

My Life My Future



2022 Annual Report

From the Executive Director

Dear friends and supporters,

On behalf of the Free Yezidi Foundation (FYF), it is my pleasure to present our 2022 Annual Report. The Yezidi community remains largely displaced, at risk, and struggling to identify a brighter future in Iraq. In this regard, we cannot characterize the past year as a resounding success for our community. However, I am pleased to report that FYF has been able to provide services to thousands of Yezidi civilians in 2022, thanks to the generous support of our friends and allies.

This report will highlight the projects that our team has been implementing in the field, the impact these have had on individual participants, and our organization's strategic priorities for the years to come.

I am very proud that FYF is a women-led organization. Women-led civil society organizations are critical to all communities, particularly in the Middle East. The Yezidi community is no exception. You will notice that FYF includes gender considerations in every project we implement. While operating a women-led organization presents certain challenges, it also opens many doors. This has been vital to our outreach to Yezidi women and girls, including survivors of the worst types of crimes.

In 2022, FYF employed over 115 staff members, more than ever before. Most importantly, I am proud to report that more than 90% of our team members are Yezidi. That is because we are a civil society organization composed of Yezidis and working to benefit the Yezidi people. Furthermore, 92% of our team members were based in the field, illustrating our organizational focus on direct delivery of services and support to the community. Equally, we focus on female leadership at all levels of the organization. Aside from support staff members, 88% of our team are female. Many of our leaders began their work with us as translators, or in some cases, as beneficiaries. FYF seeks to enhance the knowledge and skills of members of the community, with a focus on women, and I am pleased that this has proven effective within our organization.

FYF focuses primarily on successfully implementing projects and achieving targeted results. Much of our work is conducted for the benefit of individual participants and beneficiaries, and often cannot be shared publicly - especially our work on justice and accountability and with survivors of sexual violence. However, we have done our best to outline our projects in this report and share the perspectives of FYF's beneficiaries.

Despite FYF's growth and development, the community in Iraq and the diaspora remains in great peril. The role of Yezidi civil society has never been more important, and there is still much to be done. We rely on you - our friends, allies, and supporters - to continue standing with our organization and the Yezidi community, as they strive to recover and build a more stable future for the coming generations.

I invite you to explore this report and learn more about what FYF has done in 2022 and seeks to accomplish in the coming years.



Pari Ibrahim
Executive Director



Mission & Vision

FYF supports the Yezidi community in the aftermath of the 2014 Yezidi Genocide. FYF promotes the rights and well-being of Yezidis in Iraq and the diaspora, with an emphasis on women's empowerment, the pursuit of justice, and helping the community rebuild through trauma treatment, education, training, and economic development.



Why we work with Yezidis

In August 2014, the so-called Islamic State (IS, ISIS) carried out a genocide against the Yezidi ethno-religious minority in Iraq, resulting in mass killings, forced conversions, enslavement of over 6,000 Yezidi women and children, displacement of over 400,000 Yezidis, and destruction of the Yezidi homeland of Sinjar. Almost a decade later, the community continues to suffer the impact of the genocide, with nearly half the population still internally displaced, over 2,600 Yezidis still missing or in captivity, and a lack of basic resources and infrastructure in Sinjar. The community needs holistic and tangible support to rebuild, recover, and establish resiliency.

Why we work with women

FYF operates under the principle that there are no human rights without women's rights. FYF empowers Yezidi women to combat gender-based discrimination and violence against women and girls within the Yezidi community.

FYF is women-led and attaches great importance to working with women from other communities, particularly minority and vulnerable groups in Iraq. Through its programming and internal policies and procedures, FYF builds the capacity of Yezidi and other minority women to become leaders in their communities. FYF integrates gender equity principles into its operations and human resources practices, reflecting its organizational values of promoting the rights of women and girls.

FYF's success will include the development and advancement of Yezidi female beneficiaries and staff members to serve as changemakers and community leaders in both Yezidi and women's rights civic spaces. This priority runs throughout each FYF strategic goal and embodies FYF's ethos as an organization.

Geographical Focus Area



Khanke

In camp | 14,407 IDPs

Out of camp | >12,000 IDPs



Sheikhan

In camp | 3,775 IDPs

Out of camp | 500 families



Sharya

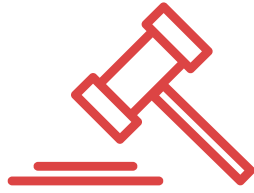
In camp | 15,663 IDPs

Out of camp | 17,010 IDPs



2022 At A Glance

Justice



1,790 individuals were provided with informational materials on legal rights
54 survivors and witnesses were interviewed in an ethical, survivor-centric manner
120 persons of interest profiles were composed
FYF Released Structural Analysis of Mass Atrocities in Hardan
FYF Formally Admitted as Civil Party in French Suit Against Lafarge

Protection



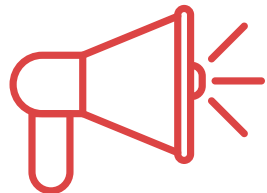
785 individuals received Know-Your-Rights sessions
2,918 individuals were reached through Yezidi Survivors Law (YSL) awareness sessions
243 individuals received consultations with an FYF lawyer on the YSL application
184 individuals were provided with SGBV services
178 individuals were provided with case management
78 men attended positive masculinity sessions
31 Yezidi women with children born of rape received psychosocial support sessions
313 individuals received psychological first aid from Harikara

Livelihoods



672 hand sewn and knitted items sold at FYF's Enterprise & Training Center
35 women employed at the Enterprise & Training Center
8,697 USD in sales at Sugar is Sweet Bakery & Cafe
10 women employed at the Sugar is Sweet Bakery & Cafe
25 birthday parties for displaced children

Advocacy



FYF Executive Director Received Women's Refugee Commission Voices of Courage Award
Dozens of Delegations Visited FYF Centers
3 Op-eds Published
10 High-level Event Engagements
4 Public Statements
FYF Joined Dutch Police to Launch ISIS Crimes Tip Line

Justice & Accountability

What we do

FYF works to improve the Yezidi community's access to justice and serve as an international leader in performing structural investigations into ISIS crimes against Yezidis, with a focus on female survivors of sexual violence.

FYF is one of only a few internationally recognized links between prosecuting bodies and Yezidi survivors. FYF continues to compile unique analyses of crime scenes and suspect dossiers, working closely with UN mechanisms (IIIM and UNITAD) and war crimes units in jurisdictions outside Iraq. FYF's all-female team of lawyers and investigators continue to integrate survivor-centered practices into all aspects of survivor interactions.

FYF focuses on collaboration with other judicial actors, particularly prosecutors and UN mechanisms, to heighten the prospects of justice and accountability in the aftermath of the Yezidi Genocide.

How it went

At the end of 2021, FYF launched its second iteration of its justice and accountability project, focusing on five Yezidi villages and two execution sites.

The project focuses on the identification and prosecution of ISIS perpetrators of atrocities through targeted investigation of specific crime scenes and perpetrators who have been identified by FYF, with a view to contributing to structural crime scene analysis and prosecutions. It contributes to case building and the preparation of perpetrator dossiers that are shared with UN mechanisms and foreign national law enforcement agencies (LEAs), as appropriate.

Hardan Analytical Report

In January 2022, FYF completed a structural analysis of ISIS' mass atrocities committed against Yezidis in the village of Hardan, Sinjar. The report is confidential, according to safety and confidentiality protocols, and in line with the consent of those who provided underlying evidence. It is designed to be shared under special protocols with UN mechanisms and national prosecutors and law enforcement agencies in friendly jurisdictions. The report has been shared with nearly a dozen countries and two UN mechanisms. The report aims to improve the possibilities of criminal accountability for ISIS' atrocities in and around Hardan.





FYF Named Partie Civile in Lafarge Suit in France

In 2022, French judicial authorities officially admitted FYF in the lawsuit against Lafarge, which has been indicted for complicity in the commission of crimes against humanity.

FYF's application to seek admission as a civil party was first filed in March 2019. The application was formally accepted in May 2022. FYF is among the parties contributing information and documentation in this case. In September, FYF provided formal testimony to the judicial authorities at the Paris Tribunal, including a written and publicly available report.

"The world was aware of the crimes and atrocities ISIS inflicted on civilians, including the Yezidi people. Corporations that made payoffs to ISIS are complicit and must be held to account for their actions. Our efforts are designed to help ensure the voices of Yezidis are heard, including survivors and the families of those who were killed. Yezidis constitute a small and vulnerable community, but justice is important to our people."

- Pari Ibrahim, FYF Founder and Executive Director

Protection

What we do

Yezidi survivors of genocide and sexual violence, as well as female survivors from other minority groups in Iraq, are in critical need of consistent and reliable structured MHPSS services to heal and recover. FYF continues to expand its MHPSS service provision, targeting those most vulnerable through case management, psychological first aid, individual and group therapy, and support to apply to the Yezidi Survivors Law (YSL) for reparations, in coordination with the relevant stakeholders. FYF also contributes to the survivor-centered implementation of the YSL and conducts outreach to men to raise awareness of combating gender-based violence and promoting gender equality.

How it went

At the end of 2021, FYF launched its "Iraq Human Rights Defenders" project, implemented in partnership with our sub-grantee, the Assyrian Aid Society (AAS).

This project facilitates inter communal collaboration, strengthening female survivors' resilience in the wake of human rights atrocities and working towards rebuilding the trust of minority communities in government institutions by empowering those communities to hold individuals and institutions accountable for fulfilling their obligations under existing law. Iraqi Human Rights Defenders builds upon previous FYF projects focused on the provision of community-based protection, psychosocial support (PSS), and women's empowerment through rights awareness. FYF and AAS are addressing the effects of human rights violations associated with ISIS and the systemic cultural conditions that marginalize religious and ethnic minority (REM) women, especially those who wish to return from captivity with children born of rape, while improving knowledge and combatting the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the community. FYF employed its unique Harikara model to advance these goals.





As part of the Iraqi Human Rights Defenders project, FYF operated its center in Sheikhan, a critical Yezidi-majority city and home to the most important Yezidi religious site - Lalish. In addition to carrying out activities as designed in the Iraqi Human Rights Defenders project, the center provided trauma services, gender equality education, responses to gender-based violence (GBV), and a host of other skills that enable Yezidi men, women, and children to recover from trauma, learn to advocate for themselves, and promote human rights within their communities.

I can now control my nervousness and manage my daily activities. I feel very comfortable and confident now after attending FYF's sessions. Previously, I didn't believe that psychologists could help people and I've always heard negative things about humanitarian organizations, but the work FYF does is great and not fake. I now encourage many of my friends to ask for support from organizations."

- Yezidi Survivor of domestic violence

In 2022, FYF wrapped up its "Youth for HOPE - Healing Opportunity for Peace and Empowerment" project, which was implemented by FYF's Harikara. The Harikara model is an innovative approach whereby FYF provides training and support to lay Yezidi civilians, empowering them to play a critical role in community development in various areas of focus under the supervision of trained professionals. In the Youth for HOPE project, a group of young Yezidis were trained as Harikara to deliver mental health messaging and basic coping skills in the community, including in the IDP camps. They conducted tent-to-tent visits, distributed FYF's trauma awareness flyers, and supported youth engagement.

"I am very happy to hear that there are people who want to listen to what happened to me. No one cares about us [women with children born of rape]. We need a lot of financial help and support to complete our refugee files. I have two children born of rape; one is in Syria and the other is in Turkey. Your work as a humanitarian organization is very impressive. This session helped me a lot. It feels good to tell someone about this."

- Yezidi survivor of ISIS captivity

"After the passing of the YSL, I saw many survivors applying to receive reparations, but I didn't know anything about the YSL, how to apply, what papers were required, and where to apply. After a visit from FYF's protection team, I was provided with all the information I needed about the YSL. Due to their consultation, I knew what documents were required to apply to the YSL, and the FYF team helped me apply. If they hadn't helped me, I would not have been able to obtain my rights as a survivor and travel to the General Directorate for Survivors' Affairs in Mosul. I am very pleased with the treatment of the FYF protection team who followed up with me even after submitting my application."

- Yezidi survivor of ISIS captivity



Livelihoods

What we do

FYF enables Yezidis, particularly Yezidi women, to better integrate into the economy and labor market, fostering independence while empowering women through supportive and restorative models. FYF continues to develop sustainable economic initiatives through targeted investment and business skills training, support for better access to employment, small business establishment, promotion of local products to regional and international markets, and participatory learning modules on economic development.



FYF's livelihoods projects operate from the FYF Enterprise & Training Center (ETC), located in the Yezidi town of Khanke, steps from the large Khanke IDP camp.

How it went

FYF continued to provide skills training services to Yezidi women in its Bakery Training Center (BTC) located in its ETC facility. The facility includes the Sugar is Sweet cafe, where the bakery products are sold. The BTC now feeds directly into FYF's Sugar is Sweet cafe, which offers an assortment of sweets and refreshments to the public. The BTC and Sugar is Sweet cafe are both staffed entirely by Yezidi women. In 2022, FYF was asked by Nawroz University to cater a large-scale event - our first such catering engagement. Guests enjoyed Sugar is Sweet products and the event was a success.

In 2022, FYF launched its Birthday Party Initiative. This initiative allows friends and supporters from around the world to sponsor birthday parties for displaced Yezidi children to improve their wellbeing. Children who celebrate their birthdays with FYF do so in the Sugar is Sweet Bakery and Café with friends and family, cakes, juices, gifts, and party decorations. Thanks to the generous donations of our friends and supporters, FYF hosted 25 birthday parties in 2022 for displaced Yezidi children.

FYF continued and expanded its crafts products at the ETC. FYF's crafts projects sustainably empower women to reduce their vulnerabilities through skills and income generation activities. At the ETC, female artisans are trained in crafting and marketing one-of-a-kind items, including the Chonky Animals® product line of hand knitted stuffed animals and hand-woven carpets and rugs.

100% of the proceeds from ETC sales go to the artisans, supplies, and maintenance of the ETC, which empowers Yezidi women and survivors to heal, recover, and reclaim their agency.

"My job as a crafts artisan helps me with relaxation and meditation, as weaving makes me forget all of my worries and anxious feelings about the Yazidi genocide and the difficult living conditions in the IDP camp. I am grateful that FYF provided us with the ETC and this kind of economic empowerment."

- Female Artisan at FYF's ETC

"I wanted to improve my skills and find a job, so I started taking courses at FYF's ETC in 2020. When FYF informed me that they were offering a bakery training course, I registered for the course to improve my skills. After completing the course in 2021, I was thrilled that I was chosen to become a paid bakery worker at FYF's Sugar is Sweet Bakery and Cafe. Working at FYF helps me take good care of my children and provide for them. It also improves my mental wellbeing. I am comfortable working at FYF because everyone is treated equally, with respect, and provided with support and opportunities."

- Bakery Worker



Advocacy

Free Yezidi Foundation is one of few Yezidi civil society organizations engaged in consistent humanitarian and human rights work on behalf of the community. In conjunction with daily work of our teams in the field, FYF also serves as a leading advocate for the community around the world.

Speeches, Events & Public Engagements

On 3 August 2022, FYF marked the 8th year commemoration of the Yezidi Genocide with an in-person event in Khanke and a virtual event. Several Yezidi activists and survivors spoke in Khanke, joined by UN and foreign diplomats. The virtual event included high-level panel discussions with Members of Parliament and senior government and UN officials.

Throughout the year, FYF was invited to speak or join panel discussions on a variety of topics, including:

- FYF participated in a Netherlands Parliament debate, presenting a position paper on the Yezidis' pursuit of justice and accountability.
- FYF spoke at a Council of Europe hearing on holding European ISIS members accountable for their crimes.
- FYF debriefed members of the UK Parliament's before a debate on the Yezidi Genocide, calling for official recognition of the Yezidi Genocide by the UK government.
- FYF addressed the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, focusing on the ongoing cross-border Turkish airstrikes in Sinjar - seven within a span of just six months - as well as the ongoing priorities for Yezidi recovery.
- FYF participated in the International Religious Freedom (IRF) Summit kick off event in Washington, D.C., which included speeches from the Yezidi, Rohingya, and Uyghur communities.
- FYF participated in a panel hosted by Amnesty International following the world's first criminal prosecution in Germany for the Yezidi Genocide.



Delegations & Meetings

FYF hosts dozens of diplomatic, academic, and civil society delegations at our centers in Iraq each year. FYF also arranges meetings in Iraq and abroad to underscore key issues that require international attention.

- FYF hosted UN Special Advisor Christian Ristcher (UNITAD) and UN Special Advisor Nderitu (Genocide Prevention) at the ETC.
- Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Joey Hood led an American delegation to FYF's ETC to discuss current challenges facing the community.
- Netherlands Minister of Trade & Development Liesje Schreinemacher led a Dutch delegation to Khanke to meet with members of the Yezidi community.
- FYF drew attention to the plight of male Yezidi survivors by arranging training sessions with IOM and a direct meeting with American activist Nadine Maenza.
- FYF hosted UNITAD in New York for a roundtable discussion with representatives of prominent international NGOs, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Global Justice Center, and Cardozo Law School.

Statements & Op-Eds

To emphasize matters of fundamental importance to the Yezidi community, FYF issues statements or publishes opinion pieces to highlight critical topics. For example, in 2022 the American military announced the death of then ISIS leader Al-Qurayshi, a primary architect of the Yezidi Genocide, leading to FYF's statement on his alleged criminal culpability.

On 3 August 2022, to mark eight years since the Yezidi Genocide, FYF co-authored three op-eds, published in Newsweek, Jerusalem Post, and National Interest.



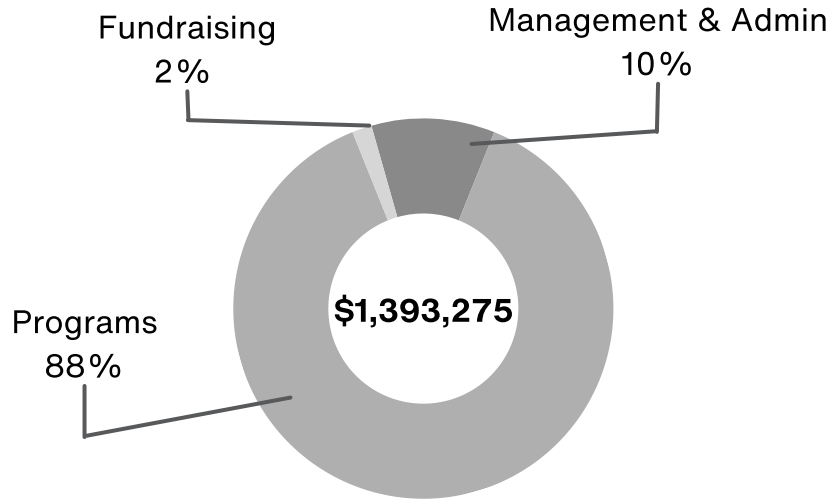


Other Advocacy Efforts

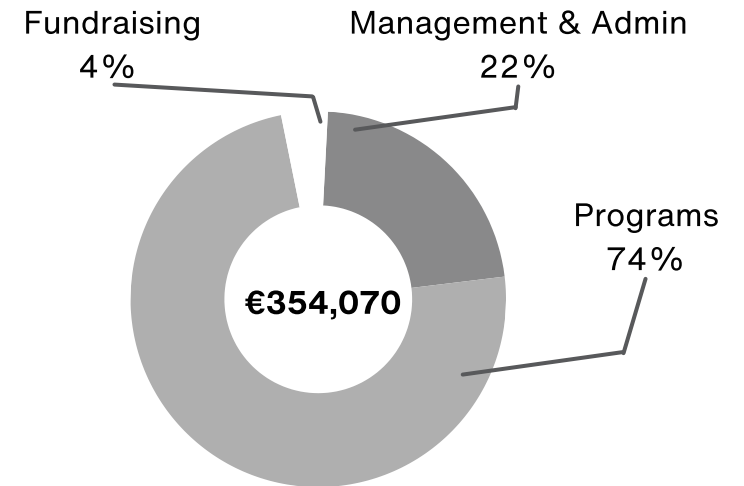
- FYF's Executive Director, Pari Ibrahim, was presented with the Women's Refugee Commission's Voices of Courage award. Pari was honored for her work to empower and support the most vulnerable displaced Yezidis, with a focus on women.
- The Netherlands announced a call for information through a tip-line on crimes committed by Dutch ISIS perpetrators against Yezidis. FYF and the Dutch police jointly advertised the launch, calling for information to be relayed to police.
- FYF was asked to create a fundraiser for a young Yezidi child, Maria, whose parents were seeking treatment abroad for a non-cancerous tumor. By crowdfunding more than \$18,000, FYF was able to ensure Maria received medical treatment to remove the tumor.
- A local Yezidi philanthropist partnered with FYF to provide more than a dozen Yezidi households with food items to mark the Yezidi holiday in December, when cold weather is a challenge for less fortunate families.
- The theater group in the Dutch city of Maastricht, Toneelgroep, produced a play about the Yezidi Genocide. FYF ETC artisans were commissioned to provide backdrops for the set, and the Toneelgroep traveled to FYF's center in Iraq to meet with Yezidis and collect the customized pieces, which were featured prominently in the production.
- FYF received a certificate of appreciation from Lalish, the Yezid holy site, for its tireless work to advance the rights and well-being of Yezidi women.

Financial Summary

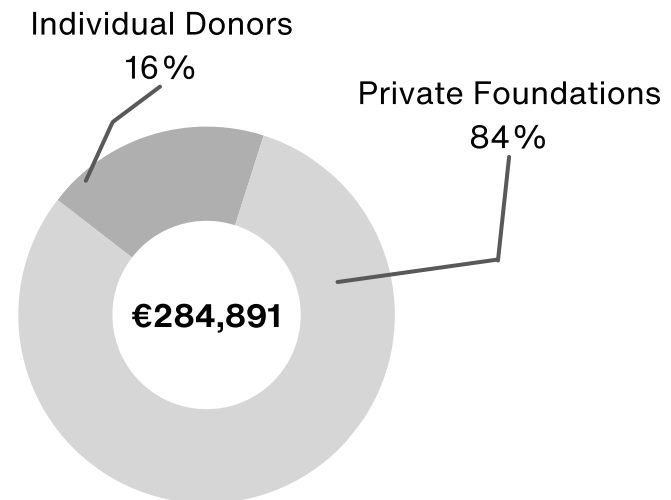
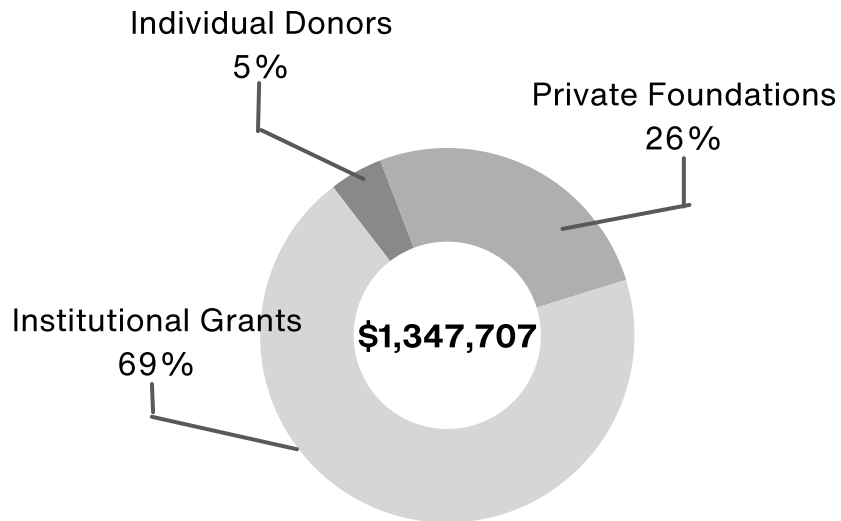
Free Yezidi Foundation - USA



Free Yezidi Foundation - Netherlands



EXPENDITURES



REVENUE

Looking Ahead

FYF will continue to advance Yezidi recovery, empowerment, and development, with an emphasis on women and girls in the community, in solidarity with other minority groups and women's rights advocates. To do so, FYF will diversify funding streams, improve internal capacities, enhance core staff, and formalize programmatic sectors to include protection, justice, education, livelihoods, rescue operations, and advocacy. Future programming will aim to holistically address the comprehensive needs of beneficiaries for years to come, expanding into new geographical regions to respond to the acute lack of services and resources available to the Yezidi community.

FYF also aims to continue providing accessible pathways to justice for survivors and other community members, playing a leading role in the Yezidi community's mobilization and cohesive efforts to recover and rebuild. Furthermore, FYF will collaborate with Iraqi women's rights and empowerment organizations, amplifying the voices of vulnerable and minority women.

The Yezidi community remains fragile and at risk almost nine years after the genocide committed by ISIS. FYF, as a Yezidi women-led civil society organization, will continue to play a critical role in the recovery of individuals, families, and the community at large.

We at FYF are grateful to you - our friends, supporters, and donors - who have helped make our humanitarian work possible. We are proud of our partnerships with governments, foundations, institutions, and private groups and individuals like you who have helped make our efforts successful. Thank you for believing in our community-based, women-led model, and for standing in solidarity with our organization and the Yezidi community.

- The Free Yezidi Foundation





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