



Shelter Now Germany e.V.
Waisenhausdamm 4 · 38100 Braunschweig



Shelter Now Germany
e.V.

Waisenhausdamm 4
38100 Braunschweig

fon + 49 (0) 531 88 53 95 7
fax + 49 (0) 531 88 53 95 9
info@shelter.de
www.shelter.de

Shelter-Aktuell

Dear Friends and Partners of Shelter Now

Everywhere we look right now there seems to be bad news. The financial crisis is beginning to affect entire countries – including Pakistan. The state is on the verge of bankruptcy. The implications for nuclear power Pakistan hardly bare thinking about, particularly given the various extremist groups who are just waiting for such an opportunity.

And now Pakistan has once again been hit by another earthquake!



There's not a lot we can do about the political situation. But we are able to help those people who, through no fault of their own, suddenly find themselves in need because of the earthquake. Read more about it in our report...

We aim to provide sustainable assistance – wherever possible helping others to help themselves. Read about our agricultural projects that offer Afghan farmers an alternative to growing opium.

Alarming news can be unsettling, but news of change and fresh beginnings – thanks in part to your help – is encouraging. And that's what we'd like to share with you. We wish you a happy Advent and Christmas holiday, with time to reflect and relax.

Best regards,

Udo Stolte and the Shelter Now team



Deutsches
Zentralinstitut
für soziale
Fragen/DZI



DZI Spenden-Siegel
Geprüft • Empfohlen



Shelter-Report

Latest: another earthquake in Pakistan

On October 29th at 4:09am, Pakistan was hit by a 6.4 magnitude earthquake. Around 40 miles northeast of the city of Quetta in the western province of Baluchistan, people awoke to the tremors and ran onto the streets in panic. Many were unable to make it before their houses collapsed. Around 400 men, women and children died in the rubble. 120,000 people were suddenly made homeless. And at this time of year, night-time temperatures are already down to minus 6 to 10 degrees Celsius (14-21°F). Earthquake victims are now dying from hypothermia and polluted drinking water. Women, children and the elderly are particularly hard hit. Many have no warm blankets or winterized tents. Food, medicine and stoves are urgently needed.



Many desperate people need our help

We want to help the earthquake victims, as we did three years ago in northern Pakistan. But in order to do that, we need financial support. Through our recent experience in particular, we are well placed to provide effective assistance.



Minus 20 degrees Celsius (-4°F) is nothing unusual in Afghanistan

Driven out by the Taliban

We cross now into Afghanistan. Late in the summer, we received another invitation to visit a family, this time in the beautiful area around Paghman,

liban and are now in difficulties as a result.



A poppy field – beautiful but deadly.

the former gardens of the king. On our way there – just a few miles from Kabul – we noticed a large collection of tents and people. We decided to go over to them. Men and children came up to us and immediately began to tell us their story. We were shocked by what they had to say. Most of them had come from Helmand province. They told us that the Taliban had come to their village and demanded that they plant poppies for opium production instead of wheat. They also told every family to hand over a son to be trained as a terrorist.

Drought and Hunger

Many other families are also fearful of the coming winter. This year there was far too little rain, the harvest was poor and food prices have risen dramatically. For the first time, we found people begging for bread when we went to the bakery. We are facing a devastating winter with thousands of people likely to die of starvation and cold.

Please help us to save as many lives as possible.

Those families who refused to comply were told to leave their property within 24 hours. Thousands of families fled the area. They now face a winter in tents with temperatures of minus 20 degrees Celsius (-4°F) and insufficient food.

In consultation with the government, we want to help these people at least get through the winter. They need warm blankets and food. In this camp there are 1400 families. It costs 50 euros to put together a "survival package" to help one family through the winter. Please help us to help these people who have stood up to the Ta



Like the previous winter we want to save lives

Last winter we were able to do just that, thanks to your generous support. In the region around Herat in particular, which was hardest hit by the winter, we were able to help 16,000 people survive the cold months. The temperatures dropped to minus 29 degrees Celsius (-20°F).

Sustainable Assistance

When disaster strikes, humanitarian aid and emergency measures help people to survive the initial acute need, but do not provide sustainable assistance.

Of course, many people need help to survive that acute need and we want to be there for them. But we also want to empower these people to help themselves in the future and become independent of us. To do this, we need to enable them to provide for themselves. We also want them to be independent of food imports, in other words grow their own food as far as possible. To facilitate this, we run a number of training projects:

In several regions we have given out fruit tree seedlings. In Herat, our staff are teaching families how to look after the trees and propagate them. In this way, more and more households will become permanently independent of outside help. We have also begun another very interesting project there:



A saffron flower – only the red stigmas are needed.

Saffron bulbs – an alternative to opium.



Saffron for Poppies

For the past two years we have been planning to introduce saffron farming to the region around Herat. Saffron is the most expensive spice in the world.

It is extracted from the crocus flower, the “Crocus sativus”. In August, the saffron bulbs are planted in the ground. After one month, if it hasn’t rained, they need to be watered. From the end of October, the plants begin to grow and blossom. The buds have to be picked early in the morning just as they are about to open. Inside the house they are then taken apart; only the stigmas are needed. These are dried and packed up. Around 200 buds are needed for one gram of saffron. The whole family is involved in the process of picking and processing. Everything needs to be clean and done correctly. It has to be pure saffron to get a good price. The farmers can get up to 1,000 euros for a kilogram (2.2 lb) of top quality saffron. A higher price than opium.

After four to six weeks, the harvest period is over. One year later, the saffron bulbs have grown larger and the harvest is considerably greater. After five years, the original bulbs are dug up. By that time they have produced a number of subsidiary tubers.



The bulbs are then planted in new fields, allowing the farmers to steadily increase their production.

The project is financed through a kind of microcredit system. The farmers receive the bulbs from us free of charge, but give us 20% of the return on their annual harvest. After five years, they have paid off the bulbs and can then keep all future profits for themselves. In the meantime, we are then able to help other families get started.

We hope that this saffron project and our fruit tree project will provide Afghans with an alternative to poppy farming. We expect to be able to sell the first batch of saffron this winter here in Germany. Do contact us if you are interested in buying some, we will also provide some free recipes!

25 Years of Shelter Now

How the years go by...

25 years ago, a few Christians keen to make the world a better place set off to help the Afghan refugees in Pakistan, driving three old, rickety trucks in an hazardous journey overland from Germany to Pakistan in the middle of winter. That was how it all began.

Today, we have around 60 international staff members from 18 different nations working in Afghanistan and Pakistan. We also have at times several hundred local workers, employed in various projects. The past 25 years have been extremely varied, and by no means always easy. But we are happy that in all the years we have been able to help tens of thousands of people in a great number of ways.



It was with this truck that our work began

Despite the very problematic security situation right now, we are committed to continue. The people there still need our help, as they repeatedly tell us. Many of them have since become personal friends.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all of you who have supported us, in some cases for many years, and often very generously. We continue to be dependent on your help. We greatly value your support for our projects. Without you, our work would be impossible.

Donations can be given to specific projects, or if you prefer, you can give a general gift without specifying a need. We will then invest the money where it is most urgently needed.

Old Deutschmarks – New Hope

Our fundraising initiative collecting old German Deutschmarks (the German currency replaced by the Euro in 2002) has got off to a good start. We have so far received over 2,000 Marks. The initiative will run for a few more months. So feel free to keep collecting (try asking your colleagues, neighbors and friends).



Old Deutschmarks – new Hope

We at Shelter Now wish you a relaxing time over the coming Advent and Christmas period, and every success in the new year. We also want to pass on the many thank-yous that we receive from Afghans and Pakistanis – you after all are the ones who make it all possible.

Best regards

Udo Stolte and the Shelter Now Team



An afghan is planting the fruitbushes he received from Shelter Now

Here our account details for donations:

Inside Germany:
Shelter Now Germany e.V.
Nord/LB Braunschweig
Acc. no. 25 230 58
Sort code: 250 500 00

Please state your name and address if you require a receipt for tax purposes.

Elsewhere in the European Union:
European account number:
SWIFT-BIC NOLADE2H

Outside the European Union:
International bank account
number: IBAN DE65 2505 0000
0002 5230 58