



HABIBI

I N T E R N A T I O N A L



2021

ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01

Mission, Vision & Values

02

Message from Our CEO

03

2021 Initiatives:
Physical Health

04

2021 Initiatives:
Mental/Emotional Health

05

2021 Initiatives:
Social Health

07

2021 Initiatives:
Economic Health

08

2021 Initiatives:
Organizational Growth

09

2021 Initiatives:
Special Project

10

Stories from the Field

13

2021 Financial Summary

15

Future Initiatives

17

Acknowledgements

18

Contact Us

MISSION, VISION & VALUES

Habibi International is a non-profit organization that seeks transformation of the lives of forcibly displaced communities in the Middle East through humanitarian relief and sustainable development, in partnership with like-minded entities. Our vision is to see transforming communities birthed among the persecuted and displaced in the Middle East. Our approach is to journey with them towards holistic health.



01 – We Follow Jesus

We take our cue from someone who was once a refugee and who understands suffering intimately. His message of hope, healing and freedom is what keeps us going. His approach of doing life with people - including those that society despised or did not protect - guides ours.



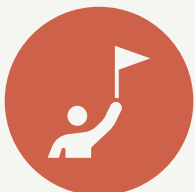
02 – We Value People

We're not here to run a program or complete a project - we're here to come alongside friends who have tremendous dignity and worth.



03 – We Pursue Partnerships

We can't take on the world's immense challenges alone, neither are we supposed to. We believe that everyone brings unique strengths to the table, and collaborations with others - especially local communities - are our best shot at moving the needle on issues.



04 – We Are Pioneers

We aren't afraid to do what others have not done before. We create platforms so that others can also serve.



05 – We Respect Local Cultures

We are constantly learning from and amazed by the beauty and diversity of the cultures we get to encounter. Our local team is a microcosm of the multicultural society we work in, with all ethnicities and faiths.



06 – We Practice Servant Leadership

We recognize that some of the areas we work in have painful histories of exploitation. We are here not to take but to give, not to be served but to serve.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Dear friends,

A wise friend once told me: “If you want to impact lives, you have to get close to the people.” Indeed, our desire has always been to deepen relationships with the forcibly displaced communities we walk with. The past two years have been pivotal years of transition for us, as we continue working towards this end.

First, we have been transitioning from primarily sending short-term volunteer teams to a focus on establishing a longer-term presence on the field. Last year, we began receiving international workers who are committed to joining us anywhere from one month to a couple of years or more. I have been so encouraged to see so many responding to God’s call to serve the people in this land. We are also growing our local team. All this enables us to embark on a wider range of projects and make a more sustained impact.

Second, we have been transitioning from primarily operating in mobile settings to putting down roots in a more permanent capacity. For instance, as I write, we are about 75% done with building our first Community Center in a camp. Through this Center, we become a stakeholder in the camp, allowing us to serve and walk with those living there in a deeper way—providing consistency in transience and focus in a region where it is easy to be overwhelmed by needs.

Thank you again for your faithful partnership—for helping us to move ahead in all this and more, even in these trying times. We couldn’t have come this far without your generosity and support. May the Lord richly bless you and your family, and may we encounter Jesus in a fresh new way this coming year.



Willy Tan, CEO

“If you want to impact lives, you have to get close to the people.”



2021 INITIATIVES

Although 2021 was another unusual year of restricted travel due to the ongoing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was also a year of tremendous growth and laying the groundwork for exciting future opportunities that we are pursuing in 2022 and beyond. Here are some of the ways we have continued to progress in our efforts to cultivate holistic health among the forcibly displaced communities that we serve:



PHYSICAL HEALTH

Dental Services

- **Hizawa Dental Clinic:** Saw about 300 enquiries per month and provided necessary dental treatment including extractions, fillings, cleaning, and x-rays.
- **Mobile Dental Clinics:** Provided care to about 170 individuals in two villages where displaced Yezidis have settled. These clinics were led by Dr. Zachary Wang from Taiwan, with a team of a Yezidi dentist, Yezidi dental assistant, Yezidi dental hygienist, and two Kurdish assistants.



2021 INITIATIVES



MENTAL/EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Home Visitations

- Piloted **therapeutic work during regular home visits** to forcibly displaced families, such as using art and pictures to express themselves.

Mental Health/Psycho-Social Support Program

- Conducted **asset and needs mapping** to support the designing of a mental health/psycho-social support (MHPSS) program for displaced Yezidis. This entailed mapping existing services, engaging stakeholders, understanding cultural nuances, identifying needs and challenges as well as strengths and gifts of camp communities, and learning about the kinds of services people desire to have.



2021 INITIATIVES



SOCIAL HEALTH

English Corner

- Conducted a series of 10 weekly **online conversational English sessions** with two cohorts of forcibly displaced persons, supported by volunteers from Singapore.
 - Gave students a chance to practice their conversational English skills with native English speakers, which is a highly sought after but rare opportunity.
 - Our first cohort included 21 volunteers and 21 students; the second cohort included 42 volunteers and 38 students.

Learning Lab

- Started work on the development of **a space to train forcibly displaced youths in computer literacy** and other programs (e.g. Microsoft Office, soft skills), and allow for remote work to be done.
 - Completed technical designs for renovation work at a storefront adjacent to the Habibi International guesthouse.



2021 INITIATIVES



SOCIAL HEALTH

Remote Training and Work Pilot

- Piloted a **training program designed to lead to employment** for displaced youths, in partnership with a US e-commerce company.
 - Our first cohort of seven youths now perform paid micro-tasks like back-end reports and customer service every weekday on various platforms such as Amazon Seller Central and ReAmaze.
 - The youths have learned basic computer literacy including Microsoft Word and Excel, Google Suites, and Gmail. They are continuing to attend regular remote training over Slack to continue learning and growing their skillsets and professionalism.

Clean Village Initiative

- Continued the **community project** by 12 Yezidi youths to keep their village clean through a trash collection and disposal system.
 - These youth have faithfully served their community through this project every Sunday since 2018 and have taken the initiative to make iterations for better efficiency and teamwork over the years.



2021 INITIATIVES



ECONOMIC HEALTH

Emergency Disaster Relief

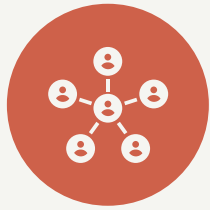
- Provided relief to 11 families whose tents were burnt down by a big fire in Chamishku Camp. All affected by the fire were assisted through the provision of refrigerators and heaters.

Emergency Surgery Support

- Supported three surgeries for Yezidi families who were not able to afford them.



2021 INITIATIVES



ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

International Expansion

- Launched a **home office in Singapore** on June 19, 2021 to support the work on the field through mobilization and raising awareness in Singapore and Asia on forced displacement.
 - Developed Habibi International's policies and processes to facilitate deployment of longer-term international field workers.
 - Deployed Habibi International's first international staff and two interns, and preparing to send out four more interns and one special project volunteer in 2022.
 - Set up a personnel care team to support international field workers before and after their field service.

International Field Staff

- Expanded our **on-the-ground international team** to support the growing work and ensure more sustained and consistent services for forcibly displaced communities.
 - One long-term international staff oversees field operations.
 - In 2021, we received two associates, one short-term volunteer family (2 months) and two interns (6 months).

Social Media Engagement

- Expanded use of **social media platforms** to engage with individuals through education, advocacy, and fundraising.
 - Conducted a week-long refugee awareness campaign in conjunction with World Refugee Day 2021.

2021 INITIATIVES



SPECIAL PROJECT

Habibi International Community Center

- Started **construction of a center within Berseve 2 Camp** that would serve both Berseve 1 and 2 Camps of about 15,000 people.
 - Designed to: a) run healthcare (dental, mental health, rehabilitation) and education programs; b) host social functions in a multi-purpose hall built through a construction innovation (the SuperAdobe method); and c) house an inclusive play space co-designed with children from the camp.
 - Supported by a multi-national team--a design team from Hong Kong/China, an American construction consultant based in Iraq, a SuperAdobe expert from Italy, a UK-based charity that co-designs playgrounds with vulnerable children, and a Yezidi ground team.



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

REMOTE WORK PROGRAM FROM: TAMMY CHEN

“You know so many organizations are asking for workers in Sinjar who know Excel or Word. But Yazidis don’t know about this stuff. But now, look at us. We know.” – H

In July 2021, a small team of us started a remote work training pilot with seven Yazidi youth, in partnership with an e-commerce branding company. The company provided laptops and developed training manuals to help prepare these youth.

On our first day of training, we realized the youth didn’t know how to click with a mouse or type on a keyboard. So we started from ground zero. But as each day went on, they improved exponentially. They were hungry for more. We were ecstatic to see their growth and willingness to keep learning, even in the 110F heat!

The training continued--on the field and remotely. After a few weeks, they began working on customer emails, tracking shipments, and learning even more. Today, the youths are still working remotely as well as receiving pay for their families.

We are excited to continue supporting this remote work and one day expand to other communities.



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT FROM: RUTH WEI

In a culture where men are the head of the household, L, the eldest of six girls and two boys, had to step up and fill in the gap when her father died in the genocide by ISIS. Filled with regret and a sense of inferiority that she has never attended school, she now ensures her younger siblings study diligently, and cares for them selflessly.

Despite all the pain and struggles that she and her family has undergone to make ends meet, her heart is filled with gratitude towards God and the many kind souls they have met along the way.

“I like this picture because it reminds me of how my hand reaches out to God’s hand and He answers my cries for help,” L shared in one of our family sessions. As part of a body-based approach in counselling, she selected a picture card (see below) to express her feelings. This was a moment when she experienced a brief respite from the heaviness in her heart, as she remembered God as her help in time of need.



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

COMMUNITY CENTER FROM: HEIDI TAN

A couple of years ago, the Berseve 2 camp management offered us a prime piece of land in the camp to build a center. Then, Covid-19 hit. Beyond collecting ideas from the camp residents on what they would like in a center and doing up technical designs, we were stuck. But towards the end of 2021, we were finally able to break ground!

"You asked us before what we wanted in the Center--now you're actually building it!" Mr H was one of many camp residents overjoyed to see the construction commence. "This is very good. We are so happy!"

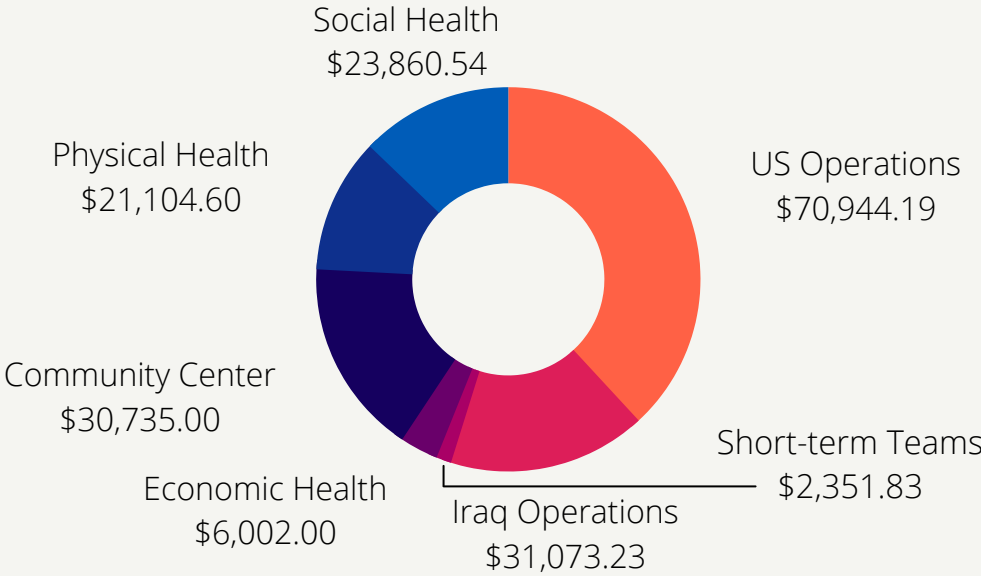
Our Center opens at a time when many have closed or are closing because of funding drying up. A new one brings excitement, possibilities, hope. Every day, curious onlookers make a stop at the site. *"When will the Center open?"* is the most common question we get. And even before any programs have officially started, we know dozens of children by name--like ten-year-old S, who pays us a daily visit and tries to help the site workers run errands. Or the tween girls who love the Korean boyband BTS and practice their dance moves.

We've discovered needs, but also numerous talents and aspirations. Our dream is to see the uplifting of an entire camp community, where those living there hone their gifts and abilities to in turn serve and bring healing and wholeness to others there. Will you dream and build community together with us too?



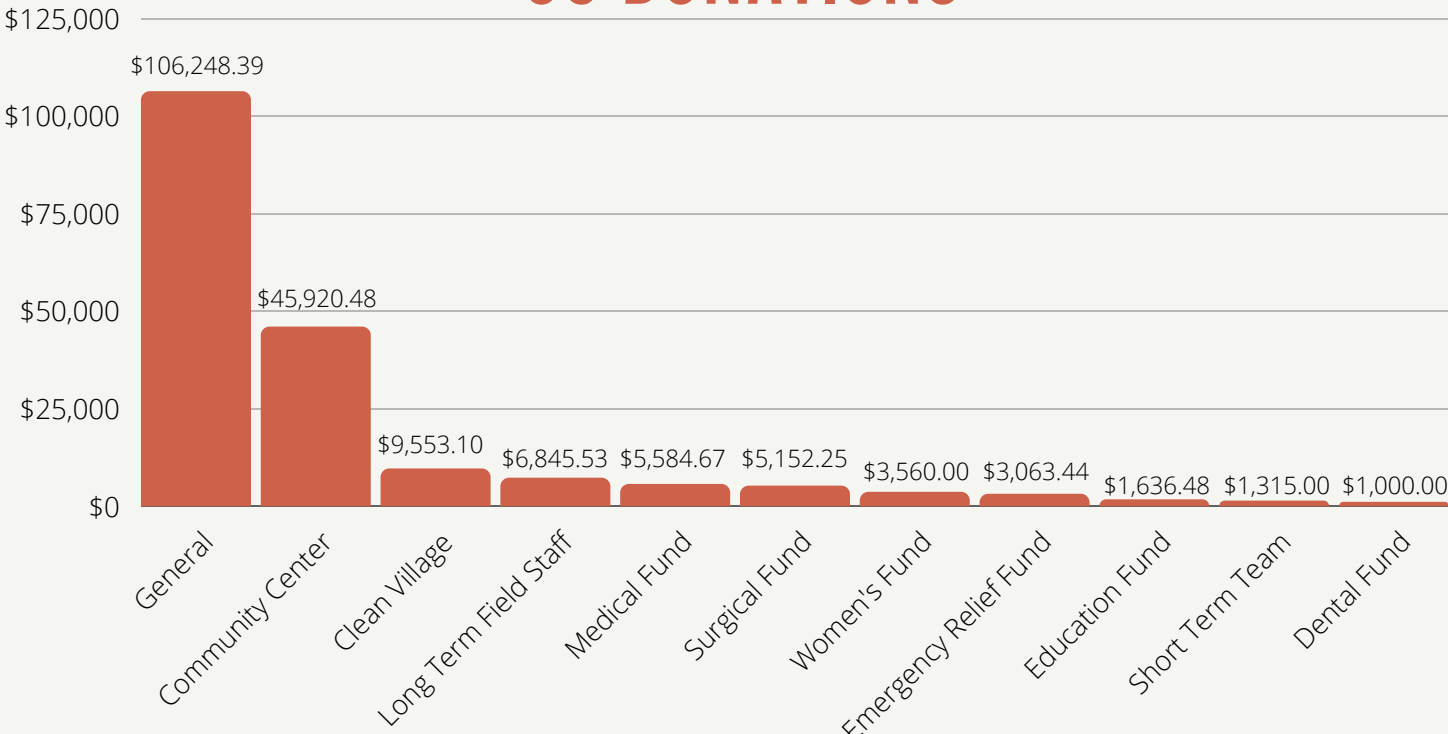
2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

US EXPENDITURES



TOTAL US EXPENDITURES: \$186,071.39

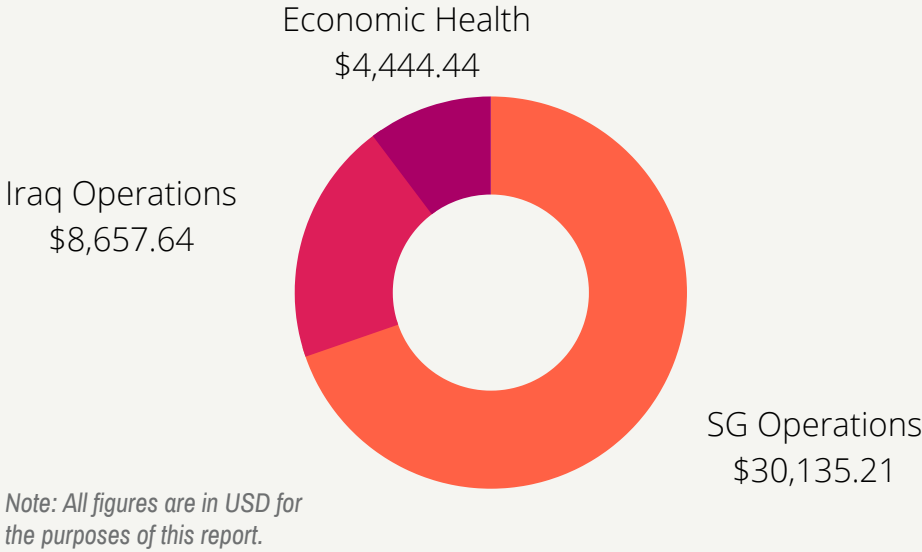
US DONATIONS



TOTAL US DONATIONS: \$190,219.34

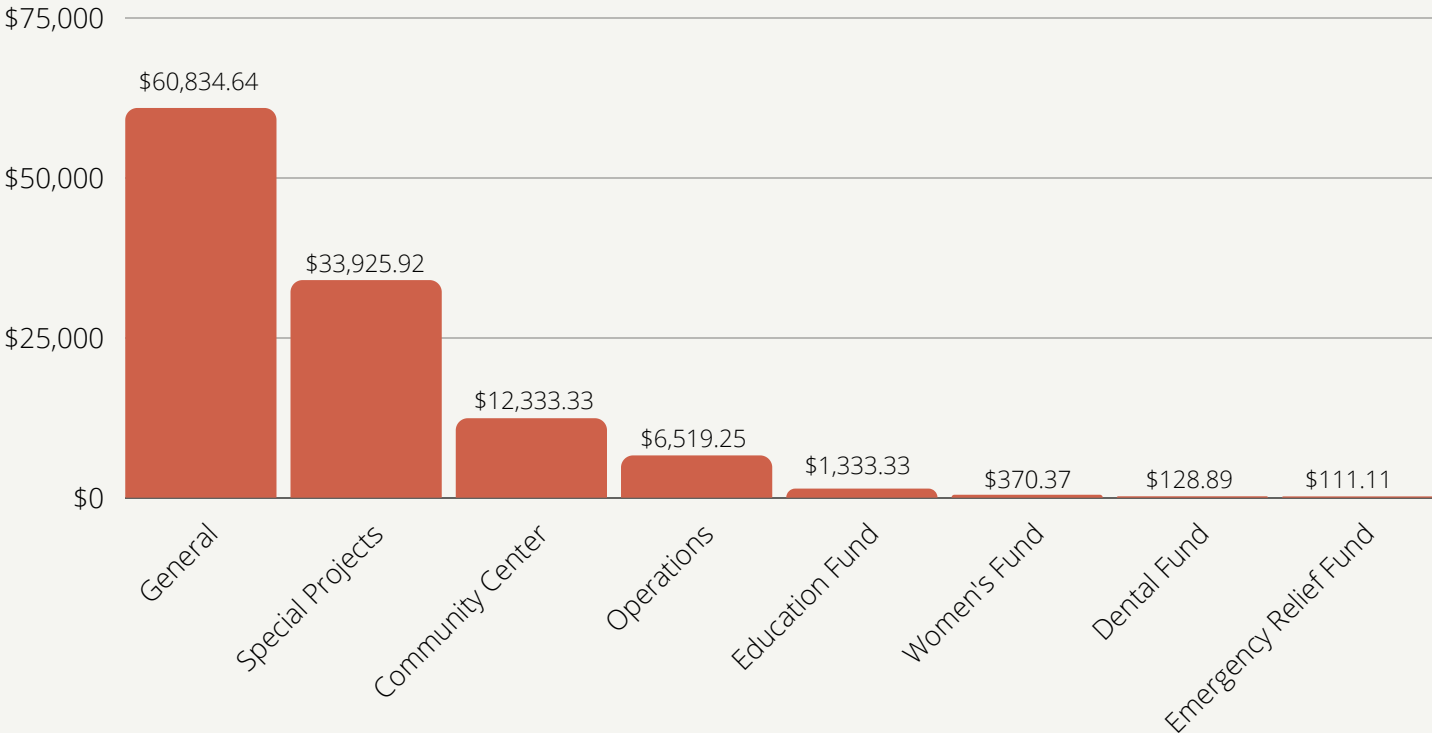
2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

SINGAPORE EXPENDITURES



TOTAL SINGAPORE EXPENDITURES: \$43,237.30

SINGAPORE DONATIONS



TOTAL SINGAPORE DONATIONS: \$114,075.36

FUTURE INITIATIVES



COMPLETION OF COMMUNITY CENTER

- **SuperAdobe multi-purpose hall** -- SuperAdobe is an alternative building method that draws on inexpensive local materials and an environmentally friendly technology that originated in this part of the world. Apart from hosting gatherings and activities, the hall will also have an educational slant, to open up more options for Yezidis in construction.
- **Co-designed inclusive play space** -- We are taking a participatory approach with children and other relevant stakeholders in the camp, to come up with ideas of things the children themselves want to see in a play space, translate that into a design, and then bring it to life together with the children. We are partnering with Catalytic Action, a UK-based NGO experienced in building play spaces for refugee children.

FUTURE INITIATIVES



LEARNING LAB

- Preparations are underway for the conversion of a storefront into a computer lab and co-working space, and renovation work will commence in March 2022.



VOLUNTEER TEAMS

- Resumption of short-term volunteer teams, starting with an orthopedic surgical team and mobile medical team in February-March 2022.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Habibi International Board Members

Willy Tan--CEO
David Yue--Board Chair
Daniel Chung--Treasurer
Samantha Cao--Secretary
Michael Chen
Peter Chiu
Danny Chu
Jerry Tzou

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Daniel Choo--Logistics Intern

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A special thank-you to each and every one of our supporters.
None of this would be possible without your generosity.

If you would like to continue supporting us, scan the QR code below or go to
<https://habibi-international.org/donate/>




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