



Catalyzing Transformational Development

Visit: www.jdainternational.org
E-mail: info@jdainternational.org.uk

Sultan Abraham School Dedication June 16, 2004

School construction began in December, 2003 and the new facility will be used by 2000 students, both boys and girls. It will serve 10 villages in northern Afghanistan, one and a half hours north and west of Mazar-i-Sharif. It was built by the men of these communities, together with JDA Afghanistan staff overseeing material purchase, delivery, logistics and construction.

The students and community lined up and applauded as Ethel Frogosa, JDA Country Director for Afghanistan and Bob Hedlund, JDA Founder and CEO and other invited dignitaries walked through this human corridor to the school entrance. Speeches were made by various officials and documents signed.



The building has 13 rooms, which includes teachers and administration rooms, and is furnished with desks and chairs for a cost of \$86,000. The desks are made for two students to sit together, but because of the number of students, each will seat three. There will be three sessions of school each day in order to accommodate all the children. It is designed and structurally built for two floors in hopes of future funding to allow for a second floor.

Sultan Abraham is the fifth school that JDA has completed in northern Afghanistan, and JDA is seeking out new sources of funding to continue to provide schools for Afghan children.

The girls were all wearing new uniforms, thanks to the efforts of a woman's group from a church in Arvada, Colorado. They raised more than \$12,000 to supply the school with uniforms and equipment which in turn, gave employment to twenty-four seamstresses from the area.



Bob reflects, "It was a humbling experience. As I walked through the line of children, I had tears in my eyes, I was so thankful to be able to play a part in building a school for them, and fulfilling the dreams of the many men and women that asked us to help build schools for the future leaders of their country. They want their children to replace weapons with a pencil and a book."



... And this is how a new school is celebrated!

A classroom was converted into a makeshift kitchen for the preparation of the celebration dinner. "Osh" (rice pilaf with meat and carrots) is prepared in 7 large fire pits. A plate will serve 4 people who will eat out of it together using their right hand. The table is set on the floor, the usual custom for most rural Afghan people.



Small Businesses, Clean Water and Health

JDA's Micro Credit has made a difference in many lives, especially for women, raising children alone. Small loans have transformed poverty stricken households into centers of creative, income generating businesses, providing for not just the necessities, but for improved health, continuing education and hope for the future.

Our staff from Kokand in the Ferghana Valley, have begun to introduce their successful SODIS program (solar water disinfection) to Karakalpakistan. National staff are being trained to teach the simple technique to school children who have proven to be open to new ideas and effective in motivating their families to implement the system at home. Our tested program has been shown to have a significant impact on the health of communities.

The Minister of Health from Afghanistan has shown such an interest that he will visit JDA in Uzbekistan in July to discuss how the program can be expanded to rural areas of northern Afghanistan. In this region, according to UNICEF, one in 4 children under the age of 5, die every year from water borne diseases. This program would have a significant impact on the health of Afghani children. Currently, the SODIS funding is only available for expansion in Uzbekistan.

The families living in the rural communities of Uzbekistan and northern Afghanistan need your help in developing their capacity for education, jobs, clean water, and health. They need our assistance now, but not forever. You can help now, when they need it the most, by giving financially or by donating your time and skills.

Contact Us!

Joint Development Associates International, Inc.
569 32 Road, Suite 7B, PMB 248
Grand Junction, Colorado 81504
T: (+1) 888 759 4071
F: (+1) 800 779 1703

Joint Development Associates International (UK) Ltd.
PO Box 47, Hitchin SG5 3ZU
Registered Charity No. 1095023; Company Registration No. 4560044
T: (+44) (0) 870 765 4930
F: (+44) (0) 870 133 6389