

Name of the Organization: Afghan Women Welfare Department (AWWD)

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ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND:

Mission:

AWWD contributes to Afghan women empowerment. At this end it offers quality services in the education, health, capacity building, income generation and human rights/awareness sectors for its target group and enhances women capabilities to improve their economic and social well-being. It advocates with and on behalf of Afghan women for social change to ensure that national development efforts are both equitable and sustainable. It believes that involvement of all concerned actors is crucial to success.

Organization Goal: To elevate educational and social status of Afghan women within the family, Afghan community and the world at large.

The main objectives of the organization are:

To help raise the literacy rate of Afghan women through providing basic literacy programs.

To provide educational and income-generating training opportunities for Afghan women in both rural and urban areas through organizing training, workshops on these fields.

To provide basic health care support in emergency case for Afghan women through related projects in rural and urban areas.

To provide opportunities for women to participate in the national events of their country through introducing women to relevant training workshops and thus creating links among women of common interest.

Brief history:

The Afghan Women Welfare Department (AWWD), a non-affiliated and non-profit making Afghan woman NGO, was established in **July 1989**. The purpose was to deal with the great women-related emergency needs, which existed in providing services to the Afghan refugee women in NWFP. During the past years of war in Afghanistan, the Afghan women have been deprived of all their human and national rights including right to education and health care. There have been a lot of restrictions and limitations imposed on women getting self-reliant. Apart from all these restrictions, the civil war more imposed limitations on women's welfare. AWWD, as a woman's organization strives and is established for the mere

purpose of Afghan women's welfare in refugee situation. The AWWD achieves its objectives through providing community based programs especially in refugee camps where the most vulnerable women deprived of help live. The support AWWD provides to women is not only confined to these women, AWWD provides educational and income generation services around rural areas of Peshawar for educated Afghan females who are searching for such opportunities.

In the past nineteen years, AWWD has approximately trained 13000 more than Afghan women in the fields of Education, Vocational Training, Health, Reproductive health, Gender awareness training, Human rights and Income-Generation. The help and support AWWD provides for women is not confined to NWFP. AWWD has supported women inside Afghanistan as well. AWWD plans to extend its activities in Afghanistan therefore to obtain the aim AWWD established sub offices in Kabul in July, 2002 and Jalalabad in October 2003 in the future and whenever the situation inside Afghanistan allows the secure function of the programs AWWD will extend its activities to all provinces of Afghanistan.

Currently AWWD operates in Peshawar, Kabul and Jalalabad and implementing projects such as English and Computer training programs, DIT program, Women Rights/Human Rights project and women and Islam booklet Trainings within its three sub offices.

AWWD's Current donors and projects:

Asia Foundation: (Women and Islam Booklet Trainings) Kabul

The Flora Family Foundation (Tides Foundation): (English Language Computer Trainings) Kabul

American Jewish World Service: (English Language and Computer trainings) Jalalabad

Rights and Democracy (Women Right/Human Rights) Jalalabad

Rights and Democracy (Legal Aid Consultation and Services Clinic (LACSCFL) Jalalabad.

Global Fund for Women (Literacy project) Jalalabad

CW4WAfghanistan (English Language and Computer trainings) Peshawar

CW4WAfghanistan DIT(Diploma Information Technology) Peshawar

AWWD's previous donors:

- IRC (International Rescue Committee)
- Canada Fund
- United Nations Development program (UNDP)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Afghanistan (UNHCR)
- Australian High Commission
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- American Embassy Islamabad (Democracy Small Grants Program)
- Afghan Women Association in Canada

- Women's Commission for Refugee women and Children
- CARE International
- The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.
- GTZ

The long-standing conflict has damaged the social and physical infrastructure of Afghanistan. Women as usual have become the ignored segment of the society. The communities have lost the social gatherings and networking which solved many problems and tackled many issues. The Afghan nation has been fragmented due to conflict and displacement, and women and children suffered the most.

Historically, Afghan women have been denied their basic rights due to cultural barriers and lack of necessary legislation. With the emergence of the Taliban regime it magnified even more. The loss of women's social integration in Afghanistan has been enormous and the need for social cohesion among the Afghan women is presently critical.

Afghanistan has some of the worst indicators in the world, ranking 169th out of 175th countries according to the 1996 UNDP Human Development Index and holding the lowest position to any country in the world in the gender disparity index. More recent data from the 2000 MICS (Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey) indicates that 53% men and only 5.7% of women are defined as literate.

AWWD is able to communicate with local population through shared experiences, understanding of culture, religion and language and 19 years of experience in helping Afghan women in various sectors, which made it identify the need of establishing of different projects in the education, health, capacity building, income generation and human rights/awareness sectors for its target group and enhances women capabilities to improve their economic and social well-being. It advocates with and on behalf of Afghan women for social change to ensure that national development efforts are both equitable and sustainable. It believes that involvement of all concerned actors is crucial to success.

AWWD is currently doing fundraising for its Jalalabad and Kabul offices for 2009 to seek fund for implementing DIT (Diploma Information Technology), Internet training, English/Computer training, Management training, Human Right/Women Rights project, Literacy and ect. AWWD' annual budget is almost 200,000\$. We need 80,000 \$ for our Kabul and Jalalabad offices for 2009.

