

Adopt-a-Team Frequently Asked Questions

What do they need?

We are asking that instead of collecting equipment that will then need to be shipped to Afghanistan, you raise between \$500-\$1000. With that money, AYSE will purchase equipment for each team and provide team travel funds and also use the money towards the coach's salary.

How do you get it there?

Send the check to AYSE – in note section of check write Adopt-a-Team Fund. All equipment will be purchased in Afghanistan, which helps to eliminate shipping and to reduce cost of the equipment. As a result, your donation goes a lot farther.

How can I raise the money?

Happy Hour social; raffle drawings; a film screening of Kabul Girls' Club, an ESPN documentary about ASYE's soccer program in Kabul; donate players' travel per diem; a speaking engagement (AYSE staff are available to represent the organization at any event organized); proceeds from stadium ticket sales. Feel free to contact us to brainstorm any ideas that you and your team have.

How many teams are there, and how did they get started?

There are currently 15 girls' soccer teams in Kabul. Just after AYSE held its 2004 training camp in the United States, the Afghanistan National Olympic Committee (ANOC) started to support the development of other girls' soccer teams in Kabul. The eight AYSE campers were a large factor in the rapid expansion of girls' soccer in Kabul; currently, 5 of the original 8 are members of the Afghanistan Women's National Soccer Team.

What are their lives like?

Afghan children like to keep active. When they aren't in school and doing homework, they enjoy flying kites, playing soccer or running in a playground. They also like to play a variety of games, listen to music and watch television. Afghanistan is a traditional society. Children spend a lot of time with their family. Some Afghan children still have to start working at a young age to help support their families. Afghan children spend a lot of time outdoors. In particular, nomadic children often spend time outdoors tending animals. While Afghan children are hard-working, they are also very fun-loving.

A few years ago, however, life for Afghan children was very different. Under the Taliban regime, Afghan girls were not allowed to go to school. Girls also had to hide or get rid off their dolls because the Taliban opposed all images of people or animals, including photographs and posters. Boys and girls were not allowed to play together. Afghan children were also not allowed to watch television or listen to music. Luckily, times have changed and many dedicated people are working hard to improve the lives of children in Afghanistan.¹

¹ Embassy of Afghanistan – www.embassyofafghanistan.org



What are some of the challenges the girls face?

Activities such as soccer are controversial still in Afghanistan—even in the urban centers like Kabul. Girls' schools have been targeted by radical Islamists who disapprove of girls and women taking their rightful place alongside boys and men in the public sphere. Girls who play soccer, therefore, are challenging traditional gender roles with each throw in and every goal scored.

Girls are also faced with more mundane challenges such as poverty; balancing school and family duties with the demands of a soccer team; and crossing town (quite a distance) to compete against other teams in Kabul.