

Afghanistan Child Protection Consortium Report
Child Protection and Psychosocial Support for Afghan Children and Youth
Cooperative Agreement EEE-A-000-03-000019
Fourth Quarterly Report Jan - March 2004

I. Introduction

The Afghanistan Child Protection Consortium consists of three leading Child Protection agencies; Save the Children/US (SC/US), the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Christian Children's Fund (CCF, known as Child Fund Afghanistan - CFA, in Afghanistan). The following report includes a consolidated summary of project activity to date and each organization's individual quarterly report. CCF/CFA consolidated the Report on behalf of all members of the Consortium.

II. Executive Summary

Each member of the Afghanistan Child Protection Consortium shares a common goal of improving the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children. Using highly participatory community based, and managed structures, the Project works to identify and decrease the risks and threats to Afghan children's lives in both rural and urban environments. Each Consortium member brings to the Project its own model of working with children, youth and adults. This approach allows the Consortium to learn from each other and add to the development community's body of knowledge on how to implement effective Child Protection programs.

The Consortium partners continue to meet and share information on their respective activities.

The Consortium submitted a concept paper that outlines how the Consortium can expand its work in Child Protection in Afghanistan in the near future. John Williamson shared his view on the concept paper with the Consortium, which serves as the Consortium's guidelines / reference in the development of the project proposal for the continuation and expansion of the program.

III. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A. Program Goal and Objectives - To enhance children's well being by increasing community based capacity for children's protection and psychosocial support

All three Consortium partners use participatory, community based methodologies/models in implementing the Project. SC/US uses the Child to Child methodology, CCF/CFA its Child Well Being Committee (CWBC) and IRC its Community Working Group (CWG). All models promote and facilitate a meaningful dialogue between youth and adults in the targeted communities. While the mechanics of each approach is somewhat different, the end result is increased engagement between youth and adults on issues that youth identify as real, or potential risks and threats to their well being.

The Consortium Partners made good progress in expanding and/or embedding their respective participatory model within their respective target communities during the course of the 4th Quarter.

B. Beneficiaries

The Consortium Partners reached 44,622 direct child/youth beneficiaries with program activity during the Reporting period. Indirect beneficiaries number many more¹ and will experience some level of improvement in their standard of living and levels of psychosocial well being as a result of the Project's community interventions.

C. Project Location

The project targets a mixture of urban, peri-urban and rural communities in 25 Districts in five provinces; Herat, Kabul, Takhar, Kunduz and Badakshan. The Project operates in the Southern, Central and Northeastern Regions of Afghanistan.²

IV. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Goal - To improve, in a sustainable manner, the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of poverty stricken, protracted conflict environment.

All Partners made progress on achieving the Project's overall goal. As noted earlier, all Partners either established, or expanded, the community based model of promoting a meaningful dialogue between children, youth and adults. In all Project Regions, the Partners facilitated a process wherein children/youth identified the real, and potential, risks to their physical and psychosocial well being and presented their finding to the adult leadership in their respective communities. Work is underway to address the issues (see below) that emerged in the course of this phase of the Project.

Objective 1 - Common threats to the protection and psychosocial well being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities are identified.

Since the beginning of the program, the partners facilitated community meetings wherein 3,010 children/youth identified real, or potential risks and threats to their well being. Naturally, the issues identified reflected the child's local context, e.g., urban vs. rural communities. Key risk and threats, that children/youth articulated included:

- Lack of access to clean water or an unsafe water collection point. In some instances, the children reported outbreaks of violence in their community due to either insufficient water or an inequitable distribution.
- Education and literacy related issues were common to all locations. In some cases, access was a major problem in others the quality of education (overcrowding, poorly trained teachers, insufficient resources for the number of pupils, etc.).

¹ SC/US estimates that up to 171,000 children indirectly benefit from the Project.

² For precise detail on the Project's location, see each Partner's individual Report (attached)

- Lack of safe play areas for children. Common problems were the danger of landmines, pollution from uncollected rubbish, dangerous surroundings (e.g. rubble left over from the war) and a lack of space for recreation activities.
- General access to healthcare and, in particular, issues of childbirth came out in many discussions.
- Children voiced concerns about the poor economic situation in many households that resulted in little wood or oil to heat their homes, insufficient funds to pay for public transportation and in some cases children working.
- Early marriage, forced and arranged marriage and family exchange marriage are a major risk identified by girls, mothers and fathers in the West and the North East of the country. Underlying causes include economic constraints and cultural / traditional values.

Objective 2 – Community based projects to address child protection threats are developed.

The Consortium facilitated the work of 239 community based children/youth groups that serve as the focal point for on going Child Protection activity in the target communities.³ Concrete, child centered activity to address the issues described above, in Objective 1, included:

- 14 new water wells were constructed and 20 repaired in this reporting period, adding to a total of 67 that have been constructed or rehabilitated up to date. Additionally, 117 wells have been covered in Kunduz.
- 12,051 children/youth attended a Literacy class. Approximately, 60% of the participating children were girls.
- 5,505 children attended Child Centered Spaces, in locations without primary schools in the proximity.
- Construction of 11 Community Centers in West Afghanistan has started and will be completed in the next reporting period.
- 4,670 children (50% girls) borrowed book from IRC's mobile library
- Clean up campaigns in the North East continue. In the Central region, continuous efforts are being made to realize 21 disposal containers on locations suitable for rubbish collection/ disposal.
- 327 youth have either completed, are enrolled or will in the next reporting period enroll in vocational skills training courses learning several trades, including tailoring, carpentry, masonry, and small engine repair

³ CCF facilitated 80 CWBCs, SC/US facilitated 139 Child to Child groups and IRC facilitated 20 Community Working Groups (CWGs)

- 15,360 (of whom 5565 girls and 9795 boys) children are actively participating in recreational activity from improved playgrounds to organized football and volleyball teams. 350 sport wear kits plus sports equipment have been distributed to children in the targeted communities by IRC.
- Bus drivers in District 12 in Kabul are no longer charging children to use public transportation.
- Preparation phase for basic health, hygiene and sanitation education has been completed in West Afghanistan and the education program will start in the next reporting period. In the North East, all beneficiaries (whether in literacy classes, CCSs, CWBC communities) have received basic health, hygiene and sanitation education.
- As a result of the awareness and education campaigns conducted by the CWBCs and the youth clubs, the practice of early marriage has reportedly decreased in the CWBC communities.
- An in depth assessment of the issues surrounding traffic safety has given SCUS a good understanding of the causes of the safety problems. This will form the basis of a curriculum to be developed in the coming quarter, to be used with Child-to-Child groups and Kabul traffic police.

Objective 3 - Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.

The various community based youth groups have identified those children who are particularly vulnerable and whom require special assistance. The Consortium partners are working with the local communities to respond appropriately. Some examples of current activity include:

- Construction plans for the School for the Blind & Visually Impaired have been completed and agreed upon. Construction will start in the next reporting period.
- Inclusion of underage child soldier, widows and women heading households in vocational skills training courses.
- In instances where children are suffering from Tuberculosis, malnutrition and other serious threats to a child's life, the Partners are working with the local community and local government officials and other NGOs (e.g., the Ministry of Health, MSF) to ensure that the community has access to an adequate level of services and support.
- Through the CPAN, a referral system for extremely vulnerable children is being developed.
- Through CWBCs, disabled children are encouraged to participate in formal education and community recreation activities.
- Health assessments were conducted in the West by the IRC health Coordinator. Preventative health education programs and traditional birth attendant (TBA) trainings have been developed.

Objective 4 - Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.

- Each Consortium Partner is the focal organization for the Afghanistan Child Protection Network in its respective Region of work (SC/US in the Central Region, IRC in the Southern Region and CCF/CFA in the Northeast). Each Partner hosts regular meetings on the Network in their respective Regions and is in regular dialogue with Regional government authorities and NGOs working in their respective areas. These meetings focused on a range of Child Protection related issues including; child trafficking, road safety and juvenile justice.
- IRC serves as the focal point for the Global Movement for Children (GMC) activities in Western Afghanistan.
- Recent reports issued by IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF on children trafficked and / or smuggled to Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and deported back to Afghanistan have highlighted the need for a national action plan. The highest number of children originates from Herat, Badakhshan, Takhar and Baghlan provinces. The Consortium Partners are using their community-based structure for awareness on this issue as well as offering educational and economic alternatives to the children, their families and communities.
- The Consortium has participated in the national workshop, which drafted a consolidated National Action Plan. In this workshop all relevant ministries (e.g. Justice, Social Affairs, Security, Foreign Affairs, Interior), international and national agencies participated. The final action plan will be presented to the President of Afghanistan's office for his endorsement in the next reporting period. This will facilitate necessary follow-up and implementation by the relevant ministries.

V. RESOURCE USE/EXPENDITURE

- A. Resources Committed – Budget report submitted under separate cover.
- B. Expenditures – Budget report submitted under separate cover.

Child Protection and Psychosocial Support Program

CCF/CFA FOURTH Quarter Report

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Organization: Child fund Afghanistan	Date: 23 April 2004
Mailing Address: Main Taimany Road	Contract Person: Kunera Korthals Altes
House # 75	Telephone: 079 403702
Kabul, Afghanistan	Email: kunera@hotmail.com
Program Title: Child Protection and Psychosocial Support Program	
Country: Afghanistan	
Period Covered by this report: January - March 2004	

II. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- A. Goal:** CFA's program goal is to improve in a sustainable manner the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enable primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a protracted conflict environment.

The program has three objectives:

1. Identification and reduction of threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities;
2. Increased engagement of Afghan children, particularly young children and vulnerable groups, including war victims, with their environment in safe, integrated, developmentally appropriate ways;
3. Increase positive engagement of and developmental learning opportunities for Afghan youth, which improves their learning and positive participation in the community.

The program also mobilizes family and community support for child protection, engages youth in providing material aid and building community structures such as wells, springs and small bridges. It organizes youth and children in urgently needed child protection activities, supports income-generating activities, and assists teachers who work with war-affected children.

- B. Beneficiaries:** The following youth and children will directly benefit from the program: 10,000 students to be enrolled in literacy classes; 6,000 students to participate in child-centered spaces; 180 students to be enrolled in vocational training; in addition there are over 5,000 adults and children who indirectly benefit from the program through civic work schemes, etc.
- C. Location:** Communities in the three northeastern provinces: Badakshan, Kunduz and Takhar:
- D. Breakdown of beneficiaries per location:**

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Province	District	Literacy classes (age 12-35)				Vocational training (age 15-20)		CCS (age 5-12)		CWBC		Teacher training	
		completed		Recently commenced		Male	female	male	female	male	female	male	Female
		Male	female	Male	Female								
1. Badakshan	Faizabad	0	0			20	10	0	0	10	10	10	10
	Baharak	0	0			0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Shohada	0	210			0	0	115	285	0	0	0	0
	Jurm	0	510			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Daraem	0	0			0	0	119	581	0	0	0	0
	Zebak	30	300			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Argo	0	0			0	0	0	0	90	90	90	90
	Eshkahim	0	450			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Khustak	0	0			0	0	287	813	0	0	0	0
Total	30	1,470	± 750	± 750	20	40	521	1,679	100	100	100	100	
2. Kunduz	Qalazai	1361	359			30	10	0	0	48	48	28	30
	ImamSahib	504	888			10	0	281	139	60	60	48	0
	Chardara	215	230			0	0	346	315	48	48	0	0
	Aliabad	834	595			0	10	170	390	60	60	0	0
	Kunduz	340	360			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	3,254	2,432	± 3,000	± 3,000	40	10	797	844	218	218	76	30
3. Takhar	Farkhar	220	180	225	175	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	29
	Khujaghar	750	250	400	200	24	36	400	620	0	0	0	0
	Kalafgan	50	10	120	0	40	0	114	70	70	70	53	0
	Bangi	0	0	330	0	0	0	260	200	10	10	28	0
	Hazar S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Taluqan	350	1410	550	1300	30	20	0	0	80	80	13	35
Total	1,400	1,840	1,625	1,675	94	56	774	890	160	160	130	64	
Total	4,684	5,742	± 5,000	± 5,000	154	96	2,092	3,413	478	478	306	196	

III. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

- E. **Objective # 1: Common threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities are identified by communities, in a child-led process.**

CFA Indicator and Current Measure

- 40 child-well being committees (CWBCs) established and 30 in the process of establishment in three provinces; 26 in Kunduz, 26 in Takhar, and 18 in Badakshan.
- 80 community mobilizers were trained to assist children and communities to identify and address protection risks and 60 are trained in the next weeks.
- 140 maps (2 for each community, grouped boys and girls) were produced and clearly indicated the nature and location of the physical risks to children.)
- 1,400 children participated in mapping exercise.
- 800 parents, youths and children served in Child Well-Being Committees (160 young girls, 160 young boys, 80 men, 80 women, 160 young men and 160 young women).
- 800 parents/community leaders (male and female) and 500 teachers were trained and participated in psychosocial emotional risks, basic health awareness, human rights issues, children's right, child trafficking, and mine risks awareness.
- 40 youth clubs and 40 women association were established in 40 CWBC communities. Approximately 1,500 youth actively involved in the related activities.

- F. **Objective #2: Community based projects to address child protection threats are developed and implemented**

CFA Indicator and Current Measure:

- **CFA community mobilizers assisted and guided Child Well-Being Committees to overcome physical and psycho-social threats to children.**
 - 80 CWBCs in 40 communities (one male and one female committee in each community) continue to organize their respective communities to take decisions around action plans.
 - 60 new CWBCs in 30 communities have started to organize their respective communities to decide on necessary action and implementation plans to target identified risks.
 - The CWBCs' members agreed to start and continue their functions without any financial incentives.
 - Communities continue to improve their environments through cleaning and proper disposal of trash or still standing water.
 - Additional 7 km of internal roads has been repaired.
 - 39 new wells construction (15 in Kunduz, 16 in Takhar, 8 in Badakshan) were completed and
 - 117 wells have been covered in Kunduz
 - An additional 21 small wooden bridges/concrete were built (adding to the previously built 33).
- Psycho-social risks**

- As a result of the awareness and education campaigns conducted by the CWBCs and the youth clubs -, the practice of early marriage has reportedly decreased in the CWBC communities. Many community members proudly tell CFA that since CFA came to their village, they have changed their practice: now they send their daughters to school and don't marry them off until after 18.
 - Children also report a decrease in physical violence at school and at home. As one teacher from Imam Sahib in Kunduz said: "Before I participated in CFA's teacher training, I would beat my own children and my pupils if they did something wrong. Now if they do something wrong, I tell them that they should try to do it right next time."
 - Children report that when they have problems with other children or with other people in their communities, they have referred and would again refer to the CWBCs for assistance and intermediating in the dispute.
 - The CWBCs are also discussing the issue of child trafficking and smuggling (to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran) with the children, youth and parents in the communities. Especially Badakshan and Takhar provinces have seen a relatively high number of trafficked children (see IOM report "Trafficking in Persons; an analysis of Afghanistan"). It is too early to report on the impact of this campaign.
- **To improve psychosocial well-being by organizing children and youth in the target communities into sport teams and clubs.**
 - Establishment of 80 youth clubs (40 female and 40 male clubs) and 40 women associations. The youth clubs organize sport events, recreational activities and peer dialogues about protection issues - e.g. early marriage, physical abuse at home and in schools, trafficking, mine risk education, personal and family hygiene and sanitation.
 - 836 parents/community leaders and 500 teachers were trained on psychosocial/emotional risks, basic health awareness, human rights, children's rights, child trafficking, and mine risks awareness.
 - 100 football teams and 90 volleyball teams were established; youth, communities and children have been actively involved.
 - **To improve livelihood opportunities and physical infrastructure of target communities.**
 - 10,000 students have completed 18 months literacy classes (covering the first three grades of primary school) and now have access to the fourth grade in primary school after passing a state exam at the district Departments of Education. Some of the CFA graduates have even directly entered 6th Grade through a state exam.
 - 10,000 new students have just started or will start (in the next two weeks) literacy classes in new locations - the exact numbers will be available in two weeks time.
 - 6,000 pupils continue to attend Child Centered Spaces.
 - 194 students have graduated in vocational training and CFA's monitoring figures show that approximately 80 % of the graduates are now practicing

their new profession, which provides them and their families with an income.

- Over 1000 youth benefited from CFA integrated community based projects; cash for work, civic works, etc.

G. Objective#3: Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.

1. The integrated community-based program (cash for work and civic works), initiated by CFA, continues to provide assistance to vulnerable groups (underage soldiers, widows, and disabled people).
2. CWBCs have identified vulnerable women, who benefit from group loans, which are funded by other CFA donors.
3. Through awareness by the CWBCs, education of girls and women has been accepted in communities where there was previously a negative attitude towards girls' and women's education.
4. CWBCs and CFAs' field monitors are promoting inclusion of disabled children, who were formerly kept inside their houses in the dark and ate separately from their brothers and sisters, through participation in education and recreation with other children.

H. Objective#4: Advocacy for actions occurs on child protection issues at provincial and national level.

CFA with UNICEF, UNAMA, Government agencies, and several other INGOs, continues to cooperate in the human rights working groups, to address problems and preventive measures against child trafficking, and support child protection issues. As a result of good collaboration among those involved, on several occasions child trafficking has been stopped and traffickers are being brought to justice by the authorities. CFA continues to co-chair monthly meetings with provincial human rights offices to address these important issues.

CFA has participated in the workshop on combating child trafficking in Afghanistan in April in which a National Plan for Action has been drafted. CFA's contribution was highly appreciated, because of its sound knowledge of the situation on the ground in the areas where most of the trafficked children come from.

IV. RESOURCE USE/ EXPENDITURE

A. Resources Committed - Budget report submitted under a separate cover.

B. Expenditures - Budget report submitted under a separate cover.

Child Protection and Psychosocial Support for Afghan Children and Youth The International Rescue Committee – Fourth Quarterly Report Jan – Mar 2004

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Organization: The International Rescue Committee	Date: 3 rd May 2004
Mailing Address: House 61, Kochi Afghana, Shash Darak, District 9, Kabul, Afghanistan	Contact Person: Kath Campbell
Program Title: Child Protection and Psychosocial Support for Afghan Children & Youth	Telephone: 070 278210
	E-mail: kcampbell@theirc.org
Country: Afghanistan	Reporting Period: January – March 2004

II. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A. Goal:

To improve, in a sustainable manner, the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a poverty-stricken, protracted conflict environment.

Objectives:

1. Identify common threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities.
2. Develop community based projects to address child protection threats.
3. Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.
4. Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.

Due to the nature of the post war environment in Afghanistan all children are seen as being vulnerable. The protracted conflict and poverty stricken environment has resulted in a slow degradation in the ability of all families and communities to protect their children. There are undoubtedly groups of children who may be considered especially vulnerable however the numbers are relatively quite small and the situation is not as bad as might be expected. Due to the erosion of family and community coping mechanisms, all children are seen to be at risk and in need of support. This program seeks to improve children's psychosocial well-being and reduce threats to child protection by strengthening family and communities' abilities to protect and support their children, while at the same time addressing the needs of particularly vulnerable cases as they are identified.

B. Beneficiaries

17,800 children and families will directly benefit from this program through literacy courses; home based schooling; growing green spaces; child friendly spaces; mobile library membership, book and magazine distributions; health education initiatives; and income generation and skills training activities. It should be noted that a number of children and families will participate in more than one of these activities and therefore benefit from community based strategies designed

to maximize impacts through a combined approach. The communities of Barmallan, Shabed and Khargaltan consist of a number of sub-villages, some up to 5 kilometers apart. This has been reflected in the table below for the benefit of this quarterly report. It does not affect the number of beneficiaries served by this project, however it is reflected in the number of individual program activities including construction projects and Community Working Groups. Therefore the number of communities targeted by this project totals 20 villages in 4 districts of Herat.

Beneficiary Numbers by Location & Activity to March 2004

Community	Population No. of Families	Activity	Beneficiaries Female	Beneficiaries Male	Total
Sange Sia Adraskan	63	Literacy Courses ,Book & Magazine Distribution, Mobile Library, Growing Green Nature, Tailoring Courses, Sports team formation, Sports equipment distribution, Community Center construction, Child Friendly Space/Playground	122	100	222
Barmallan 2 Communities Barmallan Pain & Barmallan Bala Adraskan	68	Literacy Courses ,Book & Magazine Distribution, Mobile Library, Growing Green Nature, Tailoring Courses, Sports team formation, Sports equipment distribution, Community Center construction (2), Child Friendly Space/Playground	96	110	206
Kashafi Adraskan	40	Literacy Courses ,Book & Magazine Distribution, Mobile Library, Growing Green Nature, Tailoring Courses, Sports team formation, Sports equipment distribution, Community Center construction, Child Friendly Space/Playground	90	105	195
Shahbed Consisting of 4 sub-villages: Ponazar, Yaka Bid, Jaghna, & Moghola Adraskan	180	Literacy Courses ,Book & Magazine Distribution, Mobile Library, Growing Green Nature, Tailoring Courses, Sports team formation, Sports equipment distribution, Community Center construction (4), Child Friendly Space/Playground	230	200	430
Eshaq Solaiman Enjil	1,500	Literacy Courses ,Book & Magazine Distribution, Mobile Library, Growing Green Nature, Tailoring Courses, Sports team formation, Sports equipment distribution, Child Friendly Space/Playground	1,250	1,360	2,610
Oqab Enjil	850	Literacy Courses ,Book & Magazine Distribution, Mobile Library, Growing Green Nature, Sports team formation, Sports equipment distribution, Child Friendly Space/Playground	800	950	1,750
Sarwestan Enjil	1,300	Literacy Courses ,Book & Magazine Distribution, Mobile Library, Growing Green Nature, Sports team formation, Sports equipment distribution, Child Friendly Space/Playground	1,000	1,000	2,000
Khargaltan Consisting of 3 communities including the sub- villages of Cheshma Shorak	127	Literacy Courses ,Book & Magazine Distribution, Mobile Library, Growing Green Nature, Tailoring Courses, Sports team formation, Sports equipment distribution, Community Center construction (3), Child Friendly	268	210	478

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& Khaja Sarbor Enjil		Space/Playground			
Dehran Ghorian	500	Literacy Courses ,Book & Magazine Distribution, Mobile Library, Growing Green Nature, Sports team formation, Sports equipment distribution, Child Friendly Space/Playground	500	550	1,050
Estanoo Ghorian	400	Literacy Courses ,Book & Magazine Distribution, Mobile Library, Growing Green Nature, Tailoring Courses, Sports team formation, Sports equipment distribution, Child Friendly Space/Playground	425	475	900
Baran Abad Ghorian	2,500	Literacy Courses ,Book & Magazine Distribution, Mobile Library, Growing Green Nature, Tailoring Courses, Sports team formation, Sports equipment distribution, Child Friendly Space/Playground	1,400	1,600	3,000
Roshnan Ghorian	450	Literacy Courses ,Book & Magazine Distribution, Mobile Library, Growing Green Nature, Tailoring Courses, Sports team formation, Sports equipment distribution, Child Friendly Space/Playground	550	500	1,050
Shalbafan Herat City District 7	5,000	Literacy Courses ,Book & Magazine Distribution, Mobile Library, Growing Green Nature, Sports team formation, Sports equipment distribution, Child Friendly Space, School for the Blind	1,300	1,300	2,600
Gazergah Herat City District 8	1,200	Literacy Courses ,Book & Magazine Distribution, Mobile Library, Growing Green Nature, Sports team formation, Sports equipment distribution, Child Friendly Space, School for the Blind	600	700	1,300
Total	14,098		8,631	9,160	17,791

III. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Goal - To improve, in a sustainable manner, the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a poverty-stricken, protracted conflict environment.

Objective 1: Common threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities are identified.

IRC Indicator & Current Measure

- 840 community members, of whom 560 were children, have participated in community based assessments in 20 communities in 4 districts of Herat province since August 2003.
- During the assessments the following participatory methods and tools were developed and utilized to identify risks and threats to children in partnership with targeted communities:
 - Risk Mapping, Body Mapping, & Tree Analysis (developed by the Save the Children Alliance).
 - Focus Group Discussions and subsequent content analysis of the narratives produced were used to identify underlying causal factors, their relationships to each other, and impacts on child well-being and development.

- 56 Body Mapping exercises conducted.
- 56 Risk Mapping exercises conducted.
- 560 Smiley Face Journals have been produced by children participating in the assessments.
- Communities identified the following issues as risks and threats to children's welfare and development through analysis of the outcomes of the assessments:
 - Access to education
 - Low literacy rates
 - Lack of green spaces and child friendly spaces for playing (including landmine issues)
 - Poverty, a lack of economic opportunities, (including issues of child labor)
 - Lack of access to potable water
 - Lack of access to healthcare and facilities
 - Early marriage
 - Wild/dangerous animals
- Information obtained through outcomes provided baseline data from which degrees of change and the impact of project activities will be measured. Specific indicators developed will examine differences in the content of the Smiley Face Journals (indicated by an increase in Smiley faces, and a decrease in Sad, Angry, Worried/Anxious faces – around the themes identified from analysis of the initial 560 journals). Comparisons through narratives produced during Focus Group Discussions will also be measured. Mapping exercises will be repeated amongst children's groups to ascertain the degree of improvement on issues identified as posing challenges to child well being gauged through the outcomes of the initial mapping exercises. In addition program specific semi-structured interviews, questionnaires and household surveys will be developed as individual projects are implemented.

Objective 2 - Community based projects to address child protection threats are developed.

IRC Indicator and Current Measure

Community Working Groups

- Community Working Groups (CWG's), focusing upon child welfare issues as identified through participatory assessments, have been established in all 20 communities.
- Total number of CWG members numbers 594, of whom 232 are female, 217 are male, 73 are girls (under 18), and 72 are boys (under 18).
- In addition to CWG's, 90 Community Workers are retained on a small stipend to oversee project implementation during the initial phase. Of the 90 Community Workers 40 are female, 40 are male, and 10 are youth (over 15 years of age).

Literacy Courses

- A total of 1,551 children and youth attended new literacy courses which began in 18 communities facilitated through the IRC and the Herat Ministry of Education Literacy Department. Of this total 901 were boys and 650 were girls.
- 36 Literacy Course material kits (black boards, chalks, carpets, pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, exercise books) were distributed to the 18 communities in which Literacy Courses were initiated during this reporting period.
- 63 community members identified through the CWG's began trainings as Literacy teachers through the Herat Ministry of Education Literacy Department. Of the 63 trainees 21 are female and 42 are male. Trainings are expected to be completed by 26th April 2004.
- 2,500 Literacy course text books distributed to support both new and existing literacy courses in all 20 communities.

Mobile Library, Book & Magazine Distributions

- The mobile library visited all 20 communities reaching a total of 4,670 children through the book sharer scheme. Management of the library visits was overseen by IRC staff who are currently training CWG members to implement the library membership, policy and sharer scheme. In addition to this the mobile library distributed 4,000 children's magazines during the reporting period.

Education

- Construction of Community Centers commenced in 8 communities in the district of Adraskan and 3 communities in the Kharghaltan vicinity of Enjil district. The 11 Community Centers will primarily serve as venues for Home based Schools, as none of the children in these communities currently have access to education. However, they will also serve as locations for additional community activities when not being used for schooling. Construction work is due to be completed by end of June 2004. The targeted communities have provided a suitable site for construction, undertaken site clearance, will provide labor during construction period and have agreed to maintain the buildings post construction. All 11 communities have agreed that girls up to sixth grade will have equal access to schooling when the Home Based School projects are operational.
- 4 members of the IRC Child Protection Team attended a week long "on the job training" in Kabul conducted by the IRC Education Unit.

Child Friendly Spaces/Playgrounds, Growing Green Spaces & Recreation Activities

- Playground equipment was installed, and painted by community members in a further 6 villages during the reporting period bringing the total number of Child Friendly Spaces with Playground equipment to 12 since the beginning of the project implementation cycle. Approximately 8,360 children regularly use the playgrounds of whom 3,965 are girls and 4,395 are boys.
- 7,000 children are participating in the Growing Green Spaces project, implemented through schools, CWG's and home based projects. During the reporting period gardening tools were distributed in 13 communities and 2,031 Pine, Cypress and Shemshad trees, and assorted flowers were planted by children in school yards, Child Friendly spaces, homes and public areas which they had designed.
- Sports and recreation equipment was distributed to both boys and girls in all 20 targeted communities during the reporting period. Distributions included 350 sports wear kits, 40 balls (both for volleyball and football), 30 nets (goal and volleyball nets), 34 flags, 20 whistles, and 410 skipping ropes.
- 15 Football and 9 Volleyball teams have been established. The football teams are exclusively male however 5 of the 9 Volleyball teams are comprised of girls.

Income Generation & Skills Training

- A Competency-based Economies through Formation of Enterprise (CEFE) TOT course was conducted. Six members of the IRC Child Protection Team attended a 15 day course to enable them to train semi and illiterate community members how initiate income generation and micro enterprise initiatives through a process of identifying and prioritizing skills and resources available within the community. CWG's have identified 24 vulnerable community members from 5 of the targeted communities to attend the first cycle of CEFE training which is scheduled to begin during the next reporting period.
- 109 vulnerable women are attending Tailoring Courses in 14 of the 20 targeted communities. The Tailoring Courses are run by volunteers from the community to a standardized course curriculum. The IRC distributed Tailoring Kits which will be presented to the participants on successful completion of the course to enable them to begin income generation activities. Sports clothing appropriate for girls to play volley ball in is already being produced through women participating in some of the courses.

School for the Blind

- The Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Herat Eye Hospital has decided not to gift the land to the Herat Association for the Blind (HAB). Alternatively, an MOU is being drawn up between the Ministry of Health, Herat Eye Hospital and HAB allowing rent free

unrestricted use of the land by the HAB, indefinitely, providing that the land is used to provide education and services to the visually impaired children, youth and adults of Herat. Construction plans, under the supervision and advice from the Visual Impairment Services of Afghanistan (VISA) project have been completed. Construction will begin in the next reporting period. The school is expected to provide education and recreational services to approximately 160 visually impaired children, youth, and adults on completion.

Water

- The IRC met with several agencies working on water and sanitation projects in the districts in which the targeted communities are located during the reporting period. Adraskan district has especially complex problems concerning accessing potable water due to geographic and environmental constraints. Due to the complexity and associated expense of implementing water and sanitation projects under the DCOF grant, it has been decided that a more viable option is to secure funding from an alternative donor for specific water and sanitation projects. However, health issues pertaining to prevention of water borne diseases and safe use and storage of potable water will be included in health and hygiene trainings within this project (details given in next section).

Objective 3 - Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.

IRC Indicator & Current Measure

- In response to a number of sick and malnourished women and children identified in a number of targeted communities health assessments were conducted by the IRC Health Coordinator assisted by the Child Protection team. Preventative health education programs and traditional birth attendant (TBA) trainings have been developed. CWG's, under the supervision of the IRC Health Coordinator, have identified women appropriate for training as community health workers. It is envisaged that 5 of the communities with the most vulnerable women and children can be targeted within the remaining project lifetime. Training of community health workers will begin during the next reporting period. In addition to this, referral systems to the nearest public health facilities are being developed. However, a number of the communities served by this program are in very isolated rural locations.

Objective 4 - Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.

IRC Indicator & Current Measure

- 6 regional Inter-agency Child Protection Network meetings have been facilitated and chaired by the IRC since September 2003. Issues addressed by the meetings have included juvenile justice, deportee children, road traffic safety and awareness, child labor and child trafficking.
- Due to advocacy initiatives by the IRC in partnership with War Child concerning the age, number, and conditions of children held in the Herat detention center, provincial government authorities have agreed to an 'open' prison and have invited IRC and War Child, supported by Unicef, to conduct an assessment with a view to implementing a program of community based alternatives for the children currently in detention.
- The IRC has served as the focal point for the Global Movement for Children (GMC) activities in Western Afghanistan since September 2003. Working with a local partner, the Turkmen Youth Association (TYA) weekly children's consultation groups have been held during this period. During January 4 GMC facilitators attended a one week training at Save the Children

Sweden in Kabul regarding child friendly methods of introducing children and communities to advocating for and implementing CRC.

IV. RESOURCE USE / EXPENDITURE

A. Resources Committed – Budget report submitted under separate cover.

B. Expenditures – Budget report submitted under separate cover.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - SAVE THE CHILDREN

Organization: Save the Children US	Date: April 20, 2004
Mailing Address: Darulman Main Road Sherkat Bus Stop Ayoob Khan Mena Kabul, Afghanistan	Contact Person: Susan Erb Kabul Program Manager
	Telephone: 070 298 247
	Email: serb@afg.savechildren.org
Program Title: Child Protection and Psychosocial Support Program	
Country: Afghanistan	
Period Covered by this Report: January - March 2004	

II. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Save the Children US (SC/US) Program Goal and Objectives - To enhance children's well being by increasing community-based capacity for children's protection and psychosocial support

SC/US programs for psychosocial support of children are based on the belief that adequate child protection must include the protection of children's emotional and social well being. Currently, protection concerns for Afghan children far outstrip the response capacity of child-focused agencies in Afghanistan. This project seeks to enhance children's well being by increasing community-based capacity for children's protection and psychosocial support. SC/US is reducing and resolving threats to children's well being by mobilizing children and adult in communities to take action on issues identified and prioritized by children.

Beneficiaries

Updated beneficiary actuals are 1,050 children as direct beneficiaries of *Child-to-Child* groups. Indirect beneficiaries - siblings, friends, and neighbors - are estimated to total 8,000. However, a fundamental tenet of the *Child-to-Child* initiative is that many community members benefit tangentially from interventions/improvements made to address issues raised in the *Child-to-Child* groups. Thus, it is presumed that up to 171,000 children (the total estimated under-18 population of target communities) will experience some level of improvement in their standard of living and levels of psychosocial well being as a result of community intervention.

One unexpected positive impact of the *Child-to-Child* groups is that in four of the nine communities, and overall, there are more girls than boys active in the *Child-to-Child* groups. The *Child-to-Child* groups offer girls opportunities for

mental and social growth that are otherwise denied due to social and cultural restrictions limiting access to formal education.

C. Locations - Three districts of Kabul city and Shomali (following page)

Afghanistan Child Protection Consortium Report
Child Protection and Psychosocial Support for Afghan Children and Youth

Locations - Three districts of Kabul city and Shomali

Province	District	Village	Activity	Start	Beneficiaries	Promoters
Kabul	12	Arzan Qimat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 Child-to-Child (CtC) groups (3 groups of 16), action against threats to friendship being taken • New topic of the environment introduced, children surveying issues 	April 2003	382: Blocks 1 2 5 boys 55 37 30 girls 71 91 98	Jamila, Toorpakai, Suhila
Kabul	6	Char Qala / Qala Wazir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 CtC groups, action against threats to friendship being taken • New topic of the environment introduced, children surveying issues 	April 2003	103: 41 boys, 62 girls	Karima Najmi
Kabul	Shi Khan Shomali	Mirachs Kot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 CtC groups, topic of friendship discussed, topic of the environment introduced • Concerns presented to the community through step 4 • Action plans in place 	April 2003	104: 54 boys, 50 girls	Abdul Safa
Kabul	7	Gangalak/ Moosihee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 CtC groups created, topic of environment introduced • Concerns presented to the community through step 4 • Action plans in place 	September 2003	124: 77 boys, 47 girls	Austad Taleb
Kabul	7	Dogh Abad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 CtC groups created, topic of environment introduced • Concerns presented to the community through step 4 • Action plans in place 	September 2003	127: 41 boys, 86 girls	Dr. Wali
Kabul	7	Qala Shir Khan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 CtC groups created, topic of environment introduced • Concerns presented to the community through step 4 • Action plans in place 	September 2003	96: 50 boys, 46 girls	Zekria
Kabul	7	Rish Koor / Gul Bagh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 CtC groups created, topic of environment introduced • Concerns presented to the community through step 4 • Action plans in place 	September 2003	114: 74 boys, 40 girls	Austad Admad Shah

Participants: 1,050 = 459 boys / 591 girls

III. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Goal - To improve, in a sustainable manner, the psychosocial well being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a poverty-stricken, protracted conflict environment.

SC/US is implementing *Child-to-Child* programs to mobilize children to take actions on identified threats by (1) giving them the knowledge to improve their situation, (2) encouraging them to become active in helping focus community intervention and (3) eliciting parents' and community leaders' support to make changes. *Step Four* of the six-step *Child-to-Child* program gives children a forum to voice their concerns to parents, extended family members and community leaders. Issues affecting children's well being are presented through songs, role plays and story telling during an open community meeting. To ensure that children involved in these programs see real changes relative to the issues they identify, SC/US is mobilizing parent and youth committees to support *Child-to-Child* programs by implementing practical solutions to the issues⁴.

***Objective 1* - Common threats to the protection and psychosocial well being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities are identified.**

***Objective 2* - Community-based projects to address child protection threats are developed.**

Nine communities in Kabul and the Shomali Valley implement *Child-to-Child* programs. In five communities the first cycle of programming, addressing friendship concerns, began in the summer of 2003. The second cycle in these communities began in October 2003. In four other communities *Child-to-Child* programming began in October 2003. This current cycle of *Child-to-Child* activities is looking at the topic of the environment and addressing environmental threats to children's well being.

A total of 1,050 children (459 boys/591 girls) participate in 139 *Child-to-Child* groups in nine communities in Kabul and the Central Region. Common environmental threats identified by the children in these locations are these:

1. poor road conditions
2. lack of appropriate places to dispose of rubbish
3. lack of services to remove rubbish
4. safe areas to play
5. no electricity
6. fighting over drinking water availability due to lack of (working) water pumps and wells
7. low quality of potable water

⁴ See Appendix A for parent and youth committee participation. Emphasis will be placed on increasing women's participation in quarter five, particularly in District 7 and Shi Khan where girls are allowed to attend the *Child-to-Child* groups, but where adult female participation is strongly discouraged.

Approximately 540 children from 75 *Child-to-Child* groups in District 7 and Shomali⁵ presented the above concerns to over 300 adults and community leaders in Q4. Specific community responses have been fourfold.

1. Poor road conditions – the result of winter weather and lack of maintenance – are of concern to the children because they fall into the potholes, get hurt and/or get covered with mud (a cause of shame for the children and a *reason* for parents to mete out corporal punishment). Furthermore, as roads become impassable and restrict public transportation access, children cannot use busses to attend school. Following Step Four, parents and youth committees in all locations are negotiating with transportation ministry officials to repair road surfaces.
2. Rubbish disposal/removal (or lack thereof) and the need for safe play areas are interconnected concerns for children. In all locations children raised the concern that because they have no safe place to play and that, more often than not, they play in the streets. In addition to being inherently dangerous because of traffic, the streets are also often filled with rubbish, which accumulates because there is limited public (government) service to remove rubbish⁶. In response, parents and youth committees are working with community members to educate them on proper trash disposal, i.e., leaving rubbish in designated trash collection areas rather than simply anywhere in the street. To complement these community-led activities SC/US is negotiating with partner agencies about options for improved rubbish collection places and removal. Together, these activities can help address children's need for safe play areas – as well as communities' needs for better public cleanliness and hygiene.

Regarding safe play areas, specifically, children have expressed in Districts 6 and 7 have asked for SC/US help to design and help their communities build safe play areas, and SC/US staff is currently working with community promoters to plan these safe play areas.

3. Regarding the lack of electricity, which children cite as a reason they could not study in the evenings⁷, parents' committees have organized themselves to visit district representatives from the Ministry of Water and Power to provide electricity cables in districts 6 and 7.
4. Children continue to be concerned with the lack of accessible clean water in their communities. To this end, 20 wells are being dug in districts 7, 12 and Shomali, and negotiations continue between community leaders and representatives from the Danish NGO DACAAR in District 12 and Shomali about repairing wells and water pumps.

Action plans from last quarter have had the following results:

⁵ The remaining groups will hold Step Four in March 2004.

⁶ Government waste disposal teams do exist, however they are limited in reaching communities due to poor road conditions as well as being understaffed and over subscribed.

⁷ Children in all *Child-to-Child* communities noted that they are busy during daylight hours with domestic chores, thus the only chance for study is in the evenings.

1. Ten (10) new wells were dug in Mirachs Kot in Shomali (with cooperation from DACAAR), directly providing water to approximately 600 families (5,400 adults and children);
2. Two (2) wells were repaired in Char Qala/District 6 in Kabul (SC/US dug the wells; DACAAR set the hand pumps), providing water for 200 families (about 1,600 people);
3. Eighteen (18) wells were repaired in District 12 (again, with cooperation from DACAAR), affecting approximately 1,440 families (about 111,520 adults and children) and
4. Bus drivers in District 12 no longer charging children to use public transportation.

Continued activities from last quarter include consultation with NGO partners, notably CARE, about 21 suitable locations for rubbish collection/disposal in District 6. Delays in completing the disposal containers arise from the need for cooperation from partner NGOs as well as support from local political leadership and the municipality in determining suitable and mutually agreed collection sites.

During the current quarter, SC/US's team held four focus groups discussions with children from districts 6, 7, 12 and Shomali regarding traffic safety. SC/US also held a focus group discussion with its own Kabul drivers to learn from their perceptions of children and traffic safety. Concerns raised by the children include a likely list of issues: traffic police not paying attention to them, speeding vehicles, their own lack of understanding of how to cross the road safely, bicycle safety (the children get knocked off their bikes by fast drivers), lack of safe places to walk due to pushcarts blocking the sidewalk, abuse by teachers for being late to school (because of delays caused by traffic) and general feelings of vulnerability. Responses to these concerns will form the basis of a curriculum to be developed in the coming quarter, and to be used with (1) *Child-to-Child* groups to increase safety awareness and (2) Kabul traffic police to help them learn to be more child-friendly and child-focused in their work. SC/US will partner with the Kabul traffic police to integrate sessions about children's safety in traffic into their training. Then SC/US will seek to replicate this training for all traffic police in urban and peri-urban areas of Afghanistan.

Objective 3 - Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities. (SC/US Indicator and Current Measure: Communities identify particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in need of special assistance.)

Through the Child Protection Action Network (CPAN), of which SC/US is a founding member and leader, a referral system is being developed for "extremely vulnerable children." A first step for this group is the definition of "extremely vulnerable", after which response systems to address these children's needs will be developed and, gradually, implemented. This can be done once CPAN is functional and partner agencies have agreed to cooperate (See Objective 4).

Objective 4 – Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.

Following trainings with 17 NGOs in September 2003, SC/US established the Child Protection Action Network (CPAN) for Kabul and the Central Region. CPAN aims to coordinate child protection issues – and address specific issues raised by children – with partner agencies operating in the central region of Afghanistan, including government ministries, international NGOs, local NGOs and UN agencies. In addition, SC/US is cooperating with other regional CPAN groups to coordinate advocacy and action to ensure consistent and shared documentation of child protection activities⁸.

The *Butterfly Campaign*, begun in December 2003, continues to highlight a responsibility to protect Afghan children from all harm, not least acts of war and sociopolitical violence. The campaign was inspired by two devastating acts of violence that unwittingly killed dozens of children in the final months of 2003. As part of the campaign, SC/US and its Save the Children Alliance partners are encouraging all Afghans to wear a light blue butterfly-shaped ribbon as a symbol of their awareness of and commitment to take concrete action to protect children against violence of all kinds as well as abuse of their human rights.

IV. RESOURCE USE/ EXPENDITURE

- A. Resources Committed – Budget report submitted under separate cover.**
- B. Expenditures – Budget report submitted under separate cover.**

⁸ The first Kabul/Central Region CPAN meeting is planned for April 7, 2004; 30 organizations, including the ministries of Labor and Social Affairs, Justice, Education and Transportation, the Kabul Police Department, UNHCR, UNICEF, OCM and child-protection partner NGOs have agreed to participate.

APPENDIX A

Parents and Youth groups in nine locations: 3 districts of Kabul city and Shomali

<i>Province</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Village</i>	<i>Parents Groups</i>	<i>Youth Groups</i>
Kabul	12	Arzan Qimat	6 groups 15 men 13 women	6 groups 16 men 14 women
Kabul	6	Char Qala / Qala Wazir	2 groups 8 men 10 women	2 groups 11 men 11 women
Kabul	Mirachs Kot Shomali	Shi Khan	1 groups 10 men 0 women	1 groups 10 men 0 women
Kabul	7	Gangalak/ Moosihee	1 group 8 men 4 women	1 group 8 men 4 women
Kabul	7	Dogh Abad	1 groups 5 men 0 women	1 groups 8 men 0 women
Kabul	7	Qala Shir Khan	1 groups 5 men 0 women	1 groups 8 men 0 women
Kabul	7	Rish Khoor / Gul Bagh	1 groups 10 men 0 women	1 groups 15 men 0 women