



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Mission statement

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 OUR BOARD CHAIR



In every sense, 2020 was an exceptional year. As the world grappled with a global pandemic, fears mounted over the new reality we live in, and we watched its devastating effects take hold in every corner of the globe. For Afghanistan and the global Afghan community, these fears were ever present and indeed compounded by the changing political landscape and the looming possibility of the Taliban's return to power. That is, however, but half the story. Every layer of society, from governments and organizations, to families and individuals, when faced with unprecedented calamity, showed an astonishing degree of adaptability, flexibility, and resilience. It fills me with pride to say that this was especially true for our organization.

When asked to adjust to this sudden new reality, our dedicated staff in Afghanistan and in Canada delivered! Be it a transition to remote working, pivoting our programs as needed and as you'll read about below, moving to virtual platforms for our events, or hosting a virtual AGM, no challenge was too great. We even officially added a brand new program, which hit the ground running in 2020: The Afghanistan Policy Dialogue Program (also known as the Advocacy Team)! Each remarkable member of our team, under the capable leadership of our Executive Director, have shown their willingness and dedication to our mandate, often at great personal sacrifice, and as a result, we were able to thrive and grow under unprecedented circumstances.

Our Board of Directors also experienced a year of growth and resilience, with a particular focus on enhancing our risk management and governance practices, and further developing our organizational policies and structures. At our AGM, we welcomed three new Board members: Sarah Hayes, Jameson Voisin, and Raynie Wood, each an exceptional leader and a welcome addition to our Board. With the departure of my predecessor, Narmin Ismail-Teja, in early 2021, I accepted the role of Chair comforted by the expertise, leadership and dedication of my fellow directors.

These successes, however, could not have been achieved without you: our vast network of chapters, members, and volunteers. At a time when Covid-19 was the only constant on people's minds and in their conversations, you rallied behind this organization's vision, keeping the voices and demands of Afghan women and girls front and center. You attended and hosted virtual events, rose to the occasion with the school food security appeal, and advocated vocally to your friends, contacts and governments, to name only a few. These unconditional acts of service, humanity, and solidarity are what drives us forward, and I am humbled to be a part of this work.



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 OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



For the world over, 2020 proved a tumultuous year. In Afghanistan, this was doubly the case, where Afghans contended with both a pandemic that tore its way through the population at the same time as they faced rising insecurity and the anxiety that accompanied protracted peace talks that lacked transparency and inclusion. While pivoting our programs to work under the circumstances imposed by Covid-19, we also mobilized across the organization to respond to the crisis facing the education sector as schools closed and students were sent home - the same students who had broken so many barriers to get to a classroom in the first place. We knew we had to do everything it would take so that this did not signal the end of their dreams of education. And we did. We rose to the occasion, and you - our community of supporters - provided the fuel.

In the pages that follow, you will see our usual program of activities and realize that the pandemic failed to stop our literacy classes, our libraries, our Shafia Fund scholars and our many other activities. And besides our regular programs, our team worked with the Ministry of Education to get lessons on TV and online so children could access "classes" from home, while we did double-duty churning out digital learning materials on the Darakht-e Danesh Library and translating information about Covid-19 into Afghan languages. We also distributed learning baskets and emergency food aid. Throughout all of this, our staff in Kabul worked diligently, even as they had to adjust quickly and face the unknown trajectory of this pandemic. I salute our incredible team for their unfailing work ethic and commitment during such a land and uncertain difficult time.

The first weeks of the pandemic and the ensuing lockdown in Afghanistan was only one of many times that I felt flooded with pride as I observed our team and our programs in action. Even in such a strange and challenging year, I can say, unequivocally, we had a successful year. In thinking about the source of this success, I can trace it to several distinctive factors. One is of course our wonderful, dedicated staff team. Another is the longevity of our programs: we have the

great luxury of running programs, and not just projects, which gives us the chance to tweak, adapt and improve as we go year after year. This has helped us evolve into a learning organization. Our team is always finding opportunities to do better, to build on what we learn and respond to what we see is needed as we engage in the communities where we deliver our programs. I hope you too will see in the pages that follow the signs of maturing programs, and of results that build on earlier waves of results.

But the third factor to our success is our community of supporters. My glaring bias notwithstanding, I still insist we are entirely unique as an organization because of our constituencies. Many charitable organizations have members, but when I look at the breadth of our members - Canadians from all walks of life, from coast to coast, so many of whom have been part of our movement for so many years - I am humbled by the depth of this commitment. All charities have boards, but none quite have our board: a team of passionate and skilled leaders whom I am privileged to work with. And then there's our chapters, who bring our movement alive by bringing it into Canada's communities; they are the very definition of global citizenship. And we continue to be carried by the hands of stalwart volunteers who readily put their hand up, whether it's to help plan a virtual event or drop off door prizes, or sit on a committee. And to boot, we have our very own potter and bellydancer! Not least, we have a unique constellation of donors, who have been by our side, in many cases for years, and some for decades. So many of you don't only give your dollars; you give your voice: you enact your solidarity with the women and girls of Afghanistan, and you act as champions for this organization. So as I reflect on the challenges brought about in the past year, I must confess that they are eclipsed by something else: the realization that we are so very rich in community.

Thank you for being part of the CW4WAfghan community, and for carrying us forward into another year of putting into practice the idea that human rights are universal.





A MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR DIRECTOR



As I and our colleagues at the Country Office in Kabul were running from meeting to meeting and from one project site to another in February 2020, the news of Covid-19 spread around the world. We had no idea the pandemic would spread so widely and so rapidly. Since then, our team in both the Country and National Offices have worked hard pivoting our projects, ensuring no interruption in their implementation and addressing the educational, social and emotional needs of women and girls in our programs. You have read the snapshot of our programs in our Executive Director's message. I am giving you a sense of how our team pulled things together to respond to this unique situation. It wasn't an easy shift, as we needed to rapidly enhance the technical skills of staff to move from in-person program delivery to an online and technology-based approach. Our team of science and math trainers had to adjust from teaching in a classroom full of trainees, to being in front of a camera lens. We provided a succinct videography and editing training to four staff, helping with the recording of video mini lessons. Our Afghanistan Reads Program Officer also provided literacy teacher training via mini lessons. There were long hours of training, and longer hours of preparing for lesson delivery and recording. The video editing team had to work extra hours to complete the video production on time. Through this hard work and commitment, the team produced over 100 videos which were published on the Ministry of Education's website, the National Education TV channel and our Darakht-e-Danesh Library (DDL).

Our DDL team tirelessly worked on translating accurate information on the Covid-19 pandemic and recommended safety measures in Dari and Pashto. The materials were uploaded to DDL and reached an average of 200,000 users per month.

On other fronts, many helping hands, from program colleagues to management, thoughtfully gathered

learning and reading materials for the Learning Baskets distributed to girl students as part of our Gender Equity in Teacher Training project. Our team was purchasing bulk quantities of food items and personal protective equipment when most of the shops were closed and travelling around the city was banned; it wasn't an easy task for our Procurement Officer. The team had to adjust their travel times and working hours to ensure safe provision and distribution of these and other resources.

There are many behind-the-scenes stories from our team, who dealt with the stress of the pandemic while surviving the increased insecurity, remaining dynamic and committed despite the uncertainty around peace talks with the Taliban. Amidst these extremely challenging circumstances, everyone kept their optimism and performed remarkably.

Our small team of staff at the National Office worked incredibly hard day and night to ensure our program funding needs were met and that our members and supporters were kept aware and engaged with our work. Besides this, our advocacy team pulled together many significant virtual events and roundtables to promote the centrality of Afghan women's voices, views, and experiences to the ongoing peace talks.

It was a world of new experiences for all of us when jobs that we never thought could be done remotely were now being done exclusively online—and done successfully.

It wouldn't have been possible to achieve what we did if not for our devoted donors and supporters, whose donation and support to our programs didn't falter in 2020. The past year made us realize that we are privileged to have such dedicated staff, devoted donors and supportive board and chapter members. My heartfelt thanks to everyone.



A Sincere Thank You to Members, Donors, and Supporters

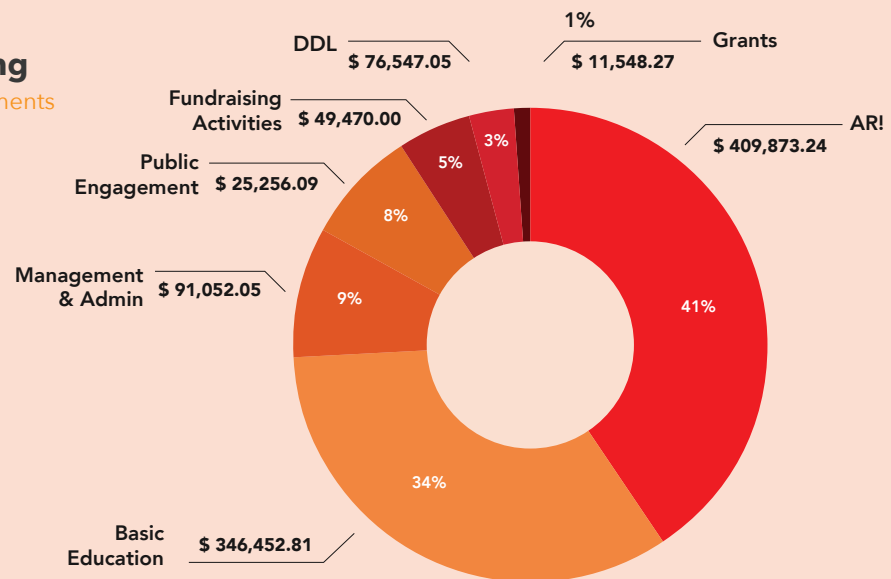
"So many of you don't only give your dollars; you give your voice: you enact your solidarity with the women and girls of Afghanistan, and you act as champions for this organization. Thank you for being part of the CW4Wafghan community, and for carrying us forward into another year of putting into practice the idea that human rights are universal."

- Lauryn Oates, CW4Wafghan Executive Director

Program Spending

Total per financial statements

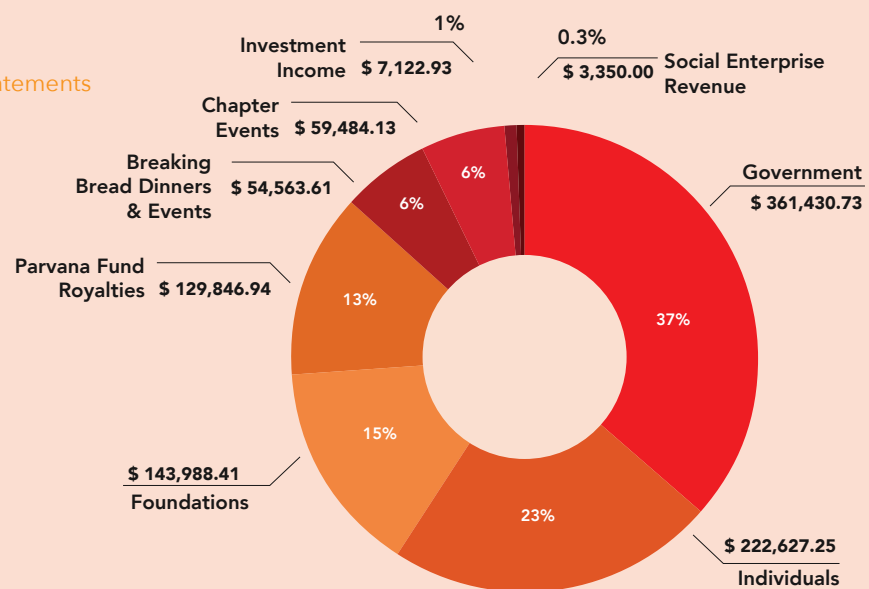
1,010,199.52



Revenue

Revenue per financial statements

982,414.00



Complete audited financial statements can be found at

https://cw4wafghan.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/pages/cw4wafghan_audited_financial_statements_2020.pdf



Meet Nazifa, an Afghanistan Reads! Program Graduate

Nazifa graduated from one of our Afghanistan Reads! Community Literacy Classes in Kabul, and thanks to her own talent, determination and the support of our amazing AR Program Officer, successfully transitioned to public school. Stories like hers prove our belief that community literacy education can be a steppingstone to formal education. Here is Nazifa in her own words.

My name is Nazifa and I am 18 years old. I have been studying at Abdul Hadi Davi School for two years now. I am currently in the ninth grade and my sister Nadima, who is 16 years old, is studying with me in the same grade. I have nine sisters and one brother. My sisters are all illiterate; only Nadima and I are studying.

I have been interested in school since I was a child, but my family could not afford school and the distance to the nearest school kept my parents from allowing us to go. Two years ago, one day I heard from neighbors that a literacy course was being set up at CW4WAfghan in our village. My sister and I enrolled. After a year, we both graduated and got a 3rd grade certificate, and then, because of our interest and with the help of the Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan, we were able to transfer to Abdul Hadi Dawi High school. My sister and I continued our studies in the eighth grade, and after a year, were both promoted to the ninth grade... I came first in my class, and my sister came third.

In the past, I was like a blind girl. I could not read or write, but now I read books and took 12 subjects in this school and I have high grades in each. The school principal and teachers are very kind.

I am very happy that I am getting closer to achieving my goals in life. I want to be a judge in the future. Thanks to CW4WAfghan for giving us the opportunity to continue our education.

Our Covid-19 Response

2020 was an exceptional year globally, forcing all of us to think in new and creative ways about the fight for gender equality and ensuring educational access for all. Early on in the pandemic, we realized that addressing the gendered impact of Covid-19 would be vital not only to the long-term effectiveness of our own programming, but to planning for pandemic recovery in Afghanistan. CW4WAfghan's work was a key component of the Afghan Ministry of Education's pandemic response, ensuring quality educational opportunities continued to exist for women and girls during this exceptional time.

We prepared and disseminated video classes in a range of subjects, and radio messages on topics such as promoting the wearing of masks, social distancing and hand washing to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and created varied learning resources that encouraged students to study at home. Our Darakht-e Danesh Digital Library translated virus prevention materials and flexible home learning resources to benefit children and families across the country. Through our GETT project, we also distributed Learning Baskets to 400 vulnerable girls in two experimental schools in Kandahar. The baskets included learning resources along with PPE, hygiene products and life skills manuals. Meanwhile, our emergency food security work addressed the food insecurity and rising levels of poverty caused by the pandemic, ensuring that basic needs were met for the women and girls who use our programs, and supplying staple food items to families during pandemic lockdown. In total, we distributed 434 emergency food packages, reaching 2,527 individuals facing hunger.



Thanks to the generosity of supporters responding to our emergency food security appeal, CW4WAfghan was able to provide staple food items to families affected by the pandemic.

“

“The days of quarantine were very difficult for our family. My mother had to borrow money to buy stale bread, which we ate with water. This food package will help a lot. When I am at school, the subjects I like are Dari and math. I want to be a police officer in the future. I would try to prevent crime in the community”

- Maliha, age 11, a student at Fatema Tul Zahra Girls' School

”



PROGRAM AREA: INVESTING IN BASIC EDUCATION



Project: Fanoos Teacher Training

In 2020 we began new planning for our “Fanoos” Lantern Fund, to support and enhance the capacity of Afghanistan’s Ministry of Education in areas such as school management, creative and critical thinking, librarianship and many others. Focussing on Teacher Training Colleges and working closing with the MoE leadership, we are strengthening TTCs by

- 1) building leadership capacity in the teacher training education system,
- 2) helping teachers teach reading and writing to enhance children’s literacy,
- 3) developing critical thinking skills in teachers and students, and
- 4) improving access to teaching resources -- like libraries and computers -- at TTCs.



9,387

4565 Female
4822 Male
Teachers trained



7

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

Lanterns are highly symbolic, as objects that radiate light, and the metaphor of the lantern has resonance in Afghan culture and literature. In Afghanistan, there is a proverb that says, “a teacher is a candle that burns to enlighten others.”



One of the memes created as part of the Your Education, Afghanistan’s Future campaign

Project: UNESCO Getting Girls Back to School After Covid-19 Campaign

In 2020 CW4Wafghan entered into a tripartite relationship with the Afghan Ministry of Education and UNESCO to support educational responses to COVID-19 and ensure that girls are back to school to continue their education when schools reopen.

Through this project, we conducted a comprehensive baseline study of knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAPs) related to educational access for children during and beyond the pandemic, developed a communication and behavior change strategy, and created media products to promote the value of girls’ return to school, including radio messages and social media content which reached parents, students, educators and community leaders across Afghanistan. The Your Education, Afghanistan’s Future campaign is helping to change attitudes and remove educational barriers experienced by girls and exacerbated by the pandemic.



Students at Bibi Zainab School in Kandahar receive Learning Baskets with educational resources and staple food items for the whole family

Project: Gender Equity in Teacher Training

The Gender Equity in Teacher Training project (GETT) is an innovative project to promote gender responsive teacher training in Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs) at the subnational level.

This project aims to alleviate the chronic shortage of qualified female teachers. Our approach includes improving the capacity of TTCs to increase the capability and enthusiasm of female students to become effective teachers, and to encourage and support both male and female teachers in their practice to promote the participation of Afghan girls in formal education.

In 2020, GETT was a pivotal part of the Afghan Ministry of Education's pandemic response, creating alternative learning resources and delivering health and hygiene education, PPE, and a range of initiatives including development of 100 Grade 7 video lessons for Science, Dari and History subjects as part of the national curriculum. We also produced and broadcast a series of 26 Dari and Pashto radio dramas on BBC Radio, delivering messages on the importance of education for girls during the pandemic.

GETT also distributed learning plus baskets to 400 vulnerable female students in Kandahar province, whose families were most affected by COVID-19, in coordination with Cordaid. The baskets included storybooks, supplementary learning materials, a handbook on life skills topics, washable face masks, hand sanitizer, hand washing soap, recipes, nutritional learning and staple food items to help combat food insecurity. As part of the project, staff from participating Teacher Training Colleges also received intensive training on topics such as leadership, using the Darakht-e Danesh Digital Library, and Gender Based Analysis in Education.



"We don't have enough female instructors in schools and colleges, and GETT will play an effective role in motivating women to become educators. Due to Afghan culture, every girl feels more comfortable with a female teacher. This campaign will help to create awareness in the community among females to know why their job as a teacher is important for other girls."

- Rona Hotaki, Director of Kandahar TTC



Students at FTZ Girls' School excitedly review their exam results

Project: Fatema Tul Zahra Girls School

CW4WAfghan has long funded the operation of the Fatema tul Zahra School Girls' School, a local community school in Kabul that serves young school-age girls from grades 1-12. Our involvement has supported a safe building and classrooms; trained teachers who benefit from ongoing professional development; after-school program instructors; learning resources and school notebooks and pencils; fuel for heat in winter; a growing library; a modern computer lab; a playground; and a learning garden. During the year, the school was provided with PPE and health and safety enhancements to make learning safe during the pandemic, and 361 Learning Plus Baskets were distributed to vulnerable students. We also graduated the first grade 12 class of eight students who will take the Kankor (university entrance) exam in 2021.



"At school, Dari is my favorite subject. After quarantine I will go to school to study hard and try my best to get good marks. I learned many things in these quarantine days; every person should work hard to have a good future. I want to be a doctor one day."

- Sadaf, age 16, a student at Fatema Tul Zahra Girls' School



7 Vocational courses teachers



17 Teachers employed

408

Students studying in school currently from grades 1 to 11

163

Students graduated from grade 9, as of 2017

10

Students promoted to grade 11, as of 2018

8

Students promoted to grade 12, as of 2019



Project: School Starter Kits

Literacy thrives when learners have access to reading material. By placing small "starter" libraries of approximately 500 volumes into classrooms, our school starter kits introduce the joy of reading for pleasure among students, and their families, when borrowers are able to bring books home.

Our science starter kit promotes hands-on science learning through provision of over 120 different items, including scientific materials, laboratory equipment, a periodic table of elements poster, and manuals on how to use the materials and equipment.

CW4WAfghan supports hands-on science learning for students through our science lab starter kits

In 2020 we targeted six schools in the remote and under-served Wakhan district of Badakhshan province. Additionally, a complementary set of 85 science lab starter kit items were distributed to Pagesh High School, whose science lab had very limited materials.



40 Libraries distributed and in use in communities (2008-2020)



6 for 9 classes

Mobile libraries circulating among AR! Classes in Kabul



294 School Starter Library Kits distributed in schools



262 School Starter Science Kits distributed



2,830

Hoopoe Books children's storybooks distributed



2000

Afghan Song Books distributed



PROGRAM:

AFGHANISTAN READS! LIBRARIES, LITERACY AND BOOKS

Project: Afghan Women's Empowerment Project (AWEP)

The Afghanistan Women's Empowerment Program (AWEP) ran in partnership with the Aga Khan Foundation Canada (AKFC), with funding from Global Affairs Canada, which aimed to advance women's empowerment by increasing social and economic participation of women in 36 districts of Takhar, Baghlan and Bamyán provinces of Afghanistan. AWEP aimed to 1) increase the participation of women in public life and, 2) increase the integration of women into the economy.



Global Affairs
Canada

Affaires mondiales
Canada



A lesson for the AWEP literacy and life skills class in Takhar

The project was completed in 2020 having achieved incredible results. CW4WAfghan's contribution to AWEP alone saw 1800 women aged 15 to 45 graduate from our literacy and life skills classes in four districts of Takhar province. We provided textbooks, school supplies and hygiene kits to these 1800 women. We also established 41 libraries (each containing 500 to 600 books) in 40 literacy classes and in the Takhar Provincial Education Directorate, which were distributed to public schools after the literacy classes concluded, or to AKF's community based saving groups and Takhar provincial and district education departments. We provided capacity building for 40 women literacy teachers in teaching methodologies, life skills and librarianship and 36 Ministry of Education staff (public school and education department librarians) in library management. A highlight was the International Literacy Day celebrations that took place in Takhar and Kabul.

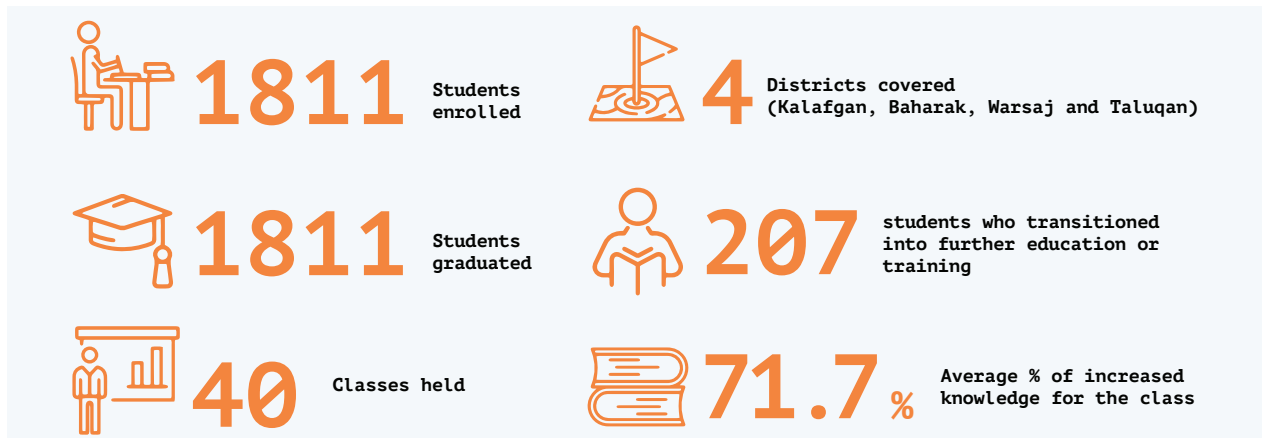
The project concluded at the end of 2020 with an impact assessment of literacy classes on women participants, which found that 80% felt their social and economic empowerment had increased through our literacy and life skills training, and 87% believed that the literacy classes had increased gender educational equity, namely that girls are going to school the same as boys.



"I have learned how to read and write in this class, and I am now working with my daughters, to teach them too, at home. I am thankful to Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan for establishing the literacy classes for our village women."

- Nazakat, a graduate from one of our AWEP literacy and life skills classes

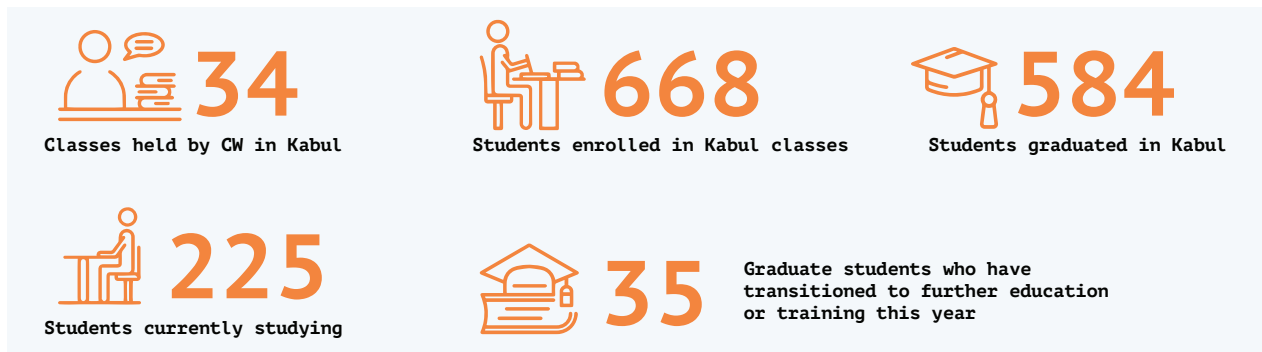




A child learns alongside her mother during an Afghanistan Reads! literacy class

Project: Afghanistan Reads! Literacy Classes in Kabul

In 2020, the Afghanistan Reads!/Afghanistan Lowalee! Program ran in seven communities in Kabul, with a cohort of 166 women graduating. We facilitated the enrollment of 30 of these graduates in public schools, where they will continue their education to complete a high school diploma. Whether or not students carry on to formal education - and our community literacy classes are often a steppingstone to this very advancement - we take an approach which emphasizes literacy as an ongoing practice that promotes inter-generational learning.



As part of our WILED project, capacity building for teachers in Wakhan district ensured students have access to engaging, quality classroom learning

Project: Afghanistan Reads! Literacy Classes in Wakhan

The Afghanistan Reads! / Afghanistan Lowalee! Program is also offered in some of the most remote communities in Afghanistan, including as part of our WILED project that was funded by Business for Better Society Canada. In 2020, 231 community members graduated from 12 literacy classes delivered under WILED, including 161 women and 71 men. We also established eight libraries for use by the literacy classes.

“Before attending the literacy course, I was not able to read and write. My daughter is a student in the school and she was regularly absent because I thought going to school and learning was not serious. I always prevented her from going to school to help me with the house chores, but after attending the literacy class, I know that being educated is so important.”

- Bakht, a student in one of our Wakhan literacy classes

PROGRAM: GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS



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 2020, we supported 23 young women to pursue their educational aspirations at continuing education institutions and universities, as well as supporting an additional 30 Afghanistan Reads! beneficiaries with transportation costs to allow them to attend the local public school.



"When I graduated from school I dreamed of becoming a doctor, but my parents weren't able to pay for my education fees. The Shafia Fund gave me the chance for my dreams to become a reality"

- Mariam, a Shafia scholarship recipient



A mother shares a book with her child

Project: Covid-19 Education Materials Grant

This project was a partnership between Gahwara Organization and Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan, to print and distribute 3000 copies of a picture book entitled Corona Virus: A Book For Children. The book was published in the three most widely spoken languages of Afghanistan - Dari, Pashto and Uzbeki (1000 copies of each). The books were distributed to families and children in many public kindergartens, schools, training centers, orphanages and libraries in provinces throughout Afghanistan. This project helped increase knowledge about Covid-19 among children and their families and provided information on virus prevention and how to stay safe.



TECHNOLOGY FOR EDUCATION

PROGRAM:

TECHNOLOGY FOR EDUCATION

Project: Darakht-e Danesh Library

Darakht-e Danesh means “knowledge tree” in Dari, one of the official languages of Afghanistan. DDL provides Free and Open Educational Resources for Afghanistan, including an extensive range of materials 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.

In 2020 DDL became an ever-more invaluable learning resource to help close the learning gap as COVID-19 lockdowns forced schools to shut their doors for months. In addition to supporting the Afghan Ministry of Education’s pandemic response, we worked with DDL partners to build extensive new resources, including many that were specific to public health education around COVID-19 prevention and mitigation. For example, 100 translated resources were received from Save the Children International. We also officially launched our partnership with Storyweaver, to make thousands of children’s story books available in local Afghan languages.

storyweaver PRATHAM BOOKS



Ignite children’s learning through stories



“Our partnership with Darakht-e Danesh Library has built a rich repository of Farsi and Pashto content. This gave us a unique opportunity to create a localised version of StoryWeaver for DDL users. We are delighted to partner with DDL to unveil this new pathway to access high quality storybooks, and help more children discover the joy of reading in Farsi and Pashto.”

- Purvi Shah, Director at Storyweaver



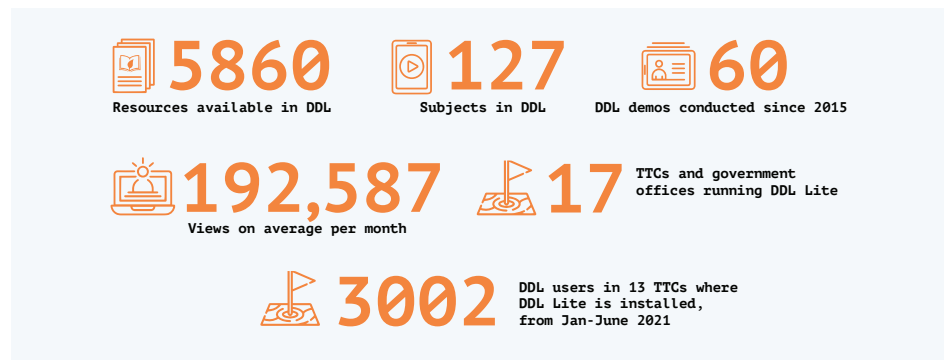


Staff and students at Ayesha Durrani Girls' School in Kabul receive training in the use of DDL and its resources

Project: DDL Lite

DDL Lite is the offline version of our digital library of open educational resources (OER), the Darakht-e Danesh Library. 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.

In 2020 DDL Lite was installed in Ayesha Durrani Girls' High School in Kabul and a demo was delivered to 40 students and teachers on how to use the library. We also installed DDL Lite in three Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs) in coordination with Save the Children International: in Faryab province, and in Farza and Deh Sabz districts of Kabul province.



Female students at Faryab TTC receive training in the use of DDL and other internet technologies.

Project: Internet for 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. We want to harness the power of technology, and increase access to information and educational materials online by Afghan educators, as well as to our own local language collection of educational material in DDL. We are specifically targeting female student teachers at public Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs), the faculty of TTCs, and in-service teachers who use the services of TTCs.

In 2020 we installed internet at seven TTCs, in the provinces of Kabul, Faryab, Khost, Herat, Laghman, Takhar, and Mazar-e Sharif. This resource will be used by students to access learning materials and train them to use technology to communicate with teachers and fellow students.





PROGRAM: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, MEMBERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

Our Annual Symposium

2020 saw us deliver our first ever virtual symposium, centered around the theme respect, protect, fulfill: Afghan women's rights at a crossroads. Although we couldn't gather in person like we normally do each year, CW4Wafghan still delivered a packed program of news, views, skills, discussion, ideas and more in our 2020 Virtual Symposium, held the first ten days of October. This format made it possible for participants from locations around the world to join us, and much of the content is still available on our Youtube channel, for those who missed it. Particular highlights included an international panel of women's rights activists sharing insights on the current peace negotiations, a visit by our Kabul staff to the Marefat School, a special message from girls in our programs on the importance of peace, to mark International Day of the Girl, virtual cooking and bellydance workshops, and more. Thank you to all who participated in this series of events and actions. We hope the symposium provided opportunities for you to learn more about our programs and beneficiaries, and to reconnect with this amazing community of individuals across Canada and the world, all united in a common goal: the educational empowerment of Afghan girls and women.



"What a fantastic session and absolutely beautifully organised down to the finest detail. What an extraordinary group you brought together! It is a privilege to work with such professional and caring women"

- A CW4Wafghan member after attending one of our virtual engagement and advocacy sessions



Highlights from our Chapter Network

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, which forced the cancellation of many regular fundraising and awareness building activities normally animated by our chapter network, the leadership and members within our chapters really stepped up to ensure our presence was felt in their communities, and by the end of the year, many chapters were geared up to roll out a slate of activities in 2021. These locally based activities are absolutely vital to our success as an organization and we're so grateful to have such a talented and energetic network of chapter members across Canada. Whether it was the socially distanced Red Pashmina Walks held in Peterborough and Victoria, the amazing success of Kingston's first ever virtual UNGala fundraiser, attending virtual events, or small acts of solidarity like posting and sharing our advocacy messages on social media, our chapters showed once again in 2020 how commitment to gender equality is helping to build community in Canada and making a difference in Afghanistan. Thank you chapters!

When it came to organizing fundraisers and public awareness events, chapters weren't deterred by the pandemic! Here are some highlights.



Members of our Vancouver Chapter gathered during the virtual symposium to take part in the Linda Norgrove Foundation Memorial Walk organized by our partner



Halton members once again hosted their hugely successful annual Dinner Party gala, with a keynote address from CW4WAfghan Executive Director Lauryn Oates



Our Victoria Chapter hosted a market stall of Afghan jewelry and items from Pottery for Peace



Members of our London; Chapter held a Breaking Bread lunch in a local Afghan restaurant



Members of our Peterborough Chapter organized their annual Red Pashmina Walk as a solo event, taking to the streets in their red despite the April snow

Please support our 2020 (hopefully not annual)

[un]GALA

TICKETS: \$100 (100% income tax receipt)

Your 2020 ticket provides you with the intangible benefit of knowing you are continuing to support the girls and women of Afghanistan at a time when the major fund-raising events have stopped but the needs and costs to support Afghan girls at our school, Fatema Tul Zahir, remain the same.

YOUR HOUSEHOLD WILL RECEIVE:
A collection of Afghan recipes created by our Womany clients in Takhar province

DRAW!
Here (except Afghan Feast) delivered to your door, you could win:

- One of two draws for an Afghan Feast, a specially prepared, off-menu dinner for 4, created by Chef/owner Rubab's Served Cook, curbside pick-up
- Pair of tickets for the 2022 game (Value: \$200)
- Thankachan Air Fryer (Value: \$100)
- Charcuterie box from Savat to Savage (Value: \$100)
- Beautiful hand-woven pashmina from Hazrat (Value: \$95)
- Jar of Afghan saffron, the best in the world, from Red Gold of Afghanistan, made to order (Value: \$70)
- Ten pound bag of specialty basmati rice, Sareem Caravan, used in Afghan cooking (not available locally) (Value: \$30)
- Selection of Afghan nested bowls, multiple draws (Unlimited value)

FOR YOUR TICKETS:
Contact a chapter member to arrange registration and payment or contact: Madeline @ 613-375-8290 or tarasckm@gmail.com
Deadline for ticket sales: Thursday, August 27th, 2020

DRAW: FRIDAY, AUGUST 28TH
Prefer not to purchase a ticket? Donations of any amount kindly and gratefully received!

"Education elevates a child, a community, a nation."

Our Kingston Chapter held their first ever virtual UNGala in 2020, a resounding success



Members of our Ottawa Chapter meet with Ambassador Hassan Saroosh at the Afghan Embassy in Ottawa, to discuss CW4WAfghan projects

Congratulations to our 2020 Champions for Education!

In 2020, veteran Afghan educator and visionary leader Aziz Royesh, and Pat Cashion, a Calgary entrepreneur, philanthropist, board leader and volunteer were awarded the Champion for Education award in recognition of their exceptional contributions to the cause of education in Afghanistan. These two individuals demonstrate the great impact that can come about when ideals are put into action, and optimism and effort are combined. The Champion for Education awards highlight the people doing the work of making the right to education a reality for children, particularly girls, across Afghanistan, and who are the energy behind the movement.



Aziz Royesh, founder of the Marefat School, receives the Champion of Education Award from CW4WAfghan Project Manager, Munir Ibrahimi in Kabul



CW4WAfghan board member and volunteer Pat Cashion with his Champion of Education Award



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Canadian Women *for*
Women in Afghanistan

www.cw4wafghan.ca