

Shelter Now – strong in hope and courageous in life 37 years of humanitarian work in the Middle East and Central Asia

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Dear Friends and partners of Shelter Now

As I write this, an unexpected onset of winter in Germany has us firmly in its grip: Trams are not running, cars are snowed in, and riding a bike is unthinkable.

However, we have a heated apartment and enough to eat. Many people in Afghanistan and Kurdistan do not have this.

Udo Stolte with the Shelter Team

The UN is asking non-governmental organizations for food aid. UNICEFs Country Director of Nutrition published,

"Month by month we are seeing growing numbers of malnourished children. Probably within the next 12 months nearly one million children in Afghanistan will be critically malnourished - 30% more than last year. We trace this to the impact of COVID-19 on impoverished families."

With your financial support, we have just been able to implement major winter relief projects. Especially the underprivileged people, who already live at the subsistence level in normal times, need our support.

The Chalou ethnic group is one of them. They are

traditionally marginalized in Afghan society, often living in camps and making a living by begging; the men offer themselves as day laborers, but hardly find employment in these corona times. We have been working with the people in the "Chaman Babrak" camp in Kabul for years, have set up a drinking water supply there with a deep well, give them food, firewood, and sometimes winter clothing every winter. When in the extremely cold January 2020 25 women and 50 children had already frozen to death, we started a call for help, because we lacked the money. As a result, we received generous

donations and were able to prevent the very worst by distributing food and firewood. In the meantime, people have been trained in the necessary corona hygiene measures, and we were



Food distribution in Chalou Camp



Procurement of food at the bazaar

Chalou camp "Chaman Babrak"

Kabul

able to distribute without crowding and other problems. Within three days 831 families each received the following: • 50 kg of flour

- 5 liters of cooking oil
- 4 kg of beans
- 7 kg of rice and
- 1 kg of tea.

The project costs amounted to just under 41 000 euros. Over 5 800 people will not have to starve this winter. We also plan a distribution of firewood. The community presented us with a certificate with the words: "Shelter Now has been helping us for many years. This certificate (see cover photo) is to thank and acknowledge you for helping us so often in our time of need."

Many expressed their gratitude to us; one woman said, "You have been sent by God. Our job is to beg for money, but squatting by the wet roads in the cold winter, especially where the children have no coats or shoes, is very hard."

We were also able to provide winter relief in Kurdistan, such as a distribution of heaters to 1 450 returning Yasidi-families in Sindjar.

Hundreds of <u>deaf people Uzbekistan</u> can also enjoy food, winter clothing and firewood.

Empowering Communities

West-Afghansitan

While we are happy to be able to keep doing emergency work like this, what we really want to do is empower people to help themselves, and to prepare for emergencies if necessary. So another focus of our work also relates to sustainability. Primarily, this includes education and training as responses to the problem of impoverishment.

One example: Not far from the city of Herat in western Afghanistan, over 400 families live in the Sharak-e Mustafa community. They are almost exclusively widows with their half-orphans. Last spring, we were able to provide them with food because their income was no longer sufficient due to Corona. We also gave them an anti-corona hygiene course.

Last July, we started a literacy course with 250 of these women. The four teachers are highly committed, and the women are eager to learn reading, writing and math.

Our project manager Gudrun Göttler reported:

"It is always a great pleasure to see these women, young and old, learning. Some of them thought before that they would also get money here.... However, they quickly realized that these lessons changed their lives fundamentally: To be able to read, write and calculate, to understand bills, not to be cheated in the bazaars anymore. This gives them self-confidence and dignity. They can help each other and their children with their schoolwork, and that makes a big difference in developing family life and their future."



Education for widows ...



...in Sharak-e Mustafa/ Herat province

At least 150 women are eager to take the followup course after completing the basic course We will offer others training as dressmakers. This program will provide them with a sustainable livelihood.

Their children will also learn how important education is for their lives. In the meantime, new women have registered for a basic course...



Further education and training projects

In Afghansitan

- Helping Hands Primary School in Kabul
- <u>Vocational training for young orphans</u> in Faizabad
- <u>Center for the deaf</u> in Kabul
- Women's center in Kabul

In Kurdistan

- Rehabilitation center for traumatized women
- <u>Schooling for Yazidi children</u>
- Montessori children's center Baadre Camp

All these many projects need your support. We sincerely wish to thank all donors. Your donation will be greatly appreciated. Best wishes Udo Stolte with the *Shelter Team*

Your donation moves us

Support one of our projects

How much money? Project

Project no. Whom do I help? What do I

danate for:

180 € Therapy Centre Baadre 8013 Traumatized woman in Kurdistan A year of trauma therapy for a

woman

Relief 6000 IDPs in Afghanistan

A food package

for a familiy

50€

80 € Literacy course for widows 6220 Widows in Sharak-e Mustafa Literacy course part II, 5 month



Spendenkonto Schweiz

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