

# Girls' Education in Afghanistan



Girls in Afghanistan dream of becoming doctors, teachers and engineers, but despite having big aspirations for the future, many will never see the inside of a classroom. For far too many girls, attaining an education is considered a privilege and not a right. PWS&D is working with local partner Community World Service Asia (CWSA) to overcome barriers to girls' education and get more girls into the classroom.



In a country where 41% of the population is under the age of 14 and only 24% of females can read and write, investing in education is crucial for the future of Afghanistan. Support for PWS&D's girls' education program provides girls with an opportunity to realize their dreams and learn the skills they need to one day obtain employment, overcome poverty and contribute to the peaceful development of their country's future.

Through training workshops, male and female teachers learn about child psychology, child rights, gender and peace education in order to foster a nurturing learning environment for female students. Old school buildings, damaged from years of war, have been repaired and cleaned and barrier walls constructed to ensure safety.

For poor families, the cost of sending their daughters to school is often a challenge. By providing girls with school supplies, education is more accessible and children have the materials they need to succeed in school.

Local partners work to raise



awareness about the importance of girls' education among parents, community members and religious leaders (*shura*) to encourage increased enrolment, foster positive social change and create a sense of ownership over the program. Community awareness sessions educate community members about the importance of girl's education, while parent-teacher committees work in the community to actively encourage parents to allow their daughters to go to school.

Shanez, a leader of a parent-teacher committee in one of Laghman's schools says, "Before this program, we did not allow our girls to get an education. But now we agree with the need for an education."

Liluma, headmistress of Qarghai Girls' School has also noticed the positive impact of the program—enrolment at her school has increased by over 150 girls. "The increase of girls coming to school is because of acquired awareness, and the parent-teacher committees going door-to-door to solve problems that cause restrictions for girls." She adds, "All of this is making a difference in Afghanistan."

## Your Gifts Make a Difference!

Through your generous support of PWS&D, together we are helping girls in Afghanistan receive an education that could one day transform the future of their country. Below are examples of how your gifts are shared:



**\$12** provides one girl with skills-based training

**\$45** trains one girl in peace, gender and human rights so she has the knowledge to build a better future

**\$210** provides one teacher with training to ensure a quality education

**\$300** sends a child to school for a year



[WeRespond.ca](http://WeRespond.ca)

 **Presbyterian  
World Service  
& Development**

50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7  
1-800-619-7301 • [pwsd@presbyterian.ca](mailto:pwsd@presbyterian.ca)