

عسله بر به به به بره به در الماد و بر

الجمعية الآشورية الخيرية - العراق

"Organization in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council since 2011"

# Annual Report of activities 2018



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# Annual Report of activities 2018

Prepared By: Eramia Sargon

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#### **President's Column**

We can call the year 2018, as the year of victory and return to most areas of Nineveh Plain home of the indigenous Assyrians Syriac Chaldeans, where the proportion of returnees to certain areas in the Nineveh Plain, such as Bakhdida, Karmles, Telsqof and Bashiqa were increased, and lower rates to Bartilla.

This has significantly encouraged other IDPs to think of returning, and this is a positive indicator and despite the difficulties and the effects left behind of occupation of ISIS in those areas and the negative subsequent repercussions on the community and the fabric of the Iraqi components in general.

However, the hesitation and delay of return of the displaced people for political and social reasons, which have been preceded by the occupation of ISIS over those areas in previous periods, including Telkief and Mosul. The number of Assyrian families returning to these areas is not a figure that can be considered an achievement after liberation.

As for Batnaya, in addition to the political situation, these areas continue to suffer as a result of the destruction caused by the military operations and the deceleration in reconstruction and lack of necessary funds.



Despite the lack of resources and the short in humanitarian support in general, our Society insisted on continuing to provide more humanitarian services to encourage the people of the Nineveh Plain to return to their historical areas, which included the distribution of food baskets, household cleaning items, stationery for schools, As well as the supplying of medicines and medical supplies, drilling of water boreholes and rehabilitation for some of the damaged houses and homes in the Nineveh Plain, and the distribution of furniture and home needs of returnees to some areas of Nineveh Plain, in addition to providing more disclosures to the supporters, including the USAID, which has already initiated the implementation of the first project with the Assyrian Aid Society-Iraq of distributing the school supplies to more than 25,000 students for kindergartens and primary schools in the Nineveh Plain

On the other hand, the AAS-Iraq continued to provide as much as possible of support to displaced people in Duhok governorate through the continuation of the Odrana camp of AASI, in sheltering displaced people who have no other shelter, as well as the project of mobile clinic tours that continued to provide medical services.

The AAS-Iraq has not lost sight to the people of Duhok governorate from the various Assyrian villages and towns and their great need for support. Where AASI constructed the irrigation channels in Nahla region and It also continued the supporting of the Assyrian Education to ensure continuity of the process of teaching in the mother tongue that the AASI has always made it one of the annual sections to which it is committed.

As part of its supporting activities to the youth group, the AAS-Iraq continued to support the programs and activities of the Chaldo Assyrian Students and Youth Union. The AASI also worked on organizing capacity-building workshops for youth groups of both genders to raise awareness on their rights as an indigenous people of the country and their right to decent living.

In the field of communication with United Nations organizations, the activities of the Society have been marked by participation in several events in New York of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues UNPFII. We also participated actively in the work of the Permanent Forum on Human Rights, the Experts Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), as we succeeded in delivering speeches that focused on the rights and issues of our people in the country, especially the file of lands.

Last year also witnessed a remarkable cooperation with the World Evangelical Alliance at the United Nations.

From our participation and activities for 2018 was the participation of our Society within the delegation of Iraq in the activities of the Iraq Reconstruction Conference in Kuwait in February.

As well as participating in the conference in Bartilla in the Nineveh Plain and the signing the document of peaceful coexistence in the Nineveh Plain.

One of our important contributions was to meet an invitation from the US State Department to participate in the first Ministerial Conference on Religious Freedom organized by the US State Department in Washington in July 2018.

For the national participation, we had the privilege of delivering an extended speech at the annual conference of the Assyrian Confederation of Europe in October 2019.

All that our society achieved was an outcome of the continuous work by hundreds of supporters around the world who aim to strengthen our presence as an indigenous people in Iraq, as well as the good and distinguished relations with our partners who have provided and continue to provide support to ensure the continuation of building and reconstruction and conquering the will of evil, which planted hatred in the past years, and the efforts and support of the good people around the world we were able to move forward and contribute significantly in laying the smile on the faces of children.

We would like to extend our thanks to all those who contributed to the achievement of what we have presented over the past year, and their commitment to continue to provide the best in the future.

Sincerely,

## **Departments of the AAS-Iraq:**

- ☐ The President:
  ☐ Administration & Finance:
  ☐ Secretary:
  ☐ Aid & Humanitarian Affairs:
  ☐ Assyrian Education:
  ☐ Medical Projects:
  ☐ Construction & Projects:
  ☐ Database Management & Media:
  - Ashur Sargon Eskrya
    Evet Nevadimous Esho
    Eramia Sargon
    Patros Esho Gewargis
    Napoleon Yousif Youkhana
    Shmaeil Hedo Dawood
    Younan Lazar Mirkhaeil
    Ibrahim Abd-Alghany

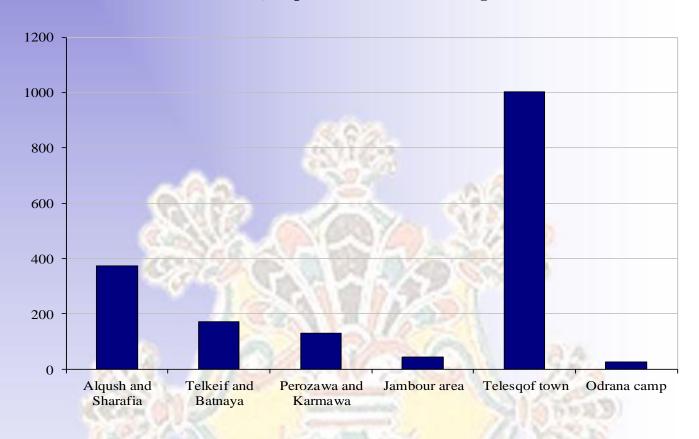
## **Relief & Humanitarian Affairs Dept:**

In 2018, the AASI implemented relief programs to the displaced families in different region of Iraq, including the returnees in their liberated areas of Nineveh Plain, in which more than (1749) of food baskets and hygiene kits were distributed.



# Relief & Humanitarian Affairs Dept:

Beneficiarias; Displaced famillies according to area



#### **Assyrian Education Dept.:**

AAS-Iraq has continued, consistently, to provide the needed support for the Assyrian Education Process, where the AASI provided support through the distribution of school supplies to all students of Assyrian Education in Duhok, Erbil and other regions, as well as the students of displaced and returned families in Nineveh Plain, where more than 28,597 students in the academic years (2018-2019) have been beneficiaries of school supplies program, with support of the Assyrian Aid Society of Australia, Canada and New Zealand, Along with the Society's support for the lecturers in the Assyrian Education including paying of monthly salaries for lecturers, transportation for lecturers and other administrative expenditures of Assyrian Schools in Duhok and Erbil, with the support of AUA Foundation and AASA. In addition to the distribution of stationery for students of our displaced people from Mosul and Nineveh Plain.



### **Assyrian Education Dept.:**

The Implementation of project included distributing of school supplies to (24607) students in (85) primary schools and kindergartens in Al-Hamdaniya district, Nineveh Plain region, with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Iraqi Community Resilience Initiative (ICRI), Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> 2018.









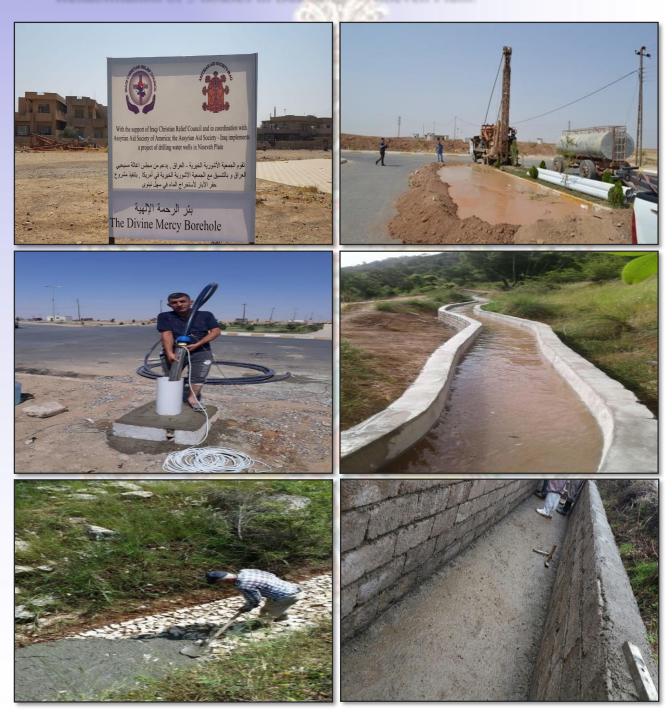




## **Construction and Projects:**

List of other construction and drilling projects implemented by AAS-Iraq in different areas of our people

- Constructing of 575 m of the irrigation channels in Kashkawa and Belmend villages in Nahla region.
- Drilling of 4 water boreholes in Bakhdida & Bartilla Nineveh plain.
- Adjustment of roads of Ashti Camp in Erbil.
- Rehabilitation of 5 houses in Bakhdida Nineveh Plain.



## **Construction and Projects:**



#### **Projects:**

- Providing of Diesel for generator of Odrana camp of AASI.
- Providing of Diesel for generators of Ashti camp in Erbil.
- Providing of Heating oil (Kerosene) for schools of Assyrian Education.
- Providing of furniture, equipment and supplies for one school in Bakhdida.
- Providing of materials and rehabilitation for two shops of returnees in Bakhdida and Karmles.
- Providing of Air coolers to (100) beneficiaries of IDPs & returnees in Duhok & Nineveh Plain













## **Projects:**













### **Mobile Clinic Project:**

The AAS-Iraq, with support of the Assyrians Without Borders and other supporters, implemented the project of mobile clinic in the areas of living for displaced people in Duhok province and Nineveh Plain, the project mobile clinic provided medical assistance to more than (1884) beneficiaries of IDPs and returnees of Mosul, Nineveh Plain, and other regions in (20) field visits, Jan. 1st – Dec. 31st 2018.



#### Care for Childhood

Distribution of the Christmas Gifts to kids of (Zakho and Shiyoz) in Duhok Distribution of the Christmas Gifts to kids of (Diyana and Koesenjak) in Erbil Distribution of the Christmas Gifts to kids of (Sapna, Deralok, Komane, Enishke, Aradin, Tin, Dawoodiya, Badarish and Sarsink

Distribution of the Christmas Gifts to kids of Sheikhan area (Perozawa, Garmawa, Ainbaqre, Dashqutan and Karanjok)

Distribution of the Christmas Gifts to kids of St. George Church and through coordination with ChaldoAssyrian Students & Youth Union in Duhok and Kosenjaq in Erbil)













## **Care for Childhood**



### **Activities for Youth and Women Groups**

- Providing support to Chaldo Assyrian Students and Youth Union in holding the sport activates including the Narsai David and Mezalta tournaments in Duhok with participation of many youth teams of our people.
- Holding two vocational training courses of sewing for (24) women in Bakhdida.
- Holding vocational training course of hairdressing for (12) young men in Bakhdida.
- Holding two series of workshops to empower women and young groups (130 people) in Duhok.













#### **Visits & Activities:**

- AAS-Iraq participates in the peaceful Coexistence conference Held in Nineveh plain. Mar. 15th, 2018.
- AAS-Iraq Discusses with the political section of the US consulate in Erbil The situation of IDPs of Mosul and Nineveh plain and The Returnees. Mar. 19<sup>th</sup>,2018.
- AAS-Iraq meeting with the US international development Authority (USAID). Mar. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- AAS-Iraq receives A delegation of Gishru youth organization. Mar. 29th, 2018.
- AAS-Iraq receives A delegation from the Russian Orthodox Church. Mar. 29th, 2018.
- AAS-Iraq participates in the conclusion ceremony of The 11<sup>th</sup> Narsai David Mini Football Tournament in Duhok. Apr. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- AAS-Iraq receives A delegation from the Iraqi Christian Relief Council. Jun. 18th, 2018.
- President of AAS-Iraq participates in a meeting on the reconstruction of Nineveh plain areas at the US consulate in Erbil. Jul. 1st, 2018.
- AAS-Iraq meets the Syriac education committee. Jul. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018.
- AAS-Iraq participates in the roundtable of USAID with NGOs held at the US consulate in Erbil. Aug. 15th, 2018.
- Visit of the USAID delegation to headquarters of AAS-Iraq in Duhok. Oct. 10th, 2018.
- Receiving Mrs. Beata Kempa, the minister of Humanitarian Aid of Poland at Odrana Camp of AASI for IDPs. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018









The participation of AAS-Iraq president in the Kuwait international conference, Feb.12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> 2018.

The president of the Assyrian Aid Society- Iraq, Eng. Ashur Eskrya participated in the Kuwait international conference for the reconstruction of Iraq that held in Kuwait, Feb.12th – 14th 2018.

The participation of AASI was part of the delegation of Iraq civil society organizations and under the supervision of the fund for the reconstruction of Iraq and the department of civil society organizations at the General Secretariat of the council of ministers Mr. Mohamed Tahir Al-Tamimi, and also in coordination with the advisory body to the presidency of the council of ministers, where the delegation included representatives of twenty-five organizations and societies the representing Iraqi civil society, of which represents the different areas of Iraq, as well as representing the Iraqi spectrum as a whole, which presented its programs of work during the last period to address the displacement and the effects of terrorism of the ISIS, which affected several areas in Iraq, living behind more destruction in the Human and stone, as well as the participates president obstacles to the work of civil society organizations in addition to the project that need to be implemented and ways to deal with in post-ISIS and liberalization of different regions.

The conference of NGOs of support the humanitarian situation in Iraq was organized in coordination with the international Islamic charitable organization and with the participation of several civil pledges and grants reached 333 million dollars. The president of the society also participated in the invitation of the dinner hosted by the American Business Council of Kuwait (ABCK), headed by Dr. Juliet Dinkha, which was held on the fringes of the conference and in abroad presence, during which the US Ambassador in Iraq, Mr. Douglas Silliman, announced his country's support for Iraq this year by three billion dollars. Grants and loans and investment during the conference in general amounted to about thirty billion dollars, and this amount is not enough to this size of the destruction suffered by Iraq through the fierce attack on it.









AAS-Iraq President's participation at the ministerial to advance religious freedom in Washington

#### The visit of AAS-Iraq's president to Washington, Jul.24th – 27th 2018

At the invitation of the US state department, Mr. Ashur Eskrya president of the Assyrian Aid Society-Iraq, participated in the ministerial conference to advance religious freedom, which was held at the state department in Washington DC from Jul.24th- 27th, 2018, sponsored by US vice president Mr. Mike Pence.

The conference is the first international forum on religious freedom adopted by the United State of America, with participation of representatives from more than 80 countries, representatives of civil society organizations, religious leaders of all faiths and activists around the world in the field of religious freedom.

The conference agenda included work sessions, various events and activities focused on the concepts of freedom of religion and its importance creating peace around the world and the need to accept the other regardless of religion of belief, whether the believer or non-believer.

Emphasis was placed on the reality of religious freedoms in some countries and the oppression and the persecution of some communities on religious or ethnic grounds.

In particular, the Christians and Yazidis were subjected to oppression and genocide by ISIS terrorist group and the continuation of genocide and its effects on these indigenous peoples and the need to take measures to stop their effects on their existence.

In this speech, US vice president Mr. Mike Pence affirmed the commitment of the United State to continue to support the various components of the Nineveh Plain through supporting them to return to their areas of origin by allocating direct fund from the US government.

During this attendance in the ministerial conference, the president of the AAS-Iraq participated in numerous meetings with representatives of civil society organizations, clerics, activists and officials of the American administration, where Mr. Eskrya met with Mr. Sam Brownback, US Ambassador-atlarge for International Religious Freedom, Mr. Frank Wolf, former congressman; he also met with Dr. Wadee Batti, representative of the Iraqi Foreign Minister to the Forum, and Dr. Fareed Yassin, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Washington DC, as well as meeting with Dr. Chris Seiple, the Chief Executive Officer of Sage stone Group.

## AAS-Iraq participates in the third festival of the Assyrian Union in Europe (ACE) Oct.13th – 14th 2018

The Assyrian Aid Society represented by its president, Mr. Ashur Sargon Eskrya participated in the third festival of the Assyrian Federation in Europe (ACE) which was hosted by the city of Cotersloo in northern Germany, for the period from Oct.13th – 14th 2018 and it was attended by a number of representatives of our Assyrian institutions exists in the Diaspora especially in Europe where many lectures were given, the president of the Assyrian Aid Society –Iraq gave a lecture on the Current Situation and future prospects of our Assyrian Chaldean people in the country, the festival included many cultural and artistic activities.













The tour of president of the Assyrian Aid Society (AAS)-Iraq in Chicago –Illinois, 31st July, 2018

The president of the AAS Mr. Ashur Sargon Eskrya held several meetings and visits, which included the visit to His Eminence Archbishop (Isaac Yousif), Archbishop of the Assyrian church of the east in Duhok in Russia, he also met with His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, bishop of the Diocese of Eastern USA. He also visited number of our people's institutions in Chicago. As well as meeting with the reverent Tiglat Homer of the Assyrian Evangelical church in Chicago.

These meetings dealt with the situation of our people and future of the Nineveh plain, the ways of helping the return of displaced people to their homes after liberation, the importance of establishing security in the region, as well as they need to rebuild what has been destroyed of homes and lands of our people to enable them to survive and preserve this land.

#### Tour of the president of the Assyrian Aid Society-Iraq in USA

Mr. Ashur Sargon Eskrya the president of AAS-Iraq did a tour to United State of America during the period from 24th July to 14th August 2018, where he participated in the ministerial conference for the promotion of freedom of religion at the invitation of the US state department, which was held at the US state department in Washington DC during the period from 24th to 27th July 2018, under the auspices of vice president Mike Pence. This conference considers the first international forum on religious freedom adopted by the United State, with representatives from more than 80 countries, representatives of civil society organizations religious leaders of all faiths and activities around the world in the field of religious freedom.









#### **AASI's Participations**

- AAS-Iraq participates in the 11th session of the experts mechanism on the rights of indigenous people at Palais Des Nations in Geneva, 13th July, 2018.
- AAS-Iraq participates in the 39th session of the human rights council-Geneva, 29th September, 2018.
- AAS-Iraq takes part in a panel discussion on the current situation of Ethnic and religious minorities in Nineveh, held in Washington DC, 3rd August, 2018.
- AAS-Iraq participates in the 17th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues UNPFII, 18th April, 2018.



#### **AASI's Participations**

#### Statement delivered at Date 13th July 2018

Special Theme: AAS-Iraq participates in the 11th session of the experts mechanism on the rights of indigenous people at Palais Des Nations in Geneva

Mr. Ashur Eskrya, president of the Assyrian Aid Society- Iraq, participated in the 11th session of the Experts Mechanism on the Rights of indigenous peoples, held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, from 9th- 13th July 2018, with the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples, representatives of international organizations, representatives of member states of the United nations, the human rights council and the permanent forum of indigenous peoples.

The session included discussing the topics related to the indigenous peoples, where AAS-Iraq participated in several statement delivered by Mr. Ashur Eskrya and included the mechanisms required to implement the UN declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, the good practice and lessons learned for our peoples as one of the indigenous peoples, as well as the future work of the expert mechanism, including focus of future thematic studies on the situation of our people and submitting proposals to the human rights council for its consideration and approval, as well as the importance of protecting and re- preserving the Assyrian monuments targeted by the terrorist group of ISIS, for its importance to the human civilization and indigenous peoples as a cultural heritage of the Christian Assyrians.

The society also participated in the side event organized by UNESCO, where Mr. Ashur addressed the reality of the process of Syriac education and the importance of education in the mother tongue of the indigenous peoples.

On the sidelines of the 11th session of the Experts mechanism, Mr. Ashur met with the western Armenia foundation, represented by Mr. Armenian, president of western Armenia. He also met with Mr. Wissam Al-Saliby, representative of the world Evangelical Alliance to the economic and social council of the United Nations.

At the conclusion of the session, Mr. Eskrya delivered a version of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of indigenous people translated into Syriac language to the documents section associated with the Permanent Forum of indigenous peoples to be added to the United Nations Archive. It is noteworthy that Deacon Andrius Youkhanna gratefully translated the Declaration from Arabic.

#### **AASI's Participations**

AAS-Iraq participates in A number of celebrations of our people:

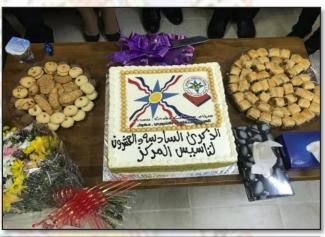
The AAS-Iraq represented by Mr. Ashur Eskrya, president of the society participated in the celebration held by Duhok branch of the Assyrian women union on Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 on the occasion of the international women day at the Assyrian cultural center, where the president extended congratulations to the Assyrian women all around the world wishing them success and success.

The Assyrian Aid Society represented by its president Mr.Ashur Eskrya, participated in the final of Mezalta tournament for students of university and institutes in Duhok on Mar. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 organized by the ChaldoAssyrian students and youth union.

Mr. Ashur Eskrya, president of the AAS-Iraq, participated in the celebration held by the Assyrian cultural center on Mar. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, on the occasion of its 28th year of founding the center. Beside attending the cultural symposium was held on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the martyrdom of patriarch Shimon the twenty-first century Benjamin, which was held in the Assyrian Cultural Center.

AAS-Iraq participated with more than hundreds of people of Mosul in celebration of the Assyrian Babylonian New Year over the walls of the Ancient city of Nineveh, where many citizens of Mosul city celebrated the anniversary of the arrival of the Assyrian Babylonian new year also known as AKITU at Adad Gate, which was destroyed by the terrorist group of ISIS in 2015. Mar. 31st 2018.









#### The Supporters in 2018

To those whom worked hard to provide support to our Society and our People, we would like to extend our thanks and appreciation for the tremendous support we got from:

- Assyrian Aid Society of America
- Assyrian Aid Society of Australia
- Assyrian Aid Society of Canada
- Assyrian Aid Society of New Zealand
- American Assyrian National Federation USA
- Assyrian Evangelical church in San Jose USA
- Assyrian Federation in Germany and European sections (ZVDA)
- Assyrian Foundation of America USA
- Assyrian Universal Alliance Foundation USA
- Assyrian Without Borders Sweden
- Eagle Watch Foundation Poland
- Evangelical Lutheran churches of Wurttemberg Germany
- Gishru team USA
- Institute for Global Engagement / The Cradle Fund USA
- International Christian Concern USA
- Iraqi Christian Relief Council USA
- Mr. Wilfred Wong / Child Aid UK
- Religious Freedom Coalition USA
- Sign of Hope Germany
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

#### Work Plan and Program of the Assyrian Aid Society for 2019

- The Assyrian Aid Society with fund of its supporters and partners around the world, works to complete its annual program that has persevered to implement since it was founded; This year we aspire to implement the following work and programs:
- The continuation of support for the educational programs, in specific the concentration on the Syriac Education schools through provide of stationary and school supplies, and the contribution in transportation of students in rural areas, as well as the support for the volunteered lecturers in Syriac schools.
- The work to gain support for the rework of mobile clinic which has served thousands of IDPs and inhabitants of rural different villages.
- The Relief and Humanitarian Aid Department of the Assyrian Aid Society will continue its programs of distributing the food baskets and hygiene kits to the displaced people, widows, people in need and of low income.
- The Construction Department of the Assyrian Aid Society will continue to implement the projects of reconstruction homes of people in the liberated areas especially in Nineveh Plains region, as well as the work to implement projects of support for the farmers through casting and cleaning of irrigation channels to preserve and reduce of wasted irrigation water.
- The Assyrian Aid Society works to provide the necessary support to open development projects of capacity building and support the youth in gaining job opportunities.
- Providing the support for university students in Syriac language department and providing of needs of shelter and other daily needs.
- The continue of sheltering the displaced people of Nineveh Province in ODRANA Camp of the AAS in Shiyoz village, Semel district, until finding of suitable shelter for them.
- The Assyrian Aid Society works on taking care to the children and organizes annually Christmas project that includes thousands of children and planning to continue the project for this year.
- The Assyrian Aid Society works to coordinate with various civil society s to encourage the voluntary return of displaced persons, as well as to provide the necessary needs for the areas that been affected by the military operations and genocide that suffered by the different components of Nineveh Plain.

#### Conclusion:

Through this report, we would like to express our appreciation and thankfulness to all of our supporters: the Assyrian Aid Societies worldwide, the Assyrian Humanitarian Organizations, Friends and Partners Organizations and Holy Churches, who tried, and still trying, to assist our Nation to stand and be powerful, despite the calamities that pass on this Nation.

#	Area	No. of returned Families
1	Bakhdida	6000
2	Karmles	300
3	Bartilla	1250
4	Telkeif	15
5	Batnaya	0
6	Alqosh	1100
7	Telsqof	1450
8	Baqofa	32
9	Bendwaia	25
10	Sharafiya	40
11	Bashiqa & Bahzane	500
12	Mosul city	0
	Total	10,712