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Press info

### **One More School under Construction in Afghanistan thanks to Association Education for Peace**

Benefiting from the Poland's foreign aid program, the 'Education for Peace' Association was granted a subsidy in the amount of PLN 729,506.60 by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the construction of a school building complex for 1,500 schoolgirls and schoolboys in Herat, Afghanistan.

The project developed by Association Education for Peace (titled 'Equal Opportunities for Girls and Boys through Equal Access to Education in Herat (Construction of a School') was granted a subsidy by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a part of the Poland's Foreign Aid Program for 2009 (see competition results at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs website:

[http://www.msz.gov.pl/files/docs/konkursy/20090402POMOC/Lista\\_dotacji\\_Pomoc\\_zagraniczna\\_2009.pdf](http://www.msz.gov.pl/files/docs/konkursy/20090402POMOC/Lista_dotacji_Pomoc_zagraniczna_2009.pdf)

A new school building for 1,500 girls and boys at the age of 7-18 (classes 1-9) will provide children and youth of Herat with equal access to education in a friendly and safe environment and will promote women's social advancement through equal rights in the field of education. The school building will consist of 14 rooms. A construction of a second floor addition onto the building has been planned for the following years.

This is going to be the fifth school in Afghanistan Association Education for Peace has established.

Association Education for Peace acts on the principle that to create safe and friendly learning conditions, which is the aim of the project, will help to increase the number of



children going to school. At present classes are held in the open air, in tents or rented areas. We also accept the Afghan tradition and do not wish to change the rule that separates boys from girls; this should not hinder the learning process. Moreover, the implementation of a shift education system, i.e., boys and girls taking classes at different hours and in different rooms, should encourage parents to send their daughters to school. The issue of women's education in Afghanistan is a rather difficult one. It is estimated that only 21.9% of women over 15 years of age are literate. Providing them with a greater opportunity to learn should be viewed as a chance for them to become educated and take a more active part in social life.

Association Education for Peace also intends to run a pilot educational program in the new school that would include a distribution of several thousands of leaflets on basic hygiene rules and hygienic principles of food preparation. The main objective is to make pupils and school staff, as well as their families, more aware of these issues.

In a long-term perspective, the new school building is intended to become a safe polling station for the citizens of Herat.

The realization of the project is going to pursue the following millennial objectives:

- OBJECTIVE 2 'Providing universal access to basic education';
- OBJECTIVE 3 'Promoting equal rights for women and men, and women's social advancement as a result'
- OBJECTIVE 4 'Reducing child mortality'

NOTE (31 December, 2009): the Project was successfully completed.

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The 'Education for Peace' Association is a public benefit organization that supports educational development in the Third World countries. It is our firm conviction that an increased level of education enhances the chance of a long-lasting peace and prevents potential conflicts in an efficient way. A stable condition of the Third World countries



has a direct influence on national security and economic growth in Europe, including Poland. More info at <http://www.edukacjadlapokoju.pl/>

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