

NADIA's INITIATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT



20
21

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LETTER FROM NADIA MURAD

Eight years have passed since my community, the Yazidis, were targeted in a campaign of genocide and sexual violence. And yet, I continue to tell my story of survival and that of my community's survival and rebirth, despite the personal toll it takes to do so. Why?

Every time a new conflict emerges, there is an outpouring of thoughts and prayers. But – as I know from personal experience – a few days in, the news cycle does nothing to address the systemic challenges women and marginalized communities face.

It is not enough to talk about accountability and prevention only in times of crisis. We need long-term commitments to advance global gender equity, religious freedom, and educational and economic opportunities. It is only by reducing their vulnerabilities that women, girls, and marginalized communities will be able to achieve long-term resilience and security.

That is why I continue to tell my story, years after the Yazidi genocide first became worldwide news. Marginalized individuals and communities around the world, including the Yazidis, deserve to live a life free from the threat of violence, discrimination, and impoverishment. Genocides do not occur in a vacuum; they occur in areas that have developed systems of inequality and discrimination

over time. In turn, it takes time to develop the support systems that are needed to address those vulnerabilities.

Everywhere I go, I meet survivors of sexual violence who are bravely telling their stories in the face of stigma, shame, and even physical danger. If women who have suffered such immense loss and incredible pain can find the strength to not only rebuild their own lives, but help their families, communities, and entire countries, surely the rest of the world can find the strength to take meaningful steps to end and prevent this violence.

We have made incredible progress. This report is filled with the positive impacts that Nadia's Initiative, our dedicated staff, and our partners around the globe have had not only on rebuilding Sinjar and supporting Yazidi survivors, but on advocacy and prevention efforts globally.

Our accomplishments are many, but we still have far to go. And until we have created a world where genocide, sexual violence, and discrimination do not exist – until that world is a reality, I will continue to tell my story and call on the global community to take action.



NADIA MURAD

*President & Chairwoman of Nadia's Initiative
Nobel Peace Laureate
UNODC Goodwill Ambassador*

THE YAZIDI GENOCIDE

Sinjar



In 2014, the Islamic State (ISIS) committed genocide against the Yazidi community, an ethno-religious minority residing primarily in the Sinjar region of Northern Iraq. This targeted violence included massacring thousands of men and older women, enslaving more than 6,500 women and girls, sending children to the front lines of war, internally displacing hundreds of thousands, and dismantling life-supporting infrastructure in the Yazidi homeland of Sinjar, Iraq. Sexual violence, in particular, was used strategically as a weapon of war against Yazidi women with the goal of further destabilizing both individuals and the community.

5000+

MEN AND THE ELDERLY WERE MASSACRED

6000+

YAZIDI WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE ENSLAVED

400K+

YAZIDIS WERE DISPLACED

ONGOING NEEDS

Genocide is not a singular event; it is the result of systemic discrimination and the institutionally embedded persecution of marginalized groups of people. It endures long after the international community declares the genocide over and the territories that were occupied are liberated. Genocide is an ongoing process of marginalization, violence, and resource deprivation. The consequences of the Yazidi genocide are evident long after ISIS' occupation of Sinjar.

In consultation with communities, acknowledging that security and development concerns are best identified by those who live them, Nadia's Initiative seeks local solutions to redevelop and improve security in the region. This approach ensures tangible support to empower the marginalized group to re-establish themselves in their ancestral homeland of Sinjar, Iraq.

2,800

**YAZIDI WOMEN AND CHILDREN
ARE STILL MISSING**

150K

**YAZIDI RETURNEES TO SINJAR
ARE STRUGGLING TO REBUILD**

200K

**YAZIDIS ARE STILL INTERNALLY
DISPLACED**



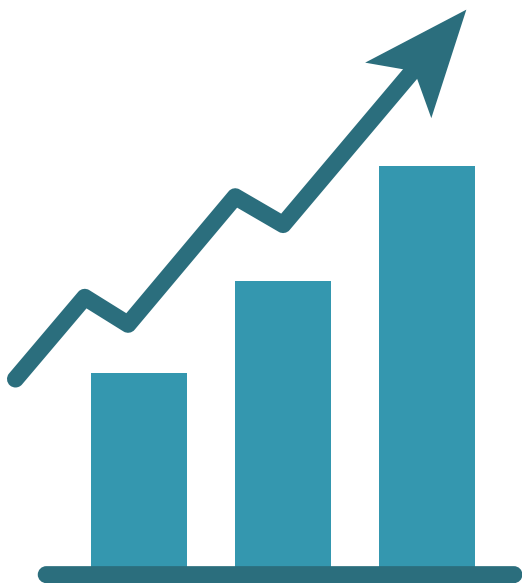
REBUILDING COMMUNITIES IN CRISIS

OUR MISSION

ADVOCATING
FOR SURVIVORS
OF SEXUAL
VIOLENCE



2021 AT A GLANCE



2019: 14 Projects

2020: 32 Projects

2021: 38 Projects

OUR IMPACT

11,005

Direct Beneficiaries
in 2019

140,437

Direct Beneficiaries
in 2020

150,000

Direct Beneficiaries
in 2021

300,000

Projected Direct
Beneficiaries in 2022

PROGRAMMATIC VISION

For decades, the Yazidi community in Sinjar has suffered from resource deprivation, inadequate service provision, forced land removals, and underrepresentation in the region's local governance and security forces. This targeted marginalization by the Iraqi state left them vulnerable to ISIS' attacks in 2014, which destroyed 80% of Sinjar's public and 70% of its private infrastructure.

Nadia's Initiative is working to sustainably rebuild Sinjar by laying the foundations for the community to not only survive, but **thrive**. In line with a grassroots approach to sustainable development, the Initiative works with the local community and a variety of implementing partners to design, support, and implement projects that promote the restoration and improvement of education, healthcare, livelihoods, WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), women's empowerment, and cultural preservation. All Nadia's Initiative programs are **community-driven and survivor-centric**, aiming to foster long-term peacebuilding in the region and reduce the community's reliance on foreign aid.



PROGRAMMATIC STRATEGY

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**



**COMMUNITY
DRIVEN**

**SURVIVOR
CENTRIC**

EDUCATION

Access to quality education is critical to empowering marginalized communities to build better futures. Sinjar's education sector has long suffered neglect, with dilapidated school buildings and a severe lack of teachers resulting in students receiving infrequent, inadequate education in unsafe environments.



Nadia's Initiative is improving education in Sinjar by rebuilding and furnishing primary, middle, and secondary schools; providing students with school supplies; investing in early childhood and post-secondary education; and constructing school libraries throughout the region. Ensuring access to quality education facilitates the healing process for children who have survived genocide and protracted displacement.

Balstan Primary School for Girls

- Rehabilitation
- Duhola, North Sinjar
- **493** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | Free A Girl

Hayali Primary School

- Rehabilitation
- Hayali, South Sinjar
- **80** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | GEP Worldwide

Al Taamim Primary School for Girls

- Rehabilitation
- Khanasor, North Sinjar
- **867** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | UAE Aid
- Implementing partner | Dorcas Aid International

Kharaniya Primary School

- Rehabilitation
- Kharaniya, North Sinjar
- **63** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | UAE Aid
- Implementing partner | Dorcas Aid International

Sinuni Middle School

- Rehabilitation & Building a Library
- Sinuni, North Sinjar
- **1,130** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | USAID
- Implementing partner | Yuva NGO

Al Qahtaniya High School

- Rehabilitation & Building a Library
- Tel Azeer, South Sinjar
- **280** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | Swedish Postcode Lottery Foundation
- Implementing partner | Dorcas Aid International

Qabusiya Primary School

- Rehabilitation & Furnishing
- Qabusiya, South Sinjar
- **111** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | USAID
- Implementing partner | Youth Bridge NGO

Kolka Primary School

- Rehabilitation
- Kolka, North Sinjar
- **115** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | UAE Aid
- Implementing partner | Dorcas Aid International

Zeravki Primary School

- Rehabilitation & Furnishing
- Zeravki, South Sinjar
- **246** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | USAID
- Implementing partner | Youth Bridge NGO

Al Walid Primary School

- Rehabilitation & Furnishing
- Tel Banat, South Sinjar
- **300** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | USAID
- Implementing partner | Youth Bridge NGO

Adnaniya Primary School for Girls

- Rehabilitation
- Adnaniya, South Sinjar
- TBD Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | UAE Aid
- Implementing partner | Dorcas Aid International

Higher Education Courses

- 145 Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | Nadia's Initiative
- Implementing partner | Jesuit Worldwide Learning

Alandlos Secondary School for Boys

- Rehabilitation
- Ghobal, North Sinjar
- 420 Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | UAE Aid
- Implementing partner | Dorcas Aid International

Furniture and Supplies Support

- 2,291 Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | Swedish MFA
- Sinuni Mixed High School
- Hayali Primary School
- Kharaniya Primary School
- Alqahtaniya High School
- Al Shemal Secondary School
- Al Walid Mixed Primary School
- Rojia Primary School
- Jilan Primary School



HEALTHCARE

The healthcare sector in Sinjar was in a beleaguered state prior to ISIS' invasion, with few specialized doctors and services available to residents. Since the destruction in 2014, hospitals have had to rely heavily on support from international organizations to provide basic care. Nadia's Initiative is working to improve the region's healthcare sector by rebuilding hospitals and primary health centers; providing them with critical supplies, furniture, and medical equipment; and training specialized staff to provide survivor-centered, trauma-informed care. Improving the region's healthcare reduces the community's long-term vulnerability.



9

HEALTHCARE PROJECTS

New Sinjar Medical Center

- Building & Furnishing
- **150,000** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | Government of France, EU
- Implementing partner | Chaîne de l'Espoir

Wardiya Primary Health Center

- Rehabilitation
- Wardiya, South Sinjar
- **793** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | Hungarian Interchurch Aid, Hungary Helps
- Implementing partner | Sunrise NGO

Rambosi Primary Health Center

- Rehabilitation
- Rambosi, South Sinjar
- **674** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | Hungarian Interchurch Aid, Hungary Helps
- Implementing partner | Sunrise NGO

Khanasor Primary Health Center

- Furniture & Medical Supplies
- Khanasor, North Sinjar
- **25,000** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | Swedish MFA
- Implementing partner | Nabu NGO

Adnaniya Primary Health Center

- Rehabilitation
- Adnaniya, South Sinjar
- **TBD** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | Austrian Development Agency

Aljeera Primary Health Center

- Rehabilitation
- Aljeera, South Sinjar
- **500** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | Austrian Development Agency

Tel Azeer Primary Health Center

- Furniture & Medical Supplies
- Tel Azeer, South Sinjar
- **20,000** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | Swedish MFA
- Implementing partner | Nabu NGO

COVID-19 Medical Care

- Specialized healthcare
- **875** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | Austrian Development Agency
- Implementing partner | "We Are With You" group

9 Primary Health Centers

- Furniture & Medical Supplies
- **66,841** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | USAID

LIVELIHOODS

Sinjar has historically been a farming region – 75% of its pre-2014 income was based in agriculture. ISIS attempted to destroy the community’s livelihoods by burning down farms, polluting boreholes, and stealing and vandalizing farming equipment, all of which threaten the region’s food security. Roads and electrical networks were also destroyed during years of fighting to liberate the region. Small business owners in Sinjar have struggled greatly to resume their livelihoods in the aftermath of such extensive destruction.



Nadia’s Initiative is restoring the region’s commerce, transportation, and trade by holistically rebuilding farmlands; supporting small business owners; constructing new roads and public works; and restoring electrical networks.

10

LIVELIHOODS PROJECTS

New Kocho

- Construction of New Kocho & Memorialization of Old Kocho
- **1,200** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | USAID
- Implementing partner | IOM Iraq

Sinuni Main Road

- Rehabilitation
- **100,000** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | USAID

North Sinjar Electricity Department

- Equipment & Supplies
- **148,873** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | USAID
- Implementing partner | Jalan NGO

Sinjar Garage

- Rehabilitation
- **27,600** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | USAID

Al Yarmouk Roundabout

- Rehabilitation
- **30,000** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | USAID

Ninewa's Civil Defense Directorate

- Furniture & Equipment
- **209,670** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | USAID

Electricity in South Sinjar

- Restoring Infrastructure
- **11,410** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | USAID

Sinjar Electricity Directorate

- Equipment & Supplies
- **30,000** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | USAID

10 Business Owners in Bashiqa

- Livelihoods Support
- **34,000** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | Swedish MFA

12 Sinjar Governmental Departments

- Furniture & Supplies
- **150,000** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | Dutch Postcode Lottery Foundation

WASH



Access to clean water is a basic human right, yet it is a rare resource in a water scarce region like Sinjar. Returnees to Sinjar must grapple with destroyed and polluted water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure. Few can afford to purchase bottled water. Many face severe health issues resulting from consuming contaminated water. To counter this, Nadia's Initiative is rebuilding the WASH infrastructure in villages, schools, clinics, and farms throughout Sinjar. Reconstruction work is complemented by water management trainings and hygiene awareness sessions aimed at empowering the community to independently manage their own water sources and lead healthier lives.

1

WASH PROJECT



WASH infrastructure in 22 areas

- Infrastructure Restoration in North & South Sinjar
- **80,993** Direct Beneficiaries
- Donor partner | UAE Aid
- Implementing partner | Dorcas Aid International

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Women in Sinjar have experienced immense trauma and suffering, yet are often neglected in the region's redevelopment initiatives. Many long for opportunities to gain economic independence, provide for their families, and become active leaders in their communities.



Nadia's Initiative designs survivor-centric women's empowerment programs aimed at addressing the needs of women and girls in Sinjar by providing them with small business trainings and grants, rehabilitating their farmlands, rebuilding their homes, and empowering them to become advocates for change within their communities.

2

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROJECTS

Small Business Incubator Program

- Business Management Training & Establishment for Women in Sinjar
- **50 Direct Beneficiaries**
- Donor partner | UAE Aid
- Implementing partner | Mission East

Interim Reparations Program

- Interim Reparative Measures for Yazidi Survivors of ISIS Captivity in Sinjar and Duhok
- **Over 1,000 Direct Beneficiaries**
- Donor partner | Global Survivors Fund
- Implementing partner | Mission East

CULTURE



For centuries, Yazidis have been targeted for their unique religious beliefs. ISIS' destruction of Yazidi sites of worship was the latest in a long line of genocidal campaigns against the community. Providing Yazidis with sites of remembrance and safe spaces to worship is critical to the community's healing and social cohesion. Nadia's Initiative restores Yazidi temples with input from clergy, activists, and local families charged with guardianship of the shrines. We construct cemeteries and memorials to honor those who were killed and preserve the history of the community.

2

CULTURE PROJECTS



Sheikh Obaker Temple

- Rehabilitation
- **25,000 Direct Beneficiaries**
- Donor partner | Republic of China (Taiwan)

Kocho Burial Ceremony

- **1,800 Direct Beneficiaries**
- Donor partner | Dutch Postcode Lottery Foundation

ADVOCACY STRATEGY

Nadia's Initiative advocates — at the local, national, and international levels — for resources and policy changes needed to protect and support survivors of sexual violence and rebuild communities in crisis. We collaborate with global leaders, governments, and international organizations to raise awareness and direct critical funding necessary to making positive, meaningful change.



**Gender
Equality**

Justice

Gender Equality: We advocate for global gender equality, an end to violence against women, and the provision of reparations to survivors of sexual violence.

**Genocide
Prevention**

Security

Justice: We advocate for judicial accountability of ISIS perpetrators of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide.

Security: We advocate national governments and the UN to work collectively and comprehensively to improve security and local governance in Sinjar, Iraq.

Genocide Prevention: We advocate for genocide awareness and prevention, including the formal recognition of the Yazidi genocide by nation states and international bodies.

6

ADVOCACY MILESTONES

PASSAGE OF YAZIDI FEMALE SURVIVORS LAW



In March 2021, the Iraqi Parliament passed the long-awaited Yazidi Female Survivors Law. The law formally acknowledges the Yazidi genocide and the gender-based trauma of sexual violence against Yazidi women. It lays the groundwork for paying reparations to survivors of ISIS captivity and guaranteeing them land rights and job opportunities. While expediting and monitoring implementation of the law will be critical, its passage is an encouraging first step toward supporting the recovery and reintegration of survivors. Nadia's Initiative is working with the Iraqi government to support the expedited and survivor-centered implementation of the law.

EVIDENCE OF YAZIDI GENOCIDE PRESENTED TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL

In May 2021, UNITAD presented landmark findings to the UN Security Council. UNITAD's former Special Advisor, Karim Khan, reported to the Security Council that "there is clear and convincing evidence that the crimes against the Yazidi people clearly constituted genocide." Nadia joined the proceedings to emphasize that "transforming evidence into accountability and justice requires action." Advocating for the Yazidi community's wishes, Nadia called on member states to establish international trials and support national efforts to prosecute ISIS members for their crimes of genocide and sexual violence. Legal accountability is critical for the healing of Yazidi survivors, as well as the prevention of future violence.



6

ADVOCACY MILESTONES

FIRST ISIS CONVICTION FOR GENOCIDE



In 2021, Germany utilized the legal principle of universal jurisdiction to prosecute war criminals for atrocities committed against the Yazidi community abroad. A German court was the first to convict ISIS perpetrator, Taha A.J., for the crime of genocide, along with crimes against humanity and war crimes. In addition to this historic conviction, Germany prosecuted four ISIS foreign fighters for international crimes committed against Yazidis. Jennifer W., the wife of Taha A. J., was convicted of aiding and abetting crimes against humanity through enslavement, attempted murder, and aiding and abetting the war crime of attempted murder by omission. Omaira A. was convicted of aiding and abetting crimes against humanity for her enslavement of two Yazidi women. Nurten J. was convicted of aiding and abetting crimes against humanity, serious deprivation of liberty, and war crimes. Sarah O. was convicted of assault, deprivation of liberty, aiding and abetting rape, enslavement, and religious and gender-based persecution as crimes against humanity. These historic convictions are a win for survivors of genocide, sexual violence, and the Yazidi community. Nadia Murad and Yazidi survivors have long awaited justice and continue to call on the international community to end impunity for perpetrators of genocide and sexual violence.

6

ADVOCACY MILESTONES

YAZIDIS BURY 104 VICTIMS OF KOCHO MASSACRE



In February 2021, the Yazidi community buried 104 victims of the Kocho massacre, including two of Nadia's brothers. The ceremony was marked by both grief and closure, as many survivors were finally able to lay their family members to rest over six years after the genocide. It was also a visceral reminder of the urgent need to exhume and identify victims who remain in mass graves throughout Sinjar. Nadia's Initiative continues to collaborate with its partners UNITAD and ICMP on the expedited and survivor-centered exhumation of mass graves in Sinjar.

BELGIUM AND NETHERLANDS FORMALLY RECOGNIZE YAZIDI GENOCIDE



In July 2021, Belgium and the Netherlands joined 15 other legislative bodies and international organizations in formally recognizing the Yazidi genocide. Acknowledgement of the crimes endured by Yazidis is crucial to the community's healing and social cohesion. Recognition, tangible support for survivors, and judicial accountability aid in the pursuit of justice. Nadia Murad and other survivors played a key role testifying before the Belgian parliament. Nadia's Initiative continues to advocate for international recognition of the Yazidi genocide.

6

ADVOCACY MILESTONES

SUPPORTING YAZIDIS STUCK AT EUROPE'S BORDERS



In November 2021, Nadia traveled to Lithuania to meet with Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonytė, Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis, and Minister of Interior Agnė Bilotaitė. Nadia discussed the situation of Yazidis in Iraq and that of the individuals who were trapped on the eastern borders of Belarus. She discussed ways in which Lithuania and Nadia's Initiative can support Yazidis who are applying for asylum and prevent more people from taking the dangerous journey from Iraq to the EU through Belarus. She also visited a Lithuanian border camp where dozens of Yazidis were waiting to have their asylum applications processed. Nadia's Initiative is working closely with the Lithuanian government to ensure Yazidis are treated fairly and in respect to their vulnerability.



OUR BOARD

A group of children and an adult man are gathered around a red ribbon. In the foreground, a young boy in a black jacket is cutting the ribbon with red scissors. Other children are looking on with interest, and an adult man is visible in the background.

CHAIRWOMAN

NADIA MURAD

VICE CHAIRMAN

KERRY PROPPER

DIRECTOR

GREGOIRE THERY

DIRECTOR

ELIZABETH BOHART

OUR TEAM



COLLEEN KANE

Policy & Legal Affairs Associate

MELISSA THOMPSON

Finance & Operations Associate

AOMER ALI MURAD

Logistics Coordinator, Iraq

YASSER EZDEN SALIH

Community Outreach Coordinator, Iraq

SALIH MURAD EDO

Projects Coordinator (Engineer), Iraq

DAKHEEL HAMOW RASHKO

Communications Coordinator, Iraq

AHMED HASSAN QASIM

Finance Coordinator, Iraq

CORALYN MAGUIGAD

Executive Assistant

NADIA MURAD

Founder & President

ABID SHAMDEEN

Executive Director

OLIVIA WELLS

Director of Programs & Partnerships

ALISON ANDERSON

Head of Finance & Operations

FAISEL GHANEM

Projects Manager, Iraq

SALAH HASSAN QASIM

Logistics Manager, Iraq

HAMEED MOUSA HAMI

Protection Manager, Iraq

FARIS MISHKO

Communications Manager, Iraq

NADIA HASSAN KHALO

Case Manager, Iraq

NISHTIMAN KHALAF AWSMAN

Case Manager & Interpreter, Iraq

TASNEEM KALLA

Programs & Development Associate

HSU THET HTAR SWE

Digital Communications Associate

IN GRATITUDE



PROGRAMS AND ADVOCACY PARTNERS



IN GRATITUDE



DONOR PARTNERS



IN GRATITUDE



Kerry Propper

Ed Millett

Dua Lipa

Jolie-Pitt Foundation

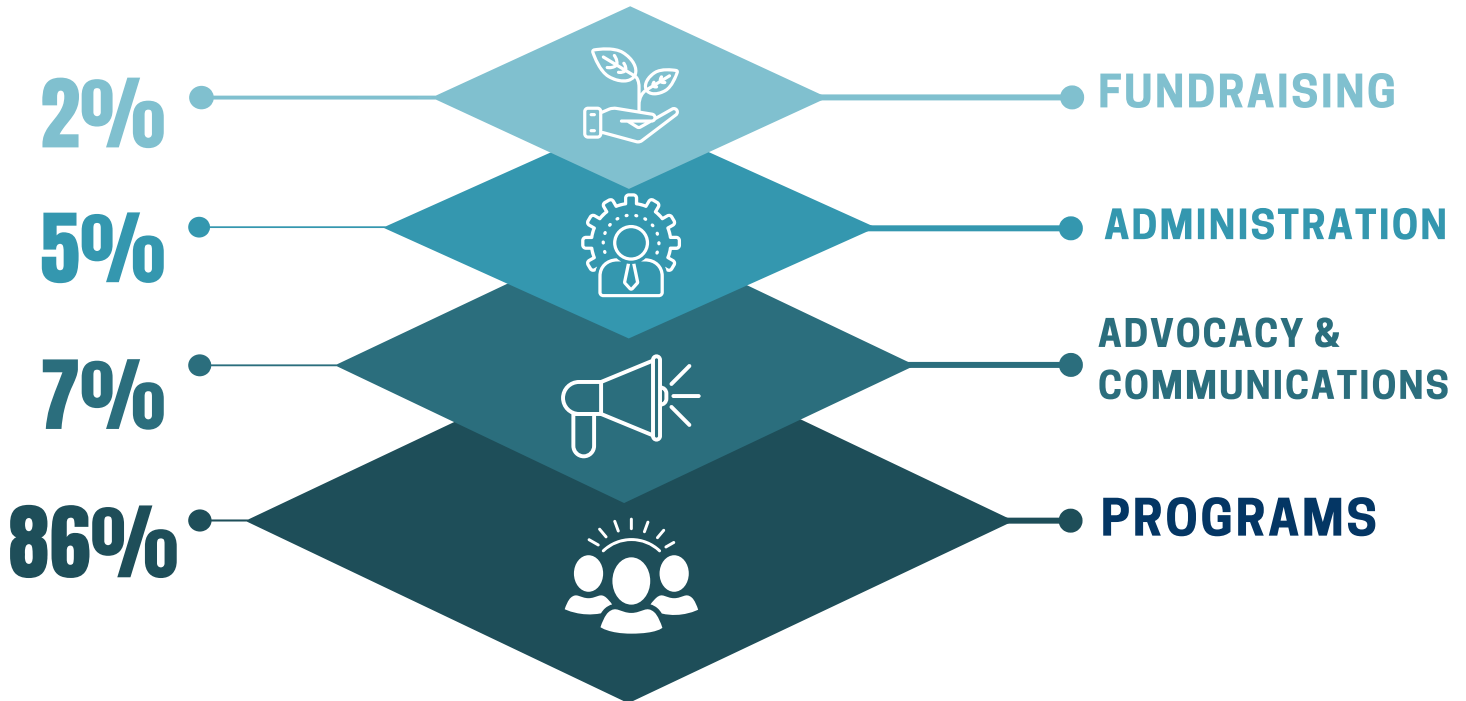
Dukagjin Lipa

Duke University

Ben Mawson

Wachs Family Fund

2021 EXPENDITURES



\$3,986,730 TOTAL

PROGRAMS

 **\$3,437,642**

ADVOCACY & COMMUNICATIONS

 **\$285,406**

ADMINISTRATION

 **\$190,763**

FUNDRAISING

 **\$72,919**

LOOKING FORWARD

In 2022, Nadia's Initiative will continue strategically developing and expanding our programs in Sinjar across our six sectors, according to the needs of the communities we serve and the identified gaps in service provision. We will empower beneficiaries to work with our team to design, develop, and implement our projects in a community-driven, survivor-centric manner. For us, sustainability means grassroots initiatives that emphasize community ownership and reduce reliance on foreign aid.



On the international stage, Nadia's Initiative will continue to explore new ways to amplify the voices and stories of survivors and bring their calls for justice to the leaders and institutions with the power to make change. We will work to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war by tackling the root causes of gender discrimination in schools, households, and international institutions.

”

**HELP US LEAVE
A BETTER, SAFER,
AND MORE JUST WORLD
TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.**

— Nadia Murad



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