Joint Development Associates International

Catalyzing Transformational Development

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MAKING HANDWASHING A HABIT!

More than 5,000 children under 5 years of age die from diarrheal diseases in Afghanistan.

October 15th marks the annual Global Handwashing Day, aimed at increasing awareness and understanding about the importance of handwashing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives.

To celebrate Handwashing Day, JDA puts together a puppet show for three different primary and secondary schools. The puppet show serves as a fun, creative way to encourage children to wash their hands with soap and at the same time shares essential information about germs, causes of diarrhoea, how to prevent it and cure diarrhoea, proper sanitation and hygiene practices and the importance of drinking safe water.



This year's theme is "Make Handwashing a Habit!" For handwashing to be effective it must be practiced consistently at key times, such as after using the toilet or before contact with food. Habit is extremely important for positive behavior changes and long-term sustainability.

JDA's priority is sustainability, therefore, we provide each school where the puppet show is held with a handwashing station and drinking water station. Access to these stations makes it easier for students to apply what they have learned from the puppet show. In result, children will have immediate benefits to their health and education.

Handwashing with soap can reduce the risk of diarrhoea by 42 to 45%.



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Our WASH program started in 2009 in Balkh Province, Afghanistan and since then has:

- Benefited 48,600 direct beneficiaries.
- Trained 14,600 women and men in hygiene and sanitation.
- Provided 34,000 people with clean water through the drilling of 32 new wells.

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WASH FOR HEALTHY LIVES

JDA's Water Access, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project provides access to clean water and increases community health and awareness through the education on proper hygiene and sanitation practices and drilling borehole wells.

In recent surveys of villages we will work in we found that:

- **0% of the people have appropriate handwashing behavior.**
- **Only 4% have knowledge of the causes of diarrhoea.**
- **Only 6% have knowledge of diarrhoea prevention.**
- **70% of the children under 5 years of age suffer from diarrhoea.**

Our WASH trainers provide an intensive 10 session hygiene and sanitation course in multiple 5-weeks time during which women and men learn about proper hygiene and sanitation, nutrition, water purification , water-borne diseases, how to treat, cure and prevent them and the importance of hand washing. Our main goal is to educate 80% of the women in each community before we move on to work in the next village. By doing this, we ensure sustainability through the positive behavioural changes the entire community makes after training.





When drilling takes place, village elders help find and agree on the best location for the wells. Water testing is performed and hand pumps installed in the new wells. In order to keep the wells in working condition, JDA also trains a group of men on hand pump repair. The men learn basic hand pump repair and receive a tool kit to perform the repairs in the future.





JDA ensures that hygiene awareness and clean water reach thousands of people so that they can make positive behaviour changes towards a healthier life and alleviate the burden of women and children who fetch water from long distances.