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AAE's mission is to unlock the potential of young Afghans through education as a means to fully participate in society.

We serve Afghanistan's most marginalized youth, including those not educated during the Taliban years, women married in their teens, young mothers, and boys with no other access.

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Nadia

Nadia Mohammadi, 29 years old, supports a family of 9. Her in-laws and husband's uncle, an elderly man with disabilities, are too old to work so she cares for them. Nadia dropped out of school at sixteen, a young bride. 10 years and 3 children later, she learned that AAE admitted students her age, and eagerly took the chance to be an educated woman-- and perhaps a breadwinner. She completed her AAE education a few months ago, and immediately thereafter, began work as a kindergarten teacher. Now, her monthly income of Afn. 4,000 (\$80) is a vital addition to the Afn. 8,000 (\$160) her husband makes as a shopkeeper. Without her financial contribution, she believes life would be nearly impossible. Nadia aims to be a biology and chemistry teacher, and has just applied to enter university. She's a proud high school graduate, delighted to support her family, and vows to spare no endeavors educating her own children. She dreams of one day being their teacher, as well as their mother.

To the left, teachers Adela and Mohtarama of Kher Khana school accept their Teacher of the Year awards, surrounded by colleagues, Program Manager Ahmad Bayat, and Executive Director Payvand Seyedali.



Above, Parwan school graduates 43 young women. Below, Principal Islamuddin and AAE Founder Hassina Sherjan honor a top student at Parwan's graduation.



Featured Student Work: Re-arm

Drawing and calligraphy by Mehrbanoo, 18 yrs old

Rough English translation:

You, armed with a pen
Earn the title 'skilled person'
Never use this weapon-
for everywhere
A sword is defeated
when confronted by a pen.



Above, students honor their teachers on Teachers' Appreciation Day, with self-composed songs, theatre, essays, and celebration.

U.S. Trip: Fundraising and Awareness: Founder Hassina Sherjan spent five weeks this autumn traveling through the United States, speaking at community colleges, high schools, universities, and events. Highlights include [Hassina's keynote speech at The Wilson Center](#), a talk at The World Affairs Council's "Great Female Author Dinner," a panel with Ambassador Neuman at The World Affairs Council of Washington D.C., and receipt of the World of Difference 100 Award from The International Alliance for Women in recognition of outstanding contribution to the economic empowerment of women. A special thanks to the students of the Cumberland Valley School District of Pennsylvania for their generous donation, to Robin Eschler for her work on the west coast, and to our sister organization, Aid Afghanistan, for organizing a fantastic, rewarding trip.



Fundraising event organized by Karen McClaine in Williamsburg, Virginia, featuring Afghanistan's cultural traditions.



Hassina Sherjan discusses education, development, and the U.S.'s role in Afghanistan with students in Santa Barbara, California.



[Watch Hassina's speech about the future of women and girls when the U.S. leaves the country. The Wilson Center, D.C.](#)

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