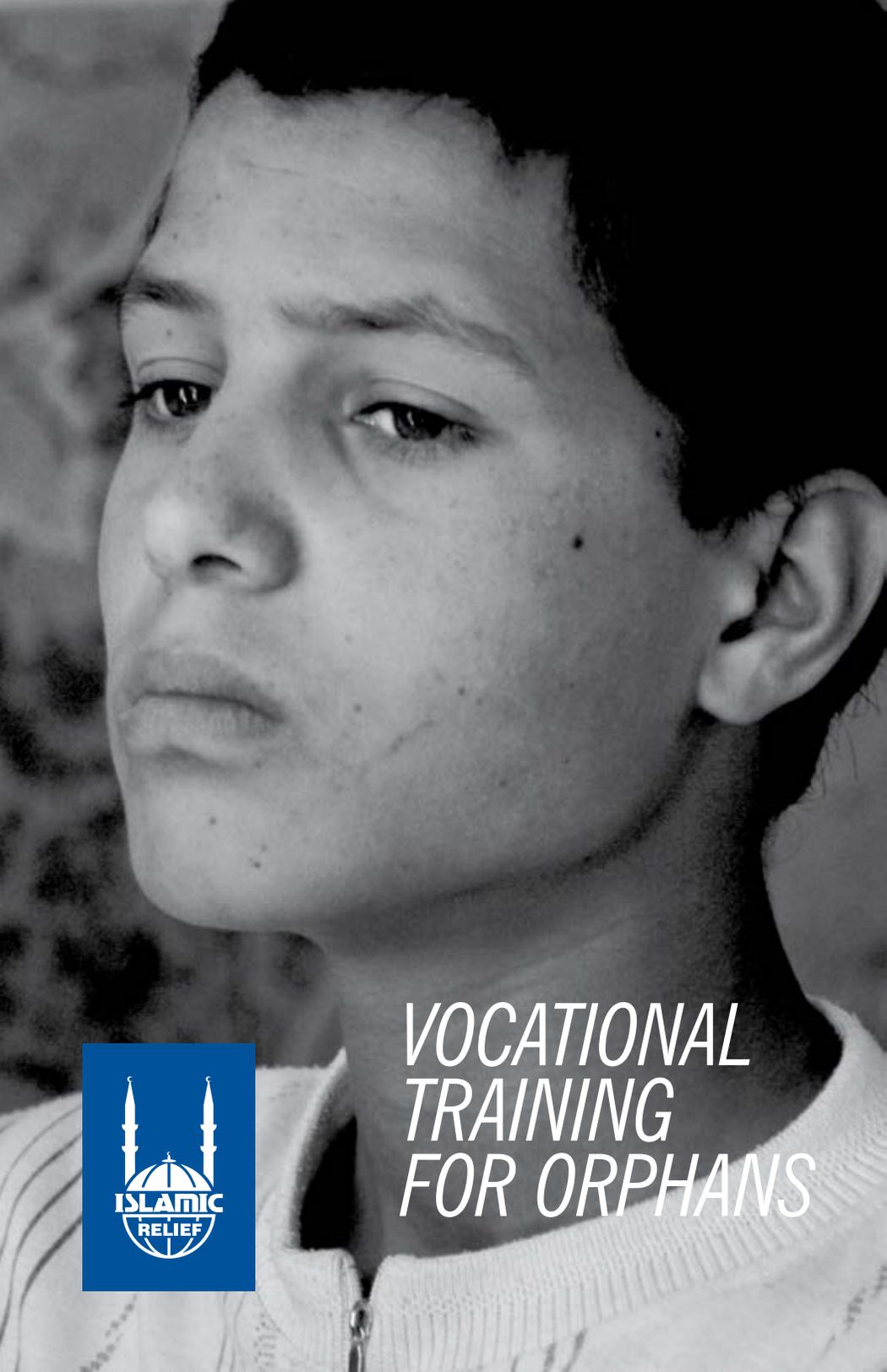


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VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR ORPHANS

Many of the children in the Vocational Training for Orphans program in Kabul used to spend their days washing cars, cleaning or begging. After being chosen for this program, they began to spend their days in classrooms, learning vocational skills such as how to tailor clothing, repair cell phones or make latticework, in addition to reading, writing, critical thinking and peace-building. Now 300 orphans ages 10 to 18 can look forward to much brighter futures, insha'Allah.

Location: Kabul City

Beneficiaries: 300 male and female orphans in 2010-2011

Goals:

- Provide orphans ages 10-18 with vocational training in subjects like tailoring and cell phone repair.
- Provide orphans with a package of the equipment needed for them to continue working with the skills they learned (i.e. sewing machine and scissors for tailoring students).
- Provide the orphans with an apprenticeships so they can practice their skills.

“The continuing studies will help me ... find a good job to work and help my family and improve my financial problems. Once I graduate, I have decided to open a cell-phone repair shop to earn money and help my poor family.”

“I am very thankful to the donors for providing this vocational training center.”



Sultan Mashell, right, learns to repair cell phones.

EDUCATION FOR ORPHANS

At Khoog Koor (Sweet Home) orphanage in Kabul, hundreds of orphans are receiving a comprehensive education. Teachers have received training and teaching materials so they can provide the orphans with a better start in life.

This orphanage still needs additional infrastructure—a computer lab, library and assembly hall.



HOME-BASED EDUCATION FOR WOMEN

Bamyan is one of the least developed provinces in Afghanistan. Schools are few and far between, and education is particularly inaccessible for women. Islamic Relief began offering home-based classes for women in December 2010. Women meet in 10 locations around the province. They learn reading, writing, math, health and hygiene, and business training. Attendees also receive the opportunity to participate in community organizations. The first group of 450 women have completed their training, and a second group of 450 are now attending classes.

Goals:

- Provide home-based education to rural women who have had no access to education for decades.
- Enable women to actively take part in bettering their life and bring positive changes within their community and families.
- Deliver health and hygiene education services to women, which will help reduce mortality rates among children under 6.

Location: Bamyan Province

Beneficiaries: 900 direct, 6,300 indirect in 2010-2012

“During the war ... no schools were operating in the village. With this opportunity available now, I am very happy to become literate, and now I can teach my family members too.”

“When I become literate, I can find a good job ... I hope to become a medical doctor.”

“Thanks to the donors – they are supporting the very poorest marginalized people.”

—Mrs. Momina



LOOMS FOR WOMEN



Location: Shoor Tapa

Beneficiaries: 250 women and 1,750 family members in 2009-2010

To support their families and celebrate their culture, many women in Afghanistan practice the traditional art of rug weaving. But old-fashioned horizontal looms left women suffering in chronic back pain, and some have turned to drugs for relief. Islamic Relief accepted 250 women into this program and offered them training in the use of modern vertical looms, new carpet designs, health and hygiene, and drug awareness. After completing the program, the women received new modern looms.

Goals:

- To provide improved modern looms to the women in Shoor Tapa district of Balkh province.
- To educate the residents of the area about the harmful consequences of drug abuse and misuse, and to empower communities to participate in drug abuse prevention programs.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION



Islamic Relief distributes food packages to families for Ramadan each year, and teams also deliver meat for Eid al-Adha. These programs provide relief and a nutritional boost for poor families, and brighten their holidays, especially for the children.

Najela lost her husband in March 2011 due to an illness. After his death, she was worried about how to feed her children. As Eid neared, she couldn't think of celebrating—only surviving. From March to August, she said, she did not eat one bite of meat—they survived on potatoes and rice. She tried to find work cleaning and washing, but few people wanted to give her work because of her disability. Sometimes she even had to beg for a piece of bread to feed her sons.



Islamic Relief's donors sent Najela a Ramadan food package in 2011. She said:

"The Ramadan package helped me a lot ... [now] I don't have to worry about my children's food for a few weeks. Most importantly, I won't have to go to the neighbors and beg for food, which is something worse than death. ..."

"I would like to thank all donors who are supporting poor people in this country, and I would like to tell them that their support will not be wasted in front of Allah. Today they provide food for my orphan children—I am sure that Allah will not forget them and will help them when they need it. I will pray for them in each Namaz."



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