

NEWSLETTER

Future Generations Afghanistan

Empowering Vulnerable Communities to Shape Their Futures



Artificial Flower Making Training to Female Trainees in Nangarhar Province

THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN AFGHANISTAN

In September, an alarming 14 million Afghans faced acute food insecurity, making up a third of the country's population. This crisis has been driven by a combination of factors including adverse climatic shocks, skyrocketing food prices, limited job opportunities for the nation's workforce, the return of Afghan refugees from neighboring countries, and restrictions placed on women's access to education and employment. Consequently, a significant portion of the Afghan population is heavily reliant on external assistance to merely survive. Last November, the Pakistani government initiated the forced return of Afghan refugees, which has resulted in over 722,700 Afghan refugees being repatriated to Afghanistan. This mass movement has put tremendous pressure on the already dire humanitarian situation affecting the country.

In September, Future Generations Afghanistan worked with UN Agencies and local communities to address the humanitarian crises in the country and provided assistance to more than 185,390 people through various interventions.

COMBATING MALNUTRITION IN CHILDREN AND ENHANCING THEIR EDUCATION

Children and women are the groups most severely impacted by the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. Malnutrition among children is a prevalent problem across the country, and a key contributing factor is the unbalanced diet consumed by many children, coupled with a scarcity of essential nutrients, further exacerbated by insufficient food availability. In September, Future Generations Afghanistan worked with WFP to address the problem of malnutrition in children and education of children in Nangarhar province. Through the school feeding project, FGA distributed school meals/high energy biscuits to more than school 129,713 children, additionally 69,871 notebooks were distributed to these students. Girls in Afghanistan face numerous barriers to education owing to strict bans and societal restrictions placed upon them. They often face immense pressures as a result, and it is crucial that NGOs prioritize support for this vulnerable group. In September, Future Generations Afghanistan provided school meals/high-energy biscuits and notebooks to 61,206 girls in Nangarhar province through the School Feeding Project, recognizing the importance of supporting their education in the face of these formidable challenges.

SUPPORTING AFGHANISTAN'S FARMING COMMUNITIES

Agriculture is a critical sector of Afghanistan's economy, with numerous locals dependent on farming for their livelihoods. In recent years, however, persistent drought and limited access to essential tools and seeds have hindered farmers' ability to provide for their families. Since 2019, Future Generations Afghanistan has worked with FAO to support the farming communities in Afghanistan. In September, FGA supported 10,480 farmers in Badghis, Nimruz, Logar, Nuristan, Kunar and Laghman provinces with wheat seed cultivation packages and trainings aimed at enhancing their yields. In Nangarhar and Laghman provinces, through a resilience building project, Future Generations Afghanistan distributed agricultural machineries such as tractors, trolleys, tricycles, threshers, rice process machineries and other farming tools to farmer unions.

In Badghis, FGA provided training on summer crop cultivation to 1643 farmers. In Nuristan, FGA survey team selected 252 farming households to receive micro solar dryers and additionally 600 female headed farming households were selected to receive nursery cultivation packages. The solar dryers are designed to dry fruits, vegetables, herbs, and other agricultural produce using the heat generated by the sun, without any external power sources.

EMPOWERING WOMEN

The restrictions placed on women in Afghanistan, have caused immense emotional distress, as well as economic impacts and many women have reported experiencing depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues. Women's education has also been negatively impacted, with female students and teachers unable to attend school or work. Economically, the restrictions have also contributed to a lower female participation rate in the workforce, exacerbating an existing gender gap in employment and income. Most households who are headed by women have to rely on assistance for livelihood. In September, Future Generations Afghanistan worked with local communities to implement livelihood generating projects to support mostly households headed by women in Badghis, Nimruz, Nuristan, Nangarhar and Laghman provinces. Through a home gardening project, 1493 women received vegetable seeds as well as home gardening tools to grow different vegetables in their backyards for income generation. In Nuristan province, FGA distributed mushroom cultivation kits to 100 women. Additionally, 1500 women in Nimruz and 950 women in Badghis received live pullets and poultry production packages as well as training on poultry farming to start their poultry farms.

In Nangarhar province, Future Generations Afghanistan provided training to 634 individuals, largely women, on creating artificial flowers and also on literacy skills and education. In collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, Future Generations Afghanistan initiated a cash-for-work project in two districts of Bamiyan province aimed at empowering women and youth while bolstering the resilience of the local communities. Through this initiative, a total of 10 water resource infrastructures will be erected, with the participation of 300 direct beneficiaries in the construction process, of which a significant number will be women.



FGA staff training women beneficiaries on poultry farming in Badghis province



trench excavation in Mitalram, Laghman

ACHIEVEMENTS IN FGA'S WORK WITH DE FACTO AUTHORITIES

Before any project implementation, FGA administration manager works with de facto authorities to get project approvals from relevant ministries, but due to lack of clear guidelines and procedures for project approval and fluctuating decision-making processes, obtaining project approval is very time-consuming and unpredictable, which could delay the start of the project. In September, FGA introduced the UNDP funded project to the Ministry of Economy (MoEc) and also was able to sign a MoU with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) for the same project. Additionally, FGA also presented the amendments of two FAO funded projects to MoEc and finalized the implementation letters with MAIL, marking the completion of necessary procedures for the approval and amendment of these projects.

LIVESTOCK FARMER FIELD SCHOOL (LFFS)

Through community gatherings or livestock farmer field schools, 6,552 livestock owners in Badghis, Nimruz and Nuristan received training as well as live demonstration of livestock management and livestock vaccination.



live demonstration of livestock management in Badghis

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CASH FOR WORK

Cash for Work is a social protection program that involves providing cash in exchange for work performed by vulnerable households in rural communities. The program is designed to provide short-term income for households in crisis or in need, while also generating social benefits such as infrastructure development or community resilience projects. In September, Future Generations Afghanistan selected 2,965 laborers from local communities in Laghman, Nuristan, Nimruz, Badghis and Logar provinces to work on infrastructures in their communities.