

SHELTER-REPORT

November 2024

Project trip to Afghanistan

Johannes Nielen shares about
the current work

The logo for Shelter, featuring a stylized blue and yellow swoosh above the word "SHELTER" in a bold, red, italicized serif font.

SHELTER

Shelter Now — Rebuilding Lives and Restoring Hope

40 Years of Humanitarian Work in the Near and Middle East www.shelter.de



Still in Afghanistan?

Im Oktober konnte unser Mitarbeiter Johannes Nielen zusammen mit Dieter Drexler (Vorstand) unser Team in Kabul und Faizabad besuchen; sowie unsere Projektarbeit in Herat. Für Johannes war es die erste Reise nach Afghanistan. Er berichtet:

As I'm writing these lines, I'm not sure whether I've fully returned from Afghanistan. So many new impressions, things that are buzzing in the back of my mind and want to be processed. I spent a total of 16 days in the country with Dieter Drexler. It was my first time in Afghanistan, so I was very excited beforehand.

In Kabul

we had the opportunity to visit our Deaf Center and our elementary school. We were accompanied by a Taliban to a Kuchi tribe on the outside of the city.

The Lania Now School

160 students from grades 1 to 5 currently attend the school. As soon as we enter the grounds, the first ones run towards us. Many are orphans or live with relatives. Twice a week, we also provide them with a hot meal. Everyone waits in a disciplined manner until everyone in the class has something on their plate.

The deaf center

42 children are currently being taught sign language. Many of the children have reported problems at home

as their parents are unable or unwilling to communicate with their children in sign language, and some are even forbidden to do so. Deaf-mutes are not accepted by society and therefore often grow up completely isolated. Many see the school as their second home, as they feel understood here. There are currently 15 schools for the deaf in Afghanistan.

»Our center is the only one that accepts adults - including women.«

Many young men stay at the center even after leaving school because they can't find work. Although they are motivated to do something, they don't have the opportunities to do so. We would like to offer various vocational training courses for them, but we currently have a much bigger concern: We had to (hopefully) temporarily close the center at the end of October because a major donor for it dropped out. **We urgently need support here too.**

What moves us!

The Kuchis

A few years ago, we were able to help this ethnic group regain their own livestock through a sheep project and now the annual vaccinations were due. Most Kuchis live in simple tents, which get very cold in winter.



In Faizabad

we visited an orphanage that we support and the Baghlan province, where we are supporting a number of villages after a severe flood in April 2024. Often little help reaches rural regions in particular. The Baghlan region is a good example of this. After this severe flood in spring, many houses there are still destroyed and people have no permanent homes. The region is difficult to access from the outside. We had to drive a total of 4 hours over bumpy "roads", on which you pray inside every time you see oncoming traffic and where it was still going up and down in front of my inner eye in the evening. We will continue to provide support here.



Johannes besucht das Gehörlosenzentrum

Starving people in Afghanistan

According to the World Food Program (WFP), 1 in 4 Afghans do not know where their next meal will come from.

In September 2024, the WFP was unable to support 11.4 million vulnerable people, as those in even greater need were being fed.

(<https://de.wfp.org/krisen/afghanistan>)

»One thing I can say for sure: I have never experienced anything like this. The lifestyle, the poverty, the hospitality. So many tensions, so many clashes.«

Women are not allowed to participate in public life. When we were in a village, we only saw them in their burkas from a distance. You constantly see people begging on the streets. The difference between urban and rural areas is particularly striking. Many people therefore settle on the outskirts of the cities in the hope of finding more work and better living conditions.



In der Region Baghlan zerstörte die Flut ganze Dörfer

We will continue!

We were able to visit both dental clinics in Herat. We need permission from the government once a year to continue these projects. This has not yet been granted. For this reason, no treatment has been carried out in either dental clinic since September 26. We were able to present our problems to the Deputy Prime Minister and hope that things can continue soon. The waiting list of patients is long!

We also have to be patient when applying for other projects.



With the Deputy Prime Minister

»It is remarkable how our team of international and local employees perseveres under the given circumstances and never loses sight of the goal.«

The Chalou urgently need help.

We were shocked to find out that the already poor huts in the "Charman Babrak" district had been bulldozed. The dwellings have been razed to the ground and the people have to move elsewhere. Many are still in the greater Kabul area. Our employees have made contact and we want to continue helping them. Especially now that winter is approaching.

We would like to thank you for your support and wish you all a peaceful Advent and Christmas season and hopefully a peaceful 2025!

Your donation moves us

Support one of our projects

How much money?
Project

Project no.
Whom do I help?

What do I donate for:

50 €

Deaf Center in
Kabul

6202
A deaf student

Lessons for a month

200 €

Winter Relief for
the Chalou

6943
A family

A foodpackage,
blankets and a tent

100 €

Flood relief
Afghanistan

6000
A family

One food
package

Spendenkonto

Shelter Now Germany e.V. · NORD · LB Hannover · Kto. 2523058
SWIFT: NOLADE2H · IBAN: DE65 2505 0000 0002 5230 58

Spendenkonto Schweiz

Shelter Now Germany e.V. · Postfinance Bank · Kto. 60-798660-9
BIC (SWIFT): POFICHBEXXX · IBAN: CH61 0900 0000 6079 8660 9



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