

Repatriation and Resettlement in Afghanistan

Categories: School Rehabilitation/ Hygiene Education/ Community Partnership

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School Rehabilitation

Community Assists Construction of New Schools in Surkh Parsa District



Above: Tripartite agreement meeting.

JEN recently signed a tripartite agreement with the Department of Education (DoE) officer and the School Management Committee (SMC) in the Surkh Parsa district, to build schools in the area. Both the DoE officer and the SMC expressed their appreciation for JEN's hygiene education outreach programs in the district and were excited that JEN was also going to begin the construction of new schools in the area as well.

At the meeting, we explained JEN's vision, mission, and goals. Together, we had a long discussion about the construction. The SMC suggested hiring local community members as laborers in JEN's construction projects. The local residents do not have a lot of income, and the community would prosper from the new jobs the construction would create. We told them that we would ask the construction companies to hire local residents as skilled and unskilled laborers.

Everyone in attendance at the tripartite signing appreciated JEN's WASH, Non WASH, and hygiene education programs in Surkh Parsa district. The SMC also promised that they will help and assist JEN in terms of construction activities.

Hygiene Education

Global Handwashing Day Celebration

On October 15th, JEN collaborated with the Department of Education and five schools and their local communities in the Parwan Province to celebrate Global Handwashing Day. Global Handwashing Day was established by the UN in 2008 to promote correct handwashing methods.

JEN held events at five schools. The events were designed so that the students could learn sanitary facts, as well as the importance of putting those facts into practice, while having fun. The day included activities songs, skits, role-plays, quizzes, and a contest featuring pictures of hand washing, which the students drew as part of their summer homework.

From the feedback of this first event, we at JEN learned a lot and aim to create an even better Global Hand Washing day event next year, so that children can become more familiar with sanitation facts, put sanitary habits into practice, and improve their health condition.



Above: Students practicing correct handwashing technique.

COUNTRY: Parwan, AFGHANISTAN

Community Partnership

Local Community Contributes to School



Above: The newly constructed Qalai Nasro Boys Middle School in Bagram.

Since last April, JEN has rebuilt twenty-three schools in Bagram, a Province of Parwan, and Jabul Safaj District. Before reconstruction, one of the schools, Qalai Nasro Boys Middle School in Bagram, did not have a schoolhouse or a water closet. Since there was no schoolhouse, a nearby mosque volunteered its facilities. However, there were no desks or chairs in the mosque and the students had to sit on the ground to take lessons. Moreover, there were not enough teachers and lecture rooms to adequately teach the six hundred and ten students enrolled at the school. Due to a lack of space, some of the students had to attend lectures outside. To improve the students' school environment, JEN constructed six new school rooms, four rest rooms, and a hand-wash station with a water storage compartment. In addition, JEN also added a blackboard, desks, and chairs to every classroom.

After the reconstruction, the school's steering committee started to handle the facilities' operation and maintenance. They voluntarily took additional steps to improve the students' educational environment and asked for the local residents' cooperation to make an external wall around the school, a water channel between the school and the neighboring region, and to plant flowers and trees on the new school grounds. Such initiative by the local community encouraged others to also take care

of their children's schools. Furthermore, it suggests that the operation of the school and further efforts to improve the students' educational environment will continue to be conducted by the community in the future.

Hygiene Education

Hygiene Education Training for Teachers

In February, JEN held hygiene education training for 494 teachers at thirty-two primary, middle and high schools in Surkh Parsa and Shikh Ali district in Parwan Prefecture, for three days. Teachers were taught the significance of teaching hygiene, water and food hygiene, and various practices such as how to wash hands, cut nails, brush teeth, and to make oral rehydration solution (ORS), which is used to prevent dehydration caused by diarrhea.

The training was carried out in the form of participatory workshops including activities such as group work and discussion. The teachers taking part in the training showed great interest in hygiene education, asked a number of questions, and actively participated in the discussions. After the three day training, it was evident that the teachers' knowledge of hygiene education and their ability to practice it had improved. The training ended with the teachers' commitment to pass on what they learned from their training to their students.



Above: Teachers making oral rehydration solution.

Focusing on Forgotten Peoples and Regions

Not all areas in need receive media attention. JEN implements its assistance programs even in regions where there has been little or no media coverage, especially for vulnerable populations. (Project Management Policy)

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