



Catalyzing Transformational Development

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## Spring in Afghanistan—New Technology for Alternative Crops



Most farmers use two oxen to plow their fields. This small “no-till” tractor was imported from China and we’ve been demonstrating its use in planting winter wheat. Our cost for the two wheeled tractor is about \$1600, and with the attached tiller/seeders \$2000. An oxen team costs \$4000 and they need to be fed and cared for year-round.



Winter wheat

This unit would have incredible impact, allowing the small farmers to compete economically with wheat, soybeans and flax. It prepares the soil and plants seeds at the same time and significantly reduces their labor costs.

The farmers are amazed to see their field tilled and planted in one day; a process that takes 11 days with oxen. We are in the process of buying a couple of more units which will also include a reaper, for harvesting wheat.

Afghans everywhere are hard at work developing their county in education, infrastructure, and agriculture.

These are the everyday Afghans—who you do not hear about in the news—who want their children to be educated, who want to be proud of their country and its contribution to the rest of the world.

We continue to work along side of them, counting it a privilege to be an influence in the development of northern Afghanistan.

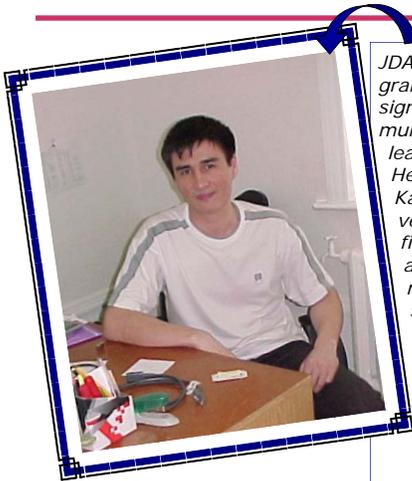
Your contributions make this possible. All of us thank you for your continued support.

Robert C. Hedlund, CEO and Founder



Construction has begun on the 2nd floor of the Sultan Ibrahim School. These classrooms will be used exclusively for the girls!

## Meet Some of Our Uzbekistan Staff



JDA's micro credit programs continue to have a significant impact in communities under Ernazar's leadership and expertise. He graduated from the Karakalpak State University with a degree in finance and studied for another year in Germany after earning a scholarship. His wife, Gulazia, is continuing her education to become a pediatrician. They have a one year old son.

Before working for JDA, Nail worked for the Aleutian62 airplane repair plant in Tashkent, ensuring a safe working environment and clean emissions. We, however, value his training as a mechanical engineer. He administers and oversees the technical aspects of well drilling, pumps, filtering water and building construction. He and his wife have two sons, 21 and 12.



For 10 years, Artik has been maintaining all of our vehicles, driving staff to appointments and transporting teams on road trips all over Uzbekistan and the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States). He and his wife have 4 children from 9 to 16 years old. He enjoys reading and learning to play guitar.

Firyuza makes sure that airline tickets are reserved and purchased, that visas are applied for. She travels with teams, translating and ensuring that all the logistics of their stay in Uzbekistan are taken care of. For her, JDA is her family. She is learning Italian and enjoys meeting people from other countries and traveling.



Valodya is an electrician and his skills are so highly valued that some staff refer to him as "our hero". In addition to keeping our power up to 220 and constant, he oversees construction and remodeling of our offices in Uzbekistan and Afghanistan. He is a first time grandfather to twins, a boy and a girl.



Irina is our cashier—an important job as almost 100% of our purchases are conducted in cash. Uzbekistan's largest bill is worth less than \$1, so transactions often involve "bundles" of money. She and her husband have a son, Nikita, who is 2 years old. Irina has passed on her love of reading to her son who loves books!



Nozila is an assistant to the CEO. In addition to administrative tasks and translation she designs JDA brochures, the Annual Report and keeps our website updated. She graduated with a degree in economics, but dreams of furthering her education in the area of development. She's been accepted to a number of programs abroad and is now pursuing scholarships.

One of the newest members of our staff, Andrey keeps us connected to the internet, email running efficiently and files organized. He graduated from the Tashkent University of Internet Technology and spends his free time learning about the latest computer technology.



Lena began working for JDA 7 years ago and has done a variety of jobs. When we had no work for her, she volunteered! Now she administers our office efficiently and makes sure that all of us take time together, to celebrate birthdays and holidays. She continues to study English and is currently learning about video production. She and her husband have a son, Timothy who is 3.

More staff to meet in our next newsletter!

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