

**STREET
CHILD**

A group of children, many wearing blue UNICEF backpacks, are walking up a dirt path in a mountainous, arid region of Afghanistan. The children are seen from behind, moving away from the camera towards a cluster of simple, light-colored buildings. The landscape is rugged and dry, with steep, rocky hillsides under a clear blue sky. The backpacks feature the UNICEF logo and text in Pashto.

**AFGHANISTAN: 6 MONTHS ON
FROM THE FALL OF KABUL**

15th February 2022

AFGHANISTAN: ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS ALONE
STREET CHILD SUPPORTED

51,000 GIRLS AND BOYS
TO STUDY IN STREET CHILD LEARNING
CENTRES.



WE PREPARED
TO SUPPLY CASH TO **2,130**
FOOD INSECURE FAMILIES

15,000 CHILDREN
BENEFITTED FROM CHILD
PROTECTION SERVICES



WE ENSURED



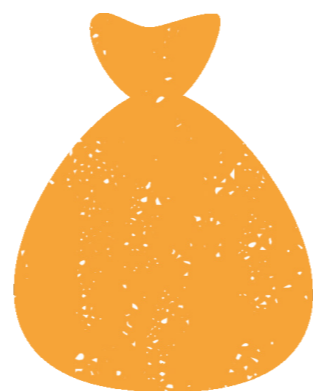
3,206

CHILDREN WHO HAVE
SUFFERED SEVERE TRAUMA
HAD ACCESS TO MENTAL
HEALTH SUPPORT

AND SENT OVER

\$1.2M

FROM THE UK TO
AFGHANISTAN
WITH PLANS
TO MORE THAN
DOUBLE THIS
OVER THE NEXT 6
MONTHS



2

AFGHANISTAN: ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

£3.25 BILLION

URGENTLY NEEDED TO SUPPORT
THE COUNTRY



698,000 PEOPLE



HAVE BEEN INTERNALLY DISPLACED
IN 2021 ALONE

1 MILLION CHILDREN
ARE AT RISK OF **DYING**
FROM MALNUTRITION IN THE NEXT
THREE MONTHS

3

STREET CHILD'S UNIQUE PRESENCE

Street Child is working tirelessly across Afghanistan to deliver urgent humanitarian support, as well as ensure access to safe, quality education and protection services for more than **100,000 girls and boys**.

Whilst we are proud of the level of support we have managed to deliver during the crisis, almost certainly our biggest achievement in the last six months is the platform we have created to make a massive impact over the next six.

Our team and partners have a **25-year heritage** in-country and Street Child's **1,600 local staff** means we have substantial reach across multiple provinces with local access.

Throughout the worsening crisis and resulting political, social, and economic shocks, we've managed to continue our programming with little disruption as we've previously worked in regions under de facto Taliban control, as well as under their prior regime in the 1990s. Six months into this recent crisis, we are one of the leading child-focussed NGOs operating in the country and we're as committed as ever—despite the immense challenges.



WHAT IS NEXT?

STREET CHILD IN AFGHANISTAN



DOING MORE:

We are urgently working to scale up our protection, cash support and education programmes to **reach 100,000 girls and boys** as soon as possible.



GOING FURTHER:

We have a plan to expand into new provinces, including those hardest-to-reach, growing our footprint.



AIMING HIGHER:

Over the next six months we have an ambitious target to raise at least **£1 million** in flexible/appeal funds. We have the right staff, we have effective modalities, and we have local access - we just need the funding.

WHAT CAN YOUR SUPPORT DO?

Whilst the numbers of children and families in extreme need are huge, the sums involved to make a massive difference are not.

£10

Feeds someone every day for an entire month.

£100

Educates a child in one of our learning centres for a whole year.

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

Every donation makes a difference. Your help makes this possible. Thank you!

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

15TH AUGUST 2021

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

11TH OCTOBER 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.

13TH DECEMBER 2021

Temperatures fall to -19 degrees 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.

15TH FEBRUARY 2021

Street Child support 51,000+ children daily with community-based education initiatives across the country and is working to scale our reach to 100,000 girls and boys as soon as possible. We innovate and integrate tablet-based monthly assessments into our education programmes 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.

8TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Street Child ramp up humanitarian support for 15,000 vulnerable children in Baghlan and Bamyan provinces. Meanwhile, Afghan national reserves and loans of USD \$9.5 billion (GBP £7.02 billion) are frozen by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

2ND NOVEMBER 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.

11TH JANUARY 2022

The U.N. launch the largest single-country humanitarian appeal of all time: reporting the need for USD \$4.4 billion (GBP £3.25 billion) for Afghanistan. Street Child prepares to provide cash to 2,130 food insecure families in Zabul province.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

We have **strong structures in place to make sure that our funding goes directly to support the activities which we control**. Street Child like other international aid agencies uphold and conduct our activities in absolute adherence to the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, independence, and neutrality to ensure that our engagement is not considered an endorsement of a particular politics or parties to conflict. We conduct due diligence for our partners, and vendors; at the same time, we conduct a thorough background check on our staff.

2. How are you getting money into Afghanistan – I thought it was impossible?

With the collapse of the economy, it's been incredibly difficult. We have entered into contracts with two separate financial service providers who have **safe, secure, and sustainable arrangements for us to access cash in country**. Street Child has conducted due diligence on these financial service providers, and only handles small amounts of cash for security reasons. This system is working effectively and is enabling us to continue to work.

3. Aren't girls banned from going to school?

Our focus in Afghanistan has always been on primary education to ensure girls and boys develop core education skills. And so far, what we're seeing is encouraging: all our classes are ongoing with no disruption or challenges presented by the Taliban. **Over half of our students are girls, and 1/3 of our teachers are female**. Girls were able to attend primary school under the prior regime of the 1990s and it looks like this will continue today. Girls in most locations, however, have been denied access to secondary school. Street Child has therefore joined the international community to urge the Taliban to restore secondary school education to girls. Sources indicate that classes and schools may be segregated by gender in the future, but we're still waiting for the official policy.

4. How do you know the Taliban (de facto authorities) won't block your initiatives in the future?

Quite truthfully, we don't. Our focus is keeping children safe and learning, and so far, the Taliban haven't shown objection to our efforts. Street Child and our local partners have been present in Afghanistan for more than **25 years and have previous experience working under a Taliban regime, as well as in areas that were under their de facto control more recently**. Our local approach, collaborating with local NGOs and hiring local staff, means that we have strong community buy-in and support. We work with Shuras, local consultative committees made up of community leaders and caregivers, to help ensure education centres are safe, secure and accessible to students. They are critical as local interlocutors to help influence the de facto authorities, and act as a support system in the event of an escalation.

5. How are you ensuring your staff's safety?

The **safety of our staff is paramount** and something we don't take lightly. Street Child's Senior Leadership Team in the UK and the Afghanistan Country Lead have established weekly meetings to discuss risk, access, and any changes in the security situation. Everyone is trained on our safety protocols and procedures, including what to do if there's an escalation, and our local and experienced security focal point is in constant contact with all staff, providing them the necessary trainings.

AMPLIFYING AFGHANISTAN: STREET CHILD PRESS



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



Young girls being taught at a school run by British charity Street Child in Afghanistan (Photo: Hamidullah Abawi)

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

Rowan Mantell

Published: 8:00 PM February 2, 2022



The Guardian picture essay

Scared, hungry and cold: child workers in Kabul - picture essay



NEWS / WORLD

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



DETAILED EVENTS & STREET CHILD'S UNWAVERING SUPPORT

15 August 2021: Taliban take control of Afghanistan and arrive in Kabul, displacing hundreds of thousands of individuals and creating widespread fear and uncertainty – Street Child stays operational

August is a period of turmoil. US and NATO troops withdraw from Afghanistan after a decades' long presence, President Ghani and key government officials flee the country, and the government quickly disintegrates. The security situation rapidly decreases—paving a way for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (the Taliban) to take power.

With the sudden shift in governance, basic services collapse. Prisons in Kabul and surrounding areas are opened, and banks close. 570,000 people are newly displaced, of which 59% are children. People who were previously reliant on assistance are pushed into crisis. This is particularly worrisome in a country with one of the highest youth populations in the world: 41.2% are under 15 years old, and only 2.7% of the population are aged 65 and older.

Sporadic violent attacks are reported, and horrific scenes of desperation at Kabul airport dominate international broadcasts. Thousands of Afghans urgently seek refugee status, and borders near and afar restrict movement. Based on previous iterations of a Taliban government, Afghans and the international community are gravely concerned about the potential roll-back on women and girl's rights and restrictions on their participation in society (their ability to work, attend school, etc.). The situation is exacerbated by a backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic, 80% of the country being in either severe or serious drought, continued food insecurity, and the vestiges of war that populate the country (such as undetonated landmines). Uncertainty is the prevailing norm.



Street Child increase communication and security protocols with staff on the frontline: ensuring their safety is paramount. Fortunately, everyone is ok and accounted for. In many of the rural areas where we work, the Taliban has long been a de facto authority, which enables us in the present to continue our education and child protection programmes with little to no disruption.

In Kabul and Balkh, however, where Street Child offers education and economic empowerment programmes for incarcerated children (inclusive of counselling and case management), programming is paused as prisons are opened and inmates released. We work closely with the Humanitarian Access Group, OCHA, the UN, and other international actors to monitor the situation. Many peer NGOs pause their activities throughout the country due to security challenges.

8 September 2021: Street Child ramp up humanitarian support for 15,000 vulnerable children in Baghlan and Bamyan

Afghan national reserves and loans of USD \$9.5 billion are frozen by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The average cost of a food basket to feed a family increase by 22% alone, which is projected to increase further with the current economic crisis, inflation, and cash restrictions. This means that the average household will struggle to make ends meet, and humanitarian actors providing life-saving commodities will face difficulty meeting demand. The humanitarian crisis continues to worsen.

Street Child’s Senior Leadership Team in the UK and the Afghanistan Country Lead establish weekly meetings to discuss risk, access, and strategize on growing needs. Concerns heighten around the world, including the speculation that funding will be used to support the Taliban’s de facto government, however, Street Child like other international aid agencies uphold and conduct our activities in absolute adherence to the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, independence, and neutrality to ensure that our engagement is not considered an endorsement of a particular politics or parties to the conflict. At Street Child specifically, we enter into contracts with two separate financial service providers who act as money transfer agents with access to cash in country—as without cash, we cannot operate. Street Child has conducted due diligence on these financial service providers, and the system is working effectively to enable us to continue our important programming.

Recognising the growing need across the country, and witnessing widespread fear, Street Child works diligently to mobilise support across all our supporters. This includes public fundraising initiatives, proactive appeals to our existing donor base, and responding to calls for funding applications released by governments, trusts and foundations. Street Child’s existing presence and network of local partners across the country enable us to quickly secure vital funding so that we can continue to respond swiftly and effectively. This includes ramping up support for 15,000 vulnerable children in Baghlan and Bamyan—provinces that are prioritised due to the high proportion of populations recently displaced. Street Child increases awareness of the importance of education, advising against the adoption of adverse coping strategies (such as early and forced child marriage, or child labour), and establishes safe, secure and sufficient spaces for students to gather. We prioritise support to children at significant risks due to separation from caregivers, or children at severe risk of exposure to exploitation and violence with counselling and case management services, inclusive of family tracing and reunification where necessary. Wider support activities are incorporated into instruction, including structured play to promote socialisation and connectedness during this uncertain period.



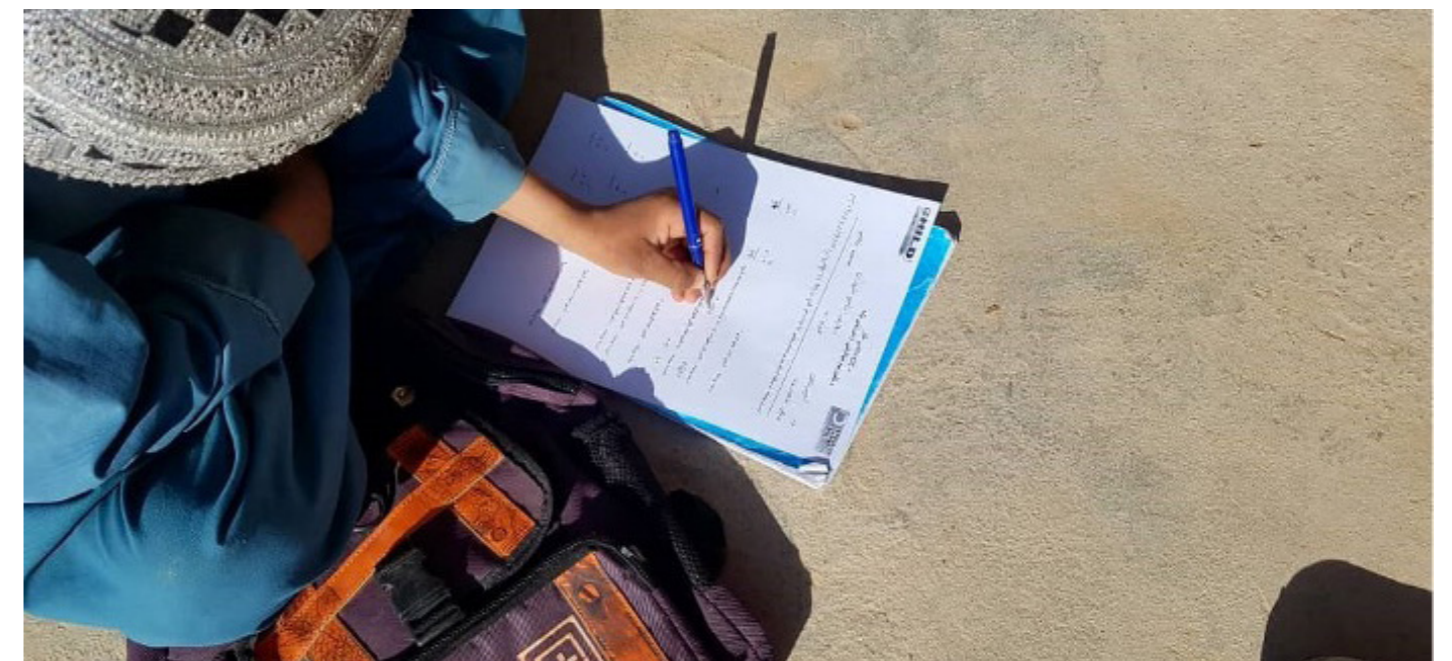
11 October 2021: Street Child expands its protection work, supporting an additional 9,261 children; and all classes continue for girls and boys across the country

Displacement, fear, and trauma put an immense strain on children, especially with an enduring backdrop of conflict and the coronavirus pandemic. As such, Street Child establishes routines, ensures safety, and re-creates normalcy for children through education, as well as provides more specialised counselling for those who need it through our protection programming.

This month in Kabul we reach an additional 9,261 children (50% girls) with protection services. This includes medical care and treatment for injured children, and mental health and psychosocial support services (both individual and group therapy) for 4,715 children. We run awareness raising campaigns about services available, as well as around signs of distress to look out for alongside safeguarding indicators. We train 120 volunteers on Psychological First Aid so that they can better support children in their communities who are struggling with the shocks of their surroundings.

Simultaneously, our education work progresses. While the official stance on girls’ education is still being finalised by the de facto authorities, Street Child continues to advocate in humanitarian forums for girls’ inclusion and right to learn—and so far, all our classes are ongoing with no disruption or challenges presented by the Taliban. Female teachers haven’t reported any issues since the regime change either. For this, we are immensely grateful. We work with Shuras, local consultative committees made up of community leaders and caregivers, to help ensure education centres are safe, secure and accessible to students. They are critical as local interlocutors to help influence the de facto authorities, and act as a support system in the event of an escalation. In Zabul, specifically, all 9,000 students registered are attending classes. And this month the team opened the first learning centre in the area for 20 years. An incredible achievement.

Similarly, in Uruzgan province, an area with one of the lowest levels of access to education in the world, primary students and their adolescent counterparts are enrolled and attending Street Child classes: in Trinkot district, 4,727 students are enrolled (48% girls); and in Gizab, 4,808 children attend classes (23% girls). Historically, 0% of girls in urban areas in Uruzgan attend school, with as few as 2% in rural areas—so the dramatic rise in access to and uptake of education for girls, especially in the face of the wider current context, is phenomenal.



2 November 2021: Street Child hosts a webinar with Mahbouba Seraj - activist, journalist and one of TIME 2021's 100 Most Influential People



To give our supporters the opportunity to hear from those on the ground in Afghanistan and better understand the escalating humanitarian crisis, Street Child host a webinar where we are joined by Mahbouba Seraj—activist, journalist and one of TIME 2021’s 100 Most Influential People. Our Global Head of Education and Asia Programmes, Ramya Madhavan leads the discussion with our Country Representative, Hamidullah Abawi.

Madame Seraj gives an emotional first-hand description of what it has been like to be in Afghanistan during the takeover and transition to the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. She describes how even days after the transition in government, she saw the number of children on the streets increase dramatically and speaks of her concerns for women and young girls: “In my life, it will be one of the saddest days that I will always remember.” Hamidullah Abawi speaks of Street Child’s ability to continue running our programmes despite the change in government due to our community-based approach. Through maintaining and strengthening relationships with communities and community elders, Street Child has been able to continue running our programmes, even in the most remote and rural areas. Madame Seraj speaks on how the school environment is more than just a place of education; school provides these children with a routine, access to food, access to shelter and most importantly the opportunity to play, laugh and socialise with other children.

[View the full webinar here.](#)

13 December 2021: Temperatures fall to -19 degrees Celsius, and Street Child provides winter assistance to 1,243 hard-to-reach classrooms

As temperatures fall to as low as -19 degrees Celsius, the reality of winter sinks in and conditions go from bad to worse. Snow blankets roads and students must walk to their classes in freezing temperatures. Street Child launch a winter appeal to enable us to adapt to the changing circumstances and provide necessary support.

Through our efforts, Street Child provides winter assistance through the distribution of heaters, firewood, and winter clothes across three hard-to-reach provinces, supporting 1,243 classes. Classes continue to run across 19 school districts, of which, 8 are some of the most challenging districts to access across the entire country. Working in these areas means to struggle delivering services despite the remote location; and in many of these areas, there hasn’t been exposure to formal education for decades. But Street Child staff are committed to developing access to community-based learning centres, no matter the circumstance. The students showing up each day are evidence of the necessity and the desire to learn.

Across six provinces (Kabul, Parwan, Loga, Kapisa, Panjshir, and Wardak), we also provided winterization assistance and food items to 470 children in Juvenile Rehabilitation Centres and 165 women in treatment centres in Kabul.

More broadly, there are now an estimated 698,000 people newly displaced in 2021—a sharp increase from initial figures only months ago. This brings the total of internally displaced people within Afghanistan to 5.5 million as we look ahead to 2022, with 60% of all households across the country directly experiencing conflict in 2021. Of these, 14.5 million individuals are in need of health assistance, and 1 million children are at risk of dying from malnutrition in the next three months if support isn’t garnered. Food consumption scores are low too: 80% of households still scored low even after receiving assistance. In urban areas this is exacerbated by income loss and evaporation of savings.



11 January 2022: the U.N. launches the largest single country humanitarian appeal of all time – reporting the need for USD \$4.4 billion for Afghanistan

The start of a new year, and the situation continues to deteriorate.

The United Nations projects that 24.4 million people in Afghanistan are in need of humanitarian assistance, up from 18.4 million in 2021. Extreme needs are felt in 29 of the country's 34 provinces—representing a country on the brink of collapse. Families are under immense strain trying to ensure their household has sufficient meals and food each day.

Nearly 9 million individuals are facing emergency levels of food insecurity, and without intervention, famine could be around the corner. This is the highest concentration of households in emergency levels worldwide. Displacement, extreme weather, economic decline, and limited livelihood opportunities are all contributing to this worsening picture.

Complicating this further, 87% of the country's 2,300 health facilities have closed following the government takeover and the suspension of international assistance, making access to health services demanding at best.

FOR THE FIFTH YEAR IN A ROW, AFGHANISTAN IS THE DEADLIEST PLACE FOR A CHILD TO LIVE AND GROW

Street Child pivots and expands its programming to address the widespread food insecurity, especially for those most vulnerable.

We prepare to provide cash to 2,130 food insecure families in Zabul Province. Each family will receive enough cash to enable them to purchase food for an average household of 7 members for two months. Cash, opposed to in-kind food assistance, offers more flexibility to the recipients, and preserves their dignity through the normalcy of everyday activities, like food shopping.

This initiative will therefore enable families to avoid negative coping strategies, such as skipping meals or relying on child labour to increase household financial security, as having the means to purchase food reduces stress around where the next meals are to come from. This in turn enables caregivers to send their children to school, as immediate needs are being met. We are urgently looking for the funds to expand this programme beyond Zabul.



SCOTT PETERSON/GETTY IMAGES

14 February 2022: Street Child supports 51,000+ children on a daily basis with community-based education across the country

Street Child receives a special mention from the Prime Minister of France for our education work in-country as part of their government's annual Human Rights Prize. We are one of the few international NGOs who haven't stopped operations over the course of the last 6 months and have even managed to expand operations into 5 new provinces in order to provide assistance to children most in need, inclusive of mental health and psychosocial support services. We are now proudly providing community-based education for 51,378 children every single day amidst this humanitarian crisis.

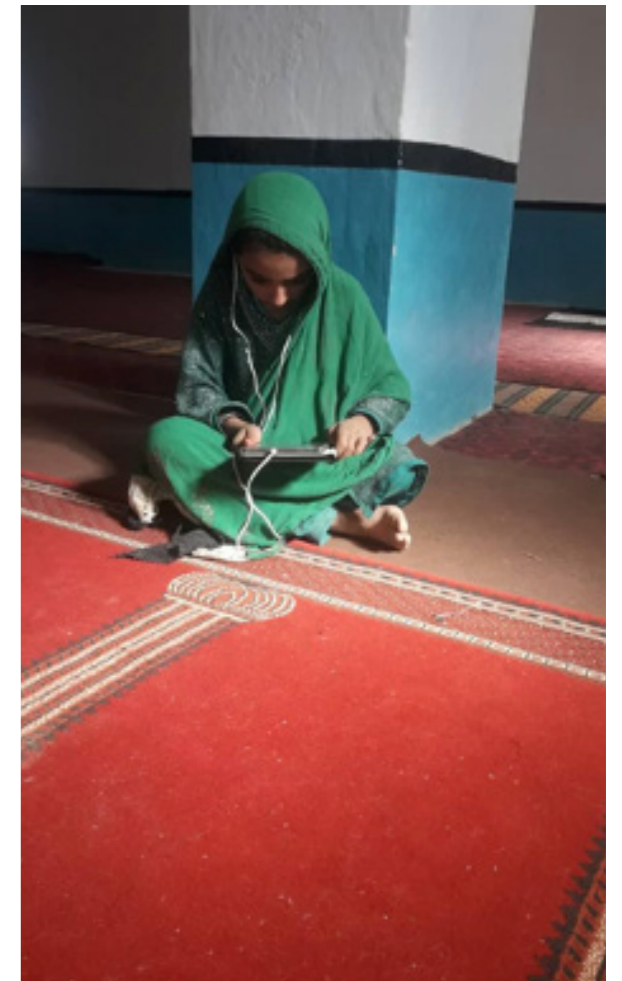
Innovative Tablet Based Assessments:

Street Child trains all its social workers to be 'Early Grade Reading Coaches'—the only education in emergencies organisation to do so in Afghanistan.

Due to the chronic shortage of trained, qualified teachers, this will help children attain basic literacy and numeracy levels with more hands-on support, improving our teaching and learning processes.

Street Child integrate innovative tablet-based assessments into our education work so that we can better track the impact of our activities and tailor teaching as needed. On a monthly basis we track how fluent the children in our classes are in Dari and Pashto, which is a key indicator for learning levels among children.

Street Child and its partners are the only NGOs in the area collecting real-time data in this way. In Zabul province, 68% of our Grade 1 children are either reading at an average fluency level (>14 words per minute), or at a good fluency level (>37 words per minute). This is very encouraging as this is the first opportunity for education many of these students have ever had.



The team remains hopeful that more funding will come through, which will enable us to provide child protection services to an additional 18,000 girls and boys across the country, as well as giving us the ability to establish 155 more classes in Uruzgan (55% of which will be specifically for girls).

The broader context is heart breaking. Families are struggling to eat, struggling to work and access cash, struggling to stay safe, and struggling to cope with a country in ruin. US President Biden signs an executive order releasing USD \$7 billion in frozen Afghan reserves to be split between humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan and American victims of terrorism; critics warn this could tip the already strained banking system over the edge into complete systemic failure. Street Child host a webinar on 10 February with key members of staff to share the reality of what life is currently like in Afghanistan with our supporter base. To watch the full webinar, [click here](#).

NAFISA'S STORY: GIVEN THE CHANCE TO READ AND WRITE

"I wished for a miracle so that I could learn," says Nafisa of Baghlan Province, age 9.

Nafisa lives with her family in a remote village called Qaisar Khel of Baghlan Province. The family has lived in the province for the last 20 years, after they returned from a brief period in Pakistan—where they initially fled after experiencing violence in Afghanistan. Since their return, they have been subject to much ongoing conflict and as a result have been displaced within Baghlan more than 15 times. The family – including both parents – is illiterate. This has made financial security and opportunities for the family difficult.

In Qaisar Khel there is no school for women and all the girls are illiterate, but there is a school for boys in a nearby village. Unfortunately, this has also been disrupted due to the continuous conflict in the region. This is where Street Child was able to help. Nafisa says: "In the area where we live, Street Child is the first organisation which established the accelerated learning class for girls in our village and around 30 girls who were out of school, now have access to education in Qaisar Khel."

Nafisa has enrolled in Street Child classes, where she works with a teacher on early grade reading. She shares: "As I have begun to read and write letters, all my family members are proud. I always thought I'd grow up illiterate like other women in the village. It wasn't a good feeling. I wished for a miracle so that I could learn and realise my only wish to be a good teacher in my community."

According to the teacher, Nafisa is a proficient student, and she motivates her classmates to always attend the classes and learn—inspiring them to build their own future.



A FORWARD LOOK

In the months and days ahead, Street Child's mission remains the same: we are committed to providing life-saving humanitarian assistance and life-sustaining education opportunities to the girls and boys of Afghanistan. This includes **expansion into new provinces** where need persists and leveraging our presence and relationships with local actors and communities to ensure the hardest-to-reach and most vulnerable have access to continuous aid.

We will seek to keep a sense of normalcy and safety for all children, providing a routine through education amidst this ongoing uncertainty. We are determined to make a massive impact in the **lives of 100,000 girls and boys** in the coming months- expanding our protection, cash support and education programmes.

We will look for funding across our supporters and donors to ensure this crucial work can continue.

We will continue to prioritise the **safety and wellbeing of our incredibly brave staff** who show up to work every day despite the challenging circumstances. Their dedication and commitment is appreciated and admired beyond measure.

Street Child can transform the lives of thousands of children and families in Afghanistan—for many, we will be a lifeline throughout the crisis—but we can't do it alone.



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR ONGOING AND GENEROUS SUPPORT!



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