

Annual Report 2018



YAZDA
Global Yazidi Organization

Prevent and Assist.

Yazda aims to **prevent** future genocides against the Yazidi community and other minorities and to **assist** them in recovery from the 2014 genocide.

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The content has been approved by Yazda's Board of Directors.

Photos: Faris Mishko.



A Message from the President	1
Yazda - A Global Organisation	2
A- About Yazda	2
B- Vision	3
C- Mission	3
D- Structure	4
E- Offices	5
Genocide against Yazidis at a Glance	6-7
Yazda Impact in 2018: Highlights	8-10
Chyaee Asee -- The Besieged Mountain -- a film by Yazda and local Yazidi actores on the Yazidi Genocide.	11
Our Projects	12-13
Humanitarian Response	13
Return and Reintegration of IDPs in Nineveh	14
Safe Return	15-16
Administrative Support for Survivors	17
Access to Education	18
Sustainable and Resilient Livelihood Projects	19
Agricultural Project: Bashiqa	20
Health Projects	21
Accountability and Advocacy	22-23
Documentation Project	23-24
Genocide Acknowledgment: Nadia Murad	25
Mobilising Yazidi Women for Peacebuilding	26-27
the destruction of Yazidi Heritage	27
Yazda Annual Genocide Commemoration Conference in Baghdad: the Fourth Anniversary of the Yazidi Genocide	28
Yazda Event in the UK House of Commons:	29
Global Advocacy Campaigns	30
Yazidi Cultural Center	31
Yazda new Policies and Procedures	32
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2018	33
ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES	33
DONATIONS RECEIVED	33
REVENUE EXPENDITURE	34
INCOME TAXES	34
FINANCIAL RISKS	34
2018 FINANCIAL REPORT	35

1. Yazda . Global Yazidi Organization



A Message from the President

In 2018, our community was challenged by a number of external factors, including the continuing crises in Sinjar and the fact that the Yazidi community's homeland is still not safe for return. This is in addition to the blockade that has been imposed on Sinjar for no reason other than political interests. Amidst these challenges, Yazda members are becoming increasingly vocal and partnering to achieve greater impact and effectiveness, and advocating for our community's ideals with one common voice. Yazda has continued to serve as a platform for common action, strengthening its role as one of the leading NGOs working to alleviate suffering and increase human dignity for the Yazidi community --one of the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations. Throughout the course of 2018, our organization implemented multiple projects to assist the Yazidi community and other vulnerable minority populations. These programs included psychotherapy, a mobile healthcare clinic, children's programs, cultural preservation programs, a small-businesses development project, humanitarian assistance, case management for victimized women and girls, and many other temporary projects that were planned and implemented by Yazda staff and volunteers. It is only in the intertwining narratives of our staff, the strategic development of our organization, and the changed lives of our beneficiaries that the real picture becomes evident. Yazda has been serving the community with all of its energy while working with the right approach, and we are hopeful we will soon reach the light at the end of the tunnel. We are also fortunate to have such dedicated professionals on our team; Murad Ismael, Yazda's Executive Director; Ahmed Burjus, Yazda's Deputy Executive Director; and the other Yazda members and educators willing to travel to remote corners of the world to share the message of Yazidis and improve the quality of life for those in need. Yazda Board of Directors are backed by our key staff members and have spent the past four years of their life developing, implementing, and supporting initiatives that help to strengthen the unity of the Yazidi people. They are investing in the next generation's opportunities to expand their knowledge and appreciation of their history, heritage, and cultural identity. They are making a life-changing impact on individual Yazidis and preserving Yazidi life and community. Please continue your support of Yazda during this critical time, and help us help the Yazidi community repair, recuperate, and revitalize in the wake of the 2014 genocide.

All the Best,

A- About Yazda

Yazda is a non-governmental, non-profit organization established in 2014 in response to the genocide committed by the self-declared Islamic State (“IS”) against the Yazidis in Iraq. Since its inception, Yazda has worked with local and international partners to provide Yazidi Survivors with humanitarian, accountability, and advocacy services in their post-genocide recovery. Yazda has been working in Iraq since October 2014 and operates out of the main offices in Duhok in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and out of the Sinuni office in Sinjar in Nineveh Province. Yazda is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the United States and is registered in Erbil, Baghdad, the United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, and Australia.

Registration Numbers

- ❖ Yazda USA: 802053471
- ❖ Yazda Iraq: 3552 CODE 2416-F
- ❖ Yazda Kurdistan-Iraq: F-2416
- ❖ Yazda United Kingdom: Charity No 1175169
- ❖ Yazda Sweden: 802503-2767
- ❖ Yazda Germany: HRB 759508

B- Vision

Unite our Yazidi nation and prevent genocide against the Yazidis and other vulnerable minorities.

C- Mission

Prevent and Assist. Yazda aims to prevent future genocides against the Yazidi community and other minorities, and to assist them in their recovery from the 2014 genocide.

Our humanitarian mission aims to provide a holistic emergency livelihood response to vulnerable groups in Iraq. Our holistic approach comprises mental and physical health care, education, food and other aid distribution, and case management for vulnerable individuals in need of technical assistance to access government and non-government resources.

Our accountability mission aims to provide survivors with a sense of justice for the harms endured through comprehensive documentation of testimony and evidence as well as legal assistance. Accountability is essential for the prevention of future crimes against the Yazidis and other minority groups.

Our advocacy mission is to raise awareness among our partners in the international community, particularly, foreign governments, the United Nations, and other relevant international organizations about human rights violations against the Yazidis and other vulnerable groups in Iraq and Syria. In the context of the genocide perpetrated by ISIS, we seek international recognition of this genocide, particularly by foreign governments and parliamentarians, to galvanize support for accountability initiatives and humanitarian responses. In addition, our advocacy efforts aim to support genocide survivors like Nadia Murad and Farida Khalaf to disseminate their messages worldwide. Furthermore, Yazda advocate for better services for survivors and rebuilding of destroyed areas by ISIS in Sinjar and Nineveh Plain.

D- Structure

Yazda is registered in the US, UK, Sweden, Germany, Australia and Iraq. Our very hard-working multinational teams in those countries and around the world are working on advocacy, raising awareness and building relations with governments, and local and international organisations to get the required support for our team in Iraq. Our on-the-ground team in Iraq is working to provide essential services to survivors of ISIS atrocities, IDPs, refugees, people with special needs, and families with low incomes.

Yazda has a Global Board who oversees all of Yazda's activities, designs Yazda's strategy, and holds responsibility for all of Yazda's work. Yazda's Global Board of Directors consists of:

1. Haider Elias, President
2. Hadi Pir, Vice President
3. Murad Ismael, Executive Director
4. Ahmed Khudida Burjus, Deputy Executive Director
5. Ajaweed Badeel, Secretary
6. Delkhwas Hacy, Director of Yazda Sweden and Member of Advocacy Committee
7. Kerry Propper, Board Member and Finance Committee Members
8. Laila Khoudeida, Treasurer & Director of Women's Affairs
9. Maher G. Nawaf, Yazda UK Director and Education and Cultural Committee Director
10. Rasheed Murad, Board Member
11. Ziyad Smoqi, Board Member and Human Resource Director
12. Fareeda Abbas, Member of Advocacy Committee

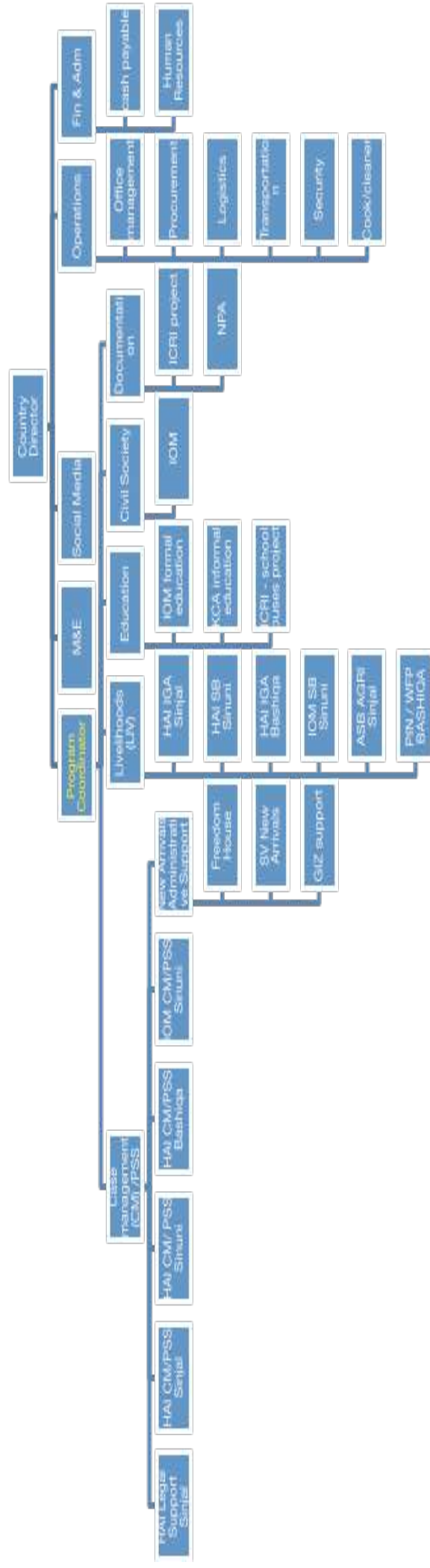
In addition, Yazda has local volunteer boards in the US, UK, Germany, Sweden, Australia and Iraq. These local boards are responsible for running Yazda's branches, managing Yazda's Global Volunteer Network, delivering Yazda's strategy in those countries, and ensuring that Yazda follows the applicable laws of these aforementioned countries.

In Iraq, Yazda is led by the Yazda Country Director who manages and oversees Yazda's staff and projects in Iraq. The Country Director in Iraq works with Yazda's other core staff in Iraq such as the Finance Manager, M&E Director, HR Director, Procurement and Logistics Director, and Projects Managers.

E- Offices

Yazda operates from 4 offices in Iraq. Our main office is located in Duhok with three other offices in Sinjar, Sinuni and Baghdad as well as a temporary office in Bashiqa. Outside Iraq, Yazda also has a cultural center in Nebraska in the United States. Yazda has not opened physical offices in the UK, Germany, Australia or Sweden in order to minimize administration costs.

Yazda structure



2.Genocide Against Yazidis at a Glance

In the early hours of 3 August 2014, the self-proclaimed Islamic State (ISIS) launched a coordinated attack across the Sinjar region of Northern Iraq, which is the homeland of the Yazidi ethno-religious minority. The attack came from Mosul and Tal Afar in Iraq, and from Al-Shaddadi and the Tel Hamis region in Syria, besieging the population from all four sides. The Kurdish Peshmerga forces mandated to protect the area abandoned bases and checkpoints leaving the local population unprotected and largely defenseless in the face of ISIS's advance.

In the hours and days that followed, approximately 12,000 Yazidis were killed or abducted by ISIS. The perpetrators systematically divided Yazidis into different groups:

- Young women and girls. Some captives were as young as 9 years of age and were forcibly converted and transferred to and between various holding sites in Iraq and Syria to be used as sex slaves or forced to become wives of ISIS fighters. This practice was officially endorsed and regulated by ISIS leadership;
- Yazidi impressionable boys who had not yet reached puberty were separated from their mothers, brain-washed, radicalized, and trained as child soldiers; and
- Older boys and men as well as some elderly women who refused to convert to Islam or, in some cases, even those who agreed to convert under pressure were summarily executed. These victims were either shot or stabbed, and their bodies were disposed of on the side of the road or dumped in mass graves. Those who were forced to convert to Islam and spared were then relocated by ISIS to abandoned villages where they continued to be exploited as forced laborers.



Figure 1.1 Yazidi displacement from Sinjar



ISIS's attack also caused an estimated 250,000 Yazidis to flee to Mount Sinjar where they were surrounded by ISIS for days, in temperatures exceeding 40 degrees Celsius. To further their genocide campaign, ISIS prevented any access to food, water, or medical care in order to ensure the deaths of hundreds of Yazidis before a coordinated rescue was launched. Subsequently, a collaborative operation was launched including Yazidi volunteer defenders, the Syrian Kurdish forces (YPG), the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), and an international coalition. Their coordinated efforts provided a safe passage from Mount Sinjar to Syria through which many Yazidis were able to flee from the 7th to 13th of August, 2014. ISIS destroyed Yazidi religious sites in the territories it occupied. Yazidi homes and properties were destroyed or looted, severely hampering the prospects of surviving Yazidis returning to their homeland swiftly after liberation.

The United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic ('Inquiry on Syria') found that ISIS's actions against the Yazidis amounted to multiple war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Yazda and many other entities are working to gather a range of compelling evidence that there indeed was a genocide against the Yazidis, which is ongoing. This annual report from Yazda outlines some of our efforts to document and address the impacts of this devastating attack against our peaceful Yazidi brothers and sisters.

3. Yazda Impact in 2018: Highlights

→ **Nobel Peace Prize for Nadia Murad.** Yazda has proudly managed, supported and funded the high-level advocacy campaign of Nadia Murad from the beginning of 2015 until it resulted in her winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018.



→ **Livelihood:** The Yazda Livelihood Team opened **27 small businesses** for survivors and victims of the genocide. Yazda is planning to open 180 other businesses within 2 years.



→ **Documentation of ISIS crimes:** The Yazda Documentation and Legal Team conducted **121 interviews with survivors of ISIS enslavement.** These interviews are used for legal and cultural preservation purposes. The documentation team also documented 53 mass graves and issued a report: “[Documenting Mass Graves of Yazidis Killed by the Islamic State](#)”.



→ **Medical and Health Services:** The Yazda Mobile Medical Team provided free quality medicine and healthcare to **12,308 Patients** in 14 remote villages in the northern part of Sinjar Mountain. They also collected **8 trucks** of medical supplies worth over **300,000 GBP** from Scotland and delivered it to Sinjar.



→ **Resettlement of Survivors of ISIS crimes:**

The Yazda Administrative support Team helped **254 Yazidis survivors** get resettled in Australia and Canada.



→ **Case Management and Psychosocial Support:**

The Yazda Case Management and PSS Team conducted **164 Interview** with survivors of ISIS enslavement. There were **67 Cases Supported** by Freedom House with food, medical, legal, clothes, and hygiene kits.



→ **Informal Education:**

Through this project, **834 Students** learned English, Literature, Art and Design, Culture, Critical Thinking, Eco-Friendly Classes, Music, and Sports. These education services were provided through Yazda's Informal Education Program in 5 schools, with the involvement of 13 teachers.



→ **Agriculture and Livelihood:** **17,000 Olive Trees** were Rehabilitated, **411 Meters of Cement Canals** were Restored, & **421 Workers** were Supported with a cash-for-work program in Bashiqa.



→ **Genocide Recognition:** The Armenian Parliament and Australian Parliament recognised the Yazidi genocide and joined US, UK, France, Canada and [other countries and UN and International agencies](#) that have recognised the Yazidi genocide. Yazda played a crucial role in this process by submitting requests for this official recognition.

→ **Establishing All Party Parliamentary Group** (APPG) on Yazidis in the UK House of Commons.



→ Commemoration of Yazidi Genocide:

Yazda held its successful annual conference for the 4th Anniversary of the Yazidi Genocide in Baghdad on the 2nd of August 2018. Attendees included President of Iraq, the Secretary-General of the Iraqi Council of Ministers, KRG Representatives, Ms. Farida Abbas and other survivors of the genocide, Cardinal Louis Raphaël I Sako, national and international NGOs, the Iraqi Minister of Migration and Displacement, Representatives from various Iraqi communities, Representatives from the different political parties in Iraq and the KRG, Deputy Special Representative of UNAMI, Deputy Head of Mission of the USA and Australia, many activists and academics, and Ambassadors of the UK, Germany, Italy, and France.



→ Yazda Event in the UK Parliament:

On December 12, 2018 in London, Yazda UK co-organized an important and successful event at the United Kingdom Parliament in partnership with Thomson Reuters Foundation and the newly formed All Party Parliamentary Group for Yazidis (AAPG Yazidis). The goal of the event was to celebrate the creation of the AAPG Yazidis, Nadia Murad's 2018 Nobel Peace Prize, and the Roji Ezi celebration (a cultural-religious annual ceremony for the Yazidi People). Participants included Robert Jenrick, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury; Karim Khan, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, Special Advisor and Head of UNITAD; and a large number of MPs, politicians, and survivors.



→ **The Yazidi Cultural Center (YCC)** in Nebraska successfully supported 253 refugees and 1 asylum seeker.

→ **Media and Film:**

- **On Her Shoulders**: A film about the global advocacy campaign of Nadia Murad which was managed, funded and supported by Yazda for over three years. This film won tens of well-known awards, including Sundance Film Festival, HotDocs, and the National Board of Review, among others.
- **Chyaee Asee** -- The Besieged Mountain -- a film by Yazda and local Yazidi actors on the Yazidi Genocide.
- **Medical Articles**: In 2018, Yazda was interviewed by or quoted in a number of major international media and news agencies, including the BBC, NY Times, Reuters, Guardian, Independent, Wall Street Journal, SBS, Le Mondo, Los Angeles Times, Middle East Eye, Human Rights Watch, France 24, Rudaw, Alarabia, Voice of America, DW, The National and many more. Yazda's pages on Facebook reached over 40,000 followers and its Twitter page reached 12,000 followers by the end of 2018.



Yazda, a multi-national, global organization established in the aftermath of the Yazidi Genocide in 2014 to support the Yazidi ethno-religious minority and other vulnerable groups, employs over 90 full-time, paid staff in northern Iraq and utilizes a network of hundreds of committed volunteers from all around the world.

Our accomplishments in 2018 have ranged over a variety of different areas of work and efforts, both international and local in nature. On the ground in Iraq, Yazda effectively provided case management, livelihood, medical and health, legal and documentation, economic and business, resettlement, educational, and agricultural support to tens of thousands of Survivors, Yazidis, and other vulnerable populations. Yazda's advocacy work continued in strength in 2018, working in tandem with genocide survivor Nadia Murad and playing an instrumental role in her nomination and winning of the Nobel Peace Prize, successfully lobbying more countries (Armenia and Australia) to officially recognize the genocide against the Yazidi people, and establishing Yazidi-focused Parliamentary groups in the UK. Furthermore, this year Yazda organized both a highly-attended Commemoration of the Yazidi Genocide event in Baghdad and a very productive All Party Parliamentary Group for Yazidis event in the UK Parliament. Yazda also produced a number of successful media campaigns and experienced a series of noteworthy media coverage, including the production of the film "On Her Shoulders", the release of the film "Chyaee Asee", and coverage by various high-level media outlets (e.g., BBC, NY Times, Reuters the Guardian, France 24 -- among many others).

In the United States, Yazda's newly established Yazidi Cultural Center (YCC) effectively supported 253 refugees and 1 asylum seeker. The YCC is located in and operates from Nebraska, the home of the largest population of Yazidis in the United States.

In addition, Yazda with its legal counsel, Amal Clooney, continues seeking to hold ISIS accountable for the crimes committed against the Yazidi community in Iraq and Syria. The crimes include genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, such as mass executions, sexual enslavement, human trafficking, recruitment of child soldiers, and forced displacement.

Yazda's advocacy project has also helped the Yazidi community speak up about their problems on the national level with both the central government in Baghdad and the KRG in Erbil. Yazda has provided the two governments with various information on the state of the Yazidis and other vulnerable communities in Iraq and Syria. Yazda is the first organization to support survivors and make their voices heard with the community and on the national and international levels.

In order to further its on-the-ground work, Yazda is working with many UN entities and international and local NGOs to provide necessary services to survivors, IDPs, refugees and other vulnerable groups.

Yazda Humanitarian work

4. Our Projects

4.1 Humanitarian Response

4.1.1 Return and Reintegration of IDPs in Nineveh

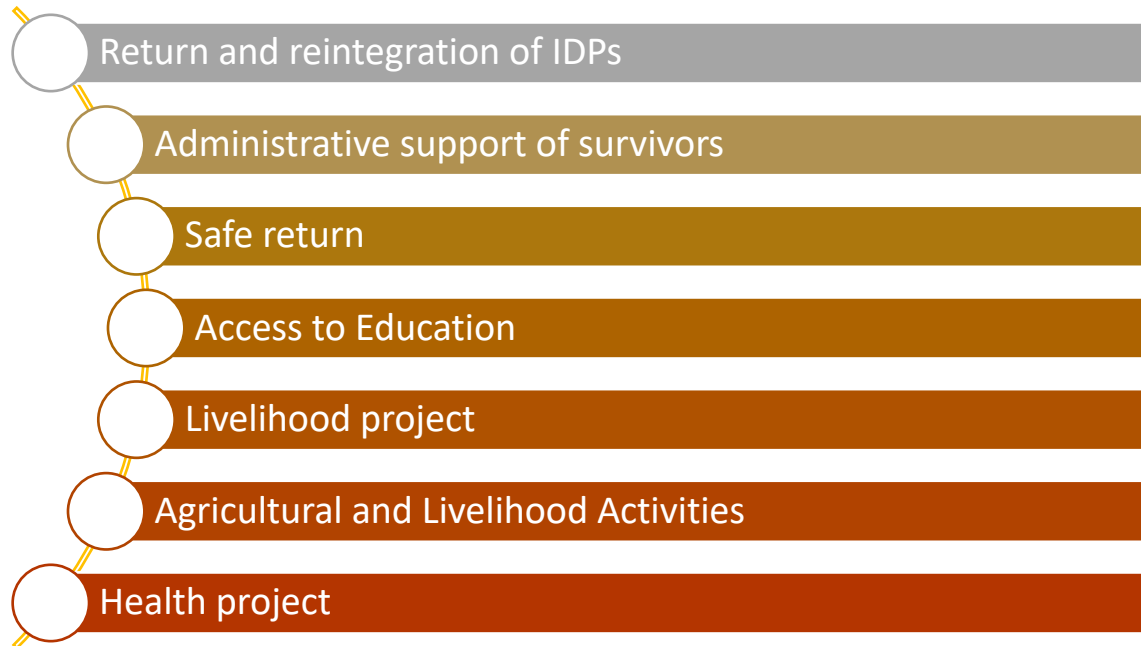
Yazda, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), supports the sustainable and effective return and reintegration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Nineveh Plains and West Nineveh. We use a holistic approach that provides survivors with livelihood assistance, income-generating opportunities, access to public services, social cohesion programs, psychosocial support, diaspora engagement, and administrative support. Under the supervision of two newly hired Case Managers, this twenty-four-month USAID-funded project has several components to assist returnees with reintegration.

In 2018, Yazda opened a new office in Sinune to oversee the activities under this program, mainly focusing on the large collective villages on the north side of Sinjar but with some attention also on Sinjar City. Eight collective villages were selected for livelihood support as part of this project: Khanasor, Sinune, Dugre, Duhola, Borek, Gubhal, Zorava and Hardan. Yazda aims to establish 90 small businesses during this two-year project and support the communities with vocational training.

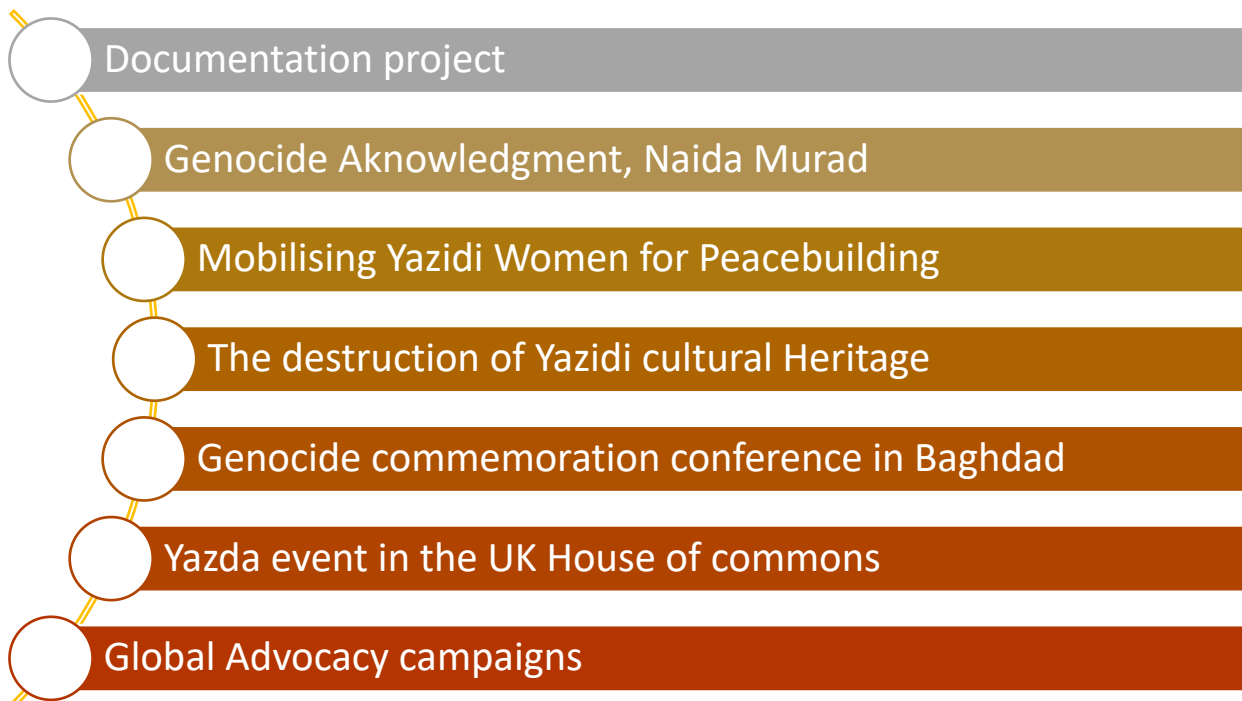
An effective and established education system is a vital precondition for displaced families with children returning to their homes. However, government-run schools in Sinjar lack funding, other material support, and sufficient staff. Class sizes are large and there are often unpaid volunteers instead of teachers. Yazda conducted a needs assessment of the schools, and, based on this information, selected 8 schools to support: Sinjar High School, Yosivan Primary School, Sarkaftin High School, Sinune Primary School, Barkhudan High School, Duhola High School, Al Iraq High School, and Sinune High School. Our support continues to supply stationery materials for students and monthly incentives for 35 volunteers who work with our target schools.

Community engagement and mobilization through volunteer groups is also an important element of this project. Yazda held a series of meetings with youth groups across affected communities and selected 6 volunteer youth groups whose visions and plans support the objectives of this project. These youth groups represent communities from Khanasor, Sinune, Dugure, Zorava, Gubhal, and Sinjar City. All 6 groups have a respective center where they convene to support Yazda by sharing information, liaising with the community, and promoting the safe return of survivors through advocacy on social media. In return, Yazda provides monetary support for training and capacity building as well as community events.

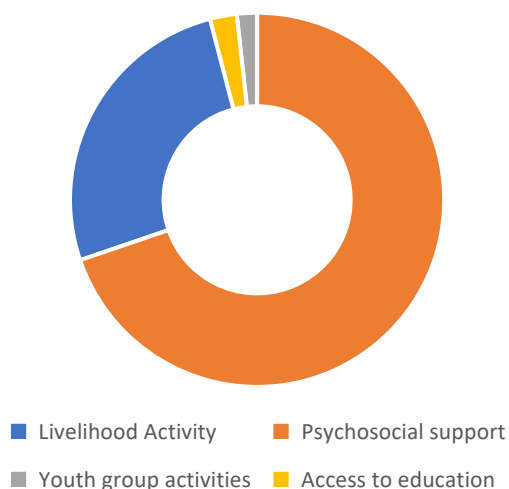
Humanitarian work



Accountability and Advocacy



Yazda activities -partnership with IOM funded by USAID

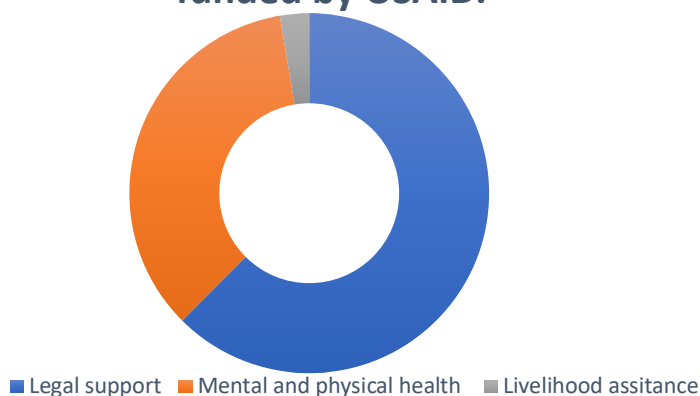


4.1.2 Safe Return

On October 3rd, 2018 Yazda signed a partnership with Heartland Alliance International (HAI) to collaboratively implement a USAID-funded Safe Return Project. This innovative 30-month pilot project aims to support IDPs, victims and survivors of severe human rights violations in Nineveh to safely return and reintegrate back into their home communities.

HAI and Yazda provide a package of services through three established support centres in Qaraqosh, Bashiqa and Sinjar. We continue to provide legal, mental and physical health services, and livelihood assistance. HAI and Yazda also work to integrate livelihoods and vocational training with direct services at the centers. This project anticipates servicing approximately 800 survivors of severe human rights abuses and 4,000 family members and dependents.

**Yazda activities - partnership with HAI
funded by USAID.**



4.1.3. Administrative Support for Survivors

A crucial part of Yazda's humanitarian response is providing adequate administrative support to survivors so they can access support from other service providers, particularly government. We have successfully assisted survivors to access:

- *Small pensions* (Bataqa Cards) specifically set up for Yazidi survivors of the 2014 genocide. The financial scheme was awarded by the Iraqi Central Government's Social Affairs Department, which was a response in part to the 2016 campaign initiated and led by Yazda appealing to government for this kind of support. Yazda was able to get support for 703 survivors so far and follow up on other 350 cases with the Iraqi government.
- *One-Off Payments* for Survivors through a Financial scheme provided by Freedom House, an independent organization dedicated to protecting democracy and human rights.
- *Copies of Identity Cards* and other documents that were lost during the conflict.
- *UNHCR Resettlement Programs* in Australia and Canada.
- Yazda has also received funding and signed contracts for several new projects starting in 2019.



Yazda Bitafa project
Duhok-KRI

One of the cases getting financial assistance from Freedom house project

4.1.4 Access to Education

In the post-genocide environment, many children in Sinjar do not have access to education as most of the schools were destroyed by ISIS during the war and there is not enough financial support from the government to compensate teachers for their time. Also, during the conflict, most of the Yazidis fled to refugee camps around Duhok where schools lacked the capacity to accommodate a large influx of new students. Therefore, many children have not been able to continue their studies over the past few years, leading to a gap in the trajectory of their education.

On August 01, 2018 Yazda launched its Informal Education Project, which continued until the end of August, 2019. Three hundred and thirty-four children (between 4-16 years of age) attended class at one of three educational centres: Dugure, Borek, and Duhola, which is north of Sinjar. The classes were taught by a team of 9 qualified local teachers and 4 volunteers. A very important outcome of the project was hiring local teachers which enabled them to perform their work and engage in community life. It boosted enthusiasm among children and youth participants and inspired them to further engage their respective communities.

The project's substantive focus targeted academic subjects that are usually neglected in formal Iraqi education. More concretely, these subject areas include: Yazidi literature and culture, English, art and design, creative thinking, and ecology. The project helped children raise their self-esteem and become more confident both socially and academically. As a result of this project, there are several success stories reported of shy children gaining confidence and traumatized children opening up to their peers and teachers. At the end of 2018, this project proved to be a big success, so Yazda decided to extend the project to two more villages (i.e. Guhbal and Zorava). At the time of reporting, our education project has served 834 students in total. This project was generously funded by Forix Foundation and a private donor.



	School name	Location	No. of students	No. of teachers
1	Qurtuba Primary School	Dugure	138	3
2	Duhola High School	Duhola	152	3
3	Allraq Alaula Primaru School	Borek	161	3

Locations and names of schools and number of beneficiaries at Yazda Informal Education Center in Sinjar

For more information open the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hM7rM8wx98E>



4.1.5 Sustainable and Resilient Livelihood Projects

Yazda and Arbeiter Samariter Bund (ASB) signed a contract at the end of 2018 to start a new 24-month project of sustainable and resilient livelihood development in the selected villages close to Sinjar City. This Project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The project primarily aims to increase agricultural production to improve access to nutritious food. It also aims to promote sustainable economic-development through income-generating opportunities for vulnerable groups in the private sector. This includes establishing 64 agricultural and non-agricultural small businesses, and offering vocational training in some of the selected villages as well as in Sinjar City. We also work to build resilience in rural communities through capacity building in positive coping strategies and risk-sensitive agricultural practices.

Our target villages that rely heavily on agriculture are 1 to 8 kilometers away from Sinjar City. We are assessing the livelihood needs and agricultural capacity of these villages: Ash Shabiya, Al Sabahia, Al Naseriya, Zumani, Qizil Kand, and Tal Qasab.



4.1.6 Agricultural Project: Bashiqa

As a part of the World Food Program’s “Building Resilience of Conflict-Affected Populations in Bashiqa, Nineveh through Rehabilitation of Critical Irrigation Infrastructure” initiative, Yazda collaborated with People in Need (PIN) from June 15 to December, 2018.

This project worked to reduce vulnerability and support resilience in conflict-affected households in the Bashiqa and Bahzani areas by increasing agricultural production and supporting cash transfers to vulnerable households. It also included the rehabilitation and cleaning of irrigation soil and concrete canals within 84 hectares of agricultural land in the historical areas of Bashiqa and Bahzani Olive Fields. During this project various debris and dead trees were removed, and around 17,000 olive trees were properly weeded and pruned. In addition, 125 hectares of land were cleared and 411 meters of concrete canals were rehabilitated.

Yazda managed the Cash-for-Work portion of the project, supporting more than 450 workers mainly composed of female-headed households, persons with disabilities or chronic illness, families without any income, and families with more than 5 children under the age of 18. The second phase of this project took place in Darwesh village, which is inhabited by the Shabaks, a religious minority group.



4.1.7 Health Projects

Yazidis returning to their homeland are in need of diverse medical service. People living in rural areas around Sinjar are not able to access any medical services as there is no adequate health services infrastructure. In case of emergencies, Yazidis have little choice but to visit the hospitals in Tal Afar or Mosul. However, many Yazidis refuse this option as they fear visiting the cities where these services are available. Moreover, the majority do not have enough financial means to pay for these medical services. Therefore, most Yazidis primarily rely on aid and medical services provided by the mobile clinics run by the few NGOs who offer their services free of charge.

Yazda in partnership with Stichting Vluchteling launched a twelve-month project that provides medical assistance in the North Side of Sinjar Mountain. Yazda's Mobile Clinic continuously visits 14 remote villages in Sinjar: Adeeka, Tairaf, Aldeenah, Kharbah, Qane, Bayeev, Naqsay, Bakrah, Kormale, Zerwa, Bakhilif, Shorka, Gurmiz, Karse. A team consisting of a medical doctor, a pharmacist and two nurses continues to serve a population of 6,700 villagers on a monthly basis. To date, this mobile medical team has served more than 1,500 patients per month, including 130 cases of chronic diseases.

At the beginning of 2018, Yazda UK's Secretary launched a Medicine Campaign. Thanks to the hard work of the Yazda UK Team and donations coming from many different donors, it was possible to collect 8 trucks of medical supplies worth over 300,000 GBP. The endowments were passed to Sinjar and Sinuni hospitals, where they continue to serve returnees who escaped ISIS captivity. Yazda Mobile Clinic received the needed supplies as well. The Mobile Clinic is helping the citizens of remote villages who otherwise would not be able to obtain medical service or purchase medical supplies.



STICHTING 
VLUCHTELING
IBAN 999

Accountability and Advocacy

4.2 Accountability and Advocacy

Our accountability and advocacy efforts go hand in hand at Yazda. The main focus of our advocacy campaigns in 2018 has been to promote justice and genocide recognition. These advocacy initiatives rely on systematic and thorough documentation so as to provide the empirical evidence required to substantiate our claims and calls for action.

4.2.1 Documentation Project

Due to our steadfast documentation and advocacy efforts, the parliaments of Armenia and Australia have recognized the Yazidi genocide in 2018 and joined the US, UK, France and [other countries in this regard](#). However, there are still several other countries that have not, including Iraq.

After four years of lobbying, the UN has finally established an investigative team (UNITAD - United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL) to collect, analyse, preserve and store the evidence of the crimes committed by ISIS. According to the terms of reference, Iraq is the first recipient of the evidence. UNITAD can also share evidence with third countries prior to informing Iraq. UN Security Council Resolution 2379 proposes Iraqi domestic courts prosecute ISIS fighters for their crimes. However, extant legal frameworks do not contain provisions for the investigation and prosecution of genocide and war crimes. Moreover, Iraq is currently not a State Party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

In anticipation of future accountability initiatives, Yazda continues to record survivor stories through our case management and documentation teams. In 2018, we published our findings in our report, [Working against the Clock: Documenting Mass graves of Yazidis killed by the Islamic State](#).



Parliament of Armenia



Australia



United state



United Kingdom



France



Special Advisor United.



At the beginning of 2018, Free a Girl funded a six-month project to help document the atrocities ISIS perpetrated against the Yazidis. Subsequently, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) provided material support to keep this project going. At the end of 2018, the Iraq Community Resilience Initiative (ICRI) funded by Chemonics Group launched another six-month project that had three areas of focus:

- *Legal Accountability*: gathering evidence that further facilitates legal accountability by interviewing survivors and witnesses, and locating and documenting mass graves and killing sites.
- *Advocacy*: advocating for the Yazidi community by using the collected data locally and internationally, promoting transitional justice and post-conflict reconstruction strategies, and campaigning to preserve and disseminate information about the Yazidi culture, especially to diaspora communities.
- *Cultural Documentation*: preserving the Yazidi culture by recording testimonies containing a comprehensive overview of the Yazidi historical and cultural heritage, and publishing articles to this effect.

The Yazda Documentation team has also been extensively trained by Justice Rapid Response ([JRR](#)) and is applying international standards in its documentation work.

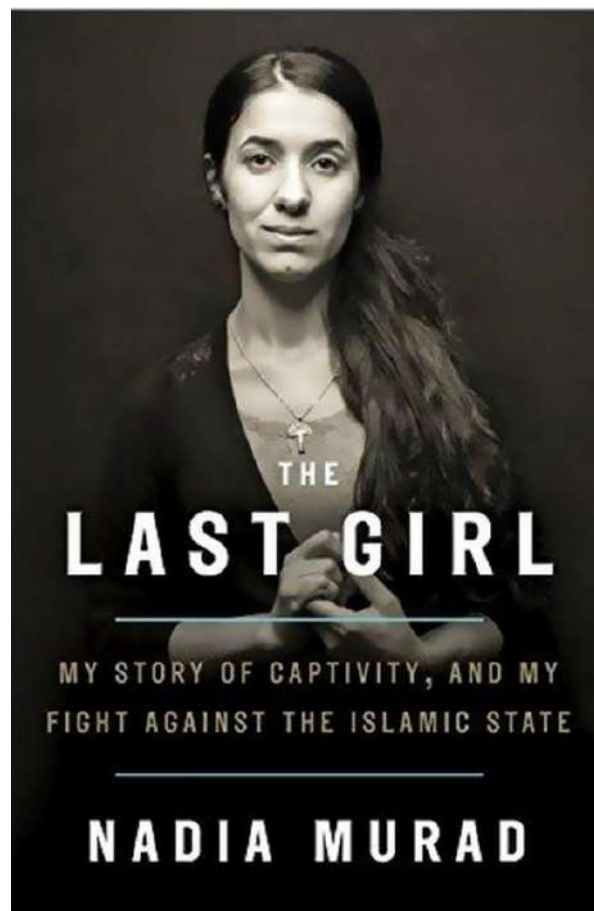
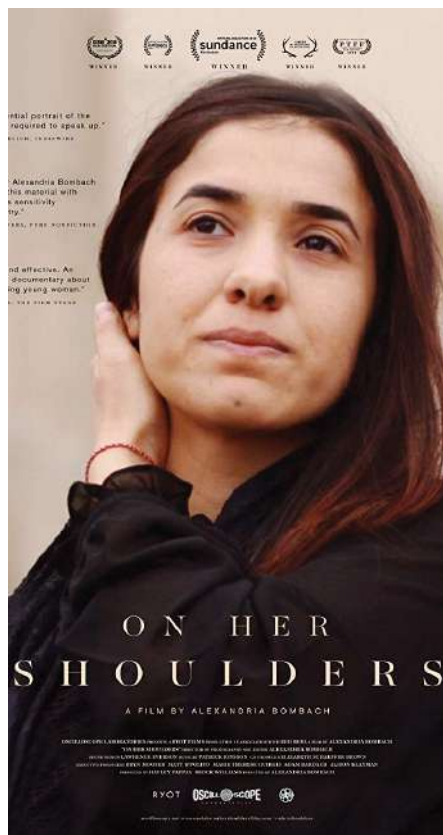
The leadership team of Yazda has presented these materials in several meetings with representatives from the White House and European Parliament in 2018. The discussions included strategy development for reconstruction and peacebuilding. This content has also been presented on various platforms, including peacebuilding forums and minority conferences all over the world to various country delegates, religious and political leaders, and representatives of relief agencies and donors. Pope Francis has vowed his support for the Yazidi cause as well as the President of France Emmanuel Macron, Former U.S. Senator and Former First Lady Hillary Clinton, and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, among many others.

4.2.2 Genocide Acknowledgment: Nadia Murad

The Nobel Committee acknowledged the Yazidi genocide through awarding its Nobel Peace Prize to Nadia Murad -- thus recognizing Murad's courage in defending human rights and efforts in fighting sexual violence against women. Nadia, despite her young age, suffered significantly at the hands of ISIS, who abducted her and her family, killed many members of her family, and repeatedly raped and abused her. Yazda has proudly managed, sponsored and supported Nadia's work for over three years until she became a symbol for the Yazidi Genocide. Nadia overcame the traditional role of a woman in Iraqi society and has become a guiding light for women around the globe. In her book, *The Last Girl*, she describes what the Yazidi community has faced since ISIS launched its genocide campaign in August 2014.

Amal Clooney, a Lebanese-British barrister, acts as legal counsel for Nadia Murad and Yazda. Amal is supporting all Yazidi women in their fight to hold ISIS perpetrators accountable for their crimes.

Nadia's Documentary Film, "On Her Shoulder," features Nadia's work with Yazda and instances of Yazda supporting and managing her advocacy campaign.



4.2.3 Mobilizing Yazidi Women for Peacebuilding

Yazidi women suffered the most during the ISIS invasion and genocide campaign. Their ordeal started in 2014 when ISIS attacked communities in the Sinjar area and abducted thousands of women and their children, enslaved them, sexually and mentally abused them, and forced some of them to convert to Islam. Yazda, with the support of Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), implemented an initiative, "Women as Actors for Peacebuilding and Reconstruction", to help vulnerable women overcome their fears and mitigate their tendency to want to withdrawal from society and social interaction. The project was implemented from April 1 to August 01, 2018, in the following IDP camps: Sharya, Khanke, Kabarto, Qadia and Essian. In total, our activities benefited 178 women and 5 psychology students and case managers who received training in basic art therapy.

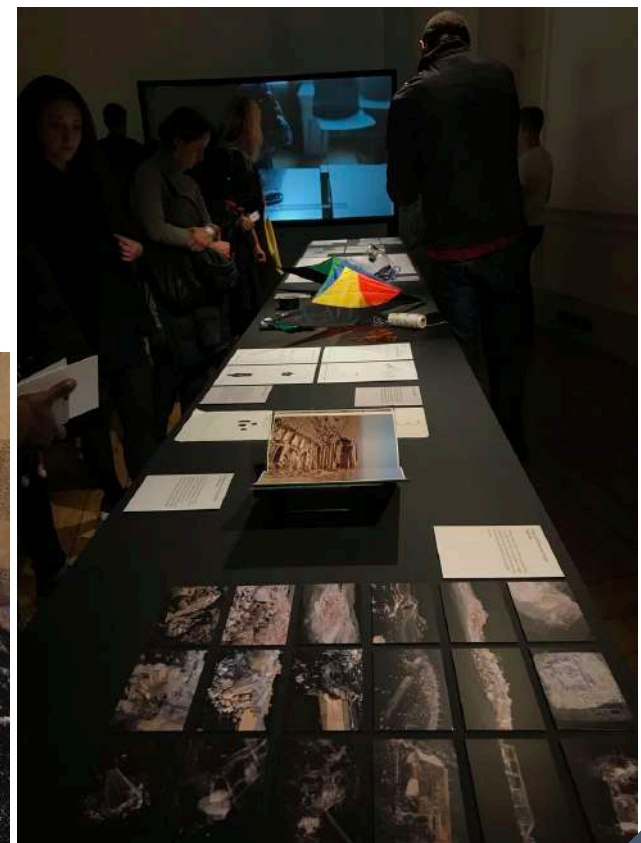
The art therapy sessions held as a part of this project were very educational and inspiring for the women participating. Women were able to express their emotions freely and be heard, sometimes for the first time. Altogether, these women created banners and slogans on women's rights that were later displayed in many public spaces in Duhok, including at Duhok University. The exhibition received attention from the public in Dohuk, other NGOs, media and the guests of the International Conference on Genocide and Trauma.



The second part of the project included workshops on leadership and civil society participation, where Yazidi women received training on gender equality, leadership, and advocacy skills. For many participants, this workshop was very informative, encouraging and the first of its kind, as they would otherwise never feel free or comfortable to speak or acknowledge the existence of gender inequality. They were encouraged to express their opinions and speak up for their rights. One of the amazing and unexpected side benefits of the project was the development of a youth center in Essian IDP Camp by the empowered and active ex-participants. The final stage of the project was handing the certificates to the participants, which brought them a lot of joy and a sense of achievement.

4.2.4 The Destruction of Yazidi Cultural Heritage

Yazda Documentation Team, received special training from Forensic Architecture (FA) in DIY surveying, mapping and documentation techniques, to support the investigation of the genocide perpetrated by ISIL. After the training, the Yazda team shared information about mass graves, enslavement sites and destruction sites with FA. [This project and the results](#) of our first documentation efforts, became an exhibition, ‘Maps of Defiance’, curated by a team from the Victoria & Albert Museum and presented as the UK Pavilion at the London Design Biennale 2018. The exhibition will also be displayed in several places around the world in 2019 and 2020.



4.2.5 Yazda Annual Genocide Commemoration Conference in Baghdad: the Fourth Anniversary of the Yazidi Genocide .

August 03, 2018 marked the 4th anniversary of the genocide committed by ISIS against the Yazidi people. Yazda, with the support of NPA, organized a two-day event, which took place in Baghdad. The commemoration event brought together Yazidi Genocide survivors, the President of Iraq, civil society organizations, members of the Iraqi Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government, representatives of the international community, human rights activists and representatives of Iraqi communities (i.e. Christians, Sunnis, Shias, Sabeans and Shabaks). The plenary session hosted close to 280 guests and opened with the National Anthem of Iraq and traditional Yazidi religious music. The event was memorialized by many strong, poignant speeches, discussions and presentations. Ms. Fareeda Abbas, a survivor and a human rights activist, was a keynote speaker. The aim of the discussions was to raise awareness of the crimes committed by the ISIS and the genocide of the Yazidis. The event also facilitated engagement with non-Yazidi political and religious leaders in the morning of the Yazidi community. An important part of the conference was to give solace to the Yazidi people and the families of the victims, ensuring them that their ordeal had not been forgotten. During the conference, Yazda displayed portraits of 1,400 Yazidis who still remain in captivity. Guests could also familiarize themselves with the Yazidi culture by admiring the beautiful performance of Yazidi musicians and artists.



4.2.6 Yazda Event in the UK House of Commons



On December 12, 2018, in London, Yazda UK co-organized an important event at the United Kingdom Parliament in partnership with Thomson Reuters Foundation and the newly formed All Party Parliamentary Group for Yazidis (AAPG Yazidis). The goal of the event was to celebrate the creation of the AAPG Yazidis, Nadia Murad's 2018 Nobel Peace Prize, and the Roji Ezi celebration (a cultural-religious annual ceremony for the Yazidi People).

The AAPG on Yazidis was created on Yazda's suggestion. It is another platform for the Yazidis to effectively raise their voices. In addition, it will provide a platform for the UK members of parliament and the UK society to engage further in supporting Yazidis and other religious minorities persecuted by ISIS in Iraq and the Middle East.

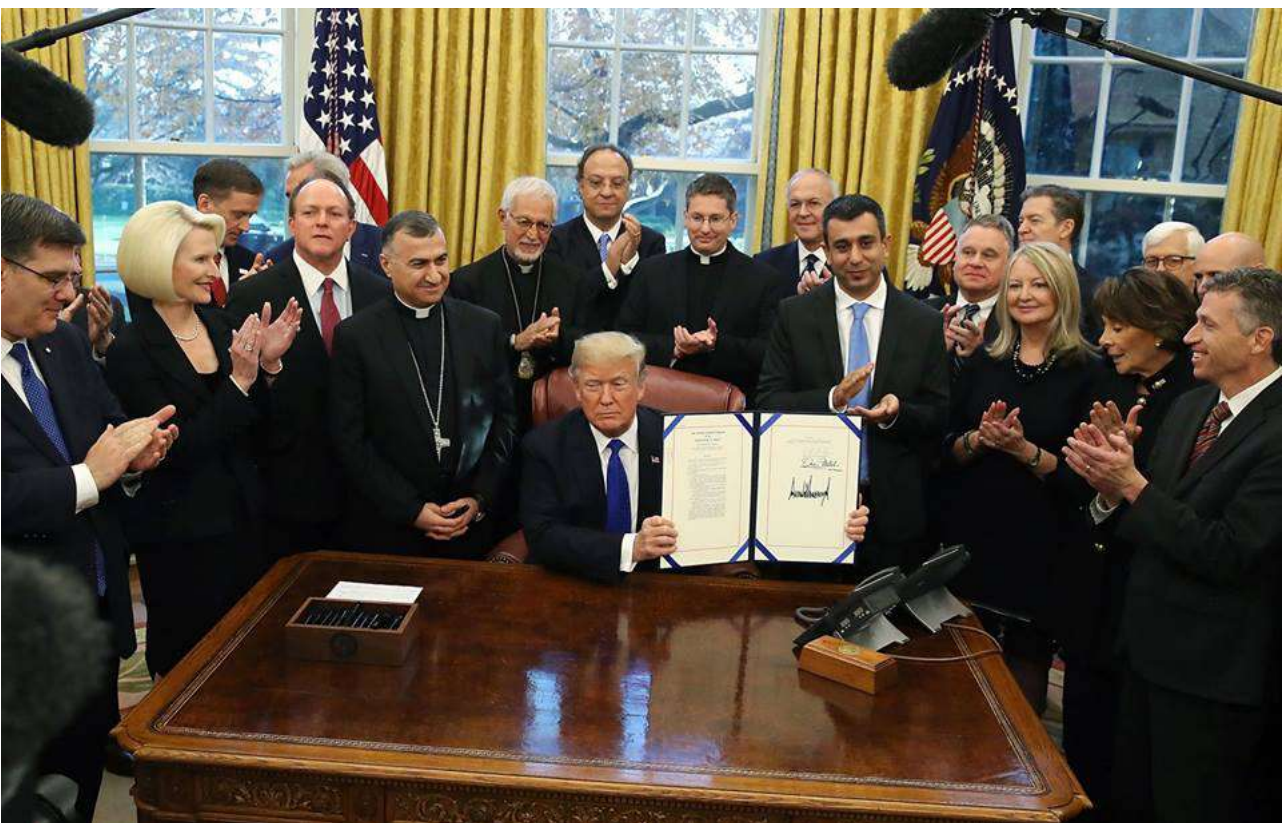
We express our gratitude to MP Brendan O'Hara for initiating this project and leading it. We further express our sincere thanks to all members of parliament who joined the group.

Participants and speakers of the event included: Robert Jenrick, Exchequer Secretary to HM Treasury & Minister for Productivity, Economic growth and Infrastructure; Karim Khan, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, Special Advisor and Head of the Investigative Team to promote accountability for ISIL/Daesh crimes pursuant to Security Council Resolution 2379; the Yazidi survivor and activist Fareeda Abbas; the Yazidi community in the UK; the Yazidi musical band Melek from Germany; Representative Mr. Salih Husain Ali, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United Kingdom; Karwan Tahir, the Kurdistan Regional Government High Representative to the United Kingdom; Yousif Al-Khoei, Director of the Centre for Academic Shi'a Studies & Director of Public Affairs at the Al-Khoei Foundation; and Yazda's supporters and volunteers. Over 200 guests attended.

4.2.7 Global Advocacy Campaigns

Yazda continued its global advocacy work on numerous fronts in 2018. The organization advocated on numerous issues across the globe, including recognition of the genocide against the Yazidi people and other minorities in Iraq and Syria; the need for greater minority rights, women's rights, and human rights in Iraq; the necessity of greater Yazidi and other minority involvement and leadership positions within Iraqi government and society; the dire status of Sinjar and the urgency of rebuilding and opening up Sinjar and the larger Nineveh Plains region; and the moral priority of ensuring protection for Yazidis and other minority and vulnerable communities in Syria, including in Afrin where kidnappings, killings, and forced conversions are reported regularly.

As a part of these global advocacy efforts, this year Yazda advocated in Iraq, US, UK, EU Countries, Australia and met with a number of world leaders, including U.S. President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron.



Yazda Executive Director, Murad Ismael in a meeting with President Trump during signing the Bill: H.R. 390, the "Iraq and Syria Genocide Relief and Accountability Act of 2018.

4.2.8 Yazidi Cultural Center

The Yazidi Cultural Center (YCC) in Lincoln, Nebraska, has been serving the Yazidi Community for the last two years. The YCC is a unique Center with the largest population of the resettled Yazidi community in the United States. The center provides assistance in education, legal matters, and psychosocial support to survivors. YCC marks an essential presence among the Yazidi Community as it is the only Yazidi cultural center for those who left their homeland some time ago. This cultural resource center provides Yazidis in the US with services to help them adapt to their new environments whilst also providing some images and practices from home. In 2018, YCC served 253 Yazidis, including 252 refugees and 1 asylum seeker.

YCC activities include preserving and promoting the Yazidi culture, engaging with and in Yazidi literature, celebrating Yazidi religious holidays, and teaching Kurmanji Kurdish (Yazidis' native language). The center also provides English classes to help community members adapt to the new environment of the United States. This year, a new project was implemented by Yazda in partnership with Community Crops, whose aim is to increase sustainability by helping newcomers to plant and cultivate vegetables and fruits on small plots. In addition, Yazda encouraged its community members to participate in local programs such as "Horses for Healing," which provides unconventional psychosocial support that empowers young Yazidi girls in overcoming their social fears, and helps prevent them from engaging in unhealthy social isolation or withdrawal.



Some of Yazda Cultural Center students in Lincoln, NE have been graduated from the health class



New Policies and Procedures

2018 was the year of development for Yazda when all Yazda's policies and operations documents were updated with the help of Altamimi & Co Law Firm and other Yazda partners. These policies included:

1. Anti- Fraud and Corruption Policy
2. Finance Management Policy
3. Code of Ethics
4. Code of Conduct
5. Standard Employment Terms and Conditions
6. Procurement and Logistics Policy
7. HR Policy
8. Security Policy
9. SOPs and manuals for each of Yazda's projects
10. Donations and Refund Policy

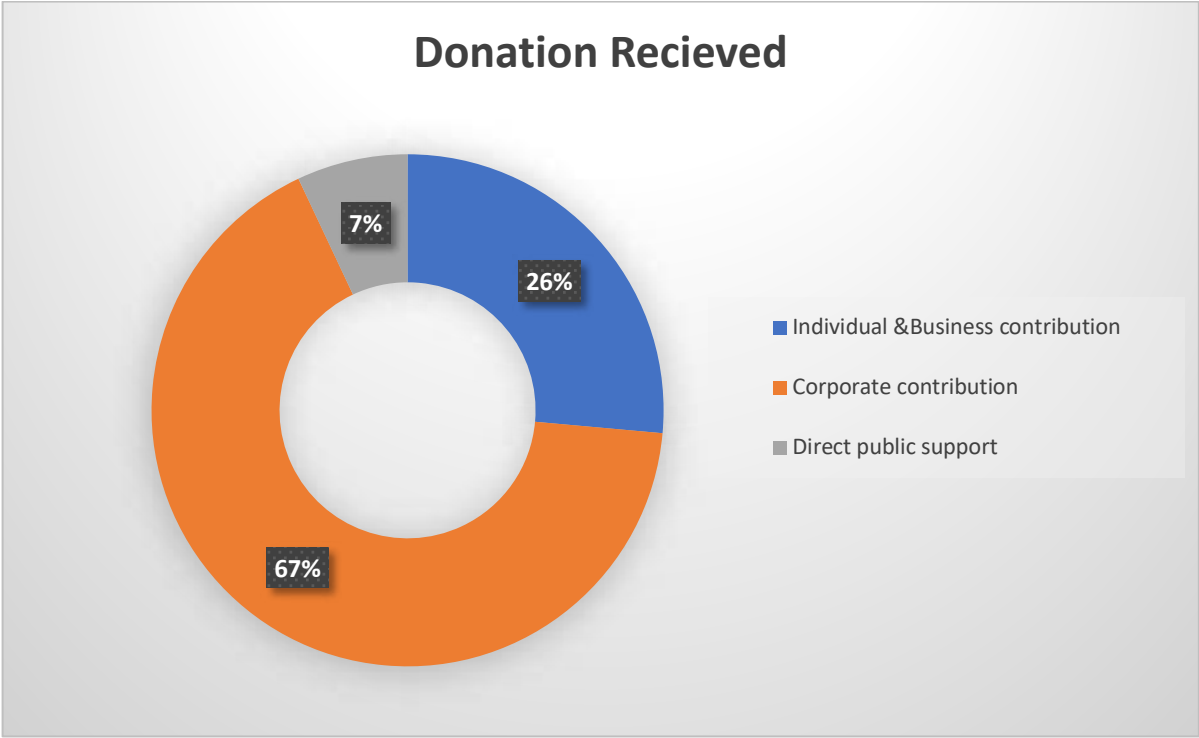
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2018

ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

The financial statements and accompanying notes are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

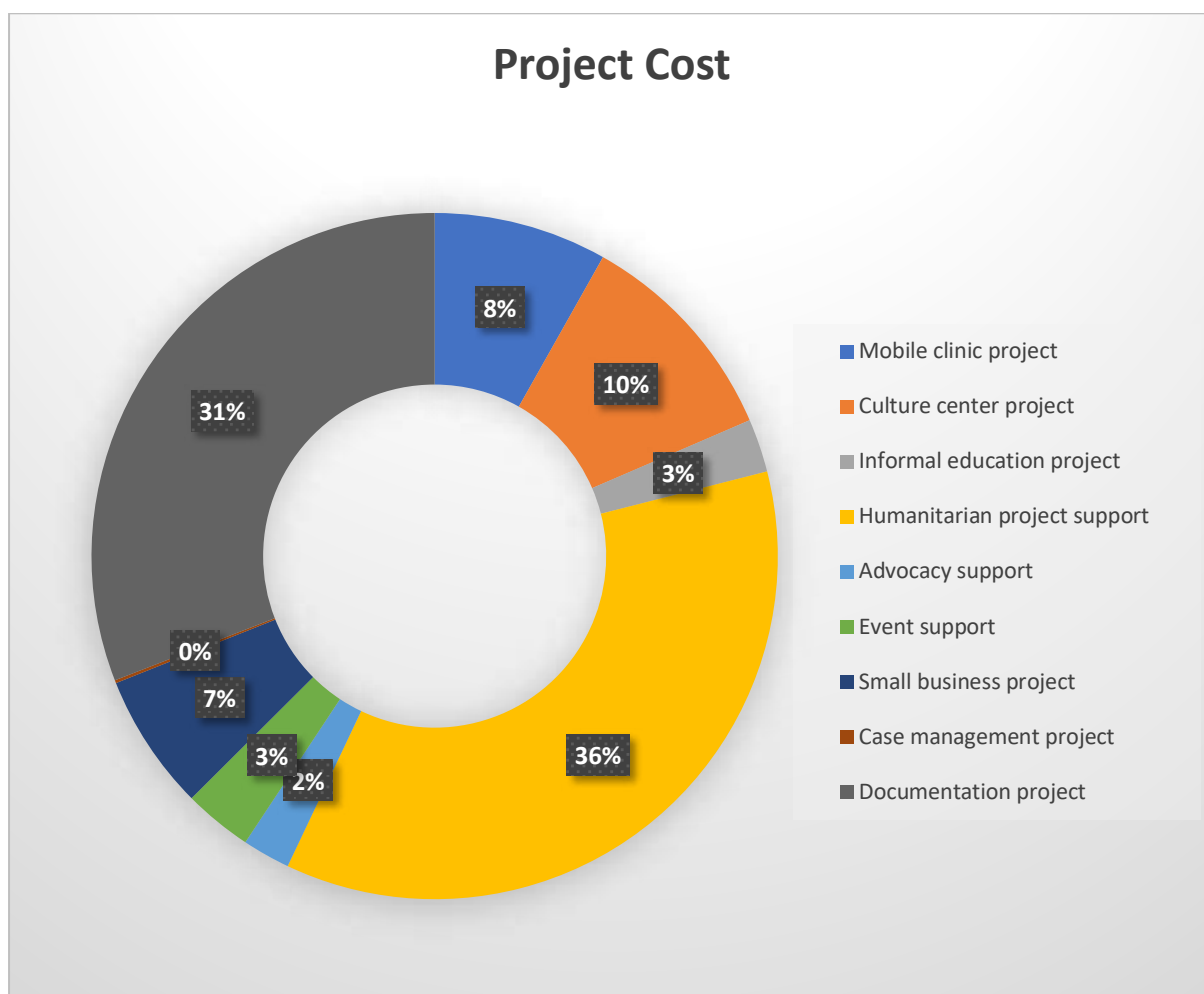
DONATIONS RECEIVED

The below chart & table display the total donations collected by the Organization during the respective years. The overall donations collected for revenue expenditure during the year to conduct the program increased by 13% over the previous year, thanks to generous contributions from individuals, corporations, trusts and other foundations.



REVENUE EXPENDITURE

The total revenue expenses, excluding Program Costs, during the year was \$386,642.34 as compared to \$506,434.84 for the previous year (this is a reduction of 24%). The program Costs were \$1,011,112.5 as compared to \$635,156.80 for the previous year (this is an increase of 59%). These numbers and breakdown are represented below:



INCOME TAXES

Income tax expense includes U.S. and international income taxes, plus the provision for U.S. taxes on undistributed earnings of international subsidiaries. Certain items of income and expense are not reported in tax returns and financial statements in the same year. The tax effect of this difference is reported as deferred income taxes. Tax credits are accounted for as a reduction of tax expense in the year in which the credits reduce taxes payable.

FINANCIAL RISKS

The Organization doesn't have an unrestricted funding source and thus we find it difficult to garner sufficient and continuous funding for our work. Gaining access to appropriate donors is a major component of this challenge. We may have limited resource mobilization skills locally, so instead we wait for international donors to approach them. Current donors may shift priorities and withdraw funding. The Organization might suffer from a general lack of project, organizational and financial sustainability.

KEY METRICS

REVENUES	DIRECT TO IMPLIEMENT COST / PROJECT COST	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	NET PROFIT
\$1,385,261	\$1,011,113	\$386,642	(\$12,494)
111%	59%	-24%	-116%

ALL METRICS

METRIC	THIS YEAR (2018)	LAST YEAR (2017)	% CHANGE
REVENUES			
Corporate Contribution	\$922,087.93	\$437,498.21	111%
Individual & Business Contribution	\$366,071.64	\$338,763.81	8%
Direct Public Support	\$97,101.06	\$444,235.06	-78%
Total Income	\$1,385,260.63	\$1,220,497.08	13%
DIRECT TO IMPLIEMENT COST / PROJECT COST			
Mobile Medical Unit	\$82,548.10	\$0.00	
Culture Centre Project	\$104,706.33	\$67,917.99	54%
Informal Education	\$25,390.00	\$0.00	
Humanitarian Project Support	\$364,188.03	\$542,538.81	-33%
Hurricane Harvey Relief	\$0.00	\$6,500.00	-100%
Advocacy Support	\$22,798.00	\$0.00	
Event Support	\$32,660.00	\$0.00	
Small Business Support / Livelihood	\$65,011.29	\$0.00	
Case Management Support	\$1,410.00	\$12,200.00	-88%
Documentaion Support	\$312,401.00	\$6,000.00	5107%
Total Project Cost	\$1,011,112.75	\$635,156.80	59%
ADMINISTRATIVE COST			
Staff Salaries	\$189,984.80	\$377,580.14	-50%
Staff Fringe Benefit	\$11,929.44	\$2,456.90	386%
Staff Training	\$0.00	\$1,353.58	-100%
Staff Recruitment	\$0.00		
Rent	\$29,086.83	\$11,004.96	164%
Utilities	\$7,074.01	\$4,639.48	52%
Supplies / Stationary	\$15,422.70	\$12,169.66	27%
Postage & Mailing Services	\$14,004.76		
Comunication / Internet	\$1,937.12	\$2,270.65	-15%
Travel & Transportation	\$46,702.01	\$78,101.96	-40%
Fuel for Vehicle	\$10,123.13		
Tax	\$18,235.90		
Insurance Expneses	\$3,100.00		
Grand Development / Promotion	\$11,771.00		
Repair & Maintenance of Equipment	\$4,363.62		
Other Administrative Cost	\$8,674.00	\$2,884.86	201%
Bank / Legal Expenses	\$14,233.02	\$13,972.65	2%
Total Administrative Cost	\$386,642.34	\$506,434.84	-24%
Net Profit / (Loss)	-\$12,494.46	\$78,905.44	-116%

Contacts

For further information about Yazda and Yazidi case, please visit the following:

websites/pages. Website: www.yazda.org

Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yazda>

Twitter: [@YazdaOrg](https://twitter.com/YazdaOrg)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/yazda.organization/>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrJu9T0bSCRR4BVVkJHRvbvg>

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