

SHELTER-REPORT

September 2023



Dear friends and partners of **Shelter Now**,

We are not giving up so easily! News from Afghanistan have been unpopular for a long time now. If anything at all about this country appears in the media, it is bad news - and it seems to be getting worse and worse. Otherwise, Afghanistan seems to be forgotten.

But we are still here! We had to close down some of our projects by order of the current rulers, but others are still running - and we are even starting new ones:



SHELTER

Shelter Now — Rebuilding Lives and Restoring Hope

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



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What moves us !

Now Abad mother-child dental clinic in Herat relaunched

We have been running a mother-child dental clinic in the city of Herat for several years; it had to move to a new building. This required basic renovation work. These have been completed now. On September 3, there was the opening ceremony, attended by all the official representatives of the city and Herat province and, of course, all the Shelter staff and the first patients. The mother-child dental clinic is embedded in the "Now Abad Clinic", a hospital in one of the poorer districts of Herat, where many internally displaced persons live.

In our clinic, pregnant women, mothers and children are given dental care, i.e. examined, treated if necessary and taught and trained in dental care/mouth hygiene.

In addition, a children's program is conducted in the surrounding schools. Still this year:

- 500 schoolchildren receive dental hygiene training from our dental staff.
- the teeth of 500 girls and 500 boys will be examined and, if necessary, the kids will receive a referral for free dental treatment at the Mother and Child Dental Clinic. They will also all receive a dental care kit.
- 50 teachers receive dental training with further training and supervision and become "dental health teachers". They will then conduct dental health training for 1,500 students.



Against the hunger



„As of September 2023, Somalia, Afghanistan, and Niger were among the countries whose populations suffered most severely from acute hunger globally. In Somalia, more than 90 percent of the country's total population was affected by an acute hunger crisis, while in Afghanistan, the figure was 88 percent."

Meanwhile, 29.2 million people in the country require food assistance - a frightening number!

Given this need, it seems little, but at least we have been able to provide food to more than 90,000 families in the last two years. Statistically, there are seven people per family. For us, every single person counts.

[There is a short clip about this on our website.](#)

And another new dental clinic:

Finally: The rural dental clinic in Shekiban can start.

Shekiban is a large, central village a short hour's drive west of the city of Herat. For several years we have been planning to open a dental clinic there; because the often impoverished villagers cannot afford the long distance to the city of Herat. After three years of planning, construction, equipping the building with dental chairs, etc., the time has finally come: we can start. The most difficult thing was to get the necessary permissions from the new rulers....

As I write this, interviews are underway with the professional staff to be hired. That should be done in a few days, so treatments will begin here next week as well. If all goes well, the same program as in the Now Abad clinic will be implemented.

Kurdistan: Children's center is being expanded

Last March, our Shelter Now Germany team visited Kurdistan and all ongoing projects there. The children's center in the Essiyan refugee camp shocked us: it was bursting at the seams. It had started six years ago with 40 children - orphans after the IS terror. Now about 250, sometimes up to 300 children come to this so popular center, actually a "nice problem", if only there would be enough space. So for the time being they come in shifts: one week half of the kids, the next week the other half. But even for this, the center is too small.

Now we have applied to the camp management for an extension - and got it. (It is important to know that this children's center is the only one in the camp. The approximately 16,000 internally displaced Yazidis have been living here for almost nine years. All the children under nine were born here and have never known anything else except life in the camp).



A place inside the camp has been found and - while I am writing these lines - heavy machines are preparing the place. There, besides a sports field, permanent buildings and playground facilities will be built. In addition, the current children's center is being renovated and also expanded. During this time, it will be closed - much to the chagrin of the children. By the way: More female employees have to be hired as teachers. We are all really happy. Only one small problem remains. The additional money has to be provided. You can contribute - even with small sums.



Here come a few quotes from the center:

Girl:

"Hello madam (she means the director Mrs Helen), the children ask every day: when will the new center open? And full of excitement they say: We will have new games and even more changes and a new playground. Also: we will finally be able to play soccer properly on the new field."

Sally (a teacher):

"I am totally excited to see what the center will look like when it is finished. I'm sure it will be beautiful because the square has a touch of God in it, and because God is beautiful and loves beauty. The children are just as excited. They are asking when the center will reopen because they miss it so much - and honestly, I miss working there too. We thank God and everyone who supports us; the children will enjoy this wonderful new place every day."

Helen (the center's director):

"This was exactly my dream - and today I see it become reality. With all my eagerness, longing and gratitude to God, I am waiting for it to be completed. And I am also waiting for the kids' laughter and the glow in their eyes when they see the playground with the new playground equipment. Thank you."

When everything is ready, programs that were interrupted because of the lack of space, such as the Montessori class and some art and music activities, can also be restarted. Also, the necessary space will finally be there for soccer training (200 square meters). We have had a coach for some time: from Argentina, of course!

So things are continuing. We would like to thank all of you who support us.

Your 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 donate for:

20 €

Dental Clinics Herat and Surroundings

6500

an Afghan

Screening and hygiene training

105 €

Food Relief Afghanistan

6000

a family

a food package

55 €

Montessori Children's Center

8011

a Yezidi child

six months in the new children's center.



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