



YAZDA NGO

Annual Report

2019

Text



Prevent and Assist

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

Our humanitarian mission

Our humanitarian mission aims to provide a response to the needs of vulnerable groups in North Iraq. Yazda operates in the sectors of emergency livelihood, protection (MH, PSS and case management) health care, education, community outreach, direct assistance (through food and other aid distribution), agriculture, livelihood, training, infrastructure renovation and legal support. Our beneficiaries are the most vulnerable individuals from the Yazidi community and other minorities.

Our advocacy and accountability mission

Our advocacy mission raises international awareness about human rights violations against the Yazidis and other vulnerable groups in Iraq and Syria in the context of the genocide perpetrated by ISIS.

Yazda seeks international recognition of this genocide, particularly by foreign governments and parliamentarians, the United Nations, and other relevant international organisations. Yazda supports several genocide survivors in their mission to speak up on behalf of all victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Yazda advocates for better services for survivors, including reparations, and for the rebuilding of their destroyed homeland by ISIS in Sinjar and Nineveh Plain.

OUR MISSION

Our accountability mission provides survivors with a sense of justice for the harms endured through comprehensive documentation of the genocide. Yazda collects the testimonies of survivors and other evidence of crimes and coordinates with other actors to promote accountability and conviction of perpetrators. Accountability is essential for the prevention of future crimes against the Yazidis and other minority groups.

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Our mission

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In 2019, 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.

We are also fortunate to have such dedicated professionals on our team: Silvia Zunino, the Country Director in Iraq; Murad Ismael, Yazda's Senior 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 Yazidi and improve the quality of life for those in need.

Murad Ismael is backed by our members and has spent the past three years of his life developing, implementing, and supporting initiatives that help to strengthen the unity of the Yazidi people. He is investing in the next generation's opportunities to expand their knowledge and appreciation of their history, heritage, and cultural identity. He is 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,

Haider Elias

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 Yazidi in Iraq.

Since its inception, Yazda has worked with local and international partners to provide Yazidi ethno-religious minority and other vulnerable groups 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 as a non-profit organisation in Iraq, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Sweden, and Australia.

In the course of 5 years, Yazda grew to employ approximately 90 staff, received support from tens of donors, both institutional and individuals and reached thousands of direct and indirect beneficiaries.



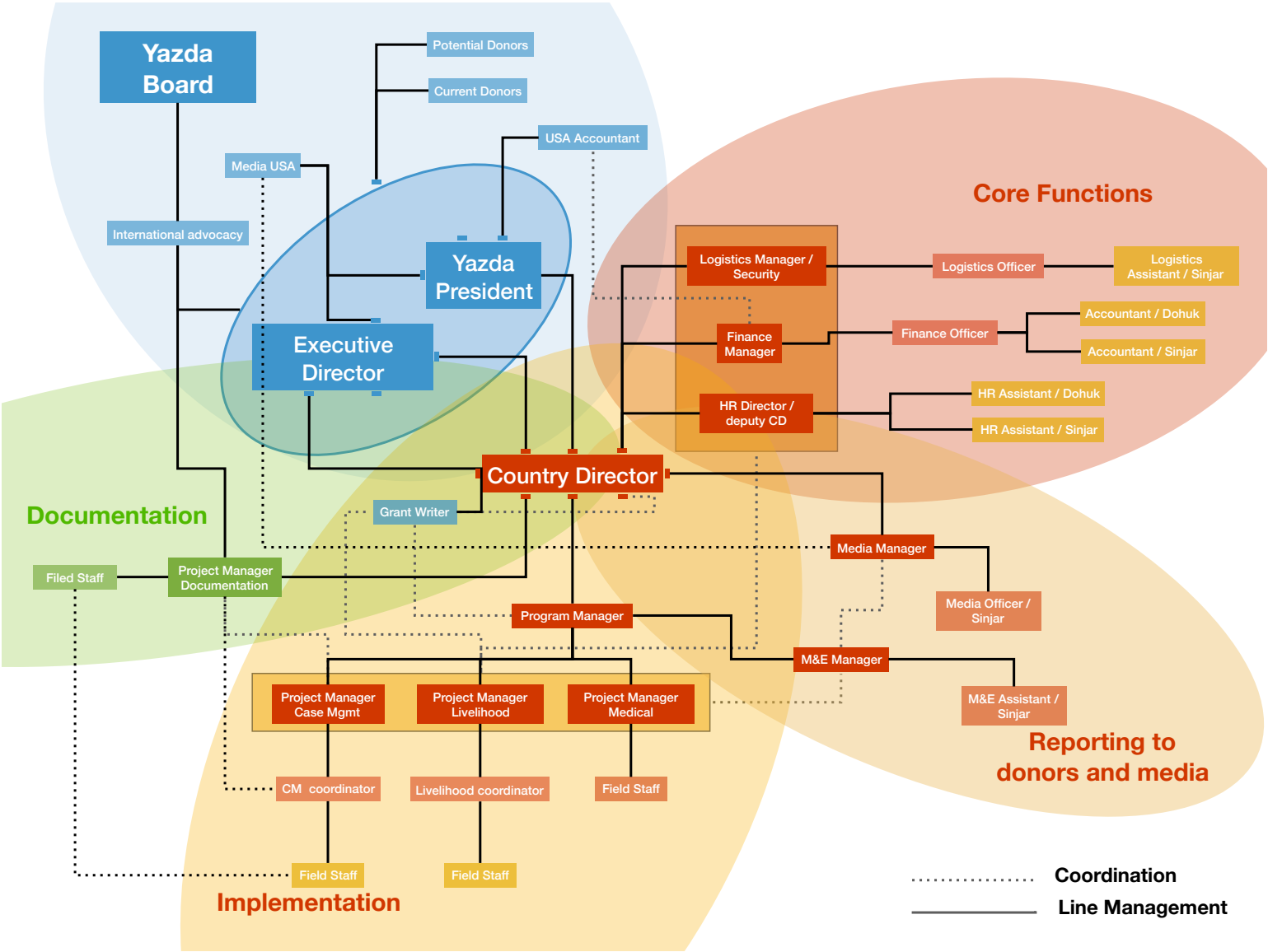
Structure

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. The local volunteer boards in the US, UK, Germany, Sweden, Australia and Iraq are responsible for running Yazda's local branches, managing Yazda's Global Volunteer Network and for delivering Yazda's strategy in those countries in compliance with applicable laws.

In Iraq, Yazda is led by the Country Director who manages and oversees Yazda's staff and projects in Iraq. The Country Director manages the core staff (Finance Manager, M&E Director, HR Director, Procurement and Logistics Director, Security Officer and Project Managers), liaises with partners and donors, and represents Yazda before the local authorities.

Our team in Iraq includes 90 full-time, paid staff who provide essential services to survivors of ISIS atrocities, IDPs, refugees, and families with low incomes.

Our volunteers worldwide work on advocacy, awareness raising, and building relations with governments and local and international organizations to promote the Yazidi cause. Through international networking Yazda is able to fundraise for humanitarian projects implemented in Iraq.



Global presence

In the USA Yazda runs a cultural center in Nebraska.

Yazda doesn't have physical offices in the UK, Germany, Australia or Sweden in order to minimize administration costs.



Local presence

In Iraq, Yazda operates from 5 offices. In Duhok we run the main office and Yazda House, our base for case management, psychosocial and livelihood work. In Sinjar and in Sinuni we run a total of 4 field offices and one staff guesthouse.



3 August 2014

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 Security forces mandated to protect the area abandoned bases and checkpoints leaving the local population unprotected and largely defenceless in the face of ISIS's advance.

In the hours and days that followed, approximately 12,000 Yazidis were killed and over 7,500 mainly women and young children 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;
- 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.



THE YAZIDI GENOCIDE

ISIS's attack also caused the displacement of 100% of the population, an estimated 550,000 people. Approximately 70,000 Yazidis who fled to Mount Sinjar 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 could reach them. Subsequently, a collaborative operation was launched including Yazidi volunteer defenders, Syrian Kurdish forces, and the international coalition. Their coordinated efforts provided a safe



passage from Mount Sinjar to Syria through which many Yazdis were able to flee from the 7th to 13th of August, 2014, and reach the IDP camps around the city of Dohuk.

Having seized the Yazidi homeland, ISIS went on to devastate infrastructures and religious sites. Yazidi homes, farms and property were destroyed or looted, severely hampering the prospects of surviving Yazidis returning to their homeland swiftly after liberation.

UN Commission of Enquiry

The United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic ('Inquiry on Syria') found that ISIS's actions against the Yazidi amounted to multiple war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Yazda and many other organizations are gathering compelling evidence that there was indeed a genocide against the Yazidis, and that this genocide is ongoing as long as captives are not freed, life is not rebuilt and Yazidi as a community don't recover emotionally, socially and economically. 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.

The Elements of Genocide

According to international law, the crime of genocide has some identifiable elements:

1. Protected group: Genocide must be committed against a “national, ethnical, racial or religious group”. The Yazidis, as an ethno-religious minority, clearly fall within this category.
2. Physical element: Genocide may be committed by (a) killing members of the group; (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to them; (c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; and/or (e) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group. The UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria found that ISIS perpetrated all five of genocidal acts set out above against the Yazidis.
3. Mental element: The crime of genocide requires that the perpetrator have a special intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a protected group. The genocidal acts must be committed against a person because of their membership in that group and as an incremental step in the overall objective of destroying the group. ISIS has openly stated that its aim to destroy the Yazidi minority, including in articles published in English.



Why The Recognition of the Genocide matters

Since August 2014, ISIS members of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) have perpetrated brutal crimes against the Yazidi community of Sinjar, including mass executions, sexual enslavement, forced displacement and the recruitment of child soldiers. Today, an estimated 85% of the Yazidi population of Iraq is displaced and over 3,000 women and children remain in ISIS captivity.

The [United Nations](#) and the [European Union](#), as well as many other countries have recognized that the crimes committed by ISIS against the Yazidis constitute genocide. Yazda has worked tirelessly to ensure this recognition, which has several consequences.

First, it acknowledges the gravity of the offence perpetrated against the Yazidis. Genocide is considered 'the crime of crimes', the worst that can be done by a human being to others. It is what Hitler did to millions of Jews, what the Serbs did to Bosnian Muslims in the former Yugoslavia, what the Hutus did to the Tutsis in Rwanda, and what ISIS is now doing to the Yazidis.

Second, States are under an international legal [obligation to prevent and punish](#) acts of genocide.



The international community failed to prevent the genocide started against the Yazidis in 2014, it now has a duty to punish those responsible for it.

Recognition of the Yazidi genocide should therefore be a step towards holding ISIS accountable for their heinous crimes in a suitable judicial forum.

Recognition of the genocide

in 2014

Kurdistan Regional Government - Foreign Minister Falah Mustafa

Iraq Government

in 2016

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe:

European Parliament

US House of Representatives

US Secretary of State John Kerry

UK House of Commons

United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

Canadian House of Commons

French Senate

THE YAZIDI GENOCIDE

French National Assembly

Armenian Parliament

in 2017

Scottish Parliament

in 2018

Australian Parliament

in 2019

Portuguese Parliament



Situation in 2019

In 2019, 550,000 displaced people continue to face significant challenges. Approximately: 350,000 still live in or next to IDP camps in the Dohuk province of Kurdistan.

130,000 have returned to Sinjar region, mainly North of the mountain.

Of this group, only a small percentage have returned to their town of origin, while the vast majority, who originated South of the Mountain, are still in temporary accommodation on the North side, experiencing continued displacement. The South side does not provide adequate security, infrastructure and services, and by the end of 2019 only approx. 12,000 people have returned here, of a total of 350,000 pre genocide.

20,000 have returned to their home in Bashiqa, a town that suffered a lower level of destruction and where services are slowly resuming.

50,000 have expatriated or relocated abroad.

In Dohuk, the in-camp and out-of-camp population still suffers due to lack of basic services, such as education and healthcare, as many NGOs have diverted resources away from the Yazidi community and towards other humanitarian crisis worldwide.

In Sinjar, the situation is exacerbated by a lack of security, services and job opportunities. The widespread destruction is the background to a very slow recovery supported by many organizations worldwide including the UN, the USA, and several European countries. A coordinated approach prioritizes the recovery of the local economy and the rebuilding of basic infrastructure.

Humanitarian Work

Our humanitarian mission addresses the needs of vulnerable groups in North Iraq, with a focus on the Yazidi community and other minorities.

Our humanitarian accomplishments in Iraq in 2019 include activities in several sectors. Yazda was active in the sectors of protection through major projects in MH-PSS and case management targeting women survivors of ISIS and other highly vulnerable and traumatized beneficiaries, in livelihood through support to small business, income generating activities and vocational trainings, in health through the Mobile Medical Unit on its 4th year of operations, in agriculture with the replantation of olive groves, education, and legal support to the community.



Protection



Livelihood



Agriculture



Education



Legal support



Health

Return and Reintegration of IDPs in Ninewa

Through a holistic approach that puts survivors complex needs at the centre of the response, we support the sustainable and effective return and reintegration of returnees in the Sinjar region and in Bashiqa.

Our beneficiaries are victims and survivors of severe human rights violations during the genocidal campaign of ISIS.

Our projects provide beneficiaries with a range of services in the field of Psychosocial Support (PSS), case management, livelihood assistance, income-generating opportunities, access to public services, social cohesion programs, diaspora engagement, and administrative support.



8 staff operate out of our 3 offices in Sinuni, Sinjar and Bashiqa. In Sinjar the main focus is on the large collective villages on the north side of the mountain and in Sinjar City itself.

The 24 month and 30 month long projects started in 2018 and are part of a long term strategy to support the recovery of Sinjar. Yazda is part of 2 consortiums with our partners IOM and HAI, and coordinate with several other NGOs on the ground through referral systems.

Holistic Approach to Survivors in IDP Camps

A response to displacement, severe trauma, health conditions, and livelihood challenges

In December 2019 Yazda was granted a one-year project to support Yazidi survivors in the Dohuk area where most beneficiaries are victims of SGBV. The holistic care provided includes PSS individual and group sessions, legal assistance for the replacement of documents and livelihood support to re-establish avenues of income for the most vulnerable.

A special focus is on promoting community awareness on the rights of survivors to access reparations and on their legal rights.

Yazda's legal department is training a selected group of survivors to advocate both in Iraq and internationally, for their rights and on legal avenues for transitional justice.

The group of survivors engaged in this advocacy are planning to meet several European Heads of State and parliaments to promote the cause of the Yazidi people and for all victims of genocide.

Administrative Support for Survivors

A response to loss of identity cards, marriage certificates, and to enable access to staff funded pensions

A crucial part of Yazda's work is to provide administrative support to survivors to enable access to other service providers, particularly the Iraqi Government. We have successfully assisted survivors to access:

- Small pensions (Bataqa Cards): Largely thanks to Yazda's 2016 lobbying campaign, the Iraqi Central Government's Social Affairs Department agreed to pay a life lasting monthly pension specifically to Yazidi



HUMANITARIAN WORK

survivors of the 2014 genocide. Yazda successfully supported 703 survivors and is following up on another 350 cases.

- 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.

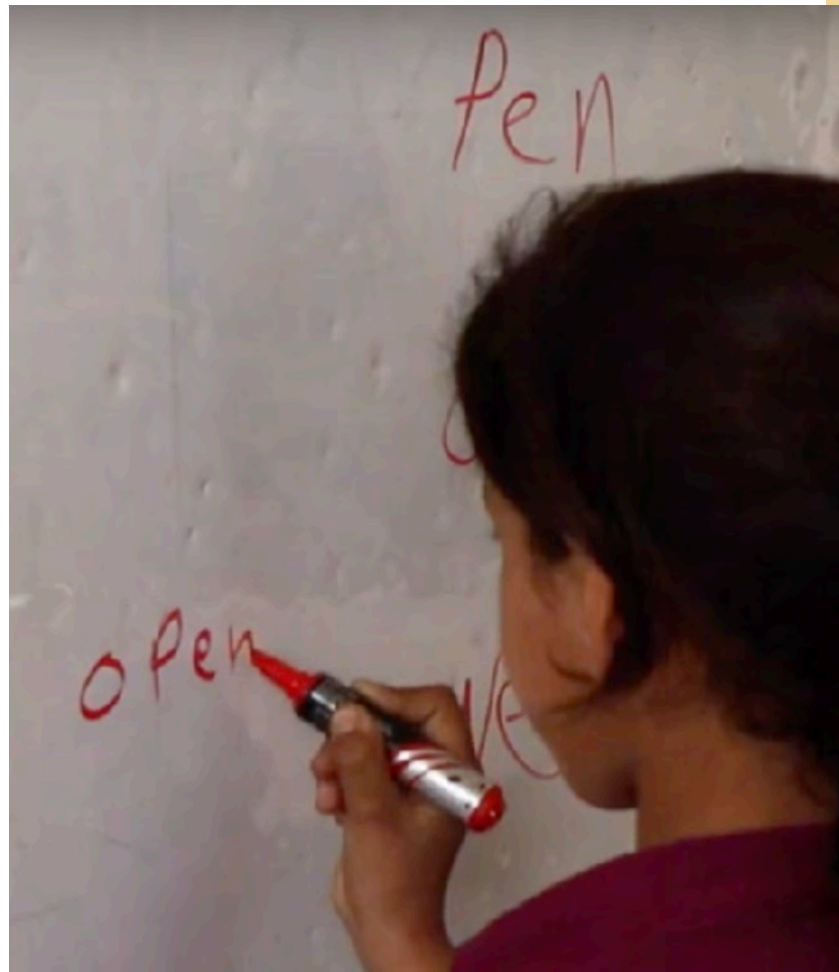
Informal Education

A response to the lack of services

In the Sinjar post-genocide environment, schools are slowly reopening, but government funding is insufficient to compensate teachers for their time, and the schools are only partially rebuilt and lack much of the teaching equipment and materials.

Many children who remain in displacement in IDP Camps for some years, have not been able to access formal education. As they are now back in Sinjar, they face a gap in the trajectory of their education.

In 2019 Yazda continued its Informal Education Project in 5 collectives North of the mountain (Dugure, Borek, Guhbal, Zorava and Duhola). 334 children aged between 4-16 years attended classes taught by a team of 9 qualified local teachers and 4 volunteers. Hired local



HUMANITARIAN WORK

teachers were provided a small income. The project boosted enthusiasm among children and youth and inspired further engagement with their respective communities.

Academic subjects that are usually neglected in formal Iraqi education were taught, including: Yazidi literature and culture, English, art and design, creative thinking, and ecology.

The project raised the children's self-esteem (including amongst them the severely traumatized children) as they become more confident both socially and academically. At the time of reporting, our education project has assisted 834 students in total.



Transportation to school

A response to the lack of access to schools for children in Sinjar

As schools gradually reopen in Sinjar, transportation remains a challenge for many children. Yazda provided transportation from home to school to over 800 children, by hiring and managing an extensive fleet of buses. This support lasted for 4 months and proved very successful in enabling children's access to formal education.



Sustainable and Resilient Livelihood Projects

A response to the destruction of farms and small economy in Sinjar

The Sustainable and Resilient Livelihood Development project aims to increase agricultural production and to improve access to nutritious food.

The 24-month project in Sinjar City and in selected surrounding villages aims to promote sustainable economic development through income-generating opportunities in the private sector for vulnerable groups.

Yazda will establish 32 agricultural and 32 nonagricultural small businesses, and offer vocational training to build resilience in rural communities through capacity building in positive coping strategies and risk-sensitive agricultural practices.

The target villages that rely heavily on agriculture are Ash Shabiya, Al Sabahia, Al Naseriya, Zumani, Qizil Kand, and Tal Qasab.

This Project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by Yazda and Arbeiter Samariter Bund (ASB).



Agricultural Project in Bashiqa

A response to the destruction of farms and olive groves in Bashiqa

As a part of WFP's program of Resilience Building Resilience in Bashiqa, this project aimed to reduce vulnerability and support resilience in conflict-affected households in the Bashiqa and Bahzani areas.

Project activities included increasing agricultural production, supporting cash transfers to vulnerable households, rehabilitation and cleaning of irrigation soil and concrete canals, removal of debris and dead trees and proper weeding and pruning of 17,000 olive trees.

125 hectares of land was cleared and 411 meters of concrete canals were rehabilitated.

In collaboration with People in Need (PIN), 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.





Mobile Medical Unit

A response to lack of health services in remote villages

Yazda in partnership with Stichting Vluchteling extended the project for another 12 months. The project started on 1st of April 2018 and will last end July 2020. This initiative provides medical assistance to the North Side of Sinjar Mountain. A team consisting of a medical doctor, a pharmacist and two nurses frequently visited 14 remote villages in Sinjar: Adeeka, Tairaf, Aldeenah, Kharbah, Qane, Bayeev, Naqsay, Bakrah, Kormale, Zerwa, Bakhilif, Shorka, Gurmiz and Karse.

The Mobile Clinic served more than 1,500 patients per month, including 130 cases of chronic diseases, supporting many with essential medicines and blood tests.



Advocacy Work: Fighting for Justice, Accountability and genocide Recognition



Genocide documentation



Media engagement



Meetings and conferences

Our legal and documentation work continued for the 5th year, focussing on interviewing survivors of genocide and offering the testimonies collected at the trials of ISIS fighters in Courts in European countries. In one case the trial was concluded with the conviction of the ISIS fighter, thanks to the information and witnesses provided by Yazda.

Yazda worked closely with the Canadian and Australian governments to identify the most vulnerable for their resettlement programs, which provides new life opportunities to survivors of genocide. In Iraq, Yazda's advocacy work culminated on the 3 August with the 5th Conference for the Commemoration of the Yazidi Genocide. Held in Baghdad, it provided an opportunity for high profile politicians and representatives of the international community to come together and review the situation of the Yazidi community.

In 2019 Yazda's international advocacy work continued thanks to the ongoing effort of Board Members. The main focus of our Global Advocacy and Raising Awareness Campaigns in 2019 has been to promote justice and accountability, genocide recognition and acknowledgment of ISIS crimes in Iraq and Syria, support survivors to speak up about their experiences and needs, advocate for justice and accountability and for greater minority rights, women's rights, and human rights in Iraq; the necessity of greater Yazidis, Christians and other minority involvement and leadership positions within Iraqi government and society; the dire status of Sinjar and the Nineveh Plain and the urgency of rebuilding and opening up Sinjar and the larger Nineveh Plains region.



Recognition of the genocide and acknowledgment of ISIS crimes

On 29 November 2019 and after 2 years of continued work, Yazda and in partnership with the Estoril Conferences successfully lobbied the Members of the Portuguese Parliament to vote unanimously on the recognition of the genocide against Yazidi people in Iraq by ISIS, also known as Daesh.

Yazda's work with Amal Clooney, Nadia Murad and our partners over the past five years have led to similar motions which have been passed in different countries which include cross party support by the British House of Commons, US congress, L'Assemblée nationale in France, the European Parliament, the Canadian House of Commons, the Australian Parliament, the Scottish Parliament and the Armenian Parliament.

Recognition and acknowledgement of the ISIS genocide and other crimes is extremely vital as an emotional remedy for the victims and in supporting efforts towards justice and the accountability process.



Yazda 2019 Conference in Baghdad: Five years of Genocide: Yazidis demand justice, security, & reconstruction

Titled "Five years of Genocide: Yazidis demand justice, security, and reconstruction," The event was a deep and honest reflection of challenges facing the Yazidi people, five years since the Sinjar invasion began on August 3, 2014. The conference brought together 200 high profile government and diplomatic corps dignitaries, leaders and activists of civil society, Yazidi survivors, and friends of the Yazidi Cause at the Babylon Rotana Hotel in Baghdad. Yazidi survivor Hala Safil was the first plenary speaker. Other speakers included Ammar al-Hakim, leader of the al-Hikmah Movement, the Iraqi government representative Dr. Mahdi Alallaq, representing the Office of the Prime Minister of Iraq, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary general in Iraq (UNAMI), Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, Karim Khan, Special Advisor and Head of the United Nations Investigative Team, MP Saib Khider, a member of parliament representing the



Yazidi quota, the Ambassador of the United States in Iraq, H.E. Matthew Tueller; the Ambassador of France in Iraq, H.E. Bruno Aubert; Matt Alexander, the Acting Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Australia in Iraq; John Tucknott, Deputy Ambassador of the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Iraq; and Beate Hoppe, First Secretary for Political and Cultural Affairs at the Embassy of Germany in Iraq. Imam of Abu Hanifa Mosque, Abdul Wahab Al- Samarai, Nadine Maenza, Vice Chair of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. Based on the discussion between participants in this conference, a policy paper titled “[10 steps to ensure Justice, Reparations, Recovery and Return for the Yazidis](#)” was written by Yazda and shared with the Iraqi government, UN and International NGOs, embassies and consulates in Iraq. More about this event can be found [here](#)

Survivor Voice: empower survivors to speak out about their needs

Our advocacy efforts aim to support genocide survivors to speak about their experiences and needs. Yazda is the first NGO to support Yazidi survivors to speak about their experiences and needs. One of the successful examples of Yazda’s support to survivors is Nadia Murad’s campaign. 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. Yazda also supported Nadia Murad to write her book, *The Last Girl*, and to participate in her Documentary Film “On Her Shoulders.” Yazda has also supported other survivors including Farida Khalaf, Halal Safel, Nisrin Rasho and Dalal Khairo to disseminate their messages worldwide. Due to the ongoing high demands for survivors to speak about their experiences, Yazda decided at the end of 2019 to establish the first ever Yazidi Survivors Network (YSN) to support survivors of genocide and sexual enslavement committed by the so-called Islamic State (IS also known as “Daesh”).

ADVOCACY WORK

The YSN will empower survivors to speak out about their experiences, express their needs, fight for justice, and promote international accountability and human rights. It will also advocate for the expansion of effective programs and services for survivors and vulnerable communities in Iraq.

Advocating for Justice and Accountability



In 2019, advocacy for justice and accountability were hand-in-hand at Yazda. Yazda, with support of its Legal Counsel Amal Clooney, is seeking to secure accountability for international crimes perpetrated by ISIS against the Yazidi community in Iraq and Syria, including genocide, mass executions, sexual enslavement and trafficking, recruitment of child soldiers and forced displacement, among other war crimes and crimes against humanity. 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.

Between 2015-2017, Yazda, Amal Clooney and Nadia Murad, lobbied the UN to establish an investigative team (UNITAD - United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Daesh/ISIL) to collect, analyse, preserve and store the evidence of the crimes committed by ISIS. Yazda is working with this team as well as with a number of national prosecutors around the world to secure trials on ISIS crimes against Yazidis and other minorities.

Engaging with Policy Makers

As a part of these global advocacy efforts, in 2019 Yazda advocated in Iraq, US, UK, EU Countries, Australia and met with a number of world policy makers including politicians, UN and International NGOs leaders, universities, human rights activists. Here are some examples of our 2019 engagement:

- August 27, 2019: Yazidi survivor and author, Dalal Khairi accompanied by Yazda board member, Delkhawaz Hacı, participated in a UN Security Council meeting, advancing the safety and security of persons belonging to religious minorities in armed conflict. The meeting took place on the first International Day Commemorating Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief on August

22, 2019. In May 2019 UN General Assembly adopted a Resolution establishing August 22 as the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion and Belief.

- Yazda members Haider Elias (President), Hadi Pir (Vice President), and Saad Bapir (Board member & Media Director) participated in the second Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom July 16-18, 2019.
- Yazda "Nobody's Listening" Project Director Ryan D'Souza met with representatives of the State of Baden-Württemberg to discuss the groundbreaking exhibition and virtual reality experience of the Yazidi Genocide. The State of Baden-Württemberg and Dr. Kizilhan supported the resettlement of 1,100 Yazidi women, who suffered heinous atrocities perpetrated by ISIS. They were provided psychosocial support and are now the strongest voices calling for justice. This includes Nadia Murad, Farida Khalif, Lamiya Haji, and many others.



ADVOCACY WORK

- A USAID Delegation visited Yazda Office in Nebraska to discuss the situation of minorities in Iraq.
- Yazda organised a workshop on Designing an Internationalized Justice Mechanism in Iraq.
- Yazda UK Board member, Fiona Bennett and the Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale updated the All Party Parliamentary Group on Yazidis in the UK House of Commons about their visit to Erbil, Dohuk and Mosul and their meetings with the Yazidis in the region. Their testimonies showed that there is still so much that needs to be done in helping the Yazidis to recover from ISIS genocide.
- Yazda Delegation met with the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights.
- Yazda held a very successful briefing session with members of the Irish Parliament in Dublin, Feb. 5th on the current situation for Yazidis and minorities in Iraq and the Middle East generally. Parties attended



included Fine Gael, Fianna Fail, Labour, Greens, and Independent. Briefings were also provided to officials in the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. As part of the 2-day visit, Yazda Deputy Executive Director, Ahmed Khudida Burjus, participated in the screening of Nadia Murad's documentary film "On Her Shoulders" which was organized by the United Nations Cinema in partnership with the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and The UN Refugee Agency Ireland at Pálás Cinema in Galway on the 4th of February 2019.

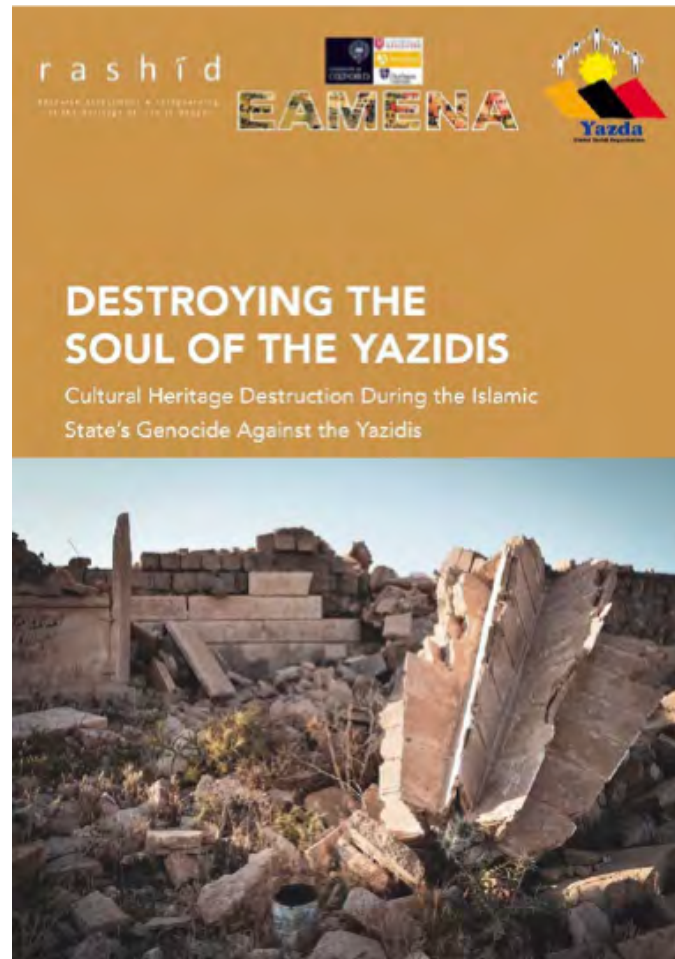


Publications, Reporting and Media

Yazda is playing an important role in reporting and on covering survivors' situations and needs as well as the needs of minority communities in Iraq and Syria. Yazda became a credible source for government, NGOs, and media agencies around the world for credible news about the situation of minorities in Iraq and Syria.

ADVOCACY WORK

- Media: In 2019, Yazda was interviewed by or quoted in a number of major international media and news agencies, including the Foreign Policy (blog), BBC, An-Nahar, Middle East Monitor NY Times, Forbes, Reuters, Guardian, Independent, Wall Street Journal, SBS, Le Mondo, Los Angeles Times, Middle East Eye, Voice of America, France 24, Rudaw, Al-Arabiya, Voice of America, DW, The National and many more. Yazda's pages on Facebook reached over 45,000 followers and its Twitter page reached 14,000 followers by the end of 2019.
- Reporting: In 2019 and on the eve of the 5th anniversary of the ISIS attacks on Yazidis by the so called Islamic State (IS), Yazda Global Organization, RASHID International and the Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa Project (EAMENA) released the results of their investigation into cultural heritage destruction during the genocide against the Yazidis, in a report entitled "Destroying the Soul of the Yazidis: Cultural Heritage Destruction during the Islamic State's Genocide against the Yazidis". Full Report can be found [here](#).
- Yazda 2019 Policy Paper "10 steps to ensure Justice, Reparations, Recovery and Return for the



Yazidis”

- Yazda's Participation in the Preparation of 2019 Thematic Report of the UN Human Rights Council
- Working Around the Clock — Documenting Mass Graves of Yazidis Killed by the Islamic State, [Yazda Documentation Project Report 2018](#)
- An Uncertain Future of Yazidis: A Report Marking Three Years of an Ongoing Genocide, Yazda 2017
- <https://www.yazda.org/post/yazda-conference-five-years-of-genocide-yazidis-demand-justice-security-reconstruction>

THANK YOU

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THANK YOU!

Our gratitude goes out to our partners who supported us, encouraged us, trusted us and were part of Yazda's 2019 journey.

Without you, none of this would have been achieved. Thank you to:



... and to Yazda's many other friends ...

Thank you

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YAZDA Global

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 December 2019

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Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

Statement of Financial Position

Notes to the financial statement

YAZDA GLOBAL
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
For the year ended 31 December 2019

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

(Stated in USD)

	<u>Notes</u>	01 Jan to 31 Dec 2019
Grants and other income	1,3	3,362,668
Project expenditures		
Personnel costs	4	547,041
Program costs	5	1,145,144
Administration Costs	6	319,300
		2,011,485
Financial gains/loss	7	813
Total Expenditures		2,012,298
Net income/ (expenditure)		1,350,370
Total funds brought forward		90,368
Total funds carried forward		1,440,738

For the year ended 31 December 2019

Statement of Financial Position

(Stated in USD)

	<u>Notes</u>		31 Dec 2019
Fixed asset	8		-
Current assets			
Cash in bank and in hand	9	1,441,882	
Current liabilities			
Other creditors	10	(1,144)	
Net current assets			1,440,738
Total net assets			1,440,738
Total funds			1,440,738

The attached notes on pages 7 to 9 form part of this financial statement.

For the year ended 31 December 2019

Notes to the financial statements

(Stated in USD)

1. General

Yazda is a global community-led institution that protects and champions all religious and ethnic minority communities, including Assyrians, Chaldeans, Kakais, Shabak, Turkmen, and Yazidis in Iraq, the Kurdistan Region, and Syria.

Founded in 2014 at the onset of the genocide perpetuated by Da'esh, also known as the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL) against the Yazidis, as well as war crimes and crimes against humanity against other minorities, Yazda leads advocacy and strategic projects in Dohuk, Sinjar, and the Nineveh Plains, as well as global diaspora hubs.

We work hand-in-hand with our partners, including United Nations agencies, key donor governments, the Iraqi and Kurdistan Regional Governments, and instrumental community organizations to ensure justice, accountability, and a sustainable future for all are swiftly reached.

We are fervently determined to ensure Never Again, so that no community and people ever face genocide.

Yazda is registered in the US, UK, Iraq, Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Sweden, and Australia. Our very hard-working multinational volunteer teams in these 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.

In addition, Yazda has local volunteer boards in the US, UK, 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 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 is supported by other core staff in Iraq, such as the Finance Manager, M&E Director, HR Director, Procurement and Logistics Director, and Projects Managers to manage Yazda's day to day activities on the ground.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

2.1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statement has been prepared in accordance with YAZDA's financial accounting handbook.

The financial statement has been prepared according to the accrual basis of accounting.

2.2 Revenue

The accrual basis is an accounting method that recognizes revenue as it is earned. In case for which no quid pro quo is required, such as gifts, income is recognized in accounts when the following three criteria have been met:

- 1- The organization must be legally entitled to the income in question.
- 2- It must be reasonably certain that the income in question will be received.
- 3- It must be possible to adequately measure the income in question.

2.3 Expenses

As for the expenditures, these are compared to and carried to expenses simultaneously with the activity that incurred the expenditure in question. This applies on both the costs incurred to obtain funds and to those incurred in order to realize the program objectives. Expenses that cannot be directly attributed to activities are carried to expenses as and when they occur.

2.4 Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price). Loans and other financial liabilities are initially recognized at transaction price net of any transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortized cost determined using the effective interest method.

2.5 Foreign currency transactions:

All Expenditures paid in different currencies other than the United States Dollar (USD) are translated into USD using the average monthly exchange rate for such currency. At the end of each reporting period foreign currency monetary items are translated at the closing rate of exchange. Non-monetary items that are measured at historical cost are translated at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. All differences are charged to profit or loss.

The Financial Statement has been presented in USD.

2.6 Property, plant and equipment

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulative depreciation and any accumulative impairment losses. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold buildings:	over 50 years
Leasehold land and buildings:	over the lease term
Plant and machinery:	over 5 years
Fixtures, fittings, tools and equipment:	over 5 years
Computers:	over 3 years

3. Grants and donations

01 Jan to 31 Dec 2019	
Grant Income	3,232,576
Donations and gifts	130,092
	3,362,668

4. Personnel Costs

	01 Jan to 31 Dec 2019
Salaries for project personnel	241,460
Salaries for office and administration staff	282,688
International and national travel	22,893
	547,041

5. Program Costs

	01 Jan to 31 Dec 2019
Projects including youth, medical and other support activities	446,109
Production costs	74,907
Workshops and training activities	2,902
Advocacy activities	27,079
Legal and case management	84,802
Utilities and supplies	38,904
Travel and accommodation	5,057
Rent	20,950
Grants and other assistance	365,359
Transportation of beneficiaries	79,075
	1,145,144

YAZDA GLOBA

6. Administration Costs

	01 Jan to 31 Dec 2019
Office supplies and utilities	58,630
Communication costs	9,864
Office maintenance	13,033
Office rent	37,122
Generator running costs	20,773
Bank charges and fees	15,150
Accounting and Audit	10,839
Depreciation	11,000
Legal fees	1,383
IT software, equipment and accessories	15,477
Vehicle rent	86,310
Vehicles running costs	19,990
Other expenses	19,729
	319,300

7. Financial gains/loss

	01 Jan to 31 Dec 2019
Currency exchange gains	(19,899)
Currency exchange loss	20,712
	813

8. **Property, plant and equipment**

	01 Jan to 31 Dec 2019
Cost	
Balanced as at 1 January 2019	11,000
Additions	-
Disposals	-
Balance as at 31 December 2019	11,000
Depreciation	
Balanced as at 1 January 2019	-
Charge for the year	11,000
Disposals	-
Balance as at 31 December 2019	11,000
Net book value as at 31 December 2019	-

9. **Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank	1,441,882
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10. **Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

Accruals and deferred income	1,143
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