AFGHANISTAN LIBRE
For the dignity of Afghan women

Annual Report 2017

www.afghanistan-libre.org
**SUMMARY**

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« Where women's education is progressing, democracy is advancing. »

Chékéba Hachemi, President and Founder of Afghanistan Libre
Since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001, Afghanistan has made enormous progress in education. However, nothing is certain: the latest figures show that education is declining especially for girls. Yet, education is a key to progress and a barrier to obscurantism. When educated, women acquire power and can actively participate in the political, economic and social development of their country. They then improve their status as women, wives and mothers, are able to make decisions about their families and society and contribute to end poverty.

**OUR COMMITMENTS**

Listen to Afghans to better understand and analyze their needs.

Base our actions on the principle of impartiality and the prohibition of social, religious or political discrimination.

Conduct our actions in partnership with local civil society and contribute to its capacity building.

Be transparent and carefully control each expense.

**OUR EXPERTISE**

**Project engineering**

Global thinking for sustainable projects

→ Project design based on real needs
→ Multi-stakeholder partnerships
→ Project implementation
→ Evaluation, Monitoring et impact study

**Formation**

Developing skills

→ Teachers training
→ Management team training
→ Afghan women formation

**A long-term impact**

Driving societal change

Collaboration with national, local and community based authorities to ensure that the projects are accepted and supported by the State and the Afghan population.

**Sensitization**

Make our cause known

→ Public awareness campaign
→ Organization of events in France and Afghanistan

**OUR VISION**

Afghanistan Libre has been working since its creation in synergy with the Afghan government. The association initiates local projects that are ultimately intended to be supported by the State and developed to a greater extent.
Thanks to its qualified and experienced team, Afghanistan Libre implements sustainable and effective programmes.

Afghanistan Libre is recognized by local authorities for its discretion, independence and the quality of its actions. This ensures acceptance of our activities and allows us to meet the real needs of the population and to access sensitive, remote and isolated areas where the needs are tremendous.

Afghanistan Libre also manages the staff of pre-schools and health education centers, as well as any other personnel necessary for the successful implementation of the projects. The team consists of a total of 23 employees.
2 INTERVENTION AREAS:
- Panjshir Province, in 2 schools
- Paghman District (Kabul Province), in 5 schools
Objective
→ Promote high quality education for Afghan girls to offer them opportunities for their future professional life, but also for their future as women and full-fledged actors in society.

Target Groups
→ Students, particularly those in grades 11 and 12 (the last high school classes)
→ Teachers

Beneficiaries
The whole school staff, students, schools, as well as future students.

Operating partners
Communities and local authorities
The Afghan Ministry of Education
Schools administration

Financial Partners
French Embassy
Raja – Danièle Marcovici Foundation
ENGIE Foundation
ELLE Foundation

Barriers to overcome
Since the fall of the Taliban regime, access to education has improved significantly, rising from 1 million students (all boys) in 2001 to 8 million in 2015 with 39% of girls.

Despite these improvements, many factors still affect school enrolment, particularly for girls: lack of infrastructure, distance from schools in rural areas, insecurity on the way to school, persistent early marriage etc. The lack of teachers and especially female teachers (only 30% of teachers are women) is also a major obstacle, as well as their lack of qualification (only 24% of teachers meet the minimum requirements).

1/3 of Afghan children are still left behind, 75% of whom are girls.

« Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave. »
Afghan Proverb
In 2017, Afghanistan Libre supported 7 public schools or about 10 000 students, through various actions:

THE IMPROVEMENTS OF LEARNING CONDITIONS

Repairs, provision of school materials and furniture, health equipment, establishment of libraries...

This year we started the renovation of the electrical systems of our 7 schools.

PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAM (KANKOR)

Since 2011, we have been implementing a project to prepare for the university entrance exam - the Kankor - for female students in rural areas. In 2017, more than 150 students benefited from this preparation.

This programme, accessible to young girls on a voluntary basis and according to their motivation, offers additional courses in scientific subjects (chemistry, biology, physics and mathematics), subjects with the highest coefficient in Kankor. It aims to increase students' knowledge and self-confidence, to increase their chances of success.

Our statistics are very encouraging: they show an average increase of 223% between the results of the test at the beginning of training and at the end of training. The margin for improvement has thus increased compared to 2016.

The average success rate in Kankor is 70% for the students who have followed our preparation, compared to the national average of 35%. Obtaining this competition is a sign of academic and professional success.

STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITIES OF WOMEN TEACHERS

In 2017, Afghanistan Libre trained 150 teachers and strengthened their knowledge in science subjects. This year, at the request of the teachers, new courses in English and Afghan languages (Dari/Pashto) were introduced. The courses are taught by qualified teachers from Kabul.

An innovative self-learning programme, initiated in 2016, was developed in 5 schools in 2017. It is a room equipped with a television set as well as DVDs and educational materials created by the Afghan Ministry of Education. This system enables female teachers to be trained continuously and at their own pace, and thus to improve the quality of teaching in their schools. The results are very positive and more than 95% of the users say they are satisfied with the self-training.

OBJECTIVES 2018

The development of digital classes: these classes, fully equipped with computer equipment, will allow us to set up computer training courses for our students, which are essential nowadays.
**Objective**

- Enable girls to have a **legal identity that guarantees access to their rights.**
- Improve students safety on the way to school and homework conditions in the evening with a sun lamp.

**Target Groups**

- The students of our schools who do not have a Tazkira, in priority the young girls, as well as the children of the surrounding villages.

**Beneficiaries**

- Students and their families

**Operating partners**

- Communities and local authorities
- Afghan Ministry of National Education

**Financial partners**

- La Voix de l’Enfant
- ENGIE Foundation

**BARRIERS TO OVERCOME**

Girls’ education now seems to be generally accepted up to secondary school, but continuing in high school and beyond, often remains the prerogative of the wealthiest and therefore educated families.

To enrol in high school, a **Tazkira, the official Afghan ID, becomes mandatory.** It is essential to pass national examinations, in particular the Kankor.

Moreover, **only 20% of Afghan women own their Tazkira.** The vast majority of girls have no legal identity: they cannot continue their studies and often become victims of forced and early marriages, which affect 70% and 40% of Afghan women.

**OUR RESPONSE**

In 2017, Afghanistan Libre enabled **1500 students** to acquire their Tazkira and a solar lamp. The project has focused on the Panjshir region and its isolated villages in the three districts of Shuttle, Dara and Anaba.

According to our statistics, **70% of the use of lamps by beneficiaries is dedicated to homework, 20% to the way to school and 10% to more general use in the family home.** The lamps thus make it possible to secure the way to school. In rural areas, girls often have to walk 2 hours to school, sometimes at night.

Access to electricity, which is still limited in some areas, is also a major challenge. In this country, which is ideal for the development of solar energy, Afghanistan Libre is committed to raise public awareness of its development by integrating it as much as possible into its projects.

**OBJECTIVES 2018**

- Enable 2000 other students to acquire their Tazkira and a solar lamp.
Objectives

→ Improve the supply and quality of early childhood care in rural areas
→ Enable female teachers to work assiduously in their profession.

Target groups

→ Children in rural areas, especially those of women teachers
→ Women teachers

Beneficiaries

Teachers’ children, teachers and their students who benefit from better quality education.

Operating partners

Communities and local authorities
Afghan Ministry of National Education
Schools administrations

Financial Partners

La Chaine de L’Espoir
Women’s Worldwide Web
Les Ailes Foundation
Solidarité Afghanistan Tournaisis

Objectives

BARRIERS TO OVERCOME

Although school only begins at the age of 6 in Afghanistan, there is no structure for early childhood education in rural areas.

However, in a patriarchal society, where women’s rights are limited and where they represent only 19% of the working population, childcare adds an additional barrier to access to employment. Many women are thus unable to work as teachers because they have no means of care for their children. For the same reasons, current female teachers have a high rate of absence.

This is all the more harmful as the presence of female teachers in schools is essential to promote their attendance by girls.

OUR RESPONSE

Afghanistan Libre has run 4 school nurseries since 2004, open in the schools we support.

In 2017, 100 children of female teachers were welcomed in places adapted to their development and supervised by professionals trained in early childhood development. In our pre-schools, children receive a healthy meal a day, participate in a variety of educational activities, and their health is monitored by the educators and the Afghanistan Libre’s team.

OBJECTIFS 2018

Afghanistan Libre wants to set up in 2018 a more thorough monitoring of children’s health with the visit of a doctor and a health record system.
Objectives

→ Improve women’s living conditions by opening Health and Education Centers (HECs), which are meeting and sharing places where they can fully express themselves and be helped and heard.

Target groups

→ Mothers of students, teachers, students and women residing in the vicinity of HECs.

Beneficiaries

Rural women, their children, their families and the community as a whole.

Operating Partners

Communities and local authorities
Afghan Ministry of National Education
Schools administrations

Partenaires financiers

La Chaine de L’Espoir
Raja Danièle Marcovici Foundation

BARRIERS TO OVERCOME

Afghanistan is one of the countries with the worst living conditions for women due to alarming rates of maternal and child health. Almost 10% of children die before the age of 5 and a woman dies every two hours from pregnancy related complications.

In rural areas, 4 out of 5 women have never heard of family planning and 95% do not use contraception, despite the negative health effects of repeated pregnancies. Similarly, 90% of women do not wash their hands regularly, a simple but very effective gesture to prevent diarrhea, the second leading cause of death among children under 5 years of age in Afghanistan (WHO, 2013). In addition, 87% of deliveries take place at home, generally without any medical assistance.

In a very traditional country, women also face specific obstacles such as the shortage of qualified female medical personnel.

In addition, the right to work for women is poorly recognized and encouraged. According to the International Labour Organization, only 19% of the Afghan labour force was composed of women in 2014 (compared to 51% in France and more than 24% in Pakistan).

Health is «a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. »

WHO definition
OUR RESPONSE

Afghanistan Libre has opened and supports 4 Health Education Centers located within the school grounds. The concept of a "Health and Education Center" is unique since we have not found the equivalent anywhere else in Afghanistan. It is neither a medical center nor an infirmary. The person in charge is a health promotion-trained educator.

HEALTH EDUCATION

In 2017, more than 100 women were welcomed in the centers, where health education sessions take place 3 times a week. Health educators advise women on everyday hygiene and health practices and address more personal topics, such as pregnancy, contraception or puberty, depending on the demand and needs of women. They follow a pedagogical plan developed by Afghanistan Libre in collaboration with the women participating in it, and in collaboration with representatives of the Ministry of Health.

Our 4 health educators benefited from a 6-day health training seminar in Kabul given by a doctor. This training allowed the educators to strengthen their skills in medical procedures such as injections or bandages, and their knowledge of burn wounds, disease transmission and child nutrition.

Throughout the year, our team also distributed 450 hygiene kits, 1 first aid kit per center, 100 winter kits and 12 delivery kits, to enable the implementation of the advice received during the sessions.

TRAINING IN INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

In 2017, Afghanistan Libre offered introductory management training and literacy classes: the first steps in setting up income-generating activities.

Psychosocial support sessions (individual or group therapeutic activities) have also been set up.

OBJECTIVES 2018:

- Improve access to care through visits by midwives in each center.
- Develop in a much more advanced way a programme of income-generating activities in order to improve professional integration.
On March 20, the association Solidarité Afghanistan Tournaisis organized its famous and delicious dinner. This one was prepared by an Afghan family who have lived in Tournai for about ten years.

This year, the profits from this dinner made it possible to support the school nursery programme with 6,000 euros.

THE EVENT OF THE ASSOCIATION SOLIDARITÉ AFGHANISTAN TOURNAISIS IN FAVOUR OF AFGHANISTAN LIBRE

The founder and President of Afghanistan Libre, Chekeba Hachemi, led the UNESCO Campus "Women Actors of Change" organized on the occasion of Women's Day by the ENGIE Foundation. It has thus sensitized more than 400 young people to the need to continue the fight for Women Rights and in particular Afghan women.

« WOMEN : ACTORS OF CHANGE » UNESCO CAMPUS

CHEKEBA HACHEMI ON FRANCE CULTURE

On June 3, Chekeba Hachemi was interviewed at the end of the 6pm French culture magazine to talk about the resurgence of attacks in Afghanistan and the protest movements that are organized in the country.
AFGHANISTAN LIBRE AT THE « CAUSETTE » SOLIDARITY FESTIVAL

Afghanistan Libre participated in the very first Causette Festival in Bordeaux. This first edition took place from June 22 to 25. The theme of this cross-cultural event, bringing together theatre, music, cinema and debates, was the issue of feminism and gender inequalities. The opportunity for Afghanistan Free to present its actions.

INVITATION OF CHEKEBA HACHEMI TO THE UNESCO-ENGIE CAMPUS

On December 12, Chekéba Hachemi and Plantu led the UNESCO/ENGINE CAMPUS in front of more than 300 high school students and their teachers. On the occasion of this anniversary CAMPUS on "Human Rights Today", Chékéba Hachemi stressed the role of education and the eradication of ignorance in the fight for human rights.

CHEKEBA HACHEMI AWARDED AT THE POSITIVE PLANET AWARDS

The 10th edition of the Positive Planet Awards, which are awards given to entrepreneurs who contribute to "building a better world for the benefit of future generations", was held on the 20th of December 2017. Chékéba Hachemi received the "Positive Empowerment Award" from the Positive Planet Foundation for the actions of Afghanistan Libre in support of the education of Afghan women and girls.
AFGHANISTAN LIBRE AND ITS PARTNERS IN 2017

CROWDFUNDING: MORE THAN 20 000 EUROS COLLECTED THANKS TO AFGHANISTAN LIBRE COMMUNITY

La collecte de fonds organisée par notre partenaire W4 a été un grand succès ! Grâce à vos dons nous avons pu récolter près de 22 000 euros.
Ce financement nous a permis de développer et améliorer notre programme de crèches scolaires.

AFGHANISTAN LIBRE: WINNER OF THE « SYNERGIE SOLAIRE EnR AWARD »

On November 21, Afghanistan Libre received the Renewable Energies award from Synergie Solaire for its project “Lighting up knowledge with the sun”. This project will be implemented in 2018 and consists of the installation of solar panels in our schools.

WE THANK ALL OUR PARTNERS IN 2017
Since 2016, Afghanistan Libre is part of the International Action sector of Groupe SOS.

More than 30 years ago, the Groupe SOS was created with the ambition of fighting exclusion in all its forms. With the desire to respond to the social challenges of our time by developing innovative solutions, the Groupe SOS has gradually diversified its activities and now operates in eight sectors: Youth, Employment, Solidarities, Health, Seniors, Culture, the Ecological Transition and International Action.

The International Action sector brings together social enterprises and associations, including Afghanistan Libre, that work with local actors in more than fifty countries: by providing them with support (through volunteering, training and capacity building) in the fields of health, disability, environmental protection and access to education for all. Through its international action, the Groupe SOS wishes to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Groupe SOS also works to promote economic development by enabling companies with a social and/or ecological impact to develop within its global network of incubators.
Afghanistan Libre's annual budget for 2017 has been €186 337 (revenue). At the end of 2017, the association has a surplus of €2 713.

The association's resources come from a variety of sources. We note a high proportion of private grants (71%), the second source of funding is private donations (18%), including this year's crowdfunding campaign that we conducted via the Women Worldwide Web platform. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our generous donors.