTH**

## OUR DONORS FOR THIS PROJECT



## OUR BUDGET FOR THIS PROJECT

### BUDGET OVERVIEW





Jun 2015 - ongoing

# MOBILE MEDICAL TEAM



**NEEDS AND GOALS:** Following the 2014 attacks on the Yazidi communities south of the Sinjar mountain, many families fled on the mountain and some descended on the north side where they settled in temporary shelters. Of the many IDPs in the Dohuk area, we find some those wishing to return to their home towns, have made the journey back up to the north side of Sinjar mountain. We see therefore a mixed community of returnees and of refugees, all in urgent need of the basic health services and medicines. As the government seems reluctant to provide any sort of service, Yazda established a base in north Sinjar and set up a mobile clinic that covers 34 villages, providing basic health care to the stranded population.

## IN NUMBERS:

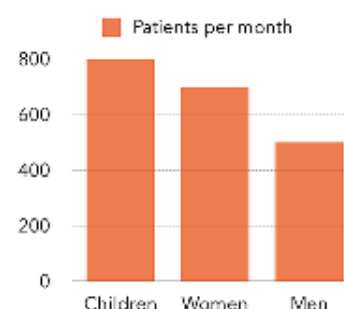
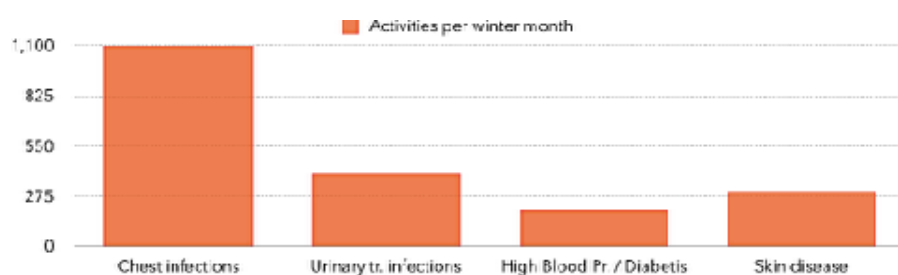
**10,000:** REFUGEES / RETURNEES IN NORTH SINJAR

**35:** VILLAGES AND TEMPORARY SETTLEMENTS

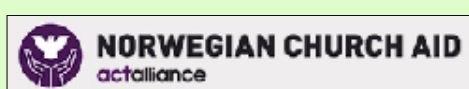


**PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:** Deployed from the Sinjar Yazda base in Sinuni, the mobile clinic regularly tours 35 villages, completing the whole round every 15-20 days. The team composed of 2 medical staff keeps a data base of patients and follows up cases as needed. The treatments provided vary from winter to summer, seeing in the cold months a prevalence of chest infections and in the summer dehydration and increased wounds due to the outdoor life. Yazda medical staff also intervenes after diagnosis of urgent cases and organises their transport by ambulance to larger facilities. The team also assesses the need for material aid for survivors (winterising materials for tents, food, fuel...) and distribution is coordinated with our Singer Outreach Program.

**35 VILLAGES COVERED OVER 2,100 PATIENT VISITS / MONTH**

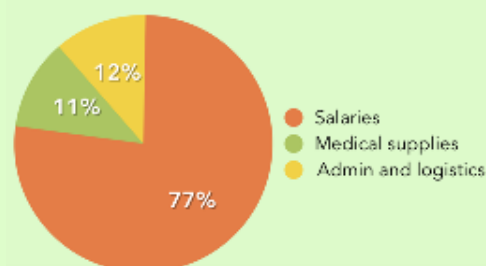


## OUR DONORS FOR THIS PROJECT



## OUR BUDGET FOR THIS PROJECT

### BUDGET OVERVIEW



# SHINGAL OUTREACH



**NEEDS AND GOALS:** Following the 2014 attacks on the Yazidi communities south of the Sinjar mountain, many families fled on the mountain and some descended on the north side where they settled in temporary shelters. Of the many IDPs in the Dohuk area, we find some that, wishing to return to their home towns, have made the journey back up to the north side of Sinjar mountain. We see therefore a mixed community of returnees and of refugees, all in urgent need of the basic support. Winterisation and livelihood are the focus of this project.

**IN NUMBERS:**

**10,000:** REFUGEES / RETURNEES IN NORTH SINJAR



**PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:** In the autumn the efforts focussed on Winterisation: improving tents by distributing tarpaulins, donating blankets and fuel for gas heaters to help the population face the cold months. In the spring -summer of 2016 the main activities were the distribution of bee hives, milking goats and egg laying chicken. Several women received sewing machines and training in their use, to allow a for a small income. The project is ongoing, and in the spring 2017 Yazda will complete the building of a school, allowing for children's return to education in the autumn.

**400 BEE HIVES - 4 PER FAMILY**

**EGG LAYING CHICKEN FOR 60 FAMILIES**

**400 MILKING GOATS**

**WINTERISATION MATERIALS TO OVER 60 FAMILIES**

**60 WOMEN TRAINED IN SEWING AND PROVIDED WITH A SEWING MACHINE**

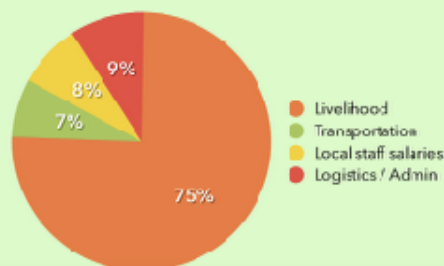
**MIDWIFERY CLASSES**

## OUR DONORS FOR THIS PROJECT



## OUR BUDGET FOR THIS PROJECT

### BUDGET OVERVIEW



Jun 2015 - ongoing

# TIREJA ROJE



**NEEDS AND GOALS:** On several occasions, the Yazidi community has been targeted with the purpose of being wiped out of the region. The latest attacks were done once again with this aim. Not only the Yazidi people have decreased in numbers, but also the antique tradition, largely oral, is at risk of being lost. Religious knowledge, transmitted through poems and songs, could be forgotten by a generation of children denied memory of the past. Yazda seeks to contribute to the continuation of the unique Yazidi tradition and culture and to the strengthening of Yazidi self-worth and dignity.

**IN NUMBERS:**

**600,000:** YAZIDI POPULATION IN KURDISTAN BEFORE 2014 ATTACKS

**240,000:** YAZIDI NOW IN REFUGEE CAMPS AROUND DOHUK



**PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:** 4 older Yazidis with religious knowledge, recognised and approved by the community, have been selected to teach sacred songs, poems, and lore to younger and older generations of Yazidi living in refugee camps. Sessions are twice weekly, and groups are organised according to age, separating children from adults. Activities take place in 4 camps around Dohuk, and are involving more and more camp residents.

The low budget of this project enables to reach large numbers over a long period, and the sessions become an occasion for socialising, learning, and discussing positive ethical principles on which the Yazidi tradition is built.

20 TO 30 CHILDREN IN EACH SESSION

2 SESSION EACH WEEK

100 ADULTS PER MONTH REACHED BY THE PROJECT

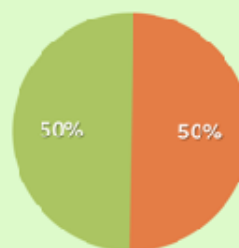
TEACHING INCLUDE RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS AND YAZIDI CULTURAL IDENTITY

## OUR DONORS FOR THIS PROJECT



## OUR BUDGET FOR THIS PROJECT

### BUDGET OVERVIEW



● Venues, Transportation and activity material  
● Religious leaders supporting fee

Jun 2015 - Jun 2016

# GOLDEN PEN



**NEEDS AND GOALS:** The discrimination against the Yazidi community has prevented many to access higher education and leadership roles in the region's economy. More so, after the 2014 attacks, the Yazidi students risked being marginalised. Yazda, in cooperation with prominent Yazidi professor Mr. Murad Alo, promoted a series of seminars and workshops for young students on a variety of topics, to strengthen their intellectual abilities and knowledge.

**IN NUMBERS:**

**20%:** YAZIDI UNIVERSITY STUDENTS OF THE WHOLE STUDENTS - DOHUK AND ZAKHO  
**50% MALE - 50% FEMALE:** YAZIDI STUDENT POPULATION

**PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:** This program provided twice weekly workshops for Yazidi young students on topics such as: intellectual development; physical health; public speaking; philosophy; public service and altruism; literature; poetry writing; improving written communication skills in Kurdish and Arabic; Yazidi spirituality and tradition; spiritual practice and meditation. These were ways to fill in student's academical gaps and to communicate a sense of empowerment and dignity through culture. Speakers were chosen for their specific knowledge, contributing to the advancement of the students.

50 STUDENTS EACH MONTH

30 TO 40 DIFFERENT SPEAKERS IN ONE YEAR

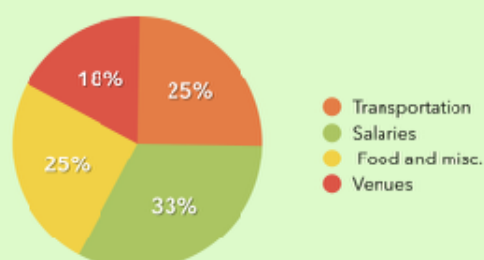
IRAQI AND INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

## OUR DONORS FOR THIS PROJECT



## OUR BUDGET FOR THIS PROJECT

### BUDGET OVERVIEW



## CENTRAL OFFICES

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## CONTRIBUTORS AND DONORS

- Afya Foundation
- Ms Amal Clooney
- Center for Global Engagement
- Global Citizens
- Health Directorate of Dohuk
- Help Iraq Organization
- Human Rights Watch
- IAHV
- Ibtisam Foundation
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- Iraq Ministry of Social Affairs
- Jiyan Foundation
- Local doctors and psychologists in Dohuk and Erbil
- Mr Luis Moreno Ocampo
- Medeor
- Norwegian Church Aid
- Preemptive Love
- Red Cross
- Samalia Foundation
- Samaritan Purse
- Sewa International
- Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Program – US Department of State
- Thomas Reuters Foundation
- Trust Law
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Vital Voices
- Watchers of the Sky