



**STREET
CHILD**

**“DO NOT FORGET US”:
AFGHANISTAN 1 YEAR ON FROM
THE FALL OF KABUL**

August 15th 2022

AFGHANISTAN: WHAT WE'RE DOING

MATERIALLY SUPPORTING

110,000 AFGHANS

OVER THE PAST YEAR WITH OUR PROGRAMS

SUPPORTING 83,257

**CHILDREN TO BE SAFE, IN SCHOOL
AND LEARNING**

49%

**OF STUDENTS IN OUR LEARNING
PROGRAMS ARE GIRLS**

STREET CHILD

**REPRESENT OVER 13% OF
ALL COMMUNITY-BASED
EDUCATION CENTERS IN
THE COUNTRY**



AFGHANISTAN: WHAT WE'RE DOING

**DEPLOYED RAPID RELIEF TO THE SURVIVORS OF
THE PAKTIKA EARTHQUAKE WITHIN 24 HOURS**

WE HAVE SPENT

USD \$4.2 MILLION

IN AFGHANISTAN OVER THE LAST YEAR



**OUR 1,800-STRONG
AFGHAN TEAM ARE
WORKING TO DELIVER
PROGRAMS ACROSS
12 PROVINCES**

14,268

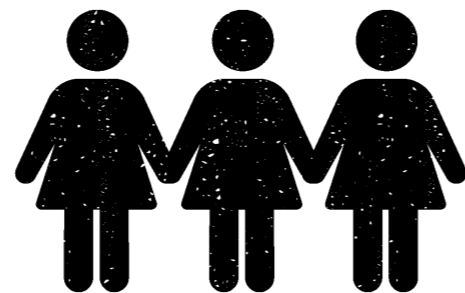
**PEOPLE HAVE BEEN
SUPPORTED WITH
CASH FOR FOOD
PACKAGES**

AFGHANISTAN: THE ASTRONOMICAL NEED

AN ESTIMATED **8 MILLION**
CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS
ARE OUT OF SCHOOL

AFGHANISTAN IS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN
THE WORLD THAT IS **DENYING ACCESS**
TO EDUCATION BASED ON GENDER

INCLUDING **1.1 MILLION**
ADOLESCENT GIRLS
WHO ARE BANNED FROM
ATTENDING HIGH SCHOOL



95% OF THE POPULATION
ARE NOT GETTING ENOUGH
TO EAT

"THE COUNTRY I CALL HOME"



Hamidullah Abawi, Afghanistan Country Representative, reflects on the ongoing challenges and successes Street Child has had during its Emergency Response across Afghanistan, as well as his personal connection to working during the crisis.

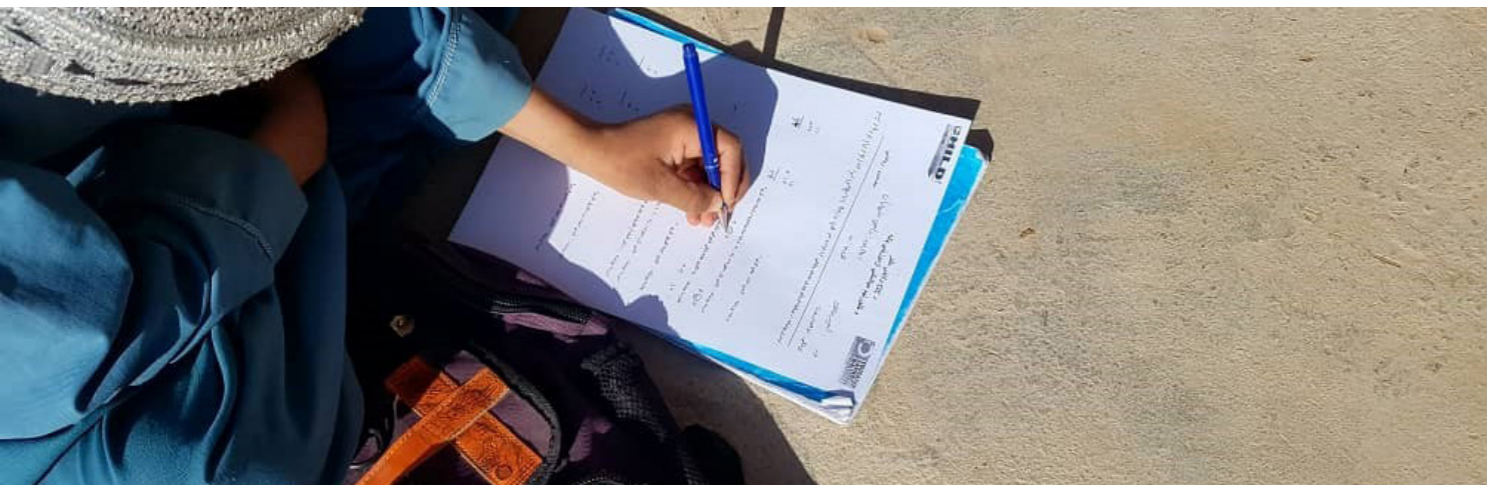
"I was born and raised in Kabul and have worked for Street Child since December 2020. I know first-hand that prior to the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan on 15th August 2021, the humanitarian situation in the country was already one of the worst in the world. After the Taliban takeover, Street Child faced many intensified challenges in accessing funds due to the **freezing of financial institutions** in Afghanistan, as well as the introduction of rules and regulations on organizations providing aid, including **restrictions that prohibit our female team members** from travelling alone during program implementation. This led to challenges in reaching female project participants too. This was all taking place against the backdrop of a **fast-approaching winter**, and a **slowing of international aid**, and as international governments and organizations grappled with how to continue support in light of sanctions on the Taliban, the country descended into a humanitarian catastrophe.

I'm proud to work for an organization that puts children and the Afghan population first. Street Child has employed 1,800+ staff—this is in itself, a service to the communities. We have been able to provide immediate support in terms of cash for food, clothing and much more to children and adults across 12 provinces. At the same time, we are **educating 51,000+ children** in our community-based classes, which will lead to the development of Afghanistan one day. As an Afghan, I believe Street Child's localization approach, long-term education programs, and livelihood support are very important. Street Child is one of the top NGOs in Afghanistan that focuses on increasing the capacities of caregivers and communities to continue supporting children- to demonstrate how localization and livelihoods benefit children in the long term.

The country I call home has been in war for 40 years. I was born and raised during war; my youth, my dreams, my aspirations were all destroyed because of conflict, and I am sure millions of young Afghans feel the same. My hope for Afghanistan is that future generations do not go through what my generation and the generation before me has been through. My hopes are that Afghanistan becomes a stable country: safe, educated, rich, and open to all. And your support, and the support of the international community, are critical to realizing our aspirations and hopes.

I'm beyond grateful for the immense support we've received from Street Child supporters around the world, especially this last year, and of course for our brave and dedicated staff in Afghanistan who continue to work in these challenging circumstances. Their work is truly inspiring and I'm so proud of what we have achieved."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Over the last year in Afghanistan there has been dramatic economic suffering and we've witnessed the significant narrowing of space for women in society. But it must be noted that the absence of active conflict has been a relief for substantial parts of the population and has opened up provinces in the country for Street Child to work in.

In spite of these challenges, we have sustained our reach by **keeping 83,000+ girls and boys safe, in school, and learning**. We have **increased our geographic footprint from five to 12 provinces** – going where others won't – to provide humanitarian relief and response, where and when needed.

We have innovated, scaled, and exceeded our ambitions to serve as many children and their families as possible. At the heart of our work, is of course, our amazing Afghan team and partners and the communities in which we work. These are their stories.

This report covers:

1. Our essential education programs, including in hard-to-reach, remote districts, which support 51,000 students daily, and **represent 13.65% of all community-based education centers** in the country.
2. Our life-sustaining mental health and psychosocial support services, reaching **60,000+ adults and children** impacted by conflict, climate change, and crisis.
3. Our life-saving **emergency response**, including what we've done to support 1,400 people affected by the recent earthquake which rocked Paktika province in June 2022.
4. The vital humanitarian coordination that enables our **1,800-strong team** to carry out this extraordinary work.
5. Our ambitious plans for the months and years ahead, including our **aim to reach more than 100,000 children** with access to education across Afghanistan by the end of the year.

While we're incredibly proud of what we've been able to achieve with the continued assistance of our generous donors and supporters, we're only just scratching the surface of what needs to be done in the face of such catastrophic need.

We can and will do more—but we need your help.

AMPLIFYING AFGHANISTAN

Over the past year, we've been working hard to ensure Afghanistan is not forgotten and continues to be covered by major news outlets, including Sky News, BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Look East, ITV, The Guardian and iNews. This coverage has reached over 2.5 million people.



More girls return to school in Afghanistan as communities push Taliban to allow their education

At least 26 schools for girls aged 12 and over have reopened this week



NEWS / WORLD
Working ALONGSIDE the Taliban... the charity battling against the odds to educate children in Afghanistan



The Norfolk man bringing a spark of hope to children in Afghanistan

Rowan Mantell
Published: 8:00 PM February 2, 2022





REACH AND EXPANSION

Our team have a 25-year+ heritage in-country, including in regions controlled by the Taliban prior to their recent takeover. Despite intensified challenges throughout the worsening crisis and resulting political, social, and economic shocks, we have sustained and scaled our programming with little disruption.



We have **expanded our programmatic footprint from five to 12 provinces** over the last year (marked by black pins) to expand into areas where the arrival of displaced children and communities from conflict-affected areas has caused enormous strain on infrastructure and services, or where additional humanitarian disasters have occurred, like the Paktika earthquake in June 2022. We've also grown our programs where we were already working (marked in grey pins) as immense needs persist.

Street Child has the **proven rapid response capacities** and community networks to continue expanding to meet needs as they arise and change.



The **scale of our work has substantially grown**: from 2019- 2020 where we supported 7,200+ children every day, to today where we're supporting over 83,000 children across all our programs every single day.

We are **one of the leading child-focussed NGOs operating in the country** and we're as committed as ever to ensure Afghan children are safe, in school and learning.

TEACH FOR TOMORROW

In Afghanistan education is threatened by a near-collapse in the formal schooling system, the recent ban on higher education for girls, the bombing of schools through terrorism and heights of conflict, and of course interruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An **estimated 4.2 million children aged 6 to 12 are out of school (60% girls)**, with estimates reaching as high as **8 million children** when accounting for adolescents who are also out of school; and government teacher salaries across the country remain unpaid under the new de facto authorities.

To Street Child, **this reality is unacceptable**—which is why we're actively supporting 51,000+ children to learn every single day through 1,638 classes and the support of 1,638 local teachers. We're helping many students, especially girls, access an education for the very first time.



ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATION CENTERS



Our community-based education centers are run in spaces within the communities themselves to allay parents' fears about their daughters walking for miles in a conflict zone to reach the nearest school. Classes are run in homes or community halls which are provided through community contributions—**enabling the funding we receive from donors to go further and reach more children.**

Standard classes run Saturday to Thursday on a nine-month academic cycle. Street Child also offers an accelerated learning program for overage children, allowing them to catch up by covering and completing two years of curricular content in one year. These classes run for a full 12-month cycle.

ADVOCATING FOR LEARNING

Community-based learning centers **provide additional support too:** aides for children with disabilities, dignity kits for girls (including menstrual hygiene management), drinking water and handwashing facilities. They are outfitted with resources like warm clothes, blankets and firewood during the colder winter months; and in some communities, caregivers have even sent cooling equipment to the classrooms for better learning environments during the hot summer months. These community contributions illustrate their interest and investment in their children's schooling and learning.

To galvanize these contributions, we collaborate with communities throughout the year, working closely with Shuras (community councils, comprised of influential community leaders and teachers), caregivers and religious leaders to support education, especially girls' education, emphasizing its positive influence on eradicating child labor, early marriage or early pregnancy. We raise awareness on the immediate importance of education as life-saving and life-sustaining in conflict and crisis; as well as its longer term outcomes, like economic upliftment, family and community benefits. We also share verses from the Quran to advocate for girls education.

Today, we're proud to report that **Street Child is responsible for 13.65% of all community-based classes (1,638 in total)** across the country.

In some areas, like the hard to reach Gezab district in Uruzgan province, Street Child is the only NGO providing education.

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION: IMPROVING LEARNING OUTCOMES THROUGH TABLETS



We are **the only organization** using **tablets as a tool to effectively support our teachers' progress and improve their teaching approach.** This ensures hands-on targeted support to address gaps or areas of improvement, ensuring that teachers are as effective and efficient as possible and that teaching leads to improved learning.

Once identified and recruited, teachers:

- Attend a 10 day training: five days on Early Grade Reading, four days on Teaching in Crisis Contexts, and one day on the use and production of teacher manuals
- Receive one to two visits a month from Street Child coaches and social workers for classroom observation

How it works:

Coaches have comprehensive checklists and feedback forms to complete on their tablet; and they take a photograph of the teacher during a lesson to verify their presence in the class.

As needed, the teachers watch model videos of areas for development on the tablet together—such as how to explain a particular topic, how to encourage girls' participation with the class, and how to structure and sequence a lesson.

This approach has proven effective for students' learning. Despite 75% of our community teachers having zero or less than 1 year of teaching experience prior to Street Child's robust training, they have still been able to produce brilliant results.

70% OF OUR GRADE 1 STUDENTS ARE DEMONSTRATING ORAL READING FLUENCY RATES WHICH ARE AT 'ACCEPTABLE' OR 'DESIRABLE' LEVELS- THE AVERAGE RATE ACROSS AFGHANISTAN IS 'WEAK'

Street Child is innovating with tablets to not only improve teaching and learning, but **also to strengthen child protection and safety.** We use tablets and an 'audio computer assisted self interview' (ACASI) program to identify and report cases of corporal punishment, bullying, gender based violence, and wider safety concerns.

Using a pictograph-based approach with an easily understandable scaling option gives students the chance to anonymously report incidences to give accurate feedback. From this, we accurately target areas and classrooms that require further support and action.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES



The job of a teaching coach brings its own set of challenges; many of the classes are established in remote regions and travelling to those sites is extremely difficult, especially in winter season. Staff typically travel by motorbike, by car when possible, and donkeys when necessary.

Coaches play a pivotal role in the continuous mentoring and monitoring of teachers throughout the year. They are trained to conduct classroom observations, to offer targeted feedback, and tailored advice and assistance on adopting pedagogical practices to improve teaching and learning. Teaching coaches are also engaged in the prevention of child protection risks, and provide counselling, case management, and psychosocial support for children.

In many places, schools haven't been active for two to four decades and in some cases have not been active at all before Street Child's presence. This brings its own challenges to garner community support, thwart protection risks like child labor, and ensure project sustainability.

One of our teaching coaches, Mohammed, reflects that **“the sight of young children in these remote villages learning to read keeps me motivated to visit and support these classes.”**

It's this hope, coupled with the success of our hands on approach to teaching and learning that gives us the confidence to continue to aim to reach even more children with an education.

In the next 6 months we aim to support more than 100,000 children to learn every day.



AGAINST THE ODDS: GIRLS AND WOMEN, SAFE, IN SCHOOL AND LEARNING



Afghanistan is the only country worldwide that is denying access to education based on gender.

Despite assurances girls' education would remain protected, the Taliban announced in March 2022 the continued closure of higher education for girls. However, girls can and do go to elementary school. But despite this, there's still a huge amount of work to be done to get girls in school.

We're proud to report that **49% of children in Street Child community-based learning centers are girls**. This is an enormous achievement. To make this possible, our local teams work closely with community leaders, and caregivers to build trust, buy-in, and support for elementary education for all children.

It's a challenging context, as culturally it's important for girls to be taught by female teachers and the variance in finding and hiring female teachers differs drastically province by province: some have a **female teacher population** at less than 3%, like Zabul; whereas others, like Baghlan and Bamyan, **are as high as 60%**. This is in large part due to the fact that Street Child teachers must be able to speak, read, and write in Dari and Pashto; and have a minimum requirement of Grade 9 education.

In remote areas, it's very difficult to find adults who have progressed past Grade 9 or 10 altogether and so we find a balance of what's realistic so that children can continue to learn. Where there are higher concerns around women in the workplace, Street Child provides mahram (a male chaperone) for female teachers when they attend training to ensure their safety and security.

It is **critical to keep younger girls engaged in education** to sustain demand and engagement in education for adolescent girls.

Girls face increased and particular risks during times of conflict and instability:

- Curtailed access to education, with boys receiving preferential treatment
- Increased household responsibilities
- Sexual and gender-based violence
- Early marriage
- Early pregnancy

KAMILA'S STORY: THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION



Unemployed due to displacement, and today, the sole breadwinner of her family – Kamila,* age 25

**Note: name changed for confidentiality and safeguarding.*

Kamila is a 25-year-old teacher who lives in a remote village in Afghanistan with her husband and children.

They have been displaced numerous times due to conflict. Kamila's displacement meant that she was unemployed for three years even though she was a qualified teacher. When the Taliban took control in August 2021, she lost all hope of finding a job. Her family struggled financially, and she relied on her brothers for additional financial support.

In the village where her family eventually settled there had been no education facilities for more than a decade. As a result, most children were illiterate. In response, Street Child and our local partners established a community-based learning center. Knowing that Kamila was a successful and experienced teacher, she was employed to run a class. Kamila's own children now attend the classes alongside 30 other girls and boys. She earns a monthly salary, meaning she can support her family, and is now the sole breadwinner.

Young girls in Kamila's village look up to her as a **female role model**. They are excited about studying and do not see their gender as a barrier to being educated. Kamila is proud to **share the power of education** with the young girls in her village.

COPING WITH CRISIS - MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT



Street Child runs three Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) programs, **supporting more than 64,000+** direct and indirect project participants across 10 provinces.

Take Badakhshan, one of the most conflict-affected provinces. It's remote with limited education and health services available. Many community members worked in the previous government and fled the country after the fall of Kabul, leaving remaining family members without a caregiver and with much worry, fear, and despair. Socioeconomic stress has caused children to be relied upon to contribute to household finances through labor and hard menial work. Being out of school alongside family and environmental pressures has caused children to experience; mood swings, irritability, anger, interpersonal problems and suicidal ideation.

We run group community-based mental health sessions to provide psychosocial support to these children. These sessions are led by a counsellor and a social worker, with the active collaboration and support of community influencers and caregivers.

At Street Child, keeping children safe is central to everything we do; mental health is as important as physical health, and in a context like Afghanistan, it is **life-saving and life-sustaining**. Our programs work to alleviate trauma, provide coping strategies, and promote resilience through collaborative community initiatives to improve well-being, social cohesion, and encourage healing within the community. Participants are reporting increased self-confidence, lowered stress, and a more positive outlook.

“WHEN I COME HERE FOR A FEW HOURS I FEEL RELAXED...IT HELPS ME TO MAINTAIN MY HOPE”



- Aaliyah*, 14-year-old, Baghlan province

*name changed for confidentiality and safeguarding

The collapse of the former government has exacerbated and worsened pre-existing community struggles. In Baghlan province Street Child conducted an assessment to see how children and adolescents were coping. Results showed that both children and adults were suffering from stress, anxiety, sleep problems, and anger.

To address this, our teams set up our community-based model to promote wellbeing and provide mental health and psychosocial support services, ensuring buy-in and support from community elders and influencers. We run sessions with caregivers to educate them about the protection of children, positive parenting skills, and ways to help deal with psychological distress. Simultaneously, we run sessions for children and adolescents, teaching them how to deal with sadness, irritability, and lack of interest in daily activities.

In Pul-e-Khumri district, we run a weekly session for girls (aged 11 – 18) at the local mosque where they can share how they're feeling and access psychosocial support services. Aaliyah,* aged 14, who was recently banned from attending high school says: **“Coming here is the only leisure and helpful activity that I can rely on these days. When I come here for few hours, I feel relaxed and when I learn how to deal with the negative thoughts it helps me to maintain my hope and get somehow optimistic that these situations will pass one day.”**



RAPID EMERGENCY RESPONSE



As a humanitarian actor with widespread access across Afghanistan, Street Child has had to adjust our response throughout the year to maximize our impact and meaningfully support as many people as possible throughout this ongoing crisis.

Food and economic insecurity

The Afghani lost over 31% of its value against the United States dollar in 2021, contributing to price increases on basic goods and causing instability in the value of salaries and cash. In January 2022 alone, eight in ten households across the country experienced a significant decrease in income. The war in Ukraine has only exacerbated food insecurity in recent months as Afghanistan is dependent on importing wheat. Wheat flour has increased as high as 68% in some areas, cooking oil by 55%, fertilizer by 107% and diesel by 93%. This is cost prohibitive to many families, leaving them vulnerable to negative coping mechanisms, including limiting food intake and relying on child labor. **Only 7% of people reported having enough to eat in March.**

Street Child has ramped up our cash and food distribution so that vulnerable families can meet their basic needs. Through an Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (UN) project, **we support 2,373 families (or 14,268 individuals) in Zabul with cash for food packages** that feed their families for 6 months. We reached more households than expected, **exceeding initial targets by 11.8% without an increase to our budget** – illustrating our cost-effectiveness and efficiencies that enable us to reach more children and caregivers. In Kabul we provide **hygiene, food, and protection services to 4,660 children** and caregivers through a 6-month UNICEF project. In Wardak province, we are also actively improving household food security and increasing resilience to upcoming and unexpected shocks through covering 75% of the cost of food needed for an average seven-person family across 1,560 households. This supports more than 10,000 people and ultimately saves lives.

Freezing temperatures

While Afghanistan has summer highs of 122F, **winter brings freezing temperatures of negative 13F**. In this varied climate, children still make the journey to school: the desire to learn propels them quite literally through snow.

As some learning in hard-to-reach areas is still conducted in tents, keeping children warm in classroom spaces for both their wellbeing and attention is key. As such, Street Child has distributed heaters and firewood across three hard-to-reach provinces, **supporting 1,243 classes, and distributed winter clothes to 14,950 students** in Baghlan province – allowing children to learn in comfortable environments. In the months ahead, we'll plan for the upcoming winter so that all our classrooms continue to benefit from this support and warmth.

CRISIS ALERT: PAKTIKA EARTHQUAKE



On June 22 2022, the southeastern provinces of Paktika and Khost, which border Pakistan, were rocked by a 5.9 magnitude earthquake. The quake has killed an estimated 1,000 people, injured more than 2,900, and affected more than 360,000. Approximately 4,500 homes have been partially or fully damaged; with some villages documenting 70% of all homes damaged. Adding to the destruction and loss is difficult access routes. Paktika is a remote mountainous region far removed from main cities and hospitals: it is more than 8 hours away by car to the main city in the province, Sharan, and at least a 16-hour drive to the capital, Kabul.

Within 24 hours Street Child had mobilized and dispatched a team to Giyan district in Paktika and conducted a rapid needs assessment alongside UNICEF, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Based on our findings, our initial response has prioritized the immediate needs of the affected population and distributed **household packages to 200 families (approximately 1,400 people)** which include useful daily items that they lost in the damage: shoes, clothes, coats, blankets, toys, and writing materials.

Looking ahead, we are raising funds for long-term response that supports affected communities to recover in Paktika and improve resilience to future crises. This includes ensuring children have safe spaces, including the provision of temporary and permanent learning spaces and child friendly spaces; as well as the provision of mental health and psychosocial support.

This is the sort of place Street Child actively seeks to support – where others largely aren't, but where needs are high. **Prior to the earthquake 85% of girls were out of school and reports illustrate that there have been no high school graduates from Paktika in the last 20 years.**

We'd love the opportunity to continue to scale up. But we'll need your help to make this possible.

“OUR HOMES ARE COMPLETELY DESTROYED...[BUT] WE WANT SCHOOLS FOR OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS.”



– Ibrahim*, Giyan district

*name changed for confidentiality and safeguarding

Giyan district in Paktika Province was one of the worst affected regions during the life-altering earthquake, which killed 223 people in the village. Talking about the moment when the quake hit Ibrahim said, “It was about one o'clock in the morning and there was a strong earthquake. Moments later, as we were approaching the nearby houses, 5 or 6 people were killed and buried in each of them. There were screams and cries everywhere. The children were crying behind their mothers.

Roads were destroyed and we had no medical facilities to transport the injured to clinics for treatment. It wasn't until the next morning that the rescue teams arrived on the scene and assisted us in evacuating the wounded people to hospitals.

I lost my brother, and few other members of our family were badly injured. But the point is that the largest number of casualties was among the women and children. They couldn't evacuate themselves from the affected rooms in time.”

Speaking about the assistance received from Street Child and other organizations Ibrahim said, **“We received food, cash, tents, and other needed assistance immediately. The non profits, the National NGOs and International NGOs, the people from other provinces and districts - all of them were running to help us survive.** We are thankful to all of them.”

However, like many of those we spoke to, Ibrahim is thinking not just of immediate needs, such as food and water, but also wants to secure his children's future for the long term. “Our homes are completely destroyed and currently we have no schools, no access to clean drinking water, and our health system is in shambles. Our people are currently deprived of all kinds of health and education services and there is no electricity in our area. I am sure, if all countries help us with food, eventually one day this food will be ended, and we will have nothing again. So, my suggestion to the international community and INGOs is to build our homes, roads, clinics, and schools. We want schools for our sons and daughters.”

This sort of honest feedback and reflection is invaluable to our work. It substantiates the need to provide longer-term assistance and resources to improve resiliency to future crises.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

2021

2022



August 15th 2021:
Taliban take control of Afghanistan and arrive in Kabul. 570,000 people are newly displaced, of which 59% are children.

October 11th 2021:
Street Child expand its protection work, supporting an additional 9,261 children (50% girls); and all our classes continue for girls and boys across the country.

December 13th 2021:
Temperatures fall to -2F in parts of the country; Street Child provide winter assistance to 1,243 hard-to-reach classrooms in some of the most challenging districts across Afghanistan. 698,000 people are newly displaced in all of 2021—a sharp increase from August.

February 15th 2022
Street Child innovate and integrate tablet-based monthly assessments into our education programs so that we can better track the impact of our activities and tailor teaching as needed—and are the only NGO in the area doing this.

April 29th 2022
A spate of terrorist attacks take place in recent weeks, including the bombing of a mosque in Kabul that killed more than 50 people. Street Child train nearly 1,300 women and men, girls and boys (56% female) on key protection risks, mental health and psychosocial support, and child rights.

June 22nd 2022
Paktika and Khost provinces are rocked by a 5.9 magnitude earthquake, killing 1,036 and injuring more than 2,900. Street Child deploy an emergency task force within 24 hours and are on site in Paktika conducting rapid needs assessments alongside OCHA, UNICEF, and IOM.

August 15th 2022
1,638 of Street Child's community-based education classes run every day for elementary aged girls and boys across the country. Street Child continues to raise funds to meet gaps in program delivery to ensure classes can continue in the months and years ahead.

September 8th 2021:
Street Child ramp up humanitarian support for 15,000 vulnerable children in Baghlan and Bamyán provinces. Meanwhile, Afghan national reserves and loans of USD \$9.5 billion are frozen by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

November 2nd 2021
Street Child host a webinar with Mahbouba Seraj - activist, journalist and one of TIME 2021's 100 Most Influential People to share what life is like on the ground.

January 11th 2022
The U.N. launch the largest single-country humanitarian appeal of all time: reporting the need for USD \$4.4 billion for Afghanistan. Street Child prepare to provide cash to 2,130 food insecure families in Zabul province.

March 23rd 2022
The Taliban announce the continued closure of high education for girls. Street Child distribute student kits to 7,200 students across 240 Community Based classes through the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund ensuring elementary-age girls and boys continue to learn amidst this devastating news.

May 14th 2022
The Taliban's Deputy Prime Minister announces that Afghanistan faces a USD \$501 million budget deficit for this financial year. 20 million Afghans are classified as living in Crisis or Emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phases 3 or 4).

July 3rd 2022
Street Child identify 5,425 out-of-school children in Uruzgan province and enrol them in classes. 59% are girls.

COLLABORATION IS CRITICAL

The success of any project hinges on collaboration.

In Afghanistan:

- Street Child are key members of the inter-agency Development Partners Group as well as **Education in Emergencies and Child Protection** working groups, strengthening our offer through collaboration, sharing best practice, and increasing our visibility.

- Street Child's Country Director is an elected member of the **OCHA Humanitarian Country Team**, to ensure that more decisive and strategic humanitarian decisions are made across the country.

- Street Child has a **network of 14 local partners**, maximizing our reach across the country. This includes active work with: Social Association for Development of Afghanistan (SADA), Keenly Humanitarian Assistance for New Afghanistan (KHANA), and Loy Kandahar Reconstruction Organization (LKRO).

Due to our agility and ability to enter new regions quickly and deliver effective programs with substantial impact, Street Child is a trusted partner of many prominent donors and grant makers who power our work in Afghanistan. This includes, but is not limited to: Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund, Education Cannot Wait, Global Partnership for Education, Jersey Overseas Aid, the Malala Fund and UNICEF, as well as many generous private donors and organizations.



Globally, we are a principal partner of both the Global Education Cluster and Global Protection Cluster (CPAoR), an active partner of the Global Education Cluster Localization Task Force, Global Partnership for Education and International Network for Education in Emergencies.

We are also one of the **signatories to the 'Charter 4 Change'** which commits us to address the imbalances and inequality in the global humanitarian system. Taking part in these forums enables and empowers us to put local voices at the heart of humanitarian and development aid and gain invaluable insight from our peers on what works at scale.



A WORD FROM MAALEK* - IN-COUNTRY PROJECT MANAGER



Our team in-country has doubled down and overcome myriad challenges this past year. For them, we're immensely grateful. This is Maalek's reflection on what it's been like to work throughout the crisis.

*name changed for confidentiality and safeguarding

"In mid-August 2021, when the Taliban took full control of Kabul, most female staff of humanitarian organizations—including ours—felt furious and depressed. They thought they would no longer be allowed to come to the office and continue their routine jobs and responsibilities and fulfil their commitment to support vulnerable children. Street Child's strategic coordination with the de facto authorities has paved the ground fairer for female staff to continue their job. There was however a request that they consider wearing the hijab (a head covering) to work.

The mood of all Street Child staff was again very bad when it was confirmed that high school will remain closed for girls. Every staff has a connection and relation with a girl in the shape of daughter, sister, niece... and every female member of every household across Afghanistan was unhappy and signs of frustration were clearly visible. Plenty of girls have lost their hope for having a bright and successful future in the country because of not letting them go to school and access their very basic rights—including accessing an education.

We have also faced some serious challenges in the implementation of various humanitarian projects, which we've been able to overcome. One we faced was the de facto authorities not allowing female staff without mahram (a male chaperone) to go to the field and travel to the remote districts of the provinces. But effective communication and exchange of the project information between the project focal point and the de facto authorities solved this problem as Street Child received a written work permit.

Fortunately, Street Child Afghanistan has addressed these challenges head on, including the growing child protection concerns. We have implemented integrated mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS), capacity building, and child protection projects. This has played a vital role in addressing challenges across various northern, western, and southern regions in Afghanistan.

In addition, the recent timely response of Street Child in Paktika province has created hope for those households and children who were directly impacted by the dangerous earthquake that took place in June. The emergency response team, right after the terrible incident, conducted a rapid assessment and based on the result 200 households received life-saving protection kits encompassing playing toys, stationeries, summer and winter clothes, and other necessary items.

We hope to be the witness of the various vital and destiny-making implementations of projects across different vulnerable communities of Afghanistan with desirable outcomes and impacts in the near future."



A FORWARD LOOK

Afghanistan continues to face acute needs in a chronic, compounded crisis – which is unfortunately waning in the public’s eye with **fewer international news agencies dedicating prominent coverage** to Afghanistan’s needs. Widespread inflation, rampant hunger with much of the population on the brink of starvation, and an ever-decreasing funding landscape has only exacerbated the impact of conflict, leaving most of the population dependent on humanitarian aid. Street Child is of course addressing this.

Looking ahead we have strategic goals to ensure our response continues to meet the needs of the affected population:

- Extending our protection and MHPSS work so that more children are **safe**
- Growing our programs so that more children can go to **school**
- Strengthening our teacher training so that more children are **learning**.

Alongside this we will continue to support locally driven response so that our amazing local partners receive vital funding to support the Afghan people.

Education is the heart of Street Child’s work and with multiple projects in the pipeline we aim to serve an additional 55,000 out-of-school children in the next six months – **enabling more than 100,000 children to access an education every day**. This will include us expanding our geographic footprint further and entering four new provinces in the north, east, and south of the country. For instance, **we will provide an additional 25,000 girls with multi-year education support** and expand to Nimroz province where no other community groups or NGOs currently provide Education in Emergency services.

We will also double down on our commitment to measure our impact and positively influence learning outcomes. We will continue to meaningfully work with our teachers and students – setting and communicating teaching and learning expectations – and support any classes that struggle. It is our ambition to both sustain and strengthen learning outcomes for children, giving them the tools to change the conditions of conflict and crisis that they have grown up in.

Keeping children in school requires that they’re first safe.

Our team will therefore continue to provide rapid response to the myriad protection risks related to the crisis and to increase access to essential information, supplies and services for 100,000 crisis-affected individuals across the most vulnerable districts—prioritizing women and children. The planned response will promote physical and psychosocial protection and wellbeing through case management services, the provision of tailored mental health and psychosocial support services, the establishment and training of community-based protection committees, and the provision of essential winter items. As needs arise, we aim to be there to respond quickly and efficiently with what communities need.

We are incredibly grateful for our amazing donors and supporters from around the world who have enabled the scale of our response to date, championed the needs and rights of children when it’s been needed most, and who continue to support our team throughout this persisting crisis. Our work wouldn’t be possible without you and for that we’re thankful.

Street Child hasn’t forgotten about Afghanistan. We hope you won’t either.

We’re leaning in more than ever, and we hope you’ll join us as we work for a brighter and more equitable Afghanistan for generations to come.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How are girls still going to school?

Due to the recent ban, high school aged girls are not able to attend school in most parts of the country. But in elementary school there is still opportunity to learn. Girls were able to attend elementary school under the prior regime of the 1990s, and it looks like this will continue today. So far what we’ve seen at elementary school level is encouraging: all our classes are ongoing with no disruption or challenges presented by the Taliban. 49% of our students are girls, and 1/5 of our teachers are female.

Looking ahead, we will continue to advocate for elementary school education to give girls foundational literacy and numeracy. We will continue to raise our voice and support to the international community to urge the Taliban to restore high school education to adolescent girls. We will continue to hire as many female teachers as possible to encourage the participation of girls at our community-based learning centers.

2. How do you ensure staff safety?

The safety of our staff and program participants is paramount and something we don’t take lightly. Street Child coordination activities adhere to the principles of humanity, impartiality, independence, and neutrality; and we ensure that our engagement is not considered an endorsement of particular politics of parties to the conflict. We use a series of communication and coordination measures to assure access and acceptance in communities- including recruitment of local project personnel, and regular networking with local level actors and community councils, or Shuras, to generate cooperation. Street Child has a robust support system in the event of an escalation of armed conflict or criminal activities as well.

3. How do I know my money isn’t going directly to the Taliban (de facto authorities)?

In the immediate aftermath of the takeover, Street Child conducted a comprehensive investigation into legal, safe and sustainable alternative routes or remittance systems and identified a funds transfer agent. All payments to personnel, partners and suppliers are made through their secure system with authenticated approval and authorization protocols, providing a complete audit trail for each transaction. Street Child has made multiple transfers through this route, with records to confirm that this is safe and secure. Comprehensive management and monitoring are used to track the expenditure of funds in the field, and this is triangulated with program monitoring to ensure expenditure of funds for intended purposes.

4. How can I help?

With the right funding to hand, we have the ability to increase our efforts to reach thousands more children in need. Your help makes this possible.

\$75: Educates a child in one of our community-based learning centers for an entire year

\$750: Trains 10 teachers to accelerate learning and literacy and numeracy skills for 350 children each year

\$7,500: Covers continuous in-classroom coaching for 450 teachers in an entire province for 10 months

\$37,000: Ensures 600 children in 20 community-based learning centers are safe, in school, and learning for a full academic year

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