



October 2015

Afghanistan October 2015 Trip Report

Dear Board Members,

On September 23, 2015 I arrived in Kabul, Afghanistan. Due to the upcoming Eid holiday, I went directly from the airport to the bank to get money for our Qurbani program and monthly school expenses. I was also able to convert the money to purchase animal livestock the following day.

The next day, which was the day of Arafat, we went to the Nakhas Company (animal livestock market). I noticed that this year, I saw less live stock in the market compared to last year and the prices were much higher. I also noticed the transaction fee for sheep and cattle had been doubled for some reason. After a long day, we were able to purchase 38 cows and 70 sheep. All the cows were transported (with a few days food supply) to the Paghman School and all the sheep (with few days food supply) were transported to the Kabul Diwan Beghi School. Later that day, we went to the butcher market to sign a contract with the local butchers to assist Paghman and Kabul for the next few days. We also made arrangements for employee transportation and meat distribution to the various locations.

After our Eid prayer on the first day of Eid, I was able to visit 12 needy families with Dr. Rajab and provided them with some money to commemorate Eid. Unfortunately, the situation of the economy is getting worse since my previous trip during June of this year. The economy is in very bad shape especially with unemployment at around 50%. Most people who had a job in small factories in Kabul have been laid off and most of those small factories are now closed. In addition, many people didn't even receive their paychecks. The people on the streets are desperately looking for any kind of job. The rate of crime and kidnapping are rising. Based on the street talk I heard, police are involved in most of these crimes. The most tragic situation, which is very visible on the streets, are the drug users. Based on my own observation, I would say the amount has doubled – including women. The garbage situation is even worsen with large amounts of it scattered everywhere. It's to the point that the whole city of Kabul smells horribly due to the garbage. On top of all that, people are sick and hospitals are overcrowded to the point that hundreds of people are laying down in front of the hospitals.

Based on my conversation with the common people there, these new governments are not capable of doing anything and they prefer the Karzai government even though they had a bad experience with them too. The electricity is still a big problem in the city and people are suffering from their expensive bills. Most provinces near Kabul are under Taliban's control and during the evening time, you don't see people on streets as usual. Thousands of people, especially the young, are leaving the



country with so many difficulties. Some make it to Iran or Turkey and some lose their life in the process. Unfortunately, I don't see any solution coming from the government.

Bottom line, these trips to Afghanistan are always filled with sad memories and hopelessness. The good news is that Arezo, one of the students who is currently on her 4th year of college, received a scholarship from the Turkish government and inshallah she will go for her Master's Degree in few months hopefully.

Please see below for a highlight of my trip activities:

Qurbani Program

38 cows and 72 sheep were distributed to major refugee camps in Paghman, Maidan Wardak, Barikab Kapisa, needy people on the streets of Kabul, orphanage centers, students and their families, our Qurbani workers, and our TCOW staff. Nearly 6,500 families benefited from our meat distributions! We will have the video soon and will be played on TV.

Total cost for Qurbani program = \$39,000



HRF Qurbani:

I would like to thank Homaira Rahman Foundation for their \$2K check we received in support of our Qurbani program. We purchased 10 sheep on their behalf and distributed to the needy. Thank you HRF for your collaboration and working together with us.



School Programs:

Fortunately after the Eid holiday, I was able to spend some valuable time with our students, but unable to take them on a field trip as I promised last time due to Kabul's suicide bombing situation and instability. Students and teachers are doing very well as far as their academic programs go. Recently, we had to postpone the group health checkup because of road safety situations. Most of the mothers are very scared of their children being transported by bus to the hospital near Afshar Kabul. I advised each of them individually to see a doctor and that we will pay for the fees and prescriptions. Overall, all students are doing very well.



Teachers Day Program:

We celebrated Teachers Day in all the schools separately during the 2nd week of my trip and all teachers received \$2,000 Afghani as a gift from TCOW organization. Currently, we have 35 teachers in all 6 schools. During the celebrations, all the students received \$500 Afghani each to purchase shoes. Also, all of our staff and workers received cash for the Eid holiday.

Student shoes cost = \$5,000

Teachers and staff cost = \$1,500

Total = \$6,500

| TCOW Schools | #Students | #Teachers | #Staff /Worker | Total |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| Kabul | 117 | 4 | 6 | 93 |
| Diwan Beghi | 115 | 8 | 5 | 128 |
| Paghman | 131 | 9 | 8 | 148 |
| Maidan Wardak | 279 | 10 | 4 | 292 |
| Sajida Kabul | 35 | 1 | 1 | 37 |
| Paghman Tailoring | 25 | 1 | | 26 |
| Total | 702 | 33 | 25 | 758 |
| Family Support | 90 | | 1 | 91 |



Raqim Foundation Merit Certificates:

The Raqim Certificates had a huge impact on all students. During my trip, students kept asking me when we will distribute the certificates and were very happy upon receiving them. This year, 74 students and 6 teachers received Raqim Awards Certificates. The school presented an appreciation certificate and an Afghanistan chapan to Mr. G. Farouq Achikzad, which I pass on soon to him. On behalf of The Children of War, I would like to thank Raqim Foundation for providing yearly awards to our top students of The Children of War.

Total cost of this program = \$3,000





Family Sponsorship Program:

During this trip, I was able to visit over 25 families who are receiving financial aid benefit on a monthly basis by our sponsorship program. Unfortunately, they are dealing with high rents, electricity bills and some disability issues. With some instructions that I had from some of our donors, we helped them with some extra cash during the Eid holiday to purchase new clothes and help them for anything they may need. I also interviewed some families of our students in Paghman and Kabul who are in need of some financial support. I would like to thank the Sattar Family Foundation- Dr. Hadia Ashraf, Hamidi family, Kamal and Laila Tabibi for sending additional money and supporting this program.

Total cost = \$3500



Kabul school Rent contract:

Every 6 months we review our school rent contract with the landlord. This month, we paid off six months of our Kabul school rent, which was a total of \$2,150.

Water Well Drinking Project:

We found 3 new locations and 2 mosques for some donors who requested to start water wells. Hopefully this project will be completed in next few months.





Visit with Maidan Wardak Elder Association and school staff:

We had a meeting with the elders and school staff of the Maidan Wardak School. This meeting was very positive and solved many issues we had in the past and also reviewed the construction of the wall and water well in the school area. Hopefully this project will begin next month.



Imam Bukhari Orphanage Center:

I visited the Imam Bukhari orphanage center in Kabul and received a very warm welcome from the 273 orphans. This orphanage is a private school and ran by a group of college teachers and some businessmen. We were able to distribute 600 kilos of meat to these students and their families and also provided additional meat that was saved in their school freezer for future use. I also gave an additional \$500 Eidy gift to all the students and teachers.





Sajida Literacy Training Center:

I always do enjoy so much to see young and old women student seeking education with so much passion. This literacy and basic health classes are very successful and doing very well. All students also received cash Eid Gift to celebrate with their family.



Kunduz displaced family Support:

Mariam is a disabled college student in Kunduz. She had been supported by the Children of War for many years. She left Kunduz to Kabul due to recent war in Kunduz and with her help we had been able to support some displaced family from Kunduz with cash money during her short stay in Kabul.



This concludes my brief report on my activities during this recent trip.

Thank you all for your support and donations to The Children of War. Without your help, none of these successes would have been possible.

Thank you,

Tarin Bayan

The Children of War