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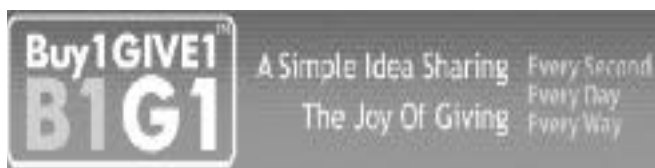
A Community based approach to cultural heritage preservation

The ongoing war in Afghanistan is suffocating the country, taking the lives of dozens of Afghans on a daily basis and affecting the political, socio-economic and cultural aspects of Afghan society. This also undermines the great potential for cultural development in Afghanistan.

The **cultural heritage has suffered unimaginable losses, caused by deliberate destruction, pillage and neglect** throughout the decades of war and it is still at high risk due to the current civil unrest and insurgency. In such a context the community has an important role to play to protect and preserve the cultural heritage in their respective villages if they are sensitized and educated about the value and importance of their cultural heritage.

Therefore, **BRD Afghanistan** as a national Afghan organization is **working closely with communities and local civil society** to sensitize, educate and encourage them to take a proactive role in safeguarding all aspects of the rich Afghan culture, to **preserve the country's history and identity** for future generations and as a platform upon which to build a culture of peace and sustainable development.

BRD is currently working to develop a new program, with the objective of transferring the skills and knowledge needed to rescue cultural heritage in times of crises; communities will learn to safeguard their cultural heritage and protected from the war's perils.



Support Peace Building

www.brd.org.af/donations/

Afghan local Civil Society Organisation (CSO) and Community Based Organisation (CBO) support peace-building at community level, creating an environment supportive of self-sustaining and durable peace through promotion of peaceful conflict resolution and formation of an integrated civil society.

A contribution of 15 \$ will cover the cost of a 3-day peace-building training course for 20 to 25 participants, aiming to deliver non-violent communication skills and pragmatic conflict resolutions to the participants who are mainly from the local CSOs and CBOs, including the community arbitrators.



Participatory Irrigation Management Project

Under the second stage of the **Participatory Irrigation Management project**; the Formation and Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building of Irrigation Associations (IAs) were implemented. These new developments focused on key elements of organizational capacity of the IAs to deliver services and lead the process towards Equitable Allocation, Introduction Irrigation Service Fee (ISF) and Civil Works. **BRD successfully established 35 irrigation associations** concerning the Mushtaq canal in the lower Balkh sub-basin and facilitated the official registration of all the associations with the relevant authorities, in line with the water laws.

For the distribution of the certificates of registrations for the newly established IAs, a certificates-distribution ceremony was organized by BRD in Mazar, the capital of Balkh provinces. Key members of the newly registered association, officials from the ministry of agriculture, ADB, provincial line departments and BRD senior management participated in the ceremony. The event was opened by a welcoming speech by the BRD Balkh office, and the other speakers were senior officials from the ministry of agriculture and provincial officials. The event was also covered by the media.



Supporting children to return back to school

The ongoing conflict and the worsening security situation across the country – combined with deeply engrained poverty and discrimination against girls – have pushed the rate of out-of-school children up for the first time since 2002. **Girls account for 60 % of the out-of-school population**, putting them at a particular disadvantage, and compounding gender-based discrimination.

Nearly half of children between 7 and 17 y – 3.7 million – in Afghanistan are missing out on school, according to UNICEF.

The **recent attacks** on schools and other academic institutions, have further increased the number of out of school children. Poverty and displacement due to the current conflict are the main factor for the rise of child labor and street children. When children are not in school, they are more vulnerable to risk of abuse, exploitation and recruitment from radical organizations.

BRD's program to provide education to street children is continuously trying to cope with the enormous demand with the limited resources at its disposal. BRD is currently preparing to offer the opportunity to another group of street children to return back to school in the Ningahar provinces.



Education programs for deprived youth

The ongoing internal conflict in Afghanistan has led to a nationwide breakdown of the country's social and economic structures. **Children in particular are negatively impacted by endemic poverty and vulnerability.** When the basic survival of a family is at risk, access to education is out of the question.

As per BRD's assessment of the high returnee areas especially in the eastern provinces, the results revealed huge gaps in basic services: education, health, water, and sanitation. It was also found that young people were especially vulnerable to drug usage, radicalization, illegal activities, and irregular migration, as they lack adequate livelihood opportunities in their country.

Ihsanullah is one of the youths who has been selected and enrolled in the BRD's quick impact project, a program which aims to teach individuals skills that can be learnt rapidly and can lead to job opportunities or self-employment to provide income. **Ihsanullah's family was struggling to survive, so as he is the oldest child in the family, he had to leave school and start working in the streets as a plastic bag's seller.**



Fast forward, thanks to the **Save an Afghan Street Child with Education programme**, Ihsanullah has been enrolled in the job training for Solar Panel and Mobil repair, which is a skill that can be learnt quickly and is highly in demand in the city of Jalalabad.

After participating in the BRD training, Ihsanullah was able to repair mobilephones and Solar panels; the owner of the shop where he was trained, offered him a part-time job and he accepted.

Ihsanullah:

"As head of the family, I never thought that I would continue my education, and thanks to BRD I have learned some useful skills which I am now utilizing to earn money for my family and I am also able to go back to school."



So now, **he has a part time job**, earns more than he earned with the street job and is able to feed his family. He **also enrolled back to school to continue his education.**



World Clean Up Day

15 September 2018



As part of the international clean-up initiative Let's do it World, BRD and the Let's Do It Afghanistan team organized the clean-up in **Kabul** and **14 other provinces**. **4800 volunteers** participated and cleaned their cities and villages by collecting **9.500 kg of trash**.

The clean-up campaign in Afghanistan took place on September 14, one day before the **World cleanup day on September 15**. It was organized by the **Let's Do It Afghanistan** team under the leadership of **Bureau for Rights Based Development** and in collaboration with the municipalities, active youth associations and the general public.

The purpose of this clean-up campaign is not only to clean the trash, but to promote the culture of civic action and volunteerism in Afghan society. BRD actively strives to sensitize citizens, communities and stakeholders towards their common responsibilities in relation to the environment and provide opportunities to work together on this very serious problem.

The Let's Do It Afghanistan cleanup campaign is part of the "Let's Do IT World" clean-up initiative organized in 158 countries. The campaign was the **World's largest mass civic movement of volunteers**, to clean their homes, villages, cities and their country. 16 million people participated and collected millions of tons of trash.

The next step for BRD as part of the Let's Do It international movement will be to "**Keep IT Clean**" which will be promoting the zero waste concept and continue to facilitate similar civic actions and advocacy campaigns against the use and production of plastic and other goods which affect the environment in Afghanistan.

