

Faith Based and Community Initiatives



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World Vision International

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program



The fall of the Taliban gave rise to an education revolution in Afghanistan.

A Story of Success.

Thamina Saromie is at the top of her class and wants to be a dentist like her father, who was killed in the early days of the regime. 11 year old Thamina and her mother Karima Saromie live in Afghanistan where her mother is a math teacher at Hatifee School, in Herat who ran secret schools during the Taliban rule. World Vision Afghanistan has built a new classroom building at the school, which has gone from 700 to 8,000 students in one year.

World Vision, with USDA assistance, has built or rehabilitated 9 schools in Herat, Badghis and Kabul provinces.

Although no furniture is available, the students are enjoying themselves studying the alphabet. "We are very enthusiastic about the future," says Ms. Melhin, the headmistress who is also an engineer. "We are creating the teachers, doctors and engineers of the future."

The Organization.

World Vision is an international Christian relief and development organization working to promote the well being of all people - especially children. In 2004, World Vision offered material, emotional, social and spiritual support to 100 million people in 96 countries.

How the Initiative is Helping.

World Vision was provided 2,500 tons of wheat, 1,030 tons of rice, 1,030 tons of lentils and 480 tons of vegetable oil under the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, administered by the Foreign Agricultural Service.

World Vision is using the commodities to feed 37,000 school children and 675 teachers in two impoverished provinces in Afghanistan beginning in 2004. Children in primary schools are receiving take-home food packages to increase their nutritional status. This program is also improving the quality of instruction and the level of community support by providing food packages to teachers, providing classroom kits, furnishing classrooms, constructing nine new schools and promoting school gardens.

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The fall of the Taliban gave rise to an educational revolution in Afghanistan. Girls previously forbidden to go to school and boys only allowed to learn the Koran joyfully flooded classrooms, yearning to make up for years of lost learning. Today, most Afghan schools are vastly overcrowded, with students attending school in shortened shifts and in tents so every child who wants to

learn can have the chance. They are the lucky ones. In rural areas, many children do not have a school to go to.

In western Afghanistan, World Vision, with USDA assistance, has built or rehabilitated 9 schools in Herat, Badghis and Kabul provinces. More than 20,000 students and 1,000 staff are reaping the benefits. Another school is currently under construction, and more are being planned for rural areas.

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During the Taliban's regime, the school was used as a 'madrassa' (a camp for training Taliban) and the buildings were in a dilapidated condition. Now, the school in Quala-I-Now is going ahead full-steam with over 1,500 students after its buildings were rehabilitated with the help of World Vision Afghanistan.