



# FutureGenerations **Afghanistan**

## Narrative Report

### The Afghan Academy/L'académie afghane

**NGO Name:** Afghans4Tomorrow and Future Generations

**District/Province:** Jaghori/Ghazni

**Month/Year:** November 2006

**Date of Reporting:** 29 November 2006

**Name/Position:** Mohammad Hashim, Site Director

#### **Project Introduction:**

Over two decades of extended conflict paired with years of drought have left many of Afghanistan's communities without their previous human and physical resources. Particularly hard-hit have been the country's women who, particularly through the Taliban's five years of rule, have suffered the impact of poverty as well as strict limitations on their access to education, social services and freedom of movement. These same women, however, have responded with remarkable resiliency and remain key to the healthy and productive shaping of Afghanistan's future.



#### **Project Goal:**

Afghans4Tomorrow and Future Generations Afghanistan joint Afghan Academy pilot project aims at creating significant investments in the educational and vocational opportunities of female teachers while also providing them with community empowerment and planning skills. Through gaining these skills, women will be better equipped to extend these lessons to other young women in their villages and maximize the participation of those women in community development plans that fully utilize locally-available resources and address pressing local social concerns. This pilot campus will be a center for learning and experimentation for the instruction and training necessary for the reconstruction of Afghan society through community action and the reintegration of women into civil society

#### **Project Activities:**

In cooperation with the French Embassy, Afghans4Tomorrow and Future Generations created a pilot female school campus named the Afghan Academy in the province of Ghazni, Jaghori District. In this school, young female teachers received formal and informal education, encompassing a broad cross-section of theoretical and practical topics, which they were expected to pass on to students in their own classrooms. Women were trained in teaching methods and pedagogical approaches, focusing on encouraging the participation of students. They were additionally taught practical lessons in hygiene and preventive medicine and vocational skills that would permit students to gain incomes from embroidery, tailoring and canned/jarred food preparation.

In November 2005, Future Generations completed negotiations with the communities of Chilbakhtoo Oghi in Jaghori district of Ghazni province. Teaching at the Afghan Academy formally began in January 2006. Over successive two month periods, a total of 130 young female teachers were trained by a teacher/supervisor in groups of approximately twenty. Subjects covered included the following:



- Literacy
- Teaching Methods
- Health and Hygiene
- Handy Crafts
- Weaving
- Cooking and making jams

### **Project Accomplishments:**

As a result of Afghan4Tomorrow and Future Generations Afghan Academy, more than 130 young female teachers have received training in diverse theoretical and practical subjects. Through these teachers, over 300 young girls who were denied educations for decades are now receiving literacy training. Health- and hygiene-related training has contributed to individuals and families using more healthful practices in their homes. Women report significantly lower rates of disease, particularly diarrhea, among the children and families. Further, women have gained valuable skills that will allow them to gain small additional incomes and progress is being made in how these products might be marketed more widely.

Beyond practical skills gained by women and communities involved in this project, the provision of education, particularly in community organization methods, has empowered women to take more active roles in the lives and decisions of their families and communities. They are gaining an awareness of issues affecting their communities and of their power to find and implement effective solutions. Women are now participating in establishing associations, and trying to participate in village Shuras and other social activities as necessary for their communities.

### **Extension of Impact:**

Extension of the impacts of this project will occur in the following two ways: First, as each of these teachers return to their own classrooms, they will extend the lessons learned to their female students. These students can, in turn, communicate these lessons to their families and friends throughout their villages, creating a exponential growth in knowledge. Second, with the provision of future funding, additional academies can be developed throughout Afghanistan allowing for replication, extension and adaptation of similar educational opportunities.

