Joint Development Associates International

Catalyzing Transformational Development

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Yaka Bagh Village Participant

"My child had diarrhea for 13 days. My mother wanted us to avoid giving him water, because she believed that by avoiding fluids the diarrhea will stop. My boy was becoming worse as the days passed. I wasn't sure what to do. I participated in a hygiene and sanitation training class while this was happening and learned some great information about Oral Rehydration Solutions (ORS). I went home immediately and made ORS fluid and gave it to my child for two days. He is healthy now. I feel that if I had not participated in the hygiene group, I would have lost my child. Thank you for the lessons."





Mohtahid Village Participant



"After the lessons of safe water chain and water treatment, I shared the entire lesson with my neighbor. She asked her husband to buy a bottle of chlorine. Now, they are using it for cleaning the water and vegetables. I am very happy to see that I can also make an impact just by sharing the information I learned."

Yaka Bagh Village Participant

"We didn't have information about hygiene, microbes and cause of illness until JDA came into our village with hygiene lessons. I bring home the information from the training lessons and discuss all the issues with my children. We have also made the necessary changes in our hygiene behaviors in order to achieve healthier lives. You opened the door of lightness by coming to our village."



We continue to share essential hygiene and sanitation lessons with rural communities of Afghanistan and give them the tools they need to live healthier lives.





Culture: Jogi Communities

Jogis are a vulnerable minority in Afghanistan, mostly residing in northern and northeastern parts of the country. Their population is formed by around 100,000 people. The Jogis immigrated to Afghanistan from Tajikistan around one and a half centuries ago (Daily Outlook Afghanistan). Unfortunately, Afghanistan's government has not officially recognized the Jogis, therefore, they do not have national identity cards (referred to as a Tazkiras). Their lack of Afghan identity deprives them access to schools, employment, receiving assistance from the government and many international aid organizations.

Jogis live in difficult conditions under tents. They do not own land or remain in specific location for a long time. They are like Gypsies and change locations in small groups based on the weather conditions. When they start living in a place and it gets very cold, they move to other warm areas and when it gets very hot in these areas they move back to their previous locations as the weather would have gotten better by the time.

Where in an Afghan home the male is responsible to work, in the Jogi community men generally do not work. The men are usually busy with chores at home. It is part of their culture that women should be the money earners and men should be the homemakers. They work as palm-readers, or become beggars. A Jogi woman, in spite of being pregnant, holds her child and a bag and has to work from dawn to dark. Little girls learn begging and fortune telling from their mothers at a very young age.

Most Jogis are left uneducated since they spend all of their life on the move and children cannot attend schools because their parents do not hold a Tazkira. Jogis do not have their own graveyards like other tribes do in Afghanistan. If any of their members die during their journey, they bury him/her wherever they are.

They are the most vulnerable society of Afghanistan. Last year, JDA had the opportunity to share the importance of proper hygiene and sanitation with a Jogi community. The atmosphere was quite different than the typical as joint training of women and men was possible among the group. They do not have family restriction among themselves. Overall, families were very appreciative that we reached out to their forgotten community.

Jogi – a Forgotten Identity." *Daily Outlook Afghanistan, the Leading Independent Newspaper*.N.p., 10 July 2011. Web. 25 July 2017.

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Shelter made from cloth by Jogi family.



Hygiene & Sanitation lesson with Jogis.