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Sechs Jahre nach dem Genozid

Vor sechs Jahren verloren fast eine halbe Millionen Menschen im Sinjar-Gebiet des Iraks in Folge des gewaltsamen Einmarschs durch den sogenannten Islamischen Staat Ihre Existenzgrundlagen. Zudem wurden im Zuge des Genozids an der jesidischen Bevölkerung tausende Menschen ermordet, Frauen und Kinder verschleppt, versklavt, ausgebeutet und missbraucht.

Ein Großteil der Menschen, die fliehen konnten, haben Zuflucht im Gouvernorat Dohuk, einem Teil der kurdischen Autonomiegebiete im Irak, gefunden. Die Ärmsten der Armen, etwa 40 Prozent aller vertriebenen Menschen, leben seitdem in einem von 16 Flüchtlingslagern unter schwierigsten Bedingungen. Im Jahr 2020 verschlimmern die COVID-19-bedingten Einschränkungen zusehends auch im Irak die humanitäre Notlage. Die damit einhergehende ökonomische Krise und die Ausgangsverbote machen es für die vertriebene Menschen unmöglich, als Tagelöhner oder mit der Vermarktung eigener landwirtschaftlicher Produkte den eigenen Lebensunterhalt zu verdienen. Innerirakische Grenzschließungen zwischen den kurdischen Gebieten und dem Sinjar-Gebiet trennen Familien und machen eine finanzielle Versorgung durch Familienmitglieder mit Einkommen in in einer anderen Region unmöglich.

Etwa 60 Prozent aller Bewohner*innen der Lager sind Kinder und Jugendliche, die auf eine Zukunftsperspektive hoffen. Ökonomische sowie physische, psychische, kulturelle und politische Barrieren erschweren jedoch gerade diesen Kindern und Jugendlichen den Zugang zu formaler Bildung. Es wird geschätzt, dass nur etwa jedes dritte vertriebene Kind zwischen 6 und 17 Jahren eine Schule besucht. Unter den Jugendlichen, die einen Schulabschluss machen oder gar eine Universität besuchen, sind Jesidinnen und Jesiden entsprechend deutlich unterrepräsentiert.

DhK unterstützt seit 2016 jährlich etwa 50 jesidische Studierende in Not dabei einen Studienabschluss zu machen. Denn um Zukunftsperspektiven zu entwickeln und eine Grundversorgung in der Region zu gewährleisten braucht es gut ausgebildete Menschen aus der jesidischen Gemeinde.

2020 ist für unser Stipendienprogramm ein besonderes Jahr. Die Krise erschwert eine finanzielle Versorgung der Stipendiat*innen und Reiseverbote machen es uns unmöglich in den Irak zu reisen. Gleichzeitig sind wir stolz verkünden zu können, dass 13 junge Menschen, die wir in den letzten Jahren begleitet und unterstützt haben, in den letzten Wochen erfolgreich Ihre Abschlussprüfungen bestanden haben.

Unter den Bedingungen der Online-Lehre und -Prüfungen, fehlender IT-Infrastruktur und Internetversorgung, Ausgangsbeschränkungen und großer Hitze ist dies keine Selbstverständlichkeit. Damit konnten wir bisher insgesamt fast 30 junge Menschen bei einem erfolgreichen Studienabschluss unterstützen.

In Namen der jungen Menschen möchten wir uns ganz herzlich für die Unterstützung bedanken. Einige Studierende haben uns ein paar Zeilen geschrieben, die wir im Folgenden gerne mit Euch/Ihnen teilen möchten.

Gerne würden wir mit Eurer/Ihrer Unterstützung auch im nächsten Semester unser Programm fortführen. Die große Zahl der Bewerbungen für DhK-Stipendien (im letzten Jahr waren es 900) zeigt den großen Bedarf, die Hoffnungen und die Not dieser jungen Menschen.

Unsere Absolvent*innen 2020 und eine Auswahl Ihrer Berichte

M. hat erfolgreich seinen Studienabschluss in Pharmazie gemacht. *"Why I'm here? Why do I study? I should rescue my family?"*

Hello everyone

I'm from Shingal (Sinjar), I was living with my family in Khanasor town (northwest of Sinjar mountain. I was student and graduated from high school in 2012 and accepted to college of pharmacy at university of Mosul in 2013. However, because of bad economic circumstances economically and safety concerns, I was forced to postpone that year and to work in my town. I then start my study in the beginning of 2014. Before we finish our final exams in June 2014, ISIS attacked Mosul province. We could hardly save our lives and I returned to my family in Khanasor. As you all know on 3 August 2014 the terrorists attack my district Shingal and thousands of people became victims and lost their lives either killed or kidnapped. Unfortunately, everyone in my family except me and my father was among the victims and affected families: My mother, my only brother and my three sisters were kidnapped with all my uncles' families. Only me and my father could save our lives and escaped to Sinjar mountain. After 1 week we could come to Kurdistan region and found a tent in Shariya camp. It was a horrible and difficult situation to start from zero without family but we didn't have another option. In November I was obligated to complete the final exams for the first stage. As Mosul was under ISIS occupation, I could do that at the university of Duhok as a host university. I passed and progressed to the second stage and continued to study as a guest student in UoD college of pharmacy for the next years. Of course, I passed through difficult and hard situations. Many times, I said to myself "Why I'm here? Why do I study? I should rescue my family?". But me and my father were helpless and what we had to do it just waiting. After three years university of Mosul re-opened in Mosul. I had no choice and was obligated to come back to Mosul despite everything that happened to me from people from Mosul that joined to ISIS and kidnapped my family. I had to stay silent and continue my study. Of course, many times I couldn't study and I went to exams unprepared. For this reason, I failed in one semester and I had to repeat that year. During these years I was not able to work. Because there was no income, I managed my study financially with the help of people and NGOs such as DhK. That helped me for many years and I appreciated their efforts and support. Thanks God I could graduate from my college. After 4 years in captivity, one of my sisters could be reunited with me and my father at the age of 12. I hope to see the rest of my family soon. Now as a graduate I'll try to work here at any pharmacy or with any organization. But these days we are very afraid and have to be careful because of covid_19.

A. hat erfolgreich ihren Studienabschluss in Labortechnologie gemacht. „My only weapon in war is the pen and reading books”

I still remember as if it was yesterday, when my mother shouted and said, "Get up quickly, everyone is running away, and the Eid sweets were still on the table!" We got up quickly and got into the car, luckily we had it, it was like a nightmare, fear and terror entered our hearts and the cry of children still in my ears, many of them lost and died, especially children and the elderly! A thousand of people kidnapped by ISIS. They destroyed and blew up our homes and burned villages. Thanks for God, my family and I arrived in the Kurdistan region. Here we became displaced, and those events, as well as the screams and sounds of bullets, remained for months and years in my mind. Then I told myself my only weapon for war is the pen and reading books. After that, I started studying and whenever I was tired, I remembered what they did to us and believed in it is the only way to fight. And it is the same way in which I will help my family and my people. Despite the summer heat under the tent and the cold of the winter, I did not give up and got a GPA of 90 in the sixth grade and was accepted into a prestigious college (medical Laboratory technology). I spent 4 years in dormitory and had friends from different religions. Those years were like the light that lit my way. For my family my studies were a financial burden, as my father was killed when I was little and my mother was taking care of my younger brother and sister. And in 2018 I was left behind alone in Iraq, when my mother and brother had an opportunity to move to Germany as part of a program. Now I am a graduate with a bachelor's degree with a good average. This provides me with a greater opportunity to do something simple to my people. I will never forget who helped me, whether financially or morally. My message to the world is if you feel that what is happening around you is greater than your ability, do not give up and hold your pen and remember that you are stronger and able to heal. You only need to be patient and have confidence in yourself and faith in God.

B. hat erfolgreich seinen Studienabschluss in Wirtschaftswissenschaften gemacht. „I was studying hard because if you don't study hard and become one of the outstanding students it's difficult to get job.”

I lived in Sinjar city when I was accepted to University of Mosul in 2013-2014. Two weeks after I registered for my faculty terrorists killed the Yazidi drivers who were transporting Yazidi students from Bashiqa to the University of Mosul. Also, they threatened Yazidi students that they will kill all of them, if they don't give up studying. So, I could not start university that year. In 2014-2015, after the ISIS (Da'ash) attack on Sinjar, the people of Sinjar were displaced to the Kurdistan region. I started at Dohuk University as a guest student and i was one of the outstanding students in that year. Because of missing finances and psychological problems, I had to pause my study in 2015. In 2016-2017 I continued in the second stage at the alternative site of Mosul University in the Kurdistan region. Also, in that year I was one of the outstanding students and I passed second stage with excellent marks. In 2017 I was forced to continue my study in Mosul. When I went to the faculty to enroll for the third stage, I was told that I have to take an exam of one course that was not offered at Duhok university. So, I lost one year to only complete that course, which I then with very good mark. So, then in 2018-2019 I studied the third stage at Mosul University in Mosul city and I passed with excellent marks. For my last study year, the first semester was offered in Mosul University in Mosul city. The final the semester and the final exams were online because of the Corona-lockdown. I finished my studies with excellent marks and became second best of my stage. During all these years I was working as a daily

worker in many places and professions. I was a main person of provide for my family after we were displaced in 2014 and had to leave our own city. We lived as IDPs. I was studying hard because if you don't study hard and become one of the outstanding students it's difficult to get job. So, I studied hard to get excellent marks. My dream is getting a job at the university and for this I wish to continue my study to obtain a master degree.

Z. hat erfolgreich seinen Studienabschluss als Petroleumingenieur gemacht. „For me DhK believing in me and my success made the difference.”

I was born in 1995. I was living in Shingal city. I live with my family (my parents and my brothers we are 7 one), and as I am the oldest son, so I provides for my family. I will tell you about my academic life a little bit, starting from my sixth stage of high school after being displaced from Shingal due to the events that took place in 2014 August 3 (Yizdian Genocide by ISIS) in the city of Shingal was the extermination of the Yazidis. I was a student in the sixth stage of high school in the year 2014. I was about to take the last exams in that year, but those events took place and ISIS entered to Shingal and we were displaced to Kurdistan. My family fled to Iraqi Kurdistan, and then after staying on the mountain for 15 days, I joined my family again. I could not complete that school year because of our bad situation. We were not having any monthly economic or support from anywhere then I was forced to look for a job and find out a way to help my family. My father was very sick and suffering from heart disease in that time. We were not having enough money, neither to live nor to treat my father. For this reason, I pause my studies that year. In 2015 I tried to go back to school again to finish my last stage in high school in Shiekhan. Also, my brothers they did that. I started and continue in study to about two months. Then our situation became so bad again that I decided to work for my family and for my brother's study. In that time, I was lucky and someone heard about my cases and decided to help me by giving me a salary each month (100\$). That was enough for me so I completed sixth stage od secondary school with a great success final mark was (95%). I accept in the University of Mosul in a College of Petroleum Engineering. Beside my success there was a little hardship, because I missed to be accepted at the college of my dream (pharmacy for 0,5 points). As I was broke that year again I went to work to help my family in 2016, so that one of my brothers could also complete the last stage of his high school. With my help in 2017 I could graduate from high school and he was accepted in the same University in a College of Art English Department. That gave me the freedom to start my study. I went to Kirkuk, were Mosul university had its alternative campus in exile, to start the first year in the college. End of 2017 I continued in Mosul city living in Basiqa with other students. The second year was in Mosul then I registered in scholarship program from DhK organization. They supported a lot of students I was one of them. This gave me the financial security to continue my study without breaks. Now in 2020 I completed my study. I got bachelor in petroleum engineering, and one of my brothers is in fourth stage in the college of art and other one in a first stage also in the art college and the last one in the sixth stage of high school. What I wanted to say by these humble words are that there is no impossible in a front of our will. So if the person wanted to do something he would be able to do through his persistence and his will. Yes, life is not easy we all know that, life in itself is a challenge, so the one who will succeed in the last is that patient person who possesses the persistence and will. I will not forget those who support us in order for us to achieve our goals and reach our goals when we were in the biggest need. One should not lose hope, because there are always hands that extend to help you. No one is perfect, perhaps there are thousands of people who are the first to say this, but really I wanted to say that, despite the suffering and displacement, living in the camps and the difficult conditions, and what happened to us as a whole religion(Yizidian genocide Yizidian Genocide in 3 of

august 2014) I got a Bachelors in engineering, and now I am planning to go to Shingal to offer something to my city. Perhaps it will not be that big thing, but I am planning to work in the field of smart phone technology and the Internet network to give my people a good life according to the simple capabilities maybe by some help will be a good project. Last but not least, I would like to thank the DhK organization that supported many of our students since 2016. As financial support was important, I would like to thank Dr. Heike for her continuous moral support to the students and her motivational words. For me DhK believing in me and my success made the difference.