

Education for Street-Working Children: Hope Begins with You



In the heart of Kabul's crowded streets, hundreds of children once spent their days polishing shoes, collecting plastic, or selling trinkets, all for a few coins to feed their families. Their laughter was drowned by the noise of survival.

Today, many of those same children sit in a classroom. They are reading, learning, and dreaming again. They arrive each morning knowing they will be safe, loved, and nourished, not just with food, but with hope.

Ahmad, 10 years old, used to shine shoes from dawn till dusk. "Before coming here," he says, "I was always afraid. Now I can write my name. I want to be a teacher one day."

Each meal we serve is more than food, it's a promise.
Each lesson taught is more than education, it's a future reclaimed.

In 2025, 439 children (206 boys and 233 girls) found their way back to learning through Act for Development's *Schools for Street-Working Children* in Kabul and Parwan provinces. Across 15 classes in 3 centers, these children received daily lessons, sports activities, psychosocial support, and 23,608 nutritious meals, turning hunger into strength and fear into focus.

Beyond the classroom, 161 children participated in sports activities, learning teamwork, confidence, and joy through football, even in the smallest spaces. Our *Computer Lab Program* opened doors to the future, training 75 teenagers in computer literacy and vocational skills, ensuring that education becomes a pathway to opportunity. But there are still thousands more waiting, children whose hands hold tools instead of pencils, who deserve to know safety, not struggle.

Education is everyone's responsibility. Governments have the mandate to protect and provide, but communities and organizations like ours have the proximity, creativity, and trust to make education possible, day after day, child by child. Together, we can build inclusive, sustainable, and evidence-driven learning programs that feed both minds and bodies.

Let's move forward, co-designing policies, investing in community-led solutions, and treating every child's education and nutrition as a shared national priority.

Be the reason a child believes in tomorrow.

Donate today, and help us keep their hope alive.