



SHELTER-REPORT

Autumn 2018



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Dear Friends and Partners of Shelter Now

Autumn is harvest time. Afghanistan is an agricultural country and farming is one of the main subjects of our autumn report. Our farming initiatives are proving increasingly productive. One of these is the "Saodat Women's Association". Women refugees, who found themselves in deep poverty after returning home to Herat, are now becoming entrepreneurs.

Other interesting topics covered:

- *Severe drought in Afghanistan*
- *The 150th well is being built*
- *Bride-beauty course*
- *Refugees are returning to Nineveh*

Read the exciting report!

*Udo Stolte
and the Shelter Team*




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Shelter Now – Rebuilding lives – Restoring hope!

SHELTER-Report

Something is stirring in Herat. Our colleague Gudrun Götzler sent us the following report:

The Saodat Women's Association

This association was formed by a group of women who had previously started the Garden for Women and the food processing centre. Much has changed in the meantime and many women and their families have moved away. New families have been arriving to take their place.

Now there are various working groups and the garden for women has split up into the food processing group, the saffron group, and the family garden group. All groups grow lucerne to feed their sheep. Lucerne also contributes to soil improvement by means of crop rotation. Harvesting the fruit trees and tree care is the responsibility of the group members.

The number of women in the food processing group has fallen to five. They take care of the fig garden (undersown by lucerne), a greenhouse with aloe vera, and a garden plot on which they have grown garlic, onions and mint. The whole crop is for processing. A part is dried using a solar dryer and the rest is turned into jam and pickles. Freshly picked aloe vera leaves are sold directly.

Micro finance for women: "Togetherness" is their motto

A percentage of the group's income is put into the association's fund, from which the women are then able to finance small new projects of their own. This spring, 76 sheep were bought for 12 families. The sheep were fed on lucerne from the women's garden and from the fields of the men's cooperative, and later sold for slaughter. The revenue from the sale is used to pay back the microcredit to the association and a fixed percentage is given to the common fund. New arrivals can also benefit from this fund.

A new production room, two new products

The rooms for all the activities of the women's association became too small. With help from SNI the old kitchen on the veranda for washing fruit and vegetables had to be revamped into a new unit. The new kitchen has both a washing and a cooking section, and is spacious enough to have different activities running at the same time.

"We want more"

Gudrun Götzler gladly complied with the women's request for help and from the outset included them in the planning of new products. After much trial and error we finally developed a pickled garlic and a tomato sauce. Gudrun and the women had great fun sample tasting the



Gudrun with the 'food processing' women...



...and one of their products.



Training in the women's centre "Delaram"



„Cool, fresh water at last!“

products until all concerned were satisfied.

It is encouraging to report that the 5 women in the current group produce more today than the 20 women, who were in the group three years ago. The incomes, therefore, are much higher now than they were then. These 5 women have emerged from poverty to become entrepreneurs, who have no problem seeking advice from outside. They have a lot in mind for the future and want to become more professional by investing more in marketing.

For this they require your support as they themselves don't have the means to expand the facility, so that machines to improve efficiency can be installed. These are a device for packaging glass jars, and a fruit core removal machine. Products in packaging units would greatly simplify marketing. Their dealers have long insisted on such an investment. Containers would present a chance to sell products in other towns as well.

(A packaging machine costs around 1,000 euros and a fruit core removing machine 2,000 euros.)

Entrepreneur or traditional mother role?

Shirin is the bright mind in the group and wants to take the initiative. She sees herself as an entrepreneur and a mother, with her focus on putting all her energy into a business that she can live from. She was the driving force behind the move to visit trade shows more often. Sales of their products at such exhibitions go well. Shirin also runs production. She challenges the others to rethink their priorities. She recently asked a colleague whether 7 children weren't enough, and if she shouldn't rather invest more time in the business. In this way she could feed her seven children well and also provide for their education. The women are still unable to make a living from their work, but at least they have taken a step out of absolute poverty.

The "Delaram" centre for women

10 young women in Kabul have just completed a three month course: "Make up and hair styling for brides". Shekila is responsible for make up training and our international colleague, Stacy, for hair styling. All trainees were highly motivated and graduated successfully. Now they will be able to earn money using these newly acquired skills. This includes preparing women for weddings and other important festivities, who can't afford to go to expensive salons.

Our "donate a well" project

It has not only been a hot and dry summer in Germany. Afghanistan is still suffering from a severe drought with crop failures of up to 100% and widespread water shortages.

In our last Shelter Report I included a presentation of our well project. As a result, several donors have

responded generously and the 150th donated well can be built - a great success! I find it fascinating that an international football team from Braunschweig collected the required amount for this particular well. The team consists of young and older men from 13 nations, including Afghanistan. Isn't this a positive contribution to the current discussion about migrants?

Further funding for drinking water projects is urgently required.

Persecuted Christians are returning to Nineveh

A few days ago I received an urgent request for help from our project partners in northern Iraq. Refugees have already begun to return home. They had been driven out by "Islamic State" and then spent several years in refugee camps. What state are their homes in? Most houses are partially or totally destroyed; they have little or no electricity and hardly any drinking water. On top of that there are still mines and other war materials scattered around everywhere. It is astonishing that Christians from the province of Nineveh have plucked up courage to rebuild their lives from scratch.

They need our help. To begin with we want to provide them with basic foodstuffs: flour, eggs, tea, milk, special food for babies etc. This initial aid will cost 110 euros per family, which should last for six to eight weeks.

For those wanting to support project "Nineveh", the project number is 8012.

New publication (not yet available in English): "Back in Kabul"

The book presents the suspense-packed return of Georg Taubmann to Kabul, where he had previously been held hostage.

A central theme is the return to Afghanistan of the Shelter Now aid organisation in 2002, just a few months after the abduction and rescue of eight Shelter Now workers. Book author Eberhard Mühlan and the international director of Shelter Now, Georg Taubmann, look back together on the organisation's 35 eventful years of service.

German paperback

284 pages

15 euros

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Certainly I could write interesting stories from our other projects, such as the Women's Centre, the Primary School, the WASH-projects etc., but we don't have the space in this edition. You will just have to wait for the next Shelter-Report.

On behalf of all those we have been able to reach I wish to express our heartfelt thanks to you, our supporters, and to all those interested in our work. Your support is giving new hope to many. May this continue!

Udo Stolte
and the Shelter Team



How you can help:

Who to help?	What to do?	How many euros?	Name/Project No.
Returnees to Nineveh	Feed one family for 6-8 weeks	110,--	„Niniveh“/ 8012
Women of the association	Finance 30 jars with lid, label, sealing film	42,--	„Women Association“/ 6150
Poor families in Afghanistan	Provide long term drinking water for a family	57,--	„Afghanistan Wells“/ 6402
Poor families in Afghanistan	Provide long term drinking water for 20-30 families	1 200, --	„Afghanistan well donation“/6402

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