The life Rejuvenated

Location: Kabul, Abdul Ali IDP Camp

Interviewer: Ms. Shukria

Interviewee: Tahmina

Author: Habib Rahman Haider

While durable solutions remain out of reach for internally displaced persons in all the provinces including Kabul the capital of Afghanistan, with an estimated more than 2 million IDPs across the country. , evidence shows that IDPs are in severe condition across the country and do not have access to fundamental human rights. Both national and international organizations have interventions in IDP camps to respond to the needs of the IDPs such as education, health facility, and livelihood.

The number of IDPs rapidly increased in the year 2014 to 2021 as the war between the Afghan National Forces and Taliban has reached to brutal phase. Now as the new regime is in power and facing multi issues in education, health, and livelihood, so the chances of improving the life of IDPs has become a myth. In addition, not only the IDPs but the whole country is facing numerous constraints which they have not ever practiced in their lives.



Figure 1: Ms. Shukria the Hygiene Promoter with Abdul Ali IDP camp children.

COAR with the financial support of UNICEF has started intervention in 42 IDP camps in the capital Kabul. The camps are hosting IDPs almost from 25 provinces. UNICEF-funded WASH project for the IDPs camps has the objective of providing clean drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. Specifically, COAR with the financial support of UNICEF has one new water supply network, 30 double cabinet latrines, and 96 hygiene kits for the total of 838 beneficiaries out of which 278 are girls, 259 boys, 170 women, and 131 men beneficiaries.

Clean drinking water, access to latrines, and hygiene are a dream for the residents. Tahmina is twelve years old. She is originally from the Taqab district of Kapisa province. She said," our village was destroyed and we (family members) came to Kabul". Tahmina along with her family and other IDPs from her village settled in Baghi Dawood camp in the 14th district of Kabul and later settled in Qala e Abdul Ali camp. Poverty and lack of access to fundamental needs make life more challenging and risky for the IDPs with uncertain futures in the country where the war is continually manipulating their lives.

Tahmina was facing challenges in the access to latrines and drinking water, now as the camp has sufficient latrines and a water supply network. She felt dignified and stated, "I am so much happy to have these facilities and now I will only focus on my studies". A high volume of children are living in IDP camps like Tahmina who are willing to study and contribute to the family economy but due to certain constraints and limitations, the mentioned limitations are demolishing their morale and dreams. There are millions of children like Tahmina who are suffering and need emergency response across the country.



Figure 2: Tahmina collecting water from a stand tap right in front of her living room in Abdul Ali Camp.



Figure 3: Tahmina on the way to school which is 2.5 km away from Abdul Ali Camp.

In the question asked Tahmina about her future, she said, “I want to become a doctress to help other girls”. Tahmina is motivated by the hygiene promoters’ sessions to focus on hygiene related issues to stay healthy.



Figure 4: Tahimina washing her hands from hand washing facility.



Figure 5: Tahmina along with her classmates in the school.

To guarantee the lives of millions of IDPs there is a need for a cognitive approach from, CSOs, International Donors, businesses, government, and host communities to collaboratively assure the future of the IDPs and especially the children. The residents of the camps have cordially appreciated the COAR and UNICEF for accessing the IDP camps. This kind of intervention gives hope to IDPs.



Figure 6: Tahmina in her class-room during the reading of book.