Table of Contents

Education:

Friends of the American University of Afghanistan.......................10
The Ayenda Foundation.............................................................12
E-Higher Education Initiative..................................................14
Aschiana Foundation...............................................................16
The Initiative to Educate Afghan Women.................................18
Afghan Institute of Learning....................................................20

Health:

Women for Afghan Women.....................................................24
Health, Education and Economic Development of Afghanistan......26
Bayat Foundation.................................................................28

Economic Empowerment:

Institute for Economic Empowerment of Women.......................32
Project Artemis Afghanistan...................................................34
Global Partnership for Afghanistan...........................................36

Leadership Development:

Rising Afghan Women Leadership Initiative..............................40
Voices on the Rise.................................................................42
USIP: Training Afghan Men as Peacebuilders............................44

List of U.S. Afghan Women Council Members............................46
March 10, 2016

Dear Reader,

Thank you for your continued commitment to the women and people of Afghanistan. In the following pages, we will share updates on current and historic projects the U.S. Afghan Women’s Council has spearheaded.

As we look ahead, we’d like to honor what has been accomplished and preview the future possibilities. Many members of our community have celebrated milestones and project anniversaries, won awards, and furthered the cause of human and civil rights. Some have suffered tragic losses and others have dealt with setbacks in the progress towards tangible results for women and their families. We have celebrated and grieved together, this past year, and will continue to be a support system to one another, as we look to the future.

I’d like to express gratitude for the support many have shown me as executive director. From the offices of our Honorary Chairs, the First Ladies, to all levels of leadership in the U.S. and Afghanistan, I cherish and appreciate your guidance. In 2015, we were privileged to have HE Mrs. Rula Ghani join our leadership as Honorary Chair and be a voice for the most vulnerable. Last year, thanks to our Members, Partners, and colleagues on Capitol Hill, we reconnected with our U.S. legislative leadership to maintain focus on the long term commitment to the people of Afghanistan. 2015 also witnessed the growth of the Council’s Rising Afghan Women Leaders Initiative and the expansion of its mission. Alumni of this project have moved on to positions of increased responsibility and continue to pave the way for those following them.

This year we look forward to keeping hope and dialogue alive through targeted engagements including our partnership with Turquoise Mountain’s exhibit at the Smithsonian’s Sackler gallery, Mrs. Bush’s book launch, and the Council’s ongoing programs in Afghanistan. This has not been an easy period for the people of Afghanistan and for those committed to their success; but it has been a time of recommitting to the long game. I have had the honor to walk this road with you since September 2014 and I look forward to forging the path ahead together.

Respectfully,

Najlaa

S. Najlaa Abdus-Samad
Executive Director - U.S.-Afghan Women’s Council (USAWC)
Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development
For additional information, please visit our website at and our Facebook page and twitter.
The mission of the USAWC is to convene committed and capable stakeholders; identify and mobilize public and private sector resources; and encourage dynamic and collaborative partnerships in support of Afghan women and children in the areas of education, health, economic empowerment, and leadership development.”

U.S. Afghan Women’s Council Leadership and Members
EDUCATION

Afghan Institute of Learning Mobile Literacy Program
FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF AFGHANISTAN

International Center for Afghan Women’s Economic Development

COUNCIL MEMBER: LESLIE SCHWEITZER

Overview

The American University of Afghanistan’s (AUAF) International Center for Afghan Women’s Economic Development, opened in 2013, continues to be steadfast in its mission to educate and prepare women entrepreneurs who will shape the policy solutions and the economy of tomorrow.

Projects

As an integral part of AUAF, the nation’s leading institution of higher education, The Women’s Center works with all aspects of the university infrastructure particularly the Business Innovation Hub (Biz Hub). Biz Hub is unique in Afghanistan as a private sector entity, part of the AUAF network, with the ability to draw upon the vast AUAF resources such as the well-established undergraduate business program, the exceptional MBA program and the world class Stanford Law program. The Biz Hub, working closely with the Women’s Center, provides unequaled high-quality business management and leadership services to “teenage” Afghan companies that possess the basic sustainable components for growth. This partnership helps fill a void in the Afghan economy, all too accustomed to short term business training. The Women’s Center and Biz Hub also enable an innovative approach to economic empowerment of women in that it introduces an aggressive networking component involving both men and women owned businesses.

Research, training, education and policy advocacy continue to be the bulwarks of The Women’s Center mission. Partnerships with such renowned institutions as Georgetown University RAWLI program have further solidified the quality and commitment to focus on hands on interactive leadership programs.

The Professional Certification program is an intensive set of courses to help women build the skills they need in emerging fields while providing a platform for professional development. Women entrepreneurs are learning finance, marketing, management and human resources administration. And the powerful results are that one step at a time, it is changing the perspective about women in the business community.
A few success stories: Afghan Women in Business

Ms. Masooma Abdollahi, Founder and President, Silk Roads Goods Processing
The company connects Afghan dairy, poultry and agricultural producers with growing markets by facilitating the delivery of goods to plants in Kabul to be processed, packaged and shipped to the provinces and to the region. The business has tripled in size, an accomplishment Ms. Abdollahi attributes to the contacts she made through the AUAF Women’s Center.

Ms. Noor Jahan Mahmood Zada, President, Mahmood Zada Wood Industry
The business matchmaking program at the Women’s Center was instrumental in connecting Ms. Zada with her clients and key to the company becoming a widely recognized wood working company. Ms. Zada employs more than 25 people and has a roster of national and international clients.

Ms. Masooma Hussaini, Founder and President, Alzahra Cultural & Sport Association and Al-Zahra Ball Manufacturing
The Women’s Center played a key role in assisting with business planning, instruction, financial advice and management training for Ms Hussaini’s company. As an award winning athlete, she channeled her love of sports into businesses that give back to the women in Afghanistan.

Mission

The Center is dedicated to promote, coordinate, collaborate, and connect the entire network of entities to foster economic empowerment of Afghan women. The Women’s Center will continue to function as a Hub for women in the economy. It will provide business training to female entrepreneurs, funnel investment capital to promising women-run businesses, and provide access to all the business and information technology resources of the American University of Afghanistan.

Website: www.friendsofauf.org Twitter: @FriendsofAUAF
Facebook: Friends of The American University of Afghanistan
Overview

In 2015, Ayenda Foundation celebrated its 10th Anniversary, a vital milestone marking a decade of achievements. For ten years, Ayenda has been educating thousands of young children in Afghanistan, as well as building, operating, and supporting schools and computer labs throughout the country.

Projects

Ayenda has recently implemented many important projects in Afghanistan. One of our recent projects is the opening of the Ayenda Children’s Daycare at the American University of Afghanistan’s new International Center for Afghan Women’s Economic Development. This new daycare ensures that the young children of women entrepreneurs are well cared for while their mothers establish themselves as business owners and economically productive members of Afghan society.

Building a school in 2009 — the Ayenda Learning Center — in Bamiyan has been Ayenda’s pride and joy. The Ayenda Learning Center, which sits in the shadow of the great Buddha statues that were destroyed by the Taliban in 2001, currently provides 160 children with a modern curriculum and learning facility that provide vocational training, meals, and basic healthcare education that are often unavailable in the impoverished province of Bamiyan.
Ayenda has been fortunate to provide students with school uniforms, backpacks, school supplies, sports equipment, and most importantly, a computer lab. It is their pride to be able to bring computer and Internet access to Bamiyan, one of the most remote provinces in Afghanistan.

The computer lab not only serves students at the Center, but is also available for the benefit of youth in the area, such as female students from Bamiyan University, high school students and women from the community to learn basic computer skills.

Last March, Ayenda Foundation started a new program in partnership with the 10,000 Global Girls Initiative: a joint effort between LitWorld and Global Girls Rising that improves and empowers the lives of girls around the world through storytelling, creative expression, literacy and mentorship. The program structure provides opportunity for our female students to learn how to tell stories that empower them, and to meet with a mentor to strengthen their own voices. The program teaches them how to build on seven strengths: belonging, curiosity, kindness, friendship, confidence, courage and hope. Ayenda’s 5th and 6th grade female students that participated in the program last year found it very fulfilling. They value the skills they learned and the friendships they built as a result of this program.

Mission

Ayenda Foundation was established in 2006 to improve the welfare, education, health, shelter and safety of the Afghan children and to provide them a sustainable pathway to a better and brighter future.
E-HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE

COUNCIL MEMBER: MARYAM QUDRAT

Overview

The E-Higher Education initiative will respond to the need for high quality education and access to top tier faculty and literature by identifying online learning opportunities that meet core competency needs in Afghanistan.

The E-Higher Education Initiative will develop partnerships between institutions and organizations in the U.S. that can offer e-learning opportunities and a designated flagship university or cluster of higher education institutions in Afghanistan to provide courses via cutting edge online learning management systems.

One of the major goals of the E-Higher Education Initiative is to provide high quality academic content to Afghan university and college students. Offer access to digital libraries and to help Afghan university students overcome the obstacles to access high quality faculty, literature and content by bringing them to the forefront of cutting edge e-learning opportunities. Building a systemic plan for women to play a leading pedagogical role associated with these cutting edge learning opportunities.

Projects

The multi-phase project will begin with a development phase during which a feasibility assessment will be conducted. On February 21, 2015, a white paper on higher education in Afghanistan was discussed by the larger academic community at a symposium in Washington D.C. This proposed higher education plan for Afghanistan is predicated on introducing fully recognized and transferable e-learning options in Afghanistan and for delineating a standardized general education course of study. The plan for Afghanistan’s higher education was formally presented to President Ghani in February 2016. Three e-learning conferences have taken place where higher education leaders from all regional universities in Afghanistan were represented, and the Minister of Higher Education announced the plans and framework for e-learning in the form of policies.

During the initial phase, universities will be approached in order to develop a select cluster of courses that will meet general education requirements in Afghanistan. The E-
Higher Education Initiative will work with highly talented women to lead this effort and boost female participation in Afghanistan’s higher education. These courses will be developed in order to meet student needs and challenges as well as to address translation needs. During phase 2, initial course(s) will be offered and students will be able to begin taking classes. The final phase will be to reflect upon student learning outcomes and overall success.

Mission

Provide high quality academic content to Afghan university and college students. Offer access to digital libraries and to help Afghan university students overcome the obstacles to access high quality faculty, literature and content by bringing them to the forefront of cutting edge e-learning opportunities. Building a systemic plan for women to play a leading pedagogical role associated with these cutting edge learning opportunities.
ASCHIANA FOUNDATION

COUNCIL MEMBER: MARY JO MYERS

Overview

Aschiana Foundation helped fund a Children’s Center in Kabul that houses the headquarters, 24 classrooms, a kitchen and health clinic. The Aschiana Medical Clinic, in partnership with American Medical Overseas Relief, opened in May 2013 and serves Aschiana children free of charge. The clinic sees an average of 1600 to 1800 patients a month for basic medical and maternal care, immunizations, and preventative health education.

More than 5000 children over 12 months have participated in education, recreation, sports, health and the mobile library programs at the main center in Kabul. In August 2015, Aschiana was awarded the highly esteemed “Ghaz Mir Masjidi Khan” medal for best humanitarian NGO in Afghanistan.

Projects

Operation Silver Lining provided 800 Mylar blankets in the IDP camps, saving the lives of babies and young children. Aschiana Foundation provided funding to feed 500 children in the Children’s Center and the IDP camps for six months. The Foundation’s child sponsorship program enables 150 children to stop working on the streets and attend Afghanistan’s formal educational system full time.
The Aschiana Foundation facilitated The 10,000 Girls Initiative, a joint effort between LitWorld and Global Girls Rising that trained mentors to work with 91 girls in clubs of 10-15 to empower them and build resilience. The themes of belonging, friendship, kindness, confidence and hope are taught through storytelling, creative expression, and literacy.

Aschiana provides English language and computer classes to 400 boys and girls. The classes target high school graduates who may not have access to a college education. Aschiana has been able to reach 2,000 children and adults in various districts in Kabul with its mobile library program and has distributed books in communities, orphanages, detention centers, and schools.

Aschiana also partners with Friends of Aschiana UK for tailoring classes for 48 older girls and women in two shifts. Funds have provided a qualified instructor, 25 sewing machines, materials and supplies. The students have knitted sweaters for 200 children at the IDP camps. In addition, Aschiana have secured their first contract for school uniforms with a private school in Kabul that will benefit these women, Aschiana and the local vendors of the materials.

Mission

The Aschiana Foundation was established in 2004 to provide financial assistance to Aschiana, a grassroots charitable organization in Afghanistan that began in 1995 to provide literacy and vocational training, food, healthcare, and sports activities to the thousands of working street children between the ages of five and sixteen years of age.

www.aschiana-foundation.org
https://www.facebook.com/Aschiana-Foundation-USA-269349133188128
THE INITIATIVE TO EDUCATE AFGHAN WOMEN

COUNCIL MEMBER: CHRISTIAN WISTEHUFF

Overview

The Initiative to Educate Afghan Women is an education and leadership development program working to create Afghanistan's next generation of women leaders. The Initiative partners with US colleges and universities to deliver undergraduate education to Afghan women who want to help other women of Afghanistan in their struggle for gender equity. The Initiative also provides leadership training, mentorship and career guidance to prepare these young women for roles at the forefront of political, economic and social development in their homeland. With one of the lowest overhead models for a nonprofit its size and more than 85% of donated dollars and in-kind contributions going directly to support students, The Initiative has become a proven force in creating a highly skilled, university educated professional female workforce in Afghanistan.

Projects

The Initiative to Educate

Admissions. The Initiative applies rigorous candidate search and qualification criteria to identify women of outstanding academic potential and demonstrated commitment to public service who are encouraged by their families to study abroad. More than 250 women apply each year to a highly competitive selection process that includes video and in person screenings for psychological resiliency as well as the ability and commitment to return home between academic terms and upon completion of their studies.

Orientation. To support the cultural and academic transition from high school in Afghanistan to undergraduate school in the United States, The Initiative provides a month long orientation session for freshman students to build critical thinking and research skills expected of American college students.

The Initiative To Lead
Intersession. Students’ undergraduate education is augmented by The Initiative’s weeklong annual offsite of workshops led by nationally and internationally recognized experts in their fields. Special emphasis is given to the areas of diversity and inclusion as well as media training to give the women in our program, who represent a number of politically polarized ethnicities in Afghanistan, an opportunity to create a supportive network which will sustain them throughout their lives and careers.

Summer Return to Afghanistan. The Initiative requires students to return home each summer to pursue service opportunities and internships to ease their country’s immediate skilled labor shortage. This program requirement ensures students maintain close ties with family and community as they build their resumes in anticipation of permanent employment in Afghanistan after graduation.

Mission

The Initiative to Change
Looking forward, The Initiative will increase the number of students in its program over the next two years through college and university partner development, private fund raising and alliances with other organizations. With and under the auspices of the US-Afghan Women’s Council, The Initiative will work to increase access to our program in the provinces of Afghanistan as well as secure support for scholarships that prepare students for high demand professional careers in service of the political, economic and social development needs of Afghanistan.

Current Partner Colleges*
Brenau University, Georgetown University, Meredith College, Middlebury College, Mount Holyoke College, Montclair State University, Randolph College, University of Richmond, Smith College, University of Pennsylvania, Wells College
* 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 Academic Years
Overview

AIL’s visionary programs have had a major impact on Afghanistan and its people. Between 1996 and December 2015, over 12.5 million Afghans have been direct beneficiaries of AIL education, training and health services. A number of AIL’s visionary programs have been replicated or adopted by the Afghan government and other NGOs.

Projects

The cornerstone of AIL’s efforts to improve the lives of all Afghans and increasing opportunities is community-based Learning Center model. Learning Centers offer preschool through university-level classes, train teachers and administrators, and provide a wide variety of courses. Recently, AIL has begun an innovative literacy class using texting on mobile phones; illiterate girls and women now learn to read and write at the 4th grade level in 4 months. AIL currently supports 44 Learning Centers, including centers for street children, girls’ and boys’ orphanages, and the disabled.

In addition, AIL’s Teacher Training programs focus on quality, in-depth education to Afghan teachers and are changing the way people think and their expectations for their futures. Many of AIL’s workshops, particularly those in health, women’s rights, leadership, democracy, and peace, are not only attended by teachers, but by local older women and girls, members of civil society, who are now asking for more in-depth information about subjects that they had not known existed prior to their education through AIL schools.
AIL considers access to health care a human right and health education is integral to all of AIL’s activities, as knowledge about health empowers individuals to care for themselves and their families. AIL operates 4 clinics and provides clinical services and health education to two orphanages and one street children program. AIL also operates mobile medical outreach units and supports Community Health Worker (CHW) teams in Herat.

In 2015, Dr. Yacoobi founded a radio station, Radio Meraj, modeled after NPR. AIL provides programming support and space to Radio Meraj, which now has 11 staff and broadcasts 70 weekly educational, cultural, health, music news and other programs 16 hours per day to an estimated listening audience of 1 million. There is consistent interaction with the audience through call-ins and texting one program generated 600 calls and text messages!

AIL has opened a legal law clinic in Herat, Legal Aid for Women (LAW). LAW provides free consultation and legal services to poor women and girls whose rights have been violated. LAW staff speak about different topics of Islamic law on programs of Radio Meraj with the purpose of raising awareness amongst the listeners of about Islamic law, rule of law, and justice.

Mission

AIL’s mission is provide education, training and health services to vulnerable Afghans in order to foster self-reliance, critical thinking skills, and community participation throughout Afghanistan and Pakistan.
HEALTH

Pictured Above: HEEDA’S *Warmth to Afghanistan* Program at Malalai Maternity Hospital in Kabul (Jan 2015)
Overview

Women for Afghan Women (WAW) operates life-saving programs in Afghanistan and New York City, and advocates for women’s rights in Afghanistan, Washington, D.C., and around the world. We are a community-based organization, and from our inception in April 2001, we have advanced our mission by working deep in the community, respecting the culture, religion and traditions of our clients. In Afghanistan, we operate legal aid centers and emergency and long-term shelters for women and children in 13 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. We conduct human rights trainings to diverse groups, including law enforcement, religious leaders, and community members in order to empower victims, build a nation of advocates and allies for women’s rights, and transform cultural norms of violence and oppression into norms of peace and equality. We are the largest shelter-providing NGO in Afghanistan, and because of our capacity and track record, we often receive the most extreme cases of human rights violations. Our clients include girls and young women who have suffered mutilation, acid attacks, torture, attempted murder, and rape. Most still reside in our care.

Projects

I. Family Guidance Centers (FGCs) offer pro bono counseling, mediation, and legal representation to any man, woman, or child who has suffered a human rights violation. Clients may walk in for support, but many are referred by government ministries, the police, the Independent Human Rights Commission, and other NGOs. The vast majority of clients are women and girls who have suffered human rights violations, including:
• forced and/or underage marriage; • honor killing attempts
• domestic violence; • beatings amounting to torture
• denial of marriage; • denial of education

II. Shelters give women and their children who are in danger a safe, confidential home. Recognizing that women and girls who seek our FGC services are often escaping dangerous situations at home, WAW created a shelter for FGC clients to reside until their cases are resolved. In addition to a safe and loving home, shelters provide:

• nutritious meals; • medical and psychological care
• education, including literacy and life skills training
• education for children; • vocational training

III. Children's Support Centers (CSC) give children whose mothers are in prison a fresh start and a place to call home until their mothers come out of prison. Our CSCs provide:

- Professional counseling; • Education
- Sports; • A loving home

In 2015, 400 children called our CSCs home. Since 2001, Women for Afghan Women has protected and empowered over 21,000 women and children and educated more than 280,000 individuals (men and women) on women's rights under Islam and the Elimination Against Women Law. Our plan is to have one FGC and one shelter in every single province in Afghanistan.

Mission

Women for Afghan Women (WAW) is a grassroots, civil society organization; our mission is dedicated to securing and protecting the rights of disenfranchised Afghan women and girls in Afghanistan and New York, particularly their rights to develop their individual potential, to self-determination, and to be represented in all areas of life: political, social, cultural and economic. We advocate for women’s rights and challenge the norms that underpin gender-based violence wherever opportunities arise to influence attitudes and bring about change.

Contact:
Manizha Naderi, Executive Director; Manizha@womenforafghanwomen.org
Twitter handle: @WAWHumanRights - Website: www.womenforafghanwomen.org
Phone: 718-591-2434
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AFGHANISTAN

COUNCIL MEMBER: SURAYA RASHID

Overview

HEEDA is a nonprofit that believes high impact, sustainable technologies and innovative programs can be a means for true development for Afghanistan. Just as the country leapfrogged from no telecommunications grid to a fully robust communications infrastructure through mobile, so too do they believe that accessible, impacting technologies can do the same for health, education and economic programs.

HEEDA believes that they are in a unique position of being a part of the Afghan diaspora while also being able to easily access global resources and technology. These dynamics coupled with the expertise of its members, allows HEEDA to integrate ideal, well-researched new and alternative models to address systemic challenges where there is a gap in provision and resources.

Projects

Program 1- Warmth to Afghanistan
From April 2013 to today, the WTA program provided access to infant warmers to over 10,000 infants in need. The program also integrated the warmer into side-by-side education for 946 mothers of premature infants, and in training 411 health care workers on how to recognize, treat, and prevent neonatal hypothermia. Together, the Embrace and HEEDA teams, working alongside trained medical staff, conduct thorough needs assessments, detailed training, ongoing troubleshooting, and robust data collection and monitoring to ensure prolonged and sustainable change in the hospitals where we work.
Program 2- Light to Afghanistan (LTA)
In February of this year, the HEEDA team began deployment of their second innovation program, Light to Afghanistan. While implementing the Warmth to Afghanistan program we were constantly struggling to understand how hospitals and schools are able to function even minimally without electricity and grid access. Again poor infrastructure and resource limitations severely affect the ability for hospitals and schools to function and do what they need.

In an effort to address this, HEEDA has partnered with California Solar Systems and deployed highly efficient, eco-friendly systems to two (2) ambulance stations in Kabul. The ability of civil servants to do their job without the constant limitations of rolling blackouts and lack of electricity is paramount to the country’s development.

Mission

HEEDA’s mission is to promote the means of sustainable progress for the people of Afghanistan through innovative health, education, and economic development. Our knowledgeable all volunteer staff utilize a diverse array of expertise and cultural sensitivities to help inspire, educate, and problem-solve together with the Afghan people the many development challenges the country faces.

Reference:

Website: HEEDA.org
Facebook: HEEDA
Email: admin@heeda.org
Overview

The Bayat Foundation is proud to have contributed to improving the livelihoods, quality of life, and human security for at-risk Afghans through more than 250 projects dedicated to building capacity and infrastructure for every man, woman and child in Afghanistan.

Projects

The Foundation is currently completing its final review of potential project(s) for 2016. Some of the initiatives under consideration include:

Bayat Foundation’s emergency Food Relief program is a continuation of our longstanding effort to provide for basic human needs (food, clothing, medicine, blankets). The next area of focus is Maternal and Pediatric Health, which is a continuation of our longstanding effort to support the construction and operation of a network of hospitals focused primarily on maternal and early childhood health (our 12 hospitals have now served > 1.5M patients over the years).
The Foundation has identified a 4,000 sq. foot plot to build our 13th hospital that would focus on women’s issues such as fistula, abnormal pregnancy care, prenatal care, etc. In addition, it would have a pediatric hearing clinic.

For two years, Bayat Foundation has provided customized hearing aids to hearing impaired Afghans who had never heard their family’s voices, music, or even the sound of a bird singing, for the project called Delivering the Gift of Hearing and their third mission is scheduled for late Spring 2016.

In the area of Health Awareness, in November 2015 Bayat Foundation conducted a multi-media educational campaign related to diabetes that featured television, radio, and sms/text messaging, along with featured experts. They will continue our diabetes awareness campaign in 2016, and will implement a second program related to vision that will culminate with special activities on World Sight Day in October 2016.

The Foundation is also developing a program called Vaccine Bracelets to increase rates of full and timely immunization through mothers’ use of a simple vaccine reminder bracelet, to be worn by her child from birth to age four, and an accompanying sms/text based information program for the mothers (implemented in partnership with Afghan Wireless Communication Company).

Mission

Founded in 2006, the Bayat Foundation is a certified U.S. and Afghan registered NGO that is dedicated to the health, education and well-being of the people of Afghanistan.

Contacts

Ms. Charlie Ponticelli (Board Member) - cmponticelli@gmail.com
Ms. Fatema Bayat (Executive Director) - f.bayat@bayatfoundation.org

www.bayatfoundation.org
THE INSTITUTE FOR THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

COUNCIL MEMBER: TERRY NEESE

Overview

IEEW hopes to expand PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS® (PTB) into the provinces so that we can lift up more women and increase growth opportunities for women small business owners. PTB is poised for success through a successful and organic business model that can be translated into any country in any region of the world. By collaborating with other Afghan and regional women’s organizations, the PTB Network® will pay forward their knowledge, empowering a segment of the economy that comprises half the population, which will create jobs for the new global economy.

Projects

The PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS ® program starts with a 10-week entrepreneurial January-March business course for 60 qualified women business owners in Afghanistan and Rwanda. Upon graduation from in-country class, 15 women from each country are selected to attend additional Leadership Development in the U.S. in July. Added to the
university-approved curriculum, U.S. business leaders work with students as eMentors, in-person mentors and coaches. During the in-person mentorships, students shadow their mentor at work and at home for hands-on experience in life-work balance. Upon graduation, students join past grads from PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS® via membership in the Alumnae Association.

Going into its 10th year of global impact, IEEW has graduated over 250 students in Afghanistan, an astonishing 80% of which are still in business today. On average, graduates create 28 jobs per company. Today, at least 6,500 jobs have been created in IEEW’s first 10 years of service, benefitting countless families and communities as Afghanistan faces the complexities of rebuilding and evolving in our global economy. These businesses’ profits provide economic stability for their employees, families and communities.

In-country class for 2016 is underway, marking the 10th year of global impact for PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS®. This year, we will be implementing best practice webinars in four business areas, led by American experts. These will be shown during the course of in-country training and expanded into the PTB Network® for continuing education for our past graduates. IEEW sponsor Ernst & Young has donated office space from their Kabul offices for the 10-week in-country class, so 30 incoming students have heat for the first time.

Women’s roles in business and government are evolving globally and certainly in Afghanistan. Some situations have improved in the cities, but not yet in the provinces.

Mission

The Institute for Economic Empowerment of Women (IEEW), founded in 2006 by Dr. Terry Neese, embraces a mission to empower women economically, socially and politically around the world.

**Social Media:** www.ieew.org | Twitter: IEEW_PTB |
Facebook: IEEW.PTB | Pinterest: IEEW
PROJECT ARTEMIS AFGHANISTAN

COUNCIL MEMBER: BARBARA BARRETT

Overview

Thunderbird became part of Arizona State University in 2015, creating an unprecedented educational alliance. This partnership combines Thunderbird’s 70-year heritage of developing inspired global leaders with Arizona State University’s unrivaled resources and aspirations for international expansion. The office of Thunderbird for Good has trained over 115,000 people from 56 countries in business and leadership since our first project to empower the women of Afghanistan in 2005.

Projects

Since 2005, 74 women have completed the Project Artemis training and mentoring program successfully. In addition to creating over 3,000 jobs, these women have trained and mentored over 15,000 fellow Afghan men and women in business management and leadership skills.

In July of 2016, Thunderbird for Good will welcome our sixth class of Artemis “fellows.” This will be an exciting group of women, hailing from the provinces of Kabul, Herat, Kandahar and Daikundi, and representing businesses from industries including fashion, education, agribusiness, media, woodcrafts, and sports/recreation.

Project Artemis Success Stories:

- **Herat**: NasimGul Azizi has created over 500 jobs at her food processing business in Herat. The business has now added cold storage to its processing facilities, enabling the implementation of a level workload and employment of more year round workers, rather than being forced to package all perishable products during the harvest seasons. The packaged food is distributed through wholesalers and retail stores throughout Afghanistan. NasimGul believes more jobs mean less violence and discrimination against women. She is proud to be part of her growing local economy.

- **Bamyan**: Amina Hassanpur provides quality education for 130 students in a gender-integrated classroom setting. Through tuition and donations, her school is able to
grant scholarships to poor or orphaned students. These scholarship opportunities, contingent upon academic success, are essential to maintaining access to education since approximately 1/3 of the school’s students are impoverished or orphaned. In the last year, Amina completed a new building which holds classrooms, a library and computer lab. Her school employs 13 people including a principal, teachers and security guards.

- Kabul and Daikundi: Fatima Akbari, who was recognized by Vital Voices and the Bush Center in 2011, has continued her journey as a leader in her community. She has been elected as a Senator from her home province of Daikundi and is now a member of the gender and economic sub-committees in the Afghan Senate.

Thunderbird, in partnership with the International Center for Afghan Women’s Economic Development (ICAWED) at the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF), has worked with over 300 women graduates of the 10,000 Women program from Afghanistan.

Over the last 2 years, 10,000 Women assisted graduates in establishing an alumni network with the purpose of providing continuing educational and business support to program graduates. Several opportunities are planned over the coming months including education workshops, mentoring and networking.

Mission

The mission of the Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University is to “educate global leaders who create sustainable prosperity worldwide.” Created in 2005, Thunderbird for Good, the school’s social responsibility arm, builds on this mission to “create prosperity through business education for all.”

For more information on Thunderbird for Good:
“Like” us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThunderbirdforGood
Follow us on Twitter @projectartemis
Check out our website at: http://t4g.thunderbird.edu/
Contact us at: artemis.tbird@asu.edu

"Borders frequented by trade seldom need soldiers."
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR AFGHANISTAN

COUNCIL MEMBER: DANA FREYER

Overview

It is with a heavy heart that we report that Global Partnership for Afghanistan, after 11 years of direct, highly successful operations in Afghanistan, has closed our offices and ceased operations.

People often ask if our investments have had a lasting impact. Are trees still standing? Are farmers still working their land? The answer is a resounding yes.

Projects

11 Years, 30,000 Farm Businesses, 9 Million Trees

After more than a decade of work, some 30,000 farm businesses, nearly one-third owned by women, are generating enduring benefits from GPFA’s programs: income, food, even confidence in the future from newfound agricultural and business training. Some 9 million trees grace the landscape as a result of our work, enabled by funding from generous private donors and institutions committed to Afghanistan’s rural development. These trees form part of farmers' income-producing businesses.
Mission

We and our donors are proud of our accomplishments and the return on our investments. Thanks to our partners and donors, since 2004 we invested over $18.5 million resulting in an estimated $64 million in income to farm families. The results: over 336,000 children, women and men in 2,500 villages across 14 provinces are benefiting from higher incomes, better nutrition, a healthier environment, and better farm practices, technical and business knowledge that farmers and our more than 300 former staff are using and transferring to others. All now are better equipped to enhance Afghanistan's economic growth and stability.

GPFA's directors, former staff and the thousands of rural women, children and men who benefited from GPFA's work thank our many friends, advisors and donors for all you have done to support GPFA and our mission. GPFA's directors, former staff and supporters remain deeply concerned about the future of Afghanistan and will continue to work to support the Afghan people.

Contact: info@gpfa.org; danafreyer@gmail.com
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Ambassador and Mrs. Mohib flanked by the 2015 graduates of the U.S. Afghan Women Council’s Rising Afghan Women Leaders Initiative
Overview

The Rising Afghan Women Leadership Initiative (RAWLI) was adapted by the Center for Child and Human Development at Georgetown University from its Executive Leadership Program. As a collaborative effort among all USAWC Council members, RAWLI advances a core pillar of the USAWC’s mission to promote substantive and practical leadership development for Afghan women. Funding and in-kind support is provided through public and private partners.

RAWLI is an example of a Council-wide initiative to leverage our strengths and commitment as a group of Afghan and American leaders, women and men, focused on our obligations to the people of Afghanistan. To advance a key objective of promoting substantive and practical leadership development of Afghan women, USAWC launched The Rising Afghan Women Leaders Initiative (RAWLI) in 2014.

This first gathering was held at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service campus in Doha, Qatar in March 2014. Our partners at the International Center for Afghan Women’s Economic Development (ICAWED) at the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF) piloted the training in Afghanistan following the inaugural launch. In 2015 the USAWC has continued its efforts with AUAF and will expand the RAWLI training in Afghanistan through this cohort of new trainers.

Projects

The 2015 RAWLI program has engaged Afghan women leaders from diverse fields that reflect the scope of the USAWC’s work. During this week-long journey of self-assessment, participants explored elements of personal and professional leadership development based on the renowned Georgetown Leadership Academy. As the training was framed around teaching participants to help others examine and solve current challenges they face in their professional journeys, the scholars learned from each other, guided by master teacher, Ellen Kagen.
Together, through facilitated sessions, they explored each other’s leadership challenges and ways to achieve effective strategies and solutions through peer-to-peer engagement, facilitated dialogue, formal instruction, and community action. Key elements of the training involved: recognizing and living your values; reframing mental models and perceptions; discerning adaptive from technical challenges; gaining new perspective by stepping back; and developing strategic alliances and relationships. This was accomplished through in-class sessions, networking events, engagements with a wide range of guest speakers, and guided conversations over meals and historic tours.

Mission

USAWC Honorary Chairs and former U.S. First Ladies, Mrs. Laura Bush and Mrs. Hilary R. Clinton and USAWC Co-Chairs U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues Catherine M. Russell and Georgetown University President John J. DeGioia have strongly endorsed this Initiative. The Council’s newest Honorary Chair, the First Lady of Afghanistan Mrs. Rula Ghani has offered her guidance and support to the Council, advising that vulnerable populations always be given a voice. In her honor, participants in the 2015 Rising Afghan Women Leaders Initiative have committed to take the training back to the diverse populations in their home country.

The objective of the Rising Afghan Women Leaders Initiative is to develop and inspire a learning community of women leaders in Afghanistan. RAWLI leaders individually and collectively examine, explore, and solve their leadership challenges through peer-to-peer engagement, facilitated dialogue, formal instruction, and community action.

USAWC, Georgetown University, and all of our partners are energized by this opportunity to expand the RAWLI network in Afghanistan 2015 – 2016 and thank everyone who continues make it possible. Most of all, we are honored by the women and people of Afghanistan who are determined to pursue progress and prosperity for their families and their country.
VOICES ON THE RISE: AFGHAN WOMEN MAKING THE NEWS

COUNCIL MEMBER: KHORSHIED SAMAD

Overview

*Voices on the Rise: Afghan Women Making the News* is a photojournalism exhibition dedicated to courageous Afghan women working towards the reconstruction of their country from all fields – journalism, art, government and human rights, among others.

Projects

Originally launched across Canada from 2006 – 2009, the exhibition has toured extensively in the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, and was hosted by the U.S. Embassy in the Hague in Holland in 2012.

The response to the exhibition has been very strong, and has been successfully organized along with conferences and roundtable discussions on the status of Afghan women. Though many of the images are incredibly moving and some startling, the overall message of the exhibition is one of hope.

Given the uncertainty and conservative backlash facing Afghan women caused by increasing political instability and the drawdown of U.S. and NATO military forces, this exhibition provides a timely and effective platform helping to keep the spotlight on Afghan women and the challenges they continue to face as the gains they have achieved in Afghan society have started to lose ground. The organizers hope to launch the exhibition in the Washington, D.C. area sometime in 2016.

Mission

The exhibition provides an excellent platform for dialogue and helps to build bridges of understanding among its viewers about the resilience and determination of Afghan women.

[www.voicesontherise.org](http://www.voicesontherise.org)

[info@voicesontherise.org](mailto:info@voicesontherise.org)

[@KhorshiedSamad](https://twitter.com/KhorshiedSamad)
U.S. INSTITUTUE OF PEACE: TRAINING AFGHAN MEN AS PEACEBUILDERS
COUNCIL MEMBER: STEVEN STEINER

Overview

The United States Institute of Peace is about to begin the training phase of a two-year pilot program to train Afghan men, particularly younger men, to adopt a peaceful narrative of masculinity, to become peace builders in their communities, and to respect the rights of women. This project relates to a major initiative taken in 2013 when USIP held a global symposium on “Men, Peace and Security: Men as Positive Agents of Change.”

The MPS initiative, which USIP views as an indispensable underpinning to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, is based on our conviction that countries that have gone through prolonged violent conflict, such as Afghanistan, are not going to succeed on UNSC 1325 or the National Action Plan which the Resolution mandates unless a concerted effort is undertaken to engage men to understand and support the rights of women.

Projects

The MPS program for Afghanistan will incorporate lessons learned from projects carried out in other countries that have gone through violent conflict. It is designed to respect the religious and cultural norms of Afghanistan, while promoting positive social change and seeking to build a more peaceful society. The program will address the effect of the years of violent conflict on narratives of masculinity and on relations between Afghan men and women, and how violent narratives of masculinity bring about further conflict. It is our experience that during conflict many men take on violent notions of masculinity in order to achieve their objectives, and that over time these violent notions become an accepted norm.
We have conducted consultations on the project with a wide spectrum of Afghans, who described the program as urgently needed to counter the norm of violence, which unfortunately has taken hold in Afghanistan. The program will work with men from the largely silent majority who potentially have positive, peaceful values but have not articulated them and have not spoken up when they see violent acts committed against women. The program takes a positive, non-accusatory approach, which emphasizes how men can become champions of peaceful, positive change in their families, communities and country. This will be done through dialogue and training about men's roles, identities and experience during the violent conflicts that have taken place in Afghanistan, and how this has affected the men themselves, their families, their communities and their country.

**Mission**

Under this pilot program, we will be working with a diverse group of young Afghan men from Kabul, Heart, Balkh and Nangahar Provinces. The program will be implemented by local Afghan NGO partners on the ground, and will be monitored by experienced program officers from the USIP Kabul office.

During the course of the program, USIP also will be looking for Afghan men who themselves could become good trainers and will provide them with specialized training designed to facilitate their taking the message of peaceful, positive masculinity and respect for women back to their communities in a long-term, sustainable manner.
Honorary Co-Chairs
Laura W. Bush, former First Lady of the United States
Hillary Rodham Clinton, former First Lady and Secretary of State of the United States
Rula Ghani, First Lady of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

U.S. Co-Chairs
John J. DeGioia, President, Georgetown University
Catherine M. Russell, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues

Afghan Co-Chairs
The Honorable GIRoA Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Honorable GIRoA Minister of Women’s Affairs

Vice Chair
Phyllis R. Magrab, Professor, Pediatrics; UNESCO Chair, Georgetown University

Executive Director
Najlaa Abdus-Samad, U.S. Foreign Service Officer

USAWC Members (in alphabetical order by last name)
1. Rina Amiri, UN Mediation Expert
2. Mariam Atash, President, PlanetPix Media
3. Ambassador Barbara Barrett, Thunderbird School
4. Fatema Bayat, Executive Director, Bayat Foundation
5. Jan Bradley, Co-Founder, Lamia Afghan Foundation
7. Doris Buffet, Founder, Sunshine Lady Institute
8. Ambassador Paula Dobriansky, Chair, World Affairs Councils; USAWC Founding Co-Chair
9. Connie Duckworth, President and CEO, ARZU Studio Hope
10. Caroline Firestone, Founder, New Hudson Foundation
11. Dana Freyer, Co-Founder and Chair, Global Partnership for Afghanistan
12. Kate Friedrich, Vice President for Global Government Affairs, Thomson Reuters
13. Peter Grossman, Director, Grossman Burn Center
15. Ambassador Eklil Hakimi, Minister of Finance and Former Afghan Ambassador to the United States
16. Sultana Hakimi, Wife of the former Afghan Ambassador to the United States
17. Joanne King Herring, CEO and President, Marshall Plan Charities, Inc.
18. Ambassador Karen Hughes, Former U.S. Under Secretary of State for Public Affairs
19. Jill Iscol, Author of Hearts on Fire
20. Valerie Jarrett, Advisor POTUS; White House Council on Women and Girls
21. Ambassador Said Jawad, Former Afghan Ambassador to the United States; Founder, Foundation for Afghanistan
22. Shamim Jawad, Co-Founder and Co-Chair, Ayenda Foundation
23. Christopher Johnson, Strategic Branding Expert
25. Gayle Tzemach Lemmon, author and journalist
26. Anita McBride, Executive-in-Residence, Department of Government, American University in Washington, DC.
27. Timothy McBride, Co-Founder and Co-Chair, Ayenda Foundation
28. Catherine McIntyre, Philanthropist
29. David J. McIntyre, President and CEO, TriWest Healthcare Alliance
30. Pat Mitchell, Independent Advisor, Paley Center for Media
31. Dr. Hamdullah Mohib, Afghan Ambassador to the United States
32. Lael Mohib, Director, Enabled Children
33. Mary Jo Myers, President, Aschiana
34. Manizha Naderi, Executive Director, Women for Afghan Women
35. Terry Neese, President, Institute for the Economic Empowerment of Women
36. Katherine Pickus, Divisional Vice President, Global Citizenship and Policy, Abbott; Vice President, Abbott Fund
37. Charlotte Ponticelli, Board Member, Bayat Foundation
38. Dina Powell, President, Goldman Sachs Foundation
39. Sydney Price, Senior Vice President for Corporate Social Responsibility, Commerce-Cause, Kate Spade
40. Mariam Qudrat, Board of Trustees, American University of Afghanistan
41. Suraya Rashid, Executive Adviser in Afghanistan for HEEDA.org
42. Diana Rowan Rockefeller, Founder, Afghan Women Leaders Connect
43. Peter Kaivon Saleh, Former Senior Advisor to the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR)
44. Khorshied Samad, Curator, Voices on the Rise
45. Ambassador Omar Samad, Senior Advisor to Afghan Chief Executive Abdullah on Policy and Strategy
46. Leslie Schweitzer, Chair, Friends of American University of Afghanistan (AUAf) Kabul
47. Zolaykha Sherzad, Founder, Zarif Design
48. Mina Sherzoy, Director of Capacity Building, Chemonics, Afghanistan
49. Eleanor Smeal, President, Feminist Majority Foundation
50. Ambassador Steven Steiner, Senior Advisor, Center for Gender and Peacebuilding, U.S. Institute of Peace
51. Tina Tchen, Chief of Staff to FLOTUS Michelle Obama
52. Ambassador Melanne Verveer, Executive Director, Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security; USAWC Co-Chair Emeritus
53. Heidi Waldorf, Director of Laser/Cosmetic Dermatology, Mount Sinai Medical Center
54. Sherrie Rollins Westin, Executive Vice President, Global Impact and Philanthropy, Sesame Workshop
55. Marna C. Whittington, Retired, Philanthropist
56. Christian Wistehuff, Executive Director, Initiative to Education Afghan Women (IEAW)
57. Sakena Yacoobi, Chief Executive Director, Afghan Institute of Learning