



Knowledge hub
-
Collection of best practices

Summary of the best practice

1. Title of the best practice (e.g. name of policy, programme, project, etc.) *

Education for Street working children

2. Country or countries where the practice is implemented *

Afghanistan

3. Please select the **most relevant** Action Track(s) the best practice applies to *

- Action Track 1. Inclusive, equitable, safe, and healthy schools
- Action Track 2. Learning and skills for life, work, and sustainable development
- Action Track 3. Teachers, teaching and the teaching profession
- Action Track 4. Digital learning and transformation
- Action Track 5. Financing of education

4. Implementation lead/partner organization(s) *

Action for Development

5. Key words (5-15 words): Please add key descriptive words around aims, modalities, target groups etc. *

reintegration into formal education
education for girls
school meals
physical activities
health check-up
teacher's trainings
vocational trainings
winterisation support

6. What makes it a best practice? *

School for street-working children' project was designed as a response to the deteriorating situation of children and young people working on the streets of Kabul (Ethical soundness). It is growing every year thanks to partnerships and collaboration with international and local actors (local businessman, local associations, Afghan government...). It involves the participation of street working children and offers inclusive education for girls (youth and community involvement). It addresses a priority education challenge as street working children are the most vulnerable children in the country. It is efficient, the number of street working children attending our classes is growing every year and we believe our project can be replicable in any country.

Description of the best practice

7. Introduction (350-400 words)

This section should ideally provide the context of, and justification for, the practice and address the following issues:

- i) Which population was affected?
- ii) What was the problem that needed to be addressed?
- iii) Which approach was taken and what objectives were achieved? *

i) The project addresses the needs of the most unprivileged and vulnerable children, who - due to poverty - have to work on the streets day long to survive and support their siblings and families to have some food to eat. These children and young people work on the streets of Kabul and Parwan provinces. The hubs for this project are set up in the centers of bazaars and local markets which enabled the children to come during the hours when they are free.

ii) Poor security and poverty in Afghanistan cause millions of children to remain out of school in rural and urban settlements and engage in child labour. The current situation of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the already difficult situation of the street working children in Afghanistan. Children who are forced to work on the streets in order to perform tasks which are classified as "labour" and earn money to secure less than the basic needs for themselves and their families suffer the most during the pandemic. After the Taliban took over, current schools are no longer accessible to girls aged 12 and above. AfD started the development of "skill learning classes" for girls, which will be created by women groups within the household setups. Through these setups these girls will get access to secondary education, as well as learning specific skills (i.e., embroidery and sewing).

iii) The "School for street working children" blazed a new educational trail, experimenting with a new technique of closing the gap between street-working children and education. This programme matured with a specific focus on the needs and circumstances these children face, adjusting and tailoring our project to their specific needs, in order to eliminate the consequences of the absence of children from school and the educational system. The school aims to offer children working in the streets of Kabul the opportunity to follow a semi-formal education, thus allowing them to learn basic literacy (alphabet, writing and reading) and numeracy skills (basic numbers, additions and subtraction) together with sports practice, life skills and psychosocial support. We are also aware that nutrition is fundamental for the development of children, therefore, AfD provides a daily warm lunch to all registered children - for the majority of whom this is the only meal of their day. AfD believes that it is not only important for the children to develop academic skills, but also to learn social skills that will be helpful for the rest of their lives. We also believe that the physical health of the children is of primary importance.

We reach the following objectives:

- Provide access to education and food to 200 street working children (age group 5 to 13) by the end of 2021.
- Strengthen gender equity and equality.
- Further develop special training methodologies.
- Adapt AfD's project to the challenges posed by COVID-19.
- Establish a vocational training programme for 20 students

8. Implementation (350-450 words)

Please describe the implementation modalities or processes, where possible in relation to:

- i) What are the main activities carried out?
- ii) When and where the activities were carried out (including the start date and whether it is ongoing)?
- iii) Who were the key implementation actors and collaborators? (civil society organizations, private sector, foundations, coalitions, networks etc.)?
- iv) What were the resources needed (budget and sources) for the implementation?

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The project revolves around recruitment of street working children to the program. Organizing classes, and setting up activities which are relevant to improve and upgrade their skills in literacy and numeracy.

Providing the street working children with lunch

Availing opportunity for the children to practice sports

340 children enrolled in our school today, out of which 46% are girls. On annual basis AfD provides the children with 78,520 meals. In addition, 126 students received health check-ups with paediatricians from AfD's Comprehensive Health Centre. 90 children, including 23 girls, took part in our football training.

Afd provided witerisation support during winter and through covid emergency project distributed food packages to the families of street working children to support resilience and survival

9. Results – outputs and outcomes (250-350 words)

To the extent possible, please reply to the questions below:

- i) How was the practice identified as transformative? (e.g., impact on policies, impact on management processes, impact on delivery arrangements or education monitoring, impact on teachers, learners and beneficiary communities etc.);
- ii) What were the concrete results achieved with regard to outputs and outcomes?
- iii) Has an assessment of the practice been carried out? If yes, what were the results? *

The evaluation of the project depicts the facts that this project is highly impactful because it plays an immense role in transforming the future of the street working children.

The centers provided literacy and numeracy classes to over 340 street working children, who otherwise due to the day work cannot attend schools

26 students from the center have successfully joined the governmental schools and were able to pass necessary tests to sit in the classes relevant to their age.

10. Lessons learnt (300 words)

To the extent possible, please reply to the following questions:

- i) What were the key triggers for transformation?
- ii) What worked really well – what facilitated this?
- iii) What did not work – why did it not work? *

Commitments from the staff and efforts that were put behind the project,
Having a clear vision and a clear strategy which defined the path success

Funding was always a problem, however, AfD managed to have stable donors who contributed to the project.

This helped to maintain a stable service delivery

Since AfD is a small organisation engaging with big donors has been complicated. We have already proved that the services that could be delivered depend on the amount of donations we receive therefore, the quality of services is also determined by the amount the donors pledge into improving the conditions.

For AfD it did not work to engage into some programs, but we were lucky enough to find ways and raise awareness on the situation of street working children and advocate for their right and inclusion.

11. Conclusions (250 words)

Please describe why may this intervention be considered a “best practice”. What recommendations can be made for those intending to adopt the documented “best practice” or how can it help people working on the same issue(s)? *

AfD is proud to mention that this project was initially put into action in 2016 upon receiving a grant from a foundation. This means that the idea /thought to establish something that would work so well established earlier (in 2015). The Consortium for street working children has come to existence in 2017. This already proves that the actions taken by AfD pioneered and showed the right path to engage street working children who before were neglected and not included into the programs.

Determination to help the neediest people always succeeds. if you have a dream to improve the living conditions for other human beings, you need to work tirelessly and remain focused.

12. Further reading

Please provide a list and URLs of key reference documents for additional information on the “best practice” for those who may be interested in knowing how the results benefited the beneficiary group/s. *

www.actfordev.org