

## The current situation of our projects in Afghanistan in November 2024

Dear friends,

We would like to report on the progress of our projects. All projects are running under the current conditions of the de facto government. Even though the authorities keep causing problems with the authorisation of projects, our teams in Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif and Andkhoy are not giving up! They negotiate with great skill until their goal is achieved. Every approved project gives the people in the affected areas hope that we will continue to support them to the best of our ability.

The living situation throughout the country has deteriorated even further. According to UN organisations, two thirds of the Afghan population are suffering from hunger. Late summer is traditionally a very labour-intensive time: crops have to be harvested and mud houses made ready for winter. In many families, children have to contribute to the livelihood by herding sheep and goats for other families, making mud bricks or working in agriculture. Girls work in carpet making. They receive a very low wage for this, but without their help it is even more difficult to survive. Many children no longer make it to school - even though they are so enthusiastic about learning and dream of becoming a doctor, teacher or pilot.



*All children are happy about new writing materials*

In our small Ferdawsi camp school near Mazar-e-Sharif, some schoolchildren are therefore absent from time to time. Despite their work, however, many of them still make it to school on time. It's exciting there right now: the



*A competition between girls and boys. Many prizes are distributed*



*The teachers need additional teaching material for the 6th grade after a training course*

new school building is being erected in the schoolyard. The boundary wall around the grounds is taking shape.

The school year ends in mid/end December - then winter courses at this school will bridge the almost three months of holidays.

The OASE team has done a great deal to support the school development councils of another 15 large schools we have built in Mazar-e-Sharif: training courses have been organised and new ideas for activities have been developed to help the schools work more successfully. Next year, we will probably also support other schools that need this kind of advice and initiative. In Andkhoy, the VUSAF team has been working on reactivating the school development councils of 20 schools.

Our projects in Andkhoy and the neighbouring districts of Qurghan, Khancharbagh and Qaramqul continue to be a major challenge. Our years of support have been very favourably and gratefully received by the local people. From June to September 2023, teachers were even allowed to hold the EC courses for girls up to year 12 in a private house. But now this is also coming to an end. The rigid laws against women are also enforced here by representatives of the "Ministry for the Strengthening of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice". This ministry was the "Ministry of

Women's Affairs" before the Taliban came to power - and is now completely directed against them!

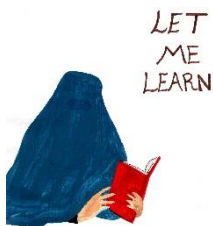
From time to time, however, there are small - minimal - improvements for the worst-affected girls and women: In Andkhoy: A temporarily appointed hardliner was transferred back at the insistence of the local government. In his opinion, all women in the village should have been accompanied by a "mahram", a male member of their family, when shopping in the bazaar. At least that could now be avoided. How else were women without a healthy husband or son supposed to feed themselves?



*Events with lectures, games and singing are also organised*

The girls are allowed to study until the end of their 6th year at state schools. Many of them have joined the courses at our education centre, where they receive qualified tuition in the courses for 4th to 6th grade. In particular, they learn to read and speak the national language Dari well (at home they usually speak Uzbeki or Turkmeni), learn maths, science and religion. Some take English courses or even with the help of a computer. When they finish 6th grade, they are given textbooks for grades 7 and 8 to take home to continue their studies.

We have set up prep. courses at many state schools that lack specialised teachers. Depending on what is needed, subjects such as maths, science or even Dari are taught. The relevant teacher at the school is trained as an assistant.



The women centres are also very busy again! The girls learning there were previously illiterate and are discovering with great interest that they can learn more and more

and also cope with numbers! They are also very proud of their skills in embroidery, knitting, tailoring and sewing! Some of them already provide their families with clothes.

We recently organised two large food distributions in Andkhoy and the surrounding area. Part of the measure was that 260 families with children also received 20 books and



40 families received painting materials. The enthusiasm was great! 18 social workers visited the families to give support with reading and painting. The older girls in particular who can no longer attend school and are only at home doing housework and weave carpets were reflecting on their dramatically worsened situation. They were able to express their feelings artistically. Flowers, animals and comic figures were painted - but also pictures that say a lot about their lives. This project gave hope to lots of people and we would like to continue this help. We need around 280 EUR per family for two food distributions, books or painting materials (including the costs for the social workers and administrative costs). Perhaps you would like to support this?

With best wishes

Tanja Khorrami and Marga Flader



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