



January 2017

Hey Folks:

The trip in the Summer of 2016 was very successful. We started 6 new schools and saw positive progress on all of the schools started during the 2015 trip. We continue enlarging our circle of territory and, as I look ahead to 2017, I see DAI continuing to support rural locations that larger NGOs have overlooked. Let me begin with a rundown of our 2015-2016 projects and progress.

### 2015 Projects:

Direct Aid International started six schools in 2015, distributing sixty two thousand, five hundred dollars (\$62,500 USD.) The schools ranged in size from a three room school to nine rooms.

- Gabmoda: 6 rooms • \$12,000 • 180 students • grades 1-6 • Six teachers
- Jamboth: 8 rooms • \$12,000 • 389 girls
- Machtab: 9 rooms • \$13,000, • 130 girls & 140 boys • 5 male & 3 female teachers
- Bolosar: 3 rooms • \$3,500 • grades 1-3 • 70 students • 50-50 ratio of boys & girls.
- Lucack: 6 rooms • \$12,000 • 120 students • slightly more girls than boys
- Rehk Garden: 6 rooms • \$10,000 • 250 students • grades 1-6 • six teachers



## 2016 Update

The six schools begun in 2015 were all in the final stages of completion. After my arrival this spring, I was able to see all of the schools while still under construction.

- Gabmoda was 95% complete—minor spackling of the walls and cleanup were all that was needed to complete the project.
- Jamboth was approximately 80% complete—they still need to place the roof on top of the iron beams that were recently delivered.
- Machtab was 95% complete—minor cleanup and spackling of several inside walls was all that was left to complete the project.
- Bolosar was completed in one year.
- Lucack was adding the finishing touches to the outside walls—again minor cleanup and a few finishing touches will complete this project.
- Rehk Garden was 80% complete—they still need to finish the roof, spackle the inside & outside walls and cleanup from construction.

DAI contracted six schools in 2016 distributing fifty five, thousand dollars (\$55,000 USD.) Due to instability in the region, Shash Burjak was unable to continue construction, which left an additional five thousand dollars (\$5,000 USD) available. DAI hopes to support the Shash Burjak project once the region stabilizes. The school sizes ranged between three and six rooms and are listed below.

Sch No.	Community Name	School Type	Gender	District	Province	Work Progress	Funds Released
1	Shoghla	Primary	Girls	Jaghoori	Ghazni	100%	80% of \$10,000
2	Tabarghanak	Middle	Mixed	Jaghoori	Ghazni	80%	80% of \$12,000
3	Muradina	-	Girls	Malistan	Ghazni	40%	40% of \$12,000
4	Sar Talai Jirghai	-	Girls	Nawur	Ghazni	80%	80% of \$10,000
5	Talkhak Garmaab	Middle	Girls	Nawur	Ghazni	50%	50% of \$10,000
6	Alibaig	Primary	Mixed	Center	Bamyan	20%	40% of \$6,000

DAI has teamed up with an Afghan NGO based in Bamiyan called the Conservation Organization of Afghan Mountains (COAM) to build an environmental based curriculum for the Baba School in Bamiyan.

DAI will dedicate one thousand dollars (\$1,000 USD) to support development of the program through the purchase of educational supplies, training and educating students & faculty and, most importantly, the planting of trees and vegetation on the school property.

DAI will dedicate an additional one thousand dollars (\$1,000 USD) to hire and train a local Afghan to travel to the DAI schools in Northern Ghazni and implement a tree-planting regimen. It is our hope that this program will grow and spread roots like the trees we plant.

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The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

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The second best time is today.

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For more information about COAM and its activities, please visit  
<http://www.myafghanmountains.org>

For additional information and updates on the Baba School, please visit  
<http://bamyanbabaschool.org>



I plan to travel, on behalf of Direct Aid International, to Afghanistan again in the Spring/Summer of 2017. We already have two requests for schools in rural Northern Ghazni and Bamiyan. Your financial assistance will allow us, once again, to meet our yearly quota of three to four schools.

In 16 trips to Afghanistan, we have funded 41 schools and one library. None of this could have been accomplished without your support. If you are receiving this communication then, in some way, you have made it possible for our small group of volunteers to work in a steady, effective manner. I thank you for your trust in me and the effort I make to use your contributions as effectively as possible. With your support, I look forward to continued success.

I hope all is well in your world.  
Peace,  
*Jonathan*

