

## RESETTLEMENT AND REPATRIATION IN AFGHANISTAN

Categories: Hygiene Education/Education Support/Community Development

### BE A PART OF THE PROJECT: PARTNER WITH JEN AND CONTRIBUTE

<http://www.jen-npo.org/en/contribute>

#### Hygiene Education

#### Mobile Cinema Brings Change to Community

Humanitarian aid work most often consists of long-term changes within communities for the benefit of the people. With this notion in mind, one of JEN's primary missions in Afghanistan is to implement projects that emphasize proper hygiene practices. The lack of attention to simple hygiene practices – such as washing hands – can often lead to illnesses that can in fact be easily prevented.

JEN's hygiene program in Afghanistan is funded by Japan Platform (JPF) and focuses on training teachers and mullahs (Muslim men or women who have studied the sacred law) about hygiene practices that they can then pass on to the rest of the community.

In addition, JEN has recently implemented a strategy known as "Mobile Cinemas," where field officers show films in schools regarding hygiene practices. Such mobile cinemas often target younger students, who are typically more engaged. In one of the films, the protagonist, Mina, emphasizes that one can maintain a healthy lifestyle through proper cleanness.

In fact, the Mobile Cinema project has been a huge success. For example, a JEN staff member observed an eight year old child reminding his friend to wash his apple before he ate it. As a matter of fact, Mina warned the students to always wash their fruits before consuming it.

This project has not only influenced young students, but a wide range of community members alike. A 64 year old man claimed that whenever he eats, he always remembers Mina. "She speaks to me and reminds me to wash my hands," he said.



*Above: Students and teachers watching a Mobile Cinema show in Bibi Ayesha Siddiqa Middle School*

Following an assessment of the success of the program, JEN has found that within three months, the ratio of students with poor hygiene practices decreased from 12.66% to 7.79%. Although the Mobile Cinema was a short-term project, we are looking to continue this program in order to further spread knowledge on proper hygiene practices to a wider range within the national population.

#### Education Assistance

#### Parwan Orphanage School Receives Supplies

On November 18, 2013, JEN donated approximately 2,422 writing instruments that were donated by the Chikuma International Exchange Association to over 160 students at the Parwan Orphanage School located in Charikar, Parwan Province in Afghanistan.

A JEN senior field officer visited the orphanage to deliver the writing supplies, which included notebooks, pencils, pens, erasers, and rulers. The leftover materials are currently being held in storage for prospective students

**COUNTRY: AFGHANISTAN**

Although the Ministry of Public Health funds the facility maintenance, food supply, and education, the school essentially depends on donations for school supplies. In fact, the Chikuma International Exchange Association not only donated school supplies, but also funded the repair of the orphanage itself, renovating the warehouse, kitchen, and classroom.



*Above: Students excited to receive school supplies*

“I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your warm and unforgettable support to us,” Mr. Abdul Wahid, Dean of the Parwan Orphanage School expressed. The students were equally excited to receive new writing materials that would ultimately come to help them in their education.

Community Development

**Maintaining Sustainability**

One of JEN’s primary missions in providing aid within their myriad of programs is to encourage self-reliance among community members, implying that projects continue even after JEN pulls out of a respective region. This ultimately depends on the willingness of local community members to take responsibility without depending on external aid.

A successful example of a sustainable activity set up by JEN is the School Management Committee (SMC) in schools. JEN has trained local community members to carry out developmental activities to improve school structures and conditions, and have also trained individuals to carry out leadership roles in the near future. As a result of this program, SMCs now have proper filing systems, conduct regular meetings to assess the progress of their activities, and have pledged to carry out future

developmental projects for the benefit of the schools.

As a matter of fact, in the Qalai Nasro High School in the Bagram District where JEN has constructed classrooms, latrines, and water reservoirs, SMC has built a boundary wall on their own. Further, the committee planted trees and flowers in order to improve the exterior image of the school. In fact, SMC managed to mobilize the entire community to raise funds for the benefit of the local school, and those who were underprivileged donated their time in effort in physical work.



*Above: Boundary wall built by the Qalai Nasro High School*



**The 7 EN’s of JEN**

- Engage
- Entrust
- Encourage
- Endeavor
- Enjoy
- Encounter
- Enable

**DONATE NOW AND HELP THE CAUSE!**

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