

*U.S.-Afghan Women's Council
Thumbnail Summary of Ongoing Activities
January 2012*

Education/Literacy Programs

- **Friends of the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF)** raises funds to support scholarships, academic programs, and new buildings on campus including a new Women's Resource Center.
- **The Foundation for Afghanistan** awards AUAF scholarships and partners with U.S. universities and colleges to offer scholarships to Afghan students, particularly girls.
- **The Lamia Afghan Foundation** currently is renovating the Amir Dost Mohammad Khan School in Kabul, built in the 1920s by King Amanullah for his sister, now a school for 3000 children.
- **Mobile Literacy Initiative:** The U.S.-Afghan Women's Council and the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL) use mobile phone technology to promote literacy among women in rural areas.
- **The Nooristan Foundation** is building the first primary school in Pasigam village, training teachers, and installing solar panels and access to micro-hydro power to provide electricity to the school.
- **The Sunshine Lady Foundation** supports scholarships for students at the American University of Afghanistan and scholarships for the *Initiative to Educate Afghan Women* at universities in the U.S.

Programs for Children

- **The AYENDA Foundation** supports educational programs and operates the **AYENDA Learning Center**, a safe, nurturing learning environment for disadvantaged children in Bamiyan.
- **Sesame Workshop** produces Afghan-adapted Sesame Street programs in the Dari and Pashto languages, celebrating the diversity of young Afghan children from varying backgrounds.
- **The Lamia Afghan Foundation** is partnering with *ROC Wheels, A Leg To Stand On (ALTSO)* and the *Kabul Orthopedic Organization* to provide wheelchairs and prosthetics to disabled children.

Self-sufficiency Programs

- **ARZU STUDIO HOPE** provides sustainable, fair labor, artisan-based employment for women and worker benefits including access to education, health care, and community development projects.
- **Kate Spade New York (KSNY)** and *Women for Women International* train and employ Afghan women artisans, pairing traditional Afghan and KSNY's signature designs in the cashmere industry.
- **The Lamia Afghan Foundation** partners with *Checkers Distributors* and *Clara's Calling* (www.clarascalling.com) to provide sewing machines and supplies for sewing projects.

- **The Lamia Afghan Foundation** partners with *Marshall Plan Charities* to achieve sustainable, self-sufficient "model villages" with wells, crops, a school, a vocational center, and a clinic.¹
- **Vocational Workforce Development:** Ms. Charlie Ponticelli and Ms. Lori Blaker of *Technical Training Inc.* will train Afghan women and youth to start and run automotive technician businesses.

Business Education

- **Goldman Sachs' 10,000 Women Initiative** has provided 150 Afghan women with business and management education and will train 150 more by the end of 2013.
- **The Institute for the Economic Empowerment of Women**, through its PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS® program, offers a business education course to Afghan and Rwandan women.
- **Project Artemis** brings Afghan business women to *Thunderbird School of Global Management* in Arizona for two weeks of intensive, high-level entrepreneurship training and mentoring.
- **Entrepreneurship Toolkit** – The *USAWC, Goldman Sachs, the Institute for Economic Empowerment of Women, and Thunderbird and Northwood Universities* developed an entrepreneurs' guidebook.

Health Care Programs

- **The Abbott Fund, Direct Relief International,** and the *Afghan Institute for Learning (AIL)* support five AIL clinics (three in Herat, two in Kabul) and offer five-day community health workshops.
- **The Grossman Burn Foundation (GBF)** provides burn training and equipment and a support structure for better physical and psychological healthcare, including online counseling for women.
- **Midwife Training:** The *Nooristan Foundation*, in collaboration with the *Afghan Midwives Association*, provides refresher training for midwives in Takhar province.
- **TriWest Healthcare Alliance** funded *SOZO International's* public awareness and burn prevention training in schools, clinics, hospitals, mosques, government, and local council meetings.
- **The U.S.-Afghan Women's Council** is coordinating a group of volunteers to develop social messages intended to reduce Afghanistan's high rate of maternal mortality.

Leadership Programs

- **Professional Exchanges:** The *USAWC* hosts professional exchanges for visiting Afghan delegations. Recently these have included leaders from local government, NGOs, and media.

¹ The first "model village" is Khairabad in Shindand District, Herat Province.

- **Afghan Women Leaders Connect** identifies and supports effective and accountable Afghan women-led nonprofits that deliver education, health support, and legal aid services.
- **PlanetPix Media** produces Afghan radio programs using satire and comedy to convey social messages, develops training videos for parliamentarians and promotes radio programming for women.
- **The US Institute of Peace** leads a working group of Council Members, NGOs, and government representatives to compile lessons learned and best practices in empowering Afghan and Iraqi women.

Relief and Support

- **The Nooristan Foundation** provides emergency winter aid, offers literacy classes, arranges for children to attend regular classes, and is establishing a job training program for refugees.
- **The Lamia Afghan Foundation** has distributed 850,000 pounds of aid; currently is providing winter relief to families living in caves and is moving 275,000 meals from *Feeding the Nations* to Bamiyan.