



Joint Development Associates International

Catalyzing Transformational Development

IMPROVING COMMUNITY HEALTH IN AFGHANISTAN WASH/BLISS





Water: An essential human need

Water is an essential human need. Each person requires at least 20 to 50 liters of clean, safe water a day for drinking, cooking, and personal sanitation. Unfortunately, in the rural villages of Afghanistan, half of the population remains without access to clean water. People rely on collecting water from streams or irrigation canals, which puts their health at risk. Our WASH program aims to prevent the development of water-related diseases. To meet the need for clean water and reduce diseases, JDA has continued its efforts to provide sustainable clean water through the installation of wells and hand pumps in northern villages of Afghanistan.

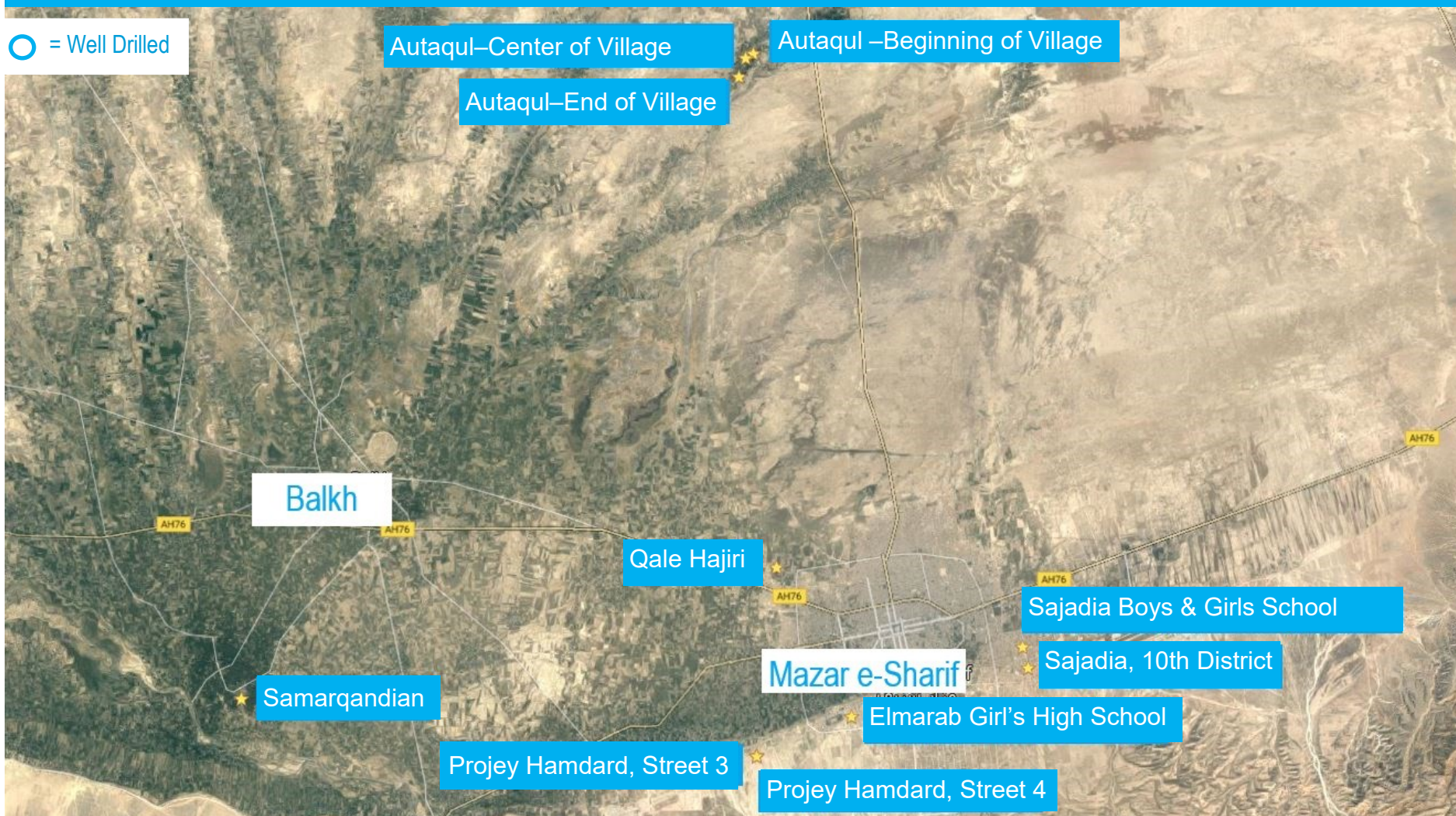


Left: Girl walking to the nearest canal to collect water for her family's daily use.

Right: Children enjoying access to new well in Autaqul village.



Northern Afghanistan-Balkh Province



13,812 Afghans have better access to clean water through wells.

In 2017, JDA installed ten new wells with hand pumps throughout the districts of Dehdadi, Nar-e –Shahi, Mazar e-Sharif, and Balkh province. Two of those wells, were installed for schools; Elmarab Girls High School, and Sajadia Boys & Girls High School. The wells provide water access for 13,812 beneficiaries, including 1,082 students from the two schools.



Officially handing over finished wells to people of the villages.



The well drilling process begins with the selection of a central location that would provide easy water access to all the people in the village. Next, a study of the geological ground layers is performed. After this, well drilling begins using a rotary machine or cable tool machine until proper water is found. PVC casing is then inserted. The water from the well is cleaned using an electric submersible water pump which runs for 10-40 hours until 100% clean water comes out. When the cleaning process is finished, construction of the concrete apron is done, and a hand pump installed.

The average cost for a well is \$2,870, which includes labor and materials.



— Hygiene & Sanitation —

We cannot fight against diseases without addressing proper hygiene and sanitation. As part of our WASH approach, we educate men, women, and children from the villages about proper hygiene and sanitation practices. They receive information about the transmission of diseases related to water, and what they can do to prevent diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, etc. The most essential step for healthy communities is behavior change. People must change their personal habits and practice proper hygiene and sanitation in order to improve their health. To encourage changes, participants receive hygiene packages containing : soap, soap holder, chlorine, tooth brush, and toothpaste. The installation of hand washing stations near latrines are also encouraged. In addition, water filters are distributed (as necessary). At the same time, we want to promote community participation, to ensure the correct use and maintenance of water sources. Our commitment to community participation guarantees sustainability.



Freshta from Dehrazy village:

"After I took part in the hygiene lessons, I made many changes in my house. In order to prevent the transfer of germs, I covered the latrine hole, and placed water and soap next to it for proper hand washing. I built a chicken coop to keep my chickens, cleaned all around my house, and covered the windows to keep the flies out. One day, my neighbor, who had not participated in the hygiene lessons, came by my house. She was impressed by the changes and she would do the same with her home. It was a great feeling to know that I was making an impact on someone else by applying the lessons learned from JDA's WASH team."



Mohammad from Samarqandian village:

"We are gardeners," said Mohammad. "We use many fresh fruits and vegetables. Our children were always sick with diarrhea. I did not realize what the cause of their illness was, until I participated in JDA's hygiene and sanitation lessons. I had heard of benefits of eating fruits and vegetables, but I was not aware of the germs they can carry if not washed with clean water. Now, we disinfect our fruits and vegetables and collect water from the well."

Amrudin from Yaka Bagh village:

"Before I participated in the hygiene lessons, I did not care much for the cleanliness of my home. Our yard was polluted. Through the lessons, I have learned about the different diseases caused by improper hygiene, and the importance of keeping the environment around us clean. We boil the water now, and I keep my yard clean. My family and I are thankful to JDA for bringing these changes into our lives."



Men's training consists of a series of 10 lessons that include information about water borne diseases and prevention, importance of hand washing, and proper hygiene and sanitation practices. All the material is taught through picture drawings, as most of the participants are illiterate.





Women are the caretakers of their household, therefore, it is essential that they learn about the spread of germs and how to prevent diseases. Women's hygiene and sanitation training also consists of 10 lessons that cover information on water borne diseases, proper hygiene and sanitation practices, the spread of germs, how to filter water, the importance of hand washing, and proper nutrition.



Latifa from Mohtahid Village:



"When the hygiene lessons began in our village, my husband participated in the training. He would come back home and share what he had learned with me. I used to think that my house was clean. After attending the hygiene training myself, I found out about germs and the ways in which they can be transmitted. I realized that we did not use clean water, our latrine was always open, and my children never washed their hands before meals. I immediately made the proper changes by closing our latrine, setting a tippy tap (handwashing station) with soap next to it, and not allowing my children to eat without washing their hands first. My husband and I also prepared a lesson to share the important information about hygiene with our neighbors."



WASH in Schools

Hand washing saves lives, time and money!



Children are important to the communities. They apply changes and learn easily. Each year, as part of Global Hand Washing Day, JDA selects two schools to host a puppet show and promote proper hygiene and sanitation. We teach children about hand washing as the most effective method of stopping the spread of germs.

The puppet show consists of six characters, played by JDA staff: water, soap, microbe, healthy girl, ill girl, and filter. The puppets interact with the students by asking them questions in regards to hygiene. The students also receive a gift containing: soap for hand washing, hygiene coloring book, and coloring pencils. A well also was added to each school.

Teachers commented : *"The puppet show is an amazing program that was entirely new to us."*

2017 Puppet Show Participants

School	Number of students
Elmarab Girls High School	404
Sajadia Boys & Girls High School	677
Total Students Participants	1,081

Birth Life Saving Skills

Rates of maternal and child mortality in Afghanistan remain amongst the highest in the world. Many of the women whom we work with have experienced the death of a child. Women in rural areas have limited or no access to health care services, forcing them to give birth at home. It is essential to educate women on basic life saving care to help the fight against child-mother mortality.

Birth Life Saving Skills lessons are focused on pregnancy, birth, and newborn care. In addition, trainers share information about good lifetime health practices and family planning.

Aijan from Nawabad village:



Aijan has six children, including twins. She says; "My children are small. I cannot handle all the work. When the BLiSS lessons began in our village, I became very excited to attend the lessons. Each day, I would show my husband what I had learned. My husband and mother-in-law never approved of family planning methods. They believed it was a sin. Now that my husband has heard the information about family planning, he does not oppose. We are both very pleased."



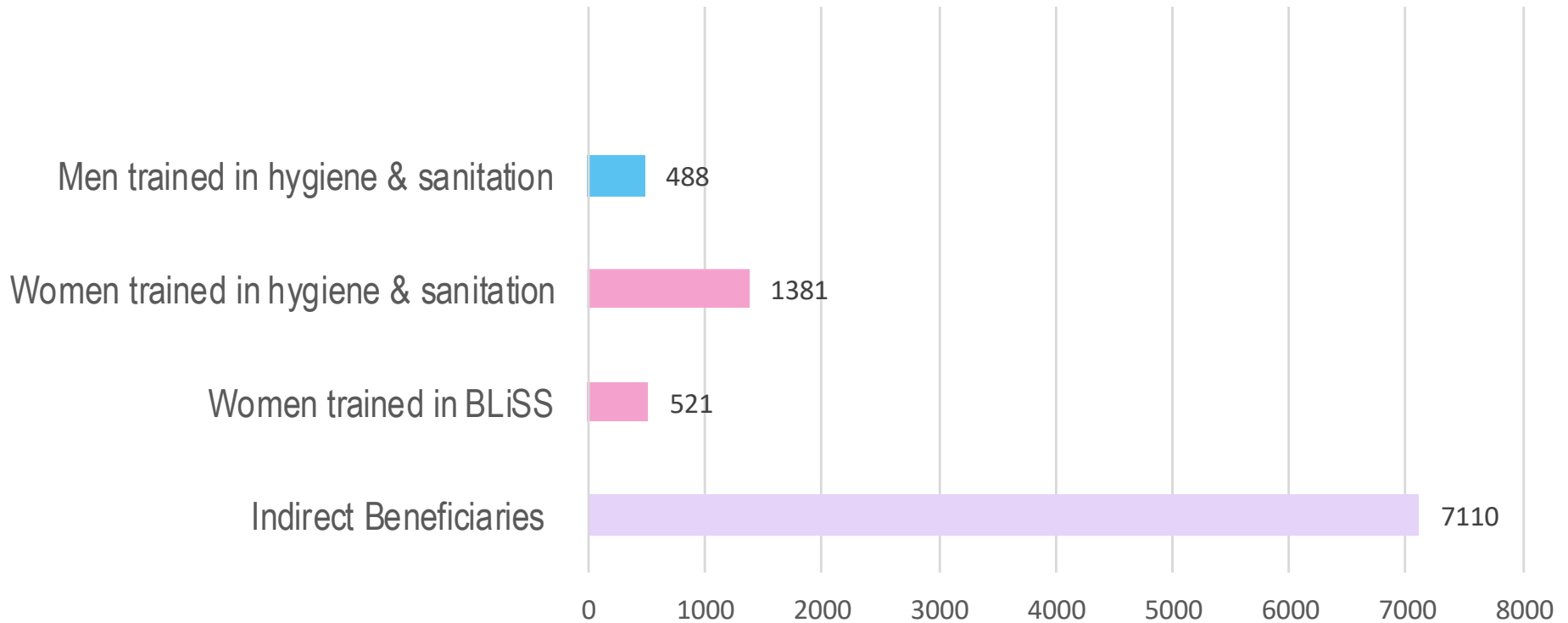
JDA's Birth Life Saving Skills training team



BLiSS participants after receiving their completion certificate



2017 Hygiene, Sanitation & BLiSS Training Outcome

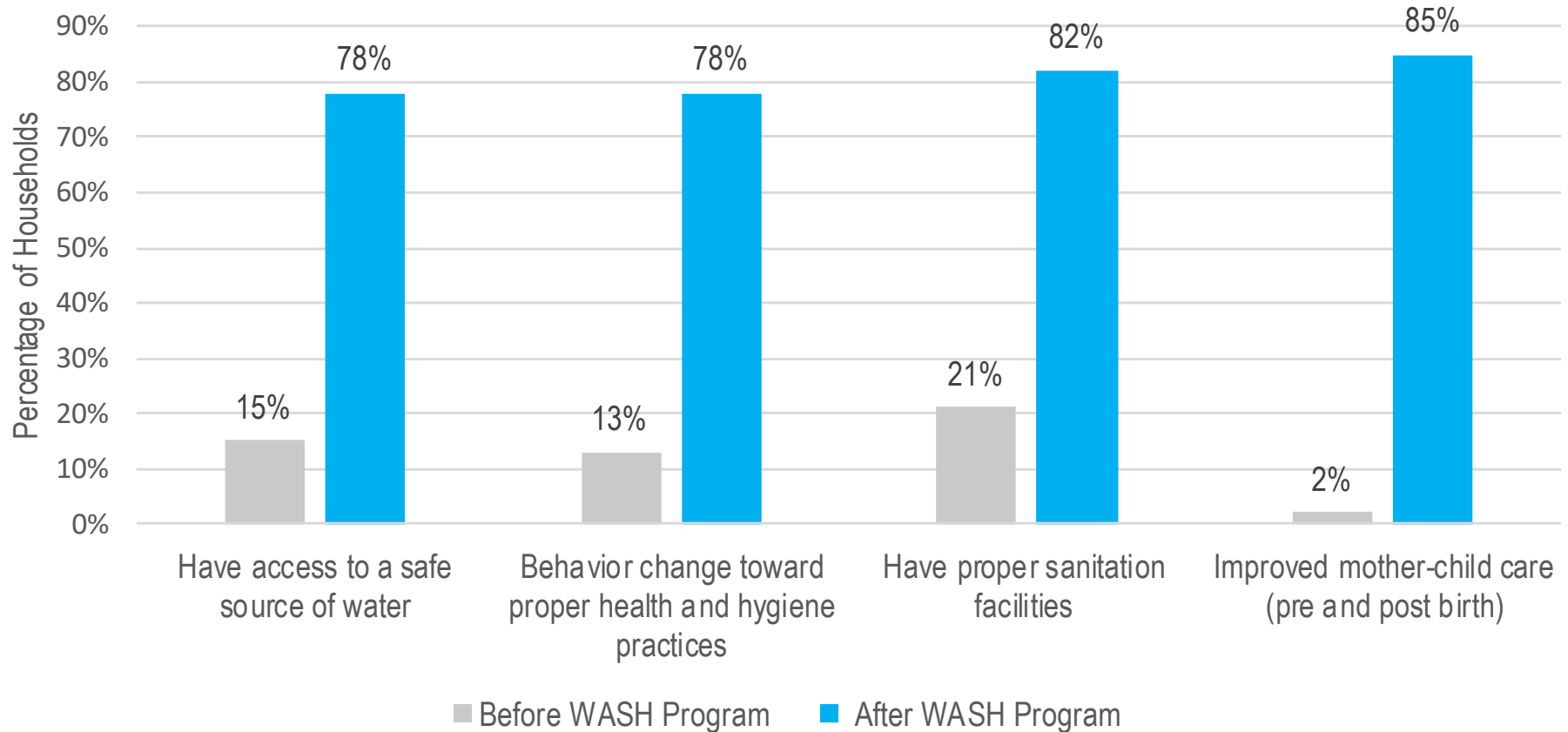


Note: Direct beneficiaries are those who were trained on hygiene and sanitation and BLiSS by our trainers. Indirect beneficiaries are calculated as those who received the information from direct beneficiaries.

In 2017, JDA's WASH team trained a total of 1,869 people in proper hygiene and sanitation; 488 men and 1381 women. In the BLiSS program, there were 521 direct beneficiaries and 1,236 indirect beneficiaries, all women.

Impact of WASH/BLiSS Training Program

Baseline & final survey information from Balkh, Dehdadhi and Nahari Shahi Districts

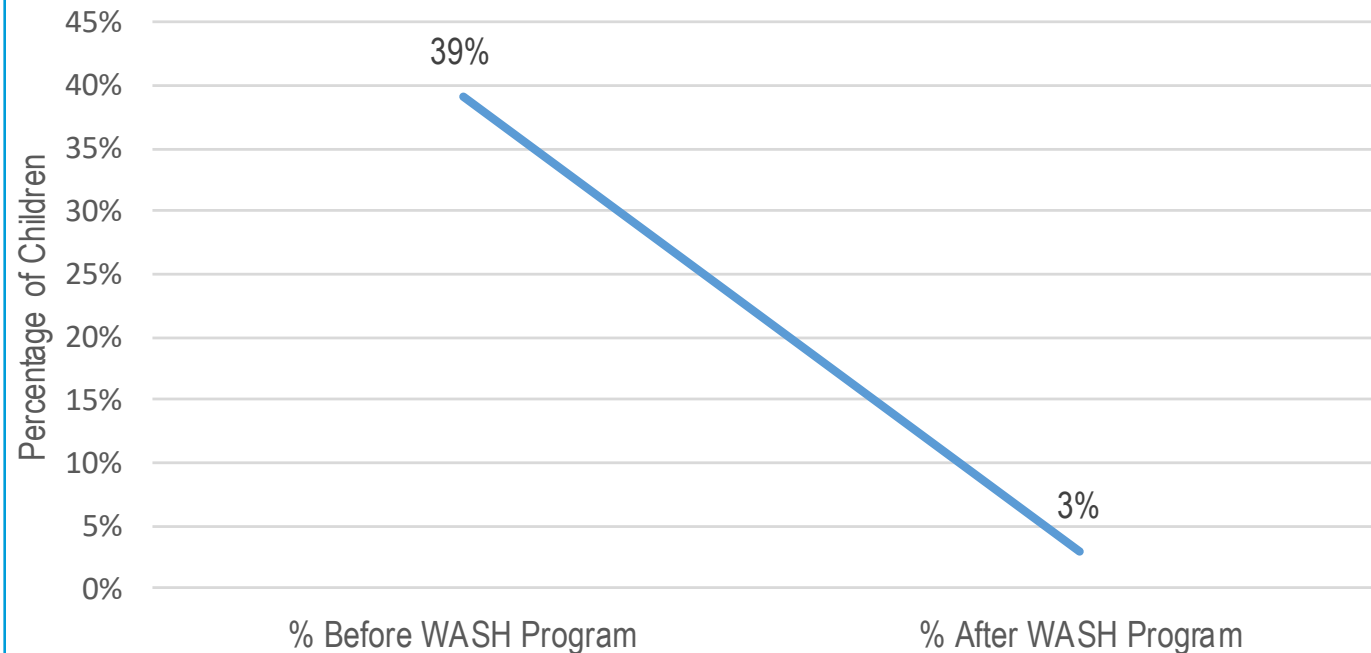


JDA focuses on training mostly women in hygiene & sanitation, as they are the caretakers of the household. Our goal is to educate 80% of the women in each village. We see this as a way to ensure sustainability of our work, because 80% of the village would have made positive behavioral changes in hygiene & sanitation. In addition, those already trained tend to share knowledge and information with relatives and neighbors even from other villages, which further increases awareness in the villages.

Impact of WASH/BLISS Training Program

Children under five with diarrheal disease

Baseline & final survey information from Balkh, Dehdadhi and Nahari Shahi Districts



Diarrheal disease is the second leading cause of death in children under 5 years old. This problem can be treated and prevented through behavioral changes towards adequate hygiene and sanitation and the use of safe drinking water. Through the information received in WASH training, and positive behavior changes to improve hygiene and sanitation, children's health benefits greatly.





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Thank you for your generosity and support! Your donation encourages our continued commitment to the people of Afghanistan. You are helping JDA make a positive difference .