

Introduction

SERVE, a British NGO, also registered with the Afghan government, has been working with Afghans since 1980. Eighteen years were spent with Afghan refugees in Pakistan. From the end of 1998 onwards, all our project work has been conducted in Afghanistan with offices currently in Kabul, Jalalabad, and Kandahar.

SERVE's expatriate staff are professionally qualified and usually volunteers. SERVE's funding comes from a combination of private agency donations, institutional donors, government co-funding, trusts, foundations and concerned individuals. SERVE provides paid employment to over 200 full time Afghan nationals, male and female.

SERVE is committed to working together with local partners and the government to build capacity, coordinate efforts, share relevant information and complement activities. A main focus is on creating sustainability and building up capacity of Afghan staff and those of partner organizations (incl. the government of Afghanistan) to ensure that nationals and relevant organizations can continue the work when expatriate advisors leave the country for whatever reason. Disaster mitigation and preparedness is built into all programs. Where needed SERVE engages in disaster response to alleviate suffering in its target communities. Through advocacy we seek to influence attitudes of those who are in positions of power towards the poor while developing best practices to use funds and resources as efficiently and effectively as possible.

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SERVE's main focus is on the poor and marginalised and especially widows, orphans and people with disability.

Working together with the people of Afghanistan





We seek that individuals and communities that SERVE works with will understand and demonstrate an increasing awareness of their inherent worth and dignity as people.

Projects

Community Development

Our community development projects are currently in the cities and surrounding areas of Kabul, Jalalabad, and Kandahar.

We work to develop communities as they address their own felt needs and priority issues through self help groups, literacy classes, irrigation and drainage projects, cow loan programs, vocational training, and small business enterprise development, etc.



Adult literacy class

Preventative Health

SERVE uses home-based teaching, a school health education program, village health clubs program, a health education and nutrition program, and self help groups to assist the women, children, and families of Afghanistan, particularly the poorest, to develop better nutritional and hygiene practices. By focusing on women and girls, we can influence their families as well.

In the SERVE Prevention of Blindness (PBL) project the teams work mainly in the rural areas of Afghanistan where eye care is virtually non-existent. PBL does screening, training of teachers and health workers, eye health awareness programs, and identifies, treats, and refers patients needing surgery.

Disability

Our aim in working with people with disability is to remove the barriers that exist in society and institutions that



Girls at the school for the deaf enjoying Physical Education class.

hinder inclusion into mainstream life. We seek to accomplish this through advocacy, by offering education for the deaf and blind and other children with disability, vocational training for people with disabilities, community-based

rehabilitation, Braille teaching and materials development, sign language improvement, and integration into society.

Unlike most Western countries, the deaf in Afghanistan have very little opportunity for education and employment. SERVE's work with the deaf is making a difference in the lives of deaf students and their families and communities. A student of SERVE's school for the deaf in Jalalabad says: "I love this school. Now I'm proud of my life."