



*The Tom Stone School, Doabi, Afghanistan*

*November 2019*

January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Hey Folks,

Another year is in the books. It was a busy trip and as a result there are many positive achievements to report.

The 2019 trip was shorter in scope as the number of days traveling was limited due in part to security issues. Some of the areas where we have projects, or are considering to implement projects, are dealing with situations that made travel difficult. Parliament was also still in session and my colleague had to get back to Kabul sooner than either of us would have liked. That said, we were able to check in on most of our projects and visit three villages to start several more.

The projects we initiated in 2018 have had mixed success. Due to the instability in some of the areas, getting supplies safely to the locations was an obstacle. Heightened insecurity also slowed down the pace of construction on some of the projects. Following are details on some of the projects and the status of them.

The Tom Stone Project, Doabi; construction on the school had come to a complete standstill. The

reason was due to transporting building supplies through Taliban territory. It has been frustrating at times to accept that one small group of bandits can stop an entire region from living a normal existence. We did discuss the possibility of some progress between now and snowfall. At the same time we needed to reiterate to not take chances on the roads.

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*Tom Stone School, before construction halt*

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*Tom Stone School, restart of construction*

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My last day in the region I was able to observe the re-start of construction on the Tom Stone school. Late in November I received word and photos that showed a 99% completion of the school. All that remains to be done is finishing the floors. The roof, windows, doors, and the spackling have all been completed

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Both the Qushnak three-room and Sabzak six-room schools have reported that they are ninety five percent complete. We chose not to travel to these locations due to security concerns as well as the two or three days travel required.

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The Malnak library will be complete once the exterior is grouted with cement and glass is installed in the frames. We have budgeted \$1,500 for finishing the interior and installing bookcases and tables. Once the construction phase is complete we plan to budget for the purchase of books and a possible computer or two. One step at a time.



*Malnak Library*



## 2019 Projects:

DAI distributed \$50,000 for school construction projects and repairs and started 2 schools and one library during the 2019 trip. DAI also distributed small grants in eight villages where we have already built schools. These grants were to assist the village in improvements and upkeep of the schools.

The November progress report including photos showed near completion on all the major projects initiated in 2019. Following is a breakdown of how the funds were distributed.

\$20,000.....	Doabi – Tom Stone School
\$6,000.....	Khodaidad School Library .....1 room
\$6,000.....	Kodelli Primary School .....3 rooms
\$6,000.....	Koshta Primary School.....4 rooms
\$4,000.....	Jamboth School.....Cement/plaster, walls, floors
\$2,000.....	Malnak Library .....Books, shelving
\$2,000.....	Shahed School .....Cement walls/floors, windows
\$4,000.....	<u>8 schools received a small grant of \$500 dollars each for improvements</u>
\$50,000.....	Total

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## In 2019 DAI also implemented 3 unique projects:

In the spring of 2019, DAI and ECOA (COAM) Bamiyan planted 1000 Poplar trees in the Doabi area near the PRT built dam. This summer I inspected the trees and found almost 100% of them were sprouting leaves. The 2019-2020 winter will determine the mortality and thus success rate. The cost for this project was \$5000.

### A School without a Roof or Walls:

ECOA and DAI agreed to work on a 3 year project in the Nawur district of Ghazni. DAI has agreed to fund the 3 year project in the village of Korja to plant a fruit and nut bearing tree nursery. The nursery will be started this fall (2019) and has been placed on the property of a single landowner. The property owner will be trained to maintain the nursery and after 3 years, start to offer the young saplings to the village as well as other local communities. It was decided that the owner will be able to sell the saplings to his neighbors for a small profit. Mr. Qasimi and Sardar (ECOA) feel that a little cost for the saplings would be best for both the Landowner and the Community as an incentive to



*Ramazan - Steward of the trees*

keep the project moving forward after the 3 year investment on our part. The landowner will see an economic opportunity and the local community will need to take care of their purchase. DAI has agreed to support the project over 3 years at a cost of \$5000 dollars a year for a total of \$15,000. After the initial planting of the nursery, ECOA will travel to Nawur 4 times a year over the 3 year period to provide the expertise and support as well as workshops for the community.

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### Live to Ski-Ski to Live:

*Ali Joya and Sajjad*

#### Bamiyan Rope Tow Project

During the 2019 summer trip, DAI organized several meetings with members of the 5 ski clubs in Bamiyan. DAI was willing to fund a simple rope tow located in Bamiyan, if the ski clubs and a local community would work together to construct, train and maintain a simple rope tow. The project is still in the organizational stage and still has unforeseen roadblocks. That



said I am hopeful that the concept of a rope tow in a permanent location might come together this winter in time for the locals and the few Ex-pats who travel to Bamiyan to enjoy.

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I will return to Afghanistan in 2020; my nineteenth year of building schools and visiting villages that have been overlooked by larger NGOs. It will be a special year in that I hope to celebrate the contracting of the fiftieth school we have funded. None of these schools or libraries would have been built without you. It is only because of your continued support that I am able to continue my work. Thank you for your trust and support over the years.

Peace,

*Jonathan*



*Mr. Qasimi and I*