

Afghanistan Wheelchairs Project 2004

SUMMARY REPORT



**PROJECT
BACKGROUND**

**One-third of
Afghanistan's
landmine
victims are
estimated to be
children**

Whenever war broke out in any part of the world it affected the children the most. During the last decade, two million children worldwide have been killed as a result of war, four to five million children have been disabled, 12 million have been left homeless, more than one million orphaned or separated from their parents, and approximately ten million children have been psychologically traumatized as a result of war.

One of the most affected countries regarding the killings of children due to war or its consequences is Afghanistan.

In Afghanistan only, where a civil war has been continuing for the past 20 years, around 300,000 to 400,000 children have died out of total population of 20 million.

Every three hours or so, a child is blown up as a result of more than ten million landmines planted all over Afghanistan. One-third of Afghanistan's landmine victims are estimated to be children. Those children who survive a trauma of a mine incident are burden on their families and require extensive medical care, rehabilitation and most importantly, economic support throughout their lives.

More than one quarter of Afghan babies do not see their fifth birthday.

According to UNICEF's State of the World's Children Report, Afghanistan has the fourth worst record in under five child mortality, the infant mortality rate being 152 per 1,000 live births. More than a quarter of a million children under five die each year, many more than those caught in armed conflict or killed by mines.

War have several other worse effects on children including loss of parents and other close relatives, many left their education because of poverty, displacements, disabilities, destroyed infrastructure of education etc.

In a post-conflict society such as in Afghanistan, the Education for Development Foundation (EDF) and Minsai Center Japan (MCJ) have corporately extended the support for children and people with disabilities, especially physically disabled people by war.

The mission firstly launched by our cooperation with Japan International Friendship and Welfare Foundation (JIFF), a Japanese NGO working on medical support to Afghan refugees, in setting up office in Kabul under the name of Mehdi Educational Support Association Afghanistan (MESAA) in 2003 with the mission to provide scholarship and wheelchairs support to disadvantaged and disabled children and people who became war victims.

The disabled children project extension to Afghanistan was mainly supported from 2 Japanese organization; "WAFCA" (Wheelchairs And Friendship Center of Asia), an NGO under the affiliation of Denso Group and "Collaborative Music Workshop" (CMW) , a Japanese NPO organizing a charity concert to raise fund for the project.

In our first action in 2003, we cooperated with MESAA to transfer 100 wheelchairs with an amount of THB 700,000 to support disabled children and people in Afghanistan in March 2003. The mission was completed successfully in the first year and the 2nd year of Wheelchair Project in Afghanistan has been conducted in 2004 and the project report was concluded in this summary report.

CURRENT

SITUATION

On the date of his trip to H'erat a ceasefire took place, any way, Mr. Zabiullah decided to go to do his duty with accepting of life risk incase of ceasefire broken

In 2004, we have further transferred 70 wheelchairs and 30 tri wheelchairs to MESAA in June 2004 in order to support the Afghan disabled children and people. In 2004, EDF in cooperation with MCJ will support 70 scholarships for disadvantaged and disabled children in Afghanistan as well.

On 12th June 2004, the shipment of 70 wheelchairs and 30 tri-wheelchairs departed for Afghanistan from Thai Wheel Factory Nonthaburi, Thailand. This was the second action of our Wheelchairs supporting project to Afghanistan Year 2004, with the cooperation from various aforementioned international organizations involved including WAFCA, WAFCAT, Collaborative Music Workshop in Japan (MCW), MCJ, MESAA and EDF in Thailand.

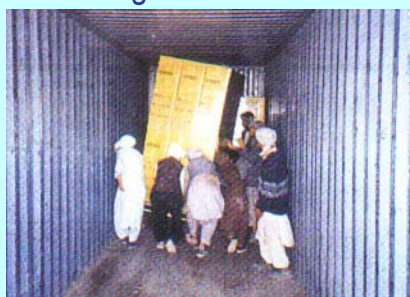
This project began when a Japanese NPO (Collaborative Music Workshop) organized the Charity Concert and offered the contribution to MCJ and EDF of "Darunee Group", the international group of Asian NGOs concentrated on providing scholarship to children with economical difficulty under compulsory education system in I-san region of Thailand including Cambodia, Laos and Afghanistan.

In July 2004, "MESAA" Office in Kabul, the capital city of Afghanistan, started to search for most needy recipients of wheelchairs and tri-wheelchairs who some are disabled children who otherwise cannot commute to schools without wheelchairs. And in 2002, MESAA staff was invited to Thailand to attend "International Wheelchair production and maintenance Training Program" in order to give Wheelchair maintenance knowledge to all wheelchairs recipients for the longer and effective usage.

100 wheelchairs were shipped from Bangkok port toward Bandar Abbas port of Iran and transferred to Islam Gala port in Heart city, the border city of Afghanistan to Iran in 19th August 2004. The city of H'erat where our MESAA staff, Mr. Zabiullah Ahmadyar, was supposed to go for receiving wheelchairs was under rocket attack from four directions, also some fighting was reported in some district of the province that surrounding the city, and its spreading also was reported, the situation from the security point of view is not good. On the date of his trip to H'erat a ceasefire took place, any way, Mr. Zabiullah decided to go to do his duty with accepting of life risk incase of ceasefire broken, but finally he was safe arrival to Kabul and completed his valued mission on a project for disadvantaged children as well.



The Wheelchairs were packed at Thai Wheel Factory in the presence of EDF and WAFCAT delegates



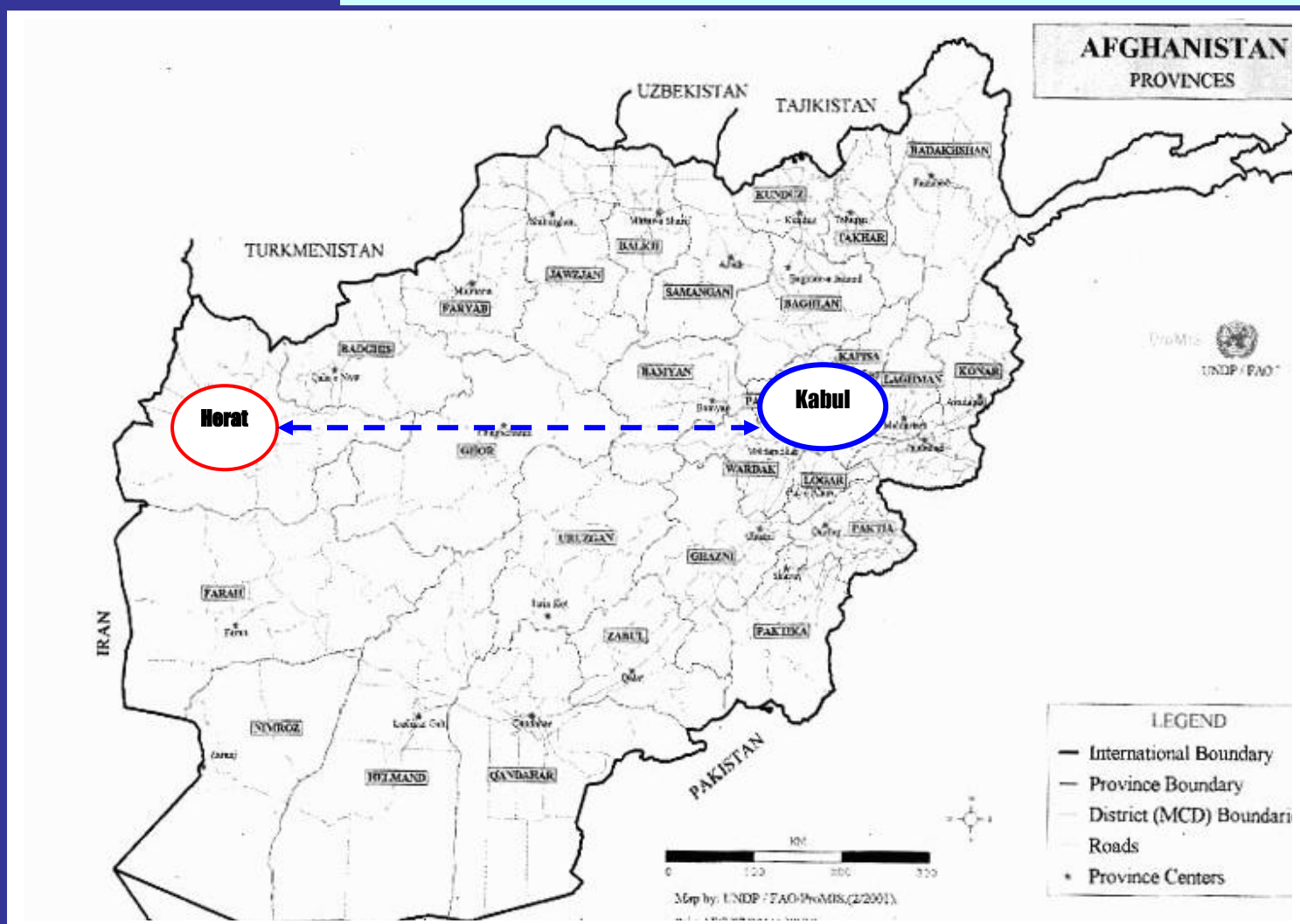
Boxes of 70 wheelchairs and 30 tri-wheelchairs were loaded into the containers



2 Containers of Wheelchair shipment were ready to be shipped from Thailand to Afghanistan

CURRENT SITUATION

Map indicating the distance to Heart City where our staff had to go and receive Wheelchairs shipment for 2004 Project



The Wheelchair shipment safely arrived in Kabul by trucking in 28th August 2004 which is quite late due to the truck break down on the way to Kabul and the flood of refugees returned from Iran that faced city for lack of truck, therefore it took 4 to 5 days to reach Kabul

As soon as the wheelchair shipment arrived Kabul and the custom clearance was completely done, the preparation of wheelchair presentation ceremony was planned at the beginning of September 2004 by with contact MOE, MOP, schools, some listed disable students, some NGO and Government officials to participate in the ceremony which supposed to be held on 7th September 2004.



Our MESAA staff
Mr. Zabiullah Ahmadyar



Afghanistan Disabled Children

CURRENT

SITUATION

As the plan to have Wheelchairs Presentation Ceremony on Tuesday 7th September 2004, but later on MESAA was informed by media that Tuesday is the starting day for election campaign (a very important day) therefore we could not make ceremony on that day.

MESAA has also contacted MOP about the arrival of Wheelchair shipment to Kabul and the establishment of the Wheelchair Presentation Ceremony, but after long awaiting for the positive answer, MESAA was asked by MOP to cancel the ceremony as we has already held the ceremony last year therefore, it was not necessary to held it again. One ceremony is enough for one project, MOP said.

But the exact causes of this cancellation was due to the security reason because there was a big bomb blast in Kabul city on the week before the planned date of the ceremony and it was time for election campaign, therefore gathering of people in public place like we would like to have a ceremony was dangerous in security point of view due to the approaching of the election day.

MOP provided the alternative for us that the distribution of wheelchairs among the surveyed disabled children in Kabul city is allowed under the supervision of MOP officials, but another obstacle occurred when MOE did not agree the presence of MOP officials in the ceremony. At that time MESAA had no alternative, but obeyed the rules for NGO issued by the government because MESAA signed the agreement upon its registration that it will obey all the rules for NGOs issued by the government.

Finally, the wheelchairs delivery to the surveyed disabled children and people was held quietly in a school in Kabul, some wheelchairs and tri-wheelchairs out of 100 was provided to needy disabled children and people attended the delivery event. Some pictures of the wheelchair recipients for this year were gathered in this summary report.

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PROJECT

CONCLUSION

Everyday there are children who became disabled due to civil war, rocket bombing and land mines throughout the country.

For the 2004 Wheelchairs Presentation Project to Afghanistan, it is difficult to control the schedule as planned due to the instability of the political and civil situation in the country also the civil war occurred daily there, therefore the project had to be adjusted upon said instability. These made some difficulties to our 2004 project to Afghanistan, but even the tough situation we experienced, the project finally been achieved with the cooperation from many parties involved especially our MESAA staffs who tirelessly dedicated to this project.

As from our survey carried out in Kabul, there are still a large number of existing disabled and children in need of wheelchairs and other kinds of aids and support and everyday there are children who became disabled due to civil war, rocket bombing and land mines throughout the country.

The disabled people there will be expecting support from the generosity and helping hand from the people who are highly social concerned and able to help the poorest and the most helpless children of the world; in order to continue to run and extend the scope of the wheelchair project and improve its standard. Nowadays more and more of the disabled who are big and bigger burden of their families and society due to their disability and cannot help themselves.

There is a great need of easing the worsen situation of Afghan disabled children since the children have been the innocent who are affected directly

We can release their burden and enable them to live and learn like normal people disregards of their disabilities. We can help improving the quality of life of innocent children who have no one to look after them due to their disability. Our aim is to help the disabled children and people that are disabilities and in unbearable conditions and bring them out as educated citizens who will be the future of our country. Through global support we can help more disabled children.



**WHEELCHAIR
PRESENTATION
CEREMONY
KABUL 2003
PHOTO GALLERY**



FOR MORE

INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT

Should you desire to obtain further information or make a contribution to our Wheelchair Project in Afghanistan, Please Contact us at:



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