



## Wheelchair Distributions of JDA Shakhrisabz



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### Initiative

In the small city town of Shahrissabz and the surrounding districts of one of the poorer regions of Uzbekistan, JDA has sought to bring relief to the disabled and their families. Since November of 2002 JDA has been in contact with the Mobility Project of the United States, a company who gathers donated wheelchairs in the states, refurbishes them like new and then comes to overseas sites to seat the disabled for a specialized chair. After corresponding with Mobility Project and participating with them during a one of their distribution in Afghanistan an agreement was reached to bring Mobility Project and a container load of wheelchairs and other medical accessories to Shahrissabz.

### Challenge

To bring the chairs worth \$90,000-100,000 dollars, \$15,000 would have to be raised to cover the cost of the container and bringing Mobility Specialists. Finding the neediest disabled and getting them out to the distribution site amidst cultural shame of bringing the disabled out in public would also be a difficulty to overcome.

### Results

US AID/Counterpart International paid for the shipping of the 40ft. container and by the third week in September the container had cleared customs. In the first week of October JDA in collaboration with Mobility Project and a local NGO who found some of true destitute disabled, 155 wheelchairs were distributed and recipients from eight of the 15 districts of the Qashqadaryo Region of Uzbekistan were seated in specialized chairs. One man who oversees a group of villages said, “I have been trying to get one wheelchair for the past 20 years for the disabled people in my jurisdiction and thanks to JDA my people have received 7 wheelchairs in one week”.