



 Canadian Women *for*  
Women in Afghanistan

2019  
Annual Report

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Canadians taking action, in partnership with Afghan women, toward improving human rights, ending women's oppression, and providing opportunities for Afghan women and girls to live their lives with dignity, certainty and purpose.



## A Message from Narmin Ismail-Teja Board Chair

As I reflect on 2019 I realize what an amazing year we have had thanks to our staff, volunteers and board. I am honoured to work alongside these women and men who are committed to improving the lives of girls and women across this globe, and especially in Afghanistan.

It has been an exciting year – we had an inspiring symposium and AGM at Harrison Hot Springs where we reaffirmed our commitment to our work, and discussion at that event spring-boarded to the formation of our Advocacy Team, which is formulating some great work in reaching decision makers and affecting real change on the issues we care so deeply about. The AGM also welcomed two fantastic new board members, Natasha Fernando and Fawad Akbari. We are so thrilled to be working with them. If I am to think about one word to capture the board's work this past year, it is "resilience." We have been looking at a number of areas of governance and policy to ensure that our organization is agile and well positioned in responding to issues as they arise, including identifying possible risk areas and developing the strategies and tools necessary to prevent or mitigate them efficiently. I want to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow board members for their commitment to the work of the organization and for their skills and insights in providing excellent governance for an organization that our members have entrusted to us. And finally, I want to thank all the staff for their commitment, flexibility and creativity in fast changing circumstances, in meeting the needs of the families we work with.



بخاطر اینکه حقوق بشر جهانی است!

**Because human rights are universal!**

Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan  
PO Box 86016, Marda Loop  
Calgary, Alberta  
Canada T2T 6B7  
Registered Charity #887718203RR0001



## **A Message from Lauryn Oates** *Executive Director*

As 2019 drew to a close, we looked back on another exceptionally busy, and productive year. You will see in the pages of this report the end results: women who learned to read and write, girls who moved from one grade into the next, teachers getting access to the knowledge they need to be the best teachers they can be. Behind all of this is a hardworking team of wonderful individuals, in Afghanistan and in Canada, who bring their talents, technical expertise, methodical planning, rigorous management, and a focus on quality control to our work, but who do all of this with their eye on the real prize: a future where Afghan women and girls are free to pursue their dreams and opportunities in security, and with the dignity they deserve. And what makes it possible for our incredible staff, board and volunteers to do this impactful work, is the committed, long-term support of our members and donors, and their unwavering belief in our mission. Writing this in 2020, the year so far looks very different than 2019. We have new challenges we couldn't have imagined at this time last year. But when

I see this unwavering belief in action, whether in the form of a Breaking Bread dinner in Calgary, the Red Pashmina Walk in Peterborough, an Afghan brunch in London, a film screening in Vancouver, a chapter meeting in Ottawa, a much welcomed cheque in the mail from a Victoria donor who has remembered us every year, or a notification in my in-box from one of our monthly donors on CanadaHelps, I have complete confidence that we will continue to deliver on our mission, despite the new challenges. Thank you for being there with us through it all, and for your contribution to our work.



## **A Message from Murwarid Ziayee** *Senior Director*

As I write this message, I am thinking of a conversation I had while visiting a literacy project in Kabul with an adult literacy learner, a woman in her 60s who was the first to arrive to her classroom one afternoon on a hot summer day. Asked why she has joined the class when she could enjoy staying at home like other women of her age in her community, she replied: "I am already many, many years late getting an education, and if I had the chance to attend a class decades ago, I would have held a job like you or be teaching others like my teacher is teaching me." Her answer struck me. Being educated and living with dignity have been unattainable dreams for so many of the women and girls I talked to, and what our programs offer them is a chance to realize these dreams. This is what I love when I look back at the year just passed and review what we have accomplished: the sense of reward in seeing the impact of our programs through the changes in people's lives – whether that is a young woman accessing up-

to-date information via the internet at a Teacher Training College, a student graduating from school, or a literacy class participant proudly reading her textbook. The beauty of my job is that I get the chance to see the programs on the ground and hear the stories of the people we serve, and in Canada, connect with our committed members and supporters whose involvement makes our programs in Afghanistan possible. On both sides of these partnerships of solidarity, I see dedication. Afghan women and girls are more committed than ever before to making the most of every single chance to change their lives, while Canadians who support our work are committed to providing that opportunity for them. We continue to build strong connections with both sides and I want to take a moment to thank every one of our members and supporters for making that a reality.



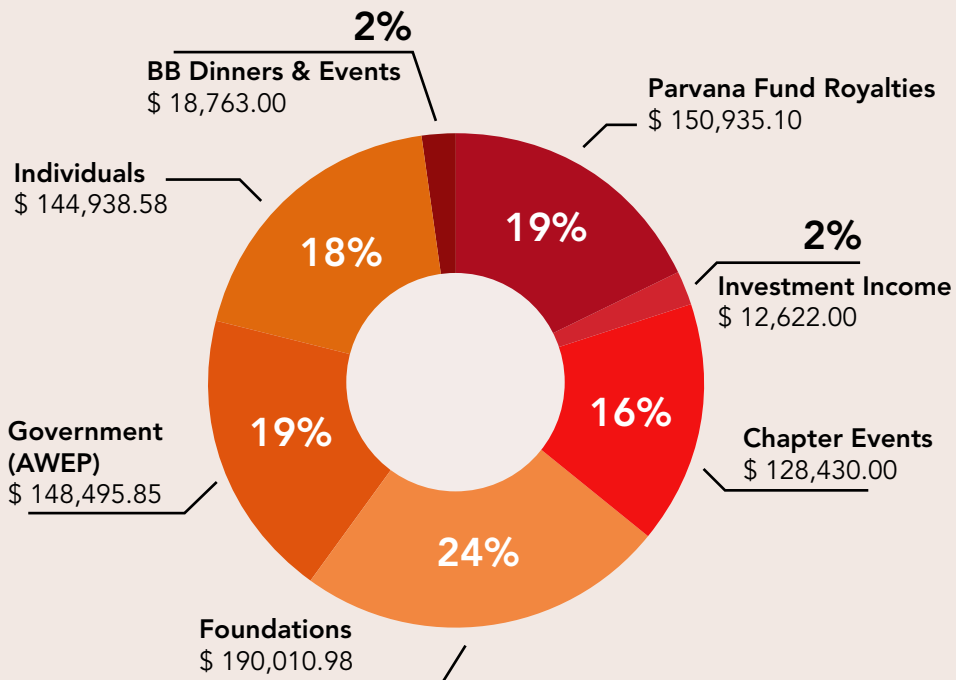
## A Message of Thanks

As women and girls in Afghanistan strive for a better future, the need for our work grows, and the impact of our family of supporters in Canada and across the globe is strengthened. We want to take a moment to thank you, all the many generous supporters, chapter members, volunteers, and donors, who make our work possible. You continue to prove that dedicated global citizens can come together to make the world a better place through simple acts of generosity, solidarity and compassion. We could not fulfill our mission to empower Afghan women and girls through education without your ongoing support, and belief in that mission. You are helping to make classrooms and communities where we work safe, healthy and happy.

Your solidarity with the people of Afghanistan is helping pave the way to a brighter, peaceful future for these people and their country. Thank you.

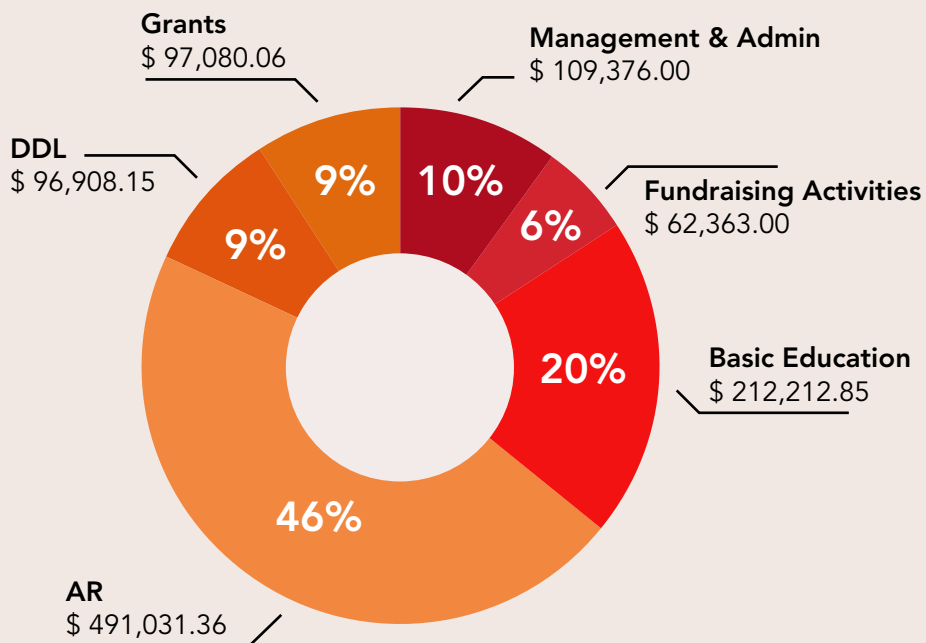
## Revenue

Revenue per financial statements  
**\$ 1,050,621.00**



## Program Spending

Total per financial statements  
**\$ 1,068,971.42**



For detailed 2019 financial accounts, please visit:  
<http://www.cw4wafghan.ca/about-us/finances>

## Qandi's Story

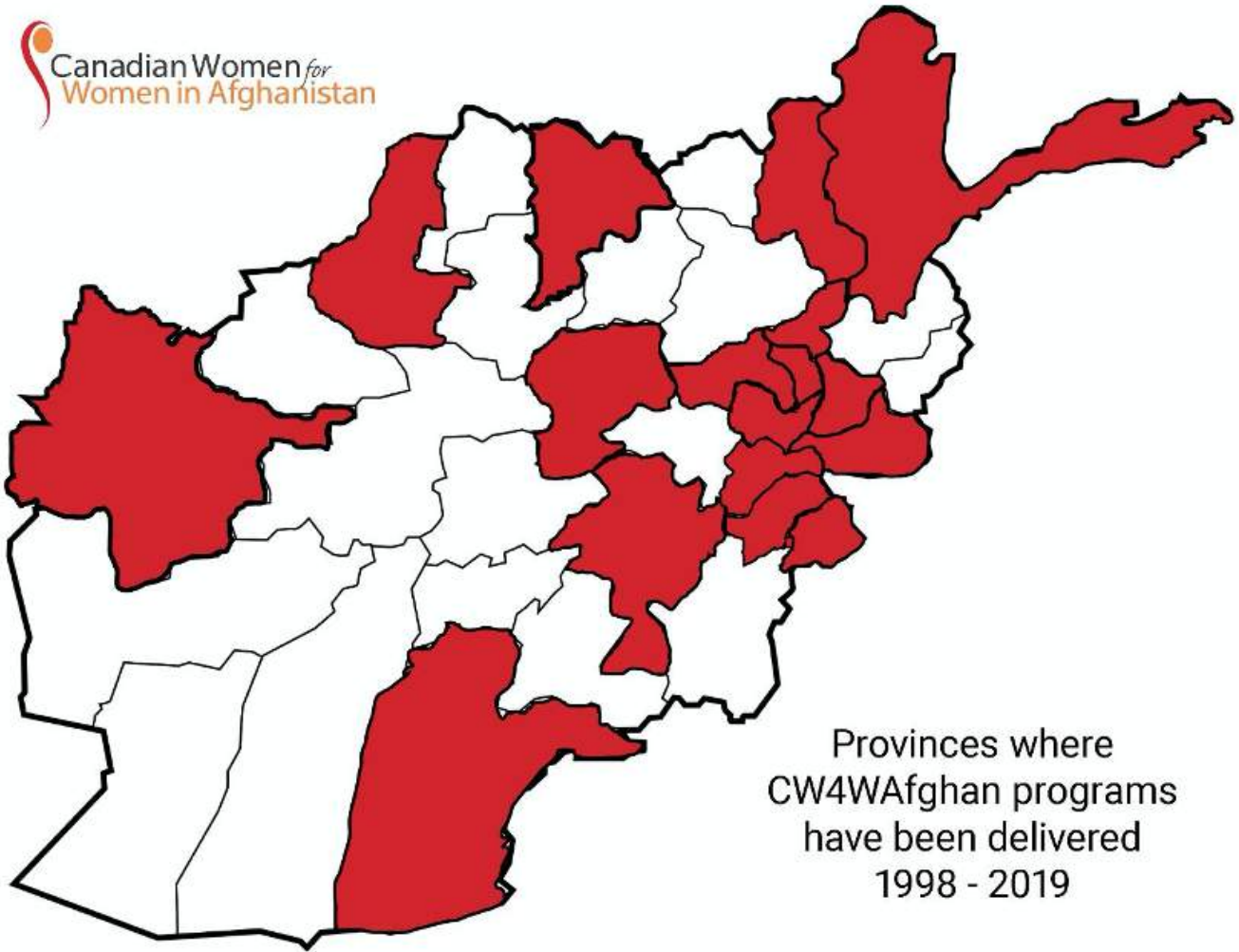
Qandi, 26 year old, is a mother of one child, and one of our literacy students in Takhar. Qandi never had the chance to go to school when she was younger because there was no girls' school in her village. But she loved learning things, and eventually learned how to read the Quran in a mosque. As the years went on, the desire for a full education, in a classroom, never left her. Then, a year ago she heard through a neighbor that a literacy class had been established by CW4WAfghan in her village. It was a dream come true. She immediately signed up for the class. She had become a student at last! Over the next 10 months she learned to read and write so fluently that she became a frequent borrower of books from the classroom library, reading these books voraciously at home.

Qandi says: *"Besides the literacy lessons, we had the opportunity to study cultural development activities and do interesting activities in class which made learning fun for us. We learned how to read storybooks for our children, we practiced reading with fun things like having a reading club, doing reading games with our families, making a storybook with our children, reading poems, making fun bookmarks, postcards, drawing our village map, drawing the animals we know, writing our own recipes, making our own family calendar and so much more. The life skills training was another fun part of our studies. We learned how to manage our family budget, how to take care of our own and our family's health and hygiene. We had never thought of healthy and unhealthy food. This training showed us how to prepare healthy food. It was also very useful for young and*

*less experienced mothers, as it taught us so many things about our own health and the health of our babies during pregnancy and after delivery. I wish very much to continue my education when I have completed this literacy class. My husband encourages me to learn more, and I hope there will be some educational opportunities for me in our village after I graduate from CW4WAfghan's literacy class. I thank CW4WAfghan for providing this opportunity for girls and women to be educated."*



## Our Programs



CW4WAfghan delivered educational programs in 15 provinces of Afghanistan in 2019, from the capital and urban areas to remote and rural locations. Our highly experienced Country Office staff in Kabul and our working relationships with a range of stakeholders mean that we are able to provide accessible programs that work in the local context for women and girls across Afghanistan, including various language and ethnic groups and those from some of the most impoverished and underserved areas.



## Program

# Investing in Basic Education



## Project: Fanoos ('Lantern') Teacher Education for Afghanistan



Students at Nangarhar Teacher Training College in Jalalabad

CW4WAfghan's Teacher Education program works to strengthen Afghanistan's teacher colleges (TTCs) to provide the highest quality and most relevant education possible for the country's future teachers, especially women, who now constitute the majority of students in teacher colleges. Since Fall 2018, our teacher training program has been carried out within the TTCs in order to reach more teachers at a critical stage before they begin their careers. The Fanoos Teacher Education Program carries out activities in the following areas:

- 1) building the capacity of leadership in the teacher education system;
- 2) supporting teaching of reading and writing, increasing children's literacy;
- 3) developing critical thinking skills in teachers and students; and
- 4) improving access to learning resources at teacher colleges



# 9,387

4,565 Female  
4,822 Male  
Teachers trained



# 7

Kabul, Parwan, Kandahar, Panjshir, Kapisa, Laghman and Herat

Provinces covered



*"I have learned new and active methods that I use in my classroom. Math is always considered a boring subject but the methods I learned in this class, such as group work and learning math through games, helped me adapt the subjects, and now the students are always asking questions. I am more confident in my job; it has made my teaching easier and the students learn quicker"*

~ Saifora, a Teacher Training student from Kapisa province





## Project: Fatema Tul Zahra Girls School (FTZ)

Fatema Tul Zahra (FTZ) is a local community school in Kabul that serves young girls from grades 1-12, who attend classes in one of two shifts each day. CW4WAfghan's support of FTZ includes: a safe building and classrooms; trained teachers who benefit from ongoing professional development; after school program instructors; learning resources and supplies such as school notebooks and pencils; fuel for heat in winter; a growing library; a modern computer lab; a playground; and a learning garden. A CW4WAfghan principal leads the school management, and CW4WAfghan staff support the school administration, working hard to continually improve the quality of learning.

There were many exciting highlights for our FTZ School in 2019, which had 377 students enrolled, including 16 students in our new 11th grade class. Twelve teachers received capacity building support and training focused on math, chemistry, physics and biology subject teaching, with post-training tests showing an impressive increase of knowledge among teachers. The facilities and resources at the school were also upgraded and enhanced in 2019, including chairs and tables for teachers and students in all classes, new lesson materials and whiteboards, a water purifier and dispensers, bathroom renovations, a new Science lab and more.



FTZ students attend a biology class

 **163**  
students graduated from grade 9, as of 2017

 **10**  
students promoted to grade 11, as of 2019

 **7** vocational courses delivered

 **20** teachers employed

 **408**  
students studying in school currently from grade 1 to 11

“

*“School has had a positive impact on my life, here I became literate and learn many things. I can support other girls and women to become literate, which I am doing already in my family and society and I am proud of myself and it makes me feel happy to do this. The more educated our people become, the more the country will develop and as educated people, we will be able to support family and society. I am so grateful FTZ school provided to me and other girls with wonderful facilities and opportunities. It has made a tremendous impact on us and on society.”*

~ Diana, 8th grade student at FTZ School

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## Project: Starter Kits

Literacy thrives most when learners have books to read. Yet too often, new readers don't have any books to practice with. That's why CW4WAfghan provides access to books through our teacher training and literacy programs. By placing small "starter" libraries into classrooms, students and their families are introduced to the joy of reading for pleasure. Our libraries consist of high quality local language books - purchased from local publishers in Afghanistan - suitable for new readers on a variety of topics, from animal husbandry to history and poetry. We deliver orientation workshops for schools and communities on how to use and sustain these valuable resources. These starter kits have contributed to the literacy education of more than 3,100 of our literacy graduates!



Students inspect a new library starter kit



**40** libraries distributed and in use in communities



**5 FOR 7** mobile libraries circulating among AR!  
Classes in Kabul



**294** School Starter Library Kits distributed in schools



**262** School Starter Science Kits distributed



**13,310**

Hoopoe Books children's storybooks distributed



**2,000**

Afghan Songbooks distributed

## Program

# Afghanistan Reads! Libraries, Literacy and Books



### Project: Community Literacy Classes in Kabul

The AR! program is a network of literacy classes each with its own library. Together, literacy education and access to a basic library nurture a culture of reading, and foster independent, lifelong learning for Afghan women who were previously illiterate. The classes are provided to adult women and out-of-school girls over the age of 15. Each class provides between 20 and 25 female literacy students with one year of basic literacy classes 5 to 6 days per week. Local teachers are recruited and trained to run the classes and maintain a small library. All teachers are then trained in adult education and literacy pedagogy, and have additional training to assist them to adopt librarianship practices in their teaching. The classes are typically held within the home of a local woman, ensuring they are safe, accessible and trusted environments for women and girls who may not have participated in such group learning before.

In 2019, 175 literacy students were registered in seven new classes. These women are beneficiaries of Operation Mercy's women's self-help groups, comprised of some of the community's poorest members who meet regularly to support each other to save money, share moral support and work together to realize their rights. Students have reported that using the library has made a positive difference in their lives and aspirations beyond the classroom.



# 25

Classes held by CW in Kabul



# 873

Students enrolled currently



# 418

Students graduated



# 175

Students currently studying



# 12

Graduate students who have transitioned to further education or training this year (2019) so far



Zainab & Aziza became students at a government school after attending AR! Literacy Classes

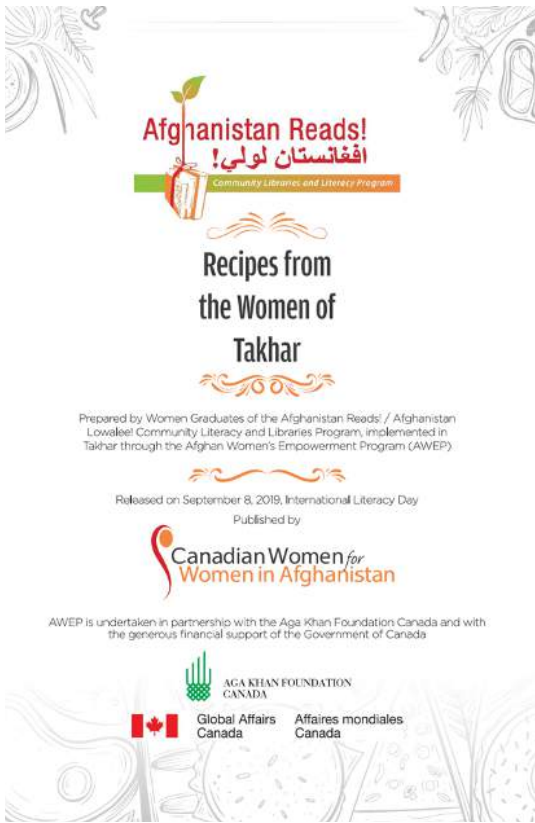


*"After some months in literacy class, one night when we were reading a story for our small brother, our father became very happy that we are able to read and improve ourselves. He has supported us and even asked us to teach my mother. After talking with our teacher in the literacy class, our father took us to school, where we passed an exam and were admitted to the 4th grade of Qala-e-Meer Abas Elementary school. Now we have plans for our future; one of us wants to be a doctor and the other a good teacher"*

~Zainab and Aziza, Kabul AR! Literacy class participants

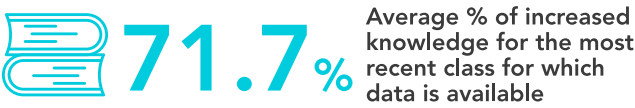
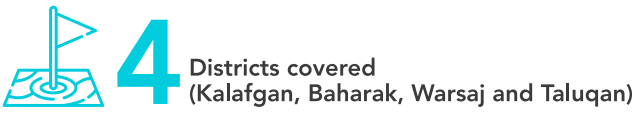


# Project: Afghan Women's Empowerment Project (AWEP)



The Afghanistan Women's Empowerment Program (AWEP) is a project in partnership with the Aga Khan Foundation Canada (AKFC), funded by Global Affairs Canada, that aims to advance women's empowerment by increasing social and economic participation of women in 36 districts of Takhar, Baghlan and Bamyan provinces of Afghanistan. AWEP aims to 1) increase the participation of women in public life and, 2) increase the integration of women into the economy. AWEP provides vocational training, financial access, employment opportunities, literacy and numeracy skills, and facilitation of women's entrepreneurship and business networking. The program increases opportunities and support for women's leadership and participation at the community and sub-national level, and aims to increase awareness of communities on gender equality issues through building the capacity of community institutions. The program also increases awareness of gender equality through training and encouragement for media institutions in capturing and disseminating women's development stories to the public.

In 2019 we had several successful developments, with 461 new students enrolled in our reading and writing skills training and life skills workshops. We were also excited to publish *Recipes from The Women of Takhar*, a beautiful collection of family recipes and stories contributed by our literacy students, proudly making use of their newfound reading and writing skills.



“I am happy that now I am able to read stories to my grandchildren. It makes them interested to learn reading and writing skills.”  
~An AWEP participant

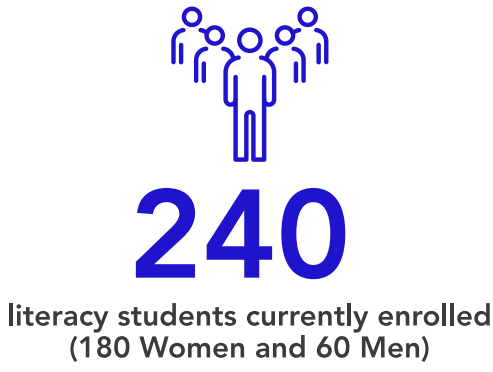
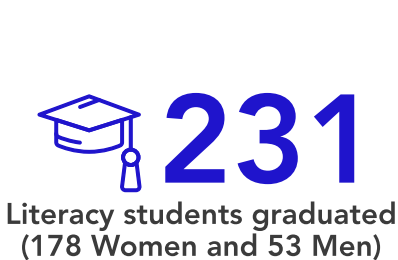
## Project: Wakhan Initiative for Literacy, Education and Development (WILED)

Responding to requests to improve access to education in this remote part of Badakhshan province, the WILED project provides literacy education for people in six villages within the Wakhan Corridor of Badakhshan province, including libraries accessible to students, their families, and local community members. The two-fold aim of this project is to 1) enhance quality of life in the region by enabling a more educated population in Wakhan, and 2) improve local capacity for managing and delivering quality learning and teaching. In 2019, twelve teachers as well as two trainers from our local partner, SALEH, received additional training in literacy pedagogy and adult education approaches. These professional development opportunities are part of our commitment to providing ongoing coaching in literacy education, librarianship and reading promotion as part of the WILED project. All literacy students also benefit from life skills education covering topics such as first aid, nutrition, maternal health and rights, and more.



*"I am happy I completed the life skills workshop. Now I know how to save my money, and I am able to pay for my ninth grade son to learn English in a learning center in another village"*

~A WILED participant



## Program

# Technology For Education



TECHNOLOGY FOR EDUCATION

### Project: Darakt-e Danesh Digital Library (DDL)

The Darakht-e Danesh Library is a digital repository of free, open educational resources (OERs) for Afghanistan's teachers, students, and anyone with a curious mind who wants to learn more on a particular subject. Darakht-e danesh means "knowledge tree" in Dari, one of the official languages of Afghanistan. The library's learning materials include lessons, exercises, experiments, backgrounders, workbooks, curricula, full texts such as children's stories and other resources for Afghan teachers to develop their knowledge on a subject or use in their classrooms, as well as general information on a range of subjects. The Library was created to increase access to quality, locally adapted educational resources, to encourage teachers to consult a wide variety of information sources in their practice, and to support teachers to adapt, create and share their own resources with other educators. We believe that digitization can make more out of less and nurtures teachers' independent learning and professional development

2019 saw several exciting campaigns and developments for DDL, including having our volunteers participate in the Freedom to Read Campaign in support of intellectual freedom. Our Storyweaver partnership also resulted in the translation of children's stories in Dari and Pashto, and published 100 new digital storybooks in Afghan languages, many of which were also printed and distributed in Afghan schools. Curious learners searched DDL for help with everything from lesson plans to chemistry textbooks, and our staff fielded daily questions such as, "what is a quantum number?" and "what is blood circulation?". Nothing better demonstrates the wide ranging thirst for knowledge among our many users!



Level 3

به جنگل خوش آمدید!

Author: Eshwari Meenon  
Illustrator: Kavita Singh Kale  
Translator: DDL Library

An illustration of one of the quality children's books available on our open access DDL platform.

“

Thank you for your unrelenting efforts for expanding knowledge and raising awareness among our people and our country

~ Ahmad Khalid, DDL user  
(January, 2019)

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103,060

Views on average per month



125

Subjects in DDL



60

DDL demos  
conducted since 2015



4,603

Resources available in DDL



17

TTCs and government offices running DDL Lite (13 central TTCs, 1 district TTC (Faryab, Andkhoy), 2 school in Parwan and General Directorate of Teacher Education)



40,682

DDL sessions made in 2018

## Project: DDL Lite

DDL Lite is a version of our digital library that can run in locations that do not have Internet connectivity. Our team sets up a local area network (LAN) with a simple computer that acts as the server to other computers at the site. From this local server, the computer network can access the library. Our team trains someone local on how to run and maintain their DDL Lite installation, and we check up on all sites throughout the year, providing ongoing technical support as needed. DDL Lite is a practical alternative allowing people to still benefit from DDL in more remote areas, and it's one example of how we've innovated technological solutions that work for the Afghan context, helping connect people with access to information no matter where they live. DDL Lite has been installed in teacher training colleges (TTCs) throughout Afghanistan, as well as in schools and libraries, with more installations planned for the future.



Students observe a DDL demonstration



*"DDL is the light in the darkness of our society. Thank you for your excellent service" ~ A DDL user*



## Project: Computer Science Curriculum Development

CW4WAfghan has developed a digital literacy curriculum for six grade levels, and trained teachers in its use, as part of the upgrading and refurbishment of the computer lab at our FTZ School in Kabul. This pilot has been used to improve the curriculum overall, and included the distribution of computer science textbooks to our students.



**22** Teachers trained in Computer Science Curriculum



**450** Computer Science Textbooks printed and distributed for students in grades 4 to 9



students in the FTZ computer science lab



*“School has a great impact in my life. By learning in school we can benefit our society; by attending school now I can achieve more in future and work to serve my people and country. I wish to become a doctor who can treat patients, and FTZ school helps me to reach my wishes. We have good facilities like computers, we are learning to use them for our study.”*

~ Mariam, 8th grade student





## Project: Internet for Afghan Teacher Training Colleges

With Internet access, current and future educators in Afghanistan can develop their subject knowledge, discover new approaches and methods to teaching, design better lesson plans, find materials to use in the classroom, and access education research. Access to such information online will help teachers be more effective educators, meaning Afghan children will have better learning outcomes. We are harnessing the power of technology, and increasing access to information and educational materials online for Afghan educators, specifically targeting female student teachers at public Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs) in Afghanistan, the faculty of TTCs, and in-service teachers who use the services of TTCs, by facilitating access to the Internet in the computer labs at TTCs.

In 2019, as part of our ongoing monitoring and evaluation, we gathered feedback from instructors and students in Parwan and Takhar, and found that both groups had positive experiences with DDL resources and are making use of these in their teaching and learning. DDL received 2,119 visits from among this group of beneficiaries in 2019 alone!



Frishta & Najia, two students at the Parwan Teacher Training College



**4** TTCs with Internet installed (Bamyan, Kandahar, Parwan and Nangarhar)



**528** DDL users in these 4 TTCs, from Jan-May 2019



*"Using the internet provided me and my sister facilities to do our coursework. Without DDL we would have had to pay for Internet, which would have been too costly"*

*~A TTCs participant*



## Program

### Grants & Scholarships

#### Project: Hoopoe Books

In 2019 we supported Hoopoe Books to translate, print and distribute 3,000 Pashai-Pashto editions of one Hoopoe title, *Shah's The Farmer's Wife*, to Pashai-speaking children in Afghanistan, as part of their Afghan Minority Language Program. The goals of this project were to improve literacy, school readiness and educational outcomes among Pashai-speaking children in Afghanistan and to cultivate pride and recognition of Afghan minority languages and Afghan multilingualism through the publication of minority language texts. Children who received the book were also given support in developing the necessary skills to transition to grade three. We also distributed 100 copies each of four titles in Uzbeki-Dari to literacy class students and their families in Takhar.



#### Project: Afghan Children's Songbook Project

In 2019 we distributed 5,000 copies each of *Bood Nabood* to literacy class students and their families in Takhar. This was accompanied by the distribution of 2500 teachers' guides to support students' educational outcomes.



## Project: Shafia Fund

The Shafia/Mohammad Memorial Education Fund for Afghan Women and Girls is a fund established in memory of three young sisters (Zainab, Sahar and Geeti Shafia, all in their teens at the time of their deaths) and Rona Amir Mohammed, who were all murdered on June 30, 2009 in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. The funds are used to support female education through providing small grants to students to cover some of their education expenses. Although established with support from the Kingston community, the fund has been so successful that we extended the program to welcome donations from all of our chapters, members and supporters. Donations to the fund have been contributed by members of the Kingston community as a way to honour the memories of these women, to draw attention to the devastating impact of violence against women, and to leave a modest but positive legacy in the wake of a tragedy.

In 2019 the Shafia fund had a big impact, supporting thirteen young women to continue or take up education, adding to the total of 40 girls and young women given the opportunity to attend school through 57 scholarships granted. One of our graduates supported by the Shafia Fund, Mariam was able to pay off all her students loans and now has a successful career as a teacher!



Mariam in her classroom

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*“I am very happy, by receiving the Shafia Fund I did my payment for two semesters of my university which I was not able to pay, now I am doing job as a teacher, thank you for your support.”*

*~ Mariam, a Shafia Fund recipient*

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## Project: PARSA Sisters for Sisters (S4S)

S4S is a program of mentorship and personalized attention for small groups of at-risk women and girls. This approach addresses the extreme and challenging social and security circumstances that Afghan girls experience as they attempt to succeed in school and prepare to join the workforce. The goal of S4S is to build confidence, nurture leadership, and provide a safe space for participants to develop into capable, assertive young women. S4S was designed based on four pillars: mentorship, psychosocial health (“Girl Talk”), physical wellbeing, and life skills and learning. S4S participants have ownership over the program and play a key role in planning and making decisions on activities.

In 2019, 20 “murabis”, or group leaders, received leadership training and mentored a further 193 girls through the program. Nineteen of these girls received additional psychosocial support through the program, which assisted them in resolving family problems. S4S also held three track and field competitions as part of the physical wellbeing component of the program, and participants took part in other sports including soccer, cycling and volleyball.



Participants in the PARSA S4S program

## Program

### Public Engagement, Membership and Advocacy

Our work engaging with Canadians from all walks of life to raise funds and awareness of the human rights situation for girls and women in Afghanistan is a vital part of what we do, and how we mobilize entire communities across the country to act in solidarity with communities in Afghanistan. Through our amazing network of Chapters, engagement with volunteers and public interest groups across Canada, our social media presence and a busy roster of community based events, our public engagement work thrived in 2019. Here are some highlights!

- We established May as Breaking Bread Month, with 19 events held or planned across the Country throughout May 2019
- The London, Ontario Chapter was launched by a group of committed and energetic members
- The Vancouver Chapter hosted our Annual Symposium and AGM in Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia, attended by representatives from every Chapter and a distinguished list of special guests
- Halton Chapter celebrated its 20th Anniversary. Said member Linda Middaugh, "Our original goal to raise \$1,000 has grown to \$800,000, with Halton members presenting at multiple community and faith groups, business and professional groups, schools, fundraisers, protests and celebrations in their efforts to educate Canadians throughout the years."
- A group of Toronto volunteers gathered together to hold their first Breaking Bread dinner to raise funds for FTZ School
- We published "Commit To The Protection Of Women's Rights In Afghanistan: Statement On Taliban Negotiations" in partnership with Women for Afghan Women
- On the week of International Women's Day, members across the country walked or ran in the Secret Marathon 3k in solidarity for women's rights
- We held the second annual campaign for International Human Rights Day, December 10, asking members and supporters in Canada, Afghanistan and around the world to post selfies with our slogan, Because Human Rights Are Universal!
- We established our Advocacy Team, made up of staff, Board members and interested chapter members and volunteers, who are working to promote good policy and foster dialogue to that end on issues that impact basic rights for women and girls in Afghanistan



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“As always, along with my donation comes my heartfelt thanks to you all. I have followed the path of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan via your newsletters for years now and what you have achieved is truly astounding. You are probably facing one of your greatest challenges yet with the shifting policies and the exiting of U.S. involvement. However, I have faith - if I look at what you have accomplished from day one until now. The old saying that ‘if there is a will there is a way’ is alive and well in your organization. I know you will prevail and that the girls and women of Afghanistan will continue to learn and prosper. And I will continue to do my tiny part and donate. Thank You!”

~ Member in Nanaimo, BC

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In Afghanistan, our Country Office staff work to raise awareness and engage the public around important campaigns, organizing and hosting events to mark International Literacy Day, International Women’s Day, International Mother Language Day, and International Human Rights Day, among others. They are building partnerships with other organizations operating in Afghanistan, and with Afghan media to amplify our messages and increase our impact.

## CONGRATULATIONS GILLIAN LESLIE, 2019 CHAMPION FOR EDUCATION



Janice Eisenhauer, presenting Jill Leslie the Champion for Education Award, October 2019

“

*“Jill, your incredible passion for human rights is surpassed only by your knowledge, skill and dedication to advancing education for Afghan women and girls. From all the members of CW4WAfghan, we honour your exemplary contributions as a member, volunteer, Victoria chapter chair, board director, and fund development team leader—and compassionate humanitarian—with our heartfelt gratitude and deepest admiration.”*

- Janice Eisenhauer

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2019



[www.cw4wafghan.ca](http://www.cw4wafghan.ca)