



7 Help the Children

1 Synopsis

This video shows the work being done by UNICEF (The United Nations Children's Fund) to bring education to the children of Afghanistan. During the 20 years of the Taliban regime, schools were destroyed and girls had to stay at home. The police punished families whose children went to school. Now the children of Afghanistan want peace and education. UNICEF is helping to train teachers, rebuild schools, print textbooks, and deliver books and other supplies to schools. The children talk about how sad it was to miss years of their education and how happy they are to be back in school.

Length of video: 4:27min

2 Target Language

Grammar: Simple Past, countable/uncountable nouns with *much/many*

Vocabulary: world issues (war, malnutrition, poverty, etc.)

Language points: *It wasn't so bad, a great deal of, have room for*

3 Procedural Notes

A Before you watch

As a class. Write on the board *What do you know about Afghanistan?* Invite students to say what they know. Ask *Have you heard about it in the news recently? What's happening? Where is Afghanistan? Is it rich? Is it peaceful? Who are the Taliban? Why did they close schools?*

Cultural note: In 2001, the U.S. removed the extremist Islamic rulers known as the Taliban from Afghanistan. Under the Taliban, the following things were banned: entertainment, e.g., music and TV; sports, e.g., soccer and flying kites; women's freedom, e.g., women had to be covered up, could not leave home, and girls could not go to school. This regime was followed by a democratic government (run by President Karzai) and more freedom for the ordinary people. However, there is still extreme poverty and hardship. The Taliban has returned to control large areas of Afghanistan again, and the fight against them continues.

In groups. Have students look at the words on the map. Be prepared to explain any vocabulary. Discuss with the

students what they think the video will be about. Elicit ideas, but don't confirm anything at this stage.

B While you watch

1 Individuals. Give students time to read the summary. Encourage them to predict which of the uncountable nouns goes in each blank. Play the first part of the video [up to 01:18] and have students fill in the blanks. Check answers as a class. Play the video again, if necessary.

Answer key:

1 poverty 2 war 3 malnutrition 4 work 5 peace
6 food 7 medicine

2 Individuals. Have students read the six activities. Point out they should only check four of them. Play the rest of the video [01:18–end]. Check answers as a class. Ask students what they found most interesting.

Answer key:

2, 3, 4, 6

3 Individuals. Ask students to read the "Did you know?" paragraph. Elicit or explain unknown vocabulary.

As a class. Play the whole video again and have students complete the "Did you know?" paragraph with the numbers in the box. Check answers as a class, focusing on the pronunciation of numbers.

Answer key:

1 7,000 2 157 3 20 4 2,000 5 12 6 26

C After you watch

1 In pairs. Ask students to imagine that they are going to interview Habiba, the teacher who runs a school in her home in Kabul. Have students work in pairs to complete questions 1–3 using the simple past form of the verbs in parentheses. Then, have them complete questions 4–6 using *many* or *much* (if necessary, elicit the rules that *much* is used with uncountable nouns and *many* is used with countable nouns). Finally, have pairs figure out the answers to the questions by referring to *While you watch* and their memory.



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Answer key:

1 How many schools did the Taliban destroy? (Almost 2,000.) **2** Did many girls attend school under the Taliban? (No, they weren't allowed to.) **3** What did the Taliban do to parents whose children went to school? (They punished them.) **4** How many years have you run this school in your home? (For 12 years.) **5** How many other schools like this do you supervise? (26.) **6** Is there still much poverty in Afghanistan? (Yes, there is.)

2 As a class. Set up the scenario for the role-play. One student in each pair (Student A) should be a journalist; the other (Student B) is Habiba. Model the task with one student if necessary. Point out that students can change the order of questions 1–6. Encourage the Student As to add follow-up questions and to show interest (e.g., *Really?*) Encourage the Student Bs to expand on their answers. If necessary, review the video section about Habiba [01:50–02:38] before students begin.

In pairs. Students act out the role-play. When they finish, they can change partners/roles.

Answer key: See answers in parentheses above.

4 Video Script

Presenter: Around the world, many children are living in poverty. Many children live in countries where there is war. Many children do not get enough to eat. Some of these children are suffering from malnutrition. Many children in the world cannot go to school. One agency that is helping these children is UNICEF. UNICEF means the United Nations Children's Fund. UNICEF has more than 7,000 people working in 157 countries around the world to help children. One country where they are doing a great deal of work is Afghanistan. The extremist Taliban regime brutally ruled this country for 20 years. A whole generation of children in Afghanistan has never known peace, until recently. Now, UNICEF is bringing food for malnourished children. They are bringing medicine. Here a medical team travels on horseback to bring medicine to a remote mountain

village. And UNICEF is helping the children get an education.

Doctor: During the time of Taliban, we have made a survey among 40,000 kids. And, uh, and they all say that the first thing they want is peace. And the second thing that they want is, was education.

Presenter: The Taliban destroyed almost 2,000 schools. Under the Taliban, girls were not allowed to attend school at all.

Moyeen: Well, over 50 percent of the school has been destroyed completely, in the rest of the 50 percent schools which, eh, eh, needs repair, we are trying to accommodate all the childrens in the schools.

Presenter: Some of the schools are in people's homes. This is a home school in Kabul. The teacher, Habiba Kilwati, has been running the school for 12 years. She supervises 26 other schools like it.

D Language points

In pairs. Have the students read the sentences and choose the correct meaning for each underlined phrase.

As a class. Check answers as a class. Ask follow-up questions to check comprehension, e.g., *Who did a great deal of homework last week? What did you do? How many students are in this classroom? Do we have room for 10 more students? When were you last sick? How bad was it?*

Answer key: 1 b 2 a 3 c

E Your viewpoint

Individuals. Have students read the question and check comprehension. Then, ask them to read the summary in Exercise 1 *While you watch*.

As a class. Focus on the first group of adults. Elicit ideas from the class (e.g., *I think UNICEF helped the parents a lot because the agency gave them medicine for their sick children; I think UNICEF also gave the parents hope*).

In groups. Have students discuss ways that UNICEF helped the adults. Call on a few pairs to share their ideas at the end.



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Student 1: We want to learn, so we can become teachers, doctors, or engineers and be like normal students.

Presenter: It was dangerous for children to go to school. Under the Taliban, police punished families whose children went to school. Today, children are happy to be in school.

Student 2: This morning I had some tea and an egg, and came to school. I have notebooks, pencils, erasers, and friends, and fun here.

Presenter: UNICEF is helping rebuild the educational system in Afghanistan in many ways. UNICEF is helping to train teachers. They are rebuilding schools. They are printing textbooks. And delivering books and other supplies to schools. This girls' school was closed under the Taliban. Now it is opening again. It has room for 960 students. These girls are happy to be back in school.

Student 3: I am very disappointed and sad that I wasted six years. There was no education then. I tried to study then with my parents, but it's not the same. It wasn't so bad, but now I am much happier because the schools are reopening.

Maliha: We plan to open the schools and get these children enrolled and back in school. And to give them back their education, so they can read and write.

Afghani Man: When the Taliban came to power and closed the schools, girls stayed at home. Now there is an opportunity for them to continue their education. We are very happy about this. We can be proud of our girls, our young people. They can go back to school.

Presenter: UNICEF is working on its mission to bring food, medicine, and education to the children of Afghanistan. In the process, they are also bringing hope.