







Distributing food in the Hewaat Waald Camp



Ezidi refugees can finally heat their tents



A birthday child in the Baadre Camp

# SHELTER-Report

In Afghanistan it is quite normal to experience temperatures of minus 10 degrees in winter and up to 45 degrees in summer. So we prepare projects before the onset of winter that will help those in need to survive the cold months: 3,600 refugees from dangerous areas of Afghanistan live in tents in the "Hewaat Waald Camp" near Kabul. We were also able to help school children in Panjshir, and Kuchies in Laghman. In addition, many refugees in Kurdistan.

#### A Cold Spell in January

Suddenly on the 22nd of January I received a call from our international director. He told me about extremely cold weather in certain parts of Afghanistan. Several people had already frozen to death. Georg had just visited the Chalou camp, where we had previously worked. A year ago, for example we had drilled a 170 meter deep well in oder to provide the 6,000 inhabitants in the camp with clean drinking water.

Georg was shocked by what he found in this camp. There was not enough to eat and the residents were in danger of getting ill and freezing to death. He appealed to us for help with the words: "They need us – and quickly!"

Our funding to provide food and winter clothing had already been exhausted in December. As it turned out, however, we still had some money I had set apart for other projects. The desperate need in the Chalou camp caused by a sudden, huge drop in temperature moved me to act immediately. I asked our staff members in Kabul to send us a cost calculation. This reached us the next day in two versions: Either we would distribute flour, cooking oil and firewood (cost: 62,000 euros), or flour, cooking oil, beans, tea and sugar, but no firewood (cost: 34,000 euros).

Which option? To live in simple tents or in huts without doors and windows at such low temperatures meant firewood was a must. But just having flour and cooking oil would mean deficient nutrition – an unacceptable option. So we opted for a mixed version and sent money for flour, cooking oil, beans, tea, sugar and half the amount of firewood (cost: 50,900 euros).

As I write this the distribution is already underway. We hope the firewood will last until the extreme cold weather has passed.

We hope, too, that the money we have used for this unforeseen emergency will soon be replenished.

### Back to the Hewaat Waald Camp

I have just received the report of the food distribution project in the Hewaat Waald Camp. 514 families (3,600 persons) have each received the following:

- 50 kg flour
- 5 l. cooking oil
- 3.5 kg beans
- 1 kg green tea
- 3.5 kg sugar for the tea

This is enough for one month and should only serve to improve nutrition in the winter. Those living in the camp are trying to fend for themselves as best they can. The men go to the market every day in the hope of finding work as day labourers. When things are tight the children collect dry bread leftovers in bakeries or sweep up hair at the hairdressers and then sell it.

### Weeping for joy

During the distribution one of our colleagues saw a woman in tears. When he asked her why she was crying, this widow with six children replied, "These are tears of joy! Last week I went to my distant relatives to ask them for food for the winter. When I realised that they had hardly any food themselves I never even bothered to ask. Then I heard that you would be coming, but did not know when but the timing was perfect. Just last night we ate the last bit of food we had!"

#### Winter aid in Kurdistan

While writing this, photos reached me from Kurdistan. There we had been distributing food, fruit for the children, and winter clothing to Ezidi refugees. In one Ezidi camp and in Baadre we distributed over 1,000 simple tent heating units.

#### Rehab centre for former ISIS sex-slaves

In our previous Shelter Report I wrote about our plan to establish a trauma therapy centre for freed ISIS sex slaves. How far have we got?

We have found and rented a very suitable, newly built house. Now we have to get it ready to meet our needs. Further construction measures are necessary. In addition, of course, we require furniture, sports equipment, kitchen equipment, games, sewing machines, music instruments, teaching materials for artistic activities, etc. When we have completed this step we require employees with various qualifications, such as psychologists, craft workers, artists and others.



Lots of fun at the birthday party

From the 150,000 euros planned for the first twelve years we were able to transfer 31.500 euros last November. The next instalment will become due in the near future.

The girls and women are extremely traumatised as a result of years of constant abuse, humiliation and rape at the hands of the IS henchmen. We desire to provide them with every possible means of help to restore their feeling of self worth, their zest for life, as well as to enable them to have a self reliant life. This will take place by means of psychological counselling, recreational activities such as sport, art and music, as well as opportunities to catch up on their schooling, language learning, and vocational training.

## Birthday party in the children's centre

I have just returned from Kurdistan. While there I visited our projects. My priority was to spend time with our staff members. Some of them have become good friends.

A highlight was the children's centre in the Baadre Camp where orphans and half-orphans receive additional classes. What is school? It has much more to do with fun. There is also a school in the camp but the lessons there are very traditional – the teacher speaks in front of the class and the class repeats together what the teacher said – which means fun and effective learning is limited. In the children's centre we work in accordance with the Montessori principle (Teaching and learning are child centred) – creativity, individuality and enjoying learning play a major role.

I see the children's joy in their sparkling eyes. Today is a special day: A birthday party. All children born in February celebrated their birthday on this day. There were a few candidates. Hats were put on their heads and presents placed in their hands. Of course, "Happy Birthday" was sung and the teachers came in carrying

cakes. Everyone was happy and heartedly congratulated the birthday children.

These children had to experience terrible atrocities perpetrated by the IS terrorists. Many have lost their courage to face life. The elder brother of some school children took his own life two weeks ago after losing all hope. The children's centre is there to prevent such things happening to these children. In the meantime we have 120 girls and boys. I have been deeply touched by their contagious joy and would love to have stayed there.



Visit to the new therapy centre in Baadre

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>	Help for?	Support? Funding:	Amount in euros	Project/Project no.
	A freed IS sex- slave	3 months in Therapy Centre	45,	Baadre Therapy Centre (8013)
	A freed IS sex- slave	One year in Therapy Centre	180,	Baadre Therapy Centre (8013)
	A refugee family in Afghanistan	Food and firewood for the winter	60,	Winter Aid Afgha- nistan (6000)
	An orphan in the children's centre	A place for one year	65,	Children's Centre in Baadre Camp (8011)

In recent months we have accomplished a lot – and have many plans for the future. How could we ever realise them without your support. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you.

Warm regards, Udo Stolte and the Shelter team

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