

# Sozo International 2011

## Annual Report



**Empower**

**Transform**

**Develop**

# Healthcare

## ISTALIF, AFGHANISTAN



*Donkeys are often the preferred travel method in mountainous areas of Afghanistan, such as Istalif.*

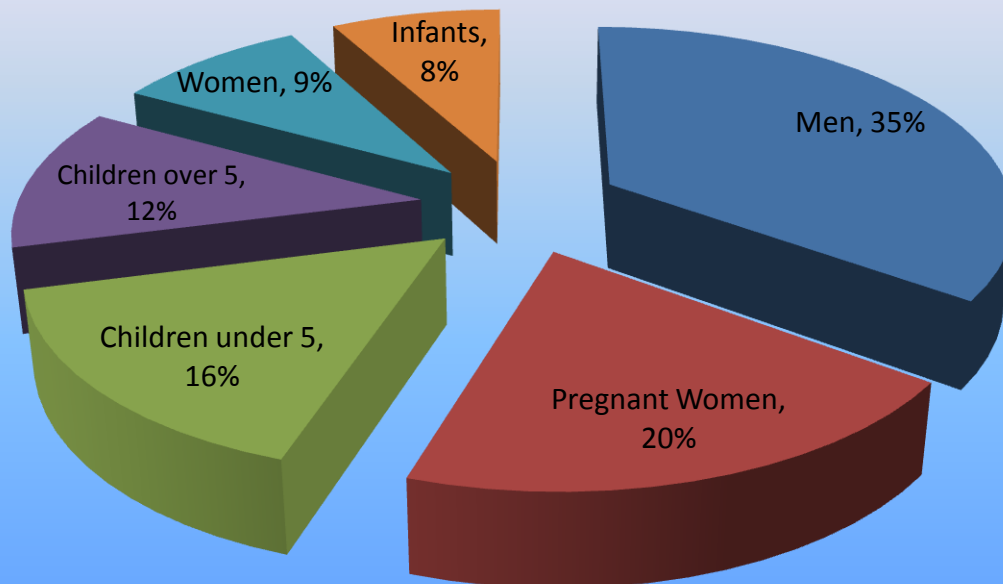


### Keeping a mountain community healthy

Sozo rebuilt the Istalif Comprehensive Health Center (CHC) clinic in 2003, and continues to run and support it to help implement the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) program, which was developed by the Afghanistan ministry of public health (MoPH) for provision of a sound and standard healthcare service system for all the Afghan people. The Istalif CHC Clinic serves a total population of more than 42,350 people and provides 24-hour healthcare services for the Istalif district. These include: Emergency care, OBGYN and family planning programs, pediatrics, vaccinations, out-patient services, dental care, Leishmaniasis diagnosis, prevention and treatment (77% reduction in cases in Istalif since 2002.) TB examination and treatment, (Since 2007 Istalif has registered 28 positive TB cases.) a laboratory, pharmacy, and ambulance, and Community Health Education services.

Sozo supports the Istalif clinic with 2 doctors, 3 nurses, 1 lab technician, 2 vaccinators, 1 pharmacist, 1 administrative officer, 1 dentist, 4 support staff, 1 ambulance driver and 1 staff vehicle driver.

## Istalif Patients

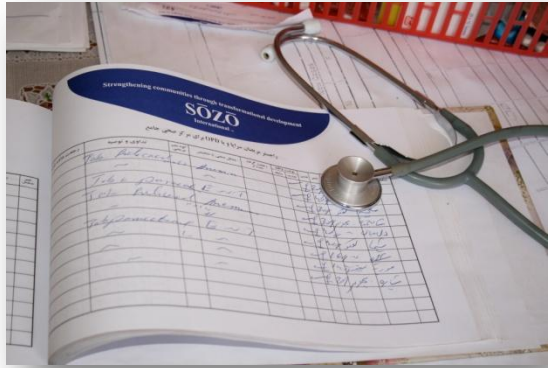


## Community health spreads from Istalif to two other areas

The Istalif Clinic is also a center for developing Community Health Worker and Community Development Education (CHW/CDE) Training programs. These provide basic health education for the people of Istalif and their community through 40 health posts. Two volunteers (1 male and 1 female) serve their community at each health post with education on personal hygiene, family planning, vaccination, preventive healthcare, and community mobilization programs for community development projects and programs. CHWs use the picture booklet (shown at right) to educate local villagers about health issues. The CHW/CDE program started in Istalif in early 2005, and was expanded to Shakar Dara district in 2007 and later to Berek Aub community in 2008. The CHW/CDE training program has resulted in improving residents' lives showing a reduction in these communities' social, health and environmental problems.



# SHAKA DARA, AFGHANISTAN



At the request of the MoPH Sozo operated two Basic Health Centers (BHC) in the Shaka Dara district from August, 2005 to May, 2011 when the programs were officially handed over to the Kabul Public Health Department and BRAC Organization. **The Qalai Murad Bek BHC Clinic** of Shakar Dara District covers a total population of more than 35,000 people including nomads with OBGYN and family planning services, vaccinations, emergency care, out-patient services, pediatrics, laboratory services, and daily health education services (CHW/CDE Training & Education). Sozo supported 1 doctor, 1 midwife, 2 vaccinators, 1 nurse, and 2 support staff/guards at the Qalai Murad Bek BHC Clinic. **The Behzadi BHC Clinic** serves a total population of more than 33,950 people with OBGYN / family planning education and services, vaccinations, emergency care, out-patient services, pediatrics, laboratory services, and daily health education services (CHW/CDE Training & Education). Sozo supported the Behzadi BHC Clinic with 1 doctor, 1 midwife, 2 vaccinators, 1 nurse, 2 support staff/guards, and 1 driver.

## THE BAREK AUB CLINIC

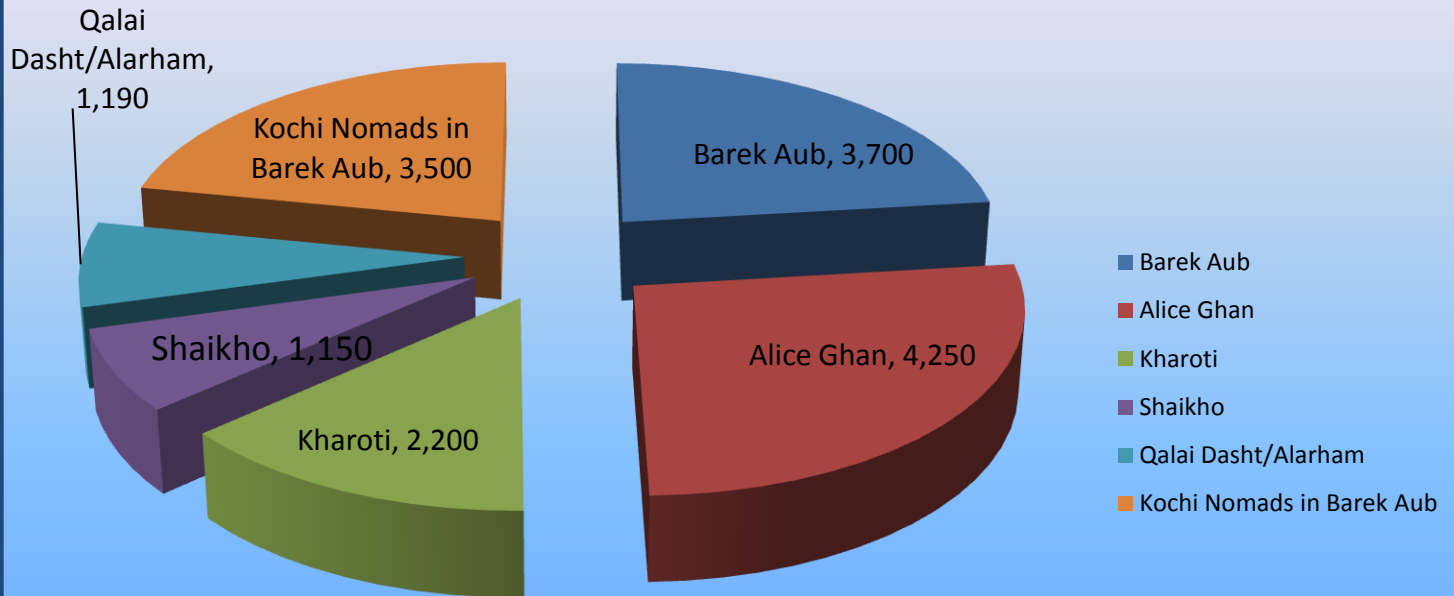


Sozo began offering healthcare in Berek Aub in January 2008. Sozo completed the Berek Aub clinic building at the end of October 2008, and it was officially dedicated for use to the community on January 13, 2009. In December 2010, the clinic was repainted by the Berek Aub community and the expenses were covered from Berek Aub Food for Work program. This year the Berek Aub clinic served six villages with a total population of more than 15,990 people.

The Berek Aub clinic provides OBGYN services, emergency care, out-patient services, vaccinations, pediatrics, laboratory services, and daily health education services (CHW/CDE Training & Education). The Berek Aub clinic implements the (BPHS) program of (MoPH) & provides the above mentioned services for these communities with the help of 1 doctor, 1 midwife, 2 vaccinators, 1 health educator, 2 support staff/guards and 1 driver.

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# Barek Aub Patients by Village



Right, the Barek Aub van transports clinic staff and some teachers to the village. Below, village women and children walk near the clinic.



# BURN PREVENTION PROGRAM

The burn prevention program was designed for prevention and reduction of burn cases throughout Afghanistan. During the project's first year, which began in November, 2007 and ended October 31, 2008, staff implemented programs in Kabul, Herat and Nangarhar provinces.

In the second year, November 1, 2008 to October 31, 2009, in addition to the first three provinces staff implemented the program in Parwan, Logar and Laghman provinces. Then they added three more provinces during the third year, 2009-2010, to include Balkh, Badakhshan and Kandahar.

The program is funded by the US – Afghan Women Council. Not only does the program provide treatment for burn patients, staff and volunteers spread life-saving information on preventing and treating burns through training sessions in various communities. Sozo cooperates with local residents in these areas, as well as with the Ministry of Public Health, Education, Women Affairs, Local Shoraws, and other social and local organizations.

This year, the program's fourth and final, 2010 to 2011, successfully completed October 31, after working in a total of nine target provinces.



Funded by the US-Afghan Women Council and in cooperation with the Afghan Ministry of Public Health, Education, Women Affairs, local Shoraws and other organizations, Sozo successfully educated leaders in nine provinces (shown in blue on the map to the left) on burn prevention and treatment in 2011.

# Education

## SOZO SCHOOL FOR STREET-WORKING CHILDREN



Some 222 children, ages 6-14, used to spend all day working on the streets of Kabul, Afghanistan, selling trinkets or food, hauling loads, or begging, to help provide for their families. Now they also go to school. Sozo opened the school in the spring of 2009 with 49 children. The Sozo School for Street-

Working Children graduated its first group of 20 students March 19, 2011. These children overcame major educational obstacles, starting out behind in their grade levels and learning to catch up enough to reintegrate into the public school system in Kabul. Years of living as refugees and having their lives disrupted by war and violence did not stop these 20 students from reclaiming their right to an education.

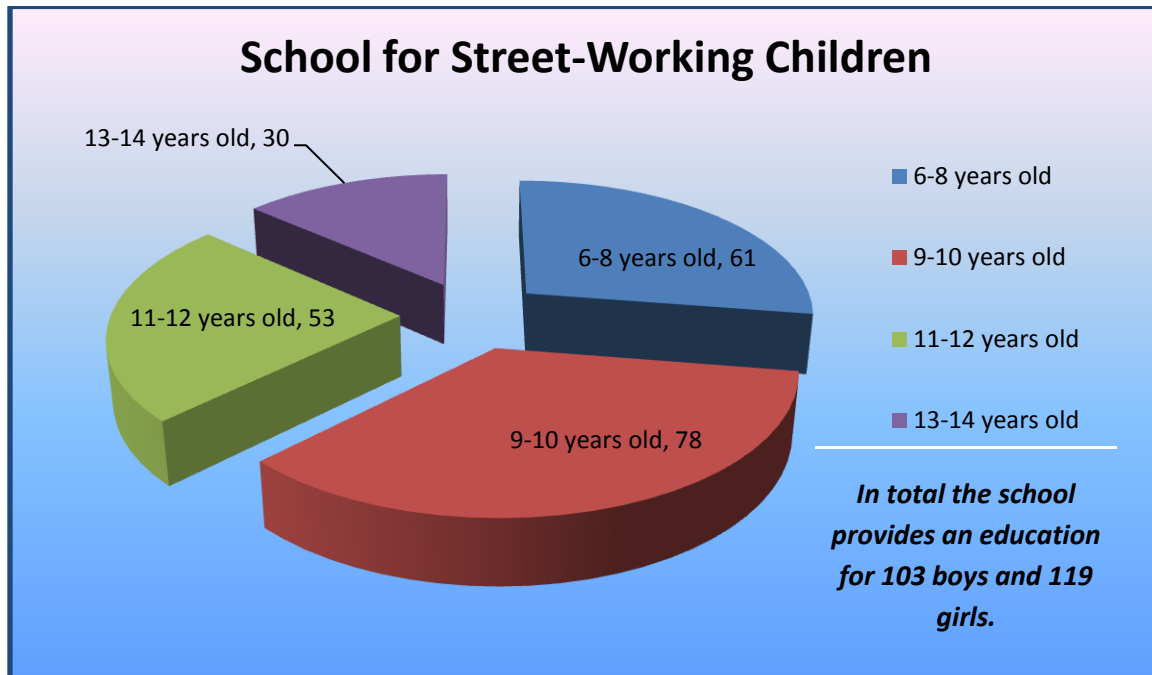
According to a 2008 Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission study, some 60,000 street children work as laborers or beggars in the streets of Kabul. Education is a pressing need in a country where literacy rates are less than 30 percent and where the average adult has spent fewer than two years in school. Education for girls especially has been hampered.



Education for girls has begun again in Afghanistan. Some 119 girls now attend the Sozo School.

Sozo not only provides this school facility, teachers and staff, we also provide students with clothing, shoes, school supplies and books, and a hot lunch, which for most of the children is their only meal for

the day. Half of the students come for morning classes, then after school lunch they head back out to work on the streets. Half of the students work in the morning and attend school in the afternoon. They all eat lunch together.



## BAREK AUB SCHOOL



Sozo constructed an eight-classroom school building for the people and children of Barek Aub in 2008. The government officially dedicated it for use January 13, 2009. Currently we are financially supporting this school in partnership with the Afghan government and helping the staff

improve the existing education programs, which presently provide standard education for the children of Barek Aub and its neighboring villages of Kharoti and Alice Ghan, and have brought a tremendous change in the lives of the people of Barek Aub.

# Economic Initiatives



## BAREK AUB HOUSING

Sozo continues to work with the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) to complete houses for widows and disabled people who are internally displaced people that have been relocated to Barek Aub. Between 2009 and 2010 Sozo built 22 houses. **This year Sozo completed 19 more houses. In addition, the construction work on these homes provided jobs for the residents of the Barek Aub Community. The houses cost \$5,300 each.**

## WORK FOR FOOD PROJECTS

Sozo continued the Food for Work program begun in 2010 in Barek Aub. Projects this year focused on the Barek Aub School. Workers finished painting the school in January 2011. Then construction on a boundary wall began in June of 2011. The wall, complete with two new metal gates and paint was installed and handed over to the school authorities and Barek Aub community. Next, projects to construct school bathrooms and a guard's room began in September, 2011 and were completed in October and ready for painting. Barek Aub community members completed all the labor for these projects under the Community Mobilization Policy. Sozo International paid them in the form of food items from the Barek Aub Food for Work program budget. In addition, the construction materials for these projects came from the local community elders, with the costs also carried by the Food for Work program.

# Refugees

## *On the streets in Kabul*

More than 5 million refugees have returned to Afghanistan since 2002. In 2011 alone some half a million returnees streamed into the country, thousands settling in makeshift tarp shelters in one of 17 camps for internally displaced people (IDP) still operating in Kabul in 2011.

The IDPs are dependent upon the government to allocate land for them, since most have lost their homes and property. Meanwhile they are encamped on the cold streets of Kabul.

“They need land and homes of their own, instead of tents,” says Sozo’s National Director.

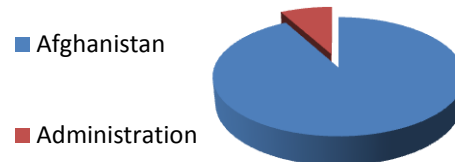
Sozo provides hundreds of refugees with immediate relief each year. In cooperation with other humanitarian assistance groups Sozo gives food, clothing, fuel for cooking and warmth, even blankets and tarps. We help coordinate temporary medical clinics to staunch the disease that inevitably comes with the deplorable living conditions, lack of clean water and malnutrition. In partnership with ISAF, VCR Eggers and IDES, we supported the smallest IDP camp in Kabul. We offered these 50 families firewood and food for the month of February, 2011.





**Sozo works hard** to insure that the highest percentage of giving can be put to use on the field where it is most needed. We do this by operating a lean, administrative staff in the U.S. Sozo also employs about 100 people in Afghanistan each year to operate projects there. Sozo International is a tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service. All contributions and donations are tax-deductible. We work with major partners as well as individual donors to fund our work.

## Sozo Funding



**Afghanistan Relief and Development 92%**  
**Administration 8%**



**Board of Directors:** Diane Cornwell, Jim Burgen, Olivia Kirtley, Ron Barnes, Suzie Snyder, Ben Thornley, Chris Hadley

**Afghanistan Staff:** Sozo employs a Country Director and an Assistant Director as well as around 100 Afghan nationals as educational and medical staff, to provide administrative support, transportation, security assistance, and to serve in the Sozo guesthouse in Kabul.

**U.S. Staff :** Ron Barnes, Interim Executive Director; Lesli Sweeney, Field Advocate; Charles McKibben, Accountant ; Rebecca Barnes, Communications Consultant



***Sozo: To help; to heal; to save.***

Sozo International formed in 2002, in response to the opportunity presented by the liberation of Afghanistan, shortly after September 11, 2001. Sozo aims to reach the most impoverished people in identifiable communities where war and natural disaster have wreaked havoc. Sozo provides emergency relief and ongoing development for internally displaced people (IDP) and encourages development with education, health and economic initiatives aimed at changing the day-to-day existence of people in need as well as providing hope for their future.

**[www.SozoInternational.org](http://www.SozoInternational.org)**

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