

WASH/BLISS Education Program Activities



JOINT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES
Catalyzing Transformational Development

Hygiene & Sanitation



JDA has seen first-hand how education and health are key to eliminating poverty, oppression and extremism. It is very important to make every effort to ensure that hygiene and sanitation awareness reaches thousands of people so that they can make positive changes towards a healthier life and alleviate the burden for thousands of Afghans by providing safe water access.

We are happy to see the positive change in every community JDA has reached out to this year. It is encouraging to see the increased willingness and participation of not just women but also men who want to gain valuable information on health and hygiene to improve the condition of their villages.

During 2015, JDA's Water Access Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) team trained 1307 women and 577 men in appropriate hygiene and sanitation practices. Groups are educated during a 5-week course which focuses on appropriate hand washing, diarrheal disease in children under age 5, disease prevention, and knowledge on critical care. After the course all participants receive essential hygiene supplies such as soap, towel, toothbrush and toothpaste.



“Our children suffered from diarrhea both in the summer and winter. We had been using water from the stream and dam and did not understand how agents are transmitted by the fecal-oral routes causing diarrheal diseases. When I heard about the hygiene training I decided to participate. I learned about issues with water, treatment of water by boiling and chlorine, diarrhea, and washing hands with soap. Now, I am treating water by boiling and washing vegetables with chlorine. We understood that the safe disposal of feces is one of the principal ways of breaking the fecal–oral disease transmission cycle. Therefore, sanitation is a critical barrier to disease transmission. Now we are using safe and boiled water for our children and they have no more diarrhea. I will put to practice everything I have learned to have a healthy family.”-Mrs. Mehrojan

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“Our family has been using the water from the stream that flows by El Marab. My father is old and he was always sick; our children also had diarrhea. We did not know anything about hygiene and the quality of the water we were using in our house. Fortunately, I participated in the hygiene training. I have learned that many diseases can originate from an unclean environment and unsafe drinking water. We also received a bio-sand filter at the end of the training. When we started using the bio-sand filter, my father did not become sick anymore and our children stopped having diarrhea.



The hygiene lessons were so helpful. It gave us a new life.” – Hygiene group participant, El Marab Village

Birth Life Saving Skills



Many Afghan women deliver their babies in their own homes, with little or no knowledge of basic healthcare, making Afghanistan the country with the highest infant mortality rate.

JDA has been training hundreds of Afghan women in Birth Life Saving Skills since we added the program in 2013. Birth Life Saving Skills is a community-based program about basic health, pregnancy, birth, newborn care, and family planning. Women participate in a 8-week training which covers topics on healthy choices in pregnancy, warning signs during pregnancy and birth, and the immediate care of a newborn and the mother. After completion of the training, women are handed BLISS packages which contain: apron, blade, BLISS booklet, gauze pad, cloth, eye ointment, gloves, iodine solution, plastic sheet, sanitary pad, and soap.

Most men in rural villages don't allow their wives to attend a hospital or clinic which also results in many deaths during pregnancy. JDA sees the importance of educating men about safe pregnancies and deliveries, and we are working towards adding a modified BLISS training for men.



"I learned about pregnancy and its complications in a BLiSS training hosted by JDA. When my delivery pain started, I managed to contact three other girls who were also in my BLiSS group. These three girls came to my house and assisted me to have a safe delivery. I had normal childbirth; both I and my baby are healthy."-**Langhar Khana, BLiSS participant**

The three young girls said, "we followed what we learned in our BLiSS group. Thank you. The education we received has made us better persons."



"My daughter had her first child. She had complications. I was able to use all the information I received from the BLiSS lessons and assisted her delivery. My daughter and grandson are both healthy now."

—Amina Shakila

"Everything I learned in this course was essential to me when I became pregnant. I remembered to visit the clinic for examination, to rest, eat nutritiously, and drink more water. I had a safe delivery and healthy baby. I am glad I took this course. I do not know what I would have done without this essential information."—

Hamida



Number of Beneficiaries for WASH/BLiSS Education Program

	In 2015	Since 2009
Total Number of Women trained in Hygiene & Sanitation	1307	9,550
Total Number of Men trained in Hygiene & Sanitation	577	1,500
Total Number of Women trained in BLiSS	306	1,350
Total Number of Beneficiaries	2,190	12,400

WASH in Schools



Hand washing is the most essential, easy and effective step that can be taken to prevent the spread of harmful pathogens. Each year on October 15, Hand Washing Day is celebrated around the world. JDA's mission with the Puppet Program is to create awareness on the importance of hand washing and good hygiene among school age children. Our goal is to improve health and lessen the prevalence of diseases. We believe our Puppet Program is an essential step in ensuring a healthy physical learning environment.

Proper hygiene practices are essential to everyday life. Every day contact between students and staff spread germs, which can cause sickness. Some students do not sufficiently wash their hands on a regular basis due to limited access to hand washing facilities or encouragement. When hand washing is done properly, it is the best way to prevent the spread of infection. This is why we have taken the WASH program to schools through a puppet show.





This year we celebrated Global Hand Washing Day and held a puppet show for two schools in Balkh Province; Wali Asr Girls & Boys Primary School and Sayed Jalal Sadat Girls & Boys Primary School.

The program focused on teaching the appropriate way to wash hands, the causes of diarrhea, how to stop and prevent it, and the use of safe water. In order to keep the sustainability of the program, JDA installed a 144-liter capacity sink as a hand washing facility in each school. The presence of a hand washing station is critical in getting students to wash their hands after each latrine use or contact with unclean surfaces. A total of 727 students participated in the Puppet Show program for Hand Washing Day. This program is not only interesting and helpful to the children but was also informative to the adults who participated. They can all make an impact by passing these messages on to their communities.



JDA's WASH/BLiSS Team



Great progress has been made this past year. JDA is able to reach out to vulnerable populations through partnerships with communities, schools, and government agencies. We want to continue this journey in Afghan communities and raise awareness of proper hygiene and sanitation practices, Birth Life Saving Skills and provide access to clean water.

Our WASH/BLiSS program, since its inception in 2009, has operated on donations from people and organizations who recognize the value of building relationships and fostering trust through education. Partner organizations such as First Fruit Foundation, Tearfund (UK) and Life Outreach International have consistently provided funds for our WASH/BLiSS activities. Generous donations by individuals, churches and businesses help to pay our Afghan staff, provide the materials for lessons and for the cost of transportation to villages. However, our funding is not without gaps. We experience periods of time when we have to reign in our activities due to a shortfall in contributions. We need your prayers and donations to maintain and expand this vital program. Please prayerfully consider what God would have you do.

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