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الجمعية الآشورية الخيرية - العراق

*“Organization in Special Consultative Status with the
Economic and Social Council since 2011”*

Annual Report of activities 2017



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Economic and Social Council since 2011”*

Annual Report of activities 2017

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President's Column

Introduction:

The Assyrian Aid Society aspires to provide more support to those in need in various humanitarian and educational fields, including the support of Syriac education, the organization of emergency relief programs, the mobile medical clinic and reconstruction programs for the devastated areas that been destroyed by the terrorist organization of ISIS and other programs aimed at restoring life to liberated areas, and delivering the voice and demands of Assyrian Christians and their important issues to the international forums and the United Nations.



By virtue of our supporters from around the world including the Assyrian and international humanitarian societies and institutions we have been able to provide support in various humanitarian fields, including many areas in the Nineveh Plain and the areas of our people's presence in its historic areas of Duhok and Erbil.

Despite the challenges faced our Assyrian Chaldean Syriac people in its existence from genocide, ethnic cleansing and displacement from its historic lands and territories, our people's insistence on returning and restoring life to our historic cities, villages and towns was greater than all the attempts of the enemies of humanity and civilization. The year 2017 witnessed the return of life to most of the towns of the Nineveh Plain, and our Society played a direct role in urging the displaced families to return to their historical places of residence.

In 2017, our Society also participated in the Economic Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York and represented the voice of our people defending the fateful issues of our people and conveying their suffering to the international forums. It also seeks greater support for our people and from various sources in order to enhance social stability and stop or reduce the effects of genocide and displacement, which our indigenous people are exposed to.

Our Society is seeking to provide more humanitarian services in the coming year to contribute more to support returnees to their areas of origin. This will contribute to the reconstruction of the affected areas and the provision of necessary services. We are working to encourage our supporters to provide more support to our programs so that we can complete programs and various projects of the Society.

We promise our people that we will work with all our available resources and as much as possible to complete the permanent programs, especially the support of Syriac education, as well as the relief programs and support of the villagers and the different towns.

We take this opportunity to thank our supporters from around the world from foreign international societies and institutions or from the institutions of our people around the world, who, for 27 years and so far, have provided generous support to our Society, without whom the AAS-Iraq would not have continued to provide humanitarian assistance, and we promise them to continue on work that supports the stability and return of life to the different areas of our people in Mesopotamia.

Ashur Sargon Eskrya
President, AAS-Iraq

Departments of the AAS-Iraq:

- ☐ The President:
- ☐ Administration & Finance:
- ☐ Secretary:
- ☐ Aid & Humanitarian Affairs:
- ☐ Assyrian Education:
- ☐ Medical Projects:
- ☐ Construction & Projects:
- ☐ Data Management & Media:

Ashur Sargon Eskrya
Evet Nevadimous Esho
Eramia Sargon
Patros Esho Gewargis
Napoleon Yousif Youkhana
Shmaeil Hedo Dawood
Younan Lazar Mirkhaeil
Dr. Ibrahim Abd-Alghany



Relief & Humanitarian Affairs Dept:

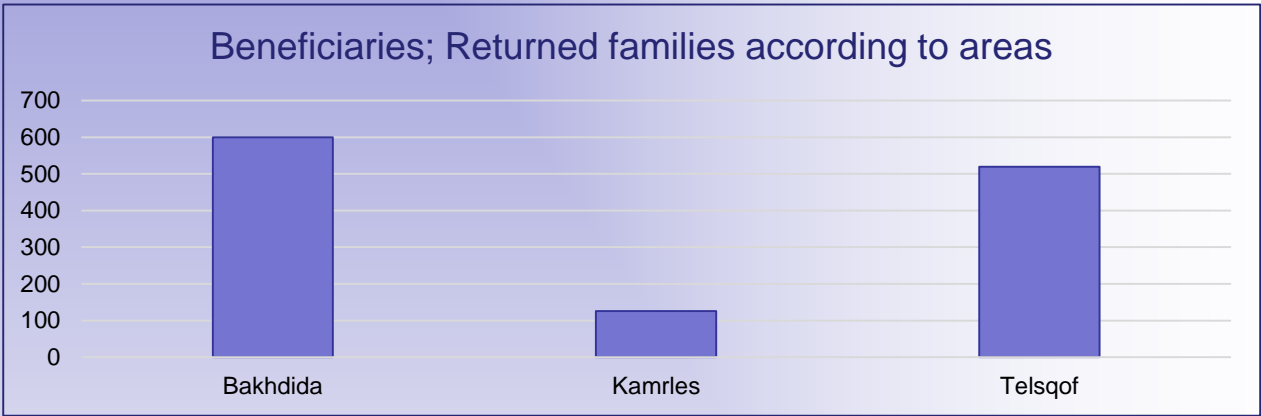
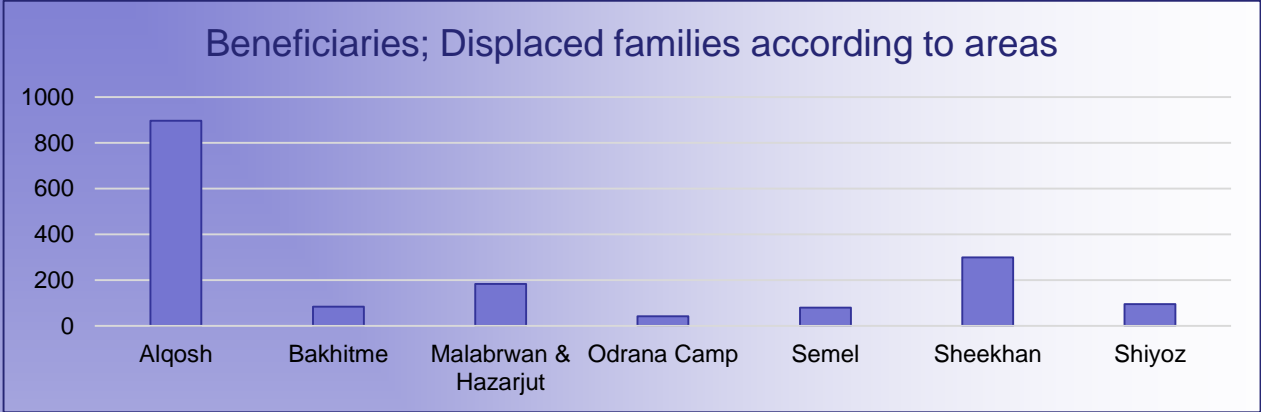
Relief Programs:



In 2017, 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 (3500) of food baskets and hygiene kits were distributed.



Relief & Humanitarian Affairs Dept:



Aid & Assistance:

AASI has been able to help many families by:

- Providing financial aid to displaced & low income families.
- Providing needed items to Al-Hamdaniya General Hospital in Bakhdida – Nineveh Plain, included delivering medical mobile unit, medicine and materials that were required for helping the returned people in Nineveh Plain.



Civil Society Organizations:

Assyrian Women Union:

Supporting the Assyrian Women Union in their various activities including the continuous support for the Day Care Centers in Erbil and Duhok, as well as continuing the support provided to the Assyrian Women Union in distributing Christmas gifts to the children in different areas of our people and other different activities of the Union.

Chaldo Assyrian Youths and Students Union:

Supporting the Chaldo Assyrian Student and Youth Union in their various activities, including the cultural, educational, athletic, charitable activities, etc. in Duhok, Erbil and in particular in their campaigns of cleaning the liberated areas of Nineveh Plain with the support of the Iraqi Christian Relief Council.



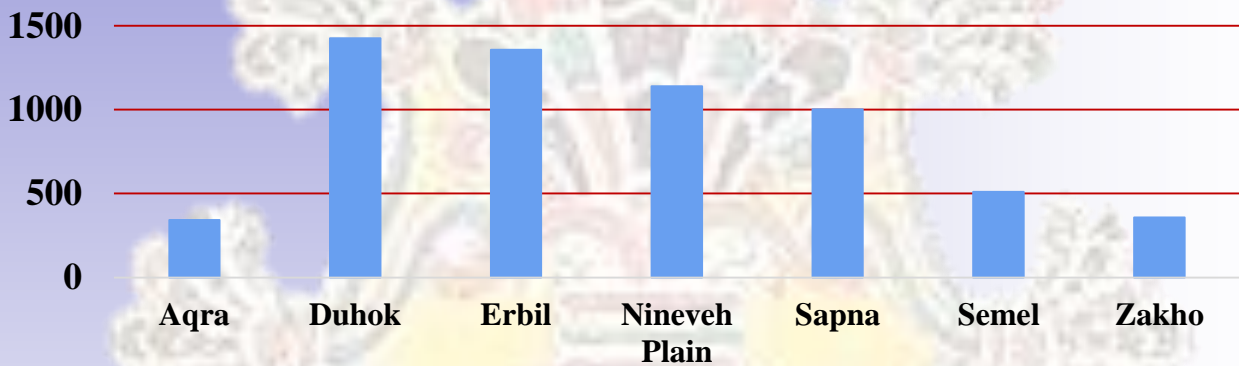
Other Civil Society Organizations:

Supporting many CSO in implementing their activities either by financial support or logistical.

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 13,650 students in the academic years (2017-2018) have been beneficiaries of school supplies program, along with the Society's support for the lecturers in Assyrian Education including monthly payments for lecturers, transportation for lecturers and other administrative expenditures of Assyrian Schools in Dohuk and Erbil. In addition to the distribution of stationery for students of our displaced people from Mosul and Nineveh Plain.

Beneficiaries; students of Syriac Education and Displaced according to area



Beneficiaries; returned students according to area



Assyrian Education Dept.:



Construction and Projects:

Homes rehabilitation Project for returned families in Nineveh Plain

One of the most important project that AAS-Iraq worked hard to be implemented for the people in Nineveh Plain was the homes rehabilitation projects, where AAS-I managed to complete the project of rehabilitating 26 homes in Bakhdida. With the support of our partners.



Construction and Projects:

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

1. Drilling and maintaining water wells in Bakhdida & Karmles in Nineveh Plain.
2. Maintenance for Drip irrigation system in Chaqala village in Barwar
3. Repairing of Irrigation channels in Kashkawa and Bilmend in Nahla
4. Reconstruction of Fence & Walkways for the building of Assyrian Women Union
5. Maintenance of Water Network in Telsqof town – Nineveh Plain
6. Rehabilitation of the Assyrian basic schools of Bakhitme & Orhai.



Construction and Projects:



Care for Childhood

- Distribution of Christmas Gifts to kids of Bakhdida, Bartilla & Karmles
- Distribution of Christmas Gifts to kids of Kirkuk Schools
- Distribution of Christmas Gifts to kids of Alqosh Schools
- Distribution of Christmas Gifts to kids of Duhok Schools for IDPs
- Distribution of Christmas Gifts to kids of Zakho & Sapna areas
- Distribution of Christmas Gifts to kids of Semele area
- Distribution of clothes for the Easter for kids of Odrana Camp



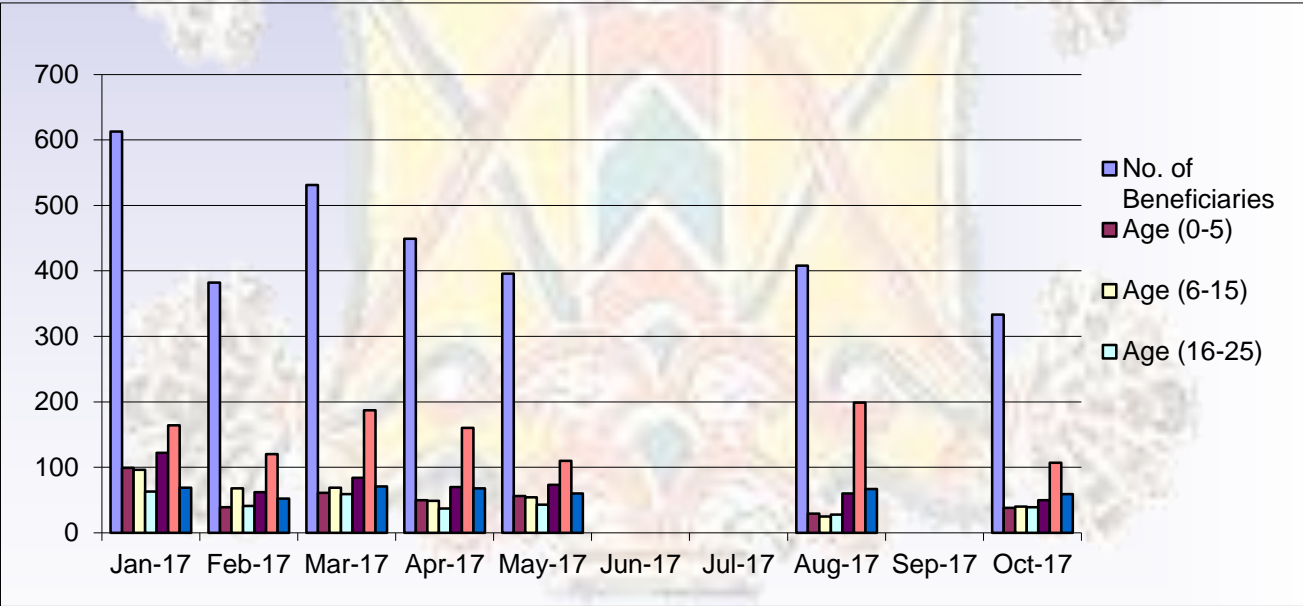
Care for Childhood



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, the project mobile clinic provided medical assistance to more than (3500) beneficiaries of patients from Mosul, Nineveh Plain, and other regions in (54) field visits, Jan. 1st – Dec. 31st 2017.

Month	No. of Beneficiaries	Age (0-5)	Age (6-15)	Age (16-25)	Age (26-40)	Age (41-65)	Age (+65 years)
Jan-17	613	99	96	63	122	164	69
Feb-17	382	39	68	41	62	120	52
Mar-17	531	61	69	59	84	187	71
Apr-17	449	50	49	37	70	160	68
May-17	396	56	54	43	73	110	60
Jun-17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jul-17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aug-17	408	29	25	28	60	199	67
Sep-17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oct-17	333	38	40	39	50	107	59



Mobile Clinic Project:



Mobile Clinic Project:



Visits & Activities:

- AAS-Iraq received Mr. Sargon Shabbas Member of the board member of the Assyrian Aid Society of America in his visit to Iraq. Jan. 20th, 2017.
- AAS-Iraq received Mr. Shiba Mando, President of the Assyrian National Council of Illinois. Feb. 22nd, 2017.
- AAS-Iraq received a delegation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches of Württemberg-Germany, Mar. 1st, 2017.
- AAS-Iraq welcomed the delegation of the Assyrian National Council in Illinois, Apr. 3rd, 2017.
- AAS-Iraq received the delegation of Gishru youth organization, Apr. 3rd, 2017.
- AAS-Iraq received Mr. William Murray, Chairman of the Religious Freedom Coalition organization, Jun. 20th, 2017.
- Mr. Ashur Eskrya, President of the Assyrian Charity Society, Iraq, met the Representative of the Office of Refugees and Displaced Affairs at the US Embassy and the International Refugee Organization in Baghdad, Jul. 24th, 2017.
- AAS-Iraq met with a team from the Smithsonian Institute of Archeology and Conservation, Jul. 27th, 2017.
- AAS-Iraq received the delegation of Gishru Youth Organization from the Diaspora, Jul. 29th, 2017.
- President of AAS-Iraq visited Bakhdida district in Nineveh Plain accompanied by Mr. Matthew Nowery of the Samaritan's Purse, Jul. 30th, 2017.
- AAS-Iraq receives a joint delegation from the United States and Britain headed by former US Congressman Frank Wolf, Aug. 5th, 2017.
- AAS-Iraq met a delegation from the US State Department at the US Consulate in Erbil, Sep. 11th, 2017.
- A joint inspection visit of the Institute for Global Engagement and the Assyrian Aid Society-Iraq to Nineveh Plain, Dec. 3rd, 2017.
- AAS-Iraq congratulates the Chaldo Assyrian Students and Youth Union for its 26th anniversary, Dec. 5th, 2017.



Visits & Activities:



Visits & Activities:



Visits & Activities of AAS-Iraq abroad:

AAS-Iraq President's tour to USA

Report on the tour of AAS-Iraq President in Washington DC, May 15th - 19th 2017

Mr. Ashur Eskrya, President of the Assyrian Aid Society-Iraq and Ms. Juliana Taimoorazy, President of the Iraqi Christian Relief Council, toured in Washington, where they held several meetings with government and legislative bodies, civil society organizations and various personalities, where in the evening of May 15, the delegation met with Dr. Walid Phares, the advisor to presidential candidate to the campaign of US President Donald Trump, the meeting discussed the situation of our people and the future of the Nineveh Plain and ways to return the displaced to their homes after liberation.

On May 16, several meetings were held, including meeting with Senator John McCain's office, Senator Ted Cruz, Senator Marco Rubio, Congressional members Jeff Fortenberry, Duncan Hunter and Tint Franks. the demands were focused on the importance of supporting Nineveh Plain Protection Units to establish security in the region, as well as the need for reconstruction and direct the support to organizations of our people.

In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the delegation met with a number of sections, including the Human Rights Department, the Iraqi Section, the Freedom of Religions and the USAID. The meeting discussed the situation of our people and the challenges faced in returning the displaced people and restoring the Nineveh Plain after destruction by terrorists of ISIS gangs, especially the homes of indigenous people, as well as the property of our people in Mosul. The meetings also included a number of staff members in the Congress and in various fields, including human rights and the Committee on Foreign Assistance and Budget.

On the evening of May 17, Mr. Ashur Eskrya met with Minister Plenipotentiary Johns Barlow, Chairman of the Political Committee of the Danish Embassy, where they discussed the situation of our people post-ISIS and the future of the components and indigenous peoples and the European role in supporting the return of our displaced people to their areas and enabling them to maintain their presence in their land.

On 18 May, Mr. Ashur Eskrya met with Mr. Knox Thames, the Special Advisor for Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Asia, to highlight the future of the region and the need to involve local civil society organizations in restoring life to the region, and the need to increase the humanitarian support. She also met with Pam Brier, human rights officer at the State Department, and met with William Murray of the Christian for Refugees Foundation in Washington.

Visits & Activities of AAS-Iraq abroad:

AAS-Iraq President's tour to USA

The visit of AAS-Iraq's president in California and Chicago

The president of Assyrian Aid Society-Iraq, Mr. Ashur Eskrya, met with Mr. Ashur Yousif President of the Assyrian Aid Society of America, in San Francisco, California on Thursday May 11th 2017, by attendance of Mr. Sargon Shabbas, the board member of the Assyrian Aid Society of America, and Ms. Shoushan Tower the board member of Assyrian Aid Society of Australia.

On Friday, May 12th, Mr. Ashur met with members of California Section of the Assyrian Democratic Movement, He Also with Mr. Ninos Ternian, President of the Assyrian National Broadcasting Channel (ANB) with attendance of Mr. Zaia Yaro.

During his visit schedule, Mr. Ashur Eskrya, President of the AASI, accompanied by Ms. Juliana Timoorazy, President of the Iraqi Christian Relief Council, on May 19th 2017, met with Mr. Peter Bityou, the president of Assyrian Aid Society in Chicago and Mr. Shiba Mando, President of the Assyrian National Council of Illinois, later then he met with Mr. Hormiz Tayro the person in charge of Chicago section of the Assyrian Democratic Movement and with attendance of ADM members.

These meetings included the discussions on the situation of our people and the future of Nineveh Plain, the means of returning the forcibly displaced persons to their homes after liberation, and the importance of supporting the Nineveh Plain Protection Units to establish the security in the region as well as the need to rebuild the destroyed houses and land of our people. The meetings also discussed the results achieved by the meetings of Mr. Ashur Eskrya, President of the Assyrian Aid Society-Iraq that have been held with many US governmental and legislative figures and civil society organizations.

The visit of AAS-Iraq's President in Arizona and California, May 20th – 26th 2017

Mr. Ashur Eskrya, President of the Assyrian Aid Society-Iraq, visited the States of Arizona and California from May 20th – 26th 2017, where he met with Mr. Napoleon Dinka, president of the Assyrian Aid Society in Arizona on May 20th and also, he met with Mr. James Zia, the director of Arizona section for the Assyrian Democratic Movement.

On May 22nd, Mr. Ashur met with Ms. Angie Toulakany, President of the Assyrian Aid Society of Los Angeles, and Mr. Enlil Boutros, director of the Assyrian Democratic Movement, Los Angeles section. He then met with Father Gewargis the pastor of the Assyrian Church of the East and Fr. Athanasis pastor of the ancient Eastern Church, and with the hospitality of Father William Nissan, patron of the Assyrian Church of Nineveh.

Mr. Eskrya also met on May 26th with Honorable Bishop Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California, of the Assyrian Church of the East, with attendance of Mr. Fred Isaac, director of California Section of the Assyrian Democratic Movement

The meetings held by AASI president dealt with the situation of our people in the homeland and ways to improve the services provided to them and the future of our people in the Nineveh Plain and ways to return home after liberation and the importance of supporting the Nineveh Plain Protection Units to establish the security in the region as well as the need to reconstruct what was sabotaged by criminal gangs of ISIS in the homes of our people to enable them to stay and maintain the land of forefathers.

Visits & Activities of AAS-Iraq abroad:



Visits & Activities of AAS-Iraq abroad:



AASI's Participations

The Participation of AAS-Iraq, through its president Mr. Ashur Eskrya and Ms. Shoushan Tower from AAS-Australia in the 16th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at the United Nations (UNPFII) in New York – USA, 24 April to 5 May 2017.

The participation of AAS included delivering statements for events of:

1- Special Theme: “Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: measures taken to implement the Declaration”, 24th Apr. 2017

2- Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples [item 4], 27th Apr. 2017



AASI's Participations

Statement delivered at Date 24th April 2017

Special Theme: "Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: measures taken to implement the Declaration"

Shlama al lokhon - Peace be with you

Madam chair we congratulate you on your position for 16th session of the indigenous peoples' forum.

Our respected friends, members of the permanent form of the indigenous people, delegate of the indigenous people and the people present today.

My name is Shoushan Tower and I'll deliver this statement on behalf Mr Ashur Eskrya Head of Assyrian Aid Society in Iraq.

While we celebrate the tenth anniversary of United Nations declaration on the rights indigenous peoples, sadly, the indigenous peoples of the Middle East, specifically in Iraq are facing increased challenges in respect to their existence. The Assyrians Christians are suffering genocide under the terrorist organization ISIS since August 7, 2014 hence, consequences of the ethnic cleansing and the demographic changes have taken place in Nineveh plains.

In addition, many Assyrian historical sites and cities have been destroyed. It's apparent now that the Indigenous peoples, the Assyrian Christians are unable to go back to their homes caused by political instability, lack of security and basic public services with mass damages to the infrastructure. This situation has not developed despite the Nineveh Plains region has been liberated.

Accordingly, the Iraq parliament designated Nineveh Plains region a disaster area in January 26, 2017 after its liberation from ISIS. Meanwhile, trespassing and confiscating of indigenous people's lands has continued in Iraq. Majority of these lands are owned by the Assyrians that dates back to 1933 at the time of Simelli massacre. The confiscation of the Assyrian lands has continued during the armed struggle between the Kurdistan rebels and the central government in Baghdad in sixties during last century and the forced evacuation of people from their homes in the seventies. There has been a demographic change of the Nineveh Plains conducted by the previous Baghdad government in line with its established Arabization policies until 1991. Although some of the indigenous land is within the boundaries of Kurdistan region, the trespassing, land grabbing has continued and the Assyrian.

land's dossier is being stalled by the regional government. This is in contrary to Article 10 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples'

For the Assyrian Christians of Iraq to return to their historical homes, a safe and secure presence must be established. The following is highly recommended.

- 1- Release and rescue Nineveh Plains region from the political tensions between Baghdad central government and the regional government of Erbil.
- 2- Establishment of international protection by monitoring the Nineveh Plains.
- 3- Support the security forces of Nineveh Plains with equipment and training.
- 4- Support the construction of Nineveh Plains region with emphasis on the infrastructure and economics.
- 5- Work-toward finalizing the legal frame in establishing Nineveh Plains Province within the Iraqi government, in line with the previous decision of the Iraqi government in January 2014.
- 6- Insert to include a clause in the Kurdistan regional government to establish a self- ruled area for the Assyrians Christians within the Kurdistan region.

Long live indigenous peoples.

AASI's Participations

AAS-Iraq, represented by Ms. Romy Yousif, received the honoring shield for the support provided, within her participation in honoring ceremony held by The Syriac Language Department at the College of Education at Salahuddin University in Erbil. Feb 28th, 2017.



AAS-Iraq, represented by Mr. Ashur Eskrya, visited the headquarters of the Chaldo-Assyrian Students & Youth Union and congratulated them on the occasion of 26th anniversary of establishment of the Union.



The Supporters in 2017

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 - USA
- ❖ Assyrian Aid society of Australia
- ❖ Assyrian Aid Society of Canada
- ❖ Assyrian Aid Society of Netherlands
- ❖ Assyrian Aid Society of New Zealand
- ❖ Assyrian Aid Society of Sweden
- ❖ Assyrian American National Federation - USA
- ❖ Assyrian Christian Church Chicago - USA
- ❖ Assyrian Evangelical Church - San Jose, USA
- ❖ Assyrian Foundation of America - USA
- ❖ Assyrian National Council of Illinois - USA
- ❖ Assyrian Universal Alliance Foundation - USA
- ❖ Assyrians Without Borders - Sweden
- ❖ Assyria Foundation - Netherlands
- ❖ Christian Aid Organization - UK
- ❖ Eagle Watch Foundation - Poland
- ❖ Evangelical Lutheran Church - Württemberg, Germany
- ❖ Gishru Organization - USA
- ❖ Institute for Global Engagement, The Cradle Fund - USA
- ❖ International Christian Concern - USA
- ❖ International Orthodox Christian Charities - USA
- ❖ Iraqi Christian Relief Council - USA
- ❖ La Madre Church - San Francisco, USA
- ❖ Mr. Wilfred Wong & ChildAid - London, UK
- ❖ Religious Freedom Coalition - USA
- ❖ SALT Foundation
- ❖ Samaritan's Purse
- ❖ Sign of Hope - Germany
- ❖ St. Odisho church of Ancient Church of the East - USA

Work Plan and Program of the Assyrian Aid Society for 2018

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 organizations 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: Assyrian Aid Societies worldwide, 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.

