



International Literacy Day

8th September



**Literacy 'is fully essential
to social and human
development in its ability
to transform lives' -
UNESCO**





Literacy in Afghanistan

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Afghanistan has:

- One of the lowest rates of adult literacy **in the world**;
- Just **39% of adults** aged 15+ who can read and write;
- Some rural areas with less than **2%** of literate women.

But:

- Small organisations like Afghan Connection, and larger ones like UNESCO, are striving to change all this;
- The rate of adult literacy has **doubled** in the last 25 years;
- Afghan Connection is specifically working in areas of **greatest need**, such as the very rural **Takhar province**;
- The government aims to increase adult literacy to **60%** by **2020**.



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To help the government reach this target:

- UNESCO has implemented a 3-phase programme called **Enhancement of Literacy in Afghanistan (ELA)**.
- So far ELA has enabled **600,000** Afghans to graduate from literacy provisions, such as reading and writing skills classes.
- The final phase begins in 2016, and aims to repeat this number across **30 provinces**.



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Since 2002, Afghan Connection has:

- Funded **42 schools** with the help of its partners;
- **Provided education for 50,000 boys and girls through school construction;**
- **Implemented Community Based Education (CBE)** for children in isolated, rural areas previously without access to *any* education;
- Funded **789 teacher-training courses** over the past 4 years;
- Invested in **long-term sustainability**, funding management-courses for headmasters and principals as well as computer training courses and equipment;
- **Always focused on community buy-in;** local village elders and parents, headmasters and local education authorities all cooperate to ensure the sustainability of our projects.



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Due to organisations like Afghan Connection, education has improved dramatically in Afghanistan in recent years:

- **In 2001 just 21% of children were in primary school.**
- **In 2011, 97% of children were enrolled in primary school.**
- **Youth literacy is 47% - much higher than adult literacy, a testament to the rising standards of education, and an indication of a brighter future for the country.**