

39 Years of Humanitarian Work in the Near and Middle East www.shelter.de



Devastating earthquake in the Paktika and Khost region

Late in the evening of June 21, shortly before 11 p.m., a major earthquake occurred in the Khost and Paktika region. Most people were asleep. Thousands of houses collapsed in seconds, burying many families under the rubble. More than 1 000 people died, about 3 000 were injured, some seriously, and at least 10 000 houses were destroyed. People lost friends and family, parents their children, children their parents.

Udo Stolte's Memory

When I heard the first reports, I realized that the disaster happened in the very area where I had visited the country of Afghanistan for the very first time: In 1992, we started to build a concrete factory there so that people could rebuild their then wardestroyed houses - with roofing material and door and window lintels made of concrete, because there was hardly any wood left, and cutting down the last trees was pointless. Little by little, we built more

factories, so that now about half a million people in the country live under Shelter Now roofs.

What's next?

We decided very quickly that we wanted to help the earthquake victims. Our local employees went to the earthquake area and asked those affected what they would need most urgently. To do this, our colleagues went to the hardest-to-reach areas and villages, since it is precisely those that otherwise often receive no help. It became clear very quickly that we would help 1000 families - that's about 7000 people - initially with food and tents. We started with that immediately.

Perhaps we can also restart the concrete factory in Khost, which has not produced in recent years, so that destroyed houses can be rebuilt. We have already built earthquake-resistant structures in other regions of Afghanistan. We could do the same here.



Funding?

The humanitarian aid we have started costs about 250 000 euros for 1 000 families. We have not yet calculated the construction of houses.



Shelter Now aims to help rebuild destroyed homes.

Life in Afghanistan is becoming increasingly difficult

Since the takeover of the Tailiban a year ago, more and more people in the country suffer from hunger. Many men have lost their jobs - women anyway...

Food is getting scarcer and more expensive, you see more and more people begging on the streets, especially children. People are afraid - on the one hand of arbitrariness of the rulers, on the other hand of not having anything to eat anymore. Institutions have been closed, so that especially the qualified employees have lost their jobs: Journalists, university teachers, employees of the previous government, etc. These people are particularly vulnerable, forced to hide or flee the country.

We also feed hungry families in Kabul and other provinces, in part entirely with the funds that you, our supporters, make available to us, in addition also in cooperation with the WFP, the United Nations World Food Program. This partnership in particular is very efficient: we only have to bear about 7% of the implementation costs here; everything else is paid by the WFP. To explain it more precisely: When we implement a large WFP project, like this year for half a million hungry people, we hire about 200 people for a few months. That costs about 700 000 euros. We only have to contribute a good 50 000 euros, and the WFP pays the rest. The food costs are completely covered by the WFP, so we are talking about a total cost of about 22 million euros.

We can call this a "donation lever". This means that every euro donated to us for this project is worth 440 euros in the end, or finances a food package for 10 families.

This is exactly the project we are finishing. We hope that it can be continued.





2 Images above - Herat - Shelter Now helps WFP distribute food packages.

Image on page 2 - Tents and food packages for earthquake victims in the Paktika and Khost region.



As I write these lines, some of our employees are distributing food packages in Nineveh. In addition, money is given for necessary medical treatments or medicines.

The project is aimed at returnees, more precisely: Christians who had fled from Nineveh before the IS and returned to their homeland in the years after the fall of the IS. The Arabic name for Nineveh is Mosul; this city was one of the two capitals of the "Islamic State" just a few years ago.

At that time, the terrorists had murdered many people, tortured, enslaved and sold women and girls, especially among the Yazidis. We maintain a rehabilitation center for formerly enslaved girls and young women and support a Montessori children's center for orphaned children whose parents were murdered or abducted by the terrorists. The young

women and also the orphans feel at home in both facilities and "find their way back to life here," as one of the leading Yezidis once put it.

The projects presented here are only a part of our work. Further projects will be presented in the next reports. Unfortunately, we are not able to carry out the successful well project at the moment, as we still have too few employees for it. But next year we will continue with it.

We thank you for your interest and support, without your help our work would not be possible.

Your Udo Stolte

with the Shelter Team.



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