




Skateistan

2017

<i>Skateistan phase budget</i>	<i>CHF 2.4 mio, 2014-2017</i>
<i>Swiss total contribution</i>	<i>CHF 770'000, 2014-2017</i>
<i>Partner</i>	<i>Afghanistan Skateboarding Training Organization (ASTO)</i>
<i>Geographic focus</i>	<i>Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif cities</i>
	
<i>Other donors</i>	<i>United State and Finland</i>

Context

Access to education is a significant problem in Afghanistan, especially for girls, street working and internally displaced children. Even though tremendous progress has been made since 2001 with school enrolment, the ongoing conflict continues to have a negative effect on the level and quality of education. Children are particularly affected by the conflict and the difficult socio-economic conditions.

What does the project do?

Through skateboarding and an arts-based curriculum, Skateistan enables access to quality educational and recreational opportunities for

Afghan youth of all backgrounds. This applies particularly to impoverished kids, but also girls, who are often socially excluded from participating in traditional sports.

The project is not in competition with the formal education system, but enables kids to complement and further deepen learnings. Marginalized Afghan children/youth are equipped and enabled with the skills, knowledge, self-esteem, and social support to participate more fully in civil society.



Girl skateboarding, Mazar-e-Sharif, 2015, © SDC.

Besides, Skateistan “back-to-school” program reconnects out of school street working, internally displaced, girls and other disadvantaged kids to school.

Skateistan runs two purpose-built project sites in Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif.

What has the project achieved so far?

Over 1100 students, from all Skateistan target groups (i.e. girls, youth, low-income and working children), are currently attending Skateistan weekly programming in both skate schools in Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif. Remarkable successes are the high participation of girls (49%) and children from low-income backgrounds in Skateistan programmes in 2016. In the same year, Skateistan also completed the enrollment of 300 Back-to-School students into the Afghan public school.

Furthermore, as a result of Skateistan’s youth leadership program, over 100 young people received structured training, volunteer and employment opportunities, or took on a leadership role as a representative of their classmates on Skateistan students’ council. The program also reached Afghan youth from diverse socio-economic groups and ethnic backgrounds. Skateboarding classes for disabled youth were provided for both girls and boys, promoting a culture of inclusion and accessibility within the organization and the greater community.