



ISHK - Hoopoe Books for Afghanistan Program

In 2006, we received official permission from Afghanistan's Minister of Education in Kabul authorizing us to provide Hoopoe books and complementary teaching materials to schools and children in Afghanistan.

These remarkable Teaching-Stories have been told by campfire and candlelight in this part of the world for more than 1,000 years. They were selected and retold by the Afghan author and savant, Idries Shah. We plan to provide bilingual Dari and Pashto editions, plus our English editions as requested for distribution to schools, orphanages and libraries throughout Afghanistan.

Our mission:

Our aim is to provide as many children as possible with their very own books, starting initially with a goal of providing 250,000 copies of each of the five Dari-Pashto titles already translated.

Certainly, for at least 95% of these children, these will be the first books they own, and they may well be tales that their grandparents recognize from their own childhood. For the older, more conservative Afghans, we hope that repatriating these stories in book form will be a comforting bridge to literacy and the development of skills that the younger generations will need in order to survive and contribute in the modern world.

To do this, we have an arrangement to print in Afghanistan on a continuous basis, placing orders as we raise the funds to cover costs.



To date we have raised funds to cover the translation and layout of five titles as bilingual Dari-Pashto editions, for Teacher Guides in both languages to accompany 3 titles so far, and to print 40,000 copies of our first title **“The Boy Without a Name”** in a Dari-Pashto bilingual edition, and distribute these to requesting organizations. We continue to receive requests from Afghan schools, orphanages, libraries and adult literacy programs for books in Dari, Pashto and English, and for Teacher Guides to help teachers use the books to aid literacy in the classroom.

If you are in touch with organizations in Afghanistan that might need these books and teacher guides, or know of NGOs that are able to cover the cost of the books they need themselves, please write to Sally Mallam at hoopoebooks@aol.com with the contact information.

To contribute to this program:

If you would like to help us send these wonderful stories back home in book form to the children of Afghanistan, please mail your donation to **ISHK, PO Box 176, Los Altos, CA 94023, USA**, or visit our secure website, <http://ishk.com>, go to the **“How To Help”** page and click the **“Make a Donation”** link and scroll to the **“Books for Afghanistan”** project. If you prefer, you can set up a monthly donation to the program via credit card. Just select the amount you would like to donate and click on the link **“Monthly Donations.”**

(see over for more information)

Our progress so far:

We have a key translator and compositor in Kabul, Noor Atel. All final translations are checked for accuracy by translators from the BBC Dari and Pashto World Service. Noor oversees all translations and back translations and works with our compositor, Jonathan Russell, here in the US. Final film is produced by our Hong Kong printer and shipped to KOR.

We have signed a Partnership Agreement with Ms. Fatima Gailani, President of the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS). ARCS will assist us with receiving, transporting and distributing future books. ARCS has a youth program in 24 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces which is supported by the organization's network of 41,000 volunteers including school teachers and government employees.

Dr. Farid Bazger, Founder and Director of Khatiz Organization for Rehabilitation (KOR), will supervise the printing of all our books and KOR will liaise with ARCS to arrange distribution to schools and orphanages who have ordered and continue to order books from us. KOR have been printing and distributing illustrated books to schools in Afghanistan for the Afghan Reading Project for some time now.

Should you wish to see the books in question, the International Children's Digital Library (ICDL) has made the English, Spanish, Dari and Pashto editions of Hoopoe Books available on their site. Dari and Pashto editions of the five titles we have to date are readable at this website: <http://en.childrenslibrary.org/> (on the "Read Books" drop-down tab, do a "keyword search" for Hoopoe Books).



Afghan girls reading the new translation of *The Lion Who Saw Himself in the Water* by Idries Shah.



In 2007 ISAF - NATO printed and distributed 250,000 copies of the Dari-Pashto bilingual paperback edition of *The Lion Who Saw Himself in the Water* by Idries Shah.

We have donated 4,400 English paperbacks to International Orphan Care, whose US office is in Laguna Beach and who handled the shipping to their programs.

Please help if you can: (see overleaf for details on how you can contribute to this program)

With each print run we plan to produce enough copies to keep the cost of each book, inclusive of ancillary materials, as low as possible, so even a small contribution will help us reach our goal!

Thank you so much!