

# ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT YEAR 2017

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## ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

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## Part 1 : Presentation of the Association

Fraternity in Iraq is an association, whose purpose is to help religious minorities to stay in their country, by enabling them to play a positive role for the majority of the population. For this purpose, it collects funds and develops humanitarian and educational projects. The idea of the foundation of the association emerged in 2009, among a group of friends, very affected by the plight of Iraqi refugees in Syria, which appeared in the newspaper. However, despite exams, they have shown an unfailing determination, and commitment to helping these men and women, chased from their land by the horror of war and precariousness. At the end of 2010, the attack on Baghdad cathedral, which left 58 dead and 72 injured, reminded them of their project.

The statutes of the association were registered at the Prefecture de Police in Paris on May 5, 2011. Loyal to those statutes, members of Fraternity in Iraq went to Iraq, during the summer of 2011, 2012 and 2013, and developed their projects in Kirkuk and Qaraqosh.

Fraternity in Iraq has an important local knowledge. It is the only non-iraqi NGO specialised in Iraq. The several travels of its volunteers enabled to maintain good relations with local players, and enabled a serious and integral follow-up of the various projects directly financed by the NGO.



Fraternity in Iraq directly finances the projects it leads, without intermediary.

Fraternity in Iraq develops a long-term vision of projects, beyond emergency moment. Some are supported for several years, like the school or the crèche of Kirkuk.

Fraternity in Iraq has almost zero operating costs. All members are volunteers and finance themselves their travel and expenses. Except costs due to flyers printing and tax receipts sending, full amount is allocated to the projects driven in Iraq.

All accounts of Fraternity in Iraq are audited by an auditor.

This document introduces the activities during 2017 carried out by Fraternity in Iraq.



## Part 2 : account of actions 2017

### Assistance to internally displaced people : emergency and daily life

#### Fuel delivery in Tellskoff and Baqofa

In these villages, at the border between the Kordistan province and the rest of Iraq, affected by fighting between the Iraqi and Kurdish armies in October 2017, the locals fled again, while more than 900 families came back. To help them to quickly resettle and to improve their daily life, the association supplied 10 000 litres of fuel to run the eight generators, usually supplied by the locals. Thus, the second round of return home, not yet completed has been made in better conditions, and the financial burden of generators supply was alleviated for those who stayed.



*Fraternity in Iraq financed urgently 10 000 litres of fuel delivery*

#### Heating system purchase in Sharanish

At the end of 2017, the Sharanish village, close to the Syrian border, no longer hosts thirty families, isolated in the mountains, without essential services and comfort. Winters are very cold. To help them staying in their village, the association bought 29 supplemental heats, enabling them to heat better.



*Volunteers are loading 29 supplemental heats into the truck*

### **Support to the association « Les femmes aux aromates » in Ankawa and Erbil**

Founded by Sarah el Jamil in Qaraqosh, long before IS arrived, this association's purpose is to support the poorest people, not only by regular friendly presence, but also by offering them occasional assistance facing a specific difficulty (medicines, etc.). Thus, Fraternity in Iraq supported it for a long time, provides it financial support to ensure the long-term future of its action, notably during the exile in Ankawa, the Christian area Erbil, to ensure basics needs.

### **Animation of the Kindergarten of Ashti Camp in Erbil**

The Kindergarten, opened in 2015 by Fraternity in Iraq, continues its animation mission for 4 years old children of the Ashti camp. They are taken into care two half-day a week, by three young women (whose wages are paid by the association) offering them not only group games but also Learning activities. They learn aspects of language, hygiene and work also motricity, drawing ... Thanks to its activities, their parents have more time for themselves.



## **After ISIS : the Nineveh Plain reconstruction**

### **Demining**

Fraternity in Iraq is associated with the MAG NGO (Mine Advisory Group) to track and destroy traps left by IS, which killed people who wanted to come back home, after the first defeats of IS. In the North of the Nineveh Plain, east of Mossul, the villages of the Kakaie community have been cleared by the mine-clearers around Tell al Laban, east of Qaraqosh. They cleared 100 km in six months to protect the 50 000 locals. They cleared of mines fields, houses, routes, water points and also schools and dispensaries... They defused more than 1000 traps. From now on, families can return to their home without fear of losing a close. The demining is practically completed in villages of Batnaya and Baqofa, North of Mossul ; yet, over there, a part of fields must be cleared of mines. Indeed, the demining slowed down because of its proximity with the demarcation line between Iraq and the Kordistan province, danger zone because of the conflict between the two armies. Yet, Works began anew in January 2018.



*A mine-clearer working, in a Christian village (North of the Nineveh Plain)*

## Registration

Whereas ISIS suffered its first defeats, locals of villages of the Nineveh Plain found all their houses looted. In Karamless, a reconstruction committee has been set up by Abouna Sabeth, the local village priest, to coordinate the village reconstruction and the families return. Yet, there weren't any cadastral plan of the city. Therefore, during several months, Guillaume, architect sent by the association in the field, used aerial photos, took accurate map readings... and then Drew the village plan with its Streets, its houses, its schools. This plan was then used not only to map houses and its states, in order to coordinate its reconstruction and the families resettlement, but also to think globally the village organisation. Water points and generators have been identified. Thus, the development actions of NGO which will support the reconstruction, will be supported by reference document, effective and reliable. Thereafter, the same work has been implemented in Tellskof and Batnaya.



*Guillaume showing his Karamless cart to the reconstruction committee of the city*

## Renovation of Shaqaq area

Between ISIS arrived, Fraternity in Iraq knew the locals of the Shaqaq area in Qaraqosh very well. Every summer, members of the association came to meet the inhabitants, to propose activities to women and children. This area welcomed families which couldn't stay downtown because of a lack of resources. Many of them were refugees from Iraqi cities (Bagdad, Mossul), or had suffered, them or their close relatives, from attacks, kidnappings... Cities where they felt threatened. In 2013, 322 families have been settled. After the liberation, after census of apartments, 276 were in good conditions and could be renovated at little cost. The association decided then to get the 200 less damaged apartments renovated. At first, Fraternity in Iraq financed, with the Rogationists, the rehabilitation of electricity networks. Then, the reconstruction committee identified the ancient inhabitants willing return to their home. 90% of them responded positively ! It was then decided that the inhabitants who wanted to back home would advance the Works costs, and after the works completed, could get reimbursed.

Beforehand, cost and need estimates has been made, in cooperation with architects and engineers. Thus, the heads of household take over managing the worksite, so therefore regain their

dignity, lost during years spent in refugees camps. In 2017, 125 apartments have been renovated, and its costs reimbursed to its occupants, with a cost slightly higher than 800 Euros each. And this successful renovation has been emulated. The association is planning to raise funds in order to renovate 100 supplementary apartments.



*The Shaqq area, where more than 300 apartments had to be renovated*

### **Mar Behnam reconstruction**

In July 2017, at the behest of the archbishop of Mosul and Qaraqosh, « Fraternity in Iraq» accepted take over the reconstruction and the restoration of the Mar Behnam sanctuary. Its mausoleum, jewel of Christian architecture from the Middle Ages in Mesopotamia, and emblematic place for the inhabitants of the Nineveh Plain, was destroyed by ISIS in March 2015. After its liberation in November 2016, Guillaume, the architect appointed by Fraternity in Iraq, came over there to assess damage and draw a reconstruction plan.



*The interior of the mausoleum, undergoing cleaning*

Work began in June 2017, with workers from the Sunnite nearby town Khidr. After the indispensable demining and cleaning up measures, a team of skilled architects, mandated by Fraternity in Iraq, voluntary drew the currents plans (after the destruction) and the original plans (before the destruction) of the Mar Behnam mausoleum. In this spirit, the archaeologist Abdul Salam Simaan coordinated the sorting and painstaking inventorying of the 600 cubic meters rubble. Thus, heritage treasures has been found or identified. All the elements enabling a reconstruction according to the Iraqi traditional technologies have been recovered : old bricks for the dome, dressed stone and potential tiles.

These few months of hard work, under the glaring sunlight of Iraqi summer, enabled the Mar Behnam project to begin its new round, at the end of Autumn 2017 : reconstruction. In December 2017, once field secured, once ancient bricks and construction products collected, workers and architects enthusiastically undertook the task of raising the mausoleum's walls. At this beginning of 2018, one of the two underground tunnel, providing access to Holies' tomb, had its arch restored. There has been a renaissance of the lateral chapel's arches, and the honorific dome is rising. The project should end before summer 2018.



*Construction moves forward !*





## Economic recovery plan of Niniveh Plain

### Program for the economic recovery

In the Niniveh Plain, making the microeconomic system work again is a key for the post-Isis reconstruction. In order to allow craftspeople and small business owners to restart their professional activities and be actors of their city's resurgence, after the liberation Fraternity in Iraq quickly conceived a large economic recovery plan. The NGO chose to settle in Qaraqosh as a start, where mostly Christians live, over a second phase in Bartella, and finally in Ba'shiqa with, among all supported entrepreneurs, Yezidis.

In March 2017, Fraternity in Iraq sent a project manager, in charge of creating and supervising the program, in collaboration with local participants of others cities's reconstruction. They had to introduce the system, select the best candidates to benefit from it and then cultivate it following every aspect: economic, human, and practical.

The purpose is that Fraternity in Iraq finances the work tools for each craftsperson helped. About 80% of the amount is reimbursed with a zero rate loan, which will allow helping other business owners. The last 20% are a gift. The program used to be only about the construction industry – as the priority was literally reconstruction – but it has now been enlarged to shops and agriculture so that every aspect of the local economy can start again. Carpentry (PVC, wood, aluminum), ironwork, breeze block factory, a marble and ceramic workshops have first reopened. Bakers, supermarkets, restaurants, hairdressers, printers and generator's repairmen then reappeared. At last, chicken breeder and farmers have been helped because Fraternity in Iraq believes strongly that agriculture is a way to recreate a bond between the communities that were in conflicts.

In 2017, 28 businessmen have been able to start over and employ staff, allowing 95 people to live, and as many families. Step by step, this program is making a real impact in favor of the return to the Ninive plain!



### Helping the Artisans of Qaraqosh

Qaraqosh was one of the first cities in the Ninive plain where Fraternity in Iraq concentrated its efforts. The place was still quite empty a year ago, but today the program has been helping families' patriarchs whom are going home bravely, to find a job. This allows them to support their families' need with dignity. Today, 14 businessmen have benefited from the economic recovery program. They have created employment. As a result, 53 families are currently living in Qaraqosh, in their home, thanks to fraternity in Iraq's program.

### Helping the Artisans of Bartella

Fraternity in Iraq pursued its action in the city of Bartella, close to Qaraqosh. The program helped 9 businessmen in 2017, employing 27 persons. In 2017, 36 families were financially self-sufficient and got their dignity back after 2 years of exodus.



### Helping the Artisans of Bashiqa

Bashiqa is the third forum of action for the economic recovery in the Ninive plain. Yazidis were the first to come back and benefit from the program. The Christians, coming back bit by bit since the end of 2017, are starting to blend in it as well. Nowadays, 5 businessmen reopened their business and they employ 24 people. 29 families enjoy it and can live decently in Bashiqa.



## Access to education

### Trainings at Mart Schmouni

Since 2016, Fraternity in Irak has funded several training programs at Mart Schmouni Parish in Ankawa area, part of Erbil city. In 2017, thanks notably to a lavish endowment of the region Pays de la Loire, 700 people have already benefited from the various training courses and the institute is always full! The wide range of offered materials allows each one to find a training that suits himself and that will make his employability easier. In 2017, besides to Kurdish classes, the training program has focused on computer, welding, hairdressing and sewing classes.

Each training session is held during two weeks, for a few hours a day. One of the most successful courses in 2017 was the hairdressing class: 12 sessions enabled 162 women to learn the art of hairdressing and beauty care. Each laureate receives with her diploma the necessary equipment to keep training. For instance, participants in sewing training leave with a sewing machine which allows them to practice at home. These acquired skills are also a valuable asset to consider finding a job when coming back to their liberated cities in the plain of Nineveh.



*The welding course*

### Literacy courses for Yazidi women

During summer 2017, while the children were on leave, literacy classes have been held at the Bozan School for 90 Yazidi refugee women. The atmosphere was studious but joyful above all! They first learnt the writing of all letters and then words in Arabic thanks to a book they had been provided with. After each class, they came back home with homework for the next day! Most of the women, who had never went to school, often used to stay at home to help their parents in the fields. They are henceforth motivated and thirsty for learning. They told us everything they could now do thanks to these trainings such as reading signs, helping their children with their homework, etc.

"Beyond this support in daily life, I think that these courses can even help some women to find a job," says Sarab, a teacher in charge of one of these classes who has found in these students exemplary motivation and diligence. To such an extent that Fraternity in Iraq plans to set up again this kind of event in the summer of 2018 if required funding is found.



*These women are eager to learn reading!*

### Financing of a school in Bozan for Yazidi children



October 2017: This is the third back-to-school time for the 130 students of the village school of Bozan north of the plain of Nineveh! Since 2015, this school which is hosting Yazidi refugee children has been fully funded thanks to endowments gathered by Fraternity in Irak. Most of the students, who are coming from Sinjar or Ba'shiqa, a village in the Nineveh Plain, were expelled from their homes by ISIS during the summer 2014 onslaught.

Thanks to its donors, Fraternity in Iraq funds, up to \$ 2,000 per month, all the expenses that allow the school to run! More accurately, it contributes to pay the six teachers, the rent and the daily snack offered to the children who are often hungry while attending courses... The lease of the house sheltering the school came to end during the year 2016/2017 and the institute has moved to more suitable premises. This school is the first to be created in the district for children of Yazidi refugees that makes it so unique in the region! Moreover, despite its little size, the institute is henceforth well known to be the best Yezidi School in the Nineveh Plain. Fraternity in Iraq is committed to keep funding this school for 2018.

### Opening of a school in Sherqa for Yazidi children



While the Yazidi School for children of Bozan had opened in 2015, another village in northern Iraq, Sherqa, also inaugurated its new school in September 2017! If Sherqa children over 6 years were attending a government primary school, there was no existing institute for the smaller ones.

Currently, Sherqa is hosting 800 Yazidi families, including 260 refugee ones since summer 2014.

Thus, for the school start 2017, Fraternity in Iraq opened nursery for 300 children of the village aged from 4 to 5!

*New pupils of Sherqa*

### Construction of a multi-faith school in Basra

In Basra, southern Iraq, the volunteers of Fraternity in Iraq have started since summer 2016 to consider a new project: the construction of a multi-faith primary school in this city that is located between Kuwait and Iran. This project, which in addition will allow to create a dozen of jobs, has emerged as a unifying project that will help the inhabitants of this city to go out of community logics. Fraternity in Iraq who has been committed to finance the entirety of this build for an amount of 150 000 euros, has therefore closely followed the progress of work in 2017. As the project has fell little behind, a kindergarten will first open in September 2017. The primary school will enroll 180 students in 6 different classes from the start of the 2018 school year!



## Access to care

### Medical devices for Kirkuk Hospital pediatric cancer ward

Fraternity in Iraq funded, for the Kirkuk Hospital pediatric cancer ward, a sterile hood in order to protect the hospital's staff preparing for chemotherapy. Since ISIS arrived in 2014, and since the closure of Mossul hospitals, Tikrit, Diyala and Ramadi, officials of the Kirkuk hospital have seen a growing flow of patients... Without enjoying public financial support. This hospital, welcoming between 40 and 60 people a day, treats all types of cancer, such as breast cancer, prostate cancer, lung cancer, colon. This hospital is free for patients.

The funding of the purchase of a hood prep chamber, amounting 40 000 euros, enabled to significantly improve the hospital staff and patients' daily life. Fraternity in Iraq is committed to continue to support this hospital in 2018, notably by the purchase of a mammography equipment, to detect breast cancer.



*The grand opening with the president and the chief executive of Fraternity in Iraq*

### Tellskof dispensary

In Tellskof, a village of the Nineveh Plain located just several hundred metres from the battle line against ISIS, life is just returning to normal since the victory of Kurdish soldiers. This village, first occupied by Christians and Chaldeans, was occupied a few days by caliphate soldiers, then captured again by Kurdish forces. Very close to the front line, this village was emptied of its inhabitants and partly destroyed : pillages, fighting within the limits of the village. It was imperative to reconstruct Tellskof in order to enable inhabitants to go back home. Fraternity in Iraq, thanks to its donor, opened in mars 2017 a first dispensary. This clinic welcomes 14 medical people in various

departments : the down waiting room provides emergency/traumatology service, 2 generalist firms and a carefully stored pharmacy.

### Support the Qaraqosh hospital

In Qaraqosh, after Daech left, Fraternity in Iraq continued working to re-open several services of the city hospital. The first renovated service was the emergency service, looted and destroyed by Jihadists. The association funded at the end of 2016, equipment for emergency treatments : centrifuge, microscope, electric block, beds, diagnostic equipment, as well as the full sterilization of the laboratory. This service, welcoming at the beginning of 2017 the many injured of the Mossul battle, is from now on reopened H24, and enables to welcome the resettled Qaraqosh citizens. The maternity, second renovated service, reopened since October 2017. Thanks to its generous donors, Fraternity in Iraq funded equipment of the delivery room, and the repair of an incubator for premature babies ! The dental care service, also destroyed by ISIS members, reopened at the beginning of January. Thanks to the installation of a new dental chair, as well as the funding of a compressor and sterilization equipment, essential to good hygiene and with a team of 8 dentists, Qaraqosh locals can henceforth be decently treated !



*The refurbished emergency service, including operating room*



*The maternity opened its doors thanks to Fraternity in Iraq support*



## Return to employment

### Opening of a bakery in Suleymania

After these successful experiences in Zakho and Erbil, Fraternity in Iraq supported the project of opening a bakery in Suleymania, which opened in late summer. The bakery is located in the town, and enables 4 Christians refugees and 3 Muslim refugees to get back to work. Indeed, in between, the first craftsmen have returned to their villages, liberated from ISIS oppression. The association funded the room, then the enterprise entered into contracts to supplying restaurants, allowing them to selling massively. Beforehand, a hundred or so families did not have access to this kind of commerce. If all goes well, brothers managing it hope employing one or two persons in 2018, and diversify production.



*This bakery provides a living for many families in Suleymania*

### Opening of a bakery in Kirkuk

At the end of 2017, the city welcomed again many refugees who couldn't go back home, owing to a lack of decent housing. The bakery, which opened in December 2017 offered employment to five of them. Fraternity in Iraq funded its opening and rents of the first year of operations ; the bakery had yet a good production and will manage soon to make profits. This profits will be primarily forwarded to educational projects led by the Kirkuk diocese.



*Bakers proud of their work*





## Commitment to culture

### Art exhibit touring in France

After the success of the first artistic encounter Franco-Iraqi in Erbil, in November 2016, close to forty works of art, by Iraqi artists were brought, in January 2017, to be exceptionally exposed in France. Artists are mostly refugees since the Nineveh Plain invasion by ISIS in August 2014. They come from various regions of Iraq. Their artworks, carried out with oriental culture, express the tragedy of their exodus and the waiting of return to their lands. The exhibition « itinérante » has been successful in France, in Croissy-sur-Seine, then in Evreux, during the Beçalel festival. During the fall, artworks have been exposed on the esplanade of Saint-Nazaire, where many classes of secondary school pupils have visited the exhibition, guided by a cultural mediator. Fraternity in Iraq maintains contact with the Iraqi artists thanks to their various missions on the spot and thanks to social networks, enabling them to keep informed of their production.



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