



Aid Afghanistan for Education
موسسه کمک به معارف افغانستان

Biannual Impact Report

Aid Afghanistan for
Education (AAFE)



A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER AND CEO

Dear friends, partners, and supporters,

The last two years have been both deeply challenging and profoundly inspiring. Since August 2021, the landscape of education in Afghanistan has dramatically changed for girls, with their dreams becoming distant hopes. The ban on attending school brings not just educational deprivation but severe trauma and psychological distress, stripping away their aspiration to become doctors, engineers and leaders. This relentless struggle affects not only their futures but also the well-being of their families and communities, perpetuating cycles of poverty and generational illiteracy.

Despite these overwhelming challenges, Aid Afghanistan for Education (AAFE), registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2022 in the United States, is making a significant impact on the educational journeys of these remarkable girls with your generous support. Every single life we touch



counts. We believe that education is the key to lasting change, and our mission is grounded in the firm commitment to empowering marginalized Afghan youth, especially girls and women, through access to learning and essential resources.

Our mission has never been defined by borders or political circumstances. Serving humanity is not something we pause when conditions shift; it is a lifelong commitment. Our work continues, no matter how difficult the terrain, because the right to education is not negotiable; it's essential. Together, we are unlocking dreams, instilling hope, and transforming futures for girls and underserved groups across the nation.

I invite you to explore our 2023-2024 Impact Report, where stories of resilience and determination will showcase the true essence of our mission and the profound difference we are making together.

Sincerely,
Hassina Sherjan

At AAFE, we strive to give marginalized Afghan youth a second chance at education. Since our inception in 1995, we have evolved from serving children in refugee camps to becoming a powerful movement that reaches thousands through schools, online classes, and life-changing support. Our goal is clear: to break the cycle of poverty and generational illiteracy by ensuring that every child has access to quality education.

We are particularly focused on those excluded from formal education, girls banned from school, and street-working children. We also empower women socially and economically so they can provide a safe and nurturing environment for their children. Our work helps build a more equal future for Afghanistan, where education changes everything.

We believe in investing in untapped potential and standing with those who dream of a brighter future, even when the world turns away. Our commitment remains steadfast as we focus on marginalized and vulnerable populations in Afghanistan, those who have been denied access to education due to societal, political, and economic barriers.



OUR PROGRAMS: TRANSFORMING LIVES

Our program focuses on four essential pillars: education, empowerment, food security, and opportunity. Each initiative is designed to address urgent needs while building long-term solutions, giving marginalized Afghan youth and their families a real chance at a brighter future.



- 1. Education Access:** We enroll street-working children in private schools, covering their tuition, transport, books, stationery, meals, uniforms, and homework support. Our “From Streets to Classrooms” program targets children who work on the streets to contribute to the only meal of the day for their families. In 2023, we began with a small cohort of 20 students in Kabul, and by 2024, we welcomed an additional 25 students in Herat province. These children were scavenging in trash, selling pens or plastic bags, weaving carpets, or working in dried fruit factories. Each child enrolled brings a unique story, and together, they are plotting new paths from despair to possibility.
- 2. Food Support for Families:** We supply monthly food packages to the families of our students, ensuring they have the necessary nutrition to thrive. This support helps replace the income children might earn by working on the street, allowing them to stay in school without burdening their households. Additionally, we provide healthy lunch and snacks for 45 of our students in Kabul and Herat provinces, further ensuring that they can focus on their education without the distraction of hunger.
- 3. Online Learning for Girls:** In response to the ban on girls’ education, we launched our Online English and Computer Classes, providing a vital opportunity for them to continue learning. We have enrolled over



60 students from Kabul, Jozjan, Mazar, and Parwan provinces in this initiative, equipping them with the essential skills they need to study online, pursue scholarships, and change their futures. This program has also supported a handful of our online students in their applications and connections to pursue higher education opportunities abroad.

4. Empowering through Education: Beyond formal schooling, we focus on building confidence, leadership, and skills. Many of our graduates pursue higher education, become community leaders, and support their families, turning education into long-term empowerment. Recently, AAFE has entered into a partnership with JOIN Group, a coalition of 20 private enterprises, to offer skill development opportunities focusing on digital literacy, entrepreneurship, and career readiness for women and girls. The aim of this partnership is to empower participants, mainly girls and women banned from education and public life, to gain economic independence and significantly improve their quality of life by running their own businesses or supporting other businesses.



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS THROUGH PERSONAL STORIES

Over the past two years, our education initiatives have reached 45 street-working children, both girls and boys, and through them, have touched the lives of 360 family members.

We also supported 60 girls through our online classes, providing a vital lifeline to education in a time when they've been denied access to school. As one of our students, Frozan, shares: **"This class helped me to get out of depression and it gave me hope again."**

The ripple effect of education goes far beyond the individual student. Each child and girl supported by AAFE brings hope, opportunity, and strength to their household. The true impact of our work is best understood through the voices of those we serve:

- **Ali's Journey:** Ali, a 9-year-old who once sold chewing gum on the bustling streets of Kabul, making less than \$0.50 per day, dreams of becoming a doctor. "Now that I'm going to school, I have much hope for my future," Ali shared with us. His story is not just about education; it's about reclaiming dreams that were almost lost.
- **Ayesha's Resilience:** Just 9 years old, Ayesha, faced an unimaginable loss when she lost her father in a terrorist explosion while selling juice by the hospital in Kabul. At just five years old, she had to sell plastic bags on the streets to help the family survive. Yet

today, she is thriving in school, fueled by her dream of becoming a pilot. "I feel that I'm growing and learning," she says, embodying the spirit of determination that drives so many of our students.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2023-2024, AAFE operated with transparency and accountability. Our total revenue reached \$134,000, derived from individual donors, with our total expenditures around \$150,000 mainly covering our educational programs such as teachers, materials and programs like "From Streets to Classrooms" and "Online Classes for Girls", as well as outreach and awareness, including website management, creating written and audio-visual materials to enhance our outreach effort. In terms of administrative expenses, our online operational model allows us to avoid costs for rent or utilities, and the majority of our staff work on a volunteer basis.

Your contributions make a tangible difference in the lives of a good number of children, girls and their families and communities in Afghanistan. Together, we can break the cycle of poverty and create a brighter future through education! rent or utilities, and our staff, including the Executive Director, works on a volunteer basis.



COMMUNITY VOICES: TESTIMONIALS

The experiences of the girls in our online classes speak volumes about the transformative power of education, even in the face of immense adversity. One student shared her heartbreaking yet inspiring journey:

“BEFORE I JOINED AAFE’S ONLINE CLASSES, I WAS TRULY DEPRESSED AND OVERWHELMED. WHEN I HEARD THAT GIRLS WERE NO LONGER ALLOWED TO GO TO SCHOOL, I WAS SHOCKED AND LOST ALL MOTIVATION. I ISOLATED MYSELF, BARELY EATING OR SLEEPING, AS I WORRIED ENDLESSLY ABOUT MY FUTURE. THE THOUGHT OF NOT BEING ABLE TO CONTINUE MY EDUCATION CRUSHED MY DREAMS.”

Her words echo the struggle faced by so many girls and women banned from formal schooling in Afghanistan. Yet, her story also reflects the hope that AAFE’s programs have ignited:

“BUT THEN I JOINED THE AAFE ONLINE CLASSES, AND EVERYTHING CHANGED. THE TEACHERS MOTIVATED ME, HELPED ME REGAIN MY CONFIDENCE, AND TAUGHT ME VALUABLE SKILLS LIKE ENGLISH AND COMPUTER LITERACY. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS, I FELT LIKE I HAD A PATH FORWARD. AAFE DIDN’T JUST GIVE ME AN EDUCATION; THEY GAVE ME BACK MY SENSE OF PURPOSE AND POSSIBILITY.”

**PLEASE LISTEN TO
HER FULL TALK:
[https://youtu.be/
NF64_g7Z79Y](https://youtu.be/NF64_g7Z79Y).**

This sentiment resonates with every student who has found a voice and a future through AAFE’s programs. Your support makes a life-changing transformation possible.

Challenges and Resilience

The road has been filled with challenges, from government restrictions to funding shortages.

Yet within those challenges lie stories of hope and resilience. Our dedicated team has navigated these obstacles with creativity and determination, ensuring that education continues to flourish even in the most difficult circumstances.



OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Looking ahead, we are committed to expanding our programs and reaching a large number of students. Our goal is clear: to ensure that every child and girl, regardless of their circumstances, has access to quality education.

We will continue to:

1. **Reach More Children:** Expand our enrollment of street-working children into private schools while providing ongoing food support for their families.
2. **Grow Online Learning:** Increase the number of online classes to accommodate more girls who are banned from formal education, ensuring they acquire vital skills for their future.
3. **Support Families:** Continue providing monthly food aid to families, alleviating the burden of child labor and allowing children to focus on their education.
4. **Invest in Empowerment:** Empower each student to lead change in their communities through education, leadership training, support for higher education opportunities and employment.



With your support, we can make this vision a transformative reality for countless children, girls and their families.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

The need is urgent, and the future of countless children and girls depends on our collective action. Here's how you can make a difference:

- **Donate:** Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us provide education to those in need.
- **Spread the Word:** Share our mission with friends and family to help raise awareness.
- **Get Involved:** Volunteer your time or skills to support our programs.

TOGETHER, WE CAN TURN DREAMS INTO REALITY!

Acknowledgement

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors and partners, especially GlobalGiving. Your support fuels our passion and commitment to creating a brighter future for girls, women and children in Afghanistan.

