

Since the soviet occupation in 1979 Afghan educational system has collapsed. As the sanitary system, the educational indicators in Afghanistan are one of the lower in the world, and there is the one of the higher gap between the male and the female access to the educational system, and an high difference between city and countryside.

School buildings have been heavily destroyed. 4.4 million of children are in scholar age and on March 21st 2002, first official school day in the Afghan calendar, approximately 1.5 million of them went back to school .

In 1999 the access at primary school was reserved to 38% of boys and only to 3% of girls, with a drop-out rate of 57%.

In the last year, a third of the 3600 existing schools have been promoted by Non Government Associations (NGO); 7-8% out of 4.4 million children, living in the countryside and having a school age, are studying thanks to educational programs financed from NGOs.

The access to secondary school and university is low due to the poor chance to find well prepared teachers: in 1998, 85% of teachers had left the country or have been murdered. Even now, teachers and professors' salary are very low and are paid not regularly. This situation drove someone to look for another job.

Women, which were not allowed to teach during Taleban dictatorship, have not been substituted, and every teacher follow from 33 to 42 pupils; only 12% out of 21,000 teachers are women, most of them, after have been kept away from their job in 1997, have worked in those non official home-schools which have not been destroyed from the taleban armed force and that have been protected by the NGOs.

After the taleban decree in 1997 that forbade women to work in the school system, the girls' schools in the countryside have been closed, and so far there was a radically reduction of the percentage of girls in primary school: from 34% in 1990 to 7% in 1999. Now schools for girls are 14% of the existing schools, and most of them are supported by NGOs.



PEACEWAVES O.N.L.U.S.

Official Seat:
Via Roma n° 20
27045 Casteggio -PV-

Tel.: +39 0383 82854
Fax: +39 011 8171681
E-mail: peacewaves@peacewaves.org
Web Site: www.peacewaves.org

Knowledge changes the World!

AFGHANISTAN: Reconstruction of the Education System



PEACEWAVES
O.N.L.U.S.



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The projects realized by PeaceWaves have an intergenerational importance because of the involvement, not only as consignee, but as planners and actors, young people that are focal for the sharing and spreading of knowledge.

PeaceWaves works in strict collaboration with the Peace RoundTable, the National Coordination of Local Governments for Peace and IRRE Piedmont.

The association is engaged in the research, training and planning about culture, peace, Human Rights, sustainable development, sport and art as intercultural tools of peace.

On the inside of an international project PeaceWaves collaborate with art and music institutes: summer 2002 with the realization of the music festival "Afghanistan back to the music" in Varazze, and presented in partnership with IRESS a project for the reconstruction of the Afghan education system.

The Association is engaged with some national coordinators in study seminars about peace and active citizenship processes.

The project of the school network, focused on peace themes, is an ideal container for the development of a global concept both at the local and global level ("Students and teachers for peace").

Aims and objectives of the project:

The aim of the project is promoting the culture of peace for a sustainable human development, helping the grow of the Afghan educational system with: rising of the quality of teaching methodology, the participation of the most vulnerable categories (disables, women and drop out), giving them a chance to integrate themselves in productive world, in particular in the sector linked with sport and art.

Our idea aims to make a connection between the school, young people and the territory with intercultural and intergenerational forms to develop tangible processes of citizenship.

The objective of the projects are:

- Realize Italian College in Kabul, "Sport and Art for Peace" (for student 13/18 years old).
- Supporting intensive courses for "lost generations" students (16-28 years old, especially for widows).
- University of the Sports (1 years of basic course, 3 years of selected activities: educational-adaptive; sport technique; sport and event management).
- High specialisation courses: peace education, human rights, conflicts resolution, ecology; sport management, art, music and entertainment management; education management for professors and teachers; long distance learning management.
- Open school and laboratories program for handicraft, life skills, long life learning centre, informal education courses especially for women (literacy course ...)
- Permanent Italian Culture Centre.
- Developing, in the Art Faculty of the university, all the programmes for women, in particular the development of the Women School of Music also through the realization of non formal schools of music in the territory open to everybody.

Furthermore the project envisages the support of an Orphanage in Kabul that was part in a PeaceWaves project: Kids' Guernica.

Direct beneficiaries of the project

- About 20 trainers involved on the local training and in stages in the Italian universities joining the project.
- 60 Afghan teachers
- 700 students
- 40 non teaching workers (school caretakers)
- 10 trainers for long distance education (from 2004)
- 10 managers trained locally and participating to stages at the Italian universities
- at least 20 disabled students
- 10 nurses of the Kabul orphanages attending the courses for psychomotricity
- disabled will have the right to join the sport school for rehabilitation.

Furthermore the school will be an open space of non-formal education that will aggregate different people that will be promoters and actors of active citizenship actions and events.

P E A C E W A V E S O . N . L . U . S .

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ITALY

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