



Taking the Schools to the Children

In May 2009, private donations (“Khyirat”) were collected to build four tent schools for Internally Displaced People (IDP) residing in camps in Kabul. The generous donations came from Americans and the Afghan Diaspora communities residing in Southern California and Germany.

The majority of the IDP children are unable to attend public schools due to the lack of proper identification cards (tazkera). A whole community is unable to receive a government funded education. AEBT successfully created privately funded schools in those communities that needed them most.

The Afghans that live in the camps are mostly former refugees who have either been forced out of or left refugee camps located in Iran and Pakistan. In addition, other residents in the camps include internally displaced people (IDP) from areas within Afghanistan, such as the opium rich province of Helmand.

Two camps were chosen for the creation of the schools, Chaman-e-Babarak (Taimanee/Khairkhana) and Char-rahi-Qambar IDP Camps.

The following steps were taken for the creation of the tent schools in the camps:

- A needs assessment was conducted with representation from both camps as well as through cooperation and guidance of Integrated Approaches for Community Development organization, Ms. Fariba Ludin and Ms. Zarghoona Amini.
- Authorization for setting up the schools were obtained from the Ministry of Education (MOE) and through Mr. Najibullah Kamran, MOE, Director of Kabul City Education.

Conditions were laid out by the Ministry of Education in order for the schools to be authorized to be built. It required that the schools be affiliated with a neighboring public school. In addition, teachers would be supervised by and must report to authorities located in the neighboring public school.

Salaries for each teacher was determined and paid for by AEBT at a rate of \$100.00 (dollars) per month for 12 months.



WHERE

Chaman-e-Babarak
(Taimanee/Khairkhana) and
Char-rahi-Qambar IDP
Camps

WHEN

May-June 2009

PROJECT LEADERS

Nazi Etemadi
(AEBT Board)

Barry Malyar
(AEBT Afghanistan Director)

COST

\$1200 per teacher for 4
teachers, for one
year=\$4800

DONORS

Private donations

IMPACT

Creation of four tent schools
for 300 children

Disbursement of 6 books per
student for a total of 1800
books



“As of May 29, 2009, the school in Chamn-e-Babrak camp had both male and female teachers teaching in such conditions as to having nothing but a tent over their heads and a blackboard to write on”

Four teachers were hired for the two schools. School was planned to go immediately in effect around the end of May, beginning of June through the end of the school year in May 2010.

During the time the tents were built, three months of the school year were lost. However, funds have been appropriated through the next AEBT team visit in May 2010.

Criteria from the Ministry of Education included that teachers from within the MOE system be hired for instruction in the schools. In addition, the teachers would follow the curriculum laid out in the MOE system. A Memorandum of Understanding is being drafted by AEBT regarding the criteria that were raised by Wahdat and will be agreed upon for implementation and completion at both camps.

The benefits of affiliating the camp schools with local schools are immense. Proper supervision of the schools are enforced by the neighboring schools. Moreover, the schools are able to receive a substitute in case teachers are absent.



In the Char-rahi-Qambar camp, the Wahdat school for girls was designated as the neighboring public school. In Chamn-e-Babrak (Taimanee/ Khaikhana) camp, the Tajwar Sultana school was designated as the neighboring public school. Mohammad Sharif, the first teacher from Tajwar Sultana attended to the children the first day the school tents went up. Mr. Sharif showed initiative and enthusiasm in teaching to the children. In addition, Mr. Sharif was asked to bring another female teacher from Tajwar Sultana to attend to the girls. Ms. Fariba and Ms. Shekayba were both hired to teach to the girls.

As of May 29, 2009, the school in Chamn-e-Babrak camp had both male and female teachers teaching in such conditions as to having nothing but a tent over their heads and a blackboard to write on. Students were sitting on the ground on the bare earth and dust. In June 2009, the school received the necessary mattresses for the students to sit on during class.

As of June 17, 2009, all tent projects setting up have been completed and Char-Rahi Qambar will begin receiving teachers from Wahdat School as well.

“Consistency and continuity are necessary for a project to be successful”



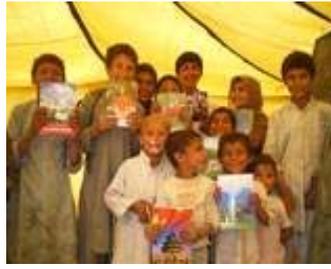
Setting up of the tent school



Tent school completely up



Inside tent



Approximately 1800 books for first graders have been purchased and distributed to students. Ministry of Education ran out of books so we had to print & purchase them ourselves. We purchased some school supplies but hoping that more will be donated in the coming days as we couldn't meet all that high demand for the children.

Strict enforcement of the attendance system needs to be adopted. Students need to be consistent in attending classes, otherwise disciplinary action will be taken. Consistency and continuity are necessary for a project to be successful. Representatives of the camps and parents of the children were informed of the requirements of them and the children as well as the incredible impact the schools can have in their camps.

AEBT representative in Kabul, Mr. Malyar has agreed with the Principal of Wahdat School that a Memorandum of Understanding will be drafted and approved by both parties (including the AEBT Board). The MOU will outline AEBT expectations from the school as well as allocation for teacher salaries to be paid by Afghan Education for a Better Tomorrow. Teacher salaries will be paid on a monthly basis. In addition, a quarterly report may be required by AEBT or otherwise decided by both parties from the schools involved.



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It was recommended that the tent schools remain at the camps for the bulk of the school year. Students need the primary education and discipline that will prepare them to attend public schools later on. Following the first school year, if the local schools decide to move the children into their own schools, there would be no objection from AEBT. Moreover, the tents and school furniture will become the property of the neighborhood public school.

We extend our special recognition and appreciation to the following entities for their cooperation and active support.

The Lamia Afghan Foundation (John & Jan Bradley) for their introduction & coordination to great suppliers as mentioned below.

Armada Afghan, Inc. (Brian Shahkarimi) for providing two tents (one for boys and the other for girls) in the Char-Rahi-Qambar IDP Camp along with 4 folding black writing boards.

“..they have a better future by attending school and the education instills self-confidence..”



Global Development Corp. (GDC) (James Tomecsek) for providing two tents (one for boys and the other for girls), in the Chaman-e-Babrak (Taimanee/Khairkhana) IDP Camp along with school supplies through the coordination of Lamia Afghan Foundation.

ACLS LLC (Shawn Kelley & Hamid Halim) for providing floorings, one replacement tent as one of our earlier tents got blown away with the recent heavy winds in Kabul; furnishings, such as 48 mattresses for children to sit on (12 per tent); 2 chairs per tent with one each locking desk for teachers, coordinated through Lamia Afghan Foundation.

We're indebted to Lamia Foundation and all the abovementioned entities for providing such extremely valuable commodities for a wonderful cause. This is all done with partnerships and once the schools are set up and running, a sign for each camp bearing those that assisted us will be reflected.

In conclusion, the relief team was successful in providing the educational tools necessary for the future of our young IDP generation at least in 2 camps. Instead of these children wasting their lives looking for garbage in the streets or become beggars, they have a better future by attending school and the education instills self-confidence in them and hopefully someday we can furnish them with vocational skills necessary so they could make living for themselves and families with the right skills and tools.

We have touched and rendered relief to some small number of people and made a huge difference in their daily lives. Our mission was accomplished through team work. We still have some minor needs in these camps and if anyone is interested in helping out with some donations to complete the necessity for these camps.



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