**School for Street Children**

*For a chance to education*

Afghanistan is one of the least developed countries in the world; according to the latest statistics about 29% of children aged 5 to 17 years old are engaged in child labour. In 2018, nearly half of all school-aged children were not attending school. This represents 3.7 million children, 60% of whom are girls.

This is the context in which Action for Development founded, in 2016, the “School for street children” program, driven by the objective of giving children the opportunity of having access to education, reducing inequality, poverty and child labour.

By attending the program’s school, children are given the opportunity to learn basic numeracy and literacy skills, as well as to develop social abilities through for example practicing a sport, particularly football; it also enables them to have access to a regular schooling programme in the future.

Children are selected for the programme according to pre-defined criteria: being between the age of 5 and 15 years old, have no access to formal education, and come from families with little or unstable income.

Since the beginning of the programme in 2016, AfD has opened 3 education centres in Kabul, in 3 different districts:

* Kart-e-Char, 3rd District of Kabul: the first school was established in October 2016; in 2018 the center was able to provide 16.566 meals to children.
* Baburshah: located in the central area of Kabul, further classrooms were established to cater to the high number of street children;
* Khuja Buhgra District: afternoon classes are provided at AfD’s local Health Center in addition to a daily meal. For many of the children attending these classes, it is the first and only meal of the day.

In addition to the schooling programme, children can benefit from access to health services provided at AfD’s Comprehensive Health Centre in Kabul. In 2018, AfD’s schooling programme went from having enrolled 58 children to 201 children by the end of the year.

2018 also witnessed the introduction of a sport programme: a football field, dry and safe, dedicated for the children to train and play each week; a football coach was hired. An important objective of this programme is raising awareness on the benefits of regular physical activity for children; this would also allow communities to accept girls joining the sports programme.

The schooling programme for 2018 at a glance:

* 3 schooling centres, 9 Classrooms in total;
* 1 school coordinator, 5 teachers, 1 football coach, 1 cook;
* 201 children enrolled;
* 80 boys playing football regularly;
* 16.566 meals offered at the Kart-e-Char’s center.