



# **FREEDOM FOR THE FORGOTTEN**

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ANNUAL REPORT

# FYF Annual Report 2024

Freedom for the Forgotten

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60 East 42nd Street, #4600, New York, NY 10165  
info@freeyezidi.org  
www.freeyezidi.org

Cover Photo: Fawyzia, Yezidi Survivor

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## About the Free Yezidi Foundation

The Free Yezidi Foundation (FYF) is a non-partisan, Yezidi women-led nonprofit organization established in response to the 2014 Yezidi Genocide. FYF is dedicated to the empowerment and support of the Yezidi community through the provision of comprehensive advocacy, justice, mental healthcare, psychosocial support, education, and livelihood services. With a special focus on women, girls, and survivors of SGBV, FYF's initiatives aim to enable those most vulnerable to rebuild their lives with dignity and resilience.



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# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we close the chapter on 2024, I write to you with deep gratitude and renewed determination. This year has been both challenging and inspiring for the Free Yezidi Foundation as we continue our mission to support Yezidi survivors, empower our community, and advocate for recovery, dignity, and a better life. We have taken meaningful strides in core areas of our work, including women's empowerment, direct support to Yezidis in need, and the pursuit of justice and accountability.

The FYF Enterprise & Training Center in Khanke continued to serve hundreds of Yezidi women, providing them with vocational training, income-generation opportunities, and a safe space to build community and confidence. With each passing month, we see these courageous women reclaiming their independence and becoming leaders in their families and communities.

Our protection and trauma recovery programs reached more than 1,000 survivors this year – men, women, and children – thanks to the unwavering commitment of FYF's national staff and international experts. These mental health, social, and legal documentation services are essential in a region where trauma remains deeply embedded and support systems are scarce.

Our locally led team, composed almost entirely of dedicated young Yezidi professionals, continues to show all of us remarkable resilience, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to serving our community.

Justice remains central to FYF's mission. In 2024, we continued to advocate for survivor-centered accountability in Iraq and internationally. FYF submitted thousands of pages of evidence to national prosecutors and international investigative bodies around the world, and provided expert witness testimony at a key genocide trial in Europe. Through these efforts, we strive for justice in individual cases, and also for recognition of the genocide perpetrated against our people as a whole.

This year we commemorated the 10th anniversary of the 2014 Yezidi Genocide. FYF observed this solemn occasion with global partners, survivors, and community leaders. While we mourn those lost and lament the ongoing suffering of displaced families and survivors, we also reaffirm our resilience and our vision for a future in which Yezidis live freely, safely, and with dignity.

The FYF Executive Director led a Yezidi civil society meeting with the U.S.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken in July 2024 to mark this occasion. This historic meeting was an opportunity for FYF to amplify the voices of Yazidi survivors and to advocate for sustained international commitment to justice, recovery, and long-term support for the Yazidi people. Marking the ten-year commemoration, Secretary Blinken affirmed the U.S. government's support for our community and recognized Yazidi civil society leadership in the post-genocide recovery process. This meeting demonstrated that our voices are being heard at the highest levels of global leadership. It also underscored the importance of survivor-led advocacy and grassroots efforts in shaping policy and securing justice. Our progress this year was made possible by the strength of our staff—nearly all of whom are Yazidi themselves—and by the steadfast support of donors, partners, and allies around the world.

To each of you who contributed, advocated, and/or stood with us in solidarity: thank you. You are helping to write a different story for our people—one of recovery, empowerment, and hope.

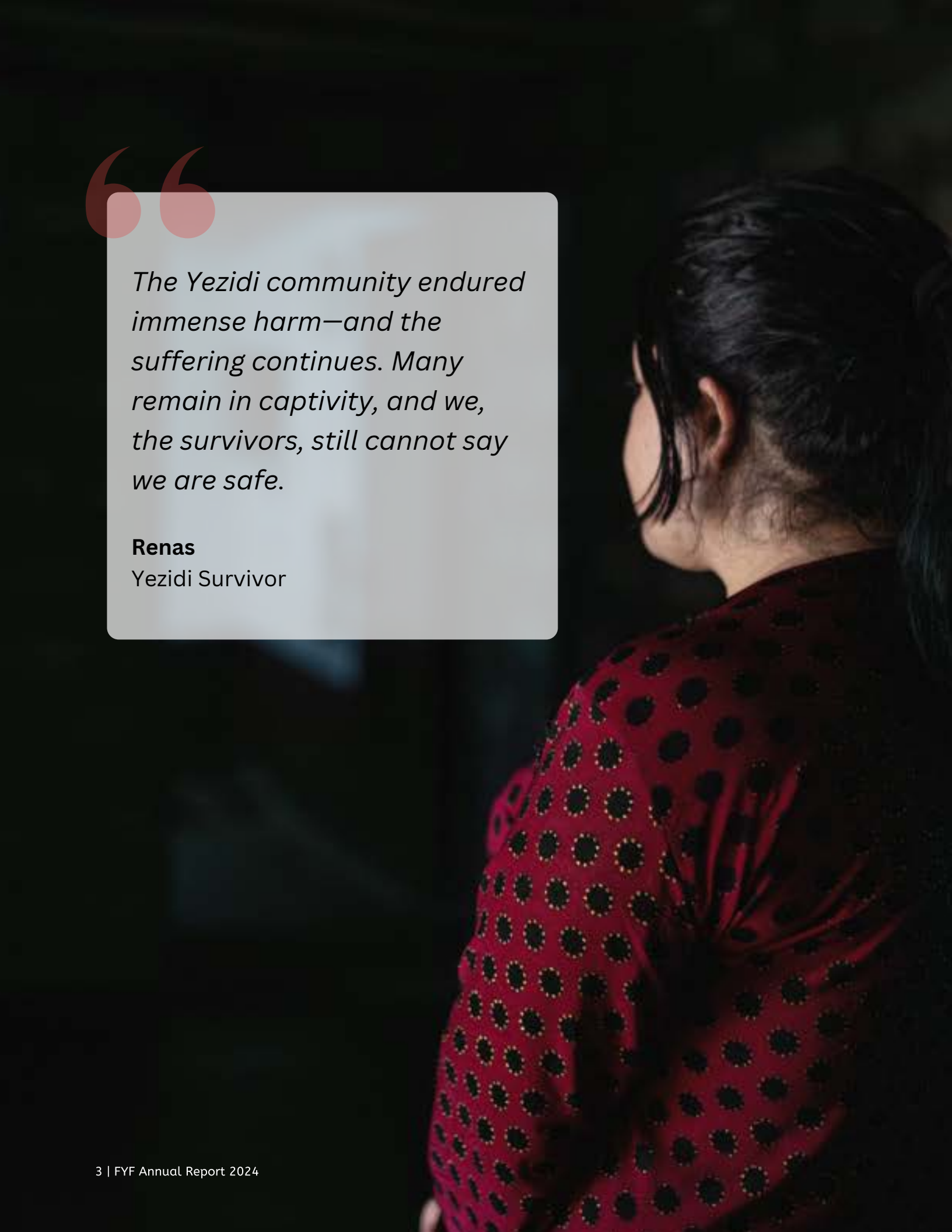
Every Civil society organizations is currently navigating dramatic shifts in global humanitarian aid and geopolitics in the U.S., in the Middle East, and beyond. I am proud to say that despite these challenges, FYF has maintained stability for our community, rooted in our commitment to implementing programs, amplifying Yazidi voices, and building a foundation for long-term recovery and justice. The road ahead is long, but we are not walking it alone.



Pari Ibrahim  
Executive Director



*Photo by Maansi Srivastava for The New York Times*



*The Yezidi community endured immense harm—and the suffering continues. Many remain in captivity, and we, the survivors, still cannot say we are safe.*

**Renas**

Yezidi Survivor

# OUR MISSION & VISION

The Free Yezidi Foundation (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 (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, as well as broader Iraq society.

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 and other minority women 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



## Sheikhan

Protection, education

## Sharya

Protection

## Khanke

Protection, education, livelihoods



# OUR PROGRAMS

## PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

FYF's work is grounded in a deep commitment to the rights, dignity, and leadership of Iraq's ethnic and religious minorities, including the Yezidi community in Iraq and the diaspora. As a women- and Yezidi-led organization, FYF responds to the complex realities of displacement, genocide recovery, and protracted instability through holistic, community-driven programming that centers the experiences and voices of survivors.

Our work is built on the principle that those most affected by conflict and injustice must lead the way in shaping their own recovery. Displaced women, men, and youth are engaged not only as participants in programs but as decision-makers and changemakers within their communities. Services are tailored to reflect their lived experiences and are delivered through a survivor-centered, do-no-harm approach that prioritizes safety, autonomy, and dignity.

FYF's integrated approach spans protection, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), education, livelihoods, justice, and advocacy. Programs are designed to meet immediate needs of community members while simultaneously laying the groundwork for long-term recovery

and systemic change. A cornerstone of this work is meaningful community participation, ensuring that those most affected by conflict are not treated as passive recipients of aid but as key actors in shaping the design and direction of support.

As a core component of all program activities, FYF works to preserve and revitalize the cultural heritage of minority communities, many of whom continue to suffer the aftershocks of genocide, conflict, and forced displacement. From reviving traditional crafts to addressing intergenerational trauma, FYF creates spaces where cultural identity can flourish despite adversity. These efforts reaffirm the importance of belonging and cultural continuity, particularly for displaced populations navigating trauma and loss.

FYF understands that the pursuit of justice and community healing are inseparable. The organization provides legal assistance to survivors of slavery, trafficking, and torture, while also championing the rights of Yezidis to return safely and sustainably to their ancestral homeland in Sinjar. FYF's advocacy includes calls for accountability for crimes of genocide and sustained support for the search for over 2,600 Yezidis who remain missing. The loss of these community

members—many of whom are women and children—represents not only a humanitarian tragedy but a reminder that genocide is an ongoing process of marginalization and threat to the survival of Yazidi culture. Reclaiming the missing is essential to restoring the threads of knowledge, tradition, and memory that underpin Yazidi identity.

Women and girls are at the heart of FYF's mission. We champion gender equity by empowering minority women, particularly survivors of ISIS captivity, to reclaim agency and lead change. FYF provides targeted psychosocial care, leadership training, and advocacy platforms to amplify the voices of women who have long been silenced. Through partnerships with minority- and women-led organizations, FYF also contributes to a broader movement for pluralism and gender equality in Iraq.

These collaborations help re-establish social cohesion and trust among different religious and ethnic communities, while challenging discriminatory norms and traditional gender roles.

FYF remains deeply committed to ethical and inclusive engagement. Because our team is composed of individuals from the very communities we serve, we are able to foster genuine, long-term trust with those we support. We actively listen to their concerns, honor their autonomy, and ensure they remain at the center of all decision-making processes. A survivor-centric, do-no-harm philosophy informs all aspects of our program design and delivery, ensuring flexible, humane, and responsive support while safeguarding the rights, preferences, and dignity of every individual.





*Yezidi women are now reclaiming their rights and building a future for themselves.*

**Dalal**

Beneficiary of Artisan Training Program

# EDUCATION

# EDUCATION

FYF's education initiatives are rooted in innovative, holistic, and community-based frameworks that recognize the unique challenges survivors face. Mental health support is integrated throughout course curricula, fostering open, supportive dialogue alongside essential educational skills. This approach ensures that educational programs enhance not only academic success but also emotional and social resilience among survivors and their families.

In addition, our approach blends traditional learning with practical, real-world applications. Survivors gain financial literacy to manage reparations and household budgets, while digital literacy and professional development courses prepare them for diverse employment opportunities. This combination empowers youth and women to critically engage with their environment, navigate challenges, and develop practical solutions for improving their lives.

## Barriers to Education in Conflict and Displacement Settings

Iraq implements an education system that heavily relies on rote memorization. This limits students' opportunities to develop creativity, critical thinking, and active civic engagement. This approach especially

disadvantages Yezidi youth and survivors from other minority groups, many of whom lack access to quality education and livelihoods opportunities as well as essential tools for rebuilding their lives after displacement and genocide.

In addition, the majority of Yezidi women living in IDP camps have never attended school, which severely restricts their ability to participate in community decision-making or fully understand their rights and legal protections. This educational gap stems from long-standing gender inequalities, compounded by the trauma and disruptions caused by conflict and displacement. Many women face cultural and social barriers that limit their access to formal education, including traditional expectations that prioritize early marriage and domestic responsibilities over schooling.

Illiteracy disproportionately affects women, significantly hindering their access to crucial information about health, legal rights, protection services, and compensation under the Yezidi Survivors Law (YSL). These circumstances make it difficult to report incidents of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) or seek support from authorities, further isolating and limiting already vulnerable populations.

*Before this program, I was afraid to speak English, worried about making mistakes in front of friends. Now, my focus is on learning, not just passing, and I speak with confidence.*

**Evana**

Student in Access Program



## SHEIKHAN

This year FYF successfully completed the first year of its "English Microscholarship Access Program." This program is designed to empower economically disadvantaged internally displaced persons (IDPs) and members of the host community by providing a strong foundation in English language skills, personal development, digital literacy and community engagement.

During 2024, students received 110 hours of English and digital literacy instruction, 35 hours of enhancement

activities, and 13 hours of educational field trips to cultural, academic, and historical sites. As part of the program's commitment to community service, students also led a variety of outreach initiatives, including a tree-planting campaign, a food and clothing drive for vulnerable families, an arts and crafts day for displaced children, and a sports day for disadvantaged youth. These activities enabled students to apply their skills in real-world settings while actively contributing to the wellbeing of their communities.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



**133** students from mixed backgrounds - Yezidi, Muslim, IDP, host community, and Syrian refugees



**110** hours of English and digital literacy instruction



Aged **13-16** years old



**35** hours of enhancement activities



**13** hours of field trips



*FYF has supported me socially and in gaining knowledge and communication skills. It has given me opportunities to meet new people and learn from them.*

**Dirok**

Student in Access Program



*This course has been very beneficial. It has greatly improved my English reading and comprehension skills. I now understand the importance of English, and I believe it will help me a lot in college, providing many opportunities*

**Salma**

Student in Access Program

## KHANKE

In June 2024, FYF launched the second round of educational courses at its Enterprise and Training Center (ETC). The courses offered included English language instruction (elementary and intermediate levels) and financial literacy training, designed to equip participants with the skills needed to pursue financial independence, higher education, and improved employment opportunities.

A total of 192 participants successfully completed the financial literacy course, gaining practical knowledge in

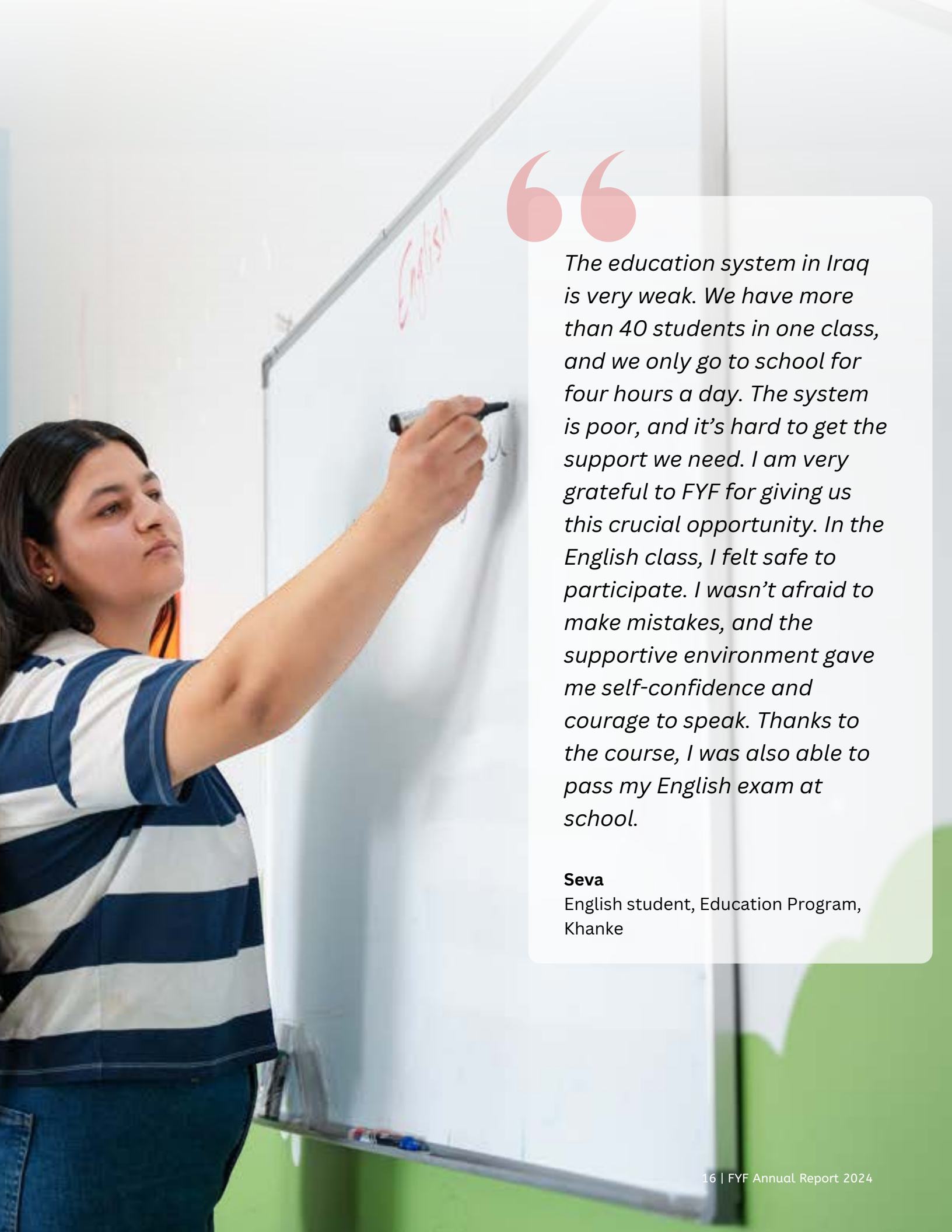
budgeting, financial planning, and making informed economic decisions. Additionally, 184 completed the English language course, enhancing their communication abilities and expanding their access to professional, educational, and social opportunities.

Beneficiaries reported a significant increase in both knowledge and overall wellbeing as a result of their involvement in the program, highlighting the positive impact of ETC's holistic and empowering approach to education and skill-building.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- 192 women, girls, and boys completed the English language program
- 184 women, girls, and boys completed the financial literacy program
- 100% of participants reported an improvement in their overall well-being after participating in the program
- 94% of participants reported forming positive social relationships with others during the program
- 98% of participants reported that the courses provided a sense of purpose and meaning to their lives
- 90% of participants reported feeling less isolated and lonely than before joining the program





*The education system in Iraq is very weak. We have more than 40 students in one class, and we only go to school for four hours a day. The system is poor, and it's hard to get the support we need. I am very grateful to FYF for giving us this crucial opportunity. In the English class, I felt safe to participate. I wasn't afraid to make mistakes, and the supportive environment gave me self-confidence and courage to speak. Thanks to the course, I was also able to pass my English exam at school.*

**Seva**

English student, Education Program,  
Khanke

*These classes helped me not only in school, but also in my personal life. From finance class, I learned how to save money and avoid spending it on things I don't need. These classes are so important for all of us. They help us grow both personally and academically.*

**Halima**

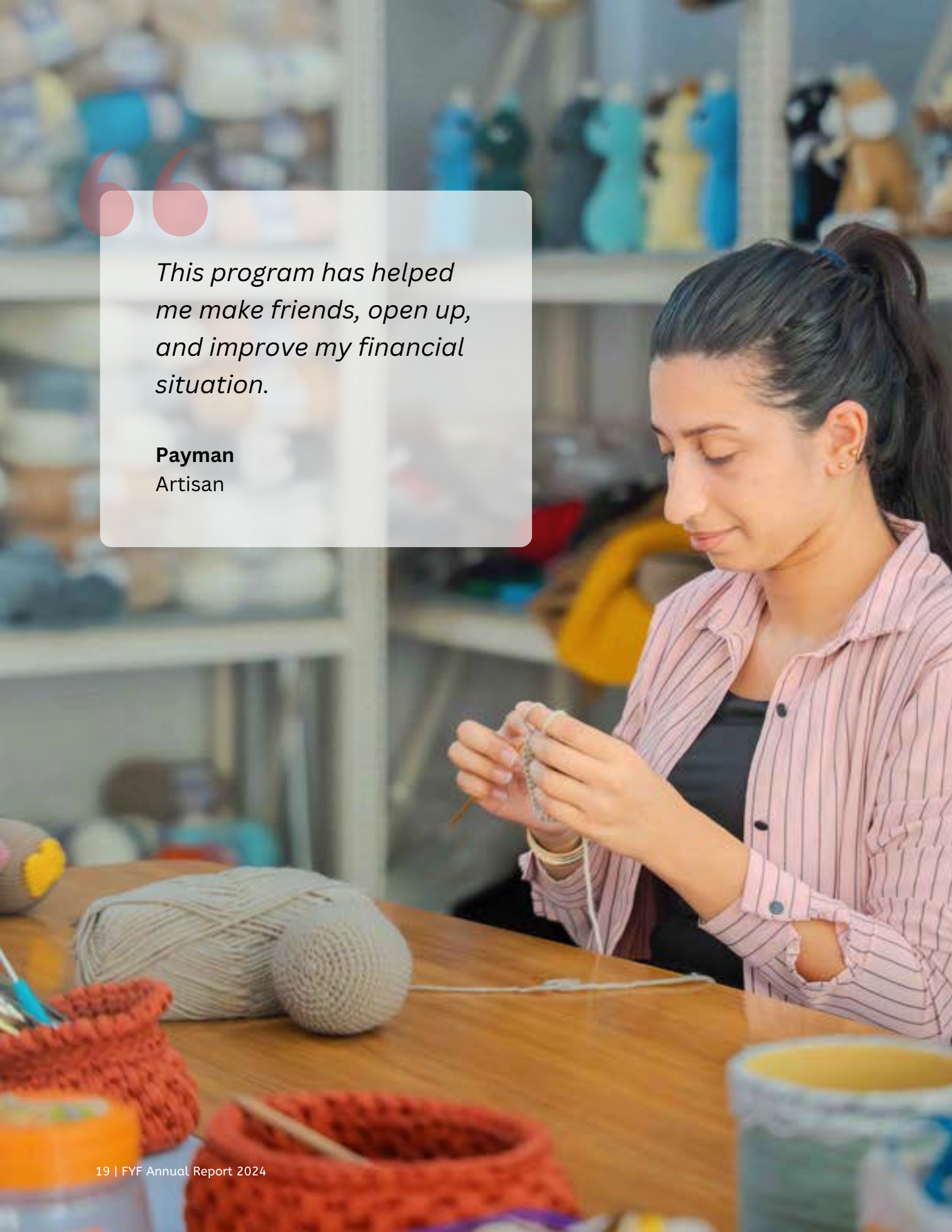
Finance student, Education Program,  
Khanke



# LIVELIHOODS

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*This program has helped  
me make friends, open up,  
and improve my financial  
situation.*

**Payman**  
Artisan

# LIVELIHOODS

FYF's award-winning ETC in Khanke, Duhok received the Ockenden International Prize in 2024 for its impact. The ETC empowers displaced women and survivors of mass atrocities through skills training, job placement, and income generation activities. It is home to the Chonky Animals® and Crafts and Enterprise® artisan programs, where women craft handmade stuffed animals and traditional carpets, and the Sugar is Sweet Bakery and Café®, run by displaced Yezidi women. 100% of proceeds from these programs are reinvested into artisans, bakers, and facility maintenance, ensuring sustainability beyond donor funding. Operated and managed entirely by displaced community members, the ETC is committed to fostering self-reliance among displaced and vulnerable women through a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach.



## Barriers to Education in Conflict and Displacement Settings

Women in Iraq face deep-rooted structural and societal barriers to economic participation, with only 13.9% in the labor force. These challenges are even more severe for displaced women, particularly those from religious and ethnic minority (REM) communities, who experience economic exclusion, restrictive laws, and vulnerability to SGBV. Female-headed households are disproportionately affected by poverty and food insecurity, while legal barriers, financial exclusion, and restrictive gender norms hinder women's ability to start businesses—reflected in the fact that only 6.8% of businesses in Iraq are women-owned. Recent legal setbacks, such as the lowering of the legal age for child marriage, have further entrenched gender inequality, prioritizing marriage over girls' education and economic participation.

For displaced REM women and girls, conflict and persecution exacerbate risks of forced marriage, honor-based violence, and trafficking, with weak legal protections enabling harmful practices. The Yezidi community, in particular, has suffered genocidal violence under ISIS, with women and girls subjected to widespread enslavement and systemic sexual violence. Many survivors face

ongoing discrimination, lack access to education and livelihoods, and struggle with reintegration due to social fragmentation and ethnic tensions. Recognizing these urgent challenges, FYF's Harikara community engagement initiative has reached hundreds of displaced women, revealing a strong demand for education, job training, and economic opportunities. Through its ETC, FYF is working to create a safe space where displaced REM women—particularly survivors of conflict and SGBV—can rebuild their lives with dignity, access economic opportunities, and overcome systemic barriers to empowerment. Addressing these entrenched inequalities requires comprehensive legal reform, economic inclusion, and community engagement to shift discriminatory gender norms and foster long-term resilience.

## Artisan Training Program

Situated just outside Khanke IDP camp, the ETC provides accessible training and economic opportunities for displaced REM women and youth. Here, skilled female artisans receive training in crafting and marketing distinctive products, including the renowned Chonky Animals®—hand-knitted stuffed animals—and the exquisite handwoven carpets and rugs from FYF's Crafts and Enterprise® line. All proceeds from ETC sales are reinvested into artisans, supplies, and center maintenance, enabling REM women, youth, and survivors to heal, rebuild, and regain agency.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



**\$36,973.73** total product sales



**1,602** products sold



**35** women trained - **83%** demonstrated improved skills



**1,432** products produced



**752** items shipped out of Iraq



**16** artisans employed



*When I knit, I relax and  
forget my worries.*

**Maysa**  
Artisan





*Education and job opportunities are our priorities for now.*

**Khalida**  
Artisan

## Bakery Training Program

In Khanke IDP camp, spaces dedicated to celebrations, anniversaries, and birthdays are scarce. Sugar is Sweet® Bakery and Cafe, with its inviting décor and welcoming ambiance, has rapidly transformed into an impromptu community center. This charming bakery provides a haven for the Yezidi community, offering precious moments of joy amidst the adversities of camp life.

Originally conceived as a means to empower displaced Yezidi women through employment, the bakery has organically emerged as a central hub for commemorations, anniversaries, and

birthdays. In the stark reality of Khanke IDP camp, characterized by barren fields punctuated with residents' tents, Sugar is Sweet® stands out as a warm and inviting social space, underscoring its vital role in fostering a sense of community and connection. Noteworthy is the growing trend of sponsored children's birthday parties celebrated at Sugar is Sweet®—an initiative introduced by FYF in 2022. Through the simple act of relishing a slice of freshly baked cake and a cup of tea at Sugar is Sweet®, displaced children discover moments of joy and delight, offering a temporary reprieve from the challenging realities of their surroundings.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



**\$11,045.61** in sales



**201** birthdays hosted



**37** women trained - **92%**  
demonstrated improved skills



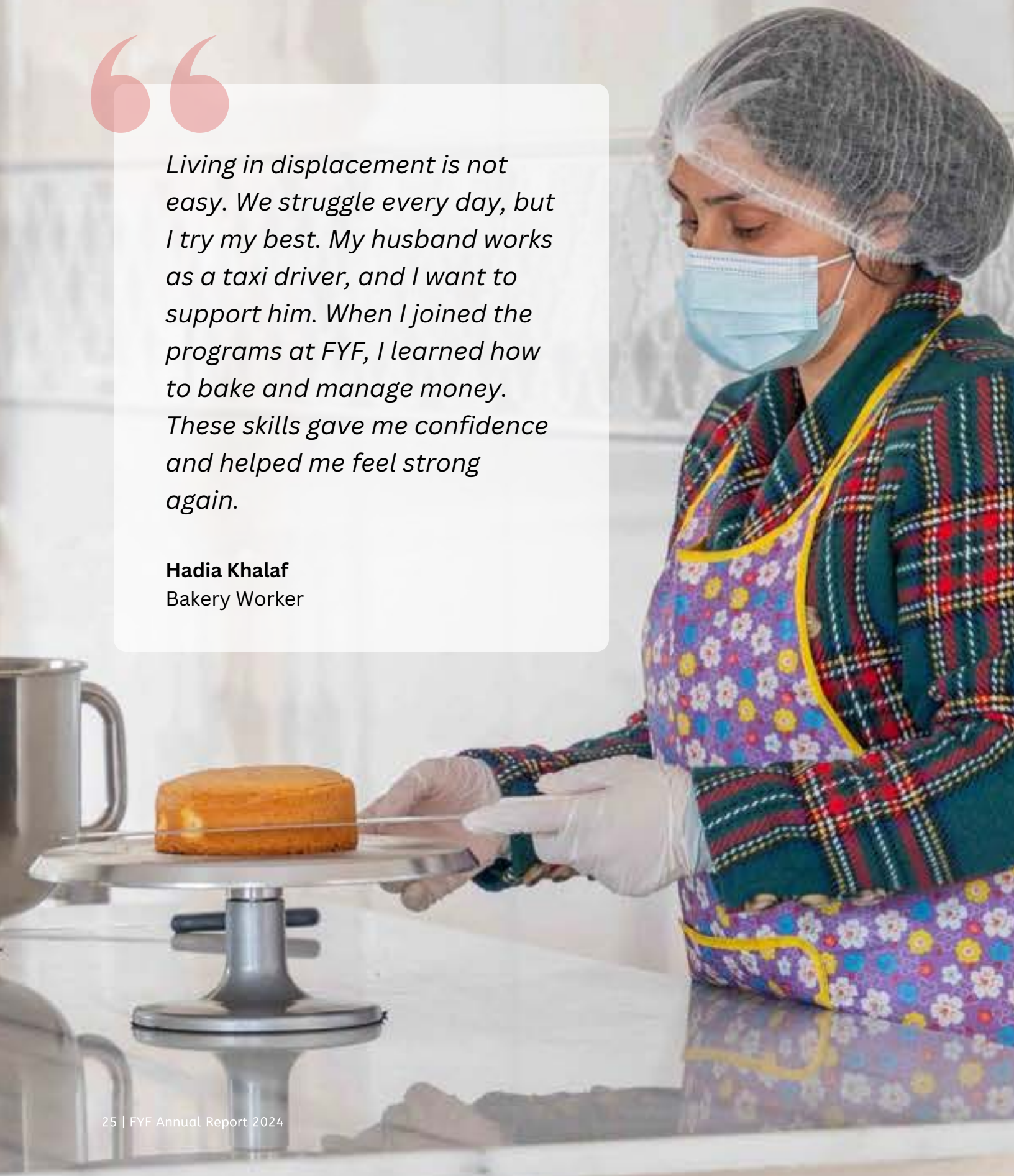
**7** bakers employed





*Living in displacement is not easy. We struggle every day, but I try my best. My husband works as a taxi driver, and I want to support him. When I joined the programs at FYF, I learned how to bake and manage money. These skills gave me confidence and helped me feel strong again.*

**Hadia Khalaf**  
Bakery Worker





*As a Yezidi woman, it's crucial to develop new skills. Many Yezidi women were illiterate and impoverished before the genocide, but through determination and support, they have made remarkable progress. FYF's courses helped me grow and led to my job at the café, where I feel supported and empowered.*

**Shaima**  
Bakery Worker

# PROTECTION

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*The awareness and psychological education courses, along with recreational activities, helped me understand the importance of mental health and improved my condition significantly.*

**Anonymous**

Beneficiary (recipient of individual and group therapy, MHPSS awareness sessions, recreational PSS (arts and crafts), and psychoeducation sessions)

# PROTECTION

In 2024, FYF's all female protection team, consisting of 16 trained professional psychologists, lawyers, protection officers, and community outreach workers launched a comprehensive, survivor-centered wellbeing program targeting individuals affected by ISIS atrocities.

This holistic initiative provides an integrated package of services, including protection assistance, legal aid, violence prevention, rights awareness, and MHPSS. The team specifically supports survivors of SGBV, many of whom continue to face significant physical, psychological, and legal challenges in the aftermath of conflict and displacement.

## Barriers to Women's Safety and Access to Justice in Iraq

The lack of strong educational systems and enforced legal rights and accountability mechanisms often result in harmful outcomes for women, such as perpetuated cycles of SGBV or honor killings. Over one million Iraqi women and girls are at risk of some form of SGBV, with over 25% of Iraqi women reporting having already experienced domestic violence by a family member or partner. Cases of SGBV often go unreported. A tribal society, many Iraqi women seek redress for SGBV from

tribal or religious leaders instead of government actors. FYF regularly encounters women who are illiterate and thus unable to access lifesaving information or report incidents of SGBV to authorities. In addition, their families discourage them from reporting cases due to stigma and fear of community exclusion. For IDP, returnee, and refugee women and girls, heightened risks of SGBV stem from displacement, lack of documentation and voting rights, language barriers, and intersecting forms of discrimination. These challenges impede access to life-saving services and livelihoods, exacerbating risk of violence and exploitation.

Child, early, and forced marriage and union (CEFMU) is fueled by the same rigid gender roles that prioritize marriage and motherhood for girls, restricting their access to education, social inclusion, and mobility. In numerous instances, child brides are sanctioned by their families as a means to alleviate financial hardship, often in exchange for a dowry. These practices significantly heighten the risk of SGBV.

Despite high levels of SGBV and a severe lack of enforced accountability and protection mechanisms, survivor services are often scattered (hindering rather than aiding timely responses), severely under-resourced, and at

constant risk of closure. Furthermore, women and girls, especially those in rural areas, face challenges in accessing psychiatric care and shelter referrals, which are predominantly available in urban centers.

## Holistic Protection Program

Addressing these challenges, FYF's protection staff, all of whom are members of the communities they serve, apply international best practices to ensure that services are trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, and accessible to the most vulnerable. By addressing both immediate needs and long-term resilience, the program plays a critical role in restoring dignity, promoting healing, and empowering survivors to reclaim control over their lives.

Programmatic services include:

- Case management
- Individual + group therapy
- Recreational psychosocial support (PSS), including yoga and arts and crafts
- Protection/MHPSS awareness sessions
- Psychoeducation sessions (PTSD, anxiety, depression, and stress)
- Legal Aid
- Psychological First Aid
- Rights Awareness (minority rights, women's rights, child rights)
- Gender-Based Violence Awareness (prevention of SGBV and prevention of CEFMU)
- Men's engagement (anger management, positive masculinity, and prevention of SGBV)
- YSL information sessions

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Provided psychological services to **105** beneficiaries



Provided direct legal aid to **122** beneficiaries



Provided psychoeducation sessions to **364** beneficiaries



Provided YSL information sessions to **204** beneficiaries



Provided MHPSS awareness sessions to **237** beneficiaries



Provided awareness sessions on prevention of CEFMU to **178** community members



Provided men's engagement sessions to **137** male community members



Provided recreational PSS sessions to **262** beneficiaries



*I've felt a positive change in my mental state. These activities have helped me to express my emotions and thoughts effectively and have provided me with an opportunity to connect with other women to share our experiences.*

**Jihan**

Beneficiary (recipient of individual and group therapy, MHPSS awareness sessions, and recreational PSS activities (arts and crafts))



# ADVOCACY

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# ADVOCACY

2024 marked the 10th anniversary of the Yazidi Genocide, highlighting the acute need to continue to shed light on the ongoing plight of the Yazidi community. With nearly half the Yazidi population still internally displaced and a lack of basic resources and infrastructure in Sinjar, advocating to keep the Yazidi cause on the international agenda is vital to the sustainable recovery of the community.

## **FYF executive director met with US Secretary of State in high level discussion on Yazidi recovery**

Pari Ibrahim, Executive Director of FYF, led a Yazidi delegation meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on July 23rd. This high-level meeting, held ahead of the ten-year commemoration of the Yazidi Genocide, underscored the U.S. government's commitment to justice, accountability, and support for the Yazidi community.

During the meeting, critical discussions focused on holding perpetrators accountable, addressing ongoing humanitarian needs, and paving the way for a brighter future for Yazidis. This engagement underscores the importance of international solidarity and support in addressing the lasting impacts of genocide. Watch the opening minutes of the meeting

[here](#) or read the State Department's press release [here](#).



## **FYF commemorated Yazidi genocide with "They came to destroy us, but we endured" campaign.**

Ten years ago, ISIS sought to destroy the Yazidi community through genocide. They tried to shatter our spirit, but we responded with mercy and love. They tried to erase our culture, but we keep it alive every day. They came to destroy us, but we endured.

August 3rd 2024 marked ten years since the onset of the Yazidi Genocide. During this time, FYF strengthened advocacy efforts to shed light on the ongoing plight of the Yazidi community and to honor the resilience and strength of the Yazidi people. Despite enduring unimaginable hardships, our community stands strong, united by our determination to rebuild and thrive.

Watch the campaign video [here](#).

**FYF participated in high-level Washington DC meetings to advocate for Yezidi cause.**

FYF met with the U.S. Department of Defense to discuss the safety and security of the Yezidi community. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Daniel Shapiro emphasized the U.S. government's commitment to protecting Yezidis. Leadership from FYF, Sinjar Academy, and Yazda discussed key initiatives to improve security protocols and support Yezidi families. We are grateful for the Department of Defense's dedication and look forward to continued collaboration to enhance safety measures. Read more [here](#).

The FYF-led Yezidi delegation further engaged in a series of high-level

meetings with U.S. government officials, highlighting their dedication to advancing the Yezidi cause. These meetings included a productive session with Ambassador Beth Van Schaack, discussions with the White House National Security Council team, and a working-level meeting with dozens of State Department officials.

The delegation was encouraged by the high-level engagement and tangible commitments made by the U.S. government to continue supporting the Yezidi community. These interactions underscored a shared commitment to addressing the challenges faced by the Yezidis and enhancing their safety, security, and well-being.



**FYF, Sinjar Academy, & Yazda released joint report: "Ten years after genocide: The Yazidi struggle to recover and overcome."**

The genocide left deep scars, but the Yazidis have shown incredible strength and resilience in their journey to heal and rebuild. FYF's report, in collaboration with Sinjar Academy and Yazda, delves into the ongoing challenges and the remarkable efforts of the Yazidi people to recover and thrive despite the odds.

This landmark report is more than a recounting of the past; it is a crucial call to action. It underscores the urgent need for continued support, justice, and recognition for the Yazidi community.

Read the full report [here](#).

**FYF published five comprehensive reports in lead up to August 3rd.**

FYF published five comprehensive reports on critical issues affecting the Yazidi community. These reports cover the Yazidi Survivors Law, missing Yazidis, mass graves and UNITAD's closure, the Sinjar Agreement, and structural challenges facing religious minorities in Iraq. Click the links below to access these in-depth analyses, aimed at shedding light on the ongoing struggles and resilience of the Yazidi people.

- [Status on the Implementation of the Yazidi Survivors Law](#)
- [Evaluating the Progress and Impact of the Sinjar Agreement](#)
- [Ensuring Accountability for ISIL's Crimes: The Vital Role of UNITAD and Future Perspectives](#)
- [Missing Yazidis: The Imperative for a Collective and Coordinated Search and Rescue Mission](#)
- [Structural Challenges Facing Religious Minorities in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region](#)



## FYF's country director engaged with UK leaders to commemorate the Yazidi genocide.

In July 2024, FYF's Country Director, Hewan Omer, participated in several UK events to highlight the urgent need for support for the Yazidis in light of the ten-year commemoration of the Yazidi Genocide:

- On July 22nd, Hewan spoke at the Speaker's House Reception in the House of Lords, chaired by Brendan O'Hara MP, alongside Baroness Hodgson, the Lord Bishop of Winchester, and Dr. Ewelina Ochab.
- On July 23rd, she took part in an IPU Roundtable at Westminster Hall, House of Parliament, co-chaired by Brendan O'Hara MP and Baroness Kennedy.
- From July 24-26, Hewan participated in Wilton Park's event "Conflict trauma and youth: exploring approaches for recovery and conflict prevention in the Middle East and North Africa. Watch a clip of Hewan's remarks [here](#).
- On July 30th, Hewan participated virtually in an International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance's Working Group on Atrocity Prevention event titled "10th Anniversary of the Yazidi Genocide - The Path Towards Justice and Accountability."



**FYF and Leitner Human Rights Clinic published comprehensive comparative study on Yazidi Survivors Law.**

FYF announced the publication of our report in collaboration with the Walter Leitner International Human Rights Clinic at the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice, Fordham University School of Law.

The report, titled "Strengthening Implementation of the Yazidi Survivors Law: Recommendations Based on International and Comparative Best Practices," offers detailed recommendations and insights to enhance the effectiveness of the YSL. Our goal is to ensure justice and support for Yazidi survivors through informed, inclusive, and survivor-centered implementation.

Read the full report [here](#).



**FYF joined 53 CSOs and individuals in urging U.S. Attorney General to direct Lafarge asset forfeiture to victims and survivors.**

FYF joined 53 civil society organizations and individuals in an open letter urging the US Department of Justice to direct forfeited assets from its case against Lafarge to benefit victims and survivors of underlying atrocity crimes linked to Syria.

In a [press release](#) published with the letter, our Executive Director, Pari Ibrahim, is quoted stating: "The Department of Justice has given no indication on how it will use these funds, despite having the authority and discretion to direct the funds to benefit victims of these serious crimes. Our organization, which works with Yazidi community members to help them rebuild and heal from the genocide and other atrocities they endured, asks the Attorney General to apply the same creative thinking he is applying to direct forfeited Russian funds to benefit Ukraine and ensure that our communities also have pathways to recover and heal."

Read the full letter [here](#).

**FYF testified at UK parliamentary session on 10 years of the Yazidi genocide.**

FYF's Country Director and Livelihoods Manager both participated in a UK Parliament session focused on the Yazidis. During the session, both women delivered speeches addressing critical issues, including the imminent divestment from northern Iraq's IDP camps, the situation in Sinjar, the plight of missing Yazidis, the closure of UNITAD, and the work of FYF.

They stressed that the Yazidi community is not a monolith; while some Yazidis wish to return to Sinjar, many prefer to remain in displacement and begin their lives anew. They highlighted the need to invest in

women-led, ethical, and survivor-centered Yazidi NGOs, which are at the forefront of addressing the community's challenges



# HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## FYF wins prestigious Ockenden International Prize.

In 2024, FYF's ETC initiative was chosen as one of the prestigious 2024 Ockenden International Prize winners.

The ETC's selection reflects its empowering ethos. Led by displaced women, the ETC is dedicated to uplifting vulnerable women and youth, with a proven track record of success in its livelihood and education programs.

The esteemed eight-member judging panel praised the ETC, stating, "Its objectives are clear: it is participatory in nature – as evidenced by both users and staff – and it combines holistic support and an activities approach with imperative advocacy work. It is also operating in a very difficult context."

This recognition is not just an honor; it's a testament to the transformative work FYF is doing. The ETC isn't just a project; it's a model of empowerment, unique in Iraq.

FYF is dedicated to expanding its reach, replicating its success, and continuing to make a positive difference in the lives of vulnerable women and youth across regions. Together, we're shaping a brighter future.

## FYF finalized and shared critical crime scene analysis reports with law enforcement entities.

FYF's justice team shared four comprehensive crime scene analytical reports, one detailed massacre report, and a series of perpetrator dossiers with law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, UN investigative bodies, and Europol, in strict accordance with survivor consent protocols. The disclosures came after two years of hard work. FYF conducted thorough analyses and investigations across five villages in Sinjar - Tel Banat, Tel Qasab, Siba Sheikh Khidr, Gerzerik, and Tel Azir villages. Additionally, FYF meticulously examined the tragic Yezidi massacre in Qani village, compiling a comprehensive analytical report on this event and the broader assaults targeting Yezidi communities across various towns. The detailed reports and underlying evidence represent a significant step in the pursuit of justice for the Yezidi community.

Composed predominantly of Yezidi female investigators, our dedicated legal team collaborated closely with international experts to meticulously document witness testimonies and compile evidence, ensuring thoroughness and accuracy to ensure that those responsible for the heinous crimes against the Yezidis are held accountable under the law.



*Despite the genocide and the immense hardships endured by the Yezidi community, we remain resilient—especially the women and girls who have stepped up as the primary breadwinners for their families in the aftermath of this tragedy.*

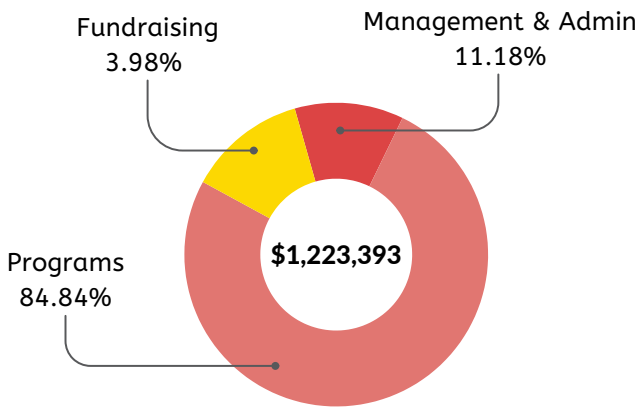
**Anonymous**

Beneficiary (recipient of individual and group therapy)

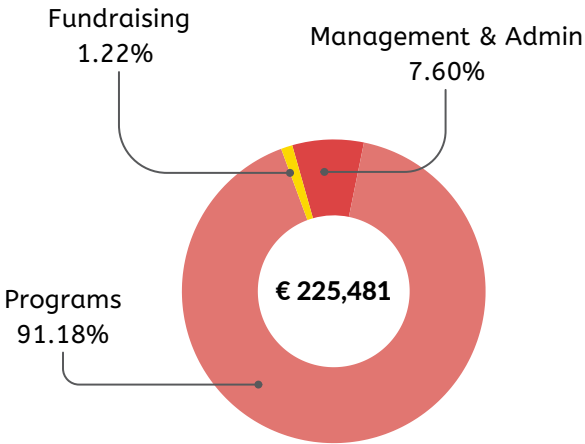
# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## EXPENDITURES

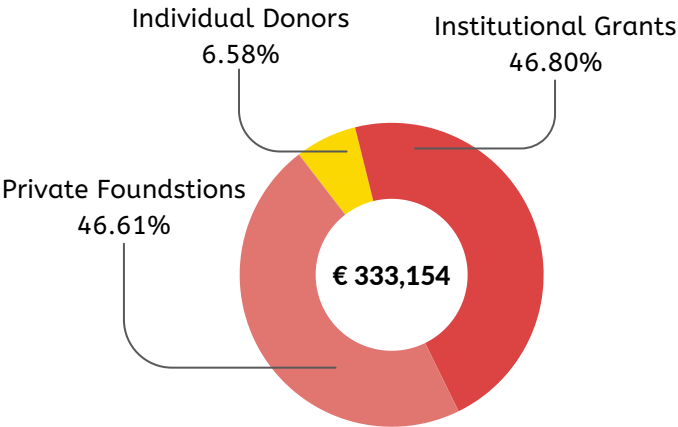
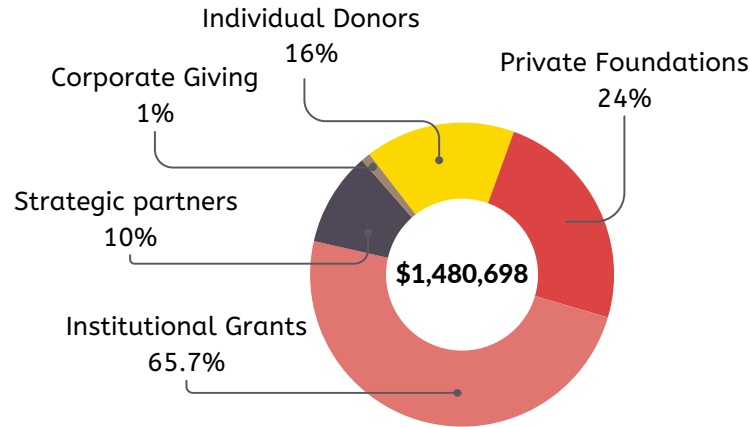
Free Yezidi Foundation - USA



Free Yezidi Foundation - Netherlands



## REVENUE



# LOOKING FORWARD

As we reflect on our accomplishments and the challenges we've navigated, we are ready to build on this momentum and deepen our impact in the year ahead. Our vision for the future includes several strategic initiatives designed to strengthen our support to vulnerable communities while ensuring that our programming remains responsive, inclusive, and grounded in the lived realities of those we serve.

## Broadening Our Target Groups

We remain committed to expanding our reach to include more women and girls from religious and ethnic minority communities across Iraq. This includes targeted, survivor-centered services that address the specific challenges these groups face—from economic marginalization to social exclusion—while fostering long-term empowerment and resilience.

## Strengthening Civil Society Partnerships

FYF will continue to bolster partnerships with local and women-led organizations across Iraq. These collaborations are central to our approach and will enhance empowerment programming for minority women and girls. By working closely with grassroots partners, we aim to strengthen civil society capacity to provide high-quality, culturally appropriate services in underserved

areas, while advancing shared goals around justice, gender equality, and community resilience.

## Investing in Staff and Organizational Development

We are committed to continually strengthening our internal policies and procedures to ensure transparency, efficiency, and accountability in all aspects of our operations. Simultaneously, we will continue to invest in the professional development and technical expertise of our staff through ongoing training, mentorship, and cross-organizational learning.

## Diversifying Funding Streams

To sustain and scale our operations, we will continue to diversify our funding base, pursuing flexible, multi-year partnerships that allow us to innovate, respond quickly to evolving needs, and maintain long-term commitments to the communities we serve.

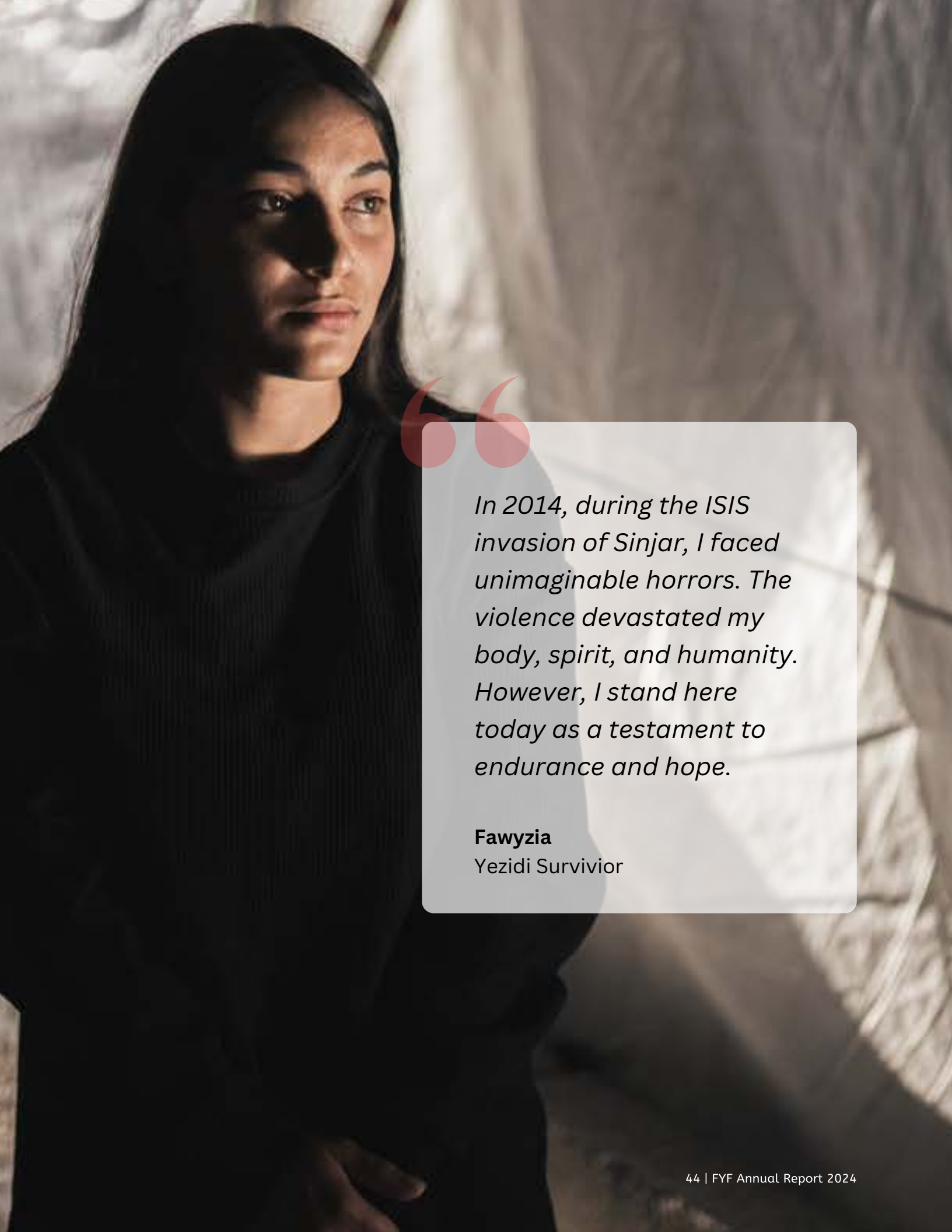
## Expanding Advocacy and Advancing Women's Rights

FYF will continue to elevate the voices and leadership of Yezidi women through expanded advocacy efforts at both national and international levels. Our **Changemakers** program to be launched in 2025 and led by displaced minority women will remain a central pillar of

this work. In the coming year, we aim to strengthen women's safe participation in community and political life by supporting local organizing, legal empowerment, and advocacy platforms that amplify women's leadership and visibility. Through these efforts, we will continue to challenge barriers to women's participation and advance gender equality across all areas of our programming.

Together, we will continue to advocate for justice, amplify marginalized voices, and work alongside communities to build a future rooted in dignity, inclusion, and collective strength.





*In 2014, during the ISIS invasion of Sinjar, I faced unimaginable horrors. The violence devastated my body, spirit, and humanity. However, I stand here today as a testament to endurance and hope.*

**Fawyzia**

Yezidi Survivor



*Photo - Yezidi family in Khanke Camp, Duhok, Iraq.*

# CONTACT US

## HEADQUARTERS & FIELD OFFICES

Free Yezidi Foundation Inc. USA  
60 East 42nd Street Suite 4600  
New York, NY 10165  
**USA**

Stichting Free Yezidi  
Postbus 17350  
1001JJ Amsterdam  
**Netherlands**

Free Yezidi Foundation  
Khanke IDP Camp  
Duhok  
**Iraq**

[info@freeyezidi.org](mailto:info@freeyezidi.org)  
[www.freeyezidi.org](http://www.freeyezidi.org)

 @freeyezidi  @FreeYezidiFoundation  @Free\_Yezidi  @Free Yezidi Foundation

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*“Towards a brighter future”*

