



Shelter Now Germany e.V. Waisenhausdamm 4 38100 Braunschweig

SHELTER-REPORT

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Dear Friends and Partners of Shelter Now

Afghanistan is once again making the headlines. There have been terrible terrorist attacks recently. They have occurred in conjunction with the presidential election, peace negotiations and rumours of an American troop withdrawal.

In spite of all these developments our projects continue. We are even planing new ones.

Find out in this edition about our plan for an educational and training project for widows in Herat, and changes and extensions in our dental clinic projects and primary school.

*Warm regards
Udo Stolte and Team*



Shelter Now – Rebuilding Lives - Restoring Hope!

SHELTER-Report



A widow and child in Sharak Mustafa



The Sharak Mustafa settlement...



...built for widows and children. SNI will help.

In countries like Afghanistan it is the widows and orphans who already suffer immensely. Their problems multiply further whenever natural disasters and terrorism force them to flee their homes. A new project has opened up for Shelter Now in the province of Herat to help widows and their children.

Sharak Mustafa, a settlement for widows and their children

Gudrun Göttler sent the following report:

"Sharak Mustafa is located in the west part of the city of Herat next to the district of Jebrael, a large Hazara community of around 50,000 inhabitants.

366 families live in Sharak Mustafa. The widows come from all over Afghanistan, in particular from rural areas where members of the Shia branch of Islam live, and where there military operations are taking place. Every needy widow with children and without family in Herat can be accommodated in Sharak Mustafa. There is a kindergarten and a school till the 10th class. Each family is given a small rent-free house, but have to cover the cost of electricity and water themselves. Basic foodstuffs are distributed according to the size of the family. Up to 99% of the women are illiterate and have never lived independently, let alone thought about what they want to do with their lives.

They are now facing the great challenge of providing for their children alone. The government approached us to ask if we would begin a training programme for these women. We want to start a three year programme to train 60 mothers between the ages of 20 and 25 per year.

The community has some land at their disposal, and so would be trained in making a house garden, food processing, baking, growing mushrooms, composting, seedling cultivation and saffron production. Of course, we want to teach the women to read and write, arithmetic, then the basics of how to market their products and general hygiene. Teenage daughters may participate in the course during their holidays. In this way they can help their mothers and learn something for their own future.

We also see our food processing teacher, Shirin, as an encouragement for the women. She lives in Saodat and belongs to the local Women's Garden Association, one of our first SNI projects. She too had no livelihood initially but is now so skilled in the production of quality foodstuffs that we want to employ her as teacher for food processing. We require 200 euros per person to equip the training kitchen. Further funding for the course is needed to cover running costs, such as the teacher's salaries and consumable materials. If enough support comes in we will be able to offer further courses."

Our Dental Clinic in the City of Herat has model character

Reinforcement from Belgium and Holland for the Afghan professor and his staff

An update from Ewald Göttler:

“For more than four years Dr. Marc Jeannin, a dentist and university lecturer from Gent in Belgium, has been coming annually to support the SNI dental project and the work of Dr. Nader Sina, the director of the dental faculty. On this occasion he came with two other specialists; Dr. Inge Stassen, an expert in root canal treatment, and Ramzya Rahmani, a Dutch dental assistant of Afghan family background. She built the necessary language and cultural bridges and ensured that nothing of the valuable information from the two specialists would be lost. As well as her important contribution as an excellent translator she was able to persuade a renowned Dutch supplier of dental equipment to fill her suitcase with new dental instruments, which were urgently needed for our former Shelter dental clinic in the provincial hospital. A special highlight for the visitors was the founding of a dental faculty student association.

Those trainings to be dentists do not stop at complaining about the lack of equipment or the need for more staff members, but are themselves active in making the most of their student years by looking beyond the borders of their field of expertise. So they organized their own seminar to which they invited both academic visitors to answer questions, such as what motivated them – and still does – to be the best possible dentists for their patients; very much an unusual question in a country where the emphasis is more on clever technical features and personal utility maximisation.”

The School Dentist receives help

This project aims to provide the majority of school children with a dental prophylaxis programme by the end of 2021, and to teach them about personal mouth hygiene in order to reduce the very high number of tooth decay problems and loss of teeth at an early age. Shelter Now is nowhere near having the means or enough staff members to reach this ambitious goal. As is often the case, the solution to this problem lies with the Afghans themselves.

The school authorities are very pleased with our activities and are prepared to allow Shelter Now to train selected teachers in the area of oral hygiene, in order to then employ them as health educators in the schools. With the assistance of these teachers our ambitious target will no longer remain a dream but have a realistic chance of success.

In order to cover the demand for personnel to carry out dental check-ups the university is prepared to



Ramzya from Holland – a regular helper

include students in advanced semesters. In this way, a genuine cooperation of various sectors of society will arise for the public good.

As a by-product data will emerge which in turn can serve as a basis for scientific studies that will benefit the young scientists at the university and the health authority. It will enable them to gain the necessary information about the state and development of dental health in the country.

The Teaching Staff is learning...

I have just received a project report concerning our ‘Helping Hands School’, which made me smile. I know that even teachers who have passionately served for many years can only teach the children what they themselves have fully grasped.

This apparently also applies to our teachers in Kabul. For the past two years they have been taking part in a training programme that is to transform our school into a learning centre, which we would call ‘Montessori School’. The programme has the name ‘SEED’ (Social and Emotional Education Development). It entails active participatory learning. The children take responsibility for their own learning. In addition to traditional modes of culture; arithmetic, writing and reading we now have individual responsibility, thirst for knowledge (later a desire to research) and decision-making ability.

Unfortunately, the traditional methods in most Afghan schools still involve repeating what the teacher just said and learning things by memorising. So our teachers have to go through a process of considerable change.

Fatuna, the school director, expressed her opinion:

I myself have learned from the social and emotional

aspects of our training to control my emotions when dealing with staff members. In conflict situations I first try to get to the bottom of the issue at hand instead of immediately reacting in an angry fashion as I used to.

Her colleague Munisa

Munisa is really excited about the new methods. She said that she is now putting into practice what she learned in the course with her own children. She also noticed the change in her communication with the director. The school pupils are also enjoying the new form of the lessons.

Another colleague...

confirmed everything mentioned. She thinks the director had always been friendly and kind to everyone, but now even more so.

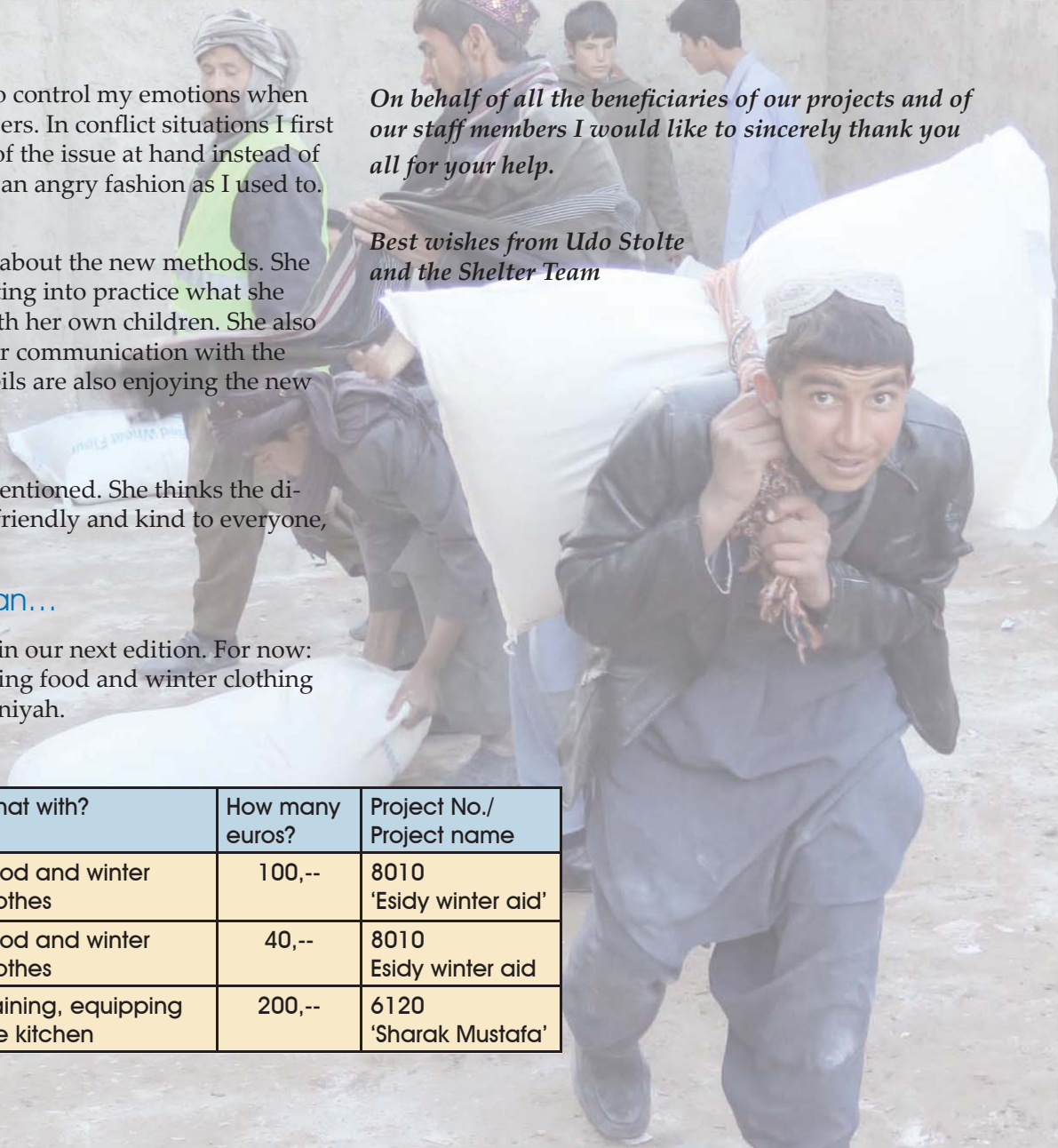
Concerning Kurdistan...

I will write a full report in our next edition. For now: We will again be supplying food and winter clothing to the Esidis in Sulaymaniyah.

On behalf of all the beneficiaries of our projects and of our staff members I would like to sincerely thank you all for your help.

Best wishes from Udo Stolte and the Shelter Team

Who to help?	What with?	How many euros?	Project No./ Project name
An Esidy refugee family	Food and winter clothes	100,--	8010 'Esidy winter aid'
An Esidy refugee	Food and winter clothes	40,--	8010 Esidy winter aid
A widow in Herat	Training, equipping the kitchen	200,--	6120 'Sharak Mustafa'



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European account details Shelter Now Germany e.V. NORD / LB Hannover Kto. 25 23 058
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