

Shelter for Life International

Seeking to demonstrate God's love by enabling people affected by conflict and disaster to restore their lives and rebuild their communities.



Shelter is more than a roof and four walls...

A Message from Our Executive Director

Greetings from Dakar, Senegal, where SFL is hoping to begin work soon! We were awarded a grant by the United States Department of Agriculture to restore some farm-to-market roads. While Senegal has experienced its own share of conflict and devastation, it is also brimming with possibilities, blessed with fertile soil, sun and water. SFL considers it a privilege to partner with the Senegalese; we pray we can begin that partnership soon.

We also want to let you know your continued prayers and partnership are a tremendous source of encouragement. Please keep us in your prayers for the prosperity of this nation, for smooth launch of the project (including selection of staff and completion of the registration process), and for safety. We cannot thank you enough for your support and prayers.

Best,

Mustafa Omar



Motorcycles & Cassava Crops

Revitalizing South Sudan

Over the past four years, SFL has worked on many projects in South Sudan. Recently, with support from the Stewardship Foundation, SFL conducted agribusiness training with farmers in Lofiri Boma. Focusing on improving management skills, SFL hopes trainings like this will increase food security and help pave the way for a transition from subsistence to commercial farming.



SFL also recently arranged four farming groups to tend community cassava gardens. All members of the groups received \$200 microcredit in the form of new technologies and seeds. Yields increased 90 percent!

So, how do motorcycles fit in to this picture of revitalization? Good question! Agribusiness training was not the only SFL project in South Sudan. We also implemented the [Valley Dam Project](#) (among others) and employed many cash-for-work laborers... some of whom really wanted motorcycles. General Indicator (a former child soldier so named because he is the fastest motorbike rider in his community) was among those that really wanted a motorcycle, so he helped mobilize some farming groups and worked on the Valley Dam Project.



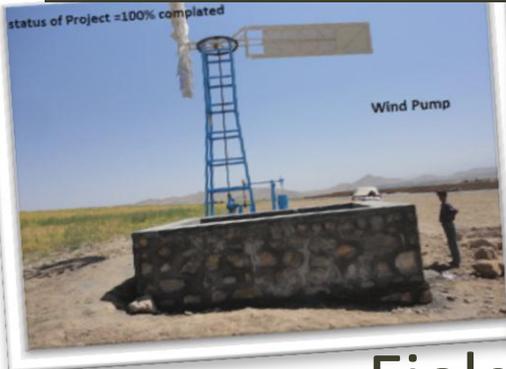
By the time we completed the community project General Indicator and others earned enough to buy motorbikes, and, like the improved farming practices, the purchase of those bikes boosted the local economy.

Connect With Us!

There are several ways to connect with Shelter for Life:

- Like -Like us on [Facebook](#) & follow us on [Twitter](#), [google+](#), [Pinterest](#), and [Flickr](#).
- Check out our [website](#), where you can look for periodic [volunteer opportunities](#) and consider becoming a [monthly sponsor](#).
- Call, email, or mail us anytime. We look forward to hearing from you!





Field Updates: Afghanistan

Wind Pumps & Water Committees

As part the Food for Progress Program funded by USDA, SFL recently implemented a Sustainable Livelihoods & Agriculture Enterprise Development project in the Takhar and Kunduz provinces.

As part of this project, SFL is working to expand irrigation: This past July we installed a wind-pump and small reservoir system with the capacity to extract 3,000 liters (approximately 793 gallons) of water per day. Notably, the wind pump is already proving itself useful, providing water to some saplings recently planted by SFL.



Also in efforts to expand agricultural productivity, SFL established two water committees for the Arbab Rahmat Irrigation System and the Passage Irrigation System. To date, SFL has established 14 water management committees in the areas of irrigation projects.

Over the past three years of the project, SFL has employed 8,220 skilled and unskilled workers - 224 in July alone.

Soy Beans - A Comprehensive Approach to Agricultural Growth

In cooperation with the American Soybean Association's World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (ASA-WISHH), SFL is working in Afghanistan to establish the soybean as a sustainable, profitable crop. Toward this end, SFL is partnering with farmers to improve agricultural practices, access to water, and road conditions.

Benefits of the Soy Bean

- Many products are made from soybean, including milk, oil, ink, and flour.
- It is one of the best foods for human health, especially for children.
- It makes quality animal feed, improving/increasing an animal's milk production and power.
- The crop benefits the soil, improving texture and quality.

soybean is better this year than last, and farmers report that they are happy with this year's crop.

While all of this work is important, farmers still need a way to sell the soybeans, and many are unable to reach markets to do so. In order to connect soybean farmers to village markets (among other things), SFL is also reconstructing 35 kilometers of road – taking a comprehensive approach to agricultural growth.

In regards to improving agricultural practices, SFL developed a curriculum and manual to help train farmers (3,806 copies were distributed to trainers and trainees), trained over 4,000 farmers and 45 individuals as core trainers (so they can train others), and helped over 3,000 farmers plant.



Farmer for Years + Shelter For Life = Improved Farming Practices For Life

Over the last three decades, conflict has continually plagued Afghanistan, deterring investment in education and business. SFL seeks to remedy this as much as possible, and toward this end recently implemented an agriculture productivity-training program in Tahkar and Kunduz Provinces. Through the trainings offered by SFL, farmers learned new techniques and systems, gained awareness of various farming theories, improved their current skills, and, in efforts to apply their newfound knowledge in practical ways, brain stormed solutions to various dilemmas. In addition to these trainings, SFL has used land donated by community members to develop "demonstration plots" - SFL's agronomist uses them to teach community farmers better cultivation techniques.

Haji Noor Agha owns one of the demonstration plots, along with fifteen jeribs of farmland. Though he has been farming for years in order to provide for his family of thirteen, he proves no matter how long one has worked in any field, there is always room for improvement!



"This year, due to new methods we have learned, we were able to plant a second crop of vegetables for family consumption and fodder crops for animal husbandry. We now have double crops on one jerib of our land ... we are very happy." - Haji Noor Agha